

Since the HIV/AIDS pandemic began, it has claimed 21,800,000 lives.

Over 17,000,000 men, women, and children, have died due to AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa alone.

Over 36,000,000 people are infected with the HIV virus today. Over 25,000,000 live in sub-Saharan Africa.

By 2010, approximately 40,000,000 children worldwide will have lost one or both of their parents to HIV/AIDS.

One does not have to look far to come across scores of figures like those I just mentioned. And, as daunting a picture as the numbers paint for us, there are in fact many things that can be done right now to advance the struggle to prevent others from being infected and to help extend the lives of those who are already suffering.

The numerous drug companies that have filed suit against South Africa in order to prevent that country from implementing aggressive strategies to make life-saving drugs available and affordable immediately should be dropped. I am appalled by the drug industry's thirst for profit and willful neglect of the AIDS pandemic in Africa. These companies have to stop putting profits before people. And, as the world's leader, the United States must set the moral example for other nations to follow.

I welcome news that the Bush Administration will honor the policies implemented by the Clinton Administration on this subject. However, I believe that there is more that can and must be done. President Bush should use existing authority to give the World Health Organization (WHO) the right to use HIV/AIDS patents where the United States government has rights to those inventions. Great progress has been made in developing products to treat HIV and AIDS, and many of those products were developed with taxpayer funding. These publicly-financed products should be accessible and affordable to consumers both in the United States and in other countries. Along with Representatives JACKSON, WATERS, and LEE, I wrote to President Clinton on this subject last year and intend to raise this issue again with President Bush.

A recent Washington Post editorial stated,

The Administration should lead an international effort to clarify poor countries' right to fight emergencies with generic drugs, and it should declare its sympathy for the South African government in the pending case.

The editorial went on to say that Robert Zoellick, the U.S. Trade Representative should come out publicly and declare this Administration's support for the Clinton Administration's Executive Order on pharmaceuticals for sub-Saharan Africa.

The Congress and the Administration need to work together to form a budget that includes increased HIV/AIDS funding for numerous programs. We also have a number of legislative initiatives that deserve action.

We need full funding for the World Bank AIDS Trust Fund—legislation sponsored by Congresswoman LEE and Congressman LEACH. With this bill, which is a public private partnership dedicated to fighting HIV/AIDS and developing vaccines, we have the ability to leverage more than a \$1 billion U.S. contribution. This bill was authorized for two years and funded for this year and we need to make sure it is included in our appropriations priorities this year.

I want to thank Congresswoman WATERS for her work and for reintroducing the HIV/AIDS Medicines for Poor Countries Act, which I am an original cosponsor of, and which would make it illegal for the U.S. government to use the TRIPS agreement to challenge another country's efforts to make HIV/AIDS drugs available at lower prices. The bill would also prohibit any agency of the U.S. government from using federal bills to seek to revoke any law or policy of a developing country that promotes access to HIV/AIDS medicines. Finally, the bill would require the U.S. to urge the World Trade Organization (WTO) to exempt developing countries from the application of provisions of the TRIPS agreement that restrict their ability to make HIV/AIDS medicines available to their populations at affordable prices.

The Congress, President Bush, and his Trade Representative have a responsibility to South Africa and to the rest of the world. It should be the policy of this Administration and this Congress to denounce efforts that limit access to life saving drugs and to attack the AIDS crisis to the fullest extent. Anything less would be unconscionable.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GRAVES). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer comment on a source of poor women's health that is one hundred percent preventable—injuries and deaths caused by domestic violence. The injuries, mental and emotional conditions of women and their children who are the witnesses or victims of domestic violence could be prevented, but there is a lack of resolve on the part of Congress to make this a top priority.

The dynamics of domestic violence are all encompassing and usually starts as emotional abuse that evolves into physical abuse that can result in serious injury or death on not only women, but also the children living in that home.

As a result, the federal government has moved to establish Violence Against Women and training programs that serve the young victims of domestic violence who either experience or witness violence.

It is alarming to note that according to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, between 50 and 70 percent of men who abuse their female partners also abuse their children. Moreover, at least 3.3 to 10 million American children annually witness assaults by one parent against another. Consequently, the children of domestic violence are at a high risk of anxiety and depression and often experience delayed learning skills.

Mr. Speaker, domestic violence affects women of all cultures, races, occupations, and income levels. Ninety-two percent of reported domestic violence incidents involve violence against females.

