

DICKEY) having assumed the chair, Mr. THORBERRY, Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4392) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2001 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill (H.R. 4392) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2001 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DICKEY). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF HOUSE RESOLUTION 396

Mr. DICKEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove my name as a cosponsor of House Resolution 396?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. THORBERRY). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arkansas?

There was no objection.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, MAY 22, 2000

Mr. DICKEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Monday next for morning hour debates.

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

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. DICKEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

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

There was no objection.

WHO IS TO BLAME

(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, yesterday the White House announced that it would work to compensate the victims of the Los Alamos wildfire. Well, Mr. Speaker, how generous of the administration to compensate the victims of a wildfire which its own agency, the National Park Service, is responsible for starting.

Of course, neither the administration or the Park Service accepts responsibility for the environmental disaster that has left hundreds of people stranded, over 400 homes destroyed, and has burned almost 50,000 acres. Instead, they have pledged compensation, which will ultimately cost the American taxpayers millions of dollars.

Meanwhile, the local superintendent who has acknowledged responsibility for igniting the blaze, in spite of adverse weather warnings, was given a paid vacation. They might as well have said congratulations. Mr. Speaker, the National Park Service and its personnel need to be held responsible for their actions, especially when those actions result in such extensive environmental devastation.

I yield back the administration's disgraceful inability to accept responsibility for its own negligence.

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.

MOST FAVORED NATION TRADE STATUS FOR PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I apologize for delaying the Chair, and I thank the Chair for its patience.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take to the floor this afternoon to continue our discussion on most favored nation trade status with the People's Republic of China.

As I have said before, the problem that we are faced with, the challenges and the choices that confront us here, are support for our basic cherished values; the right to practice one's religion; the right to assemble and organize and collectively bargain for a de-

cent wage and benefits and health care, and all the things that many of our citizens enjoy; the right to form political organizations so that ideas, such as good wages, decent working conditions, health care, good educational opportunities, can flow from political participation. All of these rights are kind of central to this debate on China, because in China today they do not enjoy what we enjoy here, and that is the ability to do these things.

China is a brutal, authoritarian police state. If the government is disagreed with, if one tries to form a political organization, if an individual tries to form a religious organization, if someone tries to form a trade union, they will end up in jail. And that is where, my colleagues, literally tens of thousands of Chinese dissidents, freedom fighters, people who care about democracy are languishing today in prison, because they dared to try to speak out to better their human condition in these areas.

Why is it so important for us to stand with them and not with the government of China and their partners in this trade deal, the multinational corporations, most of whom are American? Why is it important to stand with these heroes? It is important to stand with them because those values that we cherish, those first principles of our government, the right to be able to express ourselves in the God that we believe in, in the political organization that we want to affiliate with, in the worker organization that we want to band with in order to improve our economic lives, these are central tenets of what democracy is all about.

The State Department's Country Report on Human Rights, in their last report, said that China's poor human rights record deteriorated markedly throughout the year as the government intensified efforts to suppress dissent, particularly organized dissent; the government continued to commit widespread and well-documented human rights abuses in violation of internationally accepted norms.

Permanent Favored Nation Trading Status supporters can claim that the Internet and technology will help unshackle the Chinese people, but the evidence shows the opposite is happening. According to the State Department, and I quote,

Authorities have blocked, at various times, politically sensitive Web sites, including those of dissident groups and some major foreign news organizations, such as Voice of America, The Washington Post, The New York Times, and the British Broadcasting system.

Just yesterday, outside these chambers on the lawn of the Capitol, we had approximately 100 dissidents from China who are now in exile, many of whom have spent 3, 4, 5, 10, 13 years in jail. They were here with us, and we formed a line with a linked chain