

(Mr. GREEN of Texas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

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(Mr. EDWARDS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

OCEAN POLICY

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

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, the Republicans have been in the majority for basically 10 years, and we have done a number of very positive things. What I would like to speak to this august body about tonight is an issue of oceans.

In 1994, when the Republican majority took over, they began to reorganize the committee process. At that time, they wanted to make it more applicable to the Members to represent their districts, to represent their regions and to be more efficiently organized, to spend the taxpayers dollars wisely.

What we did, however, was to consider that we will continue to reorganize the process as the years went by to ensure that Members had an opportunity to serve on the committee that not only represented their districts, but that also represented their desire to be a visionary Member of this Congress.

□ 1945

One of the committees that was eliminated was the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee that dealt with oceans issues, fisheries issues, the Great Lakes and things of that nature.

The reason that one single standing committee was important was because there are billions and billions and billions of dollars that are generated in the U.S. economy as a result of the world's, and especially the jurisdiction of the oceans, that fall in the United States, of the oceans, whether that is trade, whether that is commercial fisheries, recreational fisheries, marine habitat, the weather, the climate, the

rain that sustains the country. All of these issues are dealt with because of ocean and Great Lakes issues.

The committee, however, was reduced to a subcommittee and put under the jurisdiction of the Interior Committee which was renamed the Committee on Resources.

There is still a great deal of effort to put forth a good ocean policy by the Federal Government. However, since the full committee was reduced to a subcommittee, much of the jurisdiction was taken away. On the House side, there are 19 full and subcommittees that deal with a myriad of ocean issues; and, as a result of that, even though committees work well together in their area of jurisdiction, the issues dealing with oceans are relegated to a very small piece of any one single committee, even the Committee on Resources, where that full standing committee became a subcommittee.

Because the issues are so fragmented, there is no one particular center of gravity to develop policy, in my judgment, for the U.S. ocean policy.

What I am suggesting that we do in the next Congress is that we create a standing committee that has full jurisdiction over the oceans, that takes that \$120 billion annual economy that is generated by oceans, that deals with the commercial fishing activity from Alaska to Hawaii, to the Pacific, to the Gulf of Mexico, to the Atlantic Ocean, an area whose jurisdiction is larger than the 50 States combined. We take all of those issues and we combine it into one full committee, and that one full committee will have jurisdiction over the issues that are dealt with as far as the oceans are concerned.

Let us just take commercial fishing activity, for example. Everybody has gone into a store and purchased fish. Everybody has gone into a restaurant and ordered fish. That generates billions upon billions of economic activity. But 75 percent of the commercial fish caught in U.S. waters spawn in tidal estuaries, and one of the problems with tidal estuaries is they are being polluted. They are being fragmented. They are being dammed. They are being degraded in a whole host of ways. And there is not really one single entity in the Federal Government that can work with the State government, the private sector and various groups to take a look at the loss, which is as much as 20,000 acres on an annual basis.

So just on the perspective of an economic agenda I feel confident that an oceans committee, which would be the center for the perspective on developing coordinated U.S. policy on oceans issues, is vital in the next Congress.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would urge my colleagues, when this comes up for an issue, to vote favorably in this direction.

ASKING ADMINISTRATION TO URGE A U.S. VOTE AGAINST AZERBAIJAN'S U.N. RESOLUTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to bring to our attention Azerbaijan's recent introduction of an ill-advised United Nations General Assembly resolution regarding what Azerbaijan erroneously refers to as "the situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan."

This intentionally disruptive resolution directly and significantly threatens efforts towards a peaceful settlement over the Nagorno-Karabagh conflict. Furthermore, it jeopardizes the principles and procedures of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and specifically the Minsk Group mediation effort, co-chaired by the United States, France and Russia, to resolve the Karabagh conflict.

Azerbaijan's proposal represents a hostile declaration against the entire peace process, aimed only at fostering increased divisiveness. Its consideration can only set back the cause of peace.

Mr. Speaker, it is disturbing to note that this resolution was recently approved to be included on the U.N. General Assembly's agenda. Even more alarming is the fact that the United States has thus far failed to compellingly address the resolution, choosing to instead abstain from every vote in which they had an opportunity to halt the advancement of this destructive measure. This failure by the administration now has the potential to undermine U.S. interests and American values in the strategically important Caucasus region.

Mr. Speaker, the vital role the United States plays as an honest broker in the Nagorno-Karabagh peace process is gravely threatened by the administration's continued lack of decisive action. Given our commitment to keeping the parties talking and moving forward, it is necessary for the U.S. to act forcefully against destabilizing steps that will unravel the peace process. Our interests are best served by the continuation of dialogue on the outstanding issues related to Nagorno-Karabagh within the OSCE framework and not by the fragmentation of this orderly process.

Since the beginning of the Nagorno-Karabagh conflict, Armenia has been committed to finding a peaceful solution. Moreover, I cannot stress enough the crucial role that the U.S. plays in the negotiations over Nagorno-Karabagh to help the people of this region find a lasting and equitable peace. These actions by Azerbaijan subvert these efforts and seriously complicate our diplomacy in the Caucasus region. A failure on our part to forcefully and

publicly confront the Azerbaijani government over these destabilizing maneuvers would send extremely dangerous signals to Azerbaijan.

Mr. Speaker, the U.S. must take action to condemn Azerbaijan's desperate acts of destructive venue shopping, and we here in this Chamber must do everything that we can to ensure that all parties involved in this conflict make a genuine commitment towards peace and stability. Action on the part of the U.S. must go further than the OSCE joint statement that was released in which the members of the Minsk Group expressed their concern and opposition towards the Azeri resolution. Beyond merely releasing a statement, the U.S. must demonstrate its views by taking a stance and voting against this measure.

