

SENATE—Friday, September 17, 1999

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JUDD GREGG, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire.

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APPOINTMENT OF ACTING
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

UNITED STATES SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, September 17, 1999.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, section 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JUDD GREGG, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire, to perform the duties of the Chair.

STROM THURMOND,
President pro tempore.

Mr. GREGG thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 2:15 P.M.
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1999

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will stand adjourned until 2:15 p.m., Tuesday, September 21, 1999.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 10 o'clock and 26 seconds a.m., adjourned until Tuesday, September 21, 1999, at 2:15 p.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Friday, September 17, 1999

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 17, 1999.

I hereby appoint the Honorable BILL BARRETT to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Reverend James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

Let us pray using the words of Katherine Davis:
Let all things now living
A song of thanksgiving
To God the creator triumphantly raise,
Who fashioned and made us,
Protected and stayed us,
Who still guides us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us,
His light goes before us,
A pillar of fire shining forth in the night,
Till shadows have vanquished
And darkness is banished,
As forward we travel from light into light. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. ROHRABACHER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, an-

nounced that the Senate agrees to the report of the Committee of Conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2490) "An Act making appropriations for the Treasury Department, the United States Postal Service, the Executive Office of the President, and certain Independent Agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes."

The message also announced that the Senate agrees to the report of the Committee of Conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2587) "An Act making appropriations for the government of the District of Columbia and other activities chargeable in whole or in part against the revenues of said District for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes."

The message also announced that the Senate had passed bills and a concurrent resolution of the following titles, in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 299. An act to elevate the position of Director of the Indian Health Service within the Department of Health and Human Services to Assistant Secretary for Indian Health, and for other purposes.

S. 401. An act to provide for business development and trade promotion for Native Americans, and for other purposes.

S. 406. An act to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to make permanent the demonstration program that allows for direct billing of medicare, medicaid, and other third party payors, and to expand the eligibility under such program to other tribes and tribal organizations.

S. 613. An act to encourage Indian economic development, to provide for the disclosure of Indian tribal sovereign immunity in contracts involving Indian tribes, and for other purposes.

S. 614. An act to provide for regulatory reform in order to encourage investment, business, and economic development with respect to activities conducted on Indian lands.

S. Con. Res. 56. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding the importance of "family friendly" programming on television.

The message also announced that Mr. LEAHY is added as a conferee, on the part of the Senate, to the bill (H.R. 2670) "An Act making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes."

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 99-498, the

Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, reappoints Robert C. Khayat, of Mississippi, to the Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance for a term beginning October 1, 1999, and ending September 30, 2002.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 93-415, as amended by Public Law 102-586, the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, after consultation with the Democratic Leader, announces the appointment of Charles Sims, of Mississippi, to serve as a member of the Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, vice William Keith Oubre.

SPECIAL ORDERS

TECHNOLOGY AND WEAPONS TRANSFERS TO CHINA AND THE SITUATION IN PANAMA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to speak on an issue which I have, indeed, spoken about before, but I have some startling new information for the American people.

It is no surprise to anyone that I am deeply concerned about America's relationship with Communist China. In this body, we have votes on the trading status with Communist China, and this administration is operating under policy guidelines that deal with Communist China in a certain way.

In fact, the United States Congress, the House of Representatives, and the Senate have voted for normal trade relations, or what used to be called most-favored-nation status for China, and a majority of Members of this body on my side of the aisle have voted to treat Communist China in terms of our trade relations as we do normal trade relations with other societies; that, of course, with a large number of people on the other side supporting most-favored-nation status, normal trade relations as well.

The Clinton administration has gone beyond this. Perhaps those of us in this House believe that trading relations with another country, even a dictatorship like that on the mainland of China, will in some way help that society evolve into a more peaceful, more benevolent, more democratic situation.

☐ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., ☐ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

I consider that to be wishful thinking. I disagree with that concept. I personally believe in free trade between free people, and it is better to give dictatorships and people who live under dictatorships the incentive to reform and the incentive to move towards democracy, rather than giving them the fruits of a positive trade relationship with this, the strongest economy in the world.

I would treat Communist China differently than I would treat the government of Belgium or Italy or other democratic societies in trying to determine what our trade policy should be.

Again, this is based on wishful thinking. However, it is beyond my realm and my ability to understand how this administration has been able to move forward with its policies toward Communist China over these last 6 years.

The President of the United States has insisted time and again that Communist China be considered a strategic partner of the United States. Those are the words that this administration has insisted upon, Communist China a strategic partner of the United States.

A few moments ago we pledged our allegiance to the flag of the United States of America. Our flag, as I noted before we said the pledge, stands for freedom and justice. How can a country which is based not on some ethnic background, as our country has no ethnicity that we are supposedly protecting, as in other countries, their national identity stems from that, from an ethnic or racial homogeneity among the people, but we have no religious belief that binds all of our people together. In fact, we have every race and every ethnic group from every part of the world, people who have come here to America; and we have every religion in America.

What binds Americans together is our love of liberty and our love of justice and our love of freedom. That is the foundation, that is the basis of our country. How can we, if we believe that to be true, consider the world's worst human rights abuser as our strategic partner?

Yes, having a trading relationship with a dictatorship such as China is wishful thinking. It is also exploitation on the part of various business interests in the United States, business interests that, I might add, could care less about the working people in our country, often closing up factories here in order to set up factories in China, in order to sell the products that were made in China back here in the United States because we have such a low tariff on Chinese goods, although the Chinese tariff on our goods is very high.

But if we stand for freedom and justice, how can we have not just a trading relationship but a strategic partnership with Communist China?

It is my contention, Mr. Speaker, that this nonsense, this almost surreal-

istic policy on the part of the Clinton administration, has already yielded a horrible bounty of threats and jeopardy to the United States of America.

Let me make this very clear. The Clinton policy of treating Communist China as a friend, as a benevolent country, as a strategic partner, has resulted in putting the United States in grave danger.

There are two things that I will talk about today. First, I have spoken about this before, and it is well known in the public, although it is being denied through the liberal media over and over and over again now, and that is, the weapons and technology of mass destruction that Communist China has managed to obtain because of our lax policies towards the Communist China regime; and number two, I would like to speak today about dramatic information that I have uncovered in Panama.

During a recent trip to Panama, I spent time investigating the situation, spoke to people who were in hiding, who were afraid for their lives, spoke to others who were firsthand observers of corruption and firsthand observers of a strategic maneuver on the part of the Chinese that is moving forward and putting the United States in great danger.

So I will be speaking first about the technology and missiles that have found their way and been upgraded, the Chinese missiles that have been upgraded with American technology; and then I would like to talk a little bit about what I discovered in Panama.

It is most disturbing to me, Mr. Chairman, that after 2 years we still have press reports from the likes of Bob Scheerer of the Los Angeles Times. And why the Los Angeles Times feels that it has to always tout the far left line, I do not know. I do not understand that, I do not understand how a major newspaper in the United States can continually take the side of those left-wing regimes, and downplay any threat to the United States that these left-wing regimes around the world pose to the United States of America.

