We implore France to join the United States and other nuclear powers to immediately push for, and complete negotiations, for a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

Much is at stake. If the nations involved do not seize this opportunity to reach agreement on the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty soon, the world's best and perhaps last chance to end nuclear testing may slip through our fingers.

I hope you will join me and Congressman MARKEY in sending a message to France that the United States objects to their series of nuclear tests, and that an agreement should be reached as soon as possible on the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

TEENAGE PREGNANCY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentlewoman from North Carolina [Mrs. CLAYTON] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the President launched a national campaign to reduce teenage pregnancy. Today, I am circulating a letter that will be sent to the President by the end of the week—stating the support of Members of the House of Representatives for this vital initiative.

The goal of the President's campaign is to reduce the rate of teenage pregnancy by one-third in 10 years. It is a reasonable goal. It is an achievable goal. This is a campaign that can be won and must be won. This is a campaign that all of us should be engaged in, Democrats, Republicans, and independents.

A recent report to Congress on out-of-wedlock childbearing indicates that 30 percent of all out-of-wedlock births are to teenagers, below age 20. The increase in out-of-wedlock births is alarming. Most alarming is that 30 percent of the out-of-wedlock births are to adolescents.

One objective of welfare reform, shared by both political parties, is to reduce teenage childbearing. We can not ignore the reality that most young men and women are increasingly delaying marriage until their mid-20's and beyond—but not sexual activity.

In 1960, 14 percent of young women ages 15–19 were married. By 1992, the proportion was less than 5 percent.

Because these young men and women are becoming sexually experienced at younger ages without the benefit of marriage and sex education, there are proportionally more teenagers exposed to the risk of unmarried pregnancy. In 1970, 29 percent of 15–19 year old females were sexually experienced. By 1988, that number had increased to 52 percent.

The relationship between poverty and teenage pregnancy is significant. In 1994, of all young women age 15–19, 38 percent were defined as poor or low-income. According to the report, of these, poor or low-income young women 73 percent were projected to become pregnant. In 1988, 56 percent of pregnant girls ages 15–19 were from families with incomes less than $12,000 annually. By contrast, 27 percent whose family incomes were between $12,000–$24,000 gave birth, and only 17 percent whose family incomes were above $25,000 gave birth.

Reducing teenage childbearing is likely to require more than eliminating or manipulating welfare programs. The underlying causes are said to include family instability, economics, poverty, lack of education, and sexual abuse. And, sadly, the report indicates that young women and men who become teen parents have few expectations, few ties to community institutions, few adult mentors and role models, and too much spare time. Many live in communities where crime and drug use are common, where dropping out of school and chronic unemployment are even more common.

In my opinion these causes can be reduced to the lack of hope and confidence in the future by our teenagers. Our society cannot endure this human burden.

We must, therefore, implement pregnancy prevention programs that educate and support school age youths, 10–19, in high-risk situations and their family members through comprehensive social and health services with an emphasis on pregnancy prevention.

But again, Government programs alone will not properly address this serious problem of teenage pregnancy. All sectors of our communities must be engaged. In my congressional district, I have created a task force of private citizens and State and local officials to study ways that we can address this problem.

The task force has begun planning for a forum on adolescent pregnancy prevention to be held on March 16, 1996. This forum is designed to help local communities understand the problem, to engage the participation of various organizations—youth, church, civic, and public institutions—and to give visibility to successful community programs.

The President's national campaign to reduce teenage pregnancy will be a tremendous boost to those efforts.

The total cost of maternity care for an out-of-wedlock birth and the baby's first 12 months of medical care is said to be more than $8,000, according to the North Carolina Department of Human Resources. The number of teenage pregnancies covered by Medicaid in North Carolina in a year is nearly 13,000. When that number is multiplied by $8,506, the grand total becomes $108,851,282. If all of these teenage mother's had been able to delay becoming pregnant until they were older and financially able to take care of a baby, those resources could have been used in other productive ways.

After the first year of life, very often these same teenagers require AFDC, food stamps, and additional Medicaid benefits for the child. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues can do the math on these figures; however, the point is obvious.

Prevention is much better and cheaper than punishment after the fact of childbearing. And, we should not forget that teen pregnancy is also a strong predictor of a new generation of disadvantage. The equation is simple. As poverty is the most accurate predictor of teen pregnancy, teen pregnancy is a near-certain predictor of poverty.

The board membership of the national campaign is broad and bipartisan, including former Surgeon General, Dr. C. Everett Koop and former Senator Warren Rudman. It is an easy, yet important gesture to let the members of the board know, through this letter to the President, that we in the House of Representatives stand behind them. Their goal is ambitious. The situation is urgent. Each Member has an obligation to be engaged in this effort.

TRIBUTE TO RALPH W. YARBOROUGH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. DOGGETT] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, as this Congress convenes today in Washington, many Texans are convened in Austin, TX, to celebrate the life of Ralph W. Yarborough. Senator Yarborough, Judge Yarborough, Assistant Attorney General Yarborough, a man originally from Chandler, TX, but a man now claimed by people across our great State, is one who contributed significantly to the lives of those of us who live now in Texas.

Senator Yarborough was the only southern Senator to support the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Just as the great Senator and general, Sam Houston, once cut across the grain of popular opinion in Texas when the question was union in the 1860's, so Senator Yarborough had the courage to cut across the grain of popular opinion at the time and do what was best for the future of our State by standing up for civil rights.

