

We just got the offer from the White House.

Now, we would like to have an hour or two to look at it. We would like to meet tomorrow to try to give a response. Hopefully, we can agree to it.

Mr. OBEY. Are we supposed to meet with Senator SPECTER again who says there is no give? We were told we should meet with people at a higher level on Monday. That is what we are doing.

As you well know, your leadership has kept you on a tight leash, and every time we try to negotiate something with the Committee on Appropriations, we are told it is vetoed by your leadership.

If the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HASTERT) will be in town, if the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY) will be in town, if the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) will be in town so the people with the real power over there can make some decisions, you bet I will be in town. But absent their participation in that room, I am not going to waste my time again waiting for a call that has not come. I have waited for three weeks, and I am tired of it.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Well, as the gentleman knows, the names that he mentioned are not members of the Committee on Appropriations.

Mr. OBEY. But they do make the choices, do they not? Do you deny that?

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. They are leaders. They have the right, and they have the power to make certain decisions, of course, the same as your leadership does. It is a two-sided coin.

Mr. OBEY. The difference is our leadership has given us the power to negotiate.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. The gentleman is not available. That is the answer. The gentleman is not available.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GUTKNECHT). The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR) controls the time.

Mr. BONIOR. Since you mentioned our leadership, I would like to, if I could, register a polite complaint, as well.

Since I am the author of the minimum wage bill, I have not been asked to participate in any meetings on this bill that has been languishing now for months and months and months. I am waiting for an opportunity to participate in trying to resolve that. And in waiting for that, we are denying the people who are working so hard in our country for \$5.15 an hour, there is about 10 million of them out there that have been denied about \$2,000, which is a huge percent of their disposable income while we wait and we wait.

We think that there ought to be some movement here. We are willing to be here and meet on that. I have been willing to meet on that for months now. We have not had a meeting on the minimum wage. We have not had a meeting on prescription drugs. We have not had a meeting on some of these

other issues that are important to us, like hate crimes and other things. And we certainly have not been able to do the things we need to do on education.

So we are ready to go, and we have been ready to go. I hope we made our point very clear today that this is unacceptable, that three out of 13 bills is unacceptable 3 weeks into the new fiscal year and these other major issues that you guys and you women are campaigning on all over the country with ads you refuse to take up. They are basic issues of justice and equity for poor people, whether they are an HMO bill or a prescription drug bill or a minimum wage bill or basic education issues. We want to do them.

□ 1930

We hope that you do, too.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BONIOR. I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I just want to make it clear I will be happy to cancel my plane in 5 minutes if the Republican leadership of this House will be here tomorrow so that every time we get a, well-we-have-to-check-with-upstairs response from the gentleman, we can get that response from the boys upstairs. We keep being told those issues are being kicked upstairs into different rooms, but we cannot find who is in those rooms.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2000

Mr. CANADY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Monday next for morning hour debates.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GUTKNECHT). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

HOUR OF MEETING ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2000

Mr. CANADY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns on Monday, October 23, 2000, it adjourn to meet at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, October 24, 2000, for morning hour debates.

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

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. CANADY of Florida. 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 Florida?

There was no objection.

KRISTEN'S ACT

Mr. CANADY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2780) to authorize the Attorney General to provide grants for organizations to find missing adults.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2780

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as "Kristen's Act".

SEC. 2. GRANTS FOR THE ASSISTANCE OF ORGANIZATIONS TO FIND MISSING ADULTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General may make grants to public agencies or non-profit private organizations, or combinations thereof, for programs—

(1) to assist law enforcement and families in locating missing adults;

(2) to maintain a national, interconnected database for the purpose of tracking missing adults who are determined by law enforcement to be endangered due to age, diminished mental capacity, or the circumstances of disappearance, when foul play is suspected or circumstances are unknown;

(3) to maintain statistical information of adults reported as missing;

(4) to provide informational resources and referrals to families of missing adults;

(5) to assist in public notification and victim advocacy related to missing adults; and

(6) to establish and maintain a national clearinghouse for missing adults.