But now, Mr. Scheerer in the L.A. Times and others in the media and this administration, through an orchestrated maneuvering, is trying to suggest that there was no validity to the Cox report and that the Chinese really have not, through underhanded means, obtained information that permits them to develop weapons of mass destruction that threaten millions of Americans.

This I assert today is a truism. Over the last 7 years, the Communist Chinese have been able to obtain and start putting into their weapons systems technology that cost the American people, the American taxpayer, billions of dollars to develop.

The Communist Chinese have been able to use American technology to

leapfrog ahead by decades, farther ahead than what they would be if it was not for the fact that they had American technology at their disposal, which permits them to build weapons of mass destruction that threaten every American city, that threaten tens of millions of Americans with nuclear incineration. They have atomic weapons that are based on American technology, and they obtained them from the United States in some way.

Mr. Speaker, I would say today that the American people need to pay attention. I would alert the American people that something is wrong with the taxpayer dollars that they have spent by the billions which are now being put in the hands of people like those who are in charge of the regime in Beijing, the Communist Chinese regime.

There is something wrong when those billions of dollars that we spent during the Cold War now find their way, the technology that was developed finds its way to a power like Communist China. And no amount of words, it is hard to even describe the process of the mangling of the language and word games that is being played by this administration in order to call China our strategic partner; to call Communist China, the world's worst human rights abuser, our strategic partner.

□ 1015

This has resulted in several things. Number one, this body had to act on its own to force the Clinton administration to discontinue military exchange programs with the Communist Chinese regime.

Let us make this very clear. Communist China is the world's worst human rights abuser. It is a Communist dictatorship. Their leadership still claims to their own Communist congresses in Beijing that the United States is the enemy and that they will destroy us. But yet we have had a policy in the last 5 years of military exchanges in which we are teaching them our military secrets and we permit their top military brass to observe our troops and how they act and the game plans that we use during our warfare, our potential warfare with any adversary.

At the same time, we have been taking these military exchange programs, and what have we been doing? We have been teaching the Communist Chinese how to run a logistics system, how to supply troops in the field, how to transport troops. This we are doing with the military of the world's worst human rights abuser, a country that threatens our own national security.

What sense does that make? The people of Tibet are still suffering under a genocidal policy by the Communist regime in Beijing. There are Muslims in the far reaches of western China who are also suffering a genocidal attack. Believers in God, Christians, who

refuse to register with the government are being brutally suppressed, thrown into concentration camps, they call it the laogai system of prisons. Now we hear that a Buddhist sect made up of middle-aged and senior citizens of China who practice nothing more than kind of a breathing exercise, an exercise program in the morning that helps the soul as well as the body, even this little Buddhist religious sect is now coming under severe repression.

This is not a normal regime. This is not like Belgium or the Netherlands or even Mexico, which is struggling to try to have free elections. There are no free elections, there are no parties, there is no freedom in China. But yet we are training the military in China on how to be more effective.

And what will that military do? It will either be used to repress their own people and participate in destroying the culture and the people of Tibet or these other repressed minorities in China, or it will be used in aggression against their neighbors. Already Burma has become nothing more than a fiefdom for China. We see in the Spratly Islands the Communist Chinese trying to bully their neighbors and grab these islands so that they can control the Malacca Straits where so much of the world's commerce goes through that one little strait there in South Asia. They may use that military training that we are providing them in that type of activity. Or they may use the military training that we are providing them to kill Americans.

This is insanity. It is an insane policy to call this type of regime our strategic partner. And it is threatening the lives and the well-being of millions of Americans. Every time we turn around, we are finding out that our country is more in jeopardy because of conscious decisions on the part of the Clinton administration to treat Communist China as a benevolent power.

This is not only insanity, this is a crime against the American people, especially against the youth of our country. The American people who are trying to raise their family sacrificed, America sacrificed during the Cold War. America sacrificed in order to make a more peaceful world and to protect the cause of human freedom. And yet now with the Cold War over, we are finding that our young people, our children, are going to be in as great a danger 10 years from now as they were at the height of the Cold War. Why is that? Because we have a policy that makes no sense, that is contrary to our interests in dealing with a regime on the mainland of China that hates everything that the United States stands for.

Let me make this clear about the regime that controls the mainland of China. These are gangsters, these are people who hate the United States of America because they believe that we

are the only power that stands in their way of their destiny. Just as Japan during the 1920s believed that it was the destiny of Japan to control all of Asia and into the Pacific Basin, the Japanese knew that the United States was the only power that stood in their way, that we were the only ones that could stop them from their destiny, these militaristic gangsters who ran Japan at the time. That same attitude now is what we find in Beijing.

When we let their scientists go to our laboratories, when we train their military, they do not say, Oh, the United States of America must be our friends. Otherwise they would not be so open. They are not saying that. They are saying, The United States of America is weak. They are saying that the people of the United States of America are permitting weapons technology to come into our possession and we hate them. That must mean the Americans are cowards.

That is what is going on. We are laying the foundation for a bitter future for our young people, because 10 years from now when the Communist Chinese have taken the technology that they have stolen from us and obtained through our openness with them, they will be put into weapons systems that will threaten the lives of our young people when they reach adulthood.

And sometime and someday in the future we will send an aircraft carrier into the Pacific and thousands of American lives will be lost if we get into a confrontation because the Chinese will have the technology to sink our aircraft carriers and murder our military personnel. And when we look back, we will find that that technology was developed by the American taxpayers during the Cold War and offered on a plate to the Communist Chinese.

This is a sinful policy. It is sinful because it ignores the fundamental values of our country and it is sinful because we the Government, and we are the Government, the United States of America, we the people, we are supposed to be watching out for the people's interest, especially the interest of future generations of Americans.

This acknowledgment of the type of technological disaster that we are in right now started 2 years ago. As chairman of the Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics, which is my primary responsibility here in the House of Representatives, I went to a meeting of aerospace workers to find out what projects they are working on and to get a firsthand look and feel for our aerospace industry in the United States.

During that meeting, one of the employees of the aerospace industry that I was talking to was talking about the project that he had just been involved in; he had just come back from China. He was saying, Congressman, those Chinese rockets, they do not even work. They do not have right-stage

separation technology. We are trying to put our satellites up with those rockets and they will not work and they can only carry one payload. They can only carry one satellite. So I have spent the last year over there helping them try and correct these problems.

I could not believe what I was hearing. Finally when he was done, I said, Let me get this straight. Your company has used this technology that we paid for, that the taxpayers paid for, you are using that technology and your expertise and your company, every means that your company has, to improve the capability and the reliability of the rocket systems over in China?

He says, Why, yes. Their stage separation, he repeated that, they do not have the exploding bolts, the stage separation that they need and they blow up right after it takes off.

I looked at that aerospace worker and I said, You know, I think it is a good thing when Communist Chinese rockets blow up. And all of a sudden he said, Oh, you are thinking about the national security implications.

And I said, Yes. Yes, I am. I am thinking about that. It is something we should think about.

He said, Do not worry. We have a waiver from the White House.

Well, that made me feel real good about that. I spent the next 6 months, Mr. Speaker, researching this issue. I went to the major aerospace firms and talked to them. I went to the subcontractors. I went to the aerospace employees, and I researched this issue myself before I made a speech on the floor of the House of Representatives.

