those plans deviate from the details of Federal programs.

□ 0915

The idea of this legislation is that where a State has been granted a waiver on a particular program, if another State seeks a similar waiver, we believe that they should only have to go through a streamlined or expedited waiver review process. We want to encourage the laboratories of democracy. We want to encourage modeling. We want to encourage benchmarking. We want to encourage borrowing of ideas.

Mr. Speaker, I would hope that my colleagues would join us in this expedited review bill and, more importantly, join the Republican freshmen in developing beyond-the-Beltway ideas. This is more than a short-term project. We hope it is the beginning of a new, longer, more open relationship between Congress and the States. Instead of the governors coming to us on bended knee, we are hoping to go to them for ideas and suggestions. We want to turn them loose. We believe that there is no telling how many of our major social, political challenges can be met if only we will move power and authority out of Washington and beyond the Beltway.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS BILL HAS SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS FOR ARMENIA, NAGORNO KARABAGH, AND U.S. CAUCASUS POLICY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GUTKNECHT). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, this week the Subcommittee on Foreign Operations of the House Committee on Appropriations is expected to mark up the fiscal year 2000 bill regarding foreign assistance and other programs vital to maintain and enhance American leadership throughout the world.

This legislation is extremely important for the Republics of Armenia and Nagorno Karabagh as they emerge from the ashes of the former Soviet Union to establish democracy, market economies, and increased integration with the West. Thus, in my capacity as co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues, I am asking my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join with me this week in urging the members of the Subcommittee on Foreign Operations to express our concerns on several key issues regarding Armenia, Nagorno Karabagh, and U.S. policy in the Caucasus region. This Subcommittee has many friends of Armenia, and I look forward to their support on these important issues.

First, Mr. Speaker, we will be urging that the Subcommittee earmark assistance for the Republic of Armenia at the highest level possible. The legislation that has been adopted by the other body, the Senate, last month earmarks $90 million for Armenia, with a subearmark of $15 million for the earthquake zone. We hope that the House subcommittee will consider providing a similar figure. It is important for the United States to maintain our support and partnership with Armenia as this country continues to make major strides toward democracy, most recently evidenced by the May 30 parliamentary elections. U.S. assistance also serves to offset the difficulties imposed on Armenia's people as a result of the hostile blockades maintained by their neighbors to the east, Azerbaijan, and to the west, Turkey.

I would also like to see the subcommittee continue humanitarian aid for Nagorno Karabagh, an historically Armenian-populated region that has proclaimed its independence and exercises democratic self-government but whose territory is still claimed by the neighboring country of Azerbaijan. The subcommittee took an historic step in the fiscal year 1998 bill by providing for the first time humanitarian assistance to Nagorno Karabagh. Unfortunately, much of that American assistance has not yet been obligated. I hope that the subcommittee, in the fiscal year 2000 bill, will make efforts to ensure that this assistance be fully obligated for the people of Nagorno Karabagh by directing the Agency for International Development to expedite delivery of this assistance.

Mr. Speaker, another key priority is to maintain Section 907 of the Freedom Support Act, which restricts certain direct government-to-government assistance to Azerbaijan until that country lifts its blockades of Armenia and Nagorno Karabagh. Last year, the full House voted to strip a provision from the fiscal year 1999 bill that would have repealed Section 907, and last month the other body defeated a provision to waive Section 907. Clearly, there is a bipartisan consensus in both Houses that the conditions for lifting Section 907 have not been met.

Another way in which the Foreign Ops bill can make a big difference is by encouraging progress on the Nagorno Karabagh Peace Process. The U.S. has been one of the countries taking the lead in the peace process, as a co-chair of the Minsk Group under the auspices of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. Late last year, the U.S. and our negotiating partners put forward a compromise peace plan, known as the ''Common State'' proposal, as a basis for moving the negotiations forward. Despite some serious reservations, the elected governments of Armenia and Nagorno Karabagh have accepted this proposal in a spirit of good faith to get the negotiations moving forward, while Azerbaijan summarily rejected it. I hope the subcommittee would include language urging the administration to stay the course on the compromise peace proposal and to use all appropriate diplomatic means to persuade Azerbaijan to support it.

To further promote the peace process, we would ask that the subcommittee consider language calling on the State Department to work with the parties to the conflict to initiate confidence-building measures. These measures should be geared both towards a reaching of a negotiated settlement, such as strengthening the current cease-fire, as well as for establishing a framework for better integration following a negotiated settlement, such as transportation routes and other infrastructure, trade, and increased people-to-people contacts.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that the members of this subcommittee are grappling with many competing demands in a complicated world with limited budgets. The fiscal year 2000 Foreign Ops Appropriations bill provides us with a chance to shape U.S. foreign policy for a new century and a new millennium. Armenia is a nation that measures its history in millennia, yet the Republics of Armenia and Nagorno Karabagh are very young democracies that embrace many of the same values that Americans cherish.

I hope that the legislation that the Subcommittee on Foreign Operations adopts this week will make a priority of supporting both Armenia and Nagorno Karabagh.

PROMOTING LIVABLE COMMUNITIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, Michael Pollan in the New York Times Magazine article this weekend, ''The Land of the Free Market and Livability,'' is certainly correct that government can and should be thinking of ways to align our polices for the types of communities that our hearts desire.

