

Ohio, with dual American-Israeli citizenship. David's family has been waiting 27 years for justice, to find the killers and to bring them to justice.

Palestinian terrorist Abu Daoud says he plotted the senseless murders in Munich. Now is the time for the United States and the world community to marshal its forces to capture Mr. Daoud and bring him before a court of law. We must do this for the memory of David Berger. We must do this for the families of all of the athletes who perished, and we must do this to fight terrorism wherever and whenever we find it.

CELEBRATING JUNETEENTH

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

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow thousands and thousands of African Americans in Galveston, Texas, the birthplace of Juneteenth, and around the Nation will celebrate this holiday of freedom and justice. President Abraham Lincoln technically ended the right to own human beings in 1863, but most slaves gained their freedom only after Union troops took control of Confederate territory and released them from bondage.

It took 2½ years after the Emancipation Proclamation for the Union Army to reach Texas, the last place where slavery was not only allowed, but also enforced.

After Union General Gordon Granger rode into Galveston and announced to the States' 200,000 slaves that they were free, they immediately erupted into jubilant celebration, much like the 4th of July.

As we look ahead to the next millennium, I challenge all of us to take this opportunity while we celebrate the rich history of this celebration of freedom to rededicate ourselves to the value of equal opportunity for all Americans, because that is at the heart of Juneteenth and the American ideal.

WASTING TIME IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, after the high school shooting in my district last year, in my hometown of Springfield, Oregon, I talked to hundreds of residents. We had an incredible community dialogue about the causes and the possible solutions for youth violence. Everyone agreed it was complex. They had a long list of things they would like to see done. They would like to see something done about violence in the media.

After 66 amendments and dozens of hours of staying in session until 2 o'clock in the morning, this House has done nothing about violence in the media. After a day and a half on the

very sensitive issue of gun control, this House has done nothing to extend instant check and background checks to people who purchase guns at gun shows. After 66 amendments and dozens of hours and late into the night, we have done nothing to add to the services to serve at-risk youth and their families and prevent them from getting into violence. Nothing. Zero.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my constituents and I hope my colleagues' constituents were watching. What we did here does not even meet the common-sense laugh test. It was a disgrace for this House of Representatives.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS APPROPRIATIONS BILL AND U.S. CAUCASUS POLICY

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. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, in the other body, the Senate, the Appropriations Committee, marked up the foreign operation appropriations legislation for fiscal year 2000. The legislation reported out yesterday addresses several key issues concerning U.S. policies and priorities for the Caucasus Mountain region of the former Soviet Union, an area of vital and growing importance for the U.S. in the 21st century.

Here in the House, action on the foreign operations bill is not expected until later this summer. I wanted to take a few minutes to cite some of the key provisions in the Senate legislation that I hope the House will address, as well as to cite some additional areas where the Senate did not act, but I hope the House will.

As cochair of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues, I plan to put my suggestions on a letter to the House Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, and that subcommittee, I should point out, has many good friends of Armenia, and I look forward to working with them.

First, the good news, Mr. Speaker. The Senate Foreign Operations bill earmarks \$90 million in assistance to the Republic of Armenia. This represents an increase over the slightly less than \$80 million that was reported in fiscal year 1999, and is certainly an improvement over the \$71.5 million requested by the administration in its budget. I believe it is important for the United States to maintain our support and partnership with Armenia, which continues to make major strides towards democracy, as evidenced by last month's parliamentary elections, as

well as market reforms and increasing integration with the West.

However, Armenia's strides towards providing a better life for its people at home and being a partner for peace and stability with the West continue to be challenged by the blockades imposed by the neighboring countries, Azerbaijan and Turkey. Provisions of U.S. support provides at least some relief from the difficulties imposed by the blockades and represents a moral statement by our country that we should try to offset the effects of the illegal blockades imposed on Armenia by its neighbors. I would urge the House subcommittee to provide the same \$90 million earmark that has been included by the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, another area where I will be working to have the House follow the Senate language is with regard to something that is not there, and that is repealing section 907 of the Freedom Support Act, which restricts aid to Azerbaijan until that country lifts its blockade of Armenia and Nagorno Karabagh.

Last month, Secretary of State Albright called on the Senate appropriators to repeal section 907. When the Freedom Support Act was adopted in 1992, establishing our post-Cold War U.S. foreign policy for the Newly Independent States of the former Soviet empire, section 907 was included as a way of holding Azerbaijan accountable for the blockade of its neighbors. Azerbaijan has continued its strategy of trying to strangle Armenia and Nagorno Karabagh. I am glad the Senate appropriators resisted the administration's proposal to lift section 907.

As I just indicated, Azerbaijan's blockade is against both the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Nagorno Karabagh. Nagorno Karabagh is an historically Armenian-populated region that Stalin's mapmakers included as part of Azerbaijan. Because Nagorno Karabagh's independence has not been officially recognized by the United States, it was a tremendous breakthrough when Congress approved \$12.5 million in assistance for Nagorno Karabagh in the fiscal year 1998 legislation. Unfortunately, much of that assistance has yet to be obligated, and while the Senate is silent on this issue, I will be working with my Armenia issues caucus colleagues to ensure the House bill also provides report language directing the Agency for International Development to expedite delivery of this assistance.

Another area where the Senate bill is silent is on the issue of the peace process for Nagorno Karabagh. The U.S. has been one of the countries taking the lead in the peace process under the auspices of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. And late last year, the U.S. and our negotiating partners put forward a proposal known as the Common State Proposal as a basis for moving the negotiations forward. Despite some serious reservations, the elected governments of both