

Command and control of fire department operations at target hazards, which is designed to introduce command officers to the complexities involved in commanding incidents at high risk areas;

Incident command system for emergency medical services, where students use scenarios, case studies, graphics, audiovisual, and role playing in order to demonstrate an understanding of the concept;

Basic life support and hazardous materials response, which emphasize critical concerns for emergency medical responders at hazardous materials incidents;

Initial response to hazardous materials incidents: basic concepts which gives students an understanding of the basic concepts and techniques of hazardous materials first response;

Fire service communication, which focuses on verbal and written communication skills for fire service managers;

Terrorism is a worldwide threat that waits until the most vulnerable moment to shatter the lives and dreams of families and individuals. One terrorist attack effects hundreds if not thousands of individuals. The ability to swiftly mitigate the damages of terrorism must be firmly and solidly in place.

We do not know where the next terrorist attack will take place. But fire departments across this country must be ready and able to respond if called upon. Fire response teams in Texas must be as quickly able to rapidly combat terrorist attacks as fire response teams in New York. Each must possess the same cutting edge training that will allow them to protect the lives and property of the American people.

The National Fire Academy trains students from all across the United States. In Houston, a total of 29 firefighting students attended classes at the Emergency Management Institute and the National Fire Academy during fiscal year 1996.

The priorities of the U.S. Fire Administration include public education and fire safety in order to reduce fire deaths, injuries, and property losses; assist State and local government efforts to prevent and control for related incidents, especially arson; and develop programs to encourage State and local fire and EMS service delivery organizations to coordinate and cooperate with State and local emergency management agencies.

The USFA also participates in research and technology initiatives to enhance the capability of the fire service to respond to all types of emergencies, including emergency medical and hazardous materials incidents; to promote the health, safety, and efficiency of firefighters; and to initiate research and evaluation procedures to improve fire prevention and protection.

We do not know where the next fire emergency will occur. But we must be prepared to combat it and handle it effectively. The efforts of the U.S. Fire Administration allows us to accomplish this task.

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Texas.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to just briefly thank the gen-

tleman from Michigan [Mr. BARCIA], and the gentleman from California [Mr. BROWN], and all of the members of the Committee on Science for working hard to expedite in a bipartisan manner this very important bill.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1272, the Fire Administration Authorization Act of 1997. This important legislation is the product of a truly bipartisan effort to adequately fund a small Federal agency whose impact can be felt nationwide, every day.

Mr. Speaker, the United States Fire Administration [USFA] was created in 1974 in order to help reverse a very disconcerting trend of increasing deaths, injuries, and property damage caused by fires. Since its establishment, the USFA has assisted our nation's first responders in reducing fire losses. The USFA, charged with coordinating the nation's fire fighting efforts, funds programs in public education in fire prevention and control, firefighter health and safety, research and technology, and data gathering and analysis. In addition, the USFA administers the National Fire Academy [NFA] in Emmitsburg, MD through which tens of thousands of firefighters annually receive management level education and training.

During the hearing which I chaired in the Basic Research Subcommittee of the Committee on Science earlier this year, witnesses from the volunteer and paid fire fighting communities testified as to the importance of the USFA and NFA to their efforts. These programs leverage the modest resources available to local fire departments.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1272 provides a 3 percent annual increase in the USFA's FY 1998 and 1999 budgets. This increase is necessary in order to fund a new mission undertaken by the agency in counter terrorism training for emergency first responders, without negatively impacting USFA's traditional missions. The new mission is complementary to the training programs currently run by USFA, and I fully support this effort. Unfortunately, our nation must deal with the reality that terrorism has reached our borders. Because it will be local fire and emergency service personnel who are first on the scene at these horrible events, as was the case in Oklahoma City, it makes sense for USFA to integrate counter terrorism training with their other training programs.

Mr. Speaker, before I close I think it is important to mention that, as we consider H.R. 1272, the first in a series of bills reported by the House Science Committee, this week is National Science & Technology Week. National Science and Technology Week is an informal and public education outreach program of the National Science Foundation, dedicated to expanding participation by all Americans in the fields of science, technology and engineering. Since its inception in 1985, National Science & Technology Week has gradually expanded in scope and impact, involving millions of Americans in national and local events.

As part of this celebration of innovation and intellect in my home state of New Mexico, the Space Center in Alamogordo, provides training workshops for teachers and planning interactive, hands-on science events. The programs are resourceful in assisting in the distribution of education materials, which are is-

sued annually, both in English and Spanish. These packets assist both formal and informal educators and parents in engaging children in innovative, hands-on learning activities geared to science, mathematics and technology.

I encourage the House and Senate to strongly support this outreach program, recognizing the importance of involving all people in the awareness that science, engineering and technology are important in our lives today and crucial to our progress tomorrow. I hope you will join me in celebrating National Science and Technology Week.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman SEN-SENBRENNER, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. BARCIA for all of their hard work in getting this legislation to the floor today. I support this bill and ask the House for its expeditious enactment.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. EWING). The question is on the motion offered by gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. SENSENBRENNER] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1272, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 1272, the bill just passed.

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

There was no objection.

EXTENDING ORDER OF THE HOUSE OF FEBRUARY 12, 1997, THROUGH WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 1997, AS MODIFIED

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the order of the House of February 12, 1997, be extended through Wednesday, May 7, 1997, with the following modification:

After "minority leader" insert: "or a Member designated from the floor by the majority leader or the minority leader at the time of notice pursuant to clause 2(A)(1) of rule IX,".

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

There was no objection.

SUPPORT H.R. 400 WITHOUT WEAKENING AMENDMENTS

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

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, never has a bill been so misrepresented and trashed as has the patent bill. The effort to demonize this bill has not contributed to our debate, but has only misled Members who do not and should not be expected to understand the intricacies of the complex patent laws.