What I found was a verification that our companies, some of our major corporations, were over in China providing them with the technology they needed to make sure their rockets did not explode when the stages separated, to make sure that the rockets in China could carry more than one payload. When we are talking about payloads, we are not just talking about a peaceful satellite here. If you can carry more than one satellite, you can carry more than one warhead. More than one warhead means if they send a missile to the United States that does not explode because the stage separation now works with American technology, that it can carry two atomic bombs, or three, or four, and wipe out tens of millions of people in the United States rather than just a million people.

This was not a secret to this administration that this was going on. In fact, when alarm bells went off, this administration put their thumb right on top of those civil servants throughout the administration who were supposed to be watching out for our security. We found that especially to be true in how this administration has been running our national laboratories.

For those who do not understand, we have laboratories where we have developed these weapons of mass destruction

that can either be used to protect freedom and preserve the peace or if that technology gets into the hands of monsters like Hitler or the militaristic Japanese or the Communist Chinese regime in Beijing, those weapons would threaten humankind.

Because China has to be told that they are our strategic partner, we had a policy of letting these scientists from the People's Republic of China do their experiments in our laboratories, in our weapons laboratories. Over and over again, we have found during this investigation, we have found that those people who sounded the alarm, career civil servants, civil service people, were repressed by this administration, were told to shut up or get out.

We have had hearings on this and documented this over and over again. Now, what has this resulted in? What are we talking about here? We are talking about missile technology, and we are talking about technology that has permitted them to build weapons that can kill millions of Americans, probably the size of that little desk down there, that little table right there, put into a Chinese rocket that can kill millions of Americans, or millions of Tibetans or millions of Japanese or millions of South Koreans.

That technology has been taken, obtained from the United States, from our scientists and now is in the hands of a regime that is in the middle of committing genocide in Tibet, repressing their own people and involved in a great military expansion, a country that is being provided by our own policies with 50 to \$60 billion of hard currency surplus because we are permitting them the trade status of a benevolent, friendly country.

We will pay dearly for this nonsense. Our young people will face a threat that they should not have to face because of this indefensible, totally indefensible policy. But it is worse. Mr. Speaker, after my investigation into the original charges about the use of technology to upgrade and to perfect Communist Chinese rockets, the gentleman from California (Mr. COX) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS) were made the heads of a select committee; and they conducted their own investigation with people with much more expertise than I have.

Specialists went in and confirmed this horrible, horrible transfer of technology to the Communist Chinese. And now the Clinton administration and the news media is trying to get the American people to relax, forget about it, pretend it does not exist. In fact, Robert Scheerer of the L.A. Times is trying to claim it never happened. Yes, the Communist Chinese just simply found the plans for the W-88 warhead, atomic warhead. They found those plans under their pillow one night because the tooth fairy must have left it there.

□ 1030

I am sure that is what must have happened. It was either the tooth fairy or it was a policy by this administration that ended up with a transfer of that technology. The American people can decide which one of those scenarios actually happened.

By the way, this is not the first time such things have happened. There have been transfers of technology in the past. There are reports that in the 1930s, Howard Hughes designed a fighter aircraft that was a superior fighter aircraft for its day and that our Government did not follow through on his offer to produce these fighter aircraft.

The story is that the Japanese got a hold of the blueprints for that and Howard Hughes was the one who actually designed the Japanese Zero, which resulted in the death of so many Americans during World War II. I do not know if that is true. I have heard that report over and over again. It may not be true, but we do know that Hughes Electronics certainly is one of the companies that has been involved in transferring rocket technology to the Communist Chinese in order to perfect their rocket systems.

Also, some people do not know that during the post-war period after World War II, the English decided to prove to Josef Stalin that they were his friends and so the English shipped to Joe Stalin, this bloody dictator in Russia, they shipped to him a complete Rolls Royce jet engine which at that time was the utmost, that was the ultimate in all weapons technology, a jet engine for an airplane.

Know what? That did not make Josef Stalin any more benevolent. It did not make Josef Stalin more inclined to trust the West and become more democratic and open. No. Josef Stalin used that jet engine, that Rolls Royce jet engine, not to build passenger planes that could help tie Russia with the rest of the world. Josef Stalin used that Rolls Royce engine, which was copied, every little bit of it, and mass produced in Russia. He used it in the MiG fighters that shot down American planes in Korea.

Josef Stalin launched a war in Korea and used the technology that the English had given him to produce airplanes that we could not shoot down, and thousands of American lives were lost because of it. The British just thought that they were trying to do something that would prove that they were friendly.

When will the free people of the world understand that when dealing with a gangster or a bully or a dictator, we must do so from strength or that dictator will perceive a weakness?

The Communist Chinese regime is no more benevolent, no more peaceful today. In fact, there are signs that it has become worse in these last 10 years.

With all due respect to my colleagues in this body that vote for Most Favored Nation status over and over again, I think the Communist Chinese would have to bomb the capitol of the United States before they would quit voting to provide this very lucrative trade status to the Communist Chinese regime; and the Chinese continue, as I say, their aggressive action.

About 6 months ago, I flew over the Spratly Islands. It took me 2 years to get to the Spratly Islands because our State Department did not want me to see what was going on there.

What was going on there? The Chinese communists are taking the islands. These islands are just about 100 miles off the Philippines. Yet they are 800 miles off the coast of China, and the Chinese communists are building fortifications.

When I finally got out to the Spratly Islands, I was in an old C-130, an old propeller-driven airplane that the Philippine Air Force provided me; and as soon as we got through the clouds, there were three Chinese war ships right there in the lagoon of, which is one of the Spratly Islands.

Not only were there three Chinese war ships, but the Chinese construction workers were feverishly trying to complete a fortification on those islands. We could see their welding torches. Even as our plane dipped down to take a low pass over those islands, we could see the torches at work, and they were building their fortifications.

This is very similar, very similar, to the situation in the 1920s and 1930s when the Japanese fortified the Pacific Islands, and in this case the Chinese are trying to grab these islands from the Philippines, a democratic country with very little military, trying to grab these islands in order to what? In order to bracket the water passages between the mainland of China and the Spratly Islands, which will then give them a strangle hold on 50 percent of the commerce of Asia, a strangle hold and also a grip on America's ability to defend Asia.

Something else is going on right now, and this is where I would like to lead in to my talk on Panama. The Communist Chinese regime is also involved in a strategic maneuver. Here is our strategic partner involved in a strategic maneuver. One would think if they were our strategic partner that maneuver would be something that we would like, because they are our partners, are they not? No, they are involved in a strategic maneuver to strangle the United States of America, and it is very clear that they have targeted areas in which the United States is most vulnerable. The Panama Canal happens to be one of those areas.

Let me make clear, Panama is where the two major oceans of the world come together, the Pacific and the Atlantic Oceans. It is where the two great

continents of the Western Hemisphere come together, the Northern Hemisphere and the Southern Hemisphere. This is one of the choke points of the world, this, and the Suez Canal and the Straits of Gibraltar; this and the Molucca Straits near the Spratly Islands.

What do we find? What do we find? We find that the United States of America has removed all of its military personnel from Panama.

