

At a time when we are fighting a war against terrorism and hatred, we have a golden opportunity to show the world that we celebrate our diversity; that every American citizen or everyone who visits here will not be in danger because of their national origin or religious faith; that we will not allow these acts of terror to divide us; that we are one Nation under God, indivisible and we will stay that way.

SENATE CONTINUES TO STALL ON ECONOMIC SECURITY

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, the Nation's economists have confirmed what thousands of American workers have already feared, that our economy is in a recession.

House Republicans have passed an economic security package to create new jobs and help unemployed workers. But the stalling economy continues to be in jeopardy because the Senate continues to stall economic security legislation.

People are hurting, unemployment is rising, and now we have proof that the economy is in recession. What more does the Senate Democratic leadership need? The American people deserve action on this right now. The Senate Democrat leadership failed to push through a strictly partisan version of a stimulus plan on November 14.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for the Senate Democrat leadership to stop stalling and send President Bush an economic stimulus package that creates jobs and helps affected Americans.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). The Chair would remind Members they should avoid urging action or inaction by the Senate.

WORK YET UNDONE

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to talk about the work yet undone, the work this Congress, this House needs to complete. I believe it is imperative that we pass the Conyers Hate Crimes Prevention Act with 199 cosponsors, and I join my colleagues in reminding us of the values of this country of equality and justice.

This past week I commemorated and celebrated Ramadan with members of my community, the Muslim community. They should be protected just as anyone else, and terrorism should not divide us. Muslim and Arab lives have been lost, and they have been intimidated. We should pass this legislation.

We also announced today that we are in a recession, something we know about and that does not make for a happy holiday. We need an economic stimulus package that addresses the unemployed workers of America; in my own State, Enron, which is about to merge with another company, which I encourage to save the opportunities for workers and the resources that America needs. Maybe upwards of 3,000 employees will be laid off.

Mr. Speaker, we need an economic stimulus package. We need to pass hate crimes legislation, and this Congress needs to finish its unfinished business.

PROHIBIT HUMAN CLONING

(Mr. SHIMKUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, Thomas Jefferson wrote in the Declaration of Independence that we hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, and among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. That is why we have government. We have government to protect these rights, and more importantly, the rights of those who are the most innocent and the most vulnerable.

Mr. Speaker, on July 31 the House passed the bipartisan Weldon-Stupak Human Cloning Prohibition Act by a large majority. Advanced Cell Technologies of Massachusetts threatens human lives; and if government does not act, we are co-conspirators.

To produce one live cloned sheep, Dolly, scientists created 277 sheep embryos; 276 died in different stages of development or were discarded. The head of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Bishop Wilton D. Gregory of Belleville, Illinois, said that human cloning does not treat any disease but turns human reproduction into a manufacturing process by which human beings are mass produced to preset qualifications. It is time for the other legislative body to move and prohibit human cloning.

PASS HATE CRIMES LEGISLATION

(Ms. SCHAKOWSKY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, at a time when we are waging war around the world against terrorism, oppression and hate, we must be sure that we are sending a clear message at home to all Americans, especially our children, that hate crimes will not be tolerated, period.

President Bush has repeatedly called on Americans to resist all acts of bigotry and hate; and yet since the terrorist attacks on September 11, thousands of assaults have been reported across the country against people of

South Asian, Arab, Muslim, and Sikh backgrounds. Some of those occurred in my district, one of the most diverse districts in the Nation.

The Conyers bill, H.R. 1343, is the right antidote. It is not just talk; it is action. We must elevate the status of hate crimes within Federal law to ensure that the punishment fits the seriousness of the crime. Congress has given law enforcement new tools to fight terrorism, and we must not delay in adding new tools to fight hate here at home.

BAN HUMAN CLONING

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, 88 percent of the American people think that human cloning is immoral. Accordingly, this representative body overwhelmingly outlawed human cloning this July. Many of us are outraged to learn that a bio-technical firm has gone forward and made significant gains in the area of cellular-level human cloning.

Mr. Speaker, I must say today that amoral bio-technical firms ought not to lead America as America leads the world in medical ethics. Rather, America ought to be informed by history, by conscience, by history and by our laws and by this institution.

Our Chaplain spoke today about the Tower of Babel that was built on pride, of technology rising to the skies that destroyed their people. I submit that the creation of nascent human life, for research or vanity, is such a tower that threatens to tear at the fabric of our society and our laws and our very civilization. It must be banned.

PASS HATE CRIMES LEGISLATION

(Mr. SHERMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise along with the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) and 199 cosponsors in support of a Federal hate crimes statute. We must show the world that we are not engaged in a war on Islam, but instead are forming our laws to reflect the fact that we are building the most diverse country in the history of the world.

Mr. Speaker, it is said that a single act of violence should not be subject to different levels of punishment. But the fact is that we often enhance punishment due to the motivations of the perpetrator, and racial and religious hatred is one motivation that deserves enhanced punishment. We also adjust punishment when the perpetrator causes a greater harm; and hate crimes not only hurt the physical victim, but also tear at the fabric of our society.

