

their plan does not have to give it to them. They can only require them to see a physician. So many women want nurse midwives and have found that to be a comfortable way to give birth.

If they are terminally ill and their only hope is an approved clinical trial, the Republican bill would not allow it. So many of my constituents have said, "I beg of you to allow me to participate in a clinical trial. I will go anywhere, do anything to save my life or that of my loved one."

If they are about to deliver their baby at a hospital and their health plan drops their doctor, the Republican bill allows their plan to make them get a new doctor at the very time that they are in need. And if they are scheduled for a cancer operation and their health plan drops their doctor, under the Republican plan they have to find a new doctor.

My colleagues, what we did today was a travesty. I hope that we will be able to repair that and pass a bill, Mr. Speaker, that really responds to the life and the death of Mrs. Chiang.

#### UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI CONCERT SINGERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with my colleagues the wonderful news that the University of Mississippi Concert Singers won top honors last week at the World Choral Competition in Rome, Italy.

The group from Ole Miss, led by Dr. Jerry Jordan, is the first American choir ever to have qualified for this exclusive international competition and, of course, the first to win the top prize. Today, they are considered the best amateur choir on the face of the Earth.

To reach the Super Bowl of choral competitions in Italy, groups from around the world first had to qualify for and then win 1 of 6 international events. On their way to the finals, the Ole Miss singers won the grand prize in May of 1997 in a competition in Bulgaria. Then last week, the group outperformed choirs from Sweden, Hungary, Estonia and Taiwan, all of which had won international choral events in past years.

The Ole Miss concert singers are no strangers to performing on the international stage. During Dr. Jordan's 18 years at Ole Miss, his choral groups have toured on nine occasions; they have participated in international competition three times; and, in 1994, earned their only other trip to the grand event.

The Collegiate Choir Program at the University of Mississippi is recognized among the best in the Nation. Dr. Jerry Jordan is one of the country's most accomplished directors. He has conducted the American Symphony Orchestra at Lincoln Center in New York and is a regular conductor at Carnegie Hall.

Dr. Jordan's leadership and the exceptional talents of these students produced an unprecedented result in Rome. The judges said the group performed an extremely difficult and diverse program and did so flawlessly. The 50-member group sang seven songs in five different languages over the span of its allotted 30-minute program.

Mr. Speaker, there are at least five alumni from the University of Mississippi in the House of Representatives. And at this point, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Mississippi my colleague (Mr. PICKERING).

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) for yielding.

I rise with him to recognize the Mississippi Concert Singers and their accomplishment. They come from the University of Mississippi, the same place where the new director of the National Endowment for Humanities, Dr. William Ferris, the author of the Encyclopedia of Southern Culture.

In Mississippi, where we have the tradition of being the birthplace of blues, of rock and roll, and in my district, Meridian, the birthplace of country music with the grandfather of country music, Jimmy Rogers.

And today we celebrate our additional contribution to our State's culture and our Nation's culture to the world, the Mississippi Choral Singers, and the great achievement that they have won by being the first American choir to win this preeminent distinction and competition in Rome.

So I rise with the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) and to acknowledge and to appreciate this great accomplishment.

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I thank my colleague for his remarks. And one final word, Mr. Speaker.

This outstanding group of performers from the University of Mississippi has earned an honor reserved for a select few. They have earned the right to be called the best in the world, and they have made all Americans proud. I salute them today.

□ 1545

#### EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL).

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

#### MISSING AND EXPLOITED CHILDREN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. LAMPSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, as a father, one of my biggest fears over the years has been discovering perhaps that one of my daughters would be missing.

Sadly, last November, one of my constituents was living mine and every parent's nightmare when she frantically called the Texas City Texas Police Department after her ten year old daughter did not arrive home from school.

Recently, my district has been stricken with a stream of missing children. This issue has become my highest priority as well as that of the police departments in my area to try to put an end to this. The chief of police for Texas City, Texas, Jerry Purdon, last year visited the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and underwent training on developing a program for responding to a missing child alert.

One of the key elements in the department's new program was the actual response time, which they felt had been a key factor in previous failures. In this Texas City case, the department was able to flood the area with both police and informed neighbors to search for any sign of the missing child.

Hours went by until a man appeared in the middle of the neighborhood with the missing girl, stating that he had found her under some stairs. She was immediately rushed to the hospital while the man was questioned by the police.

Suspicious from the start, they were able to obtain a full confession. This man, who knew the girl, picked her up from school and returned to his home with her and after sexually abusing her he admitted that he intended to kill her and dispose of the body. In his words, he was prevented from carrying out his plan because, quote, every time I looked out my front window I saw a police car and every time I looked out the back, I saw a neighbor who knew what was happening, unquote.

Thanks to the quick response and organization of Chief Purdon and his officers, that little girl was returned to her family. I stand here proud of their efforts and would like to applaud each and every one who helped save the little girl. It is with forceful reactions to crimes like this that we hope to end the disappearances of our children and prevent all parents from experiencing this nightmare.

#### TRIBUTE TO HORACE ELLIS JONES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor an individual, no not a Georgian by birth but is the essence of a Georgia gentleman.

Horace Ellis Jones is the grandfather of one of my legislative staff members. Today I pay tribute to Mr. Jones through the eyes of his grandson.

Born on February 7, 1916, in Spring City, Pennsylvania, to Russell and Mary Ellis Jones, Horace Ellis Jones spent his childhood days growing up in the suburbs of Philadelphia.

He was known for his wide grin smile and his charming demeanor. He was very active in the Boy Scouts, earning the distinction of an Eagle Scout.

After attending Spring City High School and Stanton Military Academy in Virginia, Mr. Jones decided on Duke University and became a true Blue Devil. A couple of days before he was to leave for Durham, Mr. Ellis dropped by a local cafe just outside of Pottstown, Pennsylvania, with friends.