I was down, as I say, in Panama a very short time ago, a month ago; and I was shocked to see ghost towns in what had been only a short time ago American military bases. Panama, of course, has no military of their own. They have no military, and they have always relied on the United States military to protect the canal against any type of aggression.

So when I traveled to Panama, and having been there many times in the past and seen many American military persons there to protect Panama and protect our national security interests and protect the canal, I was shocked when I saw they were gone. They are all gone. It is like this hall of Congress now. I am the only Member standing here. When one goes down to Panama where there used to be tens of thousands of American troops, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Army, they were always there; they are gone, and there is no Panamanian military force to take up the slack.

Now, what does that mean to us? Well, that means to us that there is a vulnerability there. There are two vulnerabilities: number one, there is a war going on next door in Colombia and already the narco terrorists, who are allied with Fidel Castro and the people who hate the United States, already those guerrillas have infiltrated into the Panamanian military. There is nothing standing between them and the Panama Canal. That alone should cause alarm bells to go off because the Panama Canal is vulnerable to sabotage. I will not go into detail, but it is incredibly vulnerable to sabotage.

What concerns me more is the overwhelming evidence of a Chinese presence and even domination of Panama in the Panama Canal, something that is in the process of happening. That, to me, was even more frightening because I know that we can blink our eyes and this magnificent achievement of the United States, a canal between the two oceans, something that we rely on in times of international emergency so we can send our ships from one ocean to the other and take off days, actually a week, of travel around the Horn in South America, that that Panama Canal now is totally vulnerable and is slowly coming under the domination of the Communist Chinese.

Now, let me say what I mean. There is a company called Hutchison Whampoa, run by a man named Li Ka-

Shing. He is part of the clique, he is part of Beijing's inner circle, he is a front man, and his company is a front for the Chinese Government. The Chinese Government, in fact, owns over 30 percent outright of his company.

This company is tied, not closely but tied totally within the small circle of elite of the Beijing regime. This company now has won the contract which provides them control of all of the port facilities on both ends of the canal.

Now, to be fair about it, there are some other new port facilities further away that are being built but on both ends of the canal, directly outside of the canal. Those port facilities are now under control of this Communist Chinese front company.

Now, how did that happen, and what does that mean? When I went to Panama, the first thing I did was try to go down to those areas that are now under lease arrangement. By the way, it is not a 10-year lease, not a 25-year lease. The lease is giving them up to 50 years of control of these strategic positions on both sides of the canal. By the way, the lease agreement also gives them concessions on certain ways of how the Panama Canal will be run, the piloting of the ships, et cetera.

They are also in negotiations and are trying to, and I am not sure if this is part of the lease or not, to get control of one of the air bases in Panama, the Howard Air Base, as well as some of the other military facilities that we left behind.

Now, how did that happen? What has gone wrong here? What is happening? How can a country that is considered to be belligerent, and many people are trying to have a realistic policy, considered to be belligerent and hostile to the United States, end up with a commanding position in the Panama Canal and a position to dominate this strategic waterway? How did that happen? Where was our intelligence? Where was the NSA? Who were they listening to? Where was the CIA?

I think the CIA and the NSA probably did their job. The trouble is that they are reporting to the Clinton administration; and everywhere in the world where we look, where America's national security has been put in jeopardy by the Communist Chinese, the fingerprints of the Clinton administration are all over the crime scene. The people who are supposed to be protecting our interests are not protecting our national security interests.

So I went down and I met with the ambassador, the ambassador to Panama from the United States. I asked the ambassador, I said, Mr. Ambassador, how did they get this contract? I said, In fact, I have even heard that there might have been some bribery involved here.

□ 1045

He says, oh, we do not know if there is any corruption involved in this. I

said, what do your intelligence reports say? He said, what intelligence reports? I said, what does the NSA say when they are listening in on the conversations involved with the people involved in these negotiations? Well, I do not know, I have not seen those reports, if there are any.

What does your station chief, the head of the CIA there, what does he say? I have not seen any report by him. This is the most important thing that has happened in the past 10 years in Panama, and the ambassador has not bothered to read the intelligence reports of how that contract came into being.

So I said, well, Mr. Ambassador, this is really an important thing. Do you not think you ought to check up on it? And he says, oh, I guess maybe I should. Well, come to find out that there are certain people who work for the government whose job is not to see any evil, not to go looking for those reports.

Our ambassador to Panama happens to have been who? It happens to have been the man who was the chairman of President Clinton's reelection campaign in Florida the last time around. I am not saying that he has done anything corrupt or wrong, I am just saying that he has not looked at these intelligence reports, and he is a political appointee who is highly politically involved with the President's personal political ambitions. Somebody is not watching out for the national security interests of the United States.

So I went out after meeting the ambassador. By the way, the CIA station chief was conveniently not available when I was in Panama, conveniently not available. So I went out to try to find things on my own. I am sorry to report today to my colleagues and to whoever is listening or reading the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on this speech that I was able to find out information that has indicated to me that the lease arrangement, the contract arrangement with this Communist Chinese front company was obtained through bribery of high-level Panamanian officials.

I talked to people who were directly involved with the negotiations, directly involved with the bidding process, and I was told, and these people are afraid to say so publicly, but they told me privately that there were bribes in the millions of dollars that were paid to the former president of Panama, Balladares, for the lease agreement with the Hutchison Whampoa company, and it was again repeated to me over and over again that Hutchison Whampoa did not offer the best bid for those port facilities on either side of the Panama Canal, yet they were awarded that lease agreement, and the only explanation is that millions of dollars of bribes were provided to high-level Panamanian officials.

President Balladares, who was president at the time and recently stepped down, it is important for us to note that the Panamanian Constitution prevents a president of Panama from running for reelection. President Balladares wanted to change the Constitution so that he could run for reelection.

The Chinese certainly bankrolled that campaign, and guess who was down there running the referendum to try to change the Panamanian Constitution so this man who helped give away the Panama Canal would have the right to run again for office? Who was down there running that campaign for him? James Carville, that is who. Who is he? Every time you turn around, the President's inner circle is involved with something that is undercutting America's national security.

I am recommending to our colleagues that we pay attention to Panama. Up until now, the reason these things are happening is that we have left it to the administration, and Panama has been off the radar screen of the United States of America.

It cannot be. If we let foreign policy be the purview only of the government and only of the executive branch, our country will suffer, as it has been put in great jeopardy by our relations with Communist China.

Just one other note. When I went to Panama, the head of the Panamanian CIA, that is their central intelligence agency, was in hiding. Her name was Samantha Smith. Samantha Smith was in hiding, and our embassy did not know where she was, they did not know what was happening, how to get hold of her. There was no report on Samantha Smith, of how we could talk to her.

The head of the Panamanian CIA was in hiding for this reason, because there had been information that she had been involved in a smuggling ring of Communist Chinese aliens, Chinese residents of the mainland of China, who had paid \$30,000 a head to President Balladares of Panama in order to go through Panama into the United States of America, hundreds of them.

This woman, the head of the CIA, was the one who signed off on this operation. But she had signed off on it because her president had ordered her to sign those documents, those requests from these Chinese coming from the mainland.

