

development aid. I commend him for his leadership in passing the American Overseas Interests Act earlier this year. Unfortunately, he has been put in a very peculiar and difficult position by the foreign operations bill, which reflects his priorities, I believe, but exceeds his committee's authorization level by \$24 million.

While I understand the gentleman's dedication to protecting the prerogatives of his committee, I cannot support his amendment. The development assistance account is, in my view, the backbone of this bill. The bill already effectively cuts this account by 40 percent, devastating programs in the areas of population, education, agriculture, microenterprise, and others that promote our interests overseas. Further cuts like the ones proposed in this amendment are counterproductive and should not be enacted.

I have a great deal of respect for the gentleman from New York, but I must reluctantly encourage Members to oppose his amendment today.

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to comment on an issue of vital strategic importance to the United States—the future of Ukraine.

The Ukraine, situated in the middle of Sir Halford John Mackinder's celebrated "heartland" of the world, is of vital strategic significance to every nation in the region. Standing at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, the future of the Ukraine and its 52 million people will have a profound impact on the geopolitical complexion of Europe, Central Asia, and the Transcaucasus.

Recently, the Ukraine has responded extremely well in its efforts to implement democratic principles, begin the conversion to a free market economy, and fulfill international treaty commitments. In particular, the period since the 1994 democratic election of President Kuchma has been a time of significant progress in several respects.

However, the United States commitment to the Ukraine has not been commensurate with the pace of Ukrainian reform. I understand the reluctance of the House Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations to provide specific country earmarks in this bill. However, this administration has been negligent in providing proportionate funding for the Ukraine under the authority of the Freedom Support Act. Ukraine's size, geostrategic significance, and commitment to important treaty obligations have not been reflected in the administration's distribution of Freedom Support Act funds.

Ukraine has fulfilled nuclear disarmament obligations, adopted democratic reform, made progress in economic reform, and boasts an excellent human rights record. In many ways, the Ukrainian record stands in stark contrast to that of the Russian Government.

Russia is the overwhelming recipient of the Freedom Support Act account. In response to several regrettable actions undertaken by the Russian Government, Congress has justifiably reduced our commitment to that account. It is the expectation of Congress that these reductions will be borne by Russia and not the Ukraine.

While I support the reductions in spending for the Freedom Support Act, these cuts should not come from the Ukrainian allotment. Congress will be watching the administration closely on this matter.

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DIAZ-BALART) having assumed the chair, Mr. HANSEN, Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill, (H.R. 1868) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 79, PROPOSING CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO PROHIBIT PHYSICAL DESECRATION OF THE FLAG

Mr. SOLOMON, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 104-164) on the resolution (H. Res. 173) providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 79) proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States authorizing the Congress and the States to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

AUTHORIZING USE OF CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR GREATER WASHINGTON SOAP BOX DERBY

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 38) authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

□ 2115

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DIAZ-BALART). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland?

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I will not object, of course, but I yield to the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. GILCHREST] for an explanation of his request.

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, this resolution authorizes the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby races to be run on the Capitol Grounds on July 15, 1995, or on such other date as the Speaker of the House and President pro tempore of the Senate so designate. This free event is sponsored by the All American Soap Box Derby and its local affiliate, the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby Association. Its participants are young girls and boys from 9 to 16 years old who reside in the Greater Washington metropolitan area.

Pursuant to this resolution the association would assume full responsibility for any expenses involved with the

event and for any liability related to it. The association also agrees to make any necessary arrangements for the races with the approval of the Architect of the Capitol and the Capitol Police Board.

For 50 years the Soap Box Derby races have taken place in Washington, D.C., and this will be the fifth time that the Capitol Grounds will be used for the races down Constitution Avenue.

Every year this event helps teach participating youngsters the basics of mechanics and aerodynamics as they design and build their race cars. It is truly an exciting event for the entire family.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution so that this activity may take place.

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, further reserving the right to object, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. HOYER].

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from West Virginia for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman SHUSTER, the ranking Member, the gentleman from California, Mr. MINETA, my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Maryland, WAYNE GILCHREST, and the gentleman from West Virginia, BOB WISE, for their strong support and continued assistance in expediting consideration of this bill today.

This resolution authorizes the use of Constitution Avenue between Delaware Avenue and Third Street for the 54th running of the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby on July 15, 1995. This competition is part of the All-American Soap Box Derby held later this summer in Akron, OH.

The resolution also authorizes the Architect of the Capitol and the Capitol Police to negotiate a licensing agreement with the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby Association to assure that there will be complete compliance with rules and regulations governing use of the Capitol Grounds.

For the past 4 years, I have proudly sponsored this bill along with regional Members and sports fans. It provides young boys and girls, ages 9 to 16, with an invaluable opportunity to develop and practice both sportsmanship and engineering skills.

This year, over 50 participants from Washington, DC and the surrounding communities of northern Virginia and Maryland are expected to participate in this year's event. I am pleased that boys and girls representing all five counties in my district will be competing in this year's derby.

The Soap Box Derby promotes a positive activity involving our young people. All too often, we hear many disturbing stories about negative activities youth are involved in.

I am reminded of a statement Ken Tomasello, the director of Greater Washington Soap Box Derby Association, made to me 4 years ago when I introduced the first resolution for use of

the Capitol Grounds. He said, in short, "while the derby doesn't keep kids off the street, it does give them a drug free activity on the street."

The young people involved spend many months preparing for this race. The day they actually compete provides them with a sense of achievement and comradery, not only for themselves but also for their families and friends.

This worthwhile event provides the participants, tourists, and local residents with a safe and enjoyable day of activities. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate them for their achievements and wish them all well in this year's race.