(b) REGULATIONS.—The Attorney General may make such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out this Act.

SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act \$1,000,000 each year for fiscal years 2001 through 2004.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CANADY) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CANADY).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CANADY of Florida. 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 H.R. 2780, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CANADY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2780, Kristen's Act, which was introduced by the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. MYRICK). Each year about 1 million people are reported missing in the United States and about 42 percent of those are adults. The many Federal, State and local law enforcement agencies across the country dutifully enter these missing person reports in the FBI's national missing persons database and most of them are

quickly found within a day or two. Still, many children and adults are not found right away and that is one reason Congress acted to create the Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

The Center acts as a clearinghouse for missing child cases and provides much needed support to families whose children are missing. The Center has helped locate thousands of missing children and reunited them with their families. Unfortunately, there is no such clearinghouse for missing adults. Once the names of these missing adults are entered into the FBI's National Crime Information Center computer, there is little else the families can do but wait and hope that their loved ones will be found.

Kristen's Act would establish the first national clearinghouse for missing adults. It would authorize grants to States to, one, assist law enforcement and families in locating missing adults; two, create a national database for the purpose of tracking missing adults who are determined by law enforcement to be in danger due to age, mental capacity or the circumstances of their disappearance; three, maintain statistics on missing adults; four, provide informational resources and referrals to families of missing adults; and five, assist in public notification and victim advocacy on this issue.

Congress can and should do more to help families locate their missing adult relatives. Kristen's Act would provide an infrastructure that will supplement the existing FBI missing persons database and help State and local law enforcement agencies work with families to help to locate their loved ones.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. MYRICK) for her outstanding leadership on this issue and I urge all of my colleagues to support this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2780, also known as Kristen's Act. H.R. 2780 authorizes the Attorney General to make grants to public agencies or nonprofit private organizations to maintain a national database for tracking missing adults determined to be in danger due to age, diminished mental capacity, when foul play may be involved or when the circumstances of the disappearance are unknown.

It also authorizes grants to assist law enforcement and families in locating missing adults; provide informational resources to families of missing adults and for other related purposes. The bill authorizes \$1 million each year for fiscal years 2001 through 2004 to carry out the purposes of this legislation. The bill is named after Kristen Moderfferi of Charlotte, North Carolina, who at age 18 disappeared after leaving her job one day. Sadly, because she was just 18 her family could not benefit from the great work of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

H.R. 2780 is designed to assist law enforcement and families of missing persons for those over the age of 17 in a manner similar to that provided by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Although we have not had hearings on this bill and I generally do not support consideration of legislation without hearings, I am familiar with the valuable services provided by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children for which we have had hearings and support similar efforts for missing adults who are in danger due to age, diminished capacity or foul play. Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to vote for the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CANADY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. MYRICK), the sponsor of this legislation.

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the chairman, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CANADY), for bringing this bill forward as well.

Mr. Speaker, I too rise in support of Kristen's Act. I introduced it because Kristen Moderfferi, who was a constituent of ours in Charlotte, North Carolina, disappeared in 1997. She was a very bright, hard-working young lady and attended North Carolina State University. She had just finished her freshman year; and like so many other college students, she decided she wanted to go to another city to spend the summer and work and have a new experience. So she moved to San Francisco. She enrolled in photography class at Berkeley and got a job at a local coffee shop. She began settling in and making new friends.

However, on Monday, June 23, which was just a mere 3 weeks after her 18th birthday, she left her job at the coffee shop and headed to the beach for the afternoon. She has not been seen since.

When her panicked parents called the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, they heard the unbelievable words, I am sorry we cannot help you. They were shocked to discover that because Kristen was 18 the Center could not place her picture and story into its national database, or offer any assistance whatsoever. In fact, there is no national agency in the United States to help locate missing adults.

