

present an alternative and false version of history, using its extensive financial and lobbying resources in this country. The Turkish Government has embarked on a strategy of endowing Turkish studies programs at various universities around the U.S., including a program at Princeton University in my home State of New Jersey.

Mr. Speaker, for nearly a decade, the solemn remembrance of the tragedy of the genocide has been alleviated somewhat about the remarkable progress made by the Republics of Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh.

Among the international dignitaries coming to Washington this weekend to take part in the NATO summit will be President Kocharian of the Republic of Armenia. President Kocharian will also address Members of Congress next Tuesday in this Capitol Building. He will take time out from the NATO activities on Saturday to lay a wreath at the tomb of President Woodrow Wilson, whose administration recognized that what was happening to the Armenian people under the Ottoman Empire during and after World War I represented a unique kind of evil, and President Wilson tried to at least somewhat alleviate the suffering.

It is interesting that President Kocharian will be here as NATO is involved in a campaign against atrocities being committed against a civilian population. Back in the time of the Armenian Genocide, when Armenians were being murdered and deported and all record of the Armenian presence was erased, there was no Western alliance of democracies committed to stopping aggression, brutality, and genocide. Do we wish that there had been then?

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, let me just say I know that the Armenian Genocide is a painful subject to discuss. Yet we must never forget what happened and never cease speaking out.

#### ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today is Earth Day. I chose to commemorate Earth Day by introducing the Academic Excellence and Environmental Sciences Act. My bill seeks to encourage academic rigor in scientific education by beginning at the lower grades through the study of the environmental sciences and the use of hands-on recycling.

This, of course, is the year of the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, and I hope that my bill will be included in the act. I have two goals here. The first comes from what I understand to be the dif-

ficulty of imparting and explaining scientific ideas and concepts, some of them fairly abstract, to elementary schoolchildren.

As a result of this difficulty, in the elementary grades, children are often relegated to "play science." This "play science" not only does not prepare them for science; it turns them off of science.

Secondly, I believe that hands-on recycling will help children learn at an early age habits that conserve our resources at the same time that it will help concretize their interest in science and their understanding of science. By the time many youngsters are exposed to science in high schools, large numbers of them have lost interest or are simply unready for the rigors that are necessary to become proficient.

We are suffering from starting too late to interest children in science. We are suffering because of the reduced pool of scientists and scientific experts.

Increasingly, many of our seats in colleges and universities are filled by young people from abroad, coming here to study science because we have the best science in the world. Part of the impetus for my bill comes from my experience in recruiting my own D.C. youngsters to the military academies.

I am pressing my own school system, the D.C. public schools, to begin science and math at earlier years so that children retain their interest in science and get prepared for the rigors of the military academies.

Although the major emphasis of my bill is scientific education for young children, I also hope to encourage recycling approaches. I believe that recycling techniques involving children—saving papers and crushing cans and talking about where these materials come from and why they degrade, etc.—will help concretize the underlying scientific ideas.

I also think children are the best messengers for recycling and for the environment. They are the real environmentalists in this society. If we want scientists, we had better get them before they get turned off and we had better learn that we must not begin in junior high school; we should begin much earlier than that or else they are off to computer games or cable or other interests.

We must begin at the beginning. The beginning is at the lower grade level. We must start there if we mean to groom scientists. We cannot start grooming when they already have other interests. We want it started young, as well, because these young people can help us conserve our own resources by learning about recycling early and teaching us how to do it and why it is so necessary.

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#### ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING SUBMISSION OF AMENDMENTS ON H.R. 1480, WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1999

(Mr. DREIER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, this is to notify Members of the House that the Committee on Rules is planning to meet the week of April 26 to grant a rule which may limit the amendment process on H.R. 1480, the Water Resources Development Act of 1999.

Any Member who wishes to offer an amendment should submit 55 copies and a brief explanation of the amendment by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, April 27, to the Committee on Rules room, which is H-312 right here in the Capitol.

Amendments should be drafted to the text of the bill, as reported by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, Members should use the Office of Legislative Counsel to ensure that their amendments are properly drafted and should check with the Office of the Parliamentarian to be certain their amendments comply with the rules of the House.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. KASICH (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today on account of personal reasons.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for Thursday, April 22, 1999, on account of official business.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. McNULTY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.  
Mr. BLUMENAUER, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. CARSON, for 5 minutes, today.  
Mr. STUPAK, for 5 minutes, today.  
Mr. HOLT, for 5 minutes, today.  
Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. BILBRAY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. DEMINT, for 5 minutes, today.  
Mr. NORWOOD, for 5 minutes, today.  
Mr. OSE, for 5 minutes each day, on April 27 and 28.

Mr. GOSS, for 5 minutes, today.  
Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PEASE, for 5 minutes, on April 27.