

opportunity to prevent a calamity, to prevent a disaster from happening.

I am just beseeching my colleagues in this House to pay attention to this critical issue. Do not let this industry disintegrate. We must protect the enrichment industry in this country, we must protect the mining industry, we must protect the conversion industry in this country. If we do not, if we do not, in a few short years this country could find itself in an untenable situation where we must depend totally upon foreign sources for some 23 percent of our Nation's electricity. We cannot let that happen.

Mr. Speaker, I beg my colleagues, I beg my colleagues, to pay attention to this vital issue.

GETTING ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL OFF OF FOOD STAMPS

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 of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I come back to the floor after several weeks of not being on the floor to talk about our men and women in uniform that are on food stamps.

This photograph is of a Marine that is getting ready to deploy for the Balkans. In his arms he has his daughter, Bridgett, and on his feet is a little 2-year-old girl named Megan.

Mr. Speaker, we have done a great deal to help our men and women in uniform in the 6 years I have been here in office as we have tried to increase their pay, to improve their quality of life, and we have made some great strides. But, Mr. Speaker, the problem is, we still have men and women in uniform that are on food stamps.

Mr. Speaker, I feel, as do most Members of this House, that anybody that is willing to die for this country when called upon to protect our freedoms, they should not be under any circumstances on food stamps.

I felt somewhat compelled after July 4th, being home, and, like most Members here, I went to several parades, and at a couple of these parades the Marine Band was there and the Honor Guard, and I saw those Marines in their dress blues, and it just reminded me, not just of Marines, but any man or woman in uniform, whether it be the Army, the Navy, the Marine Corps, the Air Force or the Coast Guard, that we would have those in uniform that are on food stamps.

Here we are this week, again we will be debating another foreign operations bill, yet we find millions of dollars to send overseas. I know there is a need to have foreign aid, I am not saying that we should not be, but I think we do have an obligation to protect those in uniform first, those that are on food stamps. Quite frankly, I am quoting Daniel Webster who said, "God grants liberty to those who love it and are willing and prepared to defend it."

Mr. Speaker, we are fortunate to have the men and women in uniform

that we have in the Armed Services of America, but, yet, again, I came to the floor because we have a bill that I introduced a year ago, H.R. 1055, that would help our men and women in uniform. I have over 100 signatures, Mr. Speaker, and that is both Republican and Democrat, and I continue to encourage my leadership, as I hope that Democrats who have signed this bill are encouraging their leadership, to say that we will not leave this year in October without helping those on food stamps, to do the very best to make sure that we have no one in uniform on food stamps. That might be somewhat idealistic, but I think it is worthy of our efforts to do that, to make sure that they are not on food stamps.

I want to share with you, because I have military bases, Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville, Cherry Point Marine Air Station in Havelock, Seymour Johnson Air Force Base in Goldsboro, and also a Coast Guard base in Elizabeth City.

Recently the Jacksonville paper, which is the home of Camp Lejeune, they did a feature on men and women in uniform that are at the bottom of the ladder, so-to-speak, as it speaks to their income, and this article said that there are 145 Marine families in Camp Lejeune, which again is in Jacksonville, that receive a total of \$25,000 a month in food stamps.

I ask this, Mr. Speaker, that if we have 145 that are identified that go to the social services for food stamps, how many do we have in that area that are not going because of pride or because of some other reason?

So, again, I am encouraging our leadership this year, Mr. Speaker, before we leave in October, to please, let us work together in a bipartisan way to make sure that when we leave, that no one is dependent on food stamps in the military.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to close with a poem that I think is very appropriate for all of us in the Congress, as well as anyone in this country that maybe has not served in the military, to remember that the freedoms that we enjoy are guaranteed by those in uniform.

The poem was written by Father Dennis O'Brien, United States Marine Corps.

"Who has given us freedom of the press?
It is the soldier, not the poet.
Who has given us freedom of speech?
It is the soldier, not the campus organizer.
Who has given us the freedom to demonstrate?
It is the soldier,
Who salutes the flag,
Who serves beneath the flag,
Whose coffin is draped by the flag,
Who allows the protester to burn the flag."