What I find disappointing is the assumption somehow that the choices consumers are making now based on their pocketbook are somehow solely the result of benign, inevitable market demands.

Having worked my entire career on the promotion of livable communities, I am struck by how the increasingly dysfunctional communities that are facing Americans across the country are a result of direct government interference in the marketplace. Consumers are behaving rationally by investing in ways where their incentives are skewed by government.

The most dramatic example is to be found in our treatment of the automobile. Seventy-five years ago, communities all across the country had profitable, private transit streetcar systems privately owned and profitable. Massive government spending, literally trillions of dollars, were used to promote automobile traffic, while at the same time there was no support given to transit; and indeed in many communities government contributed

directly to the decline of transit and in some communities its demise by refusing to allow fares to increase with inflation and for capital investments to keep the systems healthy.

While the money from the road funds is perhaps the most visible, there were also huge subsidies for overseas defense to protect oil supplies and public ownership of oil and gas supplies. There were dramatic subsidies for public safety, for policing related to the automobile, and the removal of huge tracts of land in the tax rolls and for roads and road right-of-way and, of course, parking and tax subsidies. All of these combined to tip the playing field in favor of the automobile. Consumers responded rationally for themselves but in ways that very much skewed the pattern of transportation development.

Now, these clear transportation subsidies are but a small portion of the overall government interference in the market system. Our investments in public housing concentrated poor minority populations in central cities. We dramatically subsidized utility rates and sewer and water expansion that routinely hid the profits, from providing service to local inner cities, from increased costs associated with expansion into suburbs and greenfields. It resulted in many central city residents paying more for their own utilities and subsidizing lower rates for people outside the cities.

The most direct and obvious interference in the market was the emergence of single-use zoning in metropolitan areas where we made it illegal for the family owning, say, a restaurant or a drugstore from living or having their clerks live above that activity. People were zoned out of mixed-use neighborhoods and literally forced into their cars since the drastic separation of uses forced many Americans to rely increasingly on automobiles, and again that was very rational behavior.

The list goes on and on: flood insurance, water supply, brownfields programs, the Federal Government's own policy of locating facilities out further and further from concentrated uses, or the post office refusing to obey local land use laws and zoning codes. These are all examples of the government's own activities to destabilize neighborhoods in our central cities and our older suburbs.

It is hard for me to imagine any rational observer being able to characterize what has transpired in American communities over the last three-quarters of a century as benign, neutral, inevitable market forces. The challenge today for those who would have livable communities is not to overcome market forces but allow the market forces to work. This is an appropriate use of the political process. It is not a trivial point, as critics attempt to paint efforts for promoting livable communities on the part of the administration, those of us in Congress, or the vast grassroots efforts around the country as somehow social engineering or forcing people to do what they do not want to do.

It is essential to give legitimacy to the aspirations of thousands of activists in hundreds of communities across the country that are trying to promote livable communities. Just as we have established a pattern of unplanned growth for dysfunctional communities and regions, we can level the playing field to promote livable communities. I look forward to this Congress and this administration taking steps to be partners to promote these more livable communities.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 10 a.m.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 27 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until 10 a.m.

□ 1000

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PEASE) at 10 a.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

Remind us, O gracious God, that we are to be doing the works of justice and mercy in our communities and in our world. And as we seek to do the works of justice remind us again that we are not the message, but we are the messengers of reconciliation and peace and righteousness. We admit that we can become so involved in what we do that we promote ourselves and we become the focus instead of pointing to the way of truth and promoting the good works of justice for every person.

May Your blessing, O God, that is new every morning be with us until the last moments of the day, abide with us this day now and evermore. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PITTS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed without amendment a concurrent resolution of the House of the following title:

H. Con. Res. 144. Concurrent Resolution urging the United States Government and the United Nations to undertake urgent and strenuous efforts to secure the release of Branko Jelen, Steve Pratt, and Peter Wallace, 3 humanitarian workers employed in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia by CARE International, who are being unjustly held as prisoners by the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

THE VALUE AND NECESSITY OF A STRONG MINING INDUSTRY IN AMERICA

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, over the next few weeks I will be bringing to our colleagues and the Chair's attention the value and necessity of a strong mining industry in our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, nearly everything we eat, touch, wear, use, or even live in is made possible by the mining industry. Minerals comprise the basic necessities of life. Mineral-based fertilizers make possible the food we eat and the natural fibers in our clothes. From the concrete foundation, to the wallboard, pipes, and wiring, all the way up to the shingles on the roof, the construction industry utilizes minerals for building our homes.

Mr. Speaker, minerals, made possible through the mining industry, are essential for agriculture, construction, and manufacturing. The United States is one of the world's leaders in the production of important metals and minerals, and it is imperative that we maintain a strong mining industry, and remain competitive with other nations for scarce investment of capital.

Many investors have already left the United States for Latin America and Asia, where they are not faced with endless delays regarding Federal proposals, permits, expensive fees, and all sorts of other bureaucratic red tape.

Mr. Speaker, it is in our Nation's best interests to keep our mining industry strong.

OUR COUNTRY'S UNBELIEVABLE POLICY ON STEEL

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, after World War II we gave tours of our steel mills to Japan and Germany. We let them take pictures. We gave them blueprints. We even gave them foreign aid so they could build their own steel mills.

Today Japan and Germany have steel mills. America has photographs. If that