There was a hate crime in my district 2 years ago. The Jewish Community Center was invaded and children

were shot. Not only were their families victims of this act, but there was fear at Jewish community centers from one end of this country to the other. It is time that we reflect this higher level of harm with a higher level of punishment by passing the Federal hate crimes statute.

BAN HUMAN CLONING

(Mr. FORBES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my strong opposition to human cloning. The announcement over the weekend that an American company had cloned the first human life is a profoundly disturbing step toward a brave new world for which none of us are prepared.

My father suffers from Parkinson's disease; and while I recognize the agony of so many Americans with devastating illnesses and injuries, I cannot countenance the creation and destruction of human life as a potential means to ease their suffering. There are other methods of scientific research using adult stem cells and umbilical cord blood that can lead to medical breakthroughs for Alzheimer's, spinal cord injury, and more. These alternatives promote the quality of human life without forsaking the value of human life in its most vulnerable form.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that science has overtaken the law in this instance. The House, in a strong bipartisan vote, has said we should not proceed down this path. The President has stated his opposition to human cloning. And in poll after poll, the American people overwhelmingly object to it as well. The other body must act, and act soon to ban human cloning.

BAGS IN BELLY OF AIRPLANE MUST BE SCREENED

(Mr. INSLEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, on November 18 the President signed a law promising the American people that every bag that goes into the belly of the airplanes will be checked for explosives, a promise that was long overdue. It is within certain time limits imposed by the U.S. Congress and signed into law by the President. Therefore, it is most disturbing that the administration has now told us, 9 days later, that they cannot meet the deadline set forth in law just 9 days ago.

Mr. Speaker, this is very disappointing because the word "cannot" is not in the American lexicon. In a Nation that sent people to the Moon and whose Armed Forces are doing such an exemplary job in Afghanistan, we cannot say we cannot solve this problem.

If there are not enough people to do the job, hire them. Get the National

Guard to do the job, and come to Congress and tell what us what is needed to get this job done because we will stand with the administration and make sure that it gets done. The American people deserve it.

BAN HUMAN CLONING

(Mr. FERGUSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. Speaker, this past summer I spoke on the floor of this House and voted with my colleagues overwhelmingly to ban human cloning. Two weeks ago I stood at this podium and urged our colleagues in the Senate to act on and pass this important legislation which would ban this mad science. This past weekend, as we all know, it happened. American scientists announced that they had cloned a human embryo.

Mr. Speaker, now is the time. Now is the time to choose between reckless science and a respect for human life, the time to choose between courageous action and silence.

Mr. Speaker, the message to our colleagues in the Senate must be to act now to ban human cloning. We can afford to wait no longer.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would again remind all Members, including certain past speakers, to refrain from urging action or inaction in the other body.

PASS HATE CRIMES LEGISLATION

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, a quote from the New Haven Register, my hometown paper, dated yesterday, "Hate Crimes Are a Local Danger." What it does is cites three recent reports that were conducted in the State of Connecticut: one by the Anti-Defamation League which says in recent years Connecticut has experienced a breadth and scope of extremist activity disproportionate to its small size. This is an alarming report if added to that is a State police analysis showing that reported hate crimes in Connecticut increased by almost 20 percent from 1998 to 1999. Add to that the chief State's attorney's recent report that says that since September 11 and the terrorist attacks on New York City and Washington, D.C., that there have been 13 hate crimes reported since that day, mostly aimed at American citizens merely on the grounds that they were of Arab extraction or of the Muslim faith. This reemphasizes the need for religious, cultural and educational institutions of Connecticut to continue promoting understanding.

Mr. Speaker, we have an opportunity at the Federal level to pass a bill, the Hate Crime Prevention Act of 2001, that would help local law enforcement officials deal with hate crimes. We must do it nationally, and we must do it for our local communities.

BAN HUMAN CLONING

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, we learned last week that just because a person has an advanced degree, there is still no guarantee that they are ethical or that they even exercise common sense. Some scientists are claiming today that they need to clone human beings in order to develop cures for diseases. We have been cloning animals for years; and not one, not one animal study has resulted in even a single useful therapy.

The history of animal cloning is replete with defects, deformities, and death. Dolly the sheep was the 277th try. To clone a human being, scientists will have to sacrifice hundreds and thousands of tiny human beings who will die because they are mutated and full of genetic defects and used for experimentation and harvesting of organs and cells.

Mr. Speaker, human life is human life. This kind of mad science should not be permitted. The House has passed the cloning ban. It needs to be passed into law so the American people can rest assured our government still knows right from wrong. It is obvious some scientists do not.

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HUMAN CLONING

(Mr. SMITH of New Jersey asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, let me tell my colleagues about the company that informed us that they have the technology to clone human beings. This is the same company that conducted research in which they introduced human cells into cow eggs, they have created human embryos specifically for scientific experimentation. In other words—use newly created human beings—steal their stem cells, then kill them. And now they have cloned human beings that lived for a few hours as embryos and then died. The drill here is to clone then kill the newly created human.

Their president, Michael West, has made clear that he has no problems with cloned births once so-called "safety issues" are resolved. Glen McGee, the former chair of their ethics advisory board, current professor of bioethics at the University of Pennsylvania and editor in chief of the American Journal of Bioethics, resigned