

means you can be arrested and detained without formal charges, denied bail and presumed guilty of spying, despite the absence of evidence or motive.

As some Members of Congress seek to engage the Iranian regime to permit business arrangements, I urge all of us to consider the fate of these 13 people. We need to send a message to the mullahs in Tehran that only when Iran honors the will of the majority of its people, stops building weapons of mass destruction and ends abuses of human civil and religious rights, will the United States again consider engaging Iran as a legitimate member of the diplomatic community and the global economy.

PROVIDING AFFORDABLE PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE FOR ALL AMERICANS

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, Republicans believe that no Medicare beneficiary should have to choose between putting food on the table or purchasing the prescription drugs they need to live. Yet that is just what the poorest of American seniors are forced to do.

According to a 1996 study, there are 9.6 million Medicare recipients who do not have prescription drug coverage. Many of these individuals have incomes below \$15,000 a year. They are struggling on fixed incomes and cannot afford pharmacy bills that can run several hundred dollars a month.

Republicans and Democrats need to set aside partisan politics and do the moral thing. We must work together to help the millions of Medicare recipients who cannot pay for their medication. By providing affordable prescription drug coverage for everyone, we want to make sure that no senior citizen or disabled American falls through the cracks.

ODE TO EARL

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

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I was proud to note yesterday the quick thinking and bold action of our colleague, the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. EARL POMEROY) when a threatening situation arose in the Committee on Agriculture, so I would like to this morning dedicate this Ode to EARL.

With a fellow named Earl in the room
You had better not act like a loon
Break bottles and cry
I'd much rather die
Burly Earl, he'll subdue you real soon.
In the hearing he caused quite a scene
This lunatic, he vented his spleen
Threatened cabinet and staff

Earl had him down like a calf
So the committee could then reconvene.
So if agriculture's your place
And danger you ever should face
Just throw caution to the wind
Burly Earl we will send
Let Pomeroy return you to grace.

PROTESTING WRONGFUL IMPRISONMENT OF 13 JEWS BY IRAN

(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, I rise to add my voice to the many in protest of the wrongful imprisonment of the 13 Jews by the government of Iran on bogus charges of spying for the United States and Israel. The world community has unilaterally condemned this action by Iran, and our government and that of Israel have denied that these men were spies. Not only are the charges at best ludicrous, but should the 12 men and one teenager be found guilty, they will be executed.

Only yesterday, 8 of the 10 accused appeared before an Iranian judge and were coerced into a "confession." They have been denied their own legal representation. However, the only crime that these brave souls are guilty of is their faith in the face of a regime that allows no practice of religion that runs counter to their's. These men of faith have held true to their religious beliefs in the face of threats against them by the Iranian government.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the government of Iran to release them, and further, I urge our government to apply serious pressure on this repressive government and to work with the Iranian opposition to help bring about real reform and democracy in Iran.

PORKER OF THE WEEK AWARD

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

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, someone at the Department of Education has a lot of explaining to do. A contract employee, who was hired by the department to take care of its telephone and computer needs, recently admitted to carrying out a criminal plot that cost the government more than \$1 million.

The contractor illegally steered more than \$300,000 worth of equipment to an Education Department employee who was overseeing his work. The supervisor got a 61-inch television, cordless telephones, compact disk players, walkie-talkies, desktop and laptop computers, printers, digital cameras, computer scanners and Palm Pilots.

In addition to diverting the merchandise, the contractor routinely performed errands for the employee, such as picking up her granddaughter from school, all on government time. In exchange for his work, the contractor and his coworker walked off with more than \$600,000 in bogus overtime pay.

Good grief. Who is minding the store? The Department of Education gets my "Porker of the Week" Award.

MAKING SURE SENIORS GET AFFORDABLE PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, prescription drug coverage is an important issue for American seniors, and Republicans have a plan for those that need coverage to keep it and those who need it to get it.

This is in stark contrast to the President's plan. Democrats and the President willingly admit their plan will drive employers out of the market. To stop this, the Democrats bribe employers to keep the coverage they already offer. This just does not make sense. Rather than pay employers to do something they are already doing, I suggest we set the funds aside to actually get drug coverage to America's seniors. The Republican plan accomplishes that task.

Medicare beneficiaries deserve choices, not a one-size-fits-all program that wastes money. This Congress must take its responsibility seriously and make sure that seniors can get affordable prescription drugs when they need them. Now is the time.

CONGRATULATING SHERIFF CANTRELL OF SPALDING COUNTY, GEORGIA

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

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, if you look in the gallery, you will see a number of students from Spalding County, Georgia. They are part of the Junior Deputy Program, which has brought students to Washington since the 1960s. Leading this delegation is Richard Cantrell, Sheriff of Spalding County.

Sheriff Cantrell has not only worked hard to uphold the law in Spalding County, he has also worked to make the county a better place to live by working with the Boy Scouts, the Girl Scouts, Junior Deputy Program, and assisting handicapped youth through the American business club.

Sheriff Cantrell's father was confined to a wheelchair because of wounds suffered in World War II. Nonetheless, his father played an active role in his son's life. Sheriff Cantrell calls him "the most significant person in his life."

Mr. Speaker, it is people like Sheriff Cantrell and his father who are true role models for our youth.

Sheriff Cantrell is retiring at the end of this year after 30 years in law enforcement. The people of Spalding County will miss the services of Richard Cantrell as Sheriff, but I am sure he will continue aiding those who need

help and serving as a leader for our young people.