Following our debate last week, a Member was quoted as saying Mr. ROHRABACHER's bill helps the little guy while H.R. 400 only helps big business. I asked him how he reached that conclusion, and he replied that is what the opponents of H.R. 400 told me to say. That is his explanation.

This typifies the type of reasoning that has surrounded this debate. We defeated the Rohrabacher amendment last week. We are not yet finished. Help us defeat the amendments today, pass H.R. 400, and bring the United States patent system into the 21st century.

Mr. Speaker, later today we will finish consideration of an omnibus patent bill, H.R. 400, which I have attempted to shepherd through this body. While I believe we will pass the measure without weakening amendments, I feel compelled to address the manner by which the bill has been criticized since its introduction on January 9.

Never, in my years as a Congressman have I seen a piece of legislation so thoroughly misrepresented as to content and effect as has the patent bill. The effort to demonize this bill has not contributed to our debate; it has only served to mislead, confuse, and paralyze some Members who do not and should not be expected to understand all of the intricacies of a complex and arcane topic such as patent law. If we wait much longer, I anticipate that our detractors will attempt to convince the American public that I, as a lifetime member of the VFW, am conspiring with the other Bolsheviks down at the VFW Hall in Greensboro, NC, to destroy the United States and subvert her national economy.

With all due respect, Mr. Speaker, the chief opponent of H.R. 400 does not serve on either the subcommittee or full committee of jurisdiction. I dare say he has never sat on a panel charged with having knowledge of any intellectual property law.

Mr. Speaker, I implore my colleagues to bring our patent system into the 21st century by supporting H.R. 400 and rejecting the simplistic and distorted criticism that has surrounded the bill to date.

AGAINST MFN FOR CHINA

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

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, the question of MFN will be coming up. I urge Members to take a look at a recent poll done by the Weekly Standard which I will put in the RECORD. This is what Public Opinion Strategies said:

By an overwhelming margin of 61 to 29 percent, the American people oppose MFN for China. The other 10 percent did not know.

Sixty-one to twenty-nine percent.

The pollsters asked the respondents: "Do you support or oppose continuing most-favored-nation status with China?" Sixty-one percent to twenty-nine percent. That is all across the country, in every region, in all the cities, in the suburbs, on the farms, all political spectrum, men and women. The fact is even a greater percentage of women, 67 to 22 percent, oppose MFN.

Let us listen to the American people. The Chinese are persecuting Christians, they have Christians in jail, Catholic priests, Catholic bishops, evangelical pastors, persecuting Buddhists and Moslems, and yet this Congress and this administration is thinking of giving MFN for China.

I strongly urge Members to read the poll. The American people are aware. The Republican Party and the Democratic Party ought to be. Oppose MFN for China.

Mr. Speaker, I include the following editorial for the RECORD:

[From the Weekly Standard, April 28, 1997]

THE POLL NUMBERS ON CHINA: 61-29 AGAINST

The Washington debate over the Clinton administration's policy of appeasement—pardon us, "engagement"—toward China is heating up. It will get even warmer as July 1 nears, when Hong Kong reverts to Chinese sovereignty after 155 years as a British crown colony. And there'll be a full boil when Congress takes up the question of China's "most favored nation" status in American trade law. The fearsome let's-trade-with-Beijing lobby will twist the arms of congressmen to shut up about human rights and pass MFN. Wavering legislators will want to know: Where's the public on this nettlesome issue? Here's the answer.

At the Weekly Standard's request, the polling firm Public Opinion Strategies earlier this month reminded 800 Americans that the MFN designation "gives the Chinese full trading privileges with the United States." Then our pollsters posed a question that, if anything, bends over backwards in favor of engagement.

Some people support MFN "because they believe it will promote democracy and free markets in China and help the U.S. economy." Others want to suspend MFN "because China limits human rights, sells arms to Iran and pursues an aggressive foreign policy." So do our poll respondents "support or oppose continuing most favored nation status with China?"

The result: The American people oppose MFN, overwhelmingly, by 61 to 29 percent (the other 10 percent don't or gave no answer). They oppose it in every region of the country. They oppose it in the cities. They oppose it in the suburbs. They oppose it on the farm. White people oppose it. Black people oppose it. Republicans oppose it. Democrats oppose it. Rich people oppose it. Poor people oppose it. High-school dropouts oppose it. Ph.D.s oppose it. Married people oppose it. Single people oppose it. Clinton voters oppose it. Dole voters oppose it. Perot voters oppose it.

In other words, everyone opposes MFN. And interestingly enough, no one opposes MFN more than women do; by a whopping 45-point margin, 67 to 22 percent. So on this issue, President Clinton has a gender gap. He deserves it.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of Jan-

uary 7, 1997, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

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

[Mr. LEWIS of Georgia addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

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

[Mr. JONES addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

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

[Mr. POMEROY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York [Mrs. KELLY] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mrs. KELLY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

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

[Mr. METCALF addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PALLONE] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as my colleagues and I do every year at this time to join in remembrance and commemoration of one of the most horrible events of the 20th century and, in fact, in all of human history. That is the systematic extermination of 1.5 million Armenian men, women, and children during the final years of the Ottoman Turkish empire. This was the first genocide of the 20th century, a precursor to the Nazi Holocaust and the other cases of ethnic cleansing and mass extermination of peoples in our time in Bosnia and Central Africa and in other parts of the world.

We must, Mr. Speaker, call what happened to the Armenian people between the years 1915 and 1923 by its correct name, and that is genocide. Tomorrow, Thursday, April 24, marks the 82d anniversary of the beginning of the Armenian genocide. Armenian-Americans