

CHINO BASIN DAIRIES

(Mr. GARY MILLER of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I would like to commend the House for passing H.R. 1906, the Fiscal Year 2000 Agriculture Appropriations bill.

One of the bill's provision contains an earmark of \$99 million for watershed and flood prevention operations. This is highly important to the dairy producers of my district, primarily located in Chino and Ontario, California.

As a result of the up-slope urbanization, the Chino Basin dairies, which are comprised of 270 dairies and 350 cows, have experienced increased flooding. This flooding washes manure and other water into the Santa Ana River, which is the source of drinking water downstream for 2½ million people.

Report language contained in H.R. 1906 identifies the Chino dairy preserves as an important project. Madam Speaker, this is one of the many steps which I hope the House will continue to take in resolving this tremendous problem.

COX REPORT PUTS BOMBHELLS ON PUBLIC RECORD

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

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Madam Speaker, the recent release of the Cox report on the Chinese espionage at our nuclear laboratories has put on the public record a number of bombshells.

The crown jewel of our nuclear arsenal, design of the W-88 warhead, has been stolen by the Chinese Communists. Even more amazing is that nothing was done about it after it was discovered in 1995.

Chinese Communist penetration of our nuclear secrets is almost total.

The response from the White House? "Everybody does it" and "Let's not overreact."

I can hardly imagine how one could possibly say, "Let's not overreact." What could possibly be worse than losing the single most valuable nuclear secret we have? And as for the everybody-does-it defense when confronted by scandal, the charge is false. It is a lie.

President Ronald Reagan did not arm China with our best military technology, and President Reagan did not silence anyone inside the executive branch who dared challenge this policy. But this is exactly what has happened during this administration.

DEMOCRATS PROPOSE TO RAISE OUR TAXES, LOWER OUR DEFENSES

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

Mr. SCHAFFER. Madam Speaker, raise our taxes and lower our defenses. That is what the top Democrat in the House just proposed the other day.

What must other Democrats be saying privately about the statement made by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. RICHARD GEPHARDT), the minority leader, about his desire to cut defenses and raise taxes?

Most of them quietly agree with the Democrat leader, but they also know that politically it would be difficult to express out loud their belief that taxes are not high enough, that middle-class families should endure the tax-and-spend policies of liberal Democrats.

Perhaps they are applauding their leader's courage for standing up for what they believe, a smaller defense and greater taxes. But it seems many of them are also nervous.

What if Americans learn that Democrats still stand for the 1960's style liberalism of even bigger government, ever higher taxes, and less freedom for individuals?

This is a truly fascinating case in American politics today. Right now in Congress, Democrats stand in the way of a Republican tax cut. And now Democrats have made public their plans to lower our defenses and raise our taxes.

KOLBE-STENHOLM SOCIAL SECURITY PLAN ON WOMEN

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

Mr. KOLBE. Madam Speaker, my colleague the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CHARLIE STENHOLM) and I have introduced a comprehensive Social Security reform legislation, H.R. 1793, and I want to talk today about some of the provisions that are in this bill. Today, I want to concentrate on those dealing with women.

Our bill contains a minimum benefit provision that would provide a more robust benefit than afforded by the current system. For an individual who works 40 years, we guarantee them a Social Security benefit equal to 100 percent of the poverty level. And as a result of that provision alone, 50 percent of women will get more retirement benefits under the Kolbe-Stenholm plan than under current law.

Our plan also allows workers to contribute an additional \$2,000 per year into their personal account. Women expected to take time off to raise children can make voluntary contributions both before and after their hiatus to catch up. For women who earn less than \$30,000, the Kolbe-Stenholm plan provides a savings subsidy for up to \$600 per year.

One of the reasons our bill is better for women is the changing nature of divorce. Not only has the divorce rate skyrocketed, but marriages are not lasting as long and more and more women are not remarrying. Con-

sequently, more and more women are heading into retirement alone without the benefit of a spouse's Social Security income.

As more women are raising children alone, working in lower-paying jobs, or not remarrying after divorce, the minimum benefit provision, the ability to catch up for lost years and the savings subsidy will do more to lift those women out of poverty.

NATO HAS PREVAILED

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

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, let me just say a word about what is happening in another part of the world. We are achieving at least a temporary peace in the Balkans. Hopefully, it will be a sustained peace.

NATO and the United States have prevailed. They have been resolute, they have been strong, and in fact, they have been successful.

There has only been begrudging admission that it has been a successful policy. But when we consider the fact that we have not lost one pilot to enemy fire, we did not have to send in troops, and yet NATO has now prevailed. And it is clear now that NATO is resolute, it is stronger, and in fact it can control what happens in Europe, particularly the volatile region of Eastern Europe, into a much greater conflagration that might otherwise have expected that we would have been responsible for ultimately getting under control had not NATO been able to pull together 19 nations and pursue a coordinated, resolute policy.

This is terribly important for the long-term security of the United States. The President, the Secretary of State, General Clark and NATO, deserve a great deal of credit for their principled and resolute leadership.

PERMITTING USE OF CAPITOL ROTUNDA FOR PRESENTATION OF CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO ROSA PARKS

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on House Administration be discharged from further consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 127) permitting the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony to present a Gold Medal on behalf of Congress to Rosa Parks, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

□ 1030

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KOLBE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oklahoma?