First of all, I want to know who these people were, who these Chinese were who could afford to pay \$30,000 to be smuggled into the United States through Panama. Chinese farmers do not have that kind of money. I do not know if they are saboteurs, I do not know who they are, but I want to know who they are.

The head of the Panamanian CIA, when she realized she was going to be the fall person, she was going to be blamed when this became known, went

into hiding. Guess what our? Our embassy just could not find her. They had not had contact with her. But guess what, within one day, I found her.

Within one day, I had a meeting with this head of their Panamanian intelligence. She just told me everything about how the President had forced her to sign these documents, ordered her, even above her objection; and how these Chinese would come in, these illegal Chinese would come in, land in Panama, and there would be a special escort officer that would take them on the second floor at the airport in Panama and take them around, and then take them where she did not know; and how she had protested to the President, but the president of Panama, Balladares, had ordered her to do so.

This is the man who also, fascinatingly enough, provided the contract for Hutchison Whampoa, the Chinese front company that now controls both ends of the canal.

Let me tell the Members something that I consider to be even another little bit of evidence that we should not miss. Supposedly, our government has been negotiating with the Panamanian government, the government of Balladares, for what? We have been negotiating to try to maintain some type of military presence in Panama to protect the Panama Canal.

Polls indicate now that from 70 to 80 percent of the Panamanian people love the United States and want to see a military presence of the United States in Panama. We left. They told us to leave, and we left. Now they know we have been serious all these years, that we believe they have the right and freedom to control their own country. We are not like Russia, China. If the people do not want us, we do not stay there and brutalize the people in order to maintain our military bases. We got out. That just reconfirmed for the people of Panama, hey, the Americans are good people after all. They really do believe in democracy. We want them back.

Although the polls showed 70 to 80 percent of the Panamanian people wanted us there, our State Department could not negotiate a contract and a deal that would permit us, an agreement that would permit us to have an American military presence in Panama. They could not do it.

Something is wrong. Something is wrong here. Of course, it was President Balladares who was the head of that country, and of course our own ambassador had not read any of the intelligence reports. I do not guess he has read any intelligence reports on any instructions Balladares might have had with those negotiators, or any contact that he might have with the Communist Chinese.

All I know is, we are depending on an administration to defend our country, to make sure our children are not put

in jeopardy, and that administration is treating the Communist Chinese as a strategic partner, and we are being put in danger.

We have to reverse this situation. It is up to the Congress of the United States to act, and it is up to the American people to demand action and to get involved in this process. If we want our children to be safe, we cannot do so by giving the Communist Chinese leverage on future generations of Americans. We will not be safe if the Communist Chinese have weapons based on American technology that could murder tens of millions of our people. That is not the kind of world we want to leave our children. In 10 years, that is the kind of world they are going to have, unless we act.

The first step, we have to quit treating Communist China as a friend and be realistic. I am not saying we should go to war with them. We should not. But we must be tough and we must be strong, and we must demand a trade relationship that is mutually beneficial, and certainly not one that gives them \$70 billion in hard currency and puts the American people out of work.

I am introducing legislation today, and I have approximately 25 cosponsors at this time. I am introducing legislation now. I ask people to call their Congressman to join the resolution, the Panama resolution, offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHR-ABACHER). That is me. I am asking them to call their Members of Congress and ask them to join me in a resolution that does three things in Panama.

Number one, it asks the new government that defeated the Balladares regime, President Moscoso, who is a woman, a wonderful person and a ray of hope for the United States government, that we do our best, and we call on President Moscoso to cancel this lease with this Chinese front company, cancel it, and to investigate how that lease came about. That is what we are asking the President of Panama to do in this resolution.

We are asking also that the United States move forward with an investigation, as well as with the government of Panama, into these charges of corruption on how that lease was issued in the first place. When they cancel this lease, we are asking that they institute a new system that is open and fair and transparent, as they say, so there will be honest bidding for those port facilities in the Panama Canal. Also, we should investigate how that last contract happened.

Number three, we should negotiate with this new government in Panama, President Moscoso, some type of arrangement where we can work together with Panama for the security of Panama and also the security of the Panama Canal.

These are things that we need to do. It is part of my resolution. As a sense

of Congress, we are calling for those things. I would hope that all of my colleagues come back here next week and that we get a number of cosponsors on this, and that this moves through the system very rapidly.

We need to send a message to this administration, to the people of Panama, and to the Communist Chinese that Congress will not permit the security interests of the United States to be jeopardized because of some fantasy by the President that we are in a strategic partnership with the communist regime in Beijing.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to leave people with this one thought. My father was a marine pilot. He was a 20-year career man, a lieutenant colonel. When I was a young boy we lived in Japan, and my father flew intelligence missions along the Chinese coast. We lived in a small compound outside of Iwakuni, Japan, which is a Navy base there.

My father would fly, along with other pilots, right along the coast and photograph the coast of China. This is in the 1950s. He did so at great personal risk. In fact, my next-door neighbor, this is when I was 10 years old, my next-door neighbor was shot down by a Communist Chinese plane. Thank God that that person was not shot down and murdered by the Communist Chinese plane, and there was not any question, they were not using American technology to shoot down our neighbors, this American pilot.

In the future, when they shoot down American pilots, that we will haunt us, did we provide the technology necessary to kill those Americans?

□ 1100

I remember that very vividly. I remember the tears and the sorrow of my next-door neighbor, my playmates, and the sense of hopelessness of the wife who was now left with the two children, on her own, to raise these kids and live her life without a loving husband. I remember that very well.

I also remember that when a few years later my father, he is passed away now, perhaps one of the great things he did for our country was that he helped develop the Navy way of dropping the atomic bomb. To make this clear, what happens is before, if you drop a bomb from a plane like this, a small plane cannot do it because it will blow up the plane. But my father developed the system that the plane goes down, a small jet aircraft can come down like this and loft the bomb ahead as the plane pulls around and heads in the opposite direction. That was a most important development, because after that was perfected, America's aircraft carriers became strategic weapons, and the formula in the Cold War changed dramatically in favor of the United States because we now could deliver nuclear weapons through-

out the world. That did not just happen.

My father was taken out of a hospital bed when he described that to a general and given command of a squadron of hotshot pilots, that they were going to develop that as soon as they could, perfect that system with all speed because it meant so much to the security of our country. He put his team together. During that time period, they worked and they pushed the limits and they pushed beyond the limits in order to perfect that system so that other American pilots would be safe when they delivered their weapons.

My mother told me something recently. When my dad passed away about 11 months ago, at the funeral my mother told me how during that time period my father was operating in total secrecy, as was his whole operation, and four young pilots lost their lives in developing this system, four young pilots who were pushing the envelope beyond what they could, flew too low, flew too fast, lost their lives. One of these young pilots who died, my mother remembers going to his home and his wife was there, and it was their first wedding anniversary, and they stood there, my mother and my father, telling this young wife, the candlesticks on the table, that her husband would never come home and they were never able to tell that wife why her husband had died. The mission was top secret. They could not let her know that her husband died developing a system that was so important to the national security of our country, because it was that secret.

