

PRESIDENT'S ACTION REPRESENTS ABUSE OF LINE ITEM VETO AUTHORITY

(Mrs. FOWLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. FOWLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to condemn the President's decision yesterday to line item veto 38 military construction projects.

The President's action represents a blatant violation of the budget agreement reached earlier this year between the executive and the legislative branches. Funding for the projects included in this year's military construction appropriations bill was entirely within the cap set forth by that agreement.

The President's action represents a clear abuse of the line item veto authority. In the case of the projects for Naval Station Mayport in my district the pier improvements in question are necessary to meet near-term home porting requirements set forth by the Navy. These improvements will be built at a later date but at a higher cost to the taxpayers.

The President acted based on false information provided by the Office of Management and Budget. According to OMB and the President, the Mayport project did not begin construction until fiscal year 1998. This is patently untrue and I advised OMB of that last week. This project would have begun construction in June of 1998.

The President's action was an abuse of his power and authority. Every Member needs to be on notice we need to remind the President that the Founding Fathers did not intend this body to be a rubber stamp.

CONGRESS SHOULD DO REAL EDUCATION REFORM

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

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, today Democrats are very concerned about education in America. We want to rebuild our schools. We want to upgrade our schools. We want to repair our schools. We believe that is the way to help local communities. The Republicans, on the other hand, believe the way to do it is to take money out of public schools and put it into vouchers.

The fact of the matter is that the majority of American students, nine out of ten, will go to public schools. Under their voucher program, a few people, under an experimental program, will get money to go to vouchers, the very poor. That will leave the middle class and the working class in public schools and classrooms that are sub par.

A third of our Nation's schools need extensive repair or replacement. One-half of our schools have major environmental problems, such as poor ventila-

tion, asbestos, poor heating or lighting. We have overcrowding in many of our Nation's schools. We need to help local communities rebuild America's education infrastructure. We need to put money in public education where it really counts, and that is rebuilding and upgrading American schools. I urge Congress to do real education reform.

CAMPAIGN REFORM SHOULD FREE THE PAYCHECKS OF AMERICAN WORKERS

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, imagine the outcry if your utility company added to your bill money that you would have to pay to support their political agenda, and each year you would have to give the utility company hundreds of dollars so they could push for their political agenda, support their political candidates and protect their monopoly.

Well, it happens every month here in America. Working men and women are forced to pay compulsory dues used for political ploys which they do not support. Forced to fund campaigns. Forced to fund candidates. And they do not have a voice in how the money is spent.

The Supreme Court said it was illegal to do it in the Beck decision, but the administration through Executive order deliberately chose not to uphold the Court's decision. Thomas Jefferson said it was tyranny and a sin to force our citizens to financially support political agendas with which they disagreed.

Americans know it is wrong. Campaign reform should not and must not occur without freeing the paychecks of American workers.

EDUCATION INFRASTRUCTURE IS IN A CRISIS

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

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, we need to do more for the education of our children. In my home State of Ohio education is in a crisis, and yet we make decisions to take tax dollars from working moms and dads and give those tax dollars to wealthy urban areas so that they can build sports stadiums.

I received a letter from a local school superintendent who said, "Dear Ted, I want to thank you for your article in the Portsmouth Daily Times about putting the education of our children above the building of sports stadiums. It is going to take tough decisions to solve the school funding problem."

Then he says, "It is so unfair for our students to have academic classes in an old remodeled tiny locker room, and yet a new stadium is the priority."

"Last week," he said, "I had to move a kindergarten class out into the hall-

way because of sewer gas fumes. There were no empty spare rooms to hold the children for such an emergency."

Mr. Speaker, we need to support public education in order to educate our children in the way they deserve to be educated.

□ 1030

HERE WE GO AGAIN

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

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, here we go again. First it was Whitewater, then Travelgate, then Filegate, then White House phone calls. And if that was not enough, now we have a thing called Laundrygate.

Three of Ron Carey's political consultants pled guilt to a money-laundering scheme which has caused the 1996 Teamsters election to be overturned. Their cooperation with Federal prosecutors has shed new light on how to raise laundered money. And to no one's surprise, it seems the White House and DNC and several lobbying groups have been implicated.

Mr. Carey claims he was a victim. The Clinton/Gore campaign and DNC say they know nothing about it. Yet, when you follow the money, the money trail points right to them, in their direction.

Frankly, Mr. Speaker, I am beginning to wonder who exactly is in control. Maybe it is the guy next door, perhaps even more than they care to admit. I really wonder.

LUPUS AWARENESS MONTH

(Mrs. MEEK of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, this is October, Lupus Awareness Month.

Many people have not heard of lupus. It is a disease that is extremely widespread but not well-known. We have an immune system which protects our bodies against viruses, bacteria, and other foreign materials. However, a person who has lupus, their immune system, which is supposed to be their protector, becomes the attacker.

Perhaps the most discouraging aspect of lupus is the fact that there is no cure. I know this from firsthand experience, having lost a sister and very close friend to lupus.

I have introduced a bill (H.R. 1111), the Lupus Research and Care Amendment Act of 1997, which would increase research and deliver essential services to individuals with lupus and their families.

Think about it; many of my colleagues have people in their family who suffer from lupus. It is a young woman's disease. It usually attacks women in their childbearing years. It is

like arthritis, rheumatism, but it attacks every system of the body.

I urge all of my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, to join with me in cosponsoring H.R. 1111.

