

mine who is being held in China against his will.

The EP-3 military aircraft is sovereign U.S. territory. Under the 1944 Chicago Convention signed by China, that is considered sovereign U.S. territory and should be returned to the United States. China has chosen to ignore that agreement, along with many others over the years.

I would encourage every American who is going to go shopping over the next few days to look at the labels on the products they are going to purchase and see if it is made in the U.S.A. or it is made in China. I would encourage every American to stand in solidarity with all those servicemen being held against their will and send a message to our friends in China that they are doing something they should not be doing. We certainly join with all the families of all those airmen, naval officers, naval enlisted, who are being held overseas with our thoughts and prayers that we are with them. It is time that they be sent back.

□ 1600

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GRAVES). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

MENTORING FOR SUCCESS

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

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, a few years ago I ran across a study which was done on the Fullerton, California, public schools in 1940. It was kind of interesting, the number of the concerns that the teachers in the Fullerton, California, public schools had at that time. Number one was talking in class, number two was chewing gum in class, number three was not putting waste paper in the waste paper basket, and number four was getting out of turn in line when going from one class to another.

More recently I saw this study replicated when they went back to the Fullerton, California, public schools and asked the teachers what their main concerns were, and this is what the list read like. The number one concern was drug abuse, weapons in school, gangs, teenage pregnancy, teenage suicide, alcohol abuse, violence and so on.

So, in the last 50 to 60 years, we have seen an amazing shift in our culture. I guess over 36 years of coaching, I saw some of the same changes, the same dynamics in some of the young people I was dealing with.

So I guess I have asked myself from time to time, what has caused this shift? I think really two basic elements

that I can point to. One is family disintegration. Currently one-half of our children grow up without both biological parents, and back in the 1940s and the 1950s, this percentage was probably no more than 5 or 10 percent. We have 18 million fatherless children in our country today. When your dad does not care enough to stick around to see what you look like, it leaves a vacuum in your life, it leaves a hole that you are oftentimes trying to fill with all the wrong things. So fatherlessness is a huge problem. The out-of-wedlock birth rate has gone from 5 percent in 1960 to 33 percent today. So the family structure has definitely changed.

Secondly, I think there have been some things that I would refer to as the unraveling of the culture. I think almost everyone is aware of the fact that we are living in the most violent Nation in the world for young people. We have the highest homicide rate, the highest suicide rate for young people of any civilized nation or any nation anywhere.

Thirdly, drug and alcohol abuse has certainly become rampant and a very virulent problem in our society, and, of course, there has been a media influence that I think at times some of the music, some of the television, some of the movies that young people are exposed to has been a problem.

So, we may say that I have outlined a lot of problems. What are the solutions? We need some answers. I guess one of the things that I would point to that has proven to be effective is mentoring. A mentor is someone who supports, affirms, provides stability, provides a vision of what is possible for a young person. I guess in athletics I saw this very graphically borne out, because if you told an athlete or a player that he was not very good, that he did not have a future, that he was limited in talent, it would not be long before he would begin to play down to that expectation, and usually he would leave the team before very long. But on the other hand, if you said, I see a great deal of potential, I see some talent, I see some things where you could be a great player, many times that player will begin to perform in a way that he himself did not even begin to expect. So affirmation is critical.

Basically, that is what mentoring is. It is affirming. It is supporting. It is telling somebody they can do it.

So mentoring actually works. There are studies that have shown realistically that people who are mentored, who are in good mentoring programs, young people will be 52 percent less likely to skip school, 50 percent less likely to begin using drugs, 36 percent less likely to lie to a parent, 30 percent less likely to commit a violent act of any kind, and they are less likely to drop out of school, and have better relationships with friends and family.

So for that reason I am introducing today a bill called Mentoring for Success. What this bill does is it provides grants to expand mentoring through

new programs and existing programs throughout the country that supposedly, I believe, would probably reach about 200,000 young people in our country. It also would provide for training of mentors, background checks on mentors; and it would study the long-term effects of different types of mentoring programs. Right now there are a lot of them out there. We do not know exactly what is most effective, and this would provide for a study that would provide more data and more information.

Currently we spend billions of dollars on incarceration, on juvenile justice programs, and once someone is caught up in the juvenile justice system or the criminal justice system, oftentimes they just do not get out of it. So we need to spend more time on the front end of the process, and mentoring is certainly a very viable alternative and something that I hope that all people would certainly consider.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is very important. I think it is something that we really cannot afford not at this time to address.

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

(Mr. BLUMENAUER 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 Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BILIRAKIS 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 Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE TIME IS RIGHT FOR TAX REFORM

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

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, today the House of Representatives completed the third piece of President Bush's promised tax relief agenda. I have been proud to support President Bush with my vote in favor of all three of the components of this proposal.

But now that we have succeeded in the House with tax relief legislation, we must begin to turn our attention toward tax reform legislation. For that reason, I have come to the well of the House today to tell my colleagues that soon I will introduce in the 107th Congress my fair tax proposal. This proposal, which will be introduced as H.R.