

There was no objection.

CERTIFICATION IN CONNECTION WITH EFFECTIVENESS OF AUSTRALIAN GROUP REGARDING EXPORT OF CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS-RELATED MATERIALS AND TECHNOLOGY (H. DOC. NO. 105-246)

The SPEAKER pro tempore 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 International Relations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with the resolution of advice and consent to ratification of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, adopted by the Senate of the United States on April 24, 1997, I hereby certify in connection with Condition (7)(C)(i), Effectiveness of Australia Group, that;

Australia Group members continue to maintain an equally effective or more comprehensive control over the export of toxic chemicals and their precursors, dual-use processing equipment, human, animal and plant pathogens and toxins with potential biological weapons application, and dual-use biological equipment, as that afforded by the Australia Group as of April 25, 1997; and

The Australia Group remains a viable mechanism for limiting the spread of chemical and biological weapons-related materials and technology, and that the effectiveness of the Australia Group has not been undermined by changes in membership, lack of compliance with common export controls and nonproliferation measures, or the weakening of common controls and nonproliferation measures, in force as of April 25, 1997.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, April 29, 1998.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

HIGHER EDUCATION ACT REAUTHORIZATION

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

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, it is important that the House move quickly next week to reauthorize the Higher Education Act. As an educator for nearly 20 years, I know the importance of ensuring that a col-

lege education is within reach for all of our people.

I represent a district that has a tremendous stake in the Higher Education Act. That was made clear in an all-day forum that I convened in Raleigh on September 22 of last year. We received recommendations from the presidents of our institutions of higher education, from a number of students and financial aid administrators and business leaders. I am pleased that the bill reported by the Committee on Education and the Workforce reflects many of these concerns.

For example, the committee saw fit to include the highly successful State Student Incentive Grant program in this year's reauthorization. This is the only student aid program that maintains the Federal partnership with the States and encourages them to do their part to help needy students attend college.

The cornerstone of the higher education is the Pell Grant program. But more funds are desperately needed to be authorized, and I am extremely pleased that the Higher Education Act included a dramatic increase to a maximum grant level of \$4,500.

As an original cosponsor of the Campus-Based Child Care bill of the gentleman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA), I was pleased to see its inclusion in the Higher Education Act.

More and more young mothers are pursuing college degrees. For some, it is a matter of making the transition from welfare to work. The Campus-Based Child Care provision is one of the most forward-thinking aspects of this bill.

I am also pleased that adjustments were made that would allow historically black colleges and universities more flexibility in funding and expanding graduate programs. Title 3 funding must remain a high priority as we implement the Higher Education Act.

Mr. Speaker, this is not a perfect bill, and I particularly regret that this year's reauthorization does not more effectively target money to train teachers in the use of new technology. That is a need that I have heard repeatedly about in my district. I am hopeful that education leaders in the States will give this need high priority as they allocate the bill's block grant funds.

Mr. Speaker, the Higher Education Act is landmark legislation critical to the needs of students and their families and to our Nation's commitment to educational opportunity and excellence.

We face new challenges ranging from accommodating growing numbers of nontraditional and mid-career students, to training students for an increasingly sophisticated workplace, to orienting education to the international marketplace.

The Higher Education Act will be of great importance as we meet these challenges, and I urge my colleagues to pass it enthusiastically with a large bipartisan majority next week.

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to trade my 5-minute Special Order time with the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS).

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

There was no objection.

RESPONSE TO ATTACK BY MINORITY LEADER ON SPEAKER GINGRICH

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

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to respond to a partisan attack launched by the minority leader on the Speaker of the House this morning. Once again, instead of focusing on the issues at hand, the minority leader has sought to change the subject.

The Speaker has made two very important points regarding the White House and its continued ethics problems. First, the Speaker has stressed that no man is above the law. Second, he has pointed out that the American people deserve to know the truth about the activities in the White House.

The minority leader has decided to divert attention from those very basic points. It is the hope of the White House and of the minority that this diversion will keep attention away from the very real ethical problems of this administration. I tell you, Mr. Speaker, the truth will come out. It may be sooner, and it may be later, but, someday, the truth will come out.

I urge the President to preserve the dignity of the office that he holds by coming forward about the facts. The longer that these allegations fester, the more damage is done to the presidency.

Unfortunately, the White House has rejected that advice. Rather than being candid with the American people, the White House hides behind executive privilege. In fact, the Clinton/Gore administration has invoked executive privilege 12 times. They have used executive privilege almost as often as they have used the veto pen.

Throughout their administration, they have vetoed only 20 bills. They have employed executive privilege for campaign scandals, for travel office scandals, for memos regarding drug policy, for Filegate, and for other scandals.

That is a very troubling precedent, a precedent that should trouble the Democrat Party. But an eerie silence has emanated from the Democrat minority.

When it comes to the President's use of executive privilege, the Democrats hear no evil, see no evil, and speak no evil. I have yet to hear one member of the minority leadership admit that they are troubled by the White House scandals. Where is the outrage from the Democrats about these allegations?