

Instead, India used our technology to develop and explode a nuclear bomb.

Despite that history, despite the refusal of India to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty or to honor its contractual obligations to the United States, this Administration has now undertaken to ignore the past and to ask Congress to approve legislation that will, according to nonproliferation experts from across the political spectrum, enhance India's nuclear bomb-making capacity from 7 bombs a year to over 40 bombs a year.

This is exactly the reverse of what we should be doing if we are serious about reducing the spread of nuclear weapons in the world. In fact, it was India's blatant misuse of peaceful American nuclear technologies for a weapons program that prompted the Congress to radically strengthen our nonproliferation laws. And when we were done with that, we went to our allies and established new international guidelines to prevent any other country from doing what India had done: misusing imported nuclear technologies for a secret weapons program. And now, in an act fraught with hypocrisy, irony, and hubris, the Congress will approve a sweeping exception from our nonproliferation laws for the very country that prompted us to strengthen those laws.

I fully support strengthening American ties with India on trade, high-tech, military cooperation, and so many other issues, but why do we need to gut our nonproliferation laws at the same time? The simple fact is that we DON'T have to gut our nonproliferation laws in order to improve our relationship with India, but the President took us into the nuclear Twilight Zone, instead.

During the Conference, the Bush Administration, reportedly at New Delhi's urging, tried to strip out the few good nonproliferation provisions that the Congress inserted into what is a deeply flawed piece of legislation.

Last week, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice wrote a letter asking Congress to remove a requirement that India help us prevent Iran from going nuclear. I don't know what the administration was thinking, telling the Congress that we can't ask for India's help on Iran's nuclear program.

I want to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) for fighting to ensure that at least an ongoing assessment of India's cooperation with U.S. and international efforts to curb Iran's nuclear ambitions be performed, both at the time that the formal nuclear cooperation agreement is submitted to Congress and every year thereafter. While the Gentleman and I may disagree on the underlying legislation, I appreciate his efforts, and those of Chairman HYDE, to try to address this issue and to try to mitigate some of the damage that this agreement may do to our nation's nuclear nonproliferation policies.

But the bottom line is that under the President's plan to fuel India's nuclear power reactors, we're going to free up their nuclear material for weapons. And just this summer, we learned that India's arch-rival Pakistan is building a huge new reactor to make nuclear bomb material.

There's a nuclear arms race on in South Asia, and the United States is about to become an accomplice to this arms race.

If we want the rest of the world to stop fueling the proliferation of new nuclear weapons, we had better stop throwing gasoline on the fire ourselves. The India Nuclear Deal is bad

for U.S. security. It undermines U.S. nuclear nonproliferation efforts around the world, and it risks fueling an accelerated nuclear arms race in South Asia.

Madam Speaker, this is a watershed moment for the world. If the United States goes soft on nuclear weapons proliferation, the entire world will go soft. Countries which in good faith abstained from nuclear weapons development will have a green light to go ahead following the India-U.S. model. In my view, this is a prelude to catastrophe. I cannot imagine that the House will ever again confront a vote that is so central to our leadership, our standing, our moral authority on the issue of stopping the spread of nuclear weapons. I urge my colleagues to vote against this Conference Report.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of The U.S.-India Nuclear Cooperation Promotion Act. As Chairman HENRY HYDE said earlier in the year in the House Rules Committee, this is the single most important piece of legislation that has come through the International Relations Committee this year and we must do everything in our power to pass it today.

India, the world's largest democracy, and the United States, the world's oldest democracy, must come together and strengthen their friendship. After centuries of an unsteady relationship, there has been a dramatic improvement starting with the Clinton Administration and continuing today.

This bill tells India that we believe in them, and that we want to support them just like they have consistently supported us.

The Civilian Nuclear Initiative will deepen the U.S.-India Strategic Partnership. The initiative reflects U.S. trust in India as a global tactical partner and indicates our admiration for India's democratic traditions, her commitment to tolerance and her commitment to freedom.

