The majority of those forests are located in developing nations that are plagued by poverty and environmental debt burdens. The Tropical Forest Conservation Act offers up to $325 million in debt relief to developing nations in exchange for the sustained protection of threatened tropical forests. These conditions also include the creation of a favorable climate for private sector investment, cooperation on narcotics measures, on state-sponsored terrorism, and a democratically elected government.

This bill enjoys wide bipartisan support, support from the administration, and from various environmental groups. I urge support for this bill, and, once again, commend the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) for introducing legislation to extend this important environmental program.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2131, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: “A bill to reauthorize the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998 through fiscal year 2004, and for other purposes.”

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.


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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, the Committee on Rules is planning to meet this week to grant a rule which may limit the amendment process on campaign finance reform legislation. Let me say that I and Members of the Committee on Rules and our staff have been working very closely with the key authors of this very important legislation, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MEEHAN). And we have the distinguished chairman of the House Committee on House Administration, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY), here, and we have been working with him on that.

I would like to say that the Committee on House Administration, as we all know, reported H.R. 2360, the Campaign Finance Reform Citizen Participation Act of 2001, as well as H.R. 2356, the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2001 on June 28; and the reports are expected to be filed later this afternoon.

While we have made no final decision on which version will actually end up being the base text for further amendment, I would like to ask Members to draft their amendments to both bills, both in the Committee on Rules and the Senate, and the same language would be credited with saving the lives of many American soldiers and several successful United States military engagements during World War II. It is an extreme honor to bring this legislation to the floor today authorizing a ceremony to be held in the Capitol Rotunda presenting Congressional Gold Medals to the original 29 Navajo Code Talkers. Their contribution to this Nation proved immeasurable.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. NEY. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I would simply like to congratulate the gentleman on his statement and say that we look anxiously towards that program which will be held later this month.

I, last week, had the opportunity to meet with some people at MGM, and the motion picture which is going to be coming out on the work of the Navajo Code Talkers should be fascinating. I have the trailer upstairs. I have not seen it yet, but I know from the early reports we have seen that it will be a wonderful presentation of the work of these courageous people and the role that they played during the Second World War.

I would like to strongly support the effort that is being led by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY), and it looks to me as if the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) is also working on this. I believe that it should be panned in motion pictures and a wonderful ceremony here, and I thank my friend for the leadership role he has played on this.

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the chairman of the Committee on Rules, the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER), for his support on this important measure.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, during the Second World War, the United States Government called upon 29 Navajo men from the Navajo Nation to support the military effort by serving as Marine Corps radio operators. The actual number of enlistees later increased to over 350.

The Japanese had deciphered the military code developed by the United States for transmitting messages and the Navajo Marine Corps radio operators, who became known as the Navajo Code Talkers, developed a new code using their own language to communicate military messages in the Pacific.

Throughout its extensive use, the code developed by these Native Americans proved unbreakable. The Navajos were people who had been discouraged from using their own language. Ultimately, the same language would be credited with saving the lives of many American soldiers and several successful United States military engagements during World War II. It is an extreme honor to bring this legislation to the floor today authorizing a ceremony to be held in the Capitol Rotunda presenting Congressional Gold Medals to the original 29 Navajo Code Talkers. Their contribution to this Nation proved immeasurable.

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