Unfortunately, the Moderfferis are not alone. The families of thousands of missing adults have found that law enforcement and other agencies respond very differently when the person who has disappeared is not a child. So that is why I introduced Kristen's Act. It will provide funding to establish a national clearinghouse for missing adults whose disappearance is determined by law enforcement to be foul play. As with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, this bill will provide assistance to law enforcement and families in missing persons cases of those over the age of 17. It is simply

unfair that people must cope with a missing family member, which is so traumatic, and I know personally what the Moderfferis have gone through, and have to conduct the search on their own without skills or resources.

I will say that the Moderfferis literally went to the ends of the Earth to just exhaust every opportunity they could to try and find their daughter, and were completely frustrated at most every turn.

Kristen's Act does send a message to these families that they deserve help to locate endangered and involuntarily missing loved ones.

Endangered missing adults, regardless of their age, should receive not only the benefit of a search effort by the local law enforcement but also the help of an experienced national organization.

By passing this bill today, families will never again have to hear they cannot be assisted because their loved one is too old.

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. LAMPSON), who is the chairman and founder of the Congressional Caucus for Missing and Exploited Children and a leading supporter of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT), for yielding me this time, and I also want to thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. MYRICK) for all the good work she has done on this bill, and others as well.

Mr. Speaker, as a cosponsor of this bill, I rise in support of Kristen's Act, a bill to authorize the Attorney General to make grants to public agencies or nonprofit private organizations to assist law enforcement and families in locating missing adults and to maintain a national interconnected database tracking missing adults who are determined by law enforcement to be in danger due to age, diminished mental capacity or the circumstances of disappearance when foul play might be suspected. This bill will also maintain statistical information of adults reported as missing; assist in public notification and victim advocacy related to missing adults, and establish and maintain a national clearinghouse for missing adults.

As the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) said, I am the chairman and founder of the Congressional Caucus on Missing and Exploited Children and I work very closely with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. I do realize, however, that specialized services to locate and recover missing adults are few and far between. While adults have a legal right to disappear without notifying friends and family, this does not lessen the frustration others face when determining whether foul play is involved.

I met with Kristen Moderfferi's parents in 1999, and what they have lived

through is tragic. Their daughter disappeared 3 weeks after her 18th birthday and while the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children was able to refer them to other assisting organizations, the center was unable to work directly on the case as its mandate is for children under the age of 18. A congressionally authorized clearinghouse for missing adults is necessary to assist people like Kristen's parents. I do not want to look into the faces of any more parents whose grown-up children are missing or some place where they should not be. The tragedy is too difficult to live with.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly encourage all of my colleagues to support Kristen's Act.

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. MYRICK) for her leadership on this issue and also the gentleman from Texas (Mr. LAMPSON) for his leadership.

I would also like to take the opportunity to say a word about the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CANADY), with whom I served as ranking member of the Subcommittee on the Constitution for 2 years. We considered a lot of very contentious and controversial issues. And we did not agree very often, but as we disagreed we were able to do that, I think, in a constructive and conscientious way of being able to disagree without being disagreeable.

I know the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CANADY) is not seeking reelection, and I wanted to wish him well in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CANADY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) for his very gracious remarks and express to him my gratitude for the good working relationship we have had as members of the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2780—"Kristen's Act"—which was introduced by the Gentlelady from North Carolina, SUE MYRICK. Today, there are approximately 100,000 people who have been reported as missing to the FBI's National Crime Information Center. About 42,000 of them are adults. The families of missing children can—and often do—turn to the Center for Missing and Exploited Children, the very successful national clearinghouse for missing child cases. The Center has helped locate thousands of missing children and provides much needed support to the bereaved families who are searching for them.

Kristen's Act would establish the first national clearinghouse for missing adults. It would authorize grants to states to (1) assist law enforcement and families in locating missing adults; (2) create a national database for the purpose of tracking missing adults who are determined by law enforcement to be endangered due to age, mental capacity, or the circumstances of their disappearance; (3) main-

tain statistics on missing adults; (4) provide informational resources and referrals to families of missing adults; and (5) assist in public notification and victim advocacy of this issue.

