

from rhinoceros horn. Rhinoceros horn has been used for generations to treat illnesses in children and for ceremonial purposes in certain Middle Eastern countries.

Despite this grim future, the fate of the five remaining subspecies of tigers was even worse. In 1990, there were more than 100,000 tigers living in the wild. In 1994, the total was fewer than 5,000 animals which represented a decline of 95 percent. As in the case of rhinos, the illegal hunting of tigers was the overwhelming factor in their demise. Tigers were killed for their fur, and other body parts. Tiger bone powders, wines, and tablets were used to combat pain, kidney, liver problems, rheumatism, convulsions, and heart conditions.

Despite the fact that both rhinos and tigers are internationally protected, these prohibitions have not been effective. In 1998, the Secretary of the Interior, Bruce Babbitt testified in support of reauthorizing the act when he said, "This is a small grant program, but it is amazing how much even a small amount of money can mean to our partners in other countries. Something more intangible—but often even more important—is the boost to their morale when they realize that we, the United States care enough to help them." At that same hearing, the president of the American Zoo and Aquarium Association stated that, "Passage—combined with increased appropriations for law enforcement will certainly be a bold step by the United States in ending the slaughter of the rhinoceros and tigers in the wild."

Since its passage in 1994, Congress has appropriated \$2.9 million to the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Fund. This money has been matched by \$4.1 million in private funding. Together this money has been used to finance 111 conservation projects in 16 range countries. These projects have included: A database on tiger poaching, trade and other wildlife crimes in India; desert Rhino conservation and research; development of national tiger action plan in Cambodia; establishment of a viable population of "greater one-horned rhinoceros"; public education on Siberian tiger conservation; survey and habitat assessment for South China tigers; training in anti-poaching techniques for rhinoceros in southern national parks; training of staff in Nepal's Department of National Parks, and a video on tiger poaching in Russia. In addition, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation has done a superb job of managing the Save the Tiger Fund that has helped to educate millions of people about the harmful effects of tiger poaching.

Since the establishment of this grant program, these conservation projects have helped to change international opinion on the need to protect their animals. While the job is far from complete, the population of both animals has slightly increased and there is new found hope of saving their species from extinction. However, it is essential that the availability of money to this fund be extended for an additional five years. In addition, I will work to increase the amount of appropriated money for rhinoceros and tiger projects. The good news is that the Department of the Interior financed 111 projects. The bad news is that it lacked the resources to fund some 358 other projects, many of which were highly meritorious.

I urge support for the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2001.

SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE LOCK-BOX ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 13, 2001

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support House Resolution 2 Social Security and Medicare Lockbox Act, the Social Security is the Nation's largest retirement and disability program providing cash benefits to 44 million retired and disabled workers and to their dependents and survivors. Medicare provides 39 million of them with health insurance. Today, 1 out of 6 Americans receive Social Security; 1 out of 7 receives Medicare. About 155 million workers paid taxes to support the two programs. A major issue for President George W. Bush will be to provide a fiscal responsible plan for maintaining the solvency of the Social Security System while guaranteeing income for America's retired and disabled workers.

Historically, Social Security has been a "pay-as-you-go" system. Ninety percent of the payroll taxes paid by workers are immediately spent as benefits to current Social Security recipients. The other 10 percent goes into the Social Security Trust Fund for payment of future benefits. Here lies the problem. In 1950 it took 16 workers to support 1 beneficiary on Social Security compared to 3.4 workers to support 1 recipient today. Mr. Speaker the American people demand that the Social Security and Medicare surpluses will not be used for anything other than their current purposes. Even if, the current \$2.7 trillion projected surpluses that are available for tax and spending initiatives will be used up by President Bush's tax cut for the wealthiest 1 percent and other items that are associated with debt service costs. Spending our surpluses projected for the next 10 years leaves us nothing to protect Social Security and Medicare.

INTRODUCING H.R. 615, THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2000

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce, H.R. 615, "The Intellectual Property Technical Amendments of 2001." As my colleagues know, the success of our economy and quality of modern life can be directly attributed to the innovation and genius of our patent and trademark system whether, it be in the fields of computers, media, aerospace, or bio-technology.

In 1999, Congress successfully passed landmark legislation to modernize our patent system and transform the Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) into a more autonomous and efficient agency. This legislation—the "American Inventors Protection Act"—was the most significant reform of its type in a generation, and it represented five years of hard work by a large, diverse group of Members, Administration officials, inventors, union representatives, and businesses.

At the same time, the Act contained a small number of clerical and other technical drafting

errors. Today, I offer the opportunity for my colleagues to work with me to remedy these errors within this bill. In addition, this bill makes a small number of other non-controversial changes requested by the PTO. For example, it changes the title of the chief officer of the PTO from "Director" to "Commissioner." It also clarifies some of the agency's administrative duties and the protections for the independent inventor community.

This bill represents the progress made last session when the House was able to pass it (H.R. 4870) by a unanimous voice vote under suspension of the rules. The bill is being re-introduced in virtually the identical form as passed last year in order to expedite these house-keeping processes. Additional changes requested by others have been placed on the back burner for the present, since these revisions still require further review. Rest assured, there will be opportunities during the rest of the session for continued legislative oversight and innovation in these areas.

I urge all Members to support this innovation-friendly legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, last evening I was unavoidably detained—specifically, two consecutive flights from Fort Wayne were grounded because of mechanical problems—and missed the votes congratulating President Sharon of Israel and guaranteeing a lock box on Social Security and Medicare funds. Had I been here, I would have supported both bills.

The problems in the Middle East are longstanding. I had the opportunity to meet President Sharon on several occasions. He is a tough but fair man. Israel, constantly pressed by those who challenge its right to exist, needs a strong leader at this time. We stand behind one as he faces the difficult times ahead.

I would also like to insert the following articles about the late Reverend Joseph White into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Reverend Jesse White was my friend. He was a friend to thousands and thousands of people.

He was a friend even to many he did not know because through his pioneering efforts he advanced the basic civil rights of many who may have been deprived of such rights without his efforts.

Not too many of us can look back and truly say we were a prophet. Dr. White was a prophet. He, and other pioneers in civil rights, had dreams that are now becoming reality.

Complete justice has not been achieved. But without Dr. White there would be less justice.

Not only does he leave behind a history, through his family, his legacy lives on. His sons carry on his ministry in different ways. His daughter has been active in government and in promoting education training and opportunities.

We will miss Dr. White's leadership in Fort Wayne and his national influence as well.

REV. WHITE DEMANDED EQUALITY

If the civil rights movement over the last half-century was embodied in any single