

ASKING THE PRESIDENT TO PUT ASIDE PARTISAN DIFFERENCES AND WORK WITH CONGRESS ON BEHALF OF AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, we all know President Clinton is coming to this Chamber tonight to deliver his last State of the Union address. As we all await with great anticipation what he will say and what he will propose, I would like to mention a few items I hope he will emphasize.

The House Republican leadership wrote to the President this week asking that he discuss three specific initiatives. I would like to echo their call to the President to, first, join us in protecting 100 percent of the Social Security Trust Fund; second, detail how he will pay off the public debt by 2013; and, third, sign meaningful and responsible tax fairness into law and do not propose higher taxes or more burdensome user fees.

If the President can address these items and resist the temptation to propose new spending programs that increase the size and scope of the Federal Government, then his speech will be well received by Congress.

Tonight is a major opportunity for cooperation, not confrontation. I hope the President will work with us this year on behalf of the American people and put aside partisan differences.

□

TAKE UP UNFINISHED BUSINESS OF 1999 AND PREPARE FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES FOR 21ST CENTURY

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, over the past 7 years, we have made significant progress in creating jobs, creating a budget surplus, and expanding opportunity. We now have the historic and unique opportunity to prepare for the future and to bolster American families.

Let us strengthen Social Security and Medicare for future generations, including a prescription drug benefit for all Medicare beneficiaries.

Let us provide tax cuts that eliminate the marriage penalty, help working and middle class families afford health care, child care, and a college education, enact HMO reform that puts medical decisions in the hands of the doctors and patients, and allows people to hold their HMOs accountable.

Let us improve our schools, modernize our classrooms, reduce class size, and increase discipline and standards in our school. Let us pass gun safety reforms and keep guns out of the hands of kids and criminals.

These are sensible proposals. They have bipartisan support. Let us take up the unfinished business of 1999, make

good decisions for the long term, and prepare our families and our communities for the 21st Century.

□

FCC VIOLATES FREEDOM OF RELIGIOUS EXPRESSION

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, it turns out that during the Christmas holiday season, when not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse, the Federal Communications Commission violated America's freedom of religious expression.

You see, the FCC on December 29, last year, concluded that in order for noncommercial educational television stations to retain their licenses, stations must devote 50 percent of their programming hours to shows that are educational and cultural. However, the FCC decided that "statements of personally held religious views and beliefs" could not qualify as educational or cultural.

Thus, broadcasts of religious sermons, simply the sermon, and church services, according to the FCC, would have no educational or cultural significance and would not count towards the 50 percent obligation.

As a result, I am proud to be an original cosponsor of the "Religious Broadcasting Freedom Act," which reverses this decision.

□

ACT AS AMERICANS WITH FAMILY VALUES; RETURN ELIAN GONZALEZ TO HIS FATHER AND GRANDMOTHERS

(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 do not have a prepared text this morning, and I would really rather be discussing the issues that this Congress needs to address for the American people, school construction, the idea of a Patients' Bill of Rights, and opportunities for Americans who have less than many of us. But having spent over 2 days with the grandmothers of Elian Gonzalez, today I come simply to plead to America and to plead to this Congress.

As the ranking member on the Subcommittee on Immigration and Claims, I simply ask, as a mother and as a parent, let us all put the angst of divisiveness aside and let us rule not with our political interests but with our hearts and ask ourselves, if it was us, our child, our grandchild, how would we want a Nation, a government to respond.

Mr. Speaker, we should not move on the citizenship legislation or the permanent residency. We should act as Americans who believe in family values. Return Elian to his grandmothers and his father.

A REAL BALANCED BUDGET MEANS DEBT WILL NOT INCREASE

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

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, it is important that the American people understand tonight, when we will hear the President brag about a balanced budget and paying off the debt, what is really involved. For the American people to understand that, the press has got to start understanding what a balanced budget is and the fact that our total debt of this country, the public debt of this country, is going up every year.

The suggestion is that we simply increase our borrowing from Social Security to reduce the so-called Wall Street debt. The current debt to this country, as defined in law, is \$5.72 trillion. It is important that everybody understand we are not going to have a real balanced budget until the total debt of this country does not continue to increase.

□

SUPPORT RELIGIOUS BROADCASTING FREEDOM ACT

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

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, it is a cold day in Washington, but the chill is on religious broadcasters. A word to the Members: If one has a religious broadcaster or people who listen to religious broadcasters in one's district, their rights have been compromised. The rights are less than they were in 1999 because of an FCC decision on the Cornerstone license swap in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Since this order, traditional religious programming can no longer be counted toward the 50 percent educational programming requirement that must be met by those who would hold noncommercial television licenses.

Basically, the FCC wants less religion and more of what it considers educational on the noncommercial airways. The majority of commissioners apparently want religious broadcasters to look more like PBS.

My office has received hundreds of e-mails and telephone calls from people who want to protest this decision. I know many other Members have been contacted, and I want to invite all the Members to cosponsor the bill, the Religious Broadcasting Freedom Act. Join me and over 50 cosponsors already to protest the FCC's efforts to limit religious programming.

□

RHETORIC DOES NOT ALWAYS SQUARE WITH REALITY

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

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the aforementioned legislation by my friend from Ohio and urge other Members to join us in this effort.

Mr. Speaker, there is a gulf between the rhetoric of Washington and the reality of everyday life in America. Not only are religious broadcasters under attack from this administration and its political appointees, also over our break we heard the Occupational Safety and Health Administration was going to come into one's home if one had a personal work station, if one was a telecommuter.

