

IN SUPPORT OF DR. LAURA

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

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I have a button which I sometimes wear. It says, "Politically Incorrect and Proud of it." I probably ought to be wearing that button tonight, because what I am going to say is going to be deemed politically incorrect by some.

You see, I rise in strong support of Dr. Laura. Mr. Speaker, under the guise of freedom of speech, my children and my grandchildren are put into a sea of filth and violence on television and the Net. Yet, when Dr. Laura recapitulates spiritual and moral values espoused by countless civilizations through millenia of time, pagans and Christians and Jews and Muslims, she is accused of hate speech.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise to defend Dr. Laura and her right to freely express her religious convictions, her deeply held religious convictions, without fear of being called a bigot. If her rights are denied, all our rights are at risk.

THE CENSUS AND URGING MEMBERS TO JOIN IN RESOLUTION SALUTING MINORITY VETERANS

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise for two reasons this evening. First of all, I ask Americans not to forget the Census. On April 16, we will have Census Sunday in my district, where I hope all of our religious communities and all those who will be gathered under one roof will realize the importance of one vote, one person, and realize they should be part of the count and not part of the undercount.

So many of our men and women have served the United States military so that we might be free. The Census is one exercise that the United States partakes in to ensure that all Members of this Nation are counted. So I hope that those who have not sent in their forms will realize that this is a part of the obligation of being here in the United States, to be counted.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting House Resolution 98 to salute and give appreciation to all of the minority veterans that served in World War II, African-Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, who, because of discriminatory laws in the United States, were not fully acknowledged.

We appreciate all who served in World War II and who gave their lives in sacrifice, but we hope we will be able to honor them on a day of honor, May 25, 2000.

APPOINTMENT OF HON. FRANK R. WOLF OR HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA TO ACT AS SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE TO SIGN ENROLLED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS THROUGH MAY 2, 2000

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following appointment by the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 13, 2000.

I hereby appoint the Honorable FRANK R. WOLF or, if not available to perform this duty, the Honorable CONSTANCE A. MORELLA to act as Speaker pro tempore to sign enrolled bills and joint resolutions through May 2, 2000.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the appointment is agreed to.

There was no objection.

COMMUNICATION FROM LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL OF THE OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from M. Pope Barrow, Jr., Legislative Counsel of the Office of General Counsel of the House of Representatives:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL,
Washington, DC, April 13, 2000.

Hon. DENNIS J. HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a subpoena for production of documents issued by the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I will make the determinations required by Rule VIII.

Sincerely,
M. POPE BARROW, Jr.,
Legislative Counsel.

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.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE

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

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I come before the House today to talk about one of the most serious issues affecting senior citizens and families across the country. That is the skyrocketing cost of prescription drugs and the lack of affordable health coverage for seniors.

Too many of our Nation's senior citizens are forced to make an impossible choice each month about whether they

buy the food they need, pay to heat their homes, or pay for the prescription medication that will keep them alive and keep them healthy.

Mr. Speaker, in the richest country in the history of the world, it is simply wrong to force our senior citizens to make that choice. I am sure Members have noticed this giant pill bottle. The size of this pill bottle reflects the escalating costs of prescription medications in our country.

Mr. Speaker, next week I will travel throughout my district and invite senior citizens to bring to me their prescription medications, their prescriptions, and the bills they pay for them. Mr. Speaker, we are going to fill this prescription bottle with those medication receipts, and we are going to bring it back to this body and demand action.

Mr. Speaker, too many senior citizens in this country are making a choice, a terrible choice that they should not have to make. This body has now been in session more than 15 months. We have talked about naming post offices, we have traveled back and forth across the country to vote on silly suspension bills, in some cases.

What have we not voted on? We have not voted on any substantive legislation, not one piece of substantive legislation to lower the cost of prescription medications or to provide meaningful health insurance to our senior citizens.

Mr. Speaker, we must not apply a placebo false fix to this problem. We must provide a real prescription on the House of Representatives to solve a real problem that is affecting our senior citizens' health and well-being every day.

Mr. Speaker, when I am in my district next week, I want hundreds of senior citizens to come out. I want to share with Members a story. We asked many of our seniors to share with us what they are paying for prescription medication. I was particularly moved by the story of Ms. Gwen Blackman of Longview.

This is what she wrote to me recently. She is receiving \$650 per month for social security disability payments, but Mr. Speaker, she must pay \$360 of that per month for prescription medications. How does she do that? Mr. Speaker, she does not do that. What she is forced to do is, on some months, go without her medication.

□ 2045

The richest country in the history of the world, we have senior citizens not able to pay for the medication they need because we have done nothing to control the escalating costs of prescription medications, and we have done nothing substantive to provide meaningful, meaningful and real affordable health insurance that includes prescription medications for our seniors.

This House has before it several bills. I am not taking a position tonight on