

to work to outbid the Soviet Union to buy friends abroad. Now, in a new post-cold-war world that is fundamentally different from the old one, our foreign affairs apparatus is too big and outdated.

The American Overseas Interest Act will overhaul the foreign aid bureaucracy by merging three independent agencies into the State Department, eliminating outdated bureaucracies, and doing away with conflicting and divisive foreign policy. I urge my colleagues to vote for this bill, and vote for eliminating bureaucracy and streamlining foreign policy. We need foreign policy for the nineties, not for the fifties.

□ 1030

DR. FOSTER DESERVING OF SUPPORT FOR SURGEON GENERAL POSITION

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

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of Dr. Henry Foster's nomination for the position of Surgeon General. Dr. Foster's credentials are impeccable. In my opinion, his background symbolizes the type of doctor we are seeking to fill this important position.

Throughout his career, Dr. Foster has immersed himself in alleviating two of our Nation's biggest problems, the crisis of teen pregnancy, and the tragedy of drug abuse. Teen pregnancy and drug abuse are perhaps the biggest factors in the high school dropout rate today, not to mention the crime, poverty, and child abuse that is rampant throughout our Nation. It is commendable that Dr. Foster has recognized this, and taken the time to reach out to the teenagers in his community and across the country.

I am offended by the way the radical right of this country and in this Congress have treated Dr. Foster. They are playing politics with a good man's life, and I object.

Dr. Henry Foster exemplifies the strong values and innovative thinking that this country needs in a leader, especially now during these difficult times. I ask that my colleagues in the Senate please bring the Foster nomination to the floor, and vote to confirm his appointment.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BONILLA). The Chair reminds Members that they should not refer to the confirmation process in the Senate in their remarks here in the House.

CRUEL CUTS IN STUDENT FINANCIAL AID

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor because I heard an extraordinary exchange earlier between the Democratic leader, who justly slammed the Republicans' budget for its cuts in student loans and grants that will add \$5,000 to the debt burden of the typical financial aid student graduating from college in future years for families that earn less than \$75,000 a year. A Republican freshman rose on the other side to say he would sacrifice for the sake of his daughter, he would take those financial aid cuts for the sake of his daughter.

Well, I have got news for him. He earns \$133,000 a year as a Member of Congress. He had a successful career as a sportscaster. His daughter does not need help to go to college, but millions of other American kids do who come from families of modest means, and he is stomping on their fingers as they try and reach that first rung of the ladder to climb up to the success that we all strive for in this country.

These cuts are cruel and they fall only on families who earn less than \$75,000 a year. That is the Republican budget's answer for student financial aid.

CUTS IN STUDENT LOAN PROGRAM AFFECT AVERAGE AMERICANS

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

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to bring attention to the dramatic real-life effects that the proposed cuts to Federal student loan programs and the elimination of the Department of Education will have on average Americans.

I am one of 13 children born to parents of fifth and sixth grade educations. For families like mine and maybe even others, more importantly for the millions of middle-class taxpayers, the American dream of education and improving their lives for the next generation will be just that, a dream.

On Saturday I received my doctor-of-ministry degree. For the most part I earned my degree because of my personal commitment to self-improvement and self-responsibility and the fact that somebody along the way cared about my future.

Without the National Defense Student Loan Program, I would not have even had the opportunity to go to college in the first place. It was a loan. I paid it back. Others will do the same thing if given the opportunity.

We must be mindful that even with all of our ivory tower exhortations about the virtues we hold dear, some-

body out there in real life places outside of Washington needs a helping hand. We should care enough, even if nobody else does, to help them to make their American dream come true by getting the best education they can. We can do it by maintaining student support.

STUDENT LOANS

(Ms. VELÁZQUEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, let me tell you about a letter I recently received from Maria Casillas. Maria lives in my district and writes:

Cuts in student aid just don't make sense. Student aid actually saves taxpayers money by stimulating economic growth and increasing productivity. Student aid is important to me because it gives me the opportunity to get a better education than my mother or grandmother had. I work hard in school to get good grades and without financial aid, I could not afford college.

Maria wants to go to college and without Federal funding for student loans, she will not have the opportunity to do so. We cannot afford to squander our human resources. Let us invest in the future of our country. Let us provide Maria and young men and women like her with the educational opportunity they deserve. Let us do what is right for the people of this Nation, not what is right for the privileged few.

CALL FOR SPECIAL COUNSEL IN SPEAKER'S ETHICS CASE

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

Mr. JOHNSTON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is common knowledge today that the Republican members of the Ethics Committee defeated a motion to appoint a special counsel to look into the complaints against the Speaker of the House, NEWT GINGRICH. I am disheartened by this action, and I know many of my colleagues as well as public interest groups share my feelings.

Mr. Speaker, I call on you now to do what is right. Release the Republican members from their obligation to vote in lockstep. These are men and women of conscience for whom the vote consequence is beyond any inquiry into your actions.

Rise up and meet the appropriate precedent of the past. Permit the committee and this House to conduct a fair and formal investigation through the vehicle of a special counsel. Anything less falls short of your moral obligation and our collective responsibility to the public. As quoted by Al Hunt in today's Wall Street Journal, there is no way that the House of Representatives is going to achieve any credibility unless they go to an outside counsel.

