

retired. Kara Norris Smith succeeded her. Carmel Fisk worked for me when I was the ranking member on the Subcommittee on Immigration and Claims and did a great job and somebody we could not have worked without.

On the Committee on Banking, where I was ranking member of a couple of subcommittees when we were in the minority, domestic monetary policy, Doyle Bartlett, Gerry Lynam, Anita Bedelis, Mark Brender all worked tirelessly on their efforts while I served there. John Heasley and Doyle Bartlett worked as my counsels when I was the ranking minority member on the Subcommittee on Financial Institutions. And Doyle later served as my chief of staff on my personal staff.

I just similarly cannot pass the opportunity of saying that in the tenure that I served here, without those committee staffers and without my personal staff to whom I paid tribute earlier in this Congress, it would not have been possible to do the things that we have done. And I really believe that staff go unrecognized often and they matter a great deal.

It has been a great privilege to have served in this body over these 20 years. It has been a great privilege to have served with these staff members and to have done the work load that we have. I will miss this body. There will be other opportunities in the future, I know, to meet public service; but I want to thank my colleagues for this privilege and great honor of serving here in this institution and thank them particularly for allowing me the opportunity to have been the chairman of the Subcommittee on Crime and to have worked with these wonderful people to craft the legislation I have described.

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FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a joint resolution of the House of the following title:

H.J. Res. 127. Joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2001, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2415) entitled "An Act to enhance security of United States missions and personnel overseas, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State for fiscal year 2000, and for other purposes."

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CONVICTION OF ED POPE IN RUSSIA

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

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to unfortunately relate to my colleagues my concern about the conviction of an American citizen in Russia by the name of Ed Pope.

Ed Pope is an academic affiliated with Penn State University who had a distinguished career in our military and who was simply doing research and marketing work with Russian institutions when he was arrested without reason earlier this year, put in a prison in Moscow without proper medical care, without proper attention.

In spite of cancer, in spite of an illness that his father has that is terminal, in spite of the pleadings of many of us on both sides of the aisle, in particular the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PETERSON), who represents Ed Pope and his family, Ed Pope was convicted this week and given a sentence of 20 years in Russia's prisons.

Mr. Speaker, Ed Pope is not a criminal. Ed Pope is innocent. I have copies of the contracts that Ed Pope had signed with Russian agents in charge of Russian institutes who had empowered him to work to market Russia's underwater propulsion technology. During Ed Pope's trial, the chief witness against him recanted his testimony. In fact, the defense attorney for Ed Pope provided information on what Ed Pope was marketing was available in open sources in this country. In fact, everyone involved with this case understands that Ed Pope is an innocent man.

□ 1700

When I was in Moscow this summer, I held a press conference in the city and informed the Russian people and the media that this was a bad direction for Russia to take. We must with all of our bipartisan effort reach out and ask President Putin to pardon Ed Pope and let him return to his family.

Mr. Speaker, on a down side and a negative tone, if you want to convict someone in this process, it would be Bill Clinton and AL GORE, because during the first few months of Ed Pope's imprisonment, our State Department and White House were silent. They did not say anything. In fact, the initial response of our ambassador was that it is a private matter between our citizen and the Russian government. Only after the media raised these questions did the administration finally begin to raise the issue of Ed Pope. President Clinton and Vice President AL GORE should have demanded the release of Ed Pope but they did not. And so Ed Pope was convicted.

And now I relate to my colleagues my greatest concern. My fear from sources inside of Russia just last week told me that Ed Pope will be offered in exchange for a convicted Russian spy or a spy that Russia supports in our country. And if we are asked to trade a convicted person who did crimes against this country for an innocent

man, it means this administration has allowed us to be sucked into a situation where we may be forced to trade someone who was a convicted criminal to get someone back who is an innocent citizen.

Russia needs to release Ed Pope, because Ed Pope is innocent, because Ed Pope has health problems, because his father is dying. There should be no quid pro quo. Russia should not expect to get a convicted spy in this country in return. This administration had better stand up for this American citizen, unlike the other American citizens whose rights have been abused over the past several years, like Lieutenant Jack Daley, like Notra Trulock, like Ed McCallum, like Jay Stuart, and like others who have been prosecuted for simply doing their job.

I call upon my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to demand the Russian president release Ed Pope, send him back to his family, and in no way allow the Russians to receive a convicted spy in this country in return for that action.

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RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HULSHOF). Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 2 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

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□ 1920

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SESSIONS) at 7 o'clock and 20 minutes p.m.

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REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.J. RES. 128, FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS, FISCAL YEAR 2001

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106-1025) on the resolution (H. Res. 669) providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res 128) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2001, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

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REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.J. RES. 129, FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS, FISCAL YEAR 2001

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106-1026) on the resolution (H. Res. 670) providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 129) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal