

□ 1130

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON) at 11 o'clock and 30 minutes a.m.

PRINTING OF PROCEEDINGS HAD DURING RECESS

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the proceedings had during the recess be printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from South Carolina?

There was no objection.

PATRIOT ACT REAUTHORIZATION

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, one of the things we have learned since September 11 is that legislation like the PATRIOT Act is absolutely necessary, so I want to commend the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER), and the committee itself for working to prepare legislation reauthorizing the PATRIOT Act.

I was disappointed to learn that many of the Democrats opposed the legislation in committee, especially in light of the London bombings. Prior to September 11, this country did not have the legal and intelligence infrastructure necessary to pursue terrorist cells operating on our own soil. Republicans in Congress said never again, and we took action to be sure that our police and intelligence agencies were working together to prevent terrorism. The PATRIOT Act should be reauthorized with overwhelming bipartisan support.

I hope Democrats will finally realize we cannot afford to be soft on terrorism here at home and will join Republicans in supporting this bill when it comes to the House floor.

157TH ANNIVERSARY OF SENECA FALLS, NY WOMEN'S CONVENTION

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

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, on this day in 1848, one of the first public appeals for women's suffrage was made when Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton called a women's rights convention in Seneca Falls, New York. For over 70 years, women organized, marched picket lines, and chained themselves to the White House fence until women won the right to vote with the 19th amendment in 1920.

Suffragettes should be remembered, and last week I introduced a resolution

to establish a day to commemorate America's suffragettes. It was not long ago that women in this country did not have the right to vote, and we ought not take that right for granted. Women have a responsibility to exercise that right and make a difference in this country.

We women do have this responsibility to show our patriotism, demonstrate good citizenship by setting an example for our children by participating in the political process and by casting our vote in this country to elect our representatives.

FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION ACT

(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, the Constitution of the United States reads in part "Congress shall make no law abridging the freedom of speech or of the press." These freedoms represent the bedrock of our democracy, by ensuring a free flow of information to the public.

Sadly, these freedoms are under attack. And while politicians here in Washington, D.C. engage in a familiar clash along the fault lines of the politics of personal destruction, a much greater scandal languishes in a quiet prison cell in suburban Washington, D.C. in the sad image of an American journalist behind bars whose only crime was standing up for the public's right to know.

Judith Miller is not alone. In the past year, nine journalists have been given or threatened with jail sentences for refusing to reveal confidential sources. That is why my colleague, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BUCHER), and I have introduced the Free Flow of Information Act, which will have its first hearing in the Senate Judiciary Committee tomorrow.

Nothing less than the public's right to know is at stake, and I urge my colleagues to join us in standing for a free and independent press by supporting and cosponsoring the Free Flow of Information Act.

GREENSPAN TO TESTIFY ON STATE OF ECONOMY

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow the Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan will testify before the Committee on Financial Services on the state of the economy. During his testimony, Chairman Greenspan will undoubtedly argue that ours is a healthy growing economy. But while he is explaining the flattened yield curve, I am hoping he will take the time to explain the curve balls being thrown at America's middle class.

As the Wall Street Journal reported today, "In the past few years, overall

consumer prices have risen a little over 8 percent while wages have remained flat for the middle class."

Gasoline prices, up 55 percent; electricity, 11 percent; health care costs, 10 percent; college costs, 12 percent; and the ability to save for retirement is getting harder and harder. For public servants, like teachers, police officers, and firemen, they are being priced out of the housing market.

While he expounds on America's monetary policy, the 10-year note, the housing bubble, Chairman Greenspan should take the time to explain what is happening to America's middle class as they face a flattened wage and rising costs. As their incomes remain unchanged, the barrier to the middle class keeps rising.

Mr. Speaker, the questions that Chairman Greenspan needs to answer are the challenges that face today's middle class, not just the 10-year note.

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on June 30, the Department of Homeland Security and the FBI's Safe Street Gang Task Force arrested 10 members of the SUR-13 gang on illegal immigration charges in my district. The largest gang bust in Alpharetta, Georgia, history serves to spotlight the ever present need to secure our borders.

These illegal gang members are not only taking American jobs and tax money, they are also taking American lives. These gang members distribute dangerous drugs, they commit murders, assaults, drive-by shootings and auto thefts. We must get serious about immigration reform.

Mr. Speaker, 400,000 illegal aliens who have been ordered deported are still in this country because their deportation orders have not been enforced. In many cases, after being ordered deported by a judge, the illegal alien simply walks out of the courtroom without so much as someone ensuring that they leave the country.

Mr. Speaker, our immigration policies are broken. One of the SUR-13 gang members put it all in perspective. When ordered deported, he said, "I'll be back. It's so easy. People here are stupid."

Our borders need to be secured and the time to act is now.

WOMEN AND POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT

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

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the women suffragettes who began their campaign for women's right to vote 157 years ago today in Seneca Falls in New York. It

would take over 72 years of perseverance for this campaign to succeed and for women to gain the right to vote, with the ratification of the 19th amendment.