I, as well as many of our colleagues, have had the great pleasure of traveling to the country of India on several different occasions. Any person who goes to India recognizes the crucial necessity of clean.

This legislation will provide production of clean energy and can potentially reduce further pollution on the environment through decreasing the dependency on fossil fuels. Civil nuclear cooperation is vital to the development of a clean and safe environment for our Indian friends.

As our distinguished colleague and incoming Chairman TOM LANTOS said in July and no doubt will repeat shortly, India is a nuclear nonproliferator. India has pledged to identify and separate her civil and military nuclear facilities and programs and place the civil portions under IAEA safeguards.

India, America's strongest ally in the Southeast Asia region, is on the verge of an energy crisis. India is the sixth largest energy consumer in the world, but in order to maintain their strong economic growth, India's energy consumption will need to increase substantially.

The facts are astounding, and civilian nuclear cooperation is the only way India's energy can remain secure.

I urge my colleagues to vote for the rule and the underlying bill.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of our time.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to urge Members' support of the rule, providing for the consideration of the conference report for this particular piece of legislation. It is a bipartisan bill. It was based in a bipartisan and bicameral fashion, which is a unique combination we have.

It is a nice, harmonious way to actually end this particular session of Congress on something that does move us forward when you focus in on what the bill is actually about, and the issues that are actually handled in this particular report.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule X, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the house is requested, bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 482. An act to provide for a land exchange involving Federal lands in the Lincoln National Forest in the State of New Mexico, and for other purposes.

H.R. 486. An act to provide for a land exchange involving private land and Bureau of Land Management land in the vicinity of Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico, for the purpose of removing private land from the required safety zone surrounding munitions storage bunkers at Holloman Air Force Base.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed bills and a concurrent resolution of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 997. An act to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to convey certain land in the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, Montana, to Jefferson County, Montana, for use as a cemetery.

S. 1529. An act to provide for the conveyance of certain Federal land in the city of Yuma, Arizona.

S. 1535. An act to amend the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Equitable Compensation Act to provide compensation to members of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe for damage resulting from the Oahe Dam and Reservoir Project, and for other purposes.

S. 1548. An act to provide for the conveyance of certain Forest Service land to the city of Coffman Cove, Alaska.

S. 2030. An act to make permanent the authorization for watershed restoration and enhancement agreements.

S. 2054. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of water resources in the State of Vermont.

S. 2150. An act to direct the Secretary of Interior to convey certain Bureau of Land Management Land to the City of Eugene, Oregon.

S. 2205. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain parcels of land acquired for the Blunt Reservoir and Pierre Canal features of the initial stage of the Oahe Unit, James Division, South Dakota, to the Commission of Schools and Public Lands and the Department of Game, Fish, and Parks of the State of South Dakota for the purpose of mitigating lost wildlife habitat, on the condition that the current preferential leaseholders shall have an option to purchase the parcels from the Commission, and for other purposes.

S. 2373. An act to provide for the sale of approximately 132 acres of public land to the City of Green River, Wyoming, at fair market value.

S. 2403. An act to modify the boundaries of Grand Teton National Park to include certain land within the GT Park Subdivision, and for other purposes.

S. Con. Res. 123. Concurrent Resolution providing for correction to the enrollment of the bill H.R. 5946.

□ 1030

RELATING TO CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 6111, TAX RELIEF AND HEALTH CARE ACT OF 2006

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 1099 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 1099

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 6111) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that the Tax Court may review claims for equitable innocent spouse relief and to suspend the running on the period of limitations while such claims are pending, with the Senate amendment thereto, and to consider in the House, without intervention of any point of order, a motion offered by the chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means or his designee that the House concur in the Senate amendment with the amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. The Senate amendment and the motion shall be considered as read. The motion shall be debatable for one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to its adoption without intervening motion except one motion to amend, which shall be separately debatable for five minutes by the proponent and five minutes by an opponent.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Madam Speaker, House Resolution 1099 provides for the disposition of the