I do not know who that man was. I do not know the names of the people who died during the Cold War like that. But there were many of them. My next-door neighbor in Japan, these four young men, they died protecting our country from communism and especially from the Communist Chinese. We do not know their names and we owe them a great deal.

It is up to us to keep faith with those people. We cannot let our country be in jeopardy after they paid so much of a price, so dear a price for our security. And to let some fantasy like a strategic partnership with the Communist Chinese put our country in jeopardy when so many people have sacrificed for our safety is a sin against our people.

SENATE BILLS REFERRED

Bills of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 299. An act to elevate the position of Director of the Indian Health Service within the Department of Health and Human Services to Assistant Secretary for Indian Health, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources; in addition to the Com-

mittee on Commerce for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

S. 406. An act to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to make permanent the demonstration program that allows for direct billing of medicare, medicaid, and other third party payors, and to expand the eligibility under such program to other tribes and tribal organizations; to the Committee on Resources; in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned; in addition to the Committee on Commerce for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

S. 613. An act to encourage Indian economic development, to provide for the disclosure of Indian tribal sovereign immunity in contracts involving Indian tribes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

S. 614. An act to provide for regulatory reform in order to encourage investment, business, and economic development with respect to activities conducted on Indian lands; to the Committee on Resources.

S. 944. An act to amend Public Law 105-188 to provide for the mineral leasing of certain Indian lands in Oklahoma; to the Committee on Resources.

SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The SPEAKER announced his signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 380. An act to reauthorize the Congressional Award Act.

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Mr. THOMAS, from the Committee on House Administration, reported that that committee did on the following date present to the President, for his approval, a bill of the House of the following title:

On September 15, 1999:

H.R. 2488. To provide for reconciliation pursuant to sections 105 and 211 of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2000.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 4 minutes a.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Tuesday, September 21, 1999, at 12:30 p.m. for morning hour debates.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

4231. A letter from the Acting Executive Director, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Review of Exchange Disciplinary, Access Denial or Other Adverse Actions Review of NFA Decisions Corrections—received September 14, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

4232. A letter from the Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's "Major" final rule—Food Stamp Program: Food Stamp Provisions of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 (RIN: 0584-AC63) received September 8, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

4233. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Buprofezin; Extension of Tolerance for Emergency Exemptions [OPP-300907; FRL-6096-3] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received August 18, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

4234. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule—Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Fiscal Year 2000 Contract Action Reporting Requirements [DFARS Case 99-D011/98-D017] received August 16, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

4235. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule—HUD Acquisition Regulation; Miscellaneous Revisions [Docket No. FR-4115-1-01] (RIN: 2535-AA24) received August 24, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

4236. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Employment Standards Administration, Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule—Industries in American Samoa; Wage Order—received September 14, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

4237. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule—Indirect Food Additives: Adjuvants, Production Aids, and Sanitizers [Docket No. 98F-0570] received August 19, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

4238. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule—Indirect Food Additives: Adjuvants, Production Aids, and Sanitizers [Docket No. 98F-0571] received August 19, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

4239. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule—Over-the-Counter Drug Products Containing Colloidal Silver Ingredients or Silver Salts [Docket No. 96N-0144] received August 20, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

4240. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and

Promulgation of State Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants: Arizona [AZ 014-MSWa; FRL-6440-2] received September 14, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

4241. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of State Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants: California [CA 013-MSWa; FRL-6439-9] received September 14, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

4242. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of State Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants: Nevada [NV 015-MSWa; FRL-6440-4] received September 14, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

4243. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Revision of Standards of Performance for Nitrogen Oxide Emissions from New Fossil-Fuel Fired Steam Generating Units—Temporary Stay of Rules as They Apply to Units for which Modification or Reconstruction Commenced after July 9, 1997 [FRL-6437-1] (RIN: 2060-AE56) received September 14, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

4244. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; State of Colorado; Colorado Springs Carbon Monoxide Redesignation to Attainment, Designation of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes, and Approval of a Related Revision [CO-001-0032a; FRL-6410-7] received August 20, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

4245. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of State Air Quality Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; Pennsylvania; Large Municipal Waste Combustors (MWCs) [PA118-4080a; FRL-6426-1] received August 17, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

4246. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality State Implementation Plans (SIP); Interim Final Determination that Louisiana Continues to Correct the Deficiencies of its Enhanced Inspection and Maintenance (I/M) SIP Revision [LA-49-1-7411; FRL-6422-3] received August 18, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

4247. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of State Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants: South Carolina [SC-36-1-9932a; FRL-6426-8] received August 18, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

4248. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule—

Eagle Transportation Permits for American Indians and Public Institutions (RIN: 1018-AB81) received September 14, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

4249. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in Statistical Area 630 of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 990304063-9063-01; I.D. 083099D] received September 8, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

4250. A letter from the Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Reef Fish Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico; Red Snapper Management Measures [Docket No. 990506119-9236-02; I.D. 040799B] (RIN: 0648-AM66) received September 14, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

4251. A letter from the Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries off West Coast States and in the Western Pacific; Northern Anchovy Fishery; Quotas for the 1999-2000 Fishing Year [Docket No. 990823233-9233-01; I.D. 072799C] (RIN: 0648-AM20) received September 14, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

4252. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Shortraker and Rougheye Rockfish in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 990304062-9062-01; I.D. 090899C] received September 14, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

4253. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Ocean Perch in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 990304062-9062-01; I.D. 090899B] received September 14, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

4254. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Fisheries; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna [I.D. 071399A] received September 14, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

4255. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Fishery Management Plan for the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fisheries; Recreational Measures for the 1999 Fisheries [Docket No. 990422103-9209-02; I.D. 031099B] (RIN: 0648-AL75) received September 14, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

4256. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Northern Rockfish in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 990304062-9062-01; I.D. 090199C] received September 14, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

4257. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pelagic Shelf Rockfish in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 990304062-9062-01; I.D. 090199D] received September 14, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

4258. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Ocean Perch in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 990304062-9062-01; I.D. 090299A] received September 14, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

4259. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Atka Mackerel to Vessels Using "Other Gear" in the Eastern Aleutian District and Bering Sea Subarea of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands [Docket No. 990304063-9063-01; I.D. 090399A] received September 14, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

4260. A letter from the Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Disaster Assistance for Northeast Multispecies Fishery Failure [Docket No. 990520139-9221-02; I.D. 050799B] (RIN: 0648-AM68) received September 14, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

4261. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Fisheries; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna [I.D. 072999A] received September 14, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

4262. A letter from the Chairman, Surface Transportation Board, transmitting the Board's final rule—Removal, Revision and Redesignation of Miscellaneous Regulations [STB EX Parte No. 572 (Sub-No. 1) received September 14, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. GILMAN: Committee on International Relations. H.R. 1993. A bill to reauthorize the Overseas Private Investment Corporation and the Trade and Development Agency, and for other purposes; with amendments (Rept. 106-325). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. ROHRABACHER (for himself, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. COOKSEY, Mr. NORWOOD, Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. TIAHRT, Mr. HAYES, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. WELDON of Florida, Mrs. BIGGERT, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. TRAFICANT, Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. MCINTOSH, Mr. WICKER, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, Mr. SWEENEY, Mrs. CHENOWETH, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. TANCREDO, and Mr. STEARNS):

(H. Con. Res. 186). A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress regarding a continued United States security presence in the Panama Canal Zone and a review of the contract bidding process for the Balboa and Cristobal canal ports; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 363: Mr. RODRIGUEZ.
H.R. 728: Mr. BLILEY.
H.R. 1248: Mr. LARSON.
H.R. 1484: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.
H. Res. 292: Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. BLAGOJEVICH, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, and Mrs. LOWEY.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTRODUCING THE MEDICARE VISION REHABILITATION COVERAGE ACT OF 1999

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 17, 1999

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, September 15, 1999, I filed the Medicare Vision Rehabilitation Coverage Act of 1999 which would reimburse, under Medicare Part B, vision rehabilitation professionals for services provided. September 15 is also National Vision Rehabilitation Day, established to raise awareness of the services available to those suffering from visual impairment. Currently 6.6 million Americans over the age of 65 report some level of vision impairment.

