CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE

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NATIONAL SECURITY

May 25, 1999

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SUNUNU) at 10 a.m.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray using the words of Psalm 147.

"Praise the Lord!
"How good it is to sing praises to our God;
for He is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.
"The Lord builds up Jerusalem; He gathers the outcasts of Israel.
"He heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds.
"He determines the numbers of the stars;
He gives to all of them their names.
"Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;
his understanding is beyond measure.
"The Lord lifts up the downtrodden;
He casts the wicked to the ground.
"The Lord takes pleasure in those who fear him, in those who hope in his steadfast love." 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 Florida (Mr. FOLEY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. FOLEY 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain 15 one-minute speeches on each side.

NUCLEAR SECRETS STOLEN UNDER OUR NOSES WHILE ADMINISTRATION DOES NOTHING

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

Mr. FOLEY, Mr. Speaker, today we will release the Cox report on Chinese spying activities and the impact on national security. But I say today, rather than blame the Chinese, we should reflect on our own lax standards and security.

Do the initials ‘CIA’ ring a bell? We spend billions on similar activities around the world, but we should be more concerned with protecting our own vital national security.

If I were the White House today reading some of the headlines, ‘China Stole Nuclear Secrets for Bombs, White House Seeks to Minimize that Type of Problem,’ then I would want to change the subject, too. I would want to talk about campaign finance reform. I would want to talk about gun control in America. I would want to do anything to change the tone and tenor of what has occurred in the United States under this administration.

We have given up valuable secrets, valuable technology, right under our noses. We were informed about it. Yet, the President denied anybody even told him anything relative to these secrets being stolen. Wake up, America. Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me.

BRING JUVENILE JUSTICE BILL TO THE FLOOR NOW

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

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, sending one’s child to school should not take an act of courage. When children have died, when students have been shot sitting in class or studying at the library, when schools and communities have been torn apart, and when every American parent now worries when they send their children off to school, it is time for us to act. Not tomorrow. Not next week. Not next month. Now. Today.

There is a juvenile justice bill ready for us to consider that at least begins to address the school violence issue. Why will the Speaker not take up this bill? Is it because the NRA does not want him to? Is it because the far right in his party will not let him?

Whatever the reason, Mr. Speaker, it is not good enough. With 13 children dying each day from guns and with that gun violence spilling into our schools, his reasons are not good enough.


SUPPORT MISSING, Exploited and Runaway Children's Act

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, in this National Missing Children’s Week, I urge my colleagues to support S. 249, the Missing, Exploited and Runaway Children’s Act.

In my own district, Jimmy Ryce and Shannon Melendi were preyed upon by monsters.

Jimmy was abducted, raped, killed, and dismembered as he walked home from his school bus stop. Jimmy’s parents channeled their grief into the establishment of the Jimmy Ryce Center.

Shannon disappeared from a softball field and was never seen again. Shannon’s parents have taken their daughter’s case to the public, pushing for stronger laws to keep sexual predators off the streets.

Shannon’s father, Luis, said, “What happened to us cannot be changed, but because of what happened to us, changes can be made.”

Passage of this bill will help protect our children from the predators who prey on our most innocent victims.

AMERICANS INSIST ON PEACEFUL NEGOTIATIONS, NOT CONTINUED BOMBING

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, NATO’s deliberate bombing and knocking out of electric systems and water systems throughout Serbia takes the war to a new low.

NATO is assigning collective guilt to the entire population of Serbia. NATO is then exacting retribution against that civilian population. Violence cannot be redemptive.

NATO, whoever NATO is, does not represent this Congress, which voted against the bombing. The American people are opposed to this bombing. People want to know what they can do.

On Sunday night in Cleveland, 400 people marched in a driving rain along the city’s largest bridge, a mile and a half procession for peace, to protest the bombing; to protest the ethnic cleansing; and to make a strong statement that we believe that the only way to resolve this is through peaceful negotiations. I say it is time to continue to insist that is the way that we resolve this war.

