Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues had an opportunity to listen to my comments on the American West. I am proud to be an American citizen, but I am deeply proud of being able to have been born and raised in the American West. I hope all of my colleagues have that opportunity to experience what I have been able to spend an entire lifetime experiencing.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. Bishop (at the request of Mr. Gephardt) for today on account of a death in the family.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

Mr. McNulty (at the request of Mr. McNulty) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material;

Mr. Bono, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. Jackson-Lee of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. Langevin, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. Brown of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. Pallone, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. Edwards, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. Kerns) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material):

Mr. Moran of Kansas, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. Ramstad, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. Paul, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. Tancredo, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. Buyer, for 5 minutes, today and July 18 and 19.

Mr. Duncan, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. Ney, for 5 minutes, today.

SENATE ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The SPEAKER announced his signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 360. An act to honor Paul D. Coverdell.

The following Members (at the request of Mr. Kerns) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:

Mr. Moran of Kansas, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. Ramstad, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. Paul, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. Tancredo, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. Buyer, for 5 minutes, today and July 18 and 19.

Mr. Duncan, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. Ney, for 5 minutes, today.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker’s table and referred as follows:

look at highways. We put speed bumps to slow you down. Why? Because we do not want an incoming car. We do not want to slow the traffic. That school of my colleagues could think of example after example where we deploy a defensive mechanism to protect our health and well-being or the health and well-being of our children. That is why we have tough law enforcement, so that we can preserve those things that are special to us. Now, for us not to put out a defense that protects a country that is special to us is foolish.

Now, because I cannot go into the details, but I will in the next week, I hope, I am going to have some diagrams and some charts and show you why this system will work. Now, remember the fundamental criticism of this system. Will you tell me, first of all, we have offended China and Russia. Do not offend China and Russia. And our European colleagues, they are upset about this because of the fact we might offend Russia and China.

Who do you think is likely to use a missile against the United States? Not only those rogue countries, but do not discount China and do not discount Russia. I hope it never happens. I hope we become allies with these people. And if we do become allies, then we do not need to use a defensive missile system. You just have it in place. You never have to engage it. But the reality is somewhere in the future there is going to be a difference of opinion, a professional difference with these two countries. A rogue nation, a rogue Third World nation may not need a reason to fire a missile against us. People have been willing to blow up our airplanes, they have been willing to shoot down the Olympics, the Olympics. People have been able to set off a bomb at the Olympics. Do you not think that someday somebody may want to launch a missile against the United States?

Now, the critics, as I was saying earlier, will say well, the system has had too many failures. How many failures did we have before we came up with penicillin? How many failures did we have before we mastered the car? Why this system will work. Now, remember, China and Russia. And our European colleagues, they ought to be in support of a missile defensive system. But the reality is somewhere in the future there is going to be a difference of opinion, a professional difference with these two countries. A rogue nation, a rogue Third World nation may not need a reason to fire a missile against us. People have been willing to blow up our airplanes, they have been willing to shoot down the Olympics. People have been able to set off a bomb at the Olympics. Do you not think that someday somebody may want to launch a missile against the United States?

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