My own mother, who suffers from vision impairment, benefited tremendously from the rehabilitation services provided by the Greater Boston Aid to the Blind. The training and therapy she received helped her to avoid the injuries and loss of independence that often accompany vision impairment. Unfortunately, Medicare does not currently cover programs like this and not all seniors can afford the services on their own. This legislation is designed to ensure that this situation is not repeated.

Statistics provided by the American Council of the Blind project that by 2005, 1 out of every 6 Massachusetts residents over the age of 60 will either suffer from blindness or from partial impairment. Vision rehabilitation services teach seniors who suffer from permanent vision impairment how to continue living independently with this loss. Examples of services covered include independent living skills and training in safe methods of travel.

Medicare beneficiaries who are blind or whose vision difficulties cannot be addressed by surgery, medication or corrective lenses could be eligible for services provided by certified vision rehabilitation professionals under the legislation.

According to the National Vision Rehabilitation Cooperative, age-related visual impairment is second only to arthritis/rheumatism as a cause of disability. However, due to a lack of awareness about the services available as well as a lack of funding, only 2% of the visually impaired have benefited from vision rehabilitation services.

Visual impairment is one of four major conditions contributing to a senior's loss of independence. The nonprofit Alliance for Aging Research has determined based on data from the Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey that a loss of independence by older adults costs the United States an additional \$26 billion a year.

The type of vision rehabilitation covered under this legislation could save the Medicare program millions of dollars in costs associated

with injuries such as broken bones which are often caused by vision impairment. A person suffering from an injury such as a hip fracture is eligible for reimbursable therapeutic services. Why shouldn't a person who suffers from irreversible vision loss be afforded the same type of therapeutic services under Medicare?

Loss of vision can be a devastating disability for seniors, who value independence foremost. Wonderful new therapies like vision rehabilitation not only save money, but more importantly give people back their quality of life.

TRIBUTE TO HARVEY CURLEY

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 17, 1999

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Mayor Harvey Curley of the City of Eastpointe, Michigan, who will retire in November 1999 after a distinguished career serving his community over the last twenty-five years.

Beginning in 1975, Harvey Curley was elected to the East Detroit Board of Education, serving as its President from 1978–1983. He also served two years on the Zoning Board of Appeals and as Councilman from 1985 to 1987. He has stood at the helm of elected city government since 1987 when he began his three terms as Mayor.

During Harvey Curley's tenure as Mayor, he was responsible for the re-development of the southwest corner of Gratiot and Nine Mile, transforming that area into a thriving commercial strip. In addition, many Municipal Facility Construction Projects were developed under his leadership: the New Parks Garage at Public Works Complex, the New Municipal Court Building, and the New Community Center.

Harvey Curley approached his public service with pride in his community, devotion to its continued improvement, enthusiasm, patience and a tireless commitment to projects small or large. It was always a pleasure to work alongside him on issues important to Eastpointe and the State of Michigan.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Mayor Harvey Curley for all that he has done to make Eastpointe a better place to live and work, and to send him every good wish for good health and happiness in the future.

MOUNT LEBANON BAPTIST CHURCH CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 17, 1999

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, in November 1899, The Reverend Theodore Williams, a re-

cent graduate of the School of Theology at Howard University was inspired by God to establish a mission which was named High Street Baptist Church. The mission worshiped in an old jail, a former detention center for runaway slaves, on High Street, now Wisconsin Avenue, NW, in Georgetown. Later, the church held worship services at the Seventh Street Baptist Church—which is now named Jerusalem.

Mr. Speaker, on July 22, 1901, a recognition council was called, and High Street Baptist, which now had thirty-four members, was recognized as a regular Baptist Church. The congregation continued to grow, and in November 1904 purchased and relocated to a new site at 814 25th Street, NW, and was renamed Mount Lebanon Baptist Church. An all-day service was held on Sunday, November 19, 1908, in thanksgiving for the completion of the work of renovating this property. Six years later (1914), the congregation demolished that building and constructed a new building, to the glory of God, on the same site. The mortgage for the new building was burned in 1919. In April 1923, after 24 years of inspired and zealous leadership and service as pastor, Reverend Williams was called to his reward. He was succeeded by the Reverend John Ford, who served as pastor from 1924 until 1932 when he left to accept a new charge.

In November 1932, the Reverend Edgar Newton was installed as pastor. His motto was "Follow me as I follow Christ." Much was accomplished during his leadership of almost thirty-nine years. New clubs (ministries) and a building fund were established, significant growth in membership was accomplished, two properties adjacent to the church were purchased, services to members and the community were expanded, and the site of the present church was purchased. In addition, three mortgages were burned—two at the 25th Street site and one at the present site, 1219 New Jersey Avenue, NW, to which the congregation relocated on January 27, 1963. Reverend Newton retired in June 1971; and on June 18, 1974, he was called from service to reward.

The Reverend Vernon C. Brown, a son of the church, succeeded Reverend Newton to the pastorate on November 12, 1972, and served faithfully until his retirement on December 31, 1991. Under his leadership, programs of services to members and the community were expanded, including services to senior citizens and a "feed the hungry" program providing balanced hot meals at least once per week. His motto was "The family that prays together stays together."

From the time of Reverend Brown's retirement until November 1992, pastoral duties were shared by three sons of the church, the Reverend Norman King, the Reverend Benjamin C. Sands, and the Reverend William O. Wilson.

In November 1992, the Reverend H. Lionel Edmonds became the fifth pastor of the

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

church. Pursuant to his vision of "building the beloved community", great strides have been made including nearly quadrupling the membership and the establishment of new ministries to meet the spiritual, physical, and intellectual needs of members and the community. These include a Cedars Discipleship Institute (Christian education); Sons of Simeon (men's ministry); Daughters of Miriam dance classes; boys' basketball and football teams; classes to develop job skills in computers, lock smithing and electricity; health and beauty workshops; aerobics classes; and a soon-to-be-opened child development center. All services are open to the community as well as to members of the church.

Mount Lebanon's community service extends beyond its immediate environs. Through very active involvement in the Washington Interfaith Network (WIN), an interdenominational coalition of churches from all eight of the city's wards, it also participates in other city-wide programs to provide low-cost housing for families and after school care for children, reduce crime, provide education/job skills to citizens, and to assure a living wage for all persons employed in the city.