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, while I am not planning to object, I just want to concur that those of us on this side of the

aisle join with the gentleman from Oklahoma in support of this resolution.

I yield to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. WATTS) for purposes of explaining the resolution.

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for yielding.

First I would like to thank the gentlewoman from Indiana (Ms. CARSON) for introducing the resolution to award Mrs. Parks the Congressional Gold Medal of Honor. With such leadership Americans will never forget where we came from and never lose sight of where we must go.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to support honoring Mrs. Rosa Parks in the Capitol Rotunda under the dome of the People's House with the Gold Medal of Honor. What could be more appropriate than for Mrs. Parks to receive the Congressional Gold Medal of Honor in the Capitol Rotunda, the structure that unites the House and Senate, a symbol of a government of the people, by the people and for the people. Our majestic Rotunda is the world's emblem of democracy and freedom. Mrs. Parks stood in the face of segregation and started a movement that united a Nation. How appropriate for us to honor her where we come together as Members and where we come together as Americans.

Over 40 years ago, Mrs. Parks united the races on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama, and how appropriate for us to honor her in our country's most enduring symbol of unity, the Capitol Rotunda.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, further reserving the right to object, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the ranking member of the Committee on House Administration.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH) for yielding, and I join the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. WATTS).

I do not know how many Americans have seen Rosa Parks. Rosa Parks is a woman small in stature. But that belies the fact that she was a giant in her courage and in her commitment and in the impact she made on America, not just on African Americans, though an impact she had on their lives and the respect accorded to them, but on the lives of every American who live today in a better country, more conscious of our need to give to each individual within our country the respect that they are due as human beings and children of God.

Rosa Parks, Mr. Speaker, is a giant in the history of America. On December 1st, 1955, Rosa Parks looked up from her seat and said, "No, I will not give you my seat. I was here first. I'm an American citizen. I paid my fare. And I ought to be able to sit on this seat." Mr. Speaker, she was absolutely correct. But as Martin Luther King observed some 8 years later, in August of 1963, America had yet to live out the reality of the promises made in our Declaration of Independence and in our

Constitution, that Rosa Parks, like the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. EMERSON), was endowed not by government but by her Creator with certain unalienable rights, and among these were life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. And our Constitution said, particularly in the 14th amendment and the 15th amendment, that color would not dictate lesser Americans.

Rosa Parks is a giant, and I am pleased, Mr. Speaker, to join the gentleman from Pennsylvania and the gentleman from Oklahoma in setting aside, as the gentleman from Oklahoma so ably articulated, the Rotunda, a revered spot not only in this country but around the world, to honor Rosa Parks, to say to her, "Thank you. Thank you for helping America be a better country."

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, further reserving the right to object, I yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT).

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I want to compliment the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. WATTS) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH). I want to give a special commendation to the gentlewoman from Indiana (Ms. CARSON) who works hard and did a great job on this issue. I would just like to say that when Rosa Parks sat down on that bus, she stood up for all Americans, not just black Americans. I, too, am honored to be here today.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, further reserving the right to object, let me just also add my voice.

I had the opportunity to meet Rosa Parks when she came to Philadelphia and visited with a group of young people at the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia. Observing the crack, she had a fairly profound statement to make about the fact that there was still some need for healing in our own country about issues related to civil rights, but that her work and her life and her legacy had played just a small part. It really was the support and the prayers of millions and millions of Americans of different ethnic backgrounds who supported the efforts of the civil rights movement which really started with her decision not to relinquish her seat.

From time to time I know we have broad disagreements around here, but it is refreshing to see that in a bipartisan way we could come together. I am pleased to join with my colleague and my friend from Oklahoma as we move now to make the rotunda available. Some are honored by having this type of honor bestowed upon them. Today I think the Congress is honored by having an American of Rosa Parks' stature to be able to honor.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

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

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 127

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring). That the rotunda of the Capitol is authorized to be used on June 15, 1999, for a ceremony to present a gold medal on behalf of Congress to Rosa Parks. Physical preparations for the ceremony shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions as the Architect of the Capitol may prescribe.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2000

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 200 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 1401.

□ 1037

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 1401) to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2000 and 2001 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal years 2000 and 2001, and for other purposes, with Mrs. EMERSON (Chairman pro tempore) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Wednesday, June 9, 1999, amendment No. 14 printed in part A of House Report 106-175 by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SANCHEZ) and offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK) as her designee had been disposed of.

It is now in order to consider amendment No. 15 printed in House Report 106-175.

AMENDMENT NO. 15 OFFERED BY MR. BUYER

Mr. BUYER. Madam Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Part A amendment No. 15 offered by Mr. BUYER:

Page 207, after line 5, add the following new subtitle (and redesignate the succeeding subtitle accordingly):

Subtitle F—Eligibility to Participate in the Thrift Savings Plan

SEC. 661. AUTHORITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE THRIFT SAVINGS FUND.

(a) AUTHORITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE THRIFT SAVINGS FUND.—(1) Subchapter III of chapter 84 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"§8440e. Members of the uniformed services

"(a)(1) A member of the uniformed services performing active service may elect to contribute to the Thrift Savings Fund—

"(A) a portion of such individual's basic pay; or