

When we get right down to it, this legislation is nothing more than a formal declaration of United States complicity in a program to maintain white-skin privilege. We can call it an "incentives" bill, but that does not change its essential "sanctions" nature. It is racist and against the interests of the masses of Zimbabweans. In the long-run the Zimbabwe Democracy Act will work against the United States having a mutually beneficial relationship with Africa.

NEED FOR REESTABLISHING THE
OFFICE OF TECHNOLOGY AS-
SESSMENT

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 5, 2001

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, complex issues are facing Congress, many in the realm of science and technology. Current events are challenging our traditional understanding of medicine, engineering, science, environment, and telecommunications. Mail decontamination is just one issue where Congress needs better science advice.

Thousands of people have been affected by anthrax in our mail—millions more by the uncertainty and fear it has caused. Congress still has not received mail, severing a vital link to our constituents. Part of the reason for this delay is that there is no precedent for killing anthrax spores.

If the Office of Technology Assessment (OTA) existed today, we could expect to have already received information about rapid ways to decontaminate our mail. During its 23 years of existence, OTA provided Congress with well-respected, impartial analysis and advice, including valuable reports on terrorism, national security, and communication. If OTA existed today, they would have already completed reports useful to us in making decisions about the current war on terrorism.

Congress needs better scientific information. We need unbiased analysis and advice on the impact and use of technologies. We need to understand how technology can be used to hurt us and how we can use it to strengthen and defend our nation.

When OTA's funding was eliminated due to government downsizing in 1995, Congress lost a valuable and unique resource. Please join me, along with 55 of my colleagues, in co-sponsoring H.R. 2148, bipartisan legislation to reestablish the Office of Technology Assessment (OTA).

TERRORISM RISK PROTECTION
ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 29, 2001

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 3210, the Terrorism Risk Protection Act.

In the last two months, the Financial Services Committee, on which I serve, has held two hearings plus a roundtable on the state of

the insurance industry after the September 11 terrorist attack. From these meetings, a consensus on several facts emerged. First, the lack of available terrorism reinsurance may cause significant disruption in the primary commercial insurance markets.

Second, without assurances that commercial firms can receive terrorism coverage, lenders (such as banks or other institutional investors) will not underwrite new loans for construction projects necessary to grow our economy.

Finally, and most importantly, is the fact that prompt congressional action on this issue is essential, since most reinsurance contracts will be renewed on January 1. Absent some form of terrorism coverage, the economic effects to our country will be devastating.

On November 7, a proposed bipartisan solution to this problem was reported by the House Financial Services Committee (H.R. 3210) by a voice vote. Our committee reported legislation that provided immediate assistance in the case of a terrorist disaster; it spread the risk across the industry, helping the industry to essentially act as its own reinsurer; it spread the costs out over time, to minimize the impact of an event in any given year; and it provided limited liability relief to protect insurers and taxpayers against litigation in the event of an attack.

Mr. Speaker, this bill was considered under regular order—the deliberative congressional process—as all legislation should. Our committee held hearings and markups; we took testimony from all interested parties; we vigorously debated all of the relevant issues; and we reported a well-thought out, well-designed, bipartisan product that met the needs of the marketplace.

Unfortunately, the majority leadership decided yesterday that their pre-September 11 agenda was more important than the deliberative legislative process and the will of the Financial Services Committee, which includes almost one-fifth of this House. At 2:30 p.m., yesterday afternoon, the majority leader introduced an entirely new product that did little to address the real needs of the insurance markets, but rather addressed the majority's desire to change long-standing and well established legal procedure in this country. Adding insult to injury, the majority party designed a rule that eviscerated the will of the Financial Services Committee by automatically making in order the leader's bill without allowing the full House the courtesy of a vote on our bipartisan product.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot support disregard for the expertise of committees, the erosion of our legislative process, and abuse of minority rights. I can no longer support business as usual.

The real injustice in the majority's actions is the fact that we must pass responsible legislation to provide terrorism coverage for primary insurers and policyholders. I hope the other body quickly enacts legislation to address the real needs of the marketplace, while eliminating the extraneous provisions attached to the product we are considering today. Our country needs that legislation. I want to vote for that legislation. I look forward to soon being able to vote for a conference report that reflects the priorities of the Financial Services Committee and respects the processes of our institutions.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 5, 2001

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker on December 4, 2001, I had official business in my Congressional District and I missed rollcall votes 466, 467 and 468. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on the aforementioned rollcall votes.

HONORING THE 2001 RIVERDALE
HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 5, 2001

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the accomplishment of a dedicated group of young men who worked together in the true spirit of sportsmanship to achieve a distinguished goal.

The Riverdale High School football team of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, won the state 5-A football championship this past season, the school's third state football title in 7 years. The Warriors ended the 2001 season with a perfect 15-0 record by beating Mid-state rival Hendersonville High School 35-7 in the Blue Cross Bowl.

The Riverdale Warriors trained vigorously and played tirelessly the entire season. They deserve recognition for a job well done. I congratulate each player, manager, trainer, and coach for an outstanding season. The Warriors are led by head coach Gary Rankin and assistant coaches Steve Britton, Ron Crawford, Ricky Field, Matt Gardner, Tracy Malone, Thomas McDaniel, Jason Scharsch, Matt Snow, Jeremy Stansbury, Nick Patterson and Greg Wyant. Managers Cody Dittfurth, Markey Burke, Cheryelle Ayers and Jennifer Headly contributed much time and effort to the team, as well, as did trainers Jennifer Snell, Lindsey Robinson and Celcka Akins.

The 2001 Class 5-A state champion Warriors are Corey Hathaway, Ward Poston, Tre' Dalton, Taron Henry, Marcus King, Jamaal Price, Grant Kolka, C.J. Powell, Terrell Coleman, LaBrian Lyons, Kevin Murray, Jervell Ford, Jay Carter, Stephen Britton, Ryan Hallman, Brian Campbell, Keith Bridges, Tron Baker, Alex Watson, Anton Bates, Don Mitchell, Devin Young, Ralph King, Edgar Martin, Jean Paul Gadie, Jeremy Jackson, Spike McDaniel, Edrell Smith, Emanuel Oglesby, Will Bullock, Andrew Morris, Jeremy Hurd, Kevin Davis, David Peterson, Tyler Campbell, A.J. Alexander, John Goodwin, Matthew Pedigo, John Batey, Albert Miles, Brandon Faulkner, Clay Richardson, Daniel Gammon, Brian Sawyer, Kris Kirby, Leon Alexander, Roger Winterbauer, Daniel Puckett, Charles Bigford, Michael Grove, Joe James, Brad Rainer, Ben Brazzell, Matthew Parton, John Awokoya, Ronnie Johns, ndrew Bigford, Wes Hall, William Lee, Marvin Richardson, Edward Belcher, Charles Todd, Kenyon Buford, Travis Livingston, Aubrey McCrary, Cortez Lawrence, Dustin Davis, Daniel Jones, David Varl, David Nickens, Glen Suggs, Curtis Smith, Heath Evans, Chad Neese, Jason Kidd, Jeremy Anderson and Rhyann Maupin.