Mr. Speaker, through worship and community service, Mount Lebanon carries out its slogan, "We serve a great God; we are a great people; and we are about a great work."

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the members of this body join me in congratulating the Mount Lebanon Baptist Church, and celebrating the spiritual understanding that has guided their path for 100 years.

VERY REVEREND NAHAS HONORED

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 17, 1999

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Very Reverend Herbert G. Nahas from Northeastern Pennsylvania. This month, Rev. Nahas will observe the 50th Anniversary of his ordination at a community-wide celebration on September 19. I am pleased to have been asked to participate in this tribute.

Born in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, Rev. Nahas is the son of Rev. George Nahas and Elizabeth Kassab. He graduated from Brown University. Before entering the priesthood, he served his country in Army Intelligence for five years. Because of his fluency in both French and Arabic, young Herbert Nahas accompanied General Martin G. Eddy, of the Ninth Infantry Division in the invasion of North Africa, and was later assigned to the staff of General Eisenhower in Algeria.

Rev. Nahas' interest in theology began at an early age as he served and studied the church under his father. He later studied with Father Wakeem Dalack of St. Nicholas Cathedral in Brooklyn.

Rev. Nahas came to our area in 1951, spending 47 of his 50 years as a priest at St. Mary's Antiochian Orthodox Church in Wilkes-Barre. Celebrating its 95th anniversary this year, St. Mary's holds the distinction of being one of the oldest Antiochian Churches in the nation. In 1961, Bishop Anthony made Re-

vered Nahas an Archpriest with the title of "Exarch." Shortly thereafter, the Reverend began to raise funds for a new church and the new building was completed and dedicated by 1968.

In addition to serving his parishioners, Rev. Nahas has also served the Wyoming Valley community. He has served on numerous local boards, including those of the United Way and American Heart Association. He organized "Father Nahas' Senior Citizens Organization." After Wilkes-Barre was inundated by tropical Storm Agnes in 1972, Rev. Nahas opened his parish hall for use as a shelter for displaced flood victims. He is a much sought-after speaker, frequently addressing the local Rotary, Kiwanis, and Lions clubs.

Mr. Speaker, Rev. Herbert Nahas is an icon in Northeastern Pennsylvania. He and his wife, Alice, raised three children here and now enjoy five grandchildren. His commitment to his parish and the community is legendary. He is loved by all those who have been fortunate enough to have been touched by his spiritual guidance and kindness over the years. I am proud to join with the community in sending my very best wishes to the Very Reverend Herbert G. Nahas on this momentous occasion.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2490,
TREASURY AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT,
2000

SPEECH OF

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 1999

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I want, first of all, to complement the distinguished gentleman from Arizona, the Chairman of the Treasury-Postal Appropriations Subcommittee, Mr. KOLBE, for his work on this legislation.

I want to particularly complement the Chairman for the inclusion in this bill of three key and much needed reforms of the Federal Election Commission. They are a requirement that campaign reports be filed electronically, a simplified administrative penalty process for campaign reporting violations, and a change in the campaign reporting period from a calendar year to an election cycle basis.

As Chairman of the Committee on House Administration, I want to say that we have worked closely with the Appropriations Committee on the development of these legislative items. I believe we have taken an important step towards improving our election process.

These reforms may not make headlines, but they are the most significant legislative changes in the operation of the FEC we have seen in 20 years. These reforms were originally recommended in the January 29, 1999 report of the Independent Audit of the FEC. That Audit was authorized by the Committee on Appropriations in consultation with the Committee on House Administration.

The adoption of these reforms has been recommended on a bipartisan basis by the Members of the FEC itself. They were all included in H.R. 2668, the Campaign Reform

and Election Integrity Act of 1999, reported favorably to the House floor by the Committee on House Administration on August 2, 1999.

Virtually everyone agrees these reforms would be good for the House and good for the American public.

Electronic filing would substantially speed up the transmission of information from campaigns to the general public, and ensure that information filed with the FEC is legible and more easily subject to analysis once filed. A campaign could not hide or delay the disclosure of its donors. Reports filed electronically with the FEC can be posted on the Internet almost instantly, eliminating processing time that can delay the release of information for short, but critical periods, especially as election day nears.

Allowing the FEC to impose administrative fines for reporting violations without the lengthy procedural steps required in a normal enforcement case will free critical FEC resources for more important disclosure and enforcement efforts. The rights of those under these regulations are protected by preserving the option of appeal to a U.S. District Court, for those who believe the FEC erred.

Saving taxpayer dollars, cutting costs for the regulated community, and ensuring speedier resolution of cases are all a net gain for the voter and our electoral system.

Finally, the seemingly minor, but highly significant change from a calendar year to an election cycle reporting period will make it easier for candidates to avoid inadvertent receipt of contributions in excess of allowable election cycle limits, and provide more information to the public about the level of fundraising and campaign spending at any given point in an election cycle. Reports will show how much money a candidate has raised and spent from the end of the last election to the present, rather than from the end of the last calendar year. This recommendation will save money in enforcement costs and provide more relevant information to the public.

These reforms are the kind of legislation we should see more of from the U.S. House of Representatives. Without impairing the right of free speech, without the expenditure of large amounts of taxpayer funds, we have improved the level of information, and the quality of enforcement in our political process.

TRIBUTE TO FRANK GARRISON

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 17, 1999

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, September 21, 1999, a dinner will be held in honor of Frank Garrison, President of Michigan AFL-CIO.

The dinner will mark the more than four decades of Frank Garrison's public service. The chairs of the dinner will include two former Governors, William Milliken and James Blanchard. The sponsorship of two leaders from different political parties is a reflection of the broad nature of Frank Garrison's activities. During his service as the legislative director for the UAW in the 1970s and early 1980s, he

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EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

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was a key player in a wide variety of efforts, including the lobbyist disclosure law enacted in 1976, the Open Meetings Act, and the Essential Insurance Act and other insurance reforms that protected consumers' access to insurance at fair prices. He also fought for measures to bring health care to more of Michigan's citizens.

An equal, if not greater passion, was that of participation in the political process in general and the Democratic Party in particular. I first came to know Frank well when I was running for Governor in the 1970s. There were many a plant gate that we visited together, often in

the dark wee hours of the early morning. We were determined to meet voters face to face, often ourselves facing the obstacles of climbing around, and a few times over plant gates to reach incoming or outgoing workers, not always reaching our destination with complete ease.

Of all Frank Garrison's public passions, however, the greatest was the labor movement. He delved deeply into its efforts to represent Michigan's workers and give them a fair share of the economic pie. He deeply believes that the reforms of the 1930s giving workers the right to organize and be heard was one of

the key ingredients of the success of American capitalism. He has fought to unite labor movement and to make certain that it was a vital participant in all facets of the public arena.

As Frank Garrison retires, I join his many friends in saying to him how much we admire his years of service, often at very considerable sacrifice for himself, his wife Dora and their three daughters. He can leave and move on to the next challenge with an inner feeling of true accomplishment