Although domestic violence effects women across all racial and economic lines, a high percentage of these victims are women of color. African American women account for 16 percent of the women who have been physically abused by a husband or partner in the last five years. African American women were

the victims in more than 53 percent of the violent deaths that occurred in 1997. This is why we must continue to fund programs like the Violence Against Women Grants that also fund projects to encourage arrests of the perpetrators of these most dreadful crimes.

I am joining my colleagues of the Women's Caucus to express concern about the plight of women's health in our nation, but to also include in that debate the negative health effects of domestic violence on our nation's women.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to bring awareness to the specific problems within my state of Texas. In Texas, there were 175,725 incidents of family violence in 1998. An estimated 824,790 women were physically abused in Texas in 1998. Of all of the women killed in 1997, 35 percent were murdered by their intimate male partners. In 1998, 110 women were murdered by their partners.

A new member of my staff is an advocate against and survivor of domestic violence and she offers this message to those who seek to remedy this situation. On March 18, 1990, she made the difficult decision to end her marriage of fourteen years, which was plagued by marital abuse. From her experience she has committed her life to advocating for and assisting women in crisis. "Women often do not want the relationship to end, they want the violence to stop!" Instead of seeing women as helpless victims they are in fact courageous survivors who work hard to preserve their families. The women of which I speak was the organizer of the City of Houston's first Candlelight Vigil in observance of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. She was asked by Vice President Al Gore at a White House ceremony, unveiling postage stamps with the National Domestic Violence Hotline number on the cover, to tell her story.

An example how important federal efforts in this area are demonstrated by the impact that VAWA grants have had on services in the local community. In Houston, we have the Houston Area Women's Center which operates a domestic violence hotline, a shelter for battered women and counseling for violence survivors. The center provides all of its services for free.

Furthermore, this center maintains an invaluable website that allows anyone to access information about domestic violence resources and support networks.

Over 34,000 women in Houston called for counseling services in 1997 for family violence. This counseling included services for women with children and teenagers who have also survived violence. The shelter housed 1,062 women and children and assisted close to 2,000 with other forms of services.

The Texas Council on Family Violence has used VAWA funds for several projects as well. These include the National Domestic Violence Hotline, Technical Assistance and Model Policies and Procedures Project, the Texas Domestic Violence Needs Assessment Project and the Domestic Violence Rural Education Project.

Unfortunately, the STOP Grant funding for the Texas Council on Family Violence has decreased within the last 2 years from \$8 million in 1999 to \$8.5 million in 2000. Because the funding level for the Violence Against Women Grants has remained at the same level as fiscal year 2000, it is imperative that we increase funding so that these vital programs will be

properly funded as we move into the new millennium.

As the public service announcement of the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault indicates, "Most people think rape happens in a dark alley. That beautiful women are the usual victims. But sexual violence isn't really about sex, it's about power. And it can happen to anyone, anywhere . . ."

Mr. Speaker, the Violence Against Women Grants and the Reauthorization of the Violence Against Women's Act are the most important weapons that women and men have in this country to ensure that gender-motivated violence does not continue to increase in this society. I ask my colleagues to support these and other legislative initiatives in this Congress so that we may move forward, not backward in our fight to end domestic violence everywhere.

PUBLIC LANDS IN THE UNITED STATES AND RELATED TOPICS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. MCINNIS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, for our little night-side chat this evening, there are a couple of topics that I would like to discuss with my colleagues, primarily involving public lands in the United States. As many of my colleagues know, and many may not be aware of, quite frankly, there is a distinct difference between the urban areas of the United States and the rural areas of the United States and even more of a distinct difference between the eastern United States and the western United States. Now, granted, the United States is one country, and we have a lot in common, but the reason that we have a lot in common is because we have the respect where we do not have things in common to understand that we work as a team. So this evening I want to go through some discussion on public lands.

I think the best way to begin this is to talk about a wonderful book that I have just almost finished reading. I would recommend it to my colleagues. As I should disclose, I do not know the author, I have never met the author, I do not have any interest in the book, other than it is fascinating. It is the book on the transcontinental railroad. The author is Stephen Ambrose, and it talks about the major accomplishment that was necessary in this country for the entire country to come together to build a transcontinental railroad, the armies that were necessary to put this thing together. I think really just reading a little of the first part, just a couple of paragraphs, because I do not like to read during my Special Order speeches, my night-side chat; but I thought here it would probably be appropriate, so that we can get a taste, a little idea of the flavor of what was necessary to build the transcontinental railroad in the United States.

