

has become involved in this issue and has made a big difference as well.

I went with the President of the American Equine Practitioners, who is a veterinarian who opposes this legislation, to the United States Senate; and we had a meeting with JOHN ENSIGN, the Senator from Nevada, who is a veterinarian, and he listened to the debate on the issue. When the debate was over, JOHN ENSIGN made a decision that he was going to introduce this legislation on the Senate side, and has done so with a cosponsor, MARY LANDRIEU, the Democrat from Louisiana. They have a number of cosponsors over there.

So this is legislation that is picking up some real support. I want to take this opportunity to inform Members that it is our intention to continue to push this legislation even though we face many obstacles still within certain points within the House of Representatives. But when this is over, we are going to have in the neighborhood of 230, 240, 250, at a minimum, cosponsors of this legislation.

Now, there is a writer named Matthew Scully, who is a former literary agent of the National Review and an occasional speech writer for President Bush; and he recently wrote a book entitled "Dominion." And in his book, Mr. Scully affirms man's dominion over animals, which is certainly true; we have dominion over animals. But he also reminds us of our responsibility to animals. To quote Mr. Scully: "The care of animals brings with it often complicated problems of economics, ecology, and science. But above all, it confronts us with questions of conscience. Many of us seem to have lost all sense of restraint towards animals and understanding of natural boundaries, a respect for them as creatures with needs and wants and a place and a purpose of their own. Too often, to casually, we assume that our interests always come first, and if it is profitable or expedient, that is all we need to know. Sometimes we are called to treat animals with kindness, not because they have rights, not because they have power, not because they have any claim to equality, but in a sense because they do not, because they all stand unequal and powerless before us.

"It is true that the welfare of animals is not high on most people's priority list and kindness to animals is among the humbler duties of human charity, though for just that reason among the more easily neglected, and it is true there will always be enough injustice and human suffering in the world to make the wrong done to animals seem small and even insignificant."

Matthew Scully goes on and says perhaps that is part of the animal's role among us, to awaken humility and compassion.

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We have the power, we have the rights, we have the dominion over ani-

mals; and that is precisely why I believe that the gentleman from New York's bill and the gentleman from South Carolina's bill is so important, because it will be the first time that I know of that we have had a debate in the United States Congress on this important issue facing our old friend. At the horse park in Lexington, Kentucky, there is an inscription that says, "Civilization was built on the back of a horse." So we are going to have a debate in this Congress on whether or not a French company and a Belgian company should violate Texas State law to slaughter our horses to export to Belgium, Italy, France, and Japan horse meat for human consumption, particularly when you consider that horses have never been a part of the food chain in our country.

As we approach the midnight hour and these Special Orders come to a close, I want to once again reiterate that a lot of what has happened on this legislation was the result of what happened to the horse Ferdinand in Japan at Arrow Stud Farm. Under the continued leadership of the gentleman from New York (Mr. SWEENEY) and the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPRATT) and the 214 cosponsors as of today of this legislation and Senators JOHN ENSIGN and MARY LANDRIEU and the other Senators who have introduced this legislation on the Senate side, it is our intent to pursue our goal of making it illegal to slaughter horses in the U.S. for human consumption.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. CARSON of Indiana (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of official business.

Mr. KANJORSKI (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of official business.

Ms. SOLIS (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and the balance of the week on account of official business in the district.

Mrs. BONO (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today and the balance of the week on account of illness.

Mr. ROHRABACHER (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today on account of caring for his newborn children.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. PASCRELL) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFazio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. LEE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. STRICKLAND, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MCDERMOTT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. EMANUEL, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BLUMENAUER, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PASCRELL, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CONYERS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MEEKS of New York, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. NADLER, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. OSBORNE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. OSBORNE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today and May 5 and 6.

Mr. HENSARLING, for 5 minutes, May 5.

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida, for 5 minutes, May 5.

(The following Member (at her own request) to revise and extend her remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. PELOSI, for 5 minutes, today.

BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Jeff Trandahl, Clerk of the House reports that on April 30, 2004 he presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill.

H.R. 4219. To provide an extension of highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund pending enactment of a law reauthorizing the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 41 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, May 5, 2004, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

7935. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule — Eligibility of Suspended Health Care Providers to Receive Payment of Federal Employees Health Benefits Program Funds; Financial Sanctions of Health Care Providers Participating in the Federal Health Benefits Program (RIN: 3206-AJ42) received March 25, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

7936. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule — Prevailing Rate Systems;