

AUTHORIZING THE SPEAKER TO DECLARE A RECESS ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 2006, FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECEIVING IN JOINT MEETING HER EXCELLENCY ELLEN JOHNSON SIRLEAF, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it may be in order at any time on Wednesday, March 15, 2006, for the Speaker to declare a recess, subject to the call of the Chair, for the purpose of receiving in joint meeting Her Excellency Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of the Republic of Liberia.

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

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

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

There was no objection.

ELECTION OF MEMBER TO COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I offer a resolution (H. Res. 715) and I ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 715

Resolved, That the following Member be and is hereby elected to the following standing committee of the House of Representatives:

Committee on Agriculture: Mr. Sodrel.

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

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RESIGNATION OF MEMBER AND APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING COMMISSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Hon. TOM DELAY, Member of Congress:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, February 13, 2006.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House, House of Representatives,
The Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER, I hereby resign my position as a member of the House Office Building Commission effective immediately.

Sincerely,

TOM DELAY,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 2001, and the order of the House of December 18, 2005, the Chair announces that on February 13, 2006, the Speaker appointed the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER) to the House Office Building Commission to fill the existing vacancy thereon.

□ 1630

NEW MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT PROGRAM A SUCCESS IN FLORIDA

(Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would like to read a letter that was in today's St. Petersburg Times about the Medicare prescription drug plan. It was from a gentlewoman by the name of Lois Scheff of St. Petersburg, not in my district; but I think she echoes the comments that I have heard from my constituents. The letter says, "It would be nice to see a positive article about the Medicare part D prescription drug plan. I believe the reason so many people are having trouble with the new prescription drug plan is that the media has been telling everyone how confusing and difficult it is to understand. If you say something often enough, people will start to believe it."

She goes on to say, "My experience with the new prescription drug plan has been very positive. Upon filling four of my January prescriptions, I paid about 50 percent of what I normally would have, due to certain deductibles. In February, my four prescriptions cost me less than one would have before the drug plan went into effect. The other day I filled a prescription that used to cost more than \$100, and I paid 30 for it."

She goes on to say, "We might be elderly, but we are not stupid. Talk to the millions of us who have taken advantage of the program."

STUDY OF SECURITY AT OUR PORTS

(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, just this past week I held a press conference at the port in Houston, Texas, the Houston Port Authority, discussing the overall issue of comprehensive security at the Nation's ports. I want to remind the administration that even if you are operating at the ports, you are also privy to security.

So I rise today to comment on the so-called brokered deal that suggests that we are now going to allow an American entity to operate the particular purchases that are being made by Dubai Ports. I started out this week by say-

ing this is not to stigmatize the Middle East or the Arab world, it is to question our confidence and commitment to security at our ports.

I question this deal. I would like to see how transparent it is. I want a complete transparency or a firewall between any foreign entity and the security of the Nation's ports. It is crucial that we do a study and assessment of how secure our ports are, and I will introduce legislation next week that calls for immediately an assessment of the Nation's ports and how secure they are.

YALE AND THE TALIBAN STUDENT

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, a former deputy foreign secretary and ambassador at large for the rogue Taliban regime is now a "special student" at the elitist Yale University. According to Yale's officials, they are proud to have this Taliban student.

He legally entered our country on a student visa, of all things, issued by the State Department. That seems like nonsense to me. This offensive disregard for national security is not only ridiculous, it is frightening, and it has happened before. The hijackers who flew planes into the World Trade Center on 9/11, and who crashed into the Pentagon just down the street from us, entered the United States on, yes, student visas.

What is even more incomprehensible is that Yale University is helping to educate this Taliban operative, who just 5 years ago was touring the United States for the Taliban, spreading propaganda and defending the Taliban's gospel of hate.

Mr. Speaker, the Taliban is against everything freedom-loving people advocate. They advocate public torture, false imprisonment, mistreatment of women, and promotion of worldwide anarchy. Those are not accomplishments to be proud of.

Yale would do well to admit students who are devoted to promoting peace and democracy, not those who so flagrantly advocate injustice, evil, and terror.

That is just the way it is.

UAE TAKEOVER OF U.S. PORTS

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, so a back room deal has been cut for the UAE takeover of a number of U.S. ports. Now, just what does it mean? They do not say they are going to sell their interests. They say they are going to transfer their interests to a U.S. entity. So they are going to set up a wholly-owned and controlled subsidiary in Delaware and claim that somehow this resolves the issue?

Besides that, the issue is bigger than the UAE takeover of the U.S. port facilities. It is about other foreign takeovers of our assets. The administration is still rushing ahead to allow foreign airlines to control U.S. airlines, and there are a host of other areas where our infrastructure is up for sale.

Congress still needs to act and put in place rules to bring about the wholesale sell-off of America and its security interests.

