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AMENDMENT TO VA/HUD BILL TO PREVENT EPA MOVING FORWARD ON DESIGNATION OF NEW NONATTAINMENT AREAS

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

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, when a lower court ruled in 1999 against new Federal air standards, reasonable persons expected the EPA to delay further implementation of the standards until the Supreme Court ruled on the agency's appeal.

Instead, the EPA is pushing forward with rules that force State and local governments across the country to spend thousands of dollars to comply with new invalid standards.

To stop this waste of taxpayer money, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LINDER) and I will offer an amendment to VA/HUD later today which will prevent the EPA from moving forward with the designation of new non-attainment areas until such time as the Supreme Court makes a decision.

State and local governments could better use their resources to help their communities to comply with the rules that may never become legally enforceable.

Our amendment is simple. It does not affect existing air quality standards, nor does it render judgment on the new standards. It only requires EPA to postpone further action until the Supreme Court issues a final ruling.

It is common sense to postpone the designation process until we are certain that it will not be a huge waste of Federal, State and local resources.

LOS ALAMOS LEAKS

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, the Founding Fathers saw a national security as the very first duty of government. First amongst the powers given to Congress is the power to provide for the common defense. The first duty listed for the President is to be Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States.

National security is a very serious matter; and when nuclear secrets are lost, our national safety is threatened. Then why have we seen repeated security breaches at the Los Alamos National Laboratory?

Dr. Wen Ho Lee is still in jail awaiting trial for mishandling secret data a year ago. When that happened, Energy Secretary Richardson opposed new security measures, insisting that he wanted to be in charge and that he could handle the security himself.

Clearly, he has failed to do that. Some think we have better security at

Wal-Mart than we do in Los Alamos. Richardson blamed the University of California, but even his director of counterintelligence says we cannot rule out espionage.

If the Secretary of Energy cannot provide security for our Nation's top nuclear secrets, the President needs to find someone who can.

LAX SECURITY AT LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY

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

Mr. VITTER. Mr. Speaker, last year, following disturbing reports of lax security at the Los Alamos National Laboratory, the Congress passed and the President signed a law creating an Under Secretary for national security at the Department of Energy. This new position was created to strengthen security at our labs. Now Secretary Richardson objects to filling this post; and as a previous speaker said, he specifically took personal responsibility for security.

Now we know of another massive security breach at the lab. But is Secretary Richardson taking personal responsibility for these lapses occurring on his watch? Nope, not a chance. He has found a scapegoat in the University of California.

Madam Speaker, UC does have a contract to manage the lab, but responsibility for security lies with the Secretary.

Mr. Speaker, blaming the University of California for the security breakdown at the lab is like the captain of the Titanic blaming the head waiter for the iceberg. Of course, the captain did not; he took responsibility and went down with the ship. It is time for the Secretary of Energy to do the same and resign.

SUPPORTING LEGISLATION CALLING FOR APOLOGY FOR SLAVERY

(Ms. MCKINNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support and cosponsor the legislation of the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL) that calls for an apology for slavery. I have heard the snickers, the snide comments, the perplexed faces from Members baffled by the gentleman's quest for justice. I think we all need to check ourselves.

This great Nation of ours did something terribly wrong during its infancy: I was written out of its Constitution, and it turned its head on slavery. And when our country actually saw itself for the first time in a mirror, its response was to proclaim that the black man had no rights that a white man was bound to respect.

It took a second look, however, and began to exorcise its demons; that is what reparations to Native Americans, Holocaust victims, and Japanese Americans was all about. Sadly, nobody thought about me. Yet an unarmed black man can be murdered on the streets of America and no one blinks an eye.

Innocent black men disappear to death row. Crack cocaine dumped into our neighborhoods. Malcolm X and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., murdered in conspiracies.

The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL) is trying to close these wounds, not reopen them.

NONCOMMERCIAL BROADCASTING FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION ACT OF 2000

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 527 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 527

*Resolved*, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 4201) to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to clarify the service obligations of noncommercial educational broadcast stations. The bill shall be considered as read for amendment. The amendment recommended by the Committee on Commerce now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate on the bill, as amended, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Commerce; (2) a further amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in the Congressional Record pursuant to clause 8 of rule XVIII, if offered by representative Markey of Massachusetts or his designee, which shall be considered as read and shall be separately debatable for one hour equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent; and (3) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. THORNBERRY). The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LINDER) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 527 is a fair rule providing for consideration of H.R. 4201, the Noncommercial Broadcasting Freedom of Expression Act of 2000. H. Res. 527 provides 1 hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Commerce.