

A TRIBUTE TO FLAG DAY

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

Mr. NEUMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask all Americans to join me in remembering a very special day in our Nation's history. This Sunday, June 14, we will once again be observing the birth and preservation of the United States flag as part of our annual Flag Day celebration.

The United States flag is the symbol of America which inspires patriotism and unity within all who call this country home. It has come to represent the American dream to which so many aspire in our great land. Our flag also serves as a perfect reminder of the millions who have fought for our freedom and who continue to risk their lives every day to protect our great country. So many have done so much to defend our land and the ideas it stands for.

So in honor of this great day and the flag that represents our Nation we so love, I wish to share with my colleagues a poem written by my 11-year-old niece, Kate Link, entitled "Stars and Stripes":

Stars and stripes, what does it mean?
It means courage, bravery, and honor.

Our soldiers fought through the night,
and the flag stood strong and tall through the war.

After that our country won its freedom after all.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

(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, once again the Republicans are trying to kill meaningful campaign finance reform by allowing hundreds of irrelevant amendments and scheduling debate on campaign finance reform in the wee hours of the night. Do not just take my word for it.

The New York Times called the GOP tactics a "death by amendment strategy," and a "filibuster in disguise." The Los Angeles Times calls it "a dirty ploy." Even Republican Congressman, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LAHOOD) has admitted that, We tried squelching it first, this is a quote, "now we are going to try to talk it to death."

Perhaps USA Today said it best, "Republican leaders are sparing no device in their efforts to keep the flood of special interest money flowing."

I call on the Republican leadership of the House, stop listening to the special interests. Start listening to the American people. Let us pass real campaign finance reform. Let us past the Meehan-Shays bill today.

IMPOSITION OF ECONOMIC SANCTIONS ON REPUBLICS OF YUGOSLAVIA, SERBIA, AND MONTENEGRO—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 105-273)

The Speaker pro tempore (Mr. EWING) laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed.

To the Congress of the United States:

In response to the ongoing use of excessive military force in Kosovo by the police and armed forces of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and the Republic of Serbia, which has exacerbated ethnic conflict and human suffering and threatens to destabilize other countries in the region, the United States, acting in concert with the European Union, has decided to impose certain economic sanctions. Consistent with decisions taken at the meetings of the Contact Group of countries, consisting of the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, France, Italy, and Russia, in Birmingham, England, on May 16, 1998, and in Rome on April 29, 1998, the United States will impose a freeze on the assets of the Governments of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), the Republic of Serbia, and the Republic of Montenegro, and a ban on new investment in the Republic of Serbia. It is our intent to exempt the Government of Montenegro from these sanctions wherever possible.

The Contact Group originally agreed in Rome on April 29 to impose these sanctions in response to the increasingly dangerous situation in Kosovo and Belgrade's failure to meet crucial requirements concerning the adoption of a framework for dialogue with the Kosovar Albanian leadership and a stabilization package, as set out in earlier Contact Group meetings in London on March 9, 1998, and in Bonn on March 25, 1998. The G8 Foreign Ministers reaffirmed the need to impose sanctions at their meeting in London on May 8-9, 1998. The Russian Federation did not associate itself with these sanction measures.

At the May 16 meeting in Birmingham, England, the Contact Group welcomed the establishment of a dialogue between Belgrade and the Kosovar Albanian leadership. With the start of this dialogue, those Contact Group countries that had previously agreed to implement economic measures against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and the Republic of Serbia agreed that the proposed measure to stop new investment in the Republic of Serbia would not be put into effect and that they would review at their next meeting the implementation of the freeze on funds. However, the use of indiscriminate force by the police and armed forces of the Federal Republic of

Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and the Republic of Serbia has undermined the basis for dialogue.

The Contact Group has concluded that the current situation in Kosovo is untenable and the risk of an escalating conflict requires immediate action. It has also found that, if unresolved, the conflict threatens to spill over to other parts of the region. The United States attaches high priority to supporting the security interests of the neighboring states and to ensuring security of borders. It is also of particular importance that developments in Kosovo should not disrupt progress in implementing the Dayton peace agreement in Bosnia and Herzegovina. This threat to the peace of the region constitutes an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States.

On June 9, 1998, by the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and laws of the United States of America, including the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*), the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 *et seq.*), and section 301 of title 3 of the United States Code, I declared a national emergency to respond to the unacceptable actions and policies of the Belgrade authorities and issued an Executive order to implement the measures called for by the Contact Group. That order freezes the assets of the Governments of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), the Republic of Serbia, and the Republic of Montenegro that are under U.S. jurisdiction and, in concert with the other Contact Group countries, restricts access of those governments to the international financial system. That order also prohibits new investment by United States persons, or their facilitation of other persons' new investment, in the Republic of Serbia. It is our intent to exempt the Government of the Republic of Montenegro, by means of licenses, from the prohibitions contained in the order wherever possible. That government has been included in the order to ensure effective implementation of sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), of which the Republic of Montenegro is a constituent part.

The order carries out these measures by:

- blocking all property, and interests in property, of the Governments of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), the Republic of Serbia, and the Republic of Montenegro, including the prohibition of financial transactions with, including trade financing for, those governments; and
- prohibiting new investment by United States persons, or their facilitation of other persons' new investment, in the territory of the Republic of Serbia.

The order provides that the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, is authorized to take such actions, including the