

watch in several States the tragedy of lost children by the children's protective services.

I have already filed a bill dealing with infant abandonment in hospitals, and also the question of hospitals attending to the information or trying to find family members of abandoned children that may be left, or newborn babies that may be left in hospitals. We will be looking to file a bill dealing with and addressing the question of children's protective services across the Nation.

Let me first of all say that there are many who do good work as part of the system of protecting our children in States across the Nation. Let me applaud those individuals. Particularly, I would like to cite the Harris County Children's Protective Services that had worked with me so valiantly on the issue of baby abandonment and other child protection issues.

But when there is fault and error, when there is a circumstance such as that that generated the loss of life of a 7-year-old boy in New Jersey, and the starvation of two very young children, we need to address the question of accountability by our children's protective services across the Nation.

So I will be filing legislation to require an accounting of the children that are under their jurisdiction, an annual reporting, and a knowledge of whose possession those children are in. Our children are our most precious resource, and therefore we need to include legislation to protect them at every opportunity that we have.

Mr. Speaker, I will also be filing two private bills, and have filed them, one dealing with Gao Zhan, an outstanding academic from China, who still at this point has not received her citizenship. She was held against her will in China just a few months ago. We are delighted that she is released, and her husband and son are citizens; and I hope we will consider her plight.

Let me also say, Mr. Speaker, that I am filing a private bill on behalf of the Kesbeh family, who have been in this country for almost 12 years and have made every effort to become citizens, and in fact have a 9-year-old daughter. We hope that under the laws of this land their case can be considered and that we will treat them fairly under our laws.

Mr. Speaker, I believe we are here to work, and I hope that my colleagues will join me in supporting the legislative initiative that I have put forward and, as well, that we will find compromise and opportunity to work with those who are unemployed and to provide an outstanding economic stimulus package.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 23. An act to provide for a 5-month extension of the Temporary Extended Unemployment Compensation Act of 2002 and for a transition period for individuals receiving compensation when the program under such Act ends.

S. RES. 1

Resolved, That a committee consisting of two Senators be appointed to join such committee as may be appointed by the House of Representatives to wait upon the President of the United States and inform him that a quorum of each House is assembled and that the Congress is ready to receive any communications he may be pleased to make.

S. RES. 2

Resolved, That the Secretary inform the House of Representatives that a quorum of the Senate is assembled and that the Senate is ready to proceed to business.

S. RES. 5

Resolved, That the House of Representatives be notified of the election of Ted Stevens, a Senator from the State of Alaska, as President pro tempore.

S. RES. 9

Resolved, That the House of Representatives be notified of the election of the Honorable Emily J. Reynolds of Tennessee as Secretary of the Senate.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE WAYNE OWENS, FORMER MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM UTAH

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CANNON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, as dean of the Utah delegation, it is my sad duty to announce to the House the passing of the Honorable Wayne Owens, a former Member of this body and a good friend to many of us.

Wayne died unexpectedly just before Christmas of a massive heart attack while walking on the beach in Tel Aviv, Israel, at the conclusion of a peace-seeking trip to several countries in the Middle East. He was only 65 years old.

That Wayne Owens would be involved in that kind of activity as his life ended is no surprise to those of us who knew him. He spent a significant part of his life trying to bring about accommodation of the interests and passions plaguing that part of the world.

Wayne Owens served in this House from 1973 to 1975 and again from 1987 to 1993, representing the people of the Second District of Utah. His political career inspired a generation of young people with his political idealism. He was a Democrat and he and I differed on many policy issues, but we never disagreed on the need for the involvement of the electorate, and especially young people, in the art and science of making law. In fact, I might say that while we disagreed on almost every issue, he was never, and I hope I also was never, disagreeable.

In the House, Wayne served on the Committee on the Judiciary, and we had parallel careers in that he inves-

tigated one Republican President and I, early in my career, investigated another Democratic President. Later, he served on the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and it was his service there that led to his lifelong concern for the people of the Middle East and to his efforts to mediate their conflicts. He created the Center for Middle East Peace and Economic Cooperation to assist in that effort.

At the funeral service held for Wayne Owens, Gordon B. Hinckley, president of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, said of him: "Any man who is engaged in the cause of peace is engaged in the cause of Christ. By that measure, Wayne was a true Christian."

The world is poorer for his passing. I join my colleagues in extending to his wife, Marlene, and his children and grandchildren our deepest sympathy for his loss, and our profound respect for their husband, father, and grandfather. We will miss him.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Members have 5 days to submit tributes to their former colleague.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. HINCHEY).

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me, and thank him for providing me an opportunity to express my deep affection and respect for Wayne Owens and his memory.

I can say that we were very good friends, even though our tenure here in the House of Representatives did not coincide. He was leaving for the second time, actually, as I was coming in in 1993; but we were associated by virtue of the fact that we were interested in similar issues. Two of those issues most principally were the protection and preservation of open space in the State of Utah and peace in the Middle East.

It was because of the initiative of Wayne Owens that I became the sponsor of a very significant piece of legislation here in the House of Representatives which would set aside a vast amount of publicly owned land in the State of Utah to be incorporated within that property owned by the Federal Government which is declared wilderness; in other words, affording it the highest level of protection for today and for future generations.

Future generations is what Wayne Owens often had in mind, whether he was working on environmental issues or working with young people in his own State of Utah or elsewhere. He was also, as we all know, dedicated to the idea of bringing about peace in the Middle East between Israelis and Palestinians and others in that part of the world.

He first developed this intense interest as a result of his missionary work