

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this story should be in Ripley's Believe It Or Not. Lawyers for the President of the United States, Bill Clinton, who has been sued by a former Arkansas State employee, have now asked to postpone the lawsuit claiming that the President, who is the commander in chief, should be covered by the Soldiers and Sailors Relief Act of 1940, which means they are claiming that Bill Clinton should be protected as a uniformed service member.

Mr. Speaker, this is outrageous. On the eve of Memorial Day, this man, to avoid a lawsuit, would claim he is protected because he really is wearing the uniform of this country.

Mr. Speaker, how outrageous can we get? Only in Ripley's could we find such a story.

Please join me and sign the letter authored by our colleague, the gentleman from Arizona [Mr. STUMP], to this President asking for some civil decency.

FIFTEEN PERCENT RAISE FOR CORPORATE EXECUTIVES; REPUBLICANS ATTEMPTING TO REDUCE MINIMUM WAGE

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

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, Harry Truman used to say the Republican Party supports the minimum wage. The lower the minimum, the better.

In today's Forbes magazine, the bible of the Republican Party, we find that the 800 top chief executives in the United States averaged \$1.5 million last year, up 15 percent. But for the minimum-wage workers in this country, the Republican Party wants nothing for them, no increase whatsoever, and the proposal they are bringing out here will lead to a reduction in pay for millions of these working people.

The Republican Party has had two responses so far this year. First, like Oliver Twist, when he held up his empty bowl and said "More," the workhouse master said, "Too much," and the second Republican response has been revolutionary, as in the French Revolution when the starving French citizens pleaded for bread and Marie Antoinette said, "Let them eat cake."

REPUBLICANS AND THE MINIMUM WAGE—THEY OUGHT TO BE ASHAMED

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

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, NEWT GINGRICH and BOB DOLE oppose an increase in the minimum wage. The Republican leader has said he will fight the minimum wage with every fiber in his being and the Republican whip has said in regard to families living on the minimum wage, they do not exist.

Today, the Republicans in this House are pulling one of the dirtiest and most despicable deceptions I have seen in my 10 years in this House. They say they support an increase in the minimum wage, but today they will vote to repeal the minimum wage for nearly two-thirds of the people earning that wage. That is right, repeal the minimum wage.

Unbelievable, Mr. Speaker. Extreme in the extreme. You ought to be ashamed of yourselves, Mr. Speaker, you ought to be ashamed.

PERMISSION FOR SUNDRY COMMITTEES AND THEIR SUBCOMMITTEES TO SIT TODAY DURING THE 5-MINUTE RULE

Mr. GUTKNECHT. 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: The Committee on Agriculture, the Committee on Commerce, the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, the Committee on International Relations, the Committee on National Security, the Committee on Resources, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, 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 (Mr. LATHAM). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Minnesota?

There was no objection.

PRAIRIE ISLAND INDIAN CHARTER REVOCATION

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent for the immediate consideration in the House of the bill (H.R. 3068) to accept the request of the Prairie Island Indian Community to revoke their charter of incorporation issued under the Indian Reorganization Act.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

Mr. KILDEE. Reserving the right to object, Mr. Speaker, and I will not object, I yield to the gentleman from Washington [Mr. HASTINGS] to enable him to explain the legislation.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, the purpose of H.R. 3068, authored by the gentleman from Minnesota [Mr. GUTKNECHT], is to accept the request of the Prairie Island Indian Community to revoke their charter of incorporation issued under the Indian Reorganization Act. The Federal charter of incorporation for the community contained a provision which requires that it can only be revoked by an act of Congress.

The revocation was requested by the community because the community

has never used it in the management of its enterprises, finding it to be outdated, ineffective, and cumbersome. Instead, the community relies on provisions in its constitution.

A similar revocation relating to the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe was included in Public Law 104-109. I ask for the Members' support for this non-controversial measure.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. KILDEE. Further reserving the right to object, I yield to the gentleman from Minnesota.

(Mr. GUTKNECHT asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to offer H.R. 3068, a bill to repeal the corporate charter of the Prairie Island Dakota Community in Welch, MN.

The tribe contacted me last June requesting revocation of their 1934 charter. By law, revoking this 62-year-old document can only be done by an act of Congress.

In its entire tribal government history, the Prairie Island Community has never used its corporate charter in the management of its enterprises. Additionally, with this outdated and paternalistic charter, the tribe is restricted from doing many of the things necessary to carry out business activities.

For example, the community cannot sell or mortgage property, lease land for more than 10 years, or contract for work without approval from the Interior Department.

This legislation acknowledges that the people of Prairie Island know best how to handle their business. It is another example of this Congress sending control back to local communities, and I am proud to be a part of that process.

My colleagues, I and the good people of the Prairie Island Community would appreciate your support for this important legislation.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, further under my reservation of objection, like many tribes, the Prairie Island Community has realized the many shortcomings of the BIA's 1930's policy of encouraging tribes to incorporate under the Indian Reorganization Act. I think that it is a good thing that we are finally beginning to shed some of the paternalistic vestiges of those times. I hope that we keep this in mind as we deal with future legislation affecting Indian tribes.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

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

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the bill, as follows:

H.R. 3068

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,