Mr. Speaker, it is in that spirit that I bring quite literally hope to the House floor today, the Home Office Protection Enhancement Act. Because even though the administration has backed away, now we know that rhetoric does not square with the reality.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would call on our President tonight to make sure that his words match his actions and to ensure that the only snow job in Washington was the blizzard visited upon the East Coast earlier this week.

□

RETURN ELIAN GONZALEZ TO HIS FATHER

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

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I believe Elian Gonzalez should be allowed to return to his father. If it would be

the reverse and we would have our child in Cuba, we would expect no difference.

Our responsibility is to look beyond the political issues. It is unfortunate that this issue has been politicized. It is unfortunate that it has gotten to this point.

If we look at our own present law, we would have allowed that individual to go to the father and to his grandmothers. The extended family that is there, even within the courts, should not have any jurisdiction. I feel very strongly that Americans should also be supportive of this. It is unfortunate that it has been tainted with politics and that that youngster has been used in politics.

I have heard also that, why is not the father here? Well, it is my understanding, I know that the gentleman from New York (Mr. SERRANO) has advised him not to come to the United States because they were concerned that, legally, he would have been detained here and a subpoena would also have forced him to be here. He also has another family.

We need to be conscientious. If we look at family values, we need to return Elian Gonzalez back to Cuba.

□

OPPOSITION TO GRANTING PERMANENT NORMAL TRADE RELATIONS TO CHINA

(Mr. WOLF asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his re-

marks and include therein extraneous material.)

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my grave concern in granting China permanent normal trade relations. A recent Zogby International poll shows that the American people overwhelmingly oppose granting permanent trade relations with China until human rights and religious freedom improve.

Sixty-eight percent of the Republicans, 70 percent of the Democrats, 65 percent of Independents insist on better human rights and religious freedom within China before establishing permanent MFN. Every age group, every gender, every income, every political spectrum insists on human rights.

The American people know about the Chinese government's continued persecution of the Protestant House Church. They know the Chinese Government has seven Catholic Bishops in jail. They know that the Chinese has 10 Catholic priests in prison.

□ 1300

They know they have plundered Tibet, and they know they are persecuting the Muslims.

I personally believe if the Congress votes to grant permanent normal trade relations, or MFN, for China, Congress will be on the wrong side of the American people and I believe on the wrong side of history.

Mr. Speaker, I provide for the RECORD documents in support of my comments.

39. Should the US have a permanent open market with China and admit the country to the global trade system or should the US insist on better human rights and freedom of religion in China before we establish a permanent open market?

	Total		Region				Party				Primary			Union												
	f	%	East		South		CentGrLk		West		Democrat		Republican	Independent		Democrat	Republican	Cannot Vote	Yes	No/NS						
			f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%				
Open Market	212	21.2	61	24.4	54	20.8	70	21.9	27	15.7	81	19.4	77	20.3	54	26.6	101	20.3	91	20.7	20	31.3	47	23.2	165	20.7
Human Rights	686	68.5	168	67.2	172	66.4	217	67.8	129	75.0	294	70.3	259	68.2	133	65.5	346	69.5	303	69.0	37	57.8	139	68.5	547	68.5
NS	103	10.3	21	8.4	33	12.7	33	10.3	16	9.3	43	10.3	44	11.6	16	7.9	51	10.2	45	10.3	7	10.9	17	8.4	86	10.8
Total	1001	100.0	250	100.0	259	100.0	320	100.0	172	100.0	418	100.0	380	100.0	203	100.0	498	100.0	439	100.0	64	100.0	203	100.0	798	100.0

	US Direction				Personal Finances				Age Group-B															
	Right Direction		Wrong Track		NS		Better		Worse		Same		NS		18-24		25-34		35-54		55-69		70+	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
Open Market	148	25.4	58	16.7	6	8.3	101	24.2	27	19.4	83	18.9	1	20.0	6	17.1	23	23.5	92	22.0	62	23.0	28	16.2
Human Rights	390	67.0	250	72.0	46	63.9	283	67.9	95	68.3	307	69.8	1	20.0	25	71.4	65	66.3	297	70.9	179	66.3	118	67.1
NS	44	7.6	39	11.2	20	27.8	33	7.9	17	12.2	50	11.4	3	60.0	4	11.4	10	10.2	30	7.2	29	10.7	29	16.8
Total	582	100.0	347	100.0	72	100.0	417	100.0	139	100.0	440	100.0	5	100.0	35	100.0	98	100.0	419	100.0	270	100.0	173	100.0

39. Should the US have a permanent open market with China and admit the country to the global trade system or should the US insist on better human rights and freedom of religion in China before we establish a permanent open market?

	Total		Born Again		Ideology						Gender		Work Outside													
	f	%	Yes		No/NS		Prog/VLiberal		Liberal		Moderate		Conservative		Very Cons		NS		Male		Female		Yes		No/NS	
			f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
Open Market	212	21.2	37	15.7	57	23.8	15	25.0	42	24.0	85	23.4	54	17.3	12	19.4	3	11.1	108	28.7	104	16.6	59	17.2	45	16.0
Human Rights	686	68.5	177	75.0	147	61.5	42	70.0	117	66.9	247	68.0	222	70.9	44	71.0	14	51.9	236	62.8	450	72.0	247	71.8	203	72.2
NS	103	10.3	22	9.3	35	14.6	3	5.0	16	9.1	31	8.5	37	11.8	6	9.7	10	37.0	32	8.5	71	11.4	38	11.0	33	11.7
Total	1001	100.0	236	100.0	239	100.0	60	100.0	175	100.0	363	100.0	313	100.0	62	100.0	27	100.0	376	100.0	625	100.0	344	100.0	281	100.0

39. Should the US have a permanent open market with China and admit the country to the global trade system or should the US insist on better human rights and freedom of religion in China before we establish a permanent open market?