

So it is not inconsistent. I think it is consistent with a good welfare reform system, a good minimum wage, so increase the minimum wage as we move people to work. I appreciate the gentleman's remarks.

ARMS EMBARGO IN BOSNIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. COX] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. COX of California. Mr. Speaker, during his recent circumnavigation of the planet, President Clinton told the G-7 summit leaders that they should join with him in urging Russia to put the squeeze on Iranian mullahs who are shipping arms, in particular shipping arms to the Hezbollah guerrillas in Lebanon.

While the President was calling on our allies to pressure Iran, and while the President and the Clinton administration were calling the Iranian terrorists, quote, "the main source of international terrorism," and while publicly condemning Iran's shipment of arms to the Hezbollah guerrillas in Lebanon, Bill Clinton was secretly and simultaneously conniving at even bigger Iranian arms shipments to Bosnia.

Let us look at the history of this. On May 30, 1992, the United States imposed an arms embargo on the former Yugoslavia. The United States supported it, and when spy photographs showed Iranian 747's unloading illegal arms shipments in Zagreb, our State Department told us and told the world that we raised hell.

That was the United States' policy that candidate Bill Clinton opposed. Candidate Bill Clinton said he supported lifting the arms embargo in Bosnia, not so that Iran could sell weapons to the Bosnian Moslems, but rather so they could receive support from United States allies like Saudi Arabia and Turkey.

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As President, he promised when he was a candidate, he would lift the unfair United Nations arms embargo against Bosnia. But once in office, Bill Clinton completely changed his mind. He broke that pledge, broke that promise, and opposed lifting the arms embargo.

He reversed his position because, he said, it would be wrong for any international arms shipments to go to Bosnia. It would "Convert a complex ethnic war into an American responsibility. The United States must, therefore, oppose any international arms shipments to Bosnia."

The Congress, however, voted to lift the arms embargo and sent the President a bill. It was not quite unanimous, but it was hugely bipartisan. Democrats and Republicans in the House and Senate sent the President a bill so that we could, through our allies, help the Bosnian Moslems to defend themselves. The President vetoed that bill. He said

nobody, not Turkey, not Saudi Arabia, none of our friends, least of all the United States of America, could help arm the Bosnian Moslems.

The President assured not only Congress, but the American people and allies, like Britain and France, that he was staunchly opposed to lifting the arms embargo. And without telling even our own Joint Chiefs of Staff, it now develops the President secretly let it be known in Iran that the United States would not oppose huge, illegal arms shipments to the Bosnian Moslems.

Huge quantities of weapons, accompanied by Iranian intelligence agents and mujahedin rebels, were thus shipped into Bosnia, by a regime that the Clinton administration publicly was branding as the financier, the armorer, the trainer, the safe haven, and inspiration for terrorists. These are the people that the secret Clinton policy, that Bill Clinton himself, secretly was introducing to Europe.

As the U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defense was using those exact words I just quoted, the financier, armorer, trainer, safe haven, and inspiration for terrorists, the description of Iran, he was using those exact same words in his testimony to Congress. His boss in the White House, Bill Clinton, knew that up to eight cargo jets each month were taking off with Iranian arms bound for Bosnia. There can be no question that this was duplicitous.

Right now congressional committees are preparing to investigate this sordid matter, to determine whether laws were broken governing illegal covert operations and governing failure to report truthfully to the Congress.

But while it remains to be seen whether and, if so, which laws were broken, there is no question that the President broke his word to this Congress and to the American people. There can be no question that the President broke his word to France and to England. In briefs prepared for John Major and Jacques Chirac at the G-7 Summit, unknown to the President, they had incontrovertible proof that the President had lied publicly to them.

It is incumbent upon this Congress to take this matter with the utmost gravity and to investigate it so that we can restore the good word of the American people around the world.

HELPING WORKING AMERICANS THROUGH AN INCREASE IN THE MINIMUM WAGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Connecticut [Ms. DELAURO] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, my Republican colleagues continue to refuse to allow a vote on the minimum wage. It was only minutes ago in this body that they once again rejected a democratic effort to bring the minimum wage increase to the floor for a vote. I

might add that in that vote were 15 Republican colleagues who only days ago, along with a few others, who said that they were splitting with their leadership; they believed that we ought to pass a minimum wage, and that that vote ought to be brought up in this body. Fifteen of them, when they had the opportunity, they would have made the difference, they would have made the difference in the vote, so that the people's House, the House of Representatives, could have voted to raise the minimum wage a mere 90 cents.

As a matter of fact, because I was watching the clock, when there was about 220 votes, that is enough in order to defeat the opportunity to bring the vote up, several of them hung back, waited until it was lost, and then cast their vote against bringing it up. Talk about profiles in courage? Real courage. But it is nice to get the press accounts in the last few days of how you break with leadership and call for a minimum wage. And when you have the opportunity which this body afforded only a few minutes ago, they took a walk. I am sure that their constituents are going to take a hard look at this vote.

I have bad news for those who oppose a fair minimum wage. We are not done. We will be back, again and again and again, until we see the minimum wage increased in this country.

We will not give up, because there is a lot at stake in this minimum wage debate and in this vote. This debate is not about yet another way for my Republican colleagues to reward the rich and the powerful in this country. It is not another perk for those in power or a payoff to some special interest lobby. What is at stake here is whether or not this Congress will honor and reward hard work and tell the hard working men and women in this Nation that we care about what you do, we honor what you do, and we know what a difficult struggle it is every single week to scramble, to pay those bills, to make sure that your kids can go to college. And then, my God, after these years of work, that you can have a decent and dignified and secure retirement.

We will tell minimum wage workers that we respect that valiant struggle. The minimum wage is already at a 40-year low. It continues to plummet in value. And what we do is we discourage people from working. We say to people, go ahead, be on welfare.

That is crazy. We want to reward work in this country. That is what it is all about. That is what the people are about, that is what my folks are about. They worked hard. They worked hard to be able to send me to school. And people who are doing that ought to understand that those who they elect are going to reward that hard work.

Who are the typical minimum wage workers? The typical minimum worker is a woman. Almost two-thirds are adults, 20 years of age or older. Do not let them get away with saying the minimum wage workers are teenagers. They are not. That is not true.