CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE

July 27, 2001

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, JULY 30, 2001

Mr. ARMEY. 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 Texas?

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. ARMEY. 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 Texas?

There was no objection.

PERMISSION FOR COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY TO HAVE UNTIL 5 P.M. ON SATURDAY, JULY 28, 2001 TO FILE REPORT ON H.R. 2505, HUMAN CLONING PROHIBITION ACT OF 2001

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary may have until 5 p.m. on Saturday, July 28, to file a report on H.R. 2505.

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

There was no objection.

URGING SUPPORT FOR THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, Tuesday at 1:39 p.m. the Space Shuttle Atlantis and its crew returned to Earth, successfully delivering and installing a new portal for spacewalkers, the International Space Station. On Monday of next week, we just learned, Mr. Speaker, that the debate over the future of NASA will land in this Chamber.

I rise today to urge my colleagues to remember that despite the fact that some of our forebears came to this continent in chains, all Americans are descendents of pioneers who journeyed to or prevailed in this wilderness nation. More than any other people on the Earth, we are a nation of explorers, and the debate next week will provide an important opportunity to restate this by providing resources for the International Space Station, for return vehicles and urgent repairs for the vehicle assembly building at Kennedy Space Station.

DEBATING AMERICA'S ENERGY POLICY

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

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, next week we will take up the energy policy bill, which really is going to be one of the most important bills, both from an energy and from an environmental perspective, in the next 10 years. It is our hope that during the next few days, the majority leadership will fashion a rule which will, in fact, allow environmental considerations in this bill.

We definitely need to improve this bill. We need to improve it by increasing the energy efficiency of our automobiles. This bill does not do it. We need to have additional tax incentives for renewable energy and clean conservation technologies. This bill does not do it. We need pipeline safety to make sure pipelines do not explode. This bill does not do it. We need better efficiency standards. Lastly, we ought to make sure we do not drill in the Arctic Refuge.

Mr. Speaker, I hope the Speaker will personally use the energy in the majority caucus to make sure we have a fair and honest debate on these very important environmental measures. Next week the House needs to speak on these. Let us give people in America trust in the environment as well as energy next week.

URGING THE HOUSE TO CONTINUE FULL SUPPORT FOR THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION

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

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I want to associate my words with those of the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE) who made the comments about the NASA budget, and urge our colleagues to continue to support the tremendous work that has been done by the Committee on Appropriations to make sure that we have adequate funding to keep the International Space Station on the path that we have set it on, to make sure that we have a full crew of seven researchers and astronauts there, that we accomplish the goals that we set for that, with a safe crew return vehicle and continued operation of the space shuttle in a safe and effective manner.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JOHN ROUSE, EDITOR OF THE BOWIE BLADE NEWS

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. John Rouse. He is celebrating his 30th anniversary as the editor of the Bowie Blade News, a hometown newspaper located in Bowie, Maryland, in the heart of my district.

The first amendment states, and I quote, "Congress shall make no law abridging the freedom of the press." This first tenet of freedom in the Bill of Rights is vigorously exercised by the thousands of hometown newspapers that act as watchdogs for the American public against intrusion on its rights and property by the government and by others.

Newspapers across the country oversee elected officials' conduct and performance, reporting the facts and offering praise or criticism on their editorial pages. It is the prism by which many Americans gain their insight on just what is happening in the world, in America, and even right next door.

We lament the fact that sometimes they are wrong, as human beings are wont to do, but most times they are right. In any event, they are absolutely essential to the continuation, to the growth and the vitality of democracy.

Mr. Rouse, Mr. Speaker, has made an extraordinary contribution to his community by fulfilling this watchdog role in Bowie, Maryland, for 30 years. After serving in Vietnam as an Air Force officer, John joined the Bowie News as editor and became the editor and general manager of the new Bowie Blade News in 1978 when the two papers merged.

John reports issues fully and fairly and often shows his keen sense of humor. He is an adept writer, a skilled editor, and very much in tune to the needs, the hopes, and the vision of the people of Bowie. John's skills earned the Bowie Blade the 1999 Best in Show award by the Maryland, Delaware and D.C. Press Association, and his walls are covered by numerous other awards.

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The city is in many ways a microcosm of the changes that have buffeted this country over the past few decades,
from increased suburbanization to greater diversity. It certainly is no easy task to keep one's hand on the pulse of such a community, but that is exactly what John Rouse has been able to do for 30-plus years. He has kept himself constantly connected with the issues that are important to the city of Bowie and to its people.

John has snapped and growled at me more than once. I know that my colleagues can empathize with that in dealing with some of their local editors. But he has been an editor that I have been always in respect of. I always appreciate that his goal is to advocate for the best interest of his city, of his county, his State, and his country. He and I have grown to be friends and to hold each other in mutual respect and esteem.

Our democracy, Mr. Speaker, cannot continue to thrive without the likes of John Rouse, without whom the electorate would have a much harder time discerning fact from fiction when it comes to their local politicians, their community leaders, and the policies that are proposed.

