

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor and pleasure to rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding group of student athletes from Concord in North Carolina's eighth district.

Several weeks ago, the Central Cabarrus High School men's basketball team completed a truly amazing season by winning the North Carolina High School 3A Basketball Championship.

The Vikings successfully completed the near impossible, defeating favored Greensboro Dudley. Led by seniors Mickey Mickens, David Hardy, Clayton Russell, Dough Naumann, and sophomore Nathan Cranford, Coach Scott Brewer's Vikings stepped up to the challenge.

These players are not only winning on the basketball court, they are also excelling in the classroom. Eight of the players' grade point averages are over 4.0 and the team's average is 3.71. Clearly, these young men excel in the classroom as well as on the basketball court.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the students, teachers, parents, head coach Scott Brewer, his assistant coaches, and the 2000 North Carolina State 3A basketball champions, the Central Cabarrus High School Vikings.

This is a tribute to their entire school and their team work.

HELP BRING OUR CHILDREN HOME BY PASSING H. CON. RES. 298

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

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to tell the House about Joseph Cook and his children Daniel and Michelle. Their story is one of the most heartwrenching I have ever heard. In 1992, Joseph's ex-wife took his children to Germany on what was supposed to be a brief visit. Shortly after they left, he was told by Christiane that she was not coming back and that he would not see his children again. Christiane had been suffering from depression, had checked herself into a clinic, and placed Daniel and Michelle into the German foster care system. The German foster care system made no attempt to contact Joseph.

In 1993, Christiane returned to the United States but left Danny and Michelle in German foster care. Mr. Cook went to Germany with a full custody order in 1994, but the German courts have refused to return his children and the foster family has been extremely uncooperative.

Mr. Speaker, Danny and Michelle are being left to languish in a foster care system when they have a father who loves them and desperately wants to be with them.

Joseph Cook served in the United States Army, and I am urging this

House to serve him in return. Pass H. Con. Res. 298 and help bring our children home.

FOUNDATION FIGHTING BLINDNESS MAKES CONGRESS AWARE OF EYE DISEASES

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, representatives from the Foundation Fighting Blindness are visiting congressional offices this week to discuss the importance of funding research initiatives at the National Eye Institute.

This week my colleagues received a set of paper glasses which may help them to understand what individuals suffering from retinitis pigmentosa and macular degeneration see.

Isaac, Daria and Ilana Lidsky, young adults from my congressional district, are among the over 6 million Americans who suffer from these retinal degenerative diseases. Another 9 million Americans have pre-symptomatic signs of retinal degeneration and as the baby-boomer generation ages, diseases such as these are poised to skyrocket.

Promising experiments have already been discovered in retinal transplantation and in gene and pharmaceutical therapies. However, additional funding for the National Eye Institute is urgently needed to advance these promising treatments to clinical trials.

I urge my colleagues to consider how life is viewed through the eyes of those going blind and to consider an increase to the National Eye Institute at a percentage higher or equal to the other institutes of the National Institutes of Health.

FOURTH ANNUAL U.S./MEXICO BORDER CONFERENCE

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

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, today and tomorrow I, along with my colleagues that represent districts along the border, are cohosting the Fourth Annual U.S./Mexico Border Conference. Each year we bring together leaders on both sides of the U.S./Mexico border to look at the problems that exist along our border, to develop solutions, and to convey these solutions to policymakers of our Nation.

The border today looks much how the rest of the Nation will look in 20 years. We are a young, growing, dynamic population that is facing problems and experiencing unique issues that perhaps the rest of the Nation needs to focus on.

If our problems are not addressed now in the border region, we run the risk of impacting the entire Nation as well as affecting the critical tourism and trade relationship between the United States and Mexico.

At the conference, we are focusing on four major areas: education and the workforce, health and environment, economic development and infrastructure, and border security.

I urge my colleagues to join me and our other colleagues in learning more about the border and provide the direction and leadership that is needed.

SELF-DETERMINATION FOR THE PEOPLE OF WESTERN SAHARA

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today out of concern over reports that the United Nations may decide not to hold the referendum for self-determination for the people of Western Sahara.

Article I of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights states that, quote, "All peoples have the right to self-determination," end quote. Both sides, Morocco and Western Sahara, in the U.N. Settlement Plan and Houston Agreement, agreed to self-determination for the Sahrawi people.

The U.N. has spent approximately \$500 million on peacekeeping in the settlement plan over 10 years and \$30 million on humanitarian aid in the same time period. It would be a shame, no a disgrace, to waste \$530 million.

The credibility of the United Nations and the United States would be further eroded if they are willing to give up on the stalled agreements. The U.N. should remain committed to the peace agreement.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Western Sahara deserve the same respect and support of the people of East Timor or any other country. A free, fair, and transparent referendum must go forward.

ONLY IN AMERICA, ONLY IN AMERICA

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, today Congress will debate two bills. The first bill is partial birth abortions. The second bill is wildlife and sport fish restoration.

Unbelievable. Kill the babies but save the trout and the tit mouse. Beam me up. In fact, beam me up, Scotty.

See, I believe that Congress and America can and should save both the babies and the wildlife. Think about it.

I yield back an old street saying: Only in America, Mr. Speaker.

THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION MUST ENFORCE THE LAWS ON ILLEGAL OBSCENITY AND PORNOGRAPHY

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

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, we have a grave problem in our country today: illegal pornography and obscenity. It is rampant in our society. It is readily available to all our children on the Internet, and the health and safety of our children are at risk.