Today, almost 85 years later, a higher percentage of women vote as compared to men. However, we still have about 32 percent of women in the United States who are not even registered to vote. Can you believe that? Among that group of women between 18 and 24 years of age, 45 percent are not even registered to vote.

We need to do more to energize and engage these young women in the political process. Women must have a voice in all national debates that affect them, especially on important issues like reproductive health, equal rights, and Social Security.

As an example, in the debate over privatizing Social Security, 58 percent of seniors receiving Social Security are women. Since women have a longer average life span than men, privatizing Social Security would harm them. Let us take up the banner, like the suffragettes did, and let us work hard for women's rights.

ANNIVERSARY OF WOMEN'S RIGHT TO VOTE

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

Ms. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark an important anniversary in our Nation's history. Eighty-five years ago, on August 18, 1920, the 19th amendment to the Constitution was ratified, extending the right to vote to American women.

The road to the 19th amendment was long and difficult, paved with hard work and struggle. The birth of the women's suffrage movement can be traced to the Women's Rights Commission in Seneca Falls, New York, in July of 1848, which laid out the principles that would guide the women's movement.

More than seven decades later, those principles were at last codified into our Constitution, moving our Nation closer to meeting the promise of its founding.

Today, we have more women than ever serving in elected and appointed positions in our local, State, and national governments. Not only in this Chamber, but also in the United States Senate, in the President's Cabinet, and in a wide range of Governors' offices, as well as other positions. This represents a vast change from where we stood 85 years ago, and our Nation is stronger for it.

As we watch the spread of freedom across the globe, and as more and more women take on the rights and responsibilities of full political citizenship, let us pay tribute to those women who blazed the trail for those of us who have followed.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGISTS MOVEMENT

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the 157th anniversary of the first women's suffragists movement.

Western New York is often said to be the cradle of the women's rights movement, and I am privileged to represent the area where one prominent suffragette, Susan B. Anthony, of Rochester, fought so hard for the rights that women today enjoy.

Susan B. Anthony formed the Equal Rights Association, refuted ideas that women were inferior to men, and fought for a woman's right to vote. She also campaigned for the rights of women to own property, to keep their own earnings, and have custody of their children.

In 1900, she persuaded the University of Rochester to admit their first women students. Through persistent dedication, Susan B. Anthony, and other remarkable leaders, women were finally granted the right to vote in 1920. Since then, we have made progress, but still have a long way to go. We face the gender gap. And whether it is equal pay, health care, Social Security, or family leave, this Congress has refused to address issues critical to hard-working American women.

The suffragist movement had to overcome the rhetoric and the empty promises of Members of this House 85 years ago. Commitment to concrete policies, not grandiose words, honors the battle they fought so hard and won.

85TH ANNIVERSARY OF WOMEN'S RIGHT TO VOTE

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

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in recognition of the upcoming 85th anniversary of the women's right to vote.

During the first women's rights convention that took place in Seneca Falls, New York, in 1848, Elizabeth Cady Stanton said, "We are assembled to protest against a form of government existing without the consent of the governed to declare our right to be free as man is free, to be represented in the government which we are taxed to support."

Elizabeth Cady Stanton's words marked the beginning of what we now know as the Women's Suffragist Movement. Seventy-two long and hard fought years after that speech, the 19th amendment was written into our country's Constitution. August 26, 2005, marks the 85th anniversary of that right.

In February of 1920, in my home State of West Virginia, the legislature

met in special session and was lobbied heavily by the State's suffragettes. On March 10, 1920, the House passed the amendment by a 15 to 14 vote. The State senate made West Virginia the 35th of the 36 States needed to ratify the amendment.

Mr. Speaker, it is only fitting that I stand here to honor and remember those women and men who petitioned, picketed, and demonstrated, even some in spite of being jailed and disgraced, for the sake of women's rights to be equal in the eyes of our government. Had it not been for the bravery and conviction of many important women that preceded us, I would not be standing here today.

Women's voices are heard loud and clear at the ballot box, and we will never forget the value of our vote.

157TH ANNIVERSARY OF HISTORIC SENECA FALLS CONVENTION

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

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I also speak today in tribute to the 157th anniversary of the historic Seneca Falls convention, which paved the way for women's equality in the political world. Without the principles set forward by those courageous women and men at that convention, neither I nor the other 68 Members of the House currently here would ever have dreamed of being where we are today.

American women everywhere would never have dreamed of being able to contribute what they have over the last century and a half. They have excelled as leaders of political movements and pioneers of important policies.

The women at Seneca Falls set forth an agenda that would guide the women's rights movement for centuries. Their efforts paved the way for the ratification of the 19th amendment, without which women could not cast votes on issues that directly affect them.

Despite strong opposition, they knew then that extending equal rights to women would lead to a more successful society. And 157 years later, we know they were right, and we continue their dream of a United States with full and active participation of all women in politics.

FIGHTING FOR THE RIGHT TO VOTE

(Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to honor the 157th anniversary of the women's suffragette movement here in the United States. On this date in 1848, a historic meeting of women leaders took place in Seneca Falls, New York.