

We recognize the right of the Austrian people to elect anybody they choose. However, we reserve the right to express our views when people elect Communist totalitarian regimes or Fascist totalitarian regimes.

We are not there yet. This extremist xenophobic, far right-wing political party is only one of two parties of the Austrian coalition, and we will follow their activities with great care. They have made many commendable promises; but we will have to see how—in the unfolding of Austrian policy, domestic and international—these high-sounding promises are implemented.

The leaders of the European Union, all 14 nations, as well as other nations outside the European Union like Canada, Israel, and Norway, have expressed their deep concern about the new Government of Austria. One of the concerns that I shared in looking at this new far right-wing regime is the impact it is having in legitimatizing anti-democratic, racist forces in other countries of Europe.

This is an awful way to begin the 21st century. Therefore, we need to engage in a voluntary ban against tourism to Austria, the purchase of Austrian products, the use of Austrian airlines, and investments in that country. People need to understand that elections have consequences; and when 27 percent of the Austrian electorate chooses to support an extremist who has made complimentary remarks about Adolf Hitler and who has repeatedly expressed the most obnoxious, racist and xenophobic sentiments, the American people and the people of other civilized countries must respond.

We hope that this government will be better than the past record of Haider's party. There is always an opportunity for change, for reformation, for learning lessons. I call on all of my colleagues and I call on our administration to watch with the utmost care the actions of the new Austrian Government. It is important for us to realize that Adolf Hitler was voted into power, and the fact that people come to power through elections says nothing about their values. Democracy is not just elections; it is the sharing of a set of values of free and open societies.

I call on all of my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring this resolution so it can be the voice of the Congress in expressing our concern over political trends in Austria.

SUPPORT H. RES. 414 FOR STEM CELL MEDICAL RESEARCH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentlewoman from Maryland (Ms. MORELLA) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, last week I joined with my good friend and colleague, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY), in the introduction of H. Res. 414 to allow Federal

funding of pluripotent stem cell research to help us further understand Parkinson's, cancer, blindness, AIDS, Alzheimer's, diabetes, Muscular Dystrophy, Sickle-Cell Anemia, brain and spinal cord injuries, heart, lung, kidney and liver diseases, strokes, Lou Gehrig's Disease, birth defects, and other life-threatening diseases and disabilities.

House Resolution 414 does not request a specific amount of money, nor does it direct disease-specific research. It simply asks that Federal money be allowed to be utilized for the next best chance science has, not only to treat, but to cure, debilitating and life-threatening illnesses that afflict millions of Americans.

Many people have confused pluripotent stem cell research with human embryo research. Stem cells are not embryos. In fact, there is a ban on the use of Federal funds for human embryo research in the United States. Pluripotent stem cells cannot develop into complete human beings; and, therefore, under the law, they are not embryos.

Pluripotent stem cells are the type of cell that can be turned into almost any type of cell or tissue in the body. The medical community estimates that human pluripotent stem cell research makes it a very real possibility that Parkinson's Disease will be cured within 5 years. The American Cancer Society strongly supports pluripotent stem research. In fact, cancer research has shown that injections of stem cells could revive the immune response of patients undergoing bone marrow transplants. With stem cell technology, transplantation of human retinal tissue may be the cure for blinding retinal degenerative diseases which affect more than 6 million Americans.

Stem cell research holds the key; it holds the key to solve the problem of the body's reaction to foreign tissue, resulting in dramatic improvements in the treatment of a number of life-threatening conditions such as burns and kidney failure for which transplantation is currently used.

While the potential medical benefits of pluripotent stem cell technology are unprecedented, the National Institutes of Health has proposed guidelines outlining that this area of research must be conducted in accordance with strict ethical standards.

□ 1300

NIH understands the ethical, legal, and social issues relevant to human pluripotent stem cell research and is sensitive to the need to subject it to oversight that is more stringent than that associated with the traditional NIH scientific peer review process.

Most importantly, Mr. Speaker, Federal funding would bring with it a level of oversight that will not be present if the work remains the sole province of the private sector.

Finally, the American people support stem cell research, as shown by a na-

tionwide survey conducted by Opinion Research Corporation International last year. They found that 74 percent of those polled favored funding of stem cell research by NIH.

Federal funds are crucial to allow scientists to proceed with stem cell research, which offers hope to more than 100 million Americans who suffer from a myriad of deadly and debilitating diseases.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I want to urge my colleagues to support medical research in the search to find the cure for life-threatening disease and disability. I ask them to cosponsor House Resolution 414.

PAKISTAN'S PATTERN OF SPONSORING TERRORISM, PROVOKING CRISIS IN KASHMIR, AND THREATENING DESTABILIZATION OF REGION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the latest episode in a troubling, ongoing pattern by the military regime in Pakistan to provoke a crisis in Kashmir and to essentially pick a fight with India with results that could be destabilizing and devastating to the entire region and the entire world.

The Pakistani government, a military junta that overthrew the civilian government in a coup last October, declared last Saturday, February 5, Kashmir Solidarity Day. Pakistan's military strongman leader, General Musharraf, visited the Pakistani-administered area of Kashmir and encouraged the terrorist forces there to continue their Jihad in the Indian states of Jammu and Kashmir.

That same evening, according to an account from the Indo-American Kashmir Forum, a band of gun-wielding terrorists sought out Kashmiri Pandits or Hindus in the village of Telwani and opened fire on two families belonging to the minority Hindu community. Three Pandits, including a 9-year-old girl, were killed and many others were injured.

