

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, just last week the National Research Council released its much-anticipated report about hardrock mining on Federal lands.

Well, I say to my colleagues take a deep breath and grab their bifocals because this report actually shows a glimmer of common sense. It reaffirms what the mining industry in the State of Nevada has known all along; that is, that we do not need more regulation and restrictions. In fact, this report clearly states that existing Federal and State laws regulating mining are effective in protecting our environment.

Unfortunately, there are those in Congress who would like to destroy the mining industry in America by stopping its vital productivity with undue and burdensome Federal regulations.

Mr. Speaker, let me tell my colleagues, they probably do not think about it, but mining touches them, their constituents, and their families every day. Without mining, there would be no computers, no telephones, no automobiles, no modern medicine or technologies that provide all of us a longer and better quality of life.

Unnecessary Federal regulations could put an end to the mining industry and put an end to improving our quality of life. Keep America strong. Keep it moving. Support the mining industry.

PRAYING NOW BANNED FOR FOOTBALL PLAYERS

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, a football team in Texas was overheard saying a prayer. My colleagues guessed it, now there is a lawsuit to ban football players in high school from praying. Unbelievable.

Mr. Speaker, even though the First Amendment states Congress shall make no law prohibiting the free exercise of religion, children cannot pray in school. School functions cannot mention God. Now football teams cannot pray.

What is next? Are they going to ban the Hail Mary pass in football? Beam me up. A Nation that outlaws God, so help me God, is inviting the Devil.

I yield back the trampled rights of the majority of the American people.

SENIOR CITIZENS SCORE VICTORY IN CONGRESS

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

Mr. HILL of Montana. Mr. Speaker, last night, America's senior citizens

scored a big victory in the Congress. They may not even be aware of it this morning, but in the first time in decades, this Congress voted to make Social Security more important than foreign aid. Let me repeat. Congress said yesterday that Social Security is more important than foreign aid.

Now, the President has threatened to veto the foreign operations bill because he wants \$2 billion of Social Security money to hand out around the world. Yesterday, Mr. Speaker, the Congress said no.

Mr. Speaker, for 40 years, the Democrats controlled this House, and not once did they set aside even a single dollar to save Social Security. If they had their way, they would have continued yesterday to raid the Social Security account. Yesterday it was for foreign aid. But yesterday they lost, and American senior citizens won. Today, Mr. Speaker, Social Security in this Congress is more important than foreign aid.

NORWOOD-DINGELL BILL PUTS THE CARE BACK INTO HEALTH CARE

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

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, the Republican leadership and managed care companies did not tell the American public the truth about why they oppose the Norwood-Dingell bill. They said that they were concerned that medical necessity provisions went too far. But how can one argue against physicians and their patients using their trained or best judgment?

They said that they were concerned that employers would be liable. But H.R. 2723 makes sure that businesses are protected.

So it came down to what their opposition is really about, the accountability of managed care companies for the medical decisions that they make. Tell me, why should every other business or company be liable for negligence or damages for the products they make, and this one kind of business not be held accountable for the life and death decisions that they make, not the doctors.

The only bill that is real managed care reform that puts the business of medicine back in the proper perspective and puts the care back into health care is the Norwood-Dingell bill. Let us pass that bill today. The American people need and want us to do that.

DAVIS-BACON ACT INFLATES COSTS FOR HURRICANE VICTIMS

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, Hurricanes Floyd and Dennis have dealt a devastating blow to the residents along the Eastern Seaboard from Florida to North Carolina to New York. The flood waters have resulted in billions of dollars in damage and left thousands without homes.

Last week, a number of my colleagues and I sent a letter to the President of the United States asking him to relax the Davis-Bacon prevailing-wage requirements in order to facilitate repairs in the States hardest hit by the hurricanes.

The Davis-Bacon Act requires contractors who work on Federal projects to use Federal dollars to pay certain prevailing wages. Economic studies believe that Davis-Bacon inflates the cost of construction projects up to an estimated 38 percent.

Victims of the hurricanes should have the opportunity to use Federal disaster relief in local competitive markets to rebuild their homes and communities. In fact, under the Davis-Bacon Act, a man or woman who receives \$2,500 of Federal disaster funding cannot use that relief to rebuild their own house themselves, but must pay the inflated prevailing wage to another contractor because of the use of Federal dollars.

SMALLER SCHOOLS, STRONGER COMMUNITIES ACT WILL STRENGTHEN SENSE OF COMMUNITY IN SCHOOLS

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

Mr. HILL of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, the recent violence we have seen in our schools has made all of us take a serious look at our children, our schools, and ourselves. Too many of our children wake up every day and go to schools that make them feel disconnected and detached from their teachers, their parents, and their communities.

I am introducing a bill tomorrow called the Smaller Schools, Stronger Communities Act which I hope will make our schools smaller and strengthen the sense of community and safety that many of our schools today are lacking.

A principal of a successful small high school recently wrote that small schools "offer what metal detectors and guards cannot, the safety and security of being where you are well-known by people who care for you."

I hope this bill will encourage local school districts to find new ways to help their students feel connected to their schools, their communities, and their parents.