

day in an effort to squelch the exchange of views.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH CARE COVERAGE A TOP PRIORITY

(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, may I first associate myself with the remarks of my colleague in terms of the opportunity to talk about issues that come up and do it at the beginning of the day. I think the 1-minutes are a useful tool, and helpful to the public in terms of following the debate here.

Mr. Speaker, I came to Congress to fight for working families, and there is no issue more important to the health of families than the health and well-being of their kids. Expanding health care coverage for the 10 million uninsured children in this Nation must be at the top of our legislative agenda.

There are kids without health insurance in all kinds of families. The vast majority, 90 percent, are the children of working parents. But their parents either lack health insurance themselves or their health plans do not cover their kids.

Children living without health insurance are hurt in so many ways. They are less likely to have a family doctor, less likely to receive preventive care, less likely to receive treatment, even for serious illness, and thus are less likely to grow up healthy and to be productive adults.

I urge the leadership to move the expansion of children's health care to the top of their legislative agenda, so we can make sure that the 10 million uninsured kids in this country have a chance to grow up healthy, ready to learn, and to succeed in life.

SUPPORT THE CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM

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

Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for the Conservation Reserve Program, or CRP. Originally it was used as a supply management and conservation tool. Over time, it has become the conservation program of choice for most producers. In addition, it has gained the full-fledged support of many different conservation, environmental, and sportsmen's groups.

The 1996 farm bill gave the U.S. Department of Agriculture broad authority to develop a CRP policy that would provide the Nation with the most conservation benefits for each of the dollars invested. USDA has worked hard to develop such a policy, and I applaud their efforts.

However, many of my constituents, like me, are concerned with the untimely manner in which the rule was

issued. Many farmers in my district are agonizing over whether their land will be accepted into the CRP or if they should prepare to plant a crop.

I will be keeping a very close eye on how USDA handles the sign-up process, and will be more than ready to act should things not go as planned. I urge my colleagues to do the same.

END VOODOO ENVIRONMENTALISM IN YELLOWSTONE PARK

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

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, it is time to hold the Park Service accountable for its management of Yellowstone National Park. For 30 years Yellowstone has been managed with a hands-off policy called natural regulation: a 1960's idea that scientists last week in testimony described as both foolish and misguided.

We have a crisis brewing in Yellowstone Park. As a result of overgrazing, the beaver population, deer population, even the endangered grizzly bear's habitat have been severely damaged. Tall willows have been reduced by 95 percent. Aspen trees are disappearing. Stream banks are eroding 100 times faster inside the park than outside its boundaries.

Bison, however, are so numerous they have overgrazed available pasture land. This winter over 1,000 bison starved to death or fled the park looking for food, and officials at the Department of the Interior say the cruelty of starvation is good for the herd. One of every two bison now carry a disease that causes abortion in cattle and death in humans.

Mr. Speaker, this plan, a "let it starve" version of the old "let it burn" policy, can be replaced. We can do better. Let us stop this voodoo environmentalism, and preserve and protect Yellowstone Park.

REASONS TO SUPPORT THE WORKING FAMILIES FLEXIBILITY ACT

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, employees want more flexibility and choice in their work schedules. Unfortunately, there is a provision in the Federal law which prevents employers from being able to provide their employees with flexibility in one area: giving them the choice of paid comp time or cash wages for working overtime.

The Subcommittee on Workforce Protections recently heard testimony from witnesses in support of the Working Families Flexibility Act, which would allow employers to offer employees their choice of time or money.

As Peter Faust, an employee with the Opportunity Village in Iowa said,

"There are a lot of ways to make money in this country and lots of ways to spend it, but there's only one way to spend time with yourself, family, or friends, and that's to have time to spend."

Linda Smith, an employee with the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute in Miami, FL, testified that she could save her overtime hours up for furthering her education, taking care of a debilitated parent or spending time with her young daughter.

Please support the needs of these employees and others by supporting H.R. 1, the Working Families Flexibility Act.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GOODLATTE). Pursuant to the provisions of clause 5, rule I, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on the motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered or on which the vote is objected to under clause 4 of rule XV.

Such rollcall vote, if postponed, will be taken on Wednesday, March 5, 1997.

AUTHORIZING THE SPEAKER TO ENTERTAIN MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 1997 AND THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 1997

Mr. CANADY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that on Wednesday, March 5, 1997, the Speaker be authorized to entertain motions to suspend the rules and agree to the following resolutions:

House Concurrent Resolution 17, congratulating the people of Guatemala on the success of the recent negotiations to establish a peace process for Guatemala; House Concurrent Resolution 18, congratulating the people of the Republic of Nicaragua on the success of their democratic elections; and Senate Concurrent Resolution 4, commending and thanking the Honorable Warren Christopher for his exemplary service as Secretary of State.

And that on Thursday, March 6, 1997, the Speaker be authorized to entertain a motion to suspend the rules and pass the following bill:

H.R. 513, the District of Columbia Council Contract Review Reform Act of 1997.

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

There was no objection.

REGARDING THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Mr. CANADY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 31) expressing the sense of Congress regarding the display of the Ten