Senator Yarborough is a person who served our State with incredible tenacity and incredible courage. Many Texans now will perhaps not remember his service when they take an excursion to the Guadalupe Mountains National Park, when they visit Padre Island National Seashore, when as a veteran they benefit from his work on the GI bill of rights that extended education services for veterans. But his mark is there, an immense mark with reference to legislation.

I think more than any particular legislative act, those of us who continue to participate in public service in Texas will remember the role that Ralph Yarborough made in public service in our State, in every branch of government. We remember that Ralph Yarborough symbolized concern for people, but he recognized that those

who submit themselves for public service need not began by taking a poll but by trying to lead public opinion and mold it, not just to react to it.

Senator Yarborough was a leader in the true sense, a genuine public servant. We are fortunate that he came our way.

There are those, of course, who refer to him as a firebrand, but when I visited with him, I always found that the fire that burned was a fire of justice, one who responded consistently when injustice affected the people of our State.

We thank you, Senator Yarborough, for a life well lived, and a State well served. You have served well not only those of us in Texas while you were in the Senate, but have benefited generations of Texans to come.

RESCUE OUR NATION'S CREDIT NOW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia [Ms. NORTON] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor this morning to say a few words about two cosmic issues. One is the state of disrepair in which our CR's and appropriation process have left Federal agencies. The other, of course, is the weightiest of all: the debt limit of the United States, our full faith and credit twisting in the wind as we speak.

Mr. Speaker, this Congress has got to face up to its responsibility to come to cloture, to settle the Government so that the Government does not dissolve into chaos waiting to see whether continuing resolutions will be for a few days, a few weeks, or until September 30. Mr. Speaker, we avoided a shutdown and took a breath, but for some Federal workers and for some agencies, what has been left is virtually the same thing.

What should Federal agencies do? Some are on CR's that go to March 15, others to September 30. There are disparate amounts of money that the agencies may spend. For those on short-term CR's, shall they wait to find out what we are going to do or should they RIF now or cut back now? Of course, if they do, they may find that the layoffs were entirely unnecessary if we reach a budget agreement. What a position to leave the Government in.

How much worse is the position in which we leave people who happen to work for the Federal Government? Let us take the EPA as an example. Should they now fire almost 4,000 employees? Shall they plan for unpaid furloughs that could last almost 3 weeks? Or will we do something to make all of this unnecessary? Is it, by any definition, fair to leave people wondering about this set of choices?

What about the States? The States depend upon money that is holed up in these agencies that we have not let free. They will not be getting their Federal funds on which they too are relying. These are your States and my States.

What about the contractors? Often contractors are out there doing the work because we said they could do it more efficiently. What about contractors? Shall they lay off people? Shall they go out on a limb and take bank loans?

This is no way to run a corner store, much less a government. If we are going to cut people off, we ought to cut them off. We should not let people and agencies starve to death. Above all, we should take our full faith and credit and decide what we are going to do with it.

Believe me, Mr. Speaker, I think I know what it means to lose your credit, because I come from the District of Columbia. There is no higher authority than the Government of the United States. The Congress is that higher authority. The District of Columbia avoided default, but it has lost its credit. Moody's has said that we could lose our credit. A default may be unthinkable, but even a threat of default could raise interest rates on ordinary Americans. Almost nobody would be immune from the effect. Those who would feel it most immediately would be those with adjustable rate mortgages, which millions of Americans have, and pensioners whose pensions depend upon interest payments from annuities.

This week we must not go home without settling, bringing to cloture what is to happen to our Federal agencies. Of course we should not walk out that door into the street without rescuing our credit, the best credit in the world, from doubt.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. There being no further requests for morning business, pursuant to clause 12, rule I, the House will stand in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. YOUNG of Florida) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

O God our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, we come before You in this quiet moment of prayer with our petitions both great and small. We place before You our aspirations and hopes, our dreams and our ambitions, asking that You bless that which is good and honorable and show us the way of truth. May Your spirit correct us when wrong, amend our willful deeds, and teach us the power of faith and hope and love in all we do or ask or say. In Your name, we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed without amendment bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 2111. An act to designate the Federal building located at 1221 Nevin Avenue in Richmond, California, as the ''Frank Hagel Federal Building''.

H.R. 2726. An act to make certain technical corrections in laws relating to Native Americans, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate agrees to the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the text of the bill (H.R. 2029) ''An act to amend the Farm Credit Act of 1971 to provide regulatory relief, and for other purposes.''.

The message also announced that the Senate had passed bills of the following titles, in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1543. An act to clarify the treatment of Nebraska impact aid payments.

S. 1544. An act to authorize the conveyance of the William Langer Jewel Bearing Plant to the Job Development Authority of the City of Rolla, North Dakota.

S. 1463. An act to amend the Trade Act of 1974 to clarify the definitions of domestic industry and like articles in certain investigations involving perishable agricultural products, and for other purposes.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Hawaii [Mrs. MINK] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE—WITHDRAWAL OF INVITATION TO FRENCH PRESIDENT JACQUES CHIRAC AND NOT AGREEING TO FUTURE APPEARANCES TO ADDRESS JOINT MEETINGS OF CONGRESS BY HEADS OF STATE OF NATIONS CONDUCTING NUCLEAR TESTS

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 2(a)(1) of rule IX, I