July 23, 2001

Strike all after the resolved clause and insert the following:

That the House of Representatives—

(1) expresses its sincerest condolences to the families of the 42 people killed in the March 6, 2001, explosion at the Fanglin elementary school in the Jianxi province of the People's Republic of China, including to the parents and families of the 37 young children who lost their lives as a result of this dangerous and forced child labor; and

(2) expresses its gratitude to the Chinese and international journalists who reported the true cause of the explosion in response to the Chinese Communist Party's original attempts to put forward an "authorized", but false, version of the events.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment in the nature of a substitute be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the amendment in the nature of a substitute offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH).

The amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution, as amended.

The resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

AMENDMENT TO THE PREAMBLE OFFERED BY MR. SMITH OF NEW JERSEY

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I offer an amendment to the preamble.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment to the preamble offered by Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas on March 6, 2001, an explosion at the Fanglin elementary school in the Jianxi province of the People's Republic of China's killed at least 42 people, including 37 children;

Whereas the children, all between the ages of 9 and 11, were being forced by elementary school officials to manufacture fireworks when this tragedy occurred;

Whereas the parents of the deceased children report that the mandatory labor, which involved mounting fuses and detonators into large firecrackers, had been a daily practice at the school for years;

Whereas this systematic exploitation of children in the elementary school was not only known about but actually organized by individuals holding official responsibilities with the local Chinese Government; and

Whereas Chinese Prime Minister Zhu Rongji has taken the important step of acknowledging these violations of internationally recognized labor standards: Now, therefore, be it

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment to the preamble be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the amendment to the preamble offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH).

The amendment to the preamble was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DEMOCRATIC PARTY FUND-RAISERS

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

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, many of us were revolted when the Democratic leadership took $1 million from Bernard Schwartz from Loral Federal, an aerospace company with a Chinese subsidiary that gave money to that Chinese company to build a satellite that Bernard Schwartz, who in turn gave them to North Korea, that now hit us with a Taepo Dong II missile. We were sickened when the DNC used our military as waiters in a White House fund-raiser.

But the latest that I believe, Democrat leadership had a fund-raiser this weekend with Hanoi Jane, Hanoi Jane Fonda, that stood beside Vietnamese gunners as they were trying to shoot down American airplanes; Hanoi Jane and Tom Hayden, who stood beside those gunners, knowing that our POWs were tortured and brutalized, and said nothing. Yet the Democratic leadership this weekend has a fund-raiser in the face of campaign finance reform with Hanoi Jane Fonda.

I hope you choke on every dollar.

FAITH-BASED INITIATIVES

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

Ms. WATSON of California. Mr. Speaker, one of the most fundamental guiding principles of our Nation is that individuals should be judged on their talents rather than on their heritage or their beliefs. It has been a long struggle for many Americans to secure the benefits of this principle. Even today, unfair discrimination prevents many Americans from achieving all they can. But most Americans can agree that our Federal Government should not sanction unfair discrimination but rather should fight it wherever it exists.

Last week, Congress took a decision that compromised this principle. The passage of the Community Solutions Act last week by this House permitted groups to discriminate unfairly against certain Americans. Worse yet, the bill actually would take away the rights of communities to establish their own antidiscrimination laws.

Mr. Speaker, it is not too late for Congress to correct this House mistake. I encourage you to work with the Senate to see that any final version of this bill respects the rights of communities to enforce their own antidiscrimination laws and thereby protect one of our most cherished American principles.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. OTTER). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 2246, MEDIA MARKETING ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution, as previously ordered of the House, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to rise this evening and discuss a topic that is important to all of us, which is our Nation's children.

Two months ago, I was in a truck stop and I saw a young man playing a video game. I did not think much about it, but I went up behind him and watched what he was doing. He was shooting a laser gun, but he was not shooting at targets. He was shooting ducks. He was shooting people. Every time he hit one, an arm flew off and the blood spurted, or a head flew off and the blood spurted. I was really impressed by the violence of the game.

This young man was about 10 years old. Nowhere on that game was any type of rating indicating that this was inappropriate for a young person.

As I saw that, I began to have a flashback to some of the school shootings we have had, and I realized that the United States currently is the most violent nation in the world for young people, with the highest homicide rate and the highest suicide rate of any nation in the civilized world. Our out-of-wedlock birthrate has risen from 5 percent in 1960 to 33 percent today. And so you say, what has happened here? Why has our culture unraveled in the way that it has?

I am sure we can point the finger at a great many different reasons and causes, but I would say one of the chief causes is the influence of violent, explicit material in the entertainment industry. Because, you see, the average child spends 25 hours a week watching movies, playing video games and listening to recorded music and probably spends about an hour or less talking to his or her parents. That 25 hours has a huge impact. Some is benign, but much of it is really pernicious and very harmful.

In September of 2000, the Federal Trade Commission prepared a report called Media Marketing Violent Entertainment to Children. This is what they found, and I quote:

"The pervasive and aggressive marketing of violent movies, music and