Mr. Speaker, this is the true face of the so-called liberation campaign being waged by so-called freedom fighters for years in Kashmir. It is a violent terrorist campaign, pure and simple. Now Pakistan's support for this violent campaign has been laid bare for all the world to see.

Pakistan has always acknowledged its political and moral support for the insurgency in Kashmir, but evidence clearly shows that Pakistan's support runs much deeper. Now General Musharraf has spelled it out. He publicly pledged his support for the terrorist groups fighting in India's state of Jammu and Kashmir.

He was quoted in news accounts saying, "All heads rise with pride when we

hear of the struggle of Kashmiri freedom fighters." These are the same freedom fighters who carried out the atrocity against the Pandit villagers, including the little girl, that same night.

Mr. Speaker, India and Pakistan have fought two wars over Kashmir. Last summer Pakistan initiated a border skirmish last year across the line of control that separates the two sides near the town of Kargil. Most news accounts indicate that General Musharraf and the other military coup leaders were behind the planning and execution of that disastrous campaign.

Fortunately, the United States and the rest of the world community recognize Pakistan as the aggressor. President Clinton prevailed on the civilian leadership of Pakistan, and I stress, civilian leadership of Pakistan at the time, because the civilian government was still in place, to withdraw its forces.

A few months later General Musharraf overthrew Pakistan's civilian government, and the government in Islamabad has been escalating the threatening rhetoric and destabilizing actions ever since.

Mr. Speaker, the U.S. has not done enough, in my opinion, to show its opposition to the military takeover in Pakistan. A House resolution that condemns the coup has come out of committee. The problem is that the military government has no legitimacy, and can only stay in power as long as it whips up hatred against India by citing Kashmir. That is why the generals started the Kargil war, and that is why they encouraged the hijacking of the India Airlines plane last December. That is why they continue the campaign against a multi-ethnic and religious state in Kashmir, and contribute to the murder of innocent Kashmiri Pandits. The end result of the generals' provocation would be another war with India over Kashmir. The problem is that the generals now control nuclear weapons they could unleash in such a war.

Mr. Speaker, the U.S. must send an unequivocal message that this continued provocation in Kashmir by the Pakistan military regime is unacceptable. At a minimum, the President should not visit Pakistan during his trip to South Asia in March. The State Department should declare Pakistan a terrorist state, and make it clear there will be no further contact with the Pakistani government until it stops its provocative actions in Kashmir and takes steps to restore democracy in Pakistan.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO IMPLEMENT THE EXECUTIVE ORDER ON FEDERAL WORKFORCE TRANSPORTATION IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing, along with the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. DAVIS), a bill which will require the President to issue the Executive Order on Federal Workforce Transportation in the National Capital Region.

No single action will do more to reduce traffic congestion and improve the quality of life of the people who live in the Washington metropolitan area. This Federal order, which has been held at the White House for over 6 months, would help alleviate traffic congestion in Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Virginia for all people, those who work for the government and those who work in the private sector.

The order would reduce traffic by requiring all Federal agencies to provide a monthly transit benefit to their employees. Currently less than 20 percent of the Federal work force is eligible to receive transit benefits. This action would encourage Federal employees to use mass transit, and could take thousands of cars off the street every day. The order would expand the use of telecommuting and telework for Federal employees, which would also take cars off the road, give Federal employees the opportunity to telework, where they can have more choices and opportunities, and make it a better environment.

Lastly, the order would increase carpool benefits, shuttle service between mass transit points and agency work-sites, and allow for alternative work schedules.

Mr. Speaker, I think we all agree that the Federal government has a responsibility to help reduce air pollution, and that motor vehicle traffic is the major source of pollution in this region. This Executive Order would take cars off the road, help clean up the air, and yet the White House is sitting on it.

Let me read exactly what the Executive Order says about air pollution. It says, "In furtherance of the purposes of the Clean Air Act and the Federal Employees Clean Air Incentives Act, the Federal government, as the largest single employer in the Nation's Capital Region, has a responsibility to reduce the traffic congestion and motor vehicle-generated air pollution. . . ."

This Executive Order for the most part is an environmental document, and yet the Clinton-Gore White House is refusing to approve it.

Mr. Speaker, allow me to read from the implementation requirements, which state, "For several years, there have been increasingly dire warnings about the negative consequences of traffic congestion and air pollution in the Capital region. Studies show that adverse impacts on the economy, quality of life, energy resources, environment, and public health."

Why is the White House sitting on the Executive Order which they know will benefit the health of the people who live in the region, but also give

Federal employees control over their own lives, and also take automobiles and cars off the streets of Maryland and Virginia and the District of Columbia so people can get back and forth to work and spend more time with their families?

It is a quality of life issue there. The simple fact that this order would reduce traffic congestion in our region is reason enough to sign it. Now we learn it will help with regard to the environment.

The document is important. The action is needed for now. Yet, this has been sitting on the President's desk for over 6 months. The bill will go in today. We will attempt to pass this bill. But I would hope and ask the White House to sign the Executive Order so we can give Federal employees this opportunity, give them opportunities to telework, but also take cars off the streets whereby we can have a better quality of life in this region for everyone who drives.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 8 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

O gracious God, we remember with compassion and empathy those members of our community who have suffered great loss and have walked through the valley of the shadow of death.

In our grief we look to Your spirit, O God, for healing and hope, for strength and meaning, for peace and assurance.

May the bounty of Your love and the majesty of your whole creation ever remind us of the wonderful gifts of faith and hope and love and may these gifts continue to live in our hearts and minds now and evermore. This is our earnest prayer. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.