PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. KUYKENDALL. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained attending my son's high school graduation and missed rollocall votes 305–311. If I had been here, I would have voted in the following manner:

Rocalll 303: No (delaying implementation of Department of Veterans' Affairs VERA system).

Rollcall 304: No (striking prohibition against dredging until National Academy of Sciences study complete).

Rollcall 305: No (prohibiting designation of ozone non-attainment areas).

Rollcall 306: No (prohibiting administration of Communities for Safer Guns Coalition).

Rollcall 307: No (shifting funding from space station program to increase the number of new low income housing vouchers).

Rollcall 308: No (prohibiting Department of Housing and Urban Affairs from implementing settlement agreement with Smith and Wesson).

Rollcall 309: Yes (final passage).

Rollcall 310: No (withdrawal from World Trade Organization).

PRAYER AT FOOTBALL GAMES

(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 Supreme Court fumbled Monday when it ruled against free voluntary speech. Rather than preserving our rights, the court eroded them, and they ensured years of costly litigation for lawyers.

But I hope, yes I pray, if I am allowed to do so, that one day this decision will be overturned also.

MEDICARE RX MEETS INDIVIDUAL NEEDS

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, there are almost 40 million Medicare beneficiaries in the United States, and I can say with confidence that no two beneficiaries are just alike. So why would this administration want to create a one-size-fits-all Medicare prescription drug program?

Our seniors should not be forced into a big government Washington-based drug benefit program, a program run by Washington bureaucrats that do not know the difference between Motrin and Resulin. Our seniors and disabled Americans deserve a better plan.

The House bipartisan prescription drug benefit plan will provide an affordable, available, and voluntary drug benefit program allowing each Medicare beneficiary to choose which program best serves their individual needs.

Mr. Speaker, the American people cannot afford the $100 billion Clinton-Gore cookie cutter prescription drug plan scheme, whatever you call it, which thoughtlessly neglects individual health care needs of our seniors.

GARY GRAHAM

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

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to speak out against murder. In the past few weeks, there has been a ground swell of support for Gary Graham, a man placed on death row in Texas at the age of 17.

This case and others have drawn public attention to the death penalty in this country and especially in Texas where Governor Bush says that he is confident that each of the 134 people killed under his watch were guilty. But in Texas, a juvenile is tried as an adult, but in Connecticut, an adult is tried as a juvenile?

Texas has executed more juvenile offenders than any other State in America. Another 26 juvenile offenders now sit on Texas' death row.

Mr. Speaker, in the Bible, justice rolls down like water and righteousness like a mighty stream. But in Texas, it is just a trickle.

Is it not ironic that, in the State of Texas, a juvenile is tried as an adult, but in Connecticut, an adult is tried as a juvenile?

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Texas has executed more juvenile offenders than any other State in America. Another 26 juvenile offenders now sit on Texas' death row.

George Bush boasts of his international experience. Well, his death row experience has put Texas right in line with Iran, Nigeria, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Democrat Republic of Congo as executionists of juvenile offenders.

A Federal court has already stated that there is significant evidence to support Gary Graham's claim of innocence.

Why not let the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles review the new evidence?

Should George Bush kill Gary Graham? He could very well be killing an innocent man. Or does George Bush want to follow in the footsteps of his "Willie Horton" father to win brownie points in a close election?

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TOOMY). 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.

RESPONSIBILITY OF HIGH GAS PRICES FALLS WITH THE WHITE HOUSE

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, many Americans are becoming very upset about the great and tremendous rise in gas prices around the country, and certainly they should be upset about this. Let me just point out a few things though.
June 21, 2000

The price of gas could be and should be much, much lower than it is; but in 1995, the year the most heavily visited national park in the country. Ten million visitors come there each year, and they think it is huge and beautiful, and it is. It is only about 600,000 acres in size.

This Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is 35 times the size of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, which is by far the most heavily visited national park in the country. Ten million visitors come there each year, and they think it is huge and beautiful, and it is. It is only about 600,000 acres in size.

We started years ago drilling for oil at Prudhoe Bay. The environmental extremists opposed that at that time saying it would wipe out the caribou herd. There were about 6,000 caribou at that time. Now there is over 20,000. It has been a great thing for this country.

We are far too dependent on foreign oil. Half of our oil has to come from foreign countries now. Yet the President vetoed this which would have allowed us to get potentially 16 billion barrels of oil. In addition to that, he signed an order putting 80 percent of that Continental Shelf oil limits for oil exploration and drilling. That is billions more barrels.