The need for this legislation was brought home to me by the case of Brian Welzien, a 21-year-old student at Northern Illinois University, who disappeared without a trace after celebrating at a restaurant in Chicago last New Year's Eve. His disappearance was inexplicable. He was a good student and good son. He was immediately reported missing by his family, but they had nowhere to turn for help and support beyond reporting that he was missing. Tragically, his body washed ashore three-and-half months later on a Lake Michigan beach near Gary, Ind. Had there been a national center for missing adults, perhaps more could have been done to find him before he died.

Congress can and should do more to help families locate their missing husbands, wives, brothers and sisters. Kristen's Act will go a long way in providing the infrastructure to help locate them before tragedy happens.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mrs. MYRICK for her leadership on this issue, and I urge all my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. CANADY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CANADY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2780.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1945

EXPRESSING SUPPORT OF CONGRESS FOR ACTIVITIES REGARDING MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 271) expressing the support of Congress for activities to increase public awareness of multiple sclerosis.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 271

Whereas multiple sclerosis is a chronic and often disabling disease of the central nervous system which often first appears in people between the ages of 20 and 40, with lifelong physical and emotional effects;

Whereas multiple sclerosis is twice as common in women as in men;

Whereas an estimated 250,000 to 350,000 individuals suffer from multiple sclerosis nationally;

Whereas symptoms of multiple sclerosis can be mild, such as numbness in the limbs, or severe, such as paralysis or loss of vision;

Whereas the progress, severity, and specific symptoms of multiple sclerosis in any one person cannot yet be predicted;

Whereas the annual cost to each affected individual averages \$34,000, and the total cost can exceed \$2 billion over an individual's lifetime;

Whereas the annual cost of treating all people who suffer from multiple sclerosis in the United States is nearly \$9 billion;

Whereas the cause of multiple sclerosis remains unknown, but genetic factors are be-

lieved to play a role in determining a person's risk for developing multiple sclerosis;

Whereas many of the symptoms of multiple sclerosis can be treated with medications and rehabilitative therapy;

Whereas new treatments exist that can slow the course of the disease, and reduce its severity;

Whereas medical experts recommend that all people newly diagnosed with relapse-remitting multiple sclerosis begin disease-modifying therapy;

Whereas finding the genes responsible for susceptibility to multiple sclerosis may lead to the development of new and more effective ways to treat the disease;

Whereas increased funding for the National Institutes of Health would provide the opportunity for research and the creation of programs to increase awareness, prevention, and education; and

Whereas Congress as an institution, and Members of Congress as individuals, are in unique positions to help raise public awareness about the detection and treatment of multiple sclerosis and to support the fight against multiple sclerosis: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring). That it is the sense of Congress that—

(1) all Americans should take an active role in the fight to end the devastating effects of multiple sclerosis on individuals, their families, and the economy;

(2) the role played by national and community organizations and health care professionals in promoting the importance of continued funding for research, and in providing information about and access to the best medical treatment and support services for people with multiple sclerosis should be recognized and applauded;

(3) the Federal Government has a responsibility to—

(A) continue to fund research so that the causes of, and improved treatment for, multiple sclerosis may be discovered;

(B) continue to consider ways to improve access to, and the quality of, health care services for people with multiple sclerosis;

(C) endeavor to raise public awareness about the symptoms of multiple sclerosis; and

(D) endeavor to raise health professional's awareness about diagnosis of multiple sclerosis and the best course of treatment for people with the disease.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GUTKNECHT). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. TAUZIN) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. TAUZIN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAUZIN. 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 House Concurrent Resolution 271.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 5 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 271, which expresses the support of Congress for activities to increase public awareness of multiple sclerosis. I salute the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. WEYGAND), the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS), the