Mr. Speaker, if you have no fear of the truth, do the right thing.

UNITED STATES-JAPAN AUTO DISPUTE

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, as the New York Times recently reported, it is a steep, nearly insurmountable uphill journey to Japan for United States autos and auto parts. It is also an expensive journey, as rigged prices in Japan serve as significant nontariff barriers to higher sales of our goods in that country.

In my hometown of Toledo, OH, the world-renowned Jeep Cherokee is manufactured having a factory price of \$19,100. By the time that Jeep Cherokee clears customs, passes through Japan's Byzantine distribution system, is checked for compliance with 238 regulations and is inspected in no less than 3 places, the sticker price of the same Jeep Cherokee in Nagoya is \$31,372, a 52-percent markup.

Japan claims to be one of the world's greatest competitors. This label seems to be true in every market except their own. The Clinton administration is right to keep its foot on the accelerator of the unfair trade practices of Japan.

Open up your market, Japan. It is long overdue.

MEDICARE REFORM

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, even though the third largest expenditure of the national budget is the interest on the national debt, there are still Members of Congress and the Senate and the administration who are debating the need to balance our budget. I think this is clearly irresponsible, particularly in view of what we want to do for the future of America, for the future of children, students, senior citizens and so forth.

These same people are debating the need to change Medicare, even though the administration has told us that Medicare is going to be out of money and broke within 6 years. The Republican Party is trying to transform Medicare. If you want to help senior citizens, you need to save Medicare.

We are working on insurance reform, trying to make insurance more affordable and more accessible. We are working on some Medicare options so that senior citizens can keep their choice of doctors, so senior citizens can join a health maintenance organization if they choose to, if they can get better care.

We are trying to cut down on the fraud and abuse in the Medicare system which has driven up the price of it. The

average cost payout has gone from \$4,700 to \$6,300. I hope that the Democrats will join the Republicans in trying to save Medicare rather than partisan grandstanding.

MEDICARE AND THE FEDERAL BUDGET

(Mr. FORD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in reference to the budget that is before the House and the Senate, and to say as we look toward the Medicare cuts that many of the new Republican majority in the House have indicated that they want these Medicare cuts for the purposes of giving huge tax cuts to the well-to-do in America. I think when we look around and we really study what these Medicare cuts are all about, \$289 billion, we are basically saying that we are going to increase those premiums on the elderly population of this Nation, those recipients of Medicare.

Yes, we ought to reform Medicare. Sure, we ought to look at some type of national health care plan for this country. Sure, those things should happen. But to say like the new Republican majority that we want to cut the Medicare Program for the well-to-do in America, to give them a tax cut, that is wrong, it is mean to the elderly.

We should not let that happen. We ought to take the budget that we have before this House and the Senate and move over the next 7, 8 to 10 years to try to bring about a balanced budget, but let us not do it with the elderly population and the Medicare Program.

PERMISSION FOR CERTAIN COMMITTEES AND SUBCOMMITTEES TO SIT DURING 5-MINUTE RULE

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the following committees and their subcommittees be permitted to sit today while the House is meeting in the Committee of the Whole House under the 5-minute rule:

Committee on Agriculture; Committee on Banking and Financial Services; Committee on Commerce; Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities; Committee on Government Reform and Oversight; Committee on the Judiciary; Committee on National Security; Committee on Resources; and Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that the minority has been consulted and that there is no objection to these requests.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

Mr. SKAGGS. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, and I do not intend to object, the majority has consulted with our ranking members on these requests and we have no objection.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

AMERICAN OVERSEAS INTERESTS ACT OF 1995

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 155 and rule XXIII, the chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 1561.

□ 1043

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 1561) to consolidate the foreign affairs agencies of the United States; to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and related agencies for fiscal year 1996 and 1997; to responsibly reduce the authorizations of appropriations for United States foreign assistance programs for fiscal years 1996 and 1997, and for other purposes, with Mr. GOODLATTE in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Tuesday, May 23, 1995, amendment No. 10, offered by the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. BURTON], had been disposed of and the bill was open for amendment at any point.

Eight hours and ten minutes remain for consideration of amendments under the 5-minute rule.

Are there further amendments to the bill:

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. SMITH OF NEW JERSEY

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. Smith of New Jersey: In title XXI (relating to authorization of appropriations for Department of State and certain international affairs functions and activities) insert at the end the following new chapter.

CHAPTER 2—GENERAL LIMITATIONS

SEC. 2121. PROHIBITION ON FUNDING FOR ABORTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law or of this Act, none of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act for population assistance activities are authorized to be available for any private, nongovernmental, or multilateral organization that, directly or through a subcontractor or subgrantee, performs abortions in any foreign country, except where the life of the mother would be endangered if the fetus were carried to term or in cases of forcible rape or incest.

(2) Paragraph (1) may not be construed to apply to the treatment of injuries or illnesses caused by legal or illegal abortions or to assistance provided directly to the government of a country.

(b) LIMITATION ON LOBBYING ACTIVITIES.—

(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law or of this Act, none of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act for population assistance activities are authorized to be available for any private, nongovernmental, or multilateral organization that