COX REPORT RELEASED: IT IS ABOUT TIME

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, “The Phantom Menace” is the title to the new popular Star Wars movie. But it might also be an apt description of the Chinese espionage efforts against the United States as outlined in the Cox Report.

Unlike this popular movie, however, this Chinese espionage is not fiction,
and it may have far-reaching national security consequences long into the future.

It has taken nearly 5 months of struggle and arguing with the Clinton administration to release the Cox Report. Mr. Speaker, for myself and the many concerned Nevadans that I represent, all I can say is, it is about time.

It is about time that the American people find out if China's nuclear arsenal was built from the genius of the American people, on the backs of the American taxpayer.

It is about time that the Americans learn if the U.S. nuclear weapons labs will meet even minimum security standards some time next year.

But it is ultimately about time that this administration accepts responsibility for its years of inaction in this unfortunate situation, and has the intestinal fortitude to make the appropriate changes.

I yield back this Chinese spy menace, Mr. Speaker, and hopefully today the phantoms will be revealed. It is about time.

Calling for Resignation of Sandy Berger

(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, the fact is Sandy Berger is our national security advisor. The fact is Sandy Berger was once China's chief lobbyist in America. The fact is now there is a hole in our national security so big we could throw Berger and all our secrets all the way to China nonstop. Beam me up.

I am not accusing Sandy Berger of any wrongdoing. But for the good of America, Sandy Berger should resign as our national security advisor. Sandy Berger belongs as close to China. In Washington, perception becomes reality.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back any secrets we have left.

More Questions Arise About Who Knew What When Regarding Chinese Espionage

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

Mr. Wicker. Mr. Speaker, the long-awaited Cox Report on Chinese espionage becomes public today, and we already know many of the stunning details about the loss of our most sensitive nuclear secrets.

The President's press secretary says this goes back 20 years and there is no Democrat or Republican face on it. He is using the "everybody does it" defense. The Energy Secretary has cautioned us not to overreact.

But how should we react to the worst spy case in American history? It is clear that Clinton-Gore administration did not react at all after this was discovered. Was President Clinton briefed on this in 1995, in 1996, 1997, 1998 or 1999? If he was, why was nothing done?

Attorney General Janet Reno is being set up to be the scapegoat in this scandal, but there are a lot more questions which the Clinton administration must answer about who knew it and when they knew it.

National Missing Children's Day

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

Mr. Farr. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce an important bill, the Safe Parks Act of 1999.

Mr. Speaker, our national parks are not as safe as we would expect them to be. In 1997, there were over 500 reported sex offenses in our national parks. Even more disturbing, 1997 saw 33 forceful rapes and 11 attempted rapes in those same national parks. That is rape or attempted rape about every 8 days on Federal lands that are supposed to be safe havens for our families.

That is why I am introducing the Safe Parks Act today. It is a simple bill, barring any convicted sex offender from entering our U.S. parks.

Mr. Speaker, in honor of National Missing Children's Day, please join me in supporting this measure to help defend the sanctity of our Federal parks for our kids.

Chinese Theft of Nuclear Technology Has Advanced Threat by a Generation

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

The Chinese theft of nuclear weapons technology which has recently occurred under this administration has advanced the threat to our Nation by a generation.

This administration loves to say we have to do this, we have to do that for the children. Think of how much American children's lives have been endangered by this administration because of its lax security measures.

Campaign contributions from the head of the Chinese military intelligence to the Clinton administration; and this administration's response, we need campaign finance reform. They do not even follow the laws in the books that we have now.

Now the Clinton administration seems for gun control. Yet, it invites Chinese arms dealers to coffees at the White House, yes, for campaign donations. Unbelievable.

Support Safe Parks Act of 1999

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

Mr. Green of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, the former Soviet Union secret information which allowed them to advance their atomic weapons program by 5 years.

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