

ARTISTIC HOMES, A WAY TO CONSERVE OUR ENERGY RESOURCES

(Mrs. WILSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday afternoon I was on the west side of Albuquerque at Artistic Homes. Artistic Homes have changed the way they build homes in order to reduce utility bills.

I met a first-time buyer family that is going to buy one of those homes. They were signing the papers that day. They currently pay \$160 a month for their electric and gas bill, and they expect that bill will be \$20 a month when they move into this new home.

That experience reinforces why conservation must be a part of our energy agenda. We have an energy problem in this country. It is toughest in the West, but it affects us all. There are not going to be any quick fixes. We need a balanced, long-term approach to give us the stability and the energy that we need. This is too important to do anything but the right thing.

We need to start with conservation. We have made tremendous progress in this country over the last 20 years. We are not going back, and nobody wants to. We need a balanced mix of new supplies of energy, and we have to bring on the next generation of new supplies of energy. It is time to pull together and lead, to give us real answers for our energy problems.

THE TIME HAS COME TO CHANGE THE OUTDATED DAVIS-BACON ACT

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, I would like attention to be directed to one of many problems on the outdated Davis-Bacon Act of 1931. As my colleagues know, this law requires the State and local construction projects receiving over \$2,000 in Federal aid must adhere to the Federal prevailing wage, which on average is 17 to 22 percent higher than the State level. Because of these higher wages, State and local construction projects can cost up to 38 percent more than they would have without the act.

This enormous waste of taxpayers dollars is proof that the Davis-Bacon Act should be modernized. In the 70 years since its introduction, the act has never been adjusted for inflation and has not been amended according to current construction standards. Meanwhile, inflated Davis-Bacon costs continually hinder emergency relief efforts and federally-assisted construction projects because of the additional costs communities must pay if they receive a mere \$2,000 in Federal aid.

Because this \$2,000 minimum was set in 1931 and has never been adjusted, the

gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE) and I have introduced H.R. 2094, the Davis-Bacon Modernization Act, which would increase the threshold from \$2,000 to \$100,000. While many of my colleagues believe this number is not high enough, I believe it is a good start. Let us make this law more reasonable and, above all, helpful. I urge my colleagues to help communities across the country to get more bang for their buck. Cosponsor and support the Davis-Bacon Modernization Act.

THE AGRICULTURAL SUPPLEMENTAL RELIEF ACT

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

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, it is another tough year for the farmers of this country. Commodity prices once again are below the cost of producing the crop. Imagine the frustration of investing one's heart and soul and extending virtually everything they own to grow a crop that when it is harvested and it is taken to the elevator, the money that is received does not even cover the costs they had of growing it. That is, of course, if the production season is a good one and a crop is actually gotten.

Yesterday I was in fields in North Dakota that have been totally devastated by hail. There will be no crop for these farmers. There will be no income of any kind at the elevator. I raise this to everyone's attention because in a few minutes we are about to consider the Agricultural Supplemental Relief Act. Unfortunately, the Committee on Agriculture brings forward a proposal that reduces by about 15 percent the amount of relief and support we gave to farmers last year.

Now farmers' inputs have gone up. It is costing more to grow the crop. The prices are still lousy. It is no time to cut relief for our farmers. Reject this and increase assistance.

NORTH KOREA

(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, I recently met with a German doctor, Dr. Norbert Vollertson, and talked to him about his experiences during his 18 months living in North Korea.

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The stories of suffering and the photos of starving children and adults were deeply moving. Dr. Vollertson made a strong statement that should spur the international community to action.

When comparing the North Korean prison camps to Nazi concentration camps, Dr. Vollertson said, "No jour-

nalist, nobody wanted to believe that Hitler is so cruel, that the German government is so cruel. I think it is my duty as a German to learn from history, to not make the same mistake twice."

He said what is happening in North Korea in the concentration camps, in his opinion, is as bad as what happened during the Second World War. It is the duty of the international community not to make the same mistake again, to ignore the plight of thousands of people in North Korea who are starving and in terrible prison situations where they are beaten and tortured and executed in horrific ways.

Mr. Speaker, I call on this body and the administration to act on behalf of the people of North Korea, to act to ensure that the regime in North Korea is no longer allowed to continue destroying its people.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record votes on postponed questions will be taken later today.

RECOGNIZING OUTSTANDING AND INVALUABLE DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE PROVIDED DURING TROPICAL STORM ALLISON

Mr. COOKSEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 166) recognizing the outstanding and invaluable disaster relief assistance provided by individuals, organizations, businesses, and other entities to the people of Houston, Texas, and surrounding areas during the devastating flooding caused by tropical storm Allison.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 166

Whereas during June 2001 tropical storm Allison brought catastrophic flooding to Houston, Texas, and surrounding areas;

Whereas this disaster tragically and suddenly took the lives of 21 people;

Whereas this disaster injured countless other people, uprooted families, and devastated businesses and institutions;

Whereas the State of Texas has been declared a Federal disaster area, and individuals and families in 28 Texas counties are eligible for Federal assistance;

Whereas numerous individuals and entities have selflessly and heroically given of themselves and their resources to aid in the disaster relief efforts; and

Whereas the catastrophic injury, death, and damage in Houston, Texas, and surrounding areas caused by tropical storm Allison would have been even worse in the absence of local relief efforts: Now, therefore, be it