IRAQ WAR IS AGAINST TRADITIONAL CONSERVATIVE POSITION

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, William F. Buckley has often been described as the godfather of modern-day conservatism. In 2004, he wrote that if he had known in 2002 what he now knew, that he would have opposed the war in Iraq. Last June, he wrote that if we stayed much longer there, it would soon become misapplication of pride rather than steadfastness of purpose. Now, in one of his most recent columns, Mr. Buckley wrote that, "One can't doubt that the American objective in Iraq has failed."

Many conservatives said before this war started that it would mean massive foreign aid, huge deficit spending, and would place almost the entire burden of enforcing U.N. resolutions on our taxpayers and our military, when traditionally conservatives have been the biggest critics of the U.N.

The so-called neo-con architects of this unnecessary war have led people down a primrose path in the opposite direction of and very much against every traditional conservative position.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CAMPBELL of California). 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 (Mr. CAMPBELL of California). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

PASSAGE OF THE CHILDREN'S SAFETY AND VIOLENT CRIME REDUCTION ACT

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON).

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the House of Representatives passed the Child Safety and Violent Crime Reduction Act of 2005, and I am a strong supporter of the legislation. I hail its passage. But title VI of this legislation is drawn from a bill that I introduced in the first session of the 109th Congress.

My legislation is known as the Child Pornography Prevention Act of 2005. And as the title states, the intent of my legislation is to prevent American children from becoming victims of pornography. Every one of us knows that the fuel that fires the wicked hearts of child predators is child pornography and it must be confronted in America.

Every day in this country, children are sadly exploited in pornographic enterprises, sometimes by those closest to them, believe it or not, in their homes; sometimes by commercial producers. In the home, children are forced to pose for pornographic pictures or act in pornographic videos, sometimes by family members and even friends and caretakers and other trusted individuals. Sadly, our resources in the law enforcement community inform us that these pictures and videos are posted on the Internet or surreptitiously spread to sexual predators. In the commercial arena and in Hollywood, as our cultures become more and more youth oriented and sex has become more and more prevalent, we must ensure that children are not being used in the production of prurient material and provide law enforcement with the tools to prosecute those who exploit children.

A main tenet of my legislation is the language that will fix a technicality known as home pornographers, to get at the first problem that I just described. Home pornographers have used this loophole to evade Federal prosecution in child pornography cases. These individuals will use digital cameras, Polaroid cameras, video cameras to make pornographic images of children, download them and distribute them on the Internet. My legislation first and foremost makes it clear that Federal prosecutions of home pornographers may proceed in Federal Court because their activities impact on interstate commerce.

Another element of my bill, which has become in many ways more controversial, is the addition of a new section of the criminal code, section 2257A, which adds a recordkeeping requirement that will force people in even in the entertainment industry to keep records of the names and ages of their subjects, along with proof of their identification, when they are engaged even in simulated sexual activity on screen. Anytime Hollywood uses a simulated sex act in a soap opera, a cable television show, a movie, or other pro-

duction, a record must be kept to show that a child was not used even in the creation of a simulated sex act.

Heretofore, the law has only required that such records be kept in the cases of hard-core pornography, where actual sex was being performed and recorded for entertainment value. But if a child is used in a simulated sex act, the impact of such abuse on that child is, in many ways, Mr. Speaker, just as real as it would be had the production involved actual sexual contact. Therefore, my bill requires these records be kept for simulated sex. Because by doing so, certain bad actors in the entertainment industry will be deterred from using children.

Also, my bill goes a step further by requiring that records be kept even in the case of what is known as lascivious exhibition. Once again, no child should be used in either nude pictures or sexually explicit materials or even in activities that have a prurient interest. This is, again, the type of images that fuel the flames of the wicked hearts of child predators and should be stopped.

Finally, the legislation expands the ability of investigators and prosecutors to pursue the people who are used to distribute child pornography. These distributors also will be required to follow these new recordkeeping provisions, and this will provide law enforcement with a powerful tool against them as well.

Providing law enforcement with the tools to combat child pornography contained in my legislation is a much-needed and overdue step that must be taken to protect our children from those in society who have no decency and no shame.

I also commend those legitimate producers of entertainment products in the United States of America, with whom we have had dialogue and with whom we have worked in the development of this legislation. It is not my purpose in any way, Mr. Speaker, to suggest that those that are involved in the legitimate entertainment industry in this country have anything to do with the illegitimate industry that is pornography in America. Nevertheless, it is important that even in Main Street Hollywood America, that we ensure that children are not used even in the creation of entertainment materials that simulate sex acts, and our legislation will create the record-keeping to prevent just that.

I hail the passage of the Child Pornography Prevention Act as a part of the Child Safety and Violent Crime Reduction Act. It is time to protect our kids, and yesterday this Congress took a great step toward that goal in entertainment in America.

THE FEDERAL DEBT

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to talk about the Federal