Senate amendment to H.R. 6111. It makes in order a motion by the chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means to concur in the Senate amendment with the amendment printed in the Rules Committee report accompanying this resolution. This resolution waives all points of order against the motion and it provides 1 hour of debate on the motion, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means. Finally, it provides one motion to amend which shall be separately debatable for 5 minutes by the proponent and 5 minutes by an opponent.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1099 and the underlying bill, H.R. 6111, which is entitled the Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006. Madam Speaker, I also rise today for what will likely be my last time managing a rule, at least perhaps until the 111th Congress. I would like to briefly take this opportunity to thank Speaker HASTERT for allowing me to serve on this prestigious Rules Committee and also I would like to thank Chairman DREIER for his stewardship of the committee in addition to the committee staff who have been there each and every step of the way to assist me and my staff. It has truly been an honor to serve with my colleagues on the Rules Committee and I feel blessed for having had this opportunity to work with all the members, Republicans and Democrats, of this great committee.

Madam Speaker, from the extension of expiring tax credits and the strengthening of health savings accounts, to the exploration of the Outer Continental Shelf and an increase in payments for physician services, this bill provides the Congress with an opportunity to debate and pass a vast array of good policy initiatives. I know there are some who do not agree with the legislative agenda in the closing days of the 109th Congress. Indeed, most on the other side of the aisle have opposed the majority agenda every step of the way, perhaps so they could use the soundbite that this is a do-nothing Congress. However, the Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006 is a crucial piece of legislation that must be passed for the sake of taxpayers and their families.

This bill demonstrates our commitment to returning more money to the taxpayers on top of creating more incentives for economic growth, innovation and entrepreneurship. Madam Speaker, at the end of last year and at the close of this current year, many important tax provisions and incentives will expire, thereby forcing hard-working Americans and their families to shell out more of their hard-earned money to the Federal Government. This bill will extend these expiring provisions through 2007, and it demonstrates our commitment to the American taxpayer and our commitment to fostering entrepreneurship and economic growth.

Specifically, this bill provides teachers with an important and a well-deserved deduction for higher education expenses as well as a deduction for their out-of-pocket classroom expenditures on behalf of their pupils. Our teachers should not be punished by the Tax Code for investing in their students and improving the quality of education in the classroom.

Also, this bill strengthens our rural communities by extending a new markets tax credit to help foster new industries and diversify our local economies.

Additionally, the bill extends the State and local sales tax deduction. This is most important in those States which have no income tax to deduct, but they are burdened with very substantial sales tax levies.

Madam Speaker, this legislation also extends the research and development tax credit. Technological innovation is absolutely vital to America's continued economic growth and prosperity. Without investment in research and development, all innovation and growth would come to a screeching halt, with catastrophic effects on our economy as we continue the fight to try and compete globally. We must do everything that we can to help incentivize research and development so that we keep the United States a leader in business and technological innovation.

Additionally, this bill also extends the welfare-to-work tax credit and the work opportunity tax credit, creating more chances to put people to work and further reduce the Federal welfare rolls. Recognizing our need to reduce energy costs and maximize energy efficiency, this bill also extends various energy tax credits for energy efficient homes and businesses, for methanol and ethanol fuel, and for businesses that produce electricity from solar energy, fuel cells or microturbines.

Also, the underlying legislation provides for the exploration, the development and production activities for mineral resources in the OCS, Outer Continental Shelf. In February of 2006, the Department of Interior released a comprehensive inventory of OCS resources, estimating approximately 8.5 billion barrels of oil and 29.3 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.

Madam Speaker, the combination of energy-efficient tax incentives and increased domestic energy production are integral to reducing our dependence on foreign energy as well as finding new and cleaner ways to produce and use energy. I don't know whether the Iraqi Study Group included this as part of their 79 recommendations, but if they didn't, make this No. 80.

This bill also contains many important bipartisan health care provisions which represent the culmination of many hardworking hours spent by our committee chairs and our leadership on both sides of the aisle, in both chambers. The final product is one that communicates to the American people that Congress is dedicated to addressing the