COMMENTS BY VICE PRESIDENT GORE REGARDING SOLUTION FOR GLOBAL WARMING

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express outrage at the recent comments made by Vice President AL GORE to the effect that abortion is the solution for global warming.

I would like to enter into the RECORD a letter many of us in Congress will be sending him today. Let me read a portion of it.

Mr. Gore, as the father of four children, surely you see the value of your own children to our society. Since we are sure you do not regard your own children as a threat to our environment, it is difficult to understand why you would regard a large African, Asian, or Latin American family as an environmental threat.

Your statements contain a crucial fallacy of logic; namely, that human life is incompatible with sound environmental policy. We believe it is practically and morally essential that these two goals be pursued together. A pristine environment will be of no use to the millions of children who would be sacrificed to the policies you endorse.

You accused those who oppose abortion as part of U.S.-funded population control programs of creating controversy needlessly. Let us be clear; it is not our reaffirmation of human dignity that ought to be controversial but, rather, the violence and degradation inflicted upon women and children through these programs.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the Members of the House to seek environmental health for our world without endangering the lives of defenseless children.

The letter referred to follows:

Hon. ALBERT GORE,
The White House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR VICE PRESIDENT GORE: We write to express our concern over the comments you made to TV weather forecasters on climate control at the White House on October 1, 1997. Your conviction that abortion programs in developing countries are crucial to saving the environment is directly at odds with the American commitment to protecting human life.

Mr. Gore, as the father of four children, surely you see the value of your own children to our society. Since we are sure you do not regard your own children as a threat to our environment, it is difficult to understand why you would regard a large African, Asian, or Latin American family as an environmental threat.

Your statements contain a crucial fallacy of logic, namely that human life is incompatible with sound environmental policy. We believe it is practically and morally essential that these two goals be pursued together. A pristine environment will be of no use to the millions of children who would be sacrificed to the policies you endorse.

You accused those who oppose abortion as part of U.S.-funded population control programs of creating "controversy" needlessly.

Let us be clear: it is not our reaffirmation of human dignity that ought to be controversial, but rather the violence and degradation inflicted upon women and children through these programs.

Mr. Vice President, we urge you to seek environmental health for our world without endangering the lives of defenseless children. I hope that you and others in the Administration will bear in mind that when it comes to solving the problems of our planet, human beings are our first natural resource.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION CUT AT DYESS AFB, TEXAS

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

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the President used his new-found line item veto authority to cut a number of congressionally and Defense Department approved military construction projects at military installations around the United States.

Among those projects eliminated was a squadron operations facility at Dyess Air Force Base in Abilene, TX. With one stroke of his pen, he has eliminated the means of building a facility needed to serve the 500 to 1,000 men and women who will make up the 13th Bomber Squadron in the year 2000.

One of the reasons given for vetoing this project is that it did not meet the so-called quality of life requirement for funding military construction projects. I do not know what the President's definition of quality of life is, but I do know that there are currently no existing facilities to house the 13th Bomber Squadron.

Without this facility, the 500 to 1,000 men and women of the 13th Bomber Squadron will be denied the tools they need to do their job. How will this add to their quality of life or their ability to discharge their duties?

This is a programmed project. The appropriate committees of the House and Senate saw the value of this project and funded it for the good of the Air Force and our national security.

Mr. President, you were wrong to veto this project.

ERRONEOUS INFORMATION CAUSES BAD DECISIONS

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

Mr. SKEEN. Mr. Speaker, imagine working where buildings do not meet current safety regulations, the heating and cooling systems do not work, the septic tanks are failing, facilities are crumbling, adequate fire detection and suppression systems do not exist, and in one instance a building is a breeding ground for the hantavirus due to rat infestation.

What am I describing? The White House? No. It is difficult to imagine, but these working conditions do exist

for approximately 200 men and women who work at the military launch complexes in southern New Mexico. These are people who are protecting our national interest by testing vital national defense systems, such as the Patriot Missile, one of the most widely recognized and successful systems.

Yesterday, by saying "no" to improving working conditions, when the President vetoed portions of the military construction legislation, he said "no" to the women and men by denying them the opportunity to perform their duties in the safest facilities possible.

I am introducing legislation today that will restore funding for this and other meritorious projects. The President's decision was misguided. This is not about deficit reduction. This is about the President taking the "Washington knows best" approach and ignoring the judgment of individuals who are closest to the problems.

AL GORE'S STATEMENTS MADE AT WEATHER FORECASTERS' MEETING

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I too rise today to take exception to the statements made by Vice President AL GORE last Wednesday in a meeting of the weather forecasters.

In this speech, Vice President GORE claimed that overpopulation was a major cause of worldwide environmental problems and global warming. But what was indefensible were the solutions which he offered for the still disputed problem of global warming.

The Vice President praised President Clinton for the repeal of the Mexico City policy, which permitted hundreds of millions of tax dollars to flow to organizations which perform or actively promote abortion as a method of family planning in Third World countries.

According to the Washington Times, Mr. GORE also stated that industrialized nations have stabilized their populations through birth control, abortion, and a reduction in child mortality rates but that world population would grow if developing nations are not targeted now.

Has the Vice President's environmental extremism gone so far that he now advocates the worldwide killing of innocent babies as the solution to the still unproven problem of global warming?

TODAY IS GREAT DAY FOR CONGRESS

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

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today is a great day for the Congress. It shows that the system does work.