Myrick Roybal-Allard Smith (NJ)
Reichert Sanders Sweeney

□ 1525

So (two-thirds of those voting having responded in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, due to illness I was regrettably unable to be on the House Floor for rollcall vote 17, final passage of H. Res. 357, a bill to honor Justice Sandra Day O'Connor on the occasion of her retirement from the United States Supreme Court and to commend her for her hard work and dedication to the law.

Had I been here I would have unquestionably voted "yea" on rollcall vote 17.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained at the United States Supreme Court, which is hearing the Texas redistricting case. Had I been present, I would have voted an enthusiastic ''yea'' on the Sandra Day O'Connor resolution.

U.N. HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge other nations to join us in the United States in voting against the proposed United Nations Human Rights Council. This council is by no means true reform. Some may argue that we have actually gone from bad to worse; that it is easier for the likes of China or Syria, Iran, Burma and Cuba to get on this council than it would be for the United States.

That is what we are dealing with in the current proposal. All countries on the U.N. General Assembly are eligible to become members no matter what their human rights record. This is the same General Assembly that in November of last year, amidst the horrible genocide taking place in Darfur, could not agree that Sudan was guilty of human rights violations.

For the sake of the victims of human rights abuses, we must take immediate action to prevent this travesty. Let us support our ambassador, John Bolton, in rejecting this so-called reform package which is nothing but a sham.

PORT SECURITY

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I think there are many issues we can be addressing; but as I recently came back from my district, it is amazing how the idea of selling our ports has caught the hearts and minds of the American people. So I think it is important that we owe them both an explanation and also we owe them the responsibility of oversight.

It is important to note that in the 2007 budget we have cut resources for port security, and as well it is important to note that our largest ports in America are suffering under either no appropriations from the Federal Government of America or minimal support.

And so I offer legislation, one, to have a 2-year moratorium on the sale, leasing or operating of any of America's ports by foreign entities. And then I would ask for a major study by the Office of the Comptroller and Homeland Security to be able to determine the status of security in the Nation's ports.

It would be shocking to note that in Hong Kong, every cargo is surveyed, every cargo container. In the United States we do not do that. I believe we owe the American people secure ports, and we are prepared to do so.

□ 1530

HONORING PFC DANIEL WILSON

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to honor a true American hero and to recognize the thousands of brave men and women that are currently serving our country both at home and abroad.

In December of last year, PFC Daniel Wilson of Cherokee County, Georgia, was on patrol in Baghdad; and like so many of his fellow soldiers, Wilson understood that these patrols are part of his everyday life and that it is a risk that they assume selflessly. On this particular day, Wilson's HUMVEE struck a land mine, throwing both Wilson and fellow soldier out of their vehicle. The wounds that PFC Wilson suffered were thankfully not fatal.

In February of this year, the Army awarded PFC Wilson a Purple Heart, and I rise today to say thank you to this young man. We send our deepest gratitude and respect to all of those serving in our Armed Forces. We here at home often do not take the time to truly appreciate how blessed we are.

The members of the United States military stand on the front lines of a great struggle to preserve freedom and democracy, and we could not ask for a more capable and professional group of men and women protecting our way of life.

HALLIBURTON REIMBURSEMENT

(Ms. MCKINNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Pentagon announced that it is returning $288 out of $300 million it was holding while investigating Halliburton for overcharging, even though Halliburton was previously caught overcharging the Pentagon by $27 million for meals for our troops.

Mr. Speaker, even as tens of thousands of Hurricane Katrina survivors face eviction due to FEMA, the United States Government is handing hundreds of millions of dollars to a company which has been plagued by allegations and admissions of fraud, waste, abuse, bribery and kickbacks.

The Coalition Provisional Authority in Iraq was itself unable to account for $9 billion, with over a billion of this reportedly having been lost to Halliburton.

Today, I urge Congress to establish a permanent war profiteering committee modeled after the Truman Commission after the Second World War.

Before this Congress writes the President another blank check, we need to investigate the gross incompetence and even corruption that exists with this administration.

DEAL, ORDEAL AND NO DEAL

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, the fiasco of allowing a foreign-owned corporation, foreign-country-owned company to come into our port situation, have information about our manifests, about ports, the shipping information, has gone through three parts.

First of all, it was the part of the deal. It was a deal that nobody knew about here in this House of Representatives. Once we found out about the deal, it has now gone through the ordeal, where we are bringing transparency to this deal that was bad for America. And soon hopefully, Mr. Speaker, it will be no deal because it is not a deal that is good for the United States, and it is certainly not good for Homeland Security.

Allowing a foreign country to own a corporation that goes into our ports and has access to information is a bad deal, no deal for the United States.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky). The Chair will recognize Members for special order speeches without prejudice to the possible resumption of legislative business.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

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