The price of gasoline could be much, much lower. If the American people like high gas prices, they should write the White House and thank them, because that is where the responsibility or that is where the fault lies for the high gas prices that we have in this country today.

I know there are some people who want higher prices. I know some of the environmental extremists want the gas price to go to $6 or $8 a gallon because then people would drive less and there would be less pollution. Some people really believe that would be a good thing.

But I can tell my colleagues it would put the final nail in the coffin of the small towns and rural areas if we let these gas prices go to those kinds of levels.

Some people say, well, that is what they are paying over in Europe. But the Europeans and all the others pay much more oil in this country, try and just add all kinds of taxes.

So we should drill and explore for much more oil in this country, try and become much less dependent on foreign oil, and we could easily bring down the price of gas in this country. But this administration will not do it because they are too controlled by these environmental extremists who almost always are real wealthy people, so they are not hurt by high gas prices as much as the poor and lower income and the working people of this country.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, let me mention one other unrelated thing that the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTs) got into, and that is the Supreme Court decision on school prayer that was issued a couple of days ago.

In 1952, the U.S. Supreme Court in the case of Zorach v. Clauson said there is “no constitutional requirement which makes it necessary for government to be hostile to religion and throw its weight against efforts to widen the effective scope of religious influence.”

I remember, about 3 years ago, William Raspberry, the great columnist, the great columnist for the Washington Post, wrote a column and asked a question. He said, “Is it not just possible that anti-religious bias masquerading as religious neutrality has cost us far more than we have been willing to admit?”

And that is a good question, tonight, Mr. Speaker. Is it not just possible that anti-religious bias, masquerading as religious neutrality, has cost us far more than we have been willing to acknowledge?”

The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTs) pointed out this Congress opens every session with prayer, and yet we will not allow this to be done at school events. There was a very poor decision by the Supreme Court a couple of days ago, and I think our Founding Fathers would have been shocked if they knew people were going to be hostile to religion in this country to keep people from saying voluntary prayers.

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TOOMEY). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. Speaker, on April 12, I led an hour of debate on the topic of prescription drug coverage for senior citizens. I read three letters from around the state from seniors who shared their personal stories. On the 12th, I made a commitment to continue reading a different letter each week until the House enacts real prescription drug legislation.

Below is a list of drugs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drug</th>
<th>Price (per month)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Novasac</td>
<td>$37.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prilosec</td>
<td>106.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allegra</td>
<td>33.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nitro</td>
<td>7.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Premarin</td>
<td>22.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toprol</td>
<td>33.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indur</td>
<td>43.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mysofol</td>
<td>18.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Premarin Cream</td>
<td>40.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lipitor</td>
<td>19.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Synlar</td>
<td>9.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aclovate</td>
<td>15.89</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total cost .................................. 419.48

Also, at [my husband’s] place of employment, if you retired before the age of 62, you lost $200 a month. He was “laid off” at 61 and a half. So, after, we lost more income. It doesn’t seem fair for the elderly! We have worked all of our lives and end up this way and this is our beloved U.S.A.?

We hope that you can succeed in your campaign. Sincerely, Crystal Pearl Beaudry.

Seniors want and deserve a voluntary Medicare prescription drug benefit that is genuinely available to any senior who wants or needs it. That is why I will continue to read a letter from Michigan seniors until the House enacts real prescription drug legislation.

LACK OF SECURITY OF NUCLEAR SECRETS AT LOS ALAMOS MUST BE ADDRESSED BY CONGRESS

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to address something that has been in the paper a pretty good bit lately, the Los Alamos nuclear secrets that have apparently been missing. The reason I want to do this, Mr. Speaker, is because I am very concerned about it, and I just want to sort of retrace the steps.

If my colleagues will remember, during the Clinton administration it became apparent that this gentleman named Wen Ho Lee was stealing secrets, very important nuclear secrets from the Los Alamos lab. Because of a number of, I would say, bureaucratic hesitations, he was not investigated for a long time. They finally did investigate him and they found out that, I think he had over a thousand illegal entries on his computer. At that time Congress, in a bipartisan fashion, moved together to try to give the Department of Energy the resources that they need to improve security at Los Alamos.

In 1995, the year the most heavily visited national park in the country. Ten million visitors come there each year, and they think it is huge and beautiful, and it is. It is only about 600,000 acres in size.