Mr. Speaker, I close with that, because, again, I want to remind the Members of the United States House of Representatives that we do have over 6,000 men and women in uniform which are on food stamps, and I would hope we would do everything possible to make sure when we leave again in October that we have very few in the military on food stamps.

□ 1800

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ADERHOLT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ADERHOLT) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BATEMAN) switch places in the queue, as the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BATEMAN) has an important dinner this evening, if we might do that.

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

There was no objection.

TRIBUTE TO RONALD LASCH, FAITHFUL SERVANT TO THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BATEMAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BATEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for arranging the switching of the order. It is very gracious of him.

The Congressional Record of course will duly note whatever I say on the floor tonight, although perhaps few others will. But I feel compelled to come to the floor and share with my colleagues a deep sense of loss that I feel and that I think most every Member of this body will feel that our friend and our very faithful colleague or servant, Ronald Lasch, has chosen to enter retirement.

Ron was a great friend of all of us in this body, a great helpmate to all of us in this body. There are few that I have served with or worked with as a Member of the Congress who have been more effective in allowing me to do my job better than I would otherwise have been able to do it than Ron Lasch.

I remember Ron Lasch also as someone who was an ad hoc, but very, very effective and important, staff person or advisor to the members of the North Atlantic Parliamentary Group who represent this country in the meetings of the North Atlantic Assembly of NATO. His advice, his wisdom, his breadth of knowledge on the issues that we were debating and discussing was always something that we could look to and learn from. He was, indeed, a remarkable part of how this institution works and works better; and he will be very definitely and sincerely missed by so many of us.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE).

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BATEMAN) for yielding to me. I came

to the floor for another purpose. Not only did I not know that Ron Lasch was retiring, I did not know we were having this Special Order, and my friend from Michigan asked if I would like to insert my oars into these waters lauding Ron Lasch.

Mr. Speaker, some call him the floor manager, some call him the Great Poobah or the Great Mogul. Oftentimes, Mr. Speaker, I would go to Ron, I would come in here perhaps from a committee hearing and I would be running late and I would go to him and I would say Ron, what is this vote, my dear friend? And he would instinctively grab his wallet. When you are calling me "dear friend" you are up to no good. But I never saw him in any way become impatient with us, and that is the same, Mr. Speaker, for the staff generally.

Last month I was at an event in the intellectual property community in this town with ORRIN HATCH, Senator HATCH, the gentleman from the other body, from Utah. At that hearing I said to those people, oftentimes we take staff for granted. Mr. Speaker, we have talked about it before. Staff is very essential to the well being and to the efficient functioning of this body. Sometimes we think it does not function efficiently; but I think, on balance, it does, and Ron Lasch is the epitome of that role. I know he will be missed, as the gentleman from Virginia just said. He will be sorely missed here.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON) for inviting me to share these few thoughts.

Mr. BATEMAN. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, we are all delighted to be here and wish for Ron the very best in his retirement, but we want him to know how very much we will miss him.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina). The gentleman's comments are well taken.

EFFORTS TO COMBAT ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the House, for the first time ever, tackled the public health threat from antibiotic-resistant bacteria in our food supply.

On Monday, during debate on the agriculture appropriations bill, the House passed my amendment to dedicate an additional \$3 million to the work of the Food and Drug Administration on antibiotic resistance resulting from the use of antibiotics in livestock.

Scientists and public health officials have known for decades that using the same antibiotics for food animals as for people could cause problems. Sixteen years ago my esteemed colleagues, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL) and the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN), introduced

legislation to curtail the use of human antibiotics in animals. But this amendment, Mr. Speaker, marks the first time this House has taken legislative action to stop Boyd resistance from agricultural overuse of these precious drugs.