As he entered, his eyes focused on Olive Hammer. One look at her put Ellis Jones in a spin. He immediately put money in the juke box and asked Olive to dance. The music has not stopped for 57 years.

After they were married in 1941, Mr. Jones worked with his father in automobile sales in Reading, Pennsylvania. Very soon after their marriage, like so many of our distinguished citizens at the time, he answered America's call to duty and served in the United States Army during World War II.

Lieutenant Jones was stationed at Newport News, Virginia, as a member of the Army Transportation Corps. From there, he returned home to Pennsylvania, began his work with his uncle in the family business, the Jones Motor Company.

For almost 30 years, he played an instrumental role in the success of the business, one that grew to be among the largest trucking companies east of the Mississippi River. Jones Motor boasted 59 terminals, almost 4,000 employees and more than 3,500 pieces of equipment. This was an amazing feat considering it all started with a single horse and wagon back in the 1800s.

Along the path of hard work, Ellis and Olive welcomed a new generation of Joneses, their children, Mary Ellis and Donald. In the mid-seventies, Jones and his brothers decided to sell the company and retire. Retirement lasted a brief 6 months, after which Mr. Jones entered the lucrative real estate business and became very active in many charitable organizations such as the American Hospital Association and the Pottstown Hospital Association.

During his spare time, he could continue to pursue the major nonfamily passion of his life, the game of golf. After picking up the first set of clubs at the age of 7, Mr. Jones' devotion to the sport culminated with his presidency of the Philadelphia Golf Association in the 1960s.

During that tenure, he worked to provide scholarships and opportunities for many hard working young people. He also served on countless boards of the United States Golf Association and as a member of many country clubs and golf societies throughout the world.

When he finally decided to slow down from all of this activity, Ellis and Ollie

relocated to the State of Georgia. They chose the quiet coastal beauty of Sea Island, a spot that they had first visited in their honeymoon. The environment there was proven to be the ultimate spot to pursue new opportunities.

While preserving their already acquired interests, it also served as a meeting place for the entire Jones' family to congregate and forge new memories. With all of that said, to really know the tale of Ellis Jones is to realize that his greatest accomplishment continues to be his capacity as a person.

Amidst all of the challenges and successes of life, Mr. Jones always conducts himself in the highest degree of courtesy, generosity and integrity. He is concerned with the happiness and the well-being of others at every turn, as a leader, as a businessman, a father, a grandfather, a husband or a friend.

Recently, Mr. Jones has been battling the evils of cancer, a war he has been waging for some 7 years. It has been a difficult time for him and his loved ones, but through it all he has maintained his positive attitude built upon the love of his family.

Ellis Jones' life is nothing short of remarkable, an American dream come true that seems to guide the brush strokes of my Norman Rockwell painting. One need only look to his family and friends to see the reflection of his charmed life.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my heartfelt best wishes to Mr. Jones as he watches today from Georgia, as well as members of the Jones family throughout the country.

In closing, I would like to read a piece Mr. Jones wrote just a few weeks ago. I think it is an appropriate testament to the life of this great man and is something from which we all can learn, and I quote: I have always believed that the game of life, like the game of golf, was the last gentleman's game and I have tried to play both as such, a gentleman. If I have been successful, it is because of my love from and my love for my wonderful wife, our blessed children and grandchildren and my many loyal and supportive friends. Looking back over the entire course, I can say in all honesty, what a game, what a life, what a lucky guy I have been, end of quote.

Mr. Speaker, our prayers are with Mr. Jones and his family and for the blessings all have received from the life of Horace Ellis Jones.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### EXPORT OF AG PRODUCTS STIFLED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, you may have seen in the Washington Post, the Wall Street Journal, the New York Times and other newspapers, articles about the current farm crisis. The hard times in farm country are real and demand immediate attention.

The \$5.5 billion package introduced by the chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture and the half billion dollars approved by the Senate are good starters.

Unfortunately, some folks cannot resist making a political football out of the misfortune of others. These folks say that the 1996 farm bill, which the President signed, is to blame for all the woes in farm country.

Mr. Speaker, I would have preferred to avoid the blame game, but if the goal of the Democrats is to place the blame they do not have to look very far. How about the congressional Democrats' unwillingness to pass fast track trade negotiating authority with their president? At least he used to say this was so critical to U.S. farmers and ranchers. When one-third of our farmers' cash receipts come from exports, how can congressional Democrats defend their opposition to fast track?

When EU subsidies in 1997 were at their highest level in this decade, at nearly \$47 billion compared to \$5.3 billion here in the United States, how can they oppose fast track?

When the start of the next World Trade talks are only 5 months away, why would Democrats oppose the President's request for fast track so that the United States can have a seat at the negotiating table in order to tear down these trade barriers?

The answer may be the Democrats are more interested in collecting big labor PAC checks for their reelections than protecting their own farmers.

Mr. Speaker, the fact is, fast track is not my only priority but it is one of our most important priorities. It is the priority also of most of the U.S. leading farm and ranch organizations.

It only makes sense. In 1996, when ag exports were at their all time high, \$60 billion, farm income was up, but now that ag exports have dropped over the last 2 years by an estimated \$5 billion, farm income is down.

How about trade sanctions? Over the past 60 years, Mr. Speaker, we have imposed approximately 120 different sanctions. Despite relatively peaceful times, guess which administration has imposed over half of these sanctions in just the past 6 years? You guessed it. This one.

This administration is willing to impose unilateral sanctions at the drop of a hat, and I am not sure what these sanctions have accomplished in the way of national security. What I do know is that it forecloses U.S. ag sales to millions of the world consumers. If we still want to place the blame, what has the administration been up to while ag exports have been precipitously dropping?