

be necessary to reflect the actions of the House in amending the bill.

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

There was no objection.

MAKING IN ORDER AT ANY TIME CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1298, UNITED STATES LEADERSHIP AGAINST HIV/AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS, AND MALARIA ACT OF 2003

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order at any time without intervention of any point of order to consider a motion to take the bill, H.R. 1298, from the Speaker's table with the Senate amendment thereto, and to concur in the Senate amendment; that the motion be debatable for 60 minutes equally divided between the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), or their designees; the Senate amendment be considered as read; and the previous question be considered as ordered on the motion to final adoption without intervening motion.

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

There was no objection.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Ms. Wanda Evans, one of his secretaries.

□ 1645

2003 COMPREHENSIVE REPORT ON U.S. TRADE AND INVESTMENT POLICY TOWARD SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA AND IMPLEMENTATION OF AFRICAN GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY ACT—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 108-74)

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATHAM) 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 Ways and Means and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Consistent with title I of the Trade and Development Act of 2000, I am providing a report prepared by my Administration entitled "2003 Comprehensive Report on U.S. Trade and Investment Policy for Sub-Saharan Africa and Implementation of the African Growth and Opportunity Act."

GEORGE W. BUSH,
THE WHITE HOUSE, May 19, 2003.

APPOINTMENT AS MEMBER TO COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 201(b) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6431 note), amended by section 681(b) of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, fiscal year 2003 (22 U.S.C. 2651 note), and the order of the House of January 8, 2003, the Chair announces the Speaker's reappointment of the following member on the part of the House to the Commission on International Religious Freedom for a 2-year term ending May 14, 2005:

Ms. Nina Shea, Washington, DC., to succeed herself.

HONORING CAPTAIN TIMOTHY DANIEL AIKEN

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

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Captain Timothy Daniel Aiken of Charlotte, North Carolina. Captain Aiken is one of North Carolina's and America's finest soldiers. His service and dedication to his country and the Army National Guard have garnered him the prestigious General Douglas McArthur Leadership award. This award is designed to recognize company grade officers who best demonstrate the values of General Douglas McArthur, "duty, honor, and country."

The McArthur Leadership award is given out annually to 24 armed service personnel. Only six of the 24 go to members of the Army National Guard. Captain Aiken was chosen to receive this distinguished honor because of his ability to motivate others, understand fellow soldiers, inspire teamwork, commitment, and esprit de corps.

The criteria determined by the Army to receive this award is rigorous and demanding. Along with the defined selection criteria guidelines, an officer must have intangible aspects of leadership, including people skills, leadership abilities and interpersonal skills. Captain Aiken has committed his life to pursuing these goals for the protection and well-being of the citizens of the United States of America.

Captain Aiken started his career July 31, 1984. He received his commission as a 2nd lieutenant in August and quickly rose to the rank of captain with the 30th Engineer Brigade of Charlotte, North Carolina. He is married to Allison Aiken and is the proud father of two daughters, Lauren and Sarah, and a son, Timothy. During his 18 years of service, Captain Aiken has received 17 U.S. decorations and six State awards. He is currently charged with the overall management of the 30th Engineer Brigade's personnel issues, encompassing six subordinate battalions. His time in service has been exemplary, and he has served as an inspirational role model to many.

I am honored to bring this fine young soldier to the attention of my col-

leagues today. Congratulations to Captain Timothy Aiken receiving the Douglas McArthur Leadership award; and I thank him for the dedicated, selfless service to our country.

CALLING FOR DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY TO RELEASE TAPE

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

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security has had to admit that it used Federal resources, Federal tax dollars last week to track the airplane of a Texas Democratic legislator. For the U.S. agency with the responsibility to protect our families from terrorists instead to use taxes, dollars and our resources to track the former speaker of the Texas House Pete Laney, flying from that hotbed of Islamic radicalism, Hale Center, Texas, to Ardmore, Oklahoma, is absolutely outrageous.

Now that Federal agency is compounding its mistakes, if not its illegal actions, by refusing to release to the American public and press a tape in which the Texas Department of Public Safety talked to the U.S. Homeland Security agency, that conversation leading to the abuse and misuse of Federal tax dollars in this case.

What is the Department of Homeland Security afraid of? What are they hiding? What is on that tape?

It sounds to me, Mr. Speaker, like my years in Washington in the 1970s when then President Nixon refused to let the public see or hear the tape of his White House conversations. We know why President Nixon did not want to release the tape, because it basically was responsible for finding him guilty of abuse of office. My question is, why would the U.S. Department of Homeland Security not release its tape? It owes it to the American people to do so.

PASS PRESIDENT BUSH'S JOBS BILL

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, back home in Georgia we need jobs. We need it for college graduates. We need it for high school graduates. We need it for people who are 35 years old. We need it for people who are 45 years old.

People like Ted Smith. I am going to make up a name, but he was one of the 903 workers who were laid off when the Durango paper mill in St. Mary's, Georgia, closed down. He is looking for work. And that is why it is so important for this body and the other body to pass President Bush's jobs bill.