So today, Mr. Speaker, I would like to say thank you, thank you to John Rouse, an editor of a small paper. Unlike Katherine Graham, not known worldwide, but equally important in the strength of our democracy, equally important to the informed citizenry of his community. I want to wish him the best of luck as he continues as the editor of this great little paper.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed a concurrent resolution of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is required:

S. Con. Res. 61. Concurrent Resolution to waive the provisions of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1970 which require the adjournment of the House and Senate by July 31.

27TH ANNIVERSARY OF TURKISH OCCUPATION OF NORTHERN CYPRUS

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

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate an anniversary of human suffering, loss of life, and the usurpation of the basic rights of people and nations to live within secure borders. The anniversary I am referring to is that of the Turkish Invasion and occupation of northern Cyprus 27 years ago. Some 6,000 Turkish troops and 40 tanks invaded the resource-rich north coast of Cyprus. In less than a month’s time, more than one-third of the island was under Turkish control, displacing 200,000 Greek Cypriots from their homes.

Today, 35,000 Turkish soldiers, armed with the latest weapons and supported by land and sea, are stationed in the occupied area, making it, according to the United Nations Secretary General, one of the most militarized regions in the world. At an estimated cost of $300 million annually, Turkey continues to defy the international community and the U.N. resolutions with its policies towards Cyprus.

To date, more than 1,600 Greek Cypriots and four Americans remain unaccounted for, serving as a silent reminder of the unlawful invasion.

Eighty-five thousand Turks have been brought over from Turkey to colonize the occupied area with the aim of changing the demography of the island and controlling the political situation. The Greek Cypriot community that remains enslaved within the occupied villages continues to live under conditions of oppression, harassment, and deprivation.

Throughout the occupation, the U.N. has been trying to encourage a solution on the Cyprus problem. U.N. Secretary Kofi Annan has sponsored proximity talks between the President of Cyprus, Glafcos Clerides, and Rauf Denktash, the self-proclaimed leader of the occupied area. Unfortunately, those talks have been suspended due to Rauf Denktash’s abrupt departure from the negotiating table.

Turkey’s military and financial backing provides a leverage for the Turkish Cypriot leadership in its unwillingness to make any compromises. In 2000, Turkey provided $195.5 million to the self-proclaimed Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus to relieve budget deficits and a 3-year aid package to boost the economy.

A sixth round of U.N.-mediated proximity talks did not convene in January, 2001, because Denktash refused to participate. The U.N. has said that Denktash has requested new talks but they have not been scheduled. On May 29, 2001, the Turkish National Security Council, which expresses the views of the powerful Turkish military, declared an agreement depends on “the acknowledgment of the sovereign equality of two states on the island.”

Mr. Speaker, the United States has a national interest in fostering peace and stability in the eastern Mediterranean region. We as a Nation cannot continue to pretend our NATO partner is not in clear violation of international law for its continued illegal occupation of its neighbor.

Last year, the Turkish government announced it had awarded a $4 billion contract for attack helicopters to an American company, Bell-Textron. However, before the sale can take place, the Department of State must issue an export license, and its decision must take into account both foreign policy and human rights considerations.

Sending attack helicopters to Turkey runs directly counter to American interests and values in the region and documents in any way our respect and stability in the eastern Mediterranean.

Turkey has had a long record of using U.S.-supplied military equipment in direct violation of U.S. law. In 1974, Turkey employed U.S.-supplied aircraft and tanks in its invasion of northern Cyprus. Turkish forces continue to occupy today with the use of U.S.-supplied military equipment.

For the past 16 years, Turkey has been illegally using American weaponry, especially attack helicopters, in a campaign against its Kurdish population and has threatened to use them against Greece and Cyprus as well.

Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and even our own State Department have reported that Turkey has illegally used American attack helicopters in these attacks on the Kurds.

In a judgment delivered at Strasbourg on May 10, 2001, in the case of Cyprus versus Turkey, the European Court of Human Rights of the Council of Europe found Turkey to be in violation of 14 articles of the European Convention on Human Rights.

The 16-1 decision relating to the situation that exists in the occupied northern part of Cyprus since the 1974 Turkish invasion, found Turkey to be in violation of (Article 2) right to life; (Article 3) prohibition of inhuman or degrading treatment; (Article 5) right to liberty and security; (Article 6) right to a fair trial; (Article 8) right to respect for private and family life, home and correspondence; (Article 9) freedom of thought; (Article 10) freedom of expression; (Article 13) right to an effective remedy; (Article 1 of Protocol No. 1) protection of property; and (Article 2 of Protocol No. 1) right to education.

We in the United States pride ourselves for our respect for fundamental freedoms. Human rights norms are the cornerstone of U.S. foreign policy. It is time, Mr. Speaker, for the U.S. to use its considerable influence with Turkey to press Ankara to end its 27-year occupation of Cyprus.

Why are we so accommodating toward a country whose military regularly intervenes in domestic politics; a country that refuses to come to terms with its history of genocide against the Armenians; a country that is in violation of international law in the Aegean Sea; a country that imprisons an American citizen for allegedly committing the most heinous crime imaginable; a country that imprisons four democratically elected Kurdish parliamentarians and a host of Turkish human rights activists and journalists; and a country that refuses to fully respect the rights and religious practices of its Christian communities?

It is time to speak out against these violations. It is time for the United States to take the lead.