Mr. Speaker, we thought we were winning the war against infectious diseases. With the introduction of antibiotics in the 1940s, humans gained an overwhelming advantage in the fight against bacteria. But this war is far from won. Last month, the World Health Organization issued a ringing warning against antibiotic resistance. Around the world, microbes are mutating at an alarming rate into new strains that fail to respond to drugs.

The mapping of the human genome project has been lauded far and wide in the past several weeks. Indeed, mapping the genome is a triumph that will lead to many breakthroughs in health care. But in the meantime, we are slowly, and in some cases, rapidly losing our precious antibiotics and putting ourselves at risk for diseases that we thought we had licked: tuberculosis, typhoid, cholera, dysentery and on and on and on.

We need to develop new antibiotics, to be sure; but we cannot give up on the ones we have and the ones that have been effective for decades. By using antibiotics and antimicrobials more wisely and more sparingly, we can slow down antibiotic resistance.

We need to change the way drugs are given to people, because clearly, they are overprescribed in the developed world and often not fully taken in the underdeveloped world. But we also need to look at the way drugs are given to animals. According to the World Health Organization, 50 percent of all antibiotics are used in agriculture, both for animals and for plants. The U.S. livestock producers use drugs to treat sick herds and flocks, as they should. But they also feed a steady diet of antibiotics to help the livestock so they will gain weight more quickly and be ready for market sooner. Many of these drugs are the same ones used to treat infections in people.

Prolonged exposure to antibiotics in farm animals provides a breeding ground for resistant strains of E. Coli and salmonella and other bacteria harmful to humans. When transferred to people through the food we eat, they can cause dangerous infections.

A few weeks ago, an interagency task force issued a draft "Public Health Action Plan to Combat Antimicrobial Resistance." The plan provides a blueprint for specific coordinated Federal actions. A top priority action item in the draft plan highlights work already underway at the Food and Drug Administration Center for Veterinary Medicine. In late 1998, the FDA issued a Proposed Framework for evaluating and regulating new animal drugs in light of their contribution to antibiotic resistance in humans.

Mr. Speaker, my amendment, which is now incorporated in the agricultural

appropriations bill, directs an additional \$3 million toward the FDA Center for Veterinary Medicine and their work on antibiotic resistance related to animal drugs. Director Sundloff has stated the antibiotic resistance is the center's top priority. However, the "framework document" states the agency will look first at approvals for new animal drugs and then will look at drugs already in use in animals as time and resources permit. That is why the additional \$3 million will give a significant boost to the ability of the Center for Veterinary Medicine to move forward on antibiotic resistance and to begin to look at those drugs already in use in animals.

More importantly, Mr. Speaker, this body finally this week took a proactive step to protect us from resistant bacteria in our food supply. If the Senate acts quickly and decisively, many lives will be saved, particularly among young children and particularly among our elderly parents, the people who are most vulnerable to food-borne illnesses.

TRIBUTE TO MAXWELL EMMETT "PAT" BUTTRAM AND AUGUSTUS MCDANIEL "GUS" BUTTRAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ADERHOLT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, on June 19, 1915, a star and a humanitarian was born. Maxwell Emmett, better known as "Pat" Buttram of Addison, Alabama, in Winston County brought laughter and untold hours of sheer enjoyment to citizens across this great Nation. His film career spans 46 years from the early days as Gene Autry's sidekick to his parts as a voice in four of Disney's animated movies. Millions of television viewers will remember Pat for his role as the affable Mr. Haney in the television series "Green Acres" and "Petticoat Junction." Pat had a keen wit in the style of Will Rogers and was a much sought-after speaker.

Pat was brought up in a Methodist parsonage, son of a circuit-riding Methodist minister. He was the seventh child in a family of five boys and three girls. Pat never forgot the early lessons taught by this strong, God-fearing family. Concern for others was a staple in the Buttram household. As Pat's fame grew, he used his celebrity status to perform in benefits and shared his time and talents to help those less fortunate. He never forgot his roots or the place he called home. He donated not only money, but also his time to help build Camp Maxwell near his home in Alabama. This camp has played an important part in the lives of youth and the handicapped.