

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker. I was unavoidably absent from the Chamber on February 3, 1999, during rollcall vote Nos. 9, 10, and 11. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 9, "yea" on rollcall vote No. 10, and "aye" on rollcall vote No. 11.

## REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 393

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that any reference to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. MCINNIS) as a cosponsor of H.R. 393, a bill to amend the Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act of 1978, to provide for the remediation of the Atlas uranium milling site near Moab, Utah, be deleted from the RECORD. His name was inadvertently included, and he has requested it be removed.

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

There was no objection.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, I was detained the last 2 days by a violent abdominal illness and was not able to attend the session yesterday.

Had I been present, I would have voted in the affirmative on H.R. 68 and H.R. 432, rollcalls 7 and 8.

## RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Science:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
*Washington, DC, February 2, 1999.*

Hon. DENNIS HASTERT,  
*The Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to advise you that due to my recent appointment to the House International Relations Committee, I regretfully relinquish my membership on the House Science Committee.

Please take appropriate action to effect this change.

Sincerely,

BARBARA LEE,  
*Member of Congress.*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted.

There was no objection.

## SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

□ 1245

## INTRODUCTION OF GIVE FANS A CHANCE LEGISLATION

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, during the 25 years that I have been privileged to work with communities across the country to help make them more livable, nothing has captured the imagination of the ordinary citizen more strongly than suggesting that our communities no longer be held hostage to the whims of billionaire sports team owners. The fact today is that a few dozen of America's richest people can decide for any reason at all that they are not making enough money, or they think they could make more money, or that they do not like the color of the stadium, or that perhaps they could squeeze more from the fans where they are by offering up the possibility that their team will be relocated somewhere else, perhaps to a town that some other owner has abandoned.

The bidding war with threats, implied or explicit, for taxpayers and fans to cough up millions more in subsidies to a franchise is a fact of life for fans in more than half of America's metropolitan areas. It has been a sad spectacle that started in the 1950s when the profitable Brooklyn Dodgers and their compatriots, the New York Giants, both baseball teams, left for greener pastures in California. This has triggered a parade of franchise relocation, many times not because of a lack of fan support or financial support but simply because the owners felt they could get a better deal elsewhere. Witness the recent sad situation of the long-suffering fans in Cleveland, Ohio, who have been in that icebox of a stadium year in and year out to capacity and now the Browns are gone.

The sad fact is that the Federal Government aids and abets this relocation process. It grants an antitrust broadcast exemption that makes franchises worth hundreds of millions of dollars and makes the leagues possible and extraordinarily profitable. The NFL alone in the most recent round of contract negotiations netted \$17.5 billion.

Still there is no stability for the American fan, and they continue to pay more for tickets, more for parking, more for taxes, more for seat licenses, more for concessions that make it less affordable, less comfortable for the community and ever more lucrative for the few who profit.

It does not have to be this way. I have introduced the Give Fans a Chance Act which would require that leagues follow their stated rules on relocation and consider the community impact, actually involve the community in the decisionmaking process.

My legislation would give local communities the opportunity, after this analysis takes place, to actually match a bid for a franchise that might otherwise be relocated. And, most important, it would not allow these professional sports leagues to have artificial restraints on who can own a team.

The NFL, for example, has decreed there will be no more Green Bay Packers style community ownership. One has got to be a billionaire. Green Bay, Wisconsin, one thirty-fourth the size of Los Angeles, has one of the most successful franchises in professional sports, and it is owned by 1,950 shareholders. Little Green Bay, Wisconsin, does not have to worry that when they invest millions of dollars in their facilities, that somehow an owner is going to decide to relocate elsewhere, and it has made a profound difference in that community.

The NFL and others argue that Green Bay is an aberration, a special case, that it cannot be replicated anywhere else, that people in other communities are not smart enough to figure this out. I disagree. I do not think Green Bay, as unique as that community is, is an aberration and a special case, and I think we ought to at least give other fans the same chance.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support the Give Fans a Chance legislation. I strongly urge long-suffering sports fans to lend their voice. If the American people are heard, truly we will give the sports fans a chance.

## DECENNIAL CENSUS

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

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the issue of the upcoming decennial census which is just 13 months away. A year from next month, the forms will be going into the mail, tens of millions of them, all across America to count everyone. We need to do the best job we can, without politics, to get everyone counted.

Sadly, this administration has proposed a historic change. Because for every census since Thomas Jefferson in 1790, we have attempted to count everyone, but this administration has wanted to use polling techniques in order to say, "We don't need to count everyone. Let me just guesstimate at the numbers."

Fortunately last week the Supreme Court finally said, "No, you've got to count." The actual enumeration as stated in the Constitution is the law of the land. We need to count everyone for purposes of apportionment.

Sadly, this administration does not want to listen to the courts. They have got this idea now that they want to have a two-number census. What they are proposing is, we will have a set of