Under the Reagan and Bush administrations, the Department of Justice successfully and aggressively prosecuted illegal pornographers. They rarely lost any of the hundreds of cases brought to court. In one 2-year span, they successfully prosecuted over 200 obscenity cases.

Since President Clinton took office, prosecution of illegal pornographers and obscenity has all but ceased. Prosecutions are down 75 percent.

In 1997, there were only 6 prosecutions of illegal pornographers by all 93 U.S. attorneys. In March 1998, the Adult Video News Magazine, the trade magazine for the porn industry, announced it is a great time to be an adult retailer.

This lack of prosecution has sent a clear message to the makers of illegal pornography and illegal obscenity that it is okay to make and distribute such material. Under the Clinton administration they will not even be prosecuted for their crimes.

It is time for the Clinton administration to get to work and enforce existing anti-obscenity laws.

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BREAST AND CERVICAL TREATMENT ACT COMING TO THE FLOOR BEFORE MOTHER'S DAY

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

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, it has been a full 5 months since the Breast and Cervical Treatment Act was passed unanimously out of the Committee on Commerce. This life-saving bill currently has 289 cosponsors and enjoys strong bipartisan support.

Mother's Day is approaching. What better gift for mothers and grandmothers around this country than to provide treatment for breast and cervical cancer to underserved women?

I learned today that the House leadership has agreed to move H.R. 1070 before Mother's Day. I applaud this decision and urge the Speaker to bring a clean bill to the floor for a vote.

How much longer must the mothers of this Nation wait?

SUPPORT PASSAGE OF PNTR FOR CHINA

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

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of granting Permanent Normal Trade Relations to China, so-called PNTR.

Some would have us believe that, by supporting China's session to the WTO, and by granting China PNTR, we will be sending jobs overseas. This is simply not true.

On the contrary, granting China PNTR will allow us to take full advantage of the bilateral agreement signed last November and drastically reduce the Chinese barriers to trade. As a result of increased opportunities to export, American businesses can only expand, creating new jobs of every kind, from unionized jobs to export control jobs.

With expanded exports, companies will grow, making them able to offer greater benefits to existing workers, not get rid of them.

I urge my colleagues to support PNTR for China on behalf of American workers, farmers, and businesses.

STOP TUBERCULOSIS NOW ACT

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) and I have introduced the Stop Tuberculosis Now Act. The legislation proposes to amend the Foreign Assistance Act. It authorizes \$100 million appropriation to USAID for the purposes of diagnosing TB in high incidence countries.

TB is one of the greatest infectious killers of adults worldwide, killing 2 million people per year, killing more people last year than any year in world history. Thirteen hundred Indians, for example, die every day from tuberculosis. It is the biggest killer of young women and the biggest killer of people with HIV/AIDS in the world.

The World Health Organization estimates that one-third of the world's population is infected with the bacteria that causes TB including at least 10 million individuals in the United States. Eight million people around the world will develop active TB each year. TB is spreading as a result of inadequate treatment, and it is a disease that certainly knows no national boundaries.

We have a remarkably cost effective strategy for TB control, DOTS, the Directly Observed Treatment Short course, that uses inexpensive drugs at a cost of as little as \$15 per person in developing countries. The strategy is only reaching one person in five. The question is not a medical one, it is a political one.

REPUBLICANS ARE REINVENTING GOVERNMENT

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

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, the Clinton-Gore administration talked about reinventing government, but the Republican Congress is actually doing it.

For example, Federal laws prohibit convicted criminals from receiving

supplemental security income. However, for years, the Social Security Administration relied on convicted prisoners to notify them of their ineligibility for SSI benefits. Not surprisingly, hundreds of prisoners convicted of robbery, rape, and assault continue to receive welfare benefits while in jail, courtesy of the American taxpayer.

Perhaps the worst example of this fraud and abuse, California's "freeway killer," William Bonin, responsible for killing more than 44 people, received \$80,000 in fraudulent SSI payments while on death row.

In response, Republicans developed and passed a solution to this problem. As a result, taxpayers today will save over \$3 billion.

GUN SAFETY

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

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, every day across this country, our children are dying due to gun violence. Yet, Congress has failed to stop the killing and protect our children.

Over 2 weeks ago, the House went on record in support of the juvenile justice conference committee holding a meeting within 2 weeks. Their deadline has been ignored.

I am outraged that Congress has failed to move forward on gun safety legislation. How many more children have to die before we pass strong preventative child gun legislation?

My bill, H.R. 515, the Child Handgun Injury Prevention Act, which I introduced in the first session of this Congress, is a bill to prevent children from injuring themselves with handguns.

If enacted, this bill would require child-safety devices on handguns and establish standards and testing procedures for those devices. As of today, we have 76 cosponsors.

We cannot call ourselves ethical leaders when we stand by and do nothing while our children are being killed by gun violence. We have a moral responsibility to pass laws that protect our schools, our communities, and our families, a great act on our part prior to Mother's Day.

LAWS DO NOT MAKE THE DIFFERENCE, ENFORCING CURRENT LAWS DO

(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, it is interesting as so many come to the well to try and make sense of the senseless. But it is extremely difficult to understand how we can undue senseless acts when current laws are not enforced. Penalizing law abiding Americans who freely exercise their rights under the Second Amendment does not improve anyone's safety.