

those of us who endorse what we call the right to life and many thousands that endorse a woman's right to choose debated the question of choice. But let us all understand on this week when we foment this debate in Washington, Mr. Speaker, that there is no choice in China.

China's indefensible population control programs, though, do not just have their detractors in the world. They actually have their promoters, some of whom are sponsored by the United States Government. The United Nations Population Fund, also known as the UNFPA, Mr. Speaker, has described China's forced abortion policy as a, quote, remarkable achievement. Proving their moral bankruptcy, Sven Burmester, the representative for the U.N. Population Fund in Beijing, said, "China has the most successful family planning policy in the history of mankind in terms of quantity, and with that," he added, "China has done mankind a favor."

Also proving the moral bankruptcy of the UNFPA, Mr. Burmester of the Fund said, in effect, my own view is that there is a generation of Chinese who have sacrificed themselves to benefit society, and that generation, presumably the generation expensed in China's policy of forced abortion, is to be recognized.

But the U.N. Population Fund, Mr. Speaker, recently received a significant increase in its funding from the U.S. Government. There will be those who will say at the UNFPA that they only work in regions where the Chinese government has suspended its oppressive one-child policy. However, testimony in a recent House International Relations Committee hearing revealed photographs of a UNFPA office located within the China Office of Family Planning. The testimony also uncovered evidence that the UNFPA is active in Sihui County in China in which family planning is decidedly not voluntary. Officials have imposed age requirements there for pregnancy and require birth permits, mandatory sterilization and forced abortion. Those who refuse to comply with these standards face fines, imprisonment and often the destruction of their homes and property. There is no choice in China, Mr. Speaker.

But, sadly, in the waning days of the first session of the 107th Congress, the UNFPA in the foreign operations bill recently received a 58 percent increase in its funding, \$34 million, U.S. taxpayer paid. The Mexico City Policy prohibits Federal funding of groups that perform or even promote abortion services overseas.

So I rise today, Mr. Speaker, to urge the administration, as I did before over 100,000 pro-life citizens on the National Mall on Tuesday, I rise today to urge the administration to enforce the Mexico City Policy, to seize the Kemp Kas-ten language in the foreign operations bill and do what President Ronald Reagan did and do what President

George Herbert Walker Bush did, and that is render the amount the foreign operations bill has provided to the UNFPA to zero. The people of the United States of America deserve better than to have their taxpayer dollars used to foment and to promote an organization that praises China's forced abortion policy.

ON INTRODUCTION OF EMPLOYEE SAVINGS PROTECTION ACT (ESPA)

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

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to create new legal rights for employees who are induced to make investment decisions about their 401(k) or other individual pension accounts that are contrary to their own best interests. As one who has endeavored to expand opportunities for greater participation in employer-sponsored pension plans, I strongly believe that our pension laws must be amended to ensure that employers, who have superior information as to the financial condition of their business and communicate information that they know to be false to influence their employees in the administration of their 401(k) accounts, face serious legal consequences.

My bill, the Employee Savings Protection Act of 2002, would ensure that employees that were unduly influenced by such information to the detriment of their retirement savings can have a legal claim that survives bankruptcy.

I am introducing ESPA in the hopes that employees who participate in employer-sponsored plans, such as many of my constituents who were employed by Enron, do not meet the same fate as the employees of Morrison Knudsen, whose claims against the Idaho firm did not survive Chapter 11 reorganization. The claims of Morrison Knudsen employees were extinguished by the company's bankruptcy reorganization plan, according to a 1999 ruling by the Federal District Court in Boise, Idaho. There is a gaping hole in our bankruptcy laws if directors and officers or other fiduciaries under the Employment Retirement Security Act of 1974 can torpedo the retirement savings of their employees and walk away without owing a penny.

In the case of Enron, we now know that senior management grossly mismanaged the company while telling employees that their stock would rise. As a result, thousands lost their life savings on the basis of faulty information and through no fault of their own. Under ESPA, plan fiduciaries that engage in such acts, including officers and directors, would be held personally liable for the losses incurred as a result of this deception. Further, should the plan fiduciary file for bankruptcy protection, this employee claim would be treated as a "priority" to be fully reimbursed in bankruptcy proceedings,

ahead of other unsecured creditors. Eligible employee claims could arise from violations occurring as early as January 1, 2000.

Mr. Speaker, our pension laws are very clear as to the duties that fiduciaries owe to plan participants. The consequences for breaches are substantial. Directors and officers can be held personally liable for such breaches. Claims by employees who were damaged because they trusted the misinformation imparted by a fiduciary must be protected. Our bankruptcy laws must not be used as a cloak behind which employers such as Enron who dupe their employees are protected. Mr. Speaker, my bill will ensure not only that such claims are protected but that these claimants stand ahead of other unsecured creditors in a bankruptcy proceeding.

The time has come for the House to take action. I hope that we move on this bill quickly.

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

(Mr. THUNE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. HUNTER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JACK SHEA, OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALIST

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

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend the 22nd Congressional District of New York, New York State and indeed our Nation and the world suffered a great loss when we experienced the untimely death of Mr. Jack Shea. Mr. Shea was a double Olympic speed skating gold medalist who died suddenly and tragically in an automobile accident less than one mile from his home. Mr. Shea was 91 years young and served this Nation in so many important and great ways that this loss will be felt for quite some time.

In addition to the two Olympic Gold Medals that he earned at the Lake Placid Winter Olympic games in 1932, he was both the father and grandfather of Olympians. His son Jim competed in the 1964 Winter Olympics, and today, ironically enough and I think adding to the sense of tragedy to this unfortunate incident, his grandson Jim is set to compete in the Olympics at Salt Lake City, Utah.