The jobs bill stimulates the economy by allowing more expensing for small businesses. Small businesses can expand. They can write off more of their

expenses, and they will invest. It is very important. It also helps consumers by allowing them to have a lower tax rate. It accelerates tax reduction that has already been passed by this Congress. It puts it into law, though, in the year 2003 instead of phasing it in over time.

This bill also allows reductions in the capital gains tax. If one sells something and they can keep more of their money, then obviously they are going to be more inclined to sell something. That is a novel concept in Washington, but back home people understand if I sell something, I have got more money in my pocket; it is a good deal. And the best part is less money will go to Washington bureaucracies which are just going to grow the government and reduce our personal freedom.

This jobs package has already passed the House. It just recently passed the other body. Now it is headed towards the Conference Committee. I hope we can get this thing done by the end of the week because folks back home in Georgia, and I am sure it is true in California and New York and Maine and all over this great country, they need jobs, they need work, they need it today. Let us pass this bill.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLE). Pursuant to rule XX, proceedings on the remaining postponed questions will resume tomorrow.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, 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 New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PALLONE 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 Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

CONSOLIDATION OF THE MEDIA

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

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw to the attention of the Members of the House an action that is about to be taken by the Federal Communications Commission. On June 2,

the FCC is going to act on a ruling which in all likelihood will be passed by a vote of three to two, two members of the commission voting against it and three voting for it.

This is a resolution that will continue a process that has been going on in our country now for a number of years. That process is the consolidation of the media, the means of communication in our Nation, the consolidation of that media into the hands of fewer and fewer people.

I think that many people across the country have noticed that in towns and small cities all across America, radio stations that used to be competing with each other and in doing so paid attention to issues that were taking place at the local level, community events, and also concentrating on local news that those radio stations now are not competing with each other but in fact they are owned by the same entity and often they are owned by a corporation that is not even located in that city. Often that corporation is located thousands of miles away and the broadcasting on those stations is actually piped in from distances and has no relationship whatsoever to what is going on in that town or in that city.

This consolidation, I think, is acting contrary to the best interests of the country; and I think it is also quite clearly acting contrary to the Federal communications law of 1934 which stipulated by the Congress that we ought to have in our electronic communications as much diversity of opinion as possible and that radio stations and then later television stations ought to in large measure reflect what is going on in the individual communities where those radio and television stations are located.

Increasingly, that is not the case. Increasingly, we are seeing the homogenization of content on radio and on television particularly. We are also noticing that radio stations are now beginning to charge communications companies and artists to have their artwork, their songs, their music played over those radio stations. That in and of itself may be running afoul of existing law.

There is also, of course, a growing concern about the availability of actual news and information as it is being handled and consolidated by these individual corporations. Suddenly, groups as well as individuals across the country are becoming concerned about this phenomenon, and those groups are very diverse and represent a very broad spectrum of the American people.

Let me give just a couple of examples. Just recently the National Rifle Association became aware of this ruling of the Federal Communications Commission which is pending and which will be acted upon on June 2. The NRA has come out against this ruling, stipulating that they believe that this ruling is not in the best interest of the American people, not in the

best interest of this Republic and not in the best interest of our democratic principles.

Also, the National Council of Catholic Bishops has come out against this ruling. They have come out against it for a slightly different reason. They have noticed that as we have seen the consolidation of media in America, in other words, radio stations and TV stations owned by big corporations and not reflecting the needs of the local community, that in addition to that we have seen a dumbing down of the programming that is being broadcast over radio and television and that often they are observing that the content is becoming lowbrow and demeaning and low grade and base, and they are deeply concerned about the kind of television broadcasting that young people particularly are being exposed to as a result of the fact that more and more of our television stations and radio stations are owned by these major corporations that have no interest whatsoever in the type of content they are broadcasting or the effect that content is having on the people in those communities.

□ 1700

So the National Council of Catholic Bishops has come out opposed to this ruling and also the largest organization of television viewers. This organization represents about 750,000 television viewers across the country and has also come out against this ruling, which is pending on the 2nd of June.

I have introduced a resolution in the House of Representatives, and this resolution calls upon the House to notify the FCC that we want this process stopped. Already we have 96 cosponsors of this resolution, and I am inviting other Members of the House to join us. It is quite clear that the action proposed by the FCC is not in the interests of the country, and it is being opposed by a growing segment of the American community across a very wide spectrum. Please come and join us on this resolution.

TRIBUTE TO APACHE FIREFIGHTER RICK LUPE

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

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, last summer Arizona saw the most devastating fire of the 2002 fire season, the Rodeo-Chedeski Fire. The fire burned 500,000 acres of land and destroyed over 400 homes and millions of dollars worth of property.

Fortunately, due to the efforts of Apache firefighter Rick Lupe, 42, the towns of Show Low, Pinetop, Lakeside, Honda, Whiteriver and others narrowly escaped the same fate as those seared by the Rodeo-Chedeski fire.

Rick, in charge of a division of men, worked to halt the eastward expansion