I urge the U.S. to forcefully renounce this proposal, secure its retraction and impress upon the Azerbaijani government that it should drop such counterproductive tactics in favor of serious and lasting commitment to the OSCE Minsk Group process.

The OSCE Minsk Group process cannot survive Azerbaijan's destabilizing tactics. Continued tampering with this process will inevitably produce a chain reaction resulting in its demise. We cannot afford to allow Azerbaijan to continue to disrupt the work of the OSCE, which, as my colleagues know, has been recognized by the U.N. itself as the lead arbiter in this conflict.

Finally, it is time for the U.S. to be more forceful with Azerbaijan and to make clear that their tactics are not helpful to a peaceful and just resolution of the Nagorno-Karabagh conflict. Once again, it is imperative, Mr. Speaker, for the U.S. to vote against this U.N. resolution, thereby clearly demonstrating that there are serious consequences to actions that disturb the regional Caucasus peace, security and prosperity.

THANKING MARY HOWARD FOR A LIFETIME OF PUBLIC SERVICE

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank one of South Carolina's finest ladies, Mary Talbert Howard, for her lifetime of public service.

Mary will conclude her full-time service to the people of South Carolina when she retires at the end of this year. Active in the Lexington, South Carolina, community since 1973, Mary served with my predecessor and mentor, the late Congressman Floyd D. Spence. In 2001, she graciously agreed to stay on as the District Director for the Second Congressional District of South Carolina.

A native of Hartsville in Darlington County, South Carolina, Mary attended the Hartsville schools, Limestone College and graduated from the University

of South Carolina with a BA in education. She began her employment with the late Congressman Floyd Spence in 1981, after successfully serving as Spence for Congress campaign office manager, and she became District Director in 1992. Her responsibilities included representing the Congressman at all events throughout the Second Congressional District, handling of all constituent concerns, meeting with the local and State government officials and attending all local and State civic group meetings.

Mary has been active in the Lexington Women's Club since 1973 and served in many of the officer positions, including president. She also served as district and State legislative chairman for the State Federation of Women's Clubs.

Mary has also served as president of the Riverbanks Zoo Society, as an active member of the Lexington Medical Center Board, as Corresponding Secretary of Friends of the Lexington County Museum, and as a board member of the Lexington Arts Association.

She has been a delegate to the State and county Republican convention since 1980.

Mary is a member of St. Peter's Lutheran Church, where she served on the Worship and Music Committee and is a former Sunday schoolteacher.

Mary is married to Jerry Howard, and they have three children: G.G. Howard Culpepper, Melissa Howard Henshaw and Amy Talbert Howard. She also has two grandchildren, Cate and Jerrod.

In all the years that I have worked with Mary, she has always served with grace and dignity, and I have been extremely honored to have her represent me these last 3 years. She will always be a close, personal friend of the Wilson family, and Roxanne and I wish her and her husband Jerry all the best in their future.

I ask all of my colleagues to join me in thanking Mary Howard for her commitment to serving her community with excellence.

In conclusion, God bless our troops; and we will never forget September 11.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PENCE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN AMO HOUGHTON AND CONGRESSMAN JACK QUINN

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

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, in the rush of events at the end of this session, the New York delegation has attempted to set aside some time to recognize the distinguished careers of two of our colleagues who are retiring at the end of this session. What I intend to do is make a brief statement and then reach out to my colleagues, both sides of the aisle, to give them the opportunity to provide remarks to acknowledge the great service of these two men.

First, our colleague from Corning, New York, AMO HOUGHTON. AMORY HOUGHTON came to the Congress in 1986, was appointed to the Committee on Ways and Means, has served as a subcommittee chairman and has done great work not only on tax policy and health care policy but, also, he has been a dedicated global citizen. He has been involved in Africa and in other troubled places around the world where his gentle, thoughtful approach to problem solving has been respected and has brought great credit to not only to him but to our country.

He has been a great adviser, counselor to me; and his service to our State has been no less than remarkable. We will miss him very, very much. He will leave a tremendous void in our delegation, and we wish him all good health, and a long and enjoyable retirement with his beloved wife Priscilla.

Our other colleague who is completing his career at the end of this session is my good friend JACK QUINN, who represented Buffalo, New York. His home is in Hamburg, New York, where he served as supervisor. He came to the Congress in, I believe, 1992, was appointed to the Committee on Transportation, served as the subcommittee chairman on railroads for an extended period of time and set very important policy regarding our rail lines around the country.

□ 2000

JACK, as all of us know, has a very personable, delightful personality. He is a hard-working, dedicated family man who always brought joy and laughter wherever he traveled. He is a close personal friend, someone that we all respect, and someone we will all dearly miss as he proceeds into his next iteration, whatever that may be. We all know he will be successful at whatever he does, and we wish him all the best.

To both my colleagues, the gentleman from New York (Mr. HOUGHTON) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. QUINN), we bid them adieu. We know you are not going far away. We hope to see you on a regular basis.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, the House of Representatives is losing an extraordinary man in Congressman AMO HOUGHTON. He has been my colleague in the House, in the New York Delegation and the Committee on Ways & Means. I have been privileged in every way to be his colleague, as there is no one who more exemplifies public service.

AMO HOUGHTON is of a distinguished and affluent family, yet he is interested in neither