

FLAG DAY

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

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, today on this June 14, this Flag Day, we not only celebrate our history but mark a point in our lives where we as a people must continue to preserve our great gift of freedom.

The symbol of this freedom is our own American flag. Symbolized is the land, the people, government, and ideals of the United States of America. Since its creation on June 14, 1777, it has been the hallmark of this great democracy in which we live. In our flag we see the struggles of our forefathers in times of war, political upheaval, and natural disaster.

As we move here in the House to consider a constitutional amendment to protect that flag, I urge all my colleagues to think of the ideals, to think of our need to preserve freedom and the symbolism of this great American flag. I urge its adoption.

OPPOSING RESUMPTION OF FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTS IN THE PACIFIC

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

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleague from American Samoa in expressing my outrage over France's decision to resume testing.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I, along with 20 colleagues, sent a letter to the President asking him to seek assurances from French President Chirac in their meeting today that France would not go forward in its intended resumption of nuclear tests in the Pacific.

All Pacific communities, including Guam, have a strong interest in stopping the insanity of nuclear testing in our region. Over the years, more than 100 nuclear devices have been tested in our region—that is 100 too many.

Yesterday, President Chirac announced that France would conduct eight tests and then sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. By its latest announcement to resume tests, France has launched a pre-emptive strike on Pacific peoples. Hopefully, the talks today will change the course France is on.

If it is so safe, why not test these warheads in Paris?

TODAY IS FLAG DAY

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

Mr. BAKER of California. Today, June 14, is Flag Day, a day we honor the symbol of freedom, the symbol of individual liberties, the symbol of limited government.

Our Founding Fathers prayed daily for guidance to create the most perfect form of self-government. A woman asked Benjamin Franklin after they had written this document, the Constitution, "What have you given us?" He replied, "A republic, if you can keep it."

The Contract With America will restore the luster of this great republic: A strong national defense, a balanced budget and living within our means, limits on onerous regulations, an open and independent Congress.

The flag is a symbol of our liberty. It is not to be burned, spit upon, or defiled.

Happy birthday, flag, and may God continue to bless America.

AGAINST BALANCING BUDGET AT EXPENSE OF MEDICARE

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, last night President Clinton turned up the pressure to reach a balanced budget.

I am sympathetic to that idea and to creating pressure for a more bipartisan effort, but I must say that I profoundly disagree with the President's proposal for \$130 billion of Medicare cuts. Like the Republican proposal, when you slash Medicare in the context of a budget where you are cutting taxes, the Medicare cuts are no more than a piggy bank for another purpose, and I think that that is wrong.

I have said all along that the only way to move toward a balanced budget is to make everyone contribute to that effort, and that includes cuts in corporate subsidies. We should move toward a balanced budget, but if we do that, everyone should be asked to contribute. We need to move toward that balanced budget, but not with a disproportionate cut to the seniors of this country.

MIKE TYSON IS NO HERO

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

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, to my colleagues, as we know from our history, this country was built into the best country in the whole world, built on character, based on character, based on honesty, and based on integrity.

With that in mind, I want you to note a very important date, that is this next Tuesday, June 20 when in New York a welcoming committee will give a hero's welcome to a convicted rapist, Mike Tyson. This is what the Wall Street Journal says.

Enough is enough. Mr. Tyson has expressed no remorse for his unfortunate encounter with Ms. Washington, the young black woman he was convicted of raping. He has been quoted as saying, "I like to hurt women when I make love to them. It gives me pleasure."

And now this country is going to give him a hero's welcome. I wonder if that welcoming committee is going to show up to welcome Captain O'Grady. I wonder if that welcoming committee could find time to honor the best teacher in New York State or the best teacher in Colorado or some of the highest graduates from our colleges across the country?

Mike Tyson is a disgrace to this country, and in this American's opinion, he is no hero.

□ 1020

PROGRAMS AMERICANS NEED

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

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, this country has a \$4.6 trillion national debt, and the leadership in Congress is proposing major cuts in Medicare, Medicaid, veterans' programs, student loans, Head Start, nutrition programs, and millions of dollars in cuts in programs that Americans all over this country desperately need.

Within that context, how in God's name could the Congress last night vote to expand the B-2 bomber program and spend another \$1.5 billion per airplane for another 20 planes? This despite the fact that the Pentagon has said they do not need the planes, they do not want the planes.

Would it not be a good thing if the elderly and the young and the sick had friends in this Congress to the degree that the B-2 bomber does?

BAN DESECRATION OF THE FLAG

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

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, as I come to the well today, I can hardly contain my excitement, because today is Flag Day. It is the day we honor Old Glory, and what a day, because you know on June 28 I will bring on this floor the constitutional amendment that will ban the physical desecration of the American flag, and you know what? We have 282 cosponsors and we only need 290 to pass it on this floor, and we are going to do it. What a day for you to come to this well today and get on as one of the original cosponsors, because it will go down in the history of this country as the fastest ratified amendment ever presented to the American people. Let's go, guys, come on down here and cosponsor it.

COMMENDING THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET PLAN

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

Mr. PAYNE of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the President of the