In our own minds, we need to kind of put ourselves back 150 years and think

of the United States, a new country, relatively speaking, out into the frontier, a frontier that most of the population of this country had never even set foot on, a frontier which had never been really surveyed in any kind of detail. In fact, the surveying techniques back then were still pretty rough as compared to today's GPS system.

So as I say that, keep this in mind. We need to put our mindsets for a moment back 150 years, back to about 140 years, 1858, put our minds there for a moment and listen to this: "Next to winning the Civil War and abolishing slavery, building the first transcontinental railroad from Omaha, Nebraska to Sacramento, California was the greatest achievement of the American people in the 19th century." Next to winning the Civil War and abolishing slavery, that was the big accomplishment of the 19th century. "Not until the completion of the Panama Canal in the early 20th century was it ever rivaled as an engineering feat. The railroad took brains, it took muscles and sweat in quantities and scope never before put into a single project. It could not have been done without a representative democratic system."

Let me repeat that. It could not have been done without a representative, democratic political system. It could not have been done without skilled and ambitious engineers, most of whom had learned their craft in American colleges and honed it into war. It could not have been done without bosses and foremen who learned how to organize and lead men as officers in the Civil War; without free labor, without hard working laborers who had learned how to take orders in the war; without those who came over to America in the thousands and thousands and thousands from China seeking a fortune; without laborers, many speaking different languages and coming to America from every inhabited continent in the world.

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Mr. Speaker, it could not have been done without the trees and without the iron available in America; without the capitalist willing to take high risks for great profit; without men willing to challenge all at every level in order to win all; without men to challenge all at every level to win all. Most of all, it could not have been done without teamwork. Nothing like it in the world. And that is the title of the book, *Nothing Like It in the World* by Stephen Ambrose.

Nothing Like It in the World is the story of the men who built the transcontinental railroad, the investors who risked their businesses and money, the enlightened politicians. By the way, the standout of the enlightened politicians, the political mover of the transcontinental railroad in the United States was Abraham Lincoln.

When my colleagues go out and talk to your constituents and say name the two major accomplishments of Abra-

ham Lincoln, from a political viewpoint, obviously, most everybody I know could answer the first, the abolishment of slavery and the victory in the Civil War. But not very many people out there understand the role, the significant role, of which the transcontinental railroad could not have been built without Abraham Lincoln. In fact, even the measurement of how far the rails are apart was put in place by Abraham Lincoln.

The Union had won the Civil War, and slavery had been abolished, but it was Abraham Lincoln who was an early and constituent champion of railroads. Unfortunately, as we all know, Abraham Lincoln would not live to see this great achievement. Even the scheme of how to have it built, to have the government finance and to have the government put two private companies on two opposite ends of our great country in competition to build that railroad, and their destination was to the final mile of track to be laid which, of course, they met in Utah.

It was the last great building project to be done mostly by hand. Can you imagine the surveying back then to go out into the mountain of the Sierras or to go into the plains of Nebraska and trying to figure out a direct route which would support a railroad, the likes of which the world had never seen? The manpower took tens of thousands of men and women, but tens of thousands of people to be able to go out there and lay that track, just the organization of those thousands and thousands of working people.

If we had not had the Civil War, we probably would not have had the organization in place, because the amount and number of people that we took out there and the logistics that were necessary to put this thing together had been earlier put together through the Civil War. So there was a benefit coming out of the Civil War. In addition to that, people knew how to take orders. People knew how to be foremen.

The Chinese labor, which played a major role, they wanted to come over here. They returned to their homeland, China, as rich people.

It is amazing, as I said earlier, that this was the last building project to be done mostly by hand, excavating dirt, cutting through ridges, filling gorges, blasting tunnels to the mountains; and, as the book says, those tunnels, they would have to hand bore a hole into the rock, and they would use thousands and thousands of kegs of powder to blow the rock apart.

Many times the explosion would just come back out, and they would have to start again. On a good day, according to the book, on a good day these hard-working people would be able to dig into that granite and maybe move 6 inches a day.

At the height of the construction of this railroad, those companies were laying rail for the first transcontinental railroad at the pace a man could walk. Imagine laying rail at the