FLOYD D. SPENCE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2001

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS). Pursuant to House Resolution 503 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 4205.

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IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 4205) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2001 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2001, and for other purposes, with Mr. BURR of North Carolina (Chairman pro tempore) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Wednesday, May 7, 2000, amendments en bloc printed in House Report 106-621 offered by the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPENCE) had been disposed of.

It is now in order to consider Amendment No. 10 printed in House Report 106-621.

AMENDMENT NO. 10 OFFERED BY MR. SANFORD

Mr. SANFORD. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 10 offered by Mr. SANFORD: At the end of title III (page 82, after line 14), insert the following new section:

SEC. —. REPEAL OF AUTHORITY FOR LESS-THAN-FAIR-MARKET-VALUE TRANSFERS OF PROPERTY FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES.

(a) PROVISIONS REPEALED.—Sections 381 and 2576a of title 10, United States Code, are repealed.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—(1) The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 18 of such title is amended by striking the item relating to section 381.

(2) The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 153 of such title is amended by striking the item relating to section 2576a.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 503, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SANFORD) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SANFORD).

Mr. SANFORD. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment that I think is in the best interests of the United States military, and I say that for many different reasons. But one of the reasons I would say that is that when the American taxpayer buys

this helicopter, not this helicopter, but the model that it represents, this is a UH-68 Blackhawk Helicopter, is it runs somewhere between \$8- and \$10 million a copy. That is when they buy them.

Now, at the end of the cycle, when the Army is through using them, rather than selling the wheels or selling the motor or selling the frame or selling the whole thing, it is given away. It is given away to other pieces of the Federal Government, it is given away to State or local governments. I think that in this era, which has been talked about through the course of this debate, of scarce military dollars, the military needs every dollar they can have. Rather than continuing to give these dollars away, why does the military not keep it?

The origins ever the program behind giving this helicopter and other things away made a lot of sense 50 years ago, because in the wake of World War II we had all kinds of things out there. So the idea was let us give some of this stuff away.

What is interesting is by the Department of Defense's own estimates, roughly, approximately, \$350 million a year gets given away through this program. Now, that is, if you assume that this helicopter is worth \$1. If it is, in fact, worth \$10, we are talking about \$3.5 billion a year that is given away out of the back door of DOD to other agencies, State, local or Federal.

Now, to give you an idea of scale, the Law Enforcement Support Program takes 5,000 orders a day. It gives away, as I said, that amount of money. Over the last two years, they have given away, given away, 253 aircraft, including 6 and 7 passenger airplanes, Blackhawks, Hueys, MD-500s and Bell Jet Rangers. They have given away 7,800 M-16s, they have given away 181 grenade launchers, they have given away 1,161 pair of night vision goggles. That is a lot of things, and that is just part of the list.

To give you another idea of scale, the State and Local Law Enforcement Equipment Procurement Program sells at reduced prices a number of things within the DOD inventory. I went down their Web page. If you look on the Web page, you will find things like wrist-watches, stopwatches, compasses, lubricating oil, commercial automobile oil, camping and hiking equipment.

The point of all that is to say this is not used stuff. It is not used, like the helicopter. It is brand new stuff that is still sitting in its case. It has market value. It could be sold at an open auction, and those dollars could be used by DOD for procurement and they could be used for training.

So I offer this amendment because it stops money from being siphoned off from defense. It, secondly, helps to create a clear budget. If we are to make good decisions in government, they rest on reality. Budgets have to show reality. Unfortunately, current budgets do not. What they do is they overstate the cost of defense, and they under-

state the cost of other Federal agencies, and understate the cost of state and local government.

The third reason I offer this amendment is because it is in the best interest of the taxpayer. That is why it is supported by the National Taxpayers Union, that is why it is supported by Citizens Against Government Waste. They do so because if something is given to you, you oftentimes treat it very differently than if you have to pay dearly for it.

To give you an idea of the kind of excesses that occur in this program, for instance, 60 Minutes did a special about 2 years ago about a small rural county in central Florida that, through this program, among other things, had been given 23 helicopters, an armored personnel carrier, and two C-12 airplanes. As it turned out, that county was using it as a revenue source.

□ 1030

They would keep the stuff for a couple of years and then they would sell it on the open market, making hundreds of thousands of dollars for that county.

If it is not used that way, frankly, it is used strangely. I went to a county in South Carolina where the chief of police was taking helicopter lessons in a helicopter that would run \$1,500 an hour. It did not cost the county that much because they had been given the helicopter, but it did cost the taxpayer that much.

Another reason I offer this is if it is not used that way, the equipment sits idly by. I flew into a small county airport in South Carolina surrounded with a number of large Air Force and Navy airplanes, and I said to my brother, what is the trouble with these airplanes?

They were given to the county through this Federal program and, as he explained it, the county accepted it not because they had any use for it, the equipment had been sitting there for years, but because they could not afford not to take it since it was given away.

I think this amendment makes common sense. I would urge its adoption. It is about priorities.

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

Mr. BATEMAN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore (Mr. BURR of North Carolina). The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BATEMAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BATEMAN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 2 minutes.

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the fact that any program that any agency of government runs may have some abuses in it, and certainly the Committee on Armed Services would like to know where there are abuses and to be able to correct them.

Basically what this amendment does is to repeal two sections of the code which have proven extremely useful to law enforcement throughout America.