Again, I want to thank the Transportation Committee for its continued support of the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby and I encourage all of my colleagues to attend this year's race.

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, further reserving the right to object, I join my colleague Mr. GILCHREST in supporting House Concurrent Resolution 38, a resolution to authorize the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby. The event is scheduled for July 15, 1995, and part of the Capitol Grounds as well as Constitution Ave. NE., will be used for the race.

Boys and girls, ages 9 through 16, design, build and race their own soap box cars. In the process they become familiar with the principles of aerodynamics and mechanics. In addition, the entire family can participate in, and enjoy the fun and activities of the day.

The winner of the Washington race will then compete in the national competition in Akron, OH.

This is a very worthwhile, well attended activity. I wish to commend Mr. HOYER for his support for this annual event, and urge support for House Concurrent Resolution 38.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

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

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 38

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring).

SECTION 1. AUTHORIZATION OF SOAP BOX DERBY RACES ON CAPITOL GROUNDS.

The Greater Washington Soap Box Derby Association (hereinafter in this resolution referred to as the "association") shall be permitted to sponsor a public event, soap box derby races, on the Capitol grounds on July 15, 1995, or on such other date as the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate may jointly designate.

SEC. 2. CONDITIONS.

The event to be carried out under this resolution shall be free of admission charge to the public and arranged not to interfere with the needs of Congress, under conditions to be prescribed by the Architect of the Capitol and the Capitol Police Board; except that the

Association shall assume full responsibility for all expenses and liabilities incident to all activities associated with the event.

SEC. 3. STRUCTURES AND EQUIPMENT.

For the purposes of this resolution, the Association is authorized to erect upon the Capitol grounds, subject to the approval of the Architect of the Capitol, such stage, sound amplification devices, and other related structures and equipment as may be required for the event to be carried out under this resolution.

SEC. 4. ADDITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS.

The Architect of the Capitol and the Capitol Police Board are authorized to make any such additional arrangements that may be required to carry out the event under this resolution.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERMISSION FOR SUNDRY COMMITTEES AND THEIR SUBCOMMITTEES TO SIT TOMORROW, JUNE 28, 1995, DURING 5-MINUTE RULE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the following committees and their subcommittees be permitted to sit tomorrow while the House is meeting in the Committee of the Whole House under the 5-minute rule: The Committee on Agriculture; the Committee on Banking and Financial Services; the Committee on Commerce; the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities; the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight; the Committee on the Judiciary; the Committee on National Security; the Committee on Small Business; and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

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 Florida.

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, the gentlewoman is absolutely correct. The Democrat minority leadership has been consulted. We have no objection.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservations of objection.

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

There was no objection.

CUT WASTE, FRAUD, AND ABUSE IN MEDICARE

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I met with 100 senior citizens from my district to talk with them about the cuts they will be facing under this new Republican budget plan that came out of the conference committee. They do not understand

why leaders in Washington would cut their senior health care plan in order to finance a tax cut. Frankly, Mr. Speaker, I do not either.

I also had a chance to visit with some doctors who asked me not to cut Medicare. These doctors were declared Republicans. They said, for the first time in 30 years, they have been able to adequately provide health care for seniors through the Medicare program. We should cut fraud in Medicare by funding Operation Restore Trust, to eliminate fraud in health care, but we should not arbitrarily cut Medicare to finance our egregious tax cut plan.

The Republican budget agreement cuts Medicare, education, job training, and then cuts taxes. They want to cut taxes and also cut Medicare at the same time. Then they say that are not cutting Medicare to finance their tax break. Something is fishy.

Mr. Speaker, Congress should work hard to cut the waste, fraud, and abuse in Medicare. I hope we can agree that seniors should not be used to balance the budget for sound bites in Washington. Let us be fair to the students and seniors and not punish them for a balanced budget. It's not good government.

Mr. Speaker, I submit for the RECORD an article from the Houston Chronicle.

CONGRESSMEN WARN SENIORS OF GOP BUDGET CUTS

(By Stefanie Asin)

Democratic U.S. Reps. Dick Gephardt and Gene Green told about 100 senior citizens Monday the Republicans want to balance the budget at their expense.

The GOP wants a \$270 billion cut in Medicare and Medicaid spending, and if the GOP's budget agreement passes this week in the House, seniors could expect \$1,000 more a year in medical costs, said Gephardt, House minority leader from Missouri.

"It is wrong to do this," he said. "A lot of you live on your Social Security. You're already having trouble paying for rent, housing, groceries and prescription drugs."

Gephardt, who heard support from the seniors as he spoke, encouraged them to speak out and fight the proposed cuts. Congress should cut defense spending instead, he said.

"I strongly object to the priorities that have been set," said Green of Houston. "You can't balance the budget on the backs of the senior citizens."

Green said 286,000 Harris County senior citizens receive more than \$1.5 billion in Medicare payments annually and cannot afford to lose their health care.

GOP leaders say Medicare spending must be slowed before the system goes bankrupt. If Medicare payments continue at their current rate—\$4,700 to the average person per year—the fund will be bankrupt by 2002, said Tom Hoopes, spokesman for Rep. Bill Archer, R-Houston, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee.

"If we don't slow the increase, these people will get absolutely nothing," Hoopes said.

"We think it's foolhardy for political gain to spend too much now and end up with nothing after the next couple of elections. We would tell the senior citizens we are truly concerned about Medicare and its future."

Susie Davis, 85, and several others asked the congressmen many questions about how the Democratic and Republican proposals would affect them. Davis, who lives alone