Also ironically, this weekend we will convene in Lake Placid for our annual

Congressional Olympic Challenge. Mr. Shea was to serve as our keynote speaker on Saturday night, welcoming Members of Congress and citizens from throughout this Nation to the great Lake Placid and indeed showing them the important history that Mr. Shea was so much a part of and so important to, so much so, Mr. Speaker, that many in Lake Placid referred to Jack as Mr. Lake Placid. His untimely death is made particularly tragic by the loss that we will experience and the loss of his advocacy on behalf of Lake Placid and the Olympic movement. Without Jack there, I can say that there will be just a little bit missing from this weekend. But as Jack would tell us if he were here, the games must go on. The efforts to ensure that the Olympic movement in the United States and indeed throughout the world needs to be made strong. That is why we will embark.

For those reasons, I intend to and will introduce a resolution into this House today to recognize and pay proper tribute to Jack Shea, a great man, a great Olympian and a friend who truly epitomized, Mr. Speaker, the greatness of America, the greatness of the Olympic movement, the greatness of competition in the Olympic movement. We will all dearly miss him. We are all deeply touched and have been deeply touched by his life.

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

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

AFGHANISTAN FACING LONG AND DIFFICULT ROAD TO RECOVERY

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

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS), both good friends who have really done a lot to help on human rights and hunger and religious freedom issues, and I traveled to Afghanistan and Pakistan from January 2 through 10. After spending 2 days of that trip in Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan, clearly the situation there is desperate. At a later time on the House floor perhaps the gentleman from Ohio, the gentleman from Pennsylvania and I can share in greater detail our observations, but there are some comments I would like to make today.

The issue of security in Afghanistan has to be dealt with immediately. The country is still not safe. We were told there are no low risk areas in the country. Crime in Kabul—banditry and murder—is on the rise. Interim Chair-

man Harmid Karzai told us that he may ask that outside forces be brought in to provide security not only for the Afghan people but to ensure that humanitarian aid is delivered. The Afghan government will need help with rebuilding an army that is loyal to the central government and an effective police force to maintain order.

The Bush administration is working diligently to help ease tensions between Pakistan and India, and I support that effort. The threat of nuclear war and the potential negative impact a war in the region would have on the United States' war on terrorism demands immediate attention. President Bush and the Secretary of State have done a great job with regard to bringing both India and Pakistan together. If a special envoy would be helpful in the region, I would suggest that be done.

We ought to immediately restore the AID, Agency for International Development, mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan. AID is doing a tremendous job. The Agency for International Development is critical to countries such as Pakistan and Afghanistan to prevent future extremism.

We must do whatever is necessary to defeat terrorism, which means the United States has a responsibility to stay active and involved because the war on terrorism is not a conventional war. It is not only a military fight but an economic, cultural and educational struggle.

Afghanistan and Pakistan are like bookends. Whatever happens to one country happens to the other. Many believe that the West abandoned Afghanistan after it defeated the Soviet Union, and it became a fertile ground for the rise of the Taliban. We cannot walk away again. If we do, we could be back to where we are today.

I would encourage individuals to go and visit Afghanistan to witness this firsthand. The Afghan people are optimistic, they are hopeful, they are looking to see progress. While substantial resources are required immediately, long-term, multiyear funding for development must be secured in addition to what is already available, but not detract from the development and humanitarian assistance given to other parts of the world.

We should continue to encourage and promote cooperation among the states in the region which share an interest in the stability of Afghanistan and be concerned with regard to the fact that the Iranians appear to be moving into Afghanistan in a big way.

Efforts should be made to prevent the drug trade from being increased and to ultimately wipe it out. Ironically, the cultivation of opium was banned under the Taliban but not strictly enforced. I am concerned that drugs may begin to come back in a big way, because, regrettably, for many Afghan farmers, growing opium is a way of making a living. We do not want to see the drug trade reestablished in Afghanistan

which then ends up on the streets of the United States and Western countries.

People-to-people diplomacy, without using taxpayer money, hospital to hospital, school to school, civic association, Rotary clubs, Kiwanis clubs, Lions clubs should be encouraged to take on projects.

While there we went into a girls' school. The young girls have not been to school for 5 years. They need supplies. Our schools could adopt those schools, and send pens, pencils, books. Hospitals here could donate medicines, equipment and other supplies. We ought not just be looking for Federal dollars but also for volunteer groups in the West, not only in the United States but in Britain and in other countries, to be involved.

The U.S. business community can also help. Hopefully the Afghan community in the United States will participate and go back and help their colleagues and fellow family members in Afghanistan.

There are a number of other comments that I will make that I will just submit for the RECORD.

I want to close by acknowledging the great job our military have done in Afghanistan and continue to do, the dedicated forces of the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines.

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I want to acknowledge and salute the thousands of men and women serving in the Nation's Armed Forces in Afghanistan and around the world. I want to salute the State Department personnel in Afghanistan and Pakistan and here in the United States who are working very hard on this issue. They deserve our special thanks.

I also want to thank all of the NGOs, the World Food Programme in particular, working in this region to keep famine from taking place; this is the beginning of the fourth year of a drought. Also Save the Children, Catholic Relief, Church World Services and many other groups are doing an outstanding job.

I also want to thank the American Ambassador, Wendy Chamberlin, and her staff in Pakistan and the staff in the American embassy in Afghanistan.

We will prevail and make sure that Afghanistan never returns to terrorism.

A FRESH LOOK AT THE DISAPPEARING BUDGET SURPLUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. POMEROY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, well, here we are. It is a new year, we are all back from our districts, from time with our families; and it is time to take a fresh look at where we are as we begin a new legislative Congress.