

from the disastrous bankruptcy to which it is headed. We must transform our welfare system into one that offers not a handout, but a hand up. We must reform our Medicaid system, which is creating financial havoc for all of the States.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that we can do this. But it will take a spirit of compromise, the same bipartisan spirit that we evidenced tonight on the floor, Republicans and Democrats working, the Congress and the President, getting beyond their differences and becoming less entrenched and working in the spirit of compromise. I believe the American people expect that from us. I believe the American people deserve that, and I believe for our children's future we must do that.

#### DEMOCRACY IN ACTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. GOSS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I will not use the 5 minutes, but an important event has happened in our district. When the results were in on the citizens referendum to incorporate Fort Myers Beach into a town, a resident remarked "This is the will of the people. This is democracy in action."

I rise today to salute the new municipality in my district in Florida, to commend the citizens on both sides of the incorporation debate for their sincere interest in bettering their community and to wish the newly elected town council well in its endeavor.

It was more than 20 years ago that my own community of Sanibel, FL, took the same important step into home rule. We felt then, as a majority of Fort Myers Beach residents feel now, that home rule would give residents greater access to and control over the governance of their community. I was proud to have been involved in Sanibel's efforts of democracy in action, and I am proud today of the newest municipality in my congressional district. Fort Myers Beach has always had a distinctive character and charm. Even though we have many beautiful beaches in Lee County, FL, when somebody refers to "the beach" down our way they usually mean Fort Myers beach. That unique personality will no doubt flourish as the town of Fort Myers Beach sets out on the course to take charge of its own destiny.

I know others in Congress join me in offering a warm greeting to southwest Florida's newest town. Welcome to the town of Fort Myers Beach.

#### FRENCH NUCLEAR NIGHTMARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from American Samoa [Mr. FALÉOMAVAEGA] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. FALÉOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, it's me again. At times I feel like I'm

out there in the wilderness talking to the birds and the trees—as I have imagined several times that I'm standing on a beautiful sandy beach along any one of those South Pacific islands, taking a long deep breath of that warm salt air, as I observe one of the great wonders of nature—the powerful waves of the ocean pounding the shore.

Mr. Speaker, I believe I have counted at least 20 times I've taken an important matter before my colleagues and to the American people—the matter of French nuclear testing in the South Pacific and specifically in French Polynesia.

Mr. Speaker, in June of last year, I introduced House Concurrent Resolution 80, that has numerous cosponsors from both sides of the aisle—including, Mr. GILMAN from New York, Mr. HAMILTON from Indiana, Mr. LEACH from Iowa, Mr. BEREUTER from Nebraska, Mr. BERMAN from California, Mr. SMITH from New Jersey, Mr. LANTOS from California, Mr. ROHRBACHER from California, Mr. ACKERMAN from New York, Mr. KIM from California, Mr. UNDERWOOD from the Territory of Guam, Mrs. MINK from Hawaii, Mr. ABERCROMBIE also from Hawaii, Mr. MARKEY from Massachusetts, Mr. DEFAZIO from Oregon, and Mr. MINETA from California.

Mr. Speaker, House Concurrent Resolution 80 expresses the sense of the Congress of the United States to recognize the concerns of the peoples of Oceania and to call upon France to stop nuclear testing in the South Pacific.

Mr. Speaker, I want to share with my colleagues the substantive issues and concerns raised in this resolution, which delineates the environmental risks that France's testing has created for the 28 million men, women and children who live throughout the Pacific region, which is comprised of 22 sovereign nations and territories. The resolution further calls upon the Government of France, namely President Chirac and his administration, to cease all nuclear testing in the South Pacific.

House Concurrent Resolution 80 holds that:

The Government of France has been conducting nuclear tests over 10,000 miles from Paris on the South Pacific atolls of Moruroa and Fangataufa in French Polynesia;

That since 1966 France has detonated at least 187 nuclear explosions above, on, and under these coral atolls in French Polynesia, including more than 140 underground nuclear tests;

That there is considerable concern among the 28,000,000 people of the 22 countries and territories of Oceania regarding the adverse environmental effects in the region as a result of these nuclear tests;

That the island nations of the South Pacific forum have staunchly opposed France's nuclear testing in the region, applauded France's adherence to a global nuclear testing moratorium since 1992, and strongly deplore and

condemn any decision to resume France's nuclear testing in the South Pacific;

That despite France's claim that its nuclear testing program is absolutely safe, there is scientific evidence to suggest both that radioactive leakage has already occurred at the testing site and that additional, more serious leakage might occur in the next 10 to 100 years;

That there is also concern in the region that the coral atoll, Moruroa, has been subjected to premature and accelerated aging as a result of the testing program, risking the structural integrity of the atoll and increasing the possibility of its disintegration;

That the leaders of France's insular territory, French Polynesia, have stated opposition to resumed nuclear testing, joining fellow Pacific Island governments, and it is inherently unfair that they should be used as a test site for France's nuclear explosions;

Therefore, the Congress of the United States should recognize the concerns of the 28,000,000 people from nations and territories of Oceania and call upon the Government of France to cease all nuclear testing at the Moruroa and Fangataufa atolls.

Mr. Speaker, after voice votes of both the House International Relations Subcommittee on the Asia-Pacific and the full Committee on International Relations—the committees unanimously approved the concurrent resolution and forwarded it for floor action. But for some unknown reason, Mr. Speaker, the concurrent resolution is being shuffled somewhere between offices and the floor of the House, and for that unknown reason, this important matter has conveniently been put on hold indefinitely. As a bipartisan measure that has been described as moderate and well balanced, it is shameful that the Republican leadership has chosen deliberately not to bring House Concurrent Resolution 80 to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to share with our colleagues some basic statistical data concerning nuclear testing not only in our country but other countries as well. I honestly believe there is a need for our policymakers and members of the nuclear club—the United States, Great Britain, France, Russia, and the Peoples Republic of China—to thoroughly re-examine the so-called merits—and the dark side—of having nuclear warheads as a deterrent against enemy aggression.

Mr. Speaker, according to the bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, the U.S. nuclear weapons program from 1940 to 1995 in constant U.S. dollars—is estimated to have cost America \$4 trillion. Let me repeat, Mr. Speaker—\$4 trillion. A \$4 trillion stack of 1 dollar bills would reach the Moon, encircle it, and start part way back. Four trillion dollar bills could paper over every State east of the Mississippi, with enough left over to blanket Louisiana, Texas, Oklahoma, Missouri, and most of Iowa.

And, Mr. Speaker, the \$4 trillion figure does not even include additional