

RECOMMENDING PASSAGE OF S. 1675, A BOON TO AMERICAN COMPANIES

(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, suppose you as a businessman were approached by a truckline and offered a 10-percent cut in freight cost. Since trucking was deregulated it made sense.

Now 4 or 5 years later you are told that the truckline is bankrupt—bad management does that—and you have to pay back that 10 percent, or be sued. The trucker is gone but you have to pay for his mistakes.

This is the case for thousands of companies throughout this country, including my own company in Hickory, NC.

The ICC estimated the cost of those lawsuits to business at \$32 billion. That is four times our cost in Desert Storm or quadruple the cost of Hurricane Andrew.

These avaricious law suits will bankrupt companies, destroy jobs, and also destroy any possibility of economic recovery.

There ought to be a law against this but I guess we'll go home without passing one. What we should do is pass S. 1675 which solves part of the problem.

TELLING IT LIKE IT IS

(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, President Bush said, "Let's get it on." Bill Clinton said, "Let's get it on." Ross Perot said, "Let's go get it." Mr. Speaker, the biggest word in American politics is "it."

Could "it" be 47 million Americans without health insurance? Or is "it" 10 million unemployed Americans? Or is "it" jobs going overseas in record numbers? Is "it" bankruptcies?

I think it is time for the White House to tell us where it is, what it is, and what they are going to do about it, because we know how it is. In fact, I believe the White House just doesn't get it, because Arsenio Hall has created more jobs in the last 4 years than President Bush. That is telling it like it is.

THE TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA PROGRAM

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

Mr. WELDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today and use this opportunity to kick off what is in fact the largest county-wide Take Pride in America Program to date in this country. At this very hour 25,000 of my constituents are gathering at 48 specific locations and 37

municipalities, where they are conducting an intensive effort ranging from park cleanup to stream cleanup to tree and bulb planting to all sorts of Take Pride Programs in Delaware County.

I rise to acknowledge the hard work and efforts that went into the 1 year of planning for this effort, the cooperation of the Department of the Interior, and all of those hundreds and thousands of individuals and those organizations that have coordinated this massive effort. I wish that I could be there with them, but the press of business requires me to be here in Washington.

I would urge municipalities all across this country to get involved in our national Take Pride in America Program.

AMERICA NEEDS A COMPREHENSIVE GET TOUGH ON CRIME PROGRAM

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

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I wonder how many more deaths, how many more family tragedies, how much more anxiety across America it is going to take to move leadership of the institution to pass get tough on crime legislation.

There is a virulent epidemic of crime and lawlessness out there. It is brutal, it is real, it is everywhere, it pervades throughout, and people are frightened and worried. Law enforcement cannot keep our streets, our businesses, our homes free from crime because we are not giving them the tools to do the job, the legislation to back them up.

Headlines and evening newscasts paints a dismal picture of innocent people maimed and killed in their own neighborhoods, and worse, of a generation of young people who still believe crime does pay, and use role models from prison. Those same stories depict a Congress stymied by partisan gridlock and status quo leadership.

We have been talking about the need for tougher laws, tougher penalties, and tougher enforcement. As we race to the finish line of the 102d Congress, we have to start nibbling on the edge and tackle the challenge. A car theft bill and a public referendum in the District on the death penalty is not exactly a comprehensive get tough on crime program. It is a matter of life and death for the people of this country, literally.

AMERICA SHOULD UNDERSTAND WHO KILLED THE CRIME BILL

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

Mr. EDWARDS of California. Mr. Speaker, the Omnibus Crime Bill was enacted many months ago here in the House, and a sister bill enacted in the

Senate. We went to conference with the Senate, and the conference report that evolved was a good, hard-hitting crime bill that would help to resolve many of the problems of violent crime in this country.

The conference report was passed by the House of Representatives, it went to the other body, and it was held up for the past few months by a filibuster by the other side of the aisle, by the minority, by orders of the Attorney General. We understand now that the bill is dead.

I think that we ought to understand who killed a very hard-hitting crime bill. It was not this side of the aisle, it was not the Democrats, it was the other side.

OFFSHORE OIL DRILLING: THE FLORIDA COAST

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to express my concern with one particular decision of the conference committee which negotiated the national energy strategy bill. The conferees, for a myriad of reasons, decided to drop the title affecting offshore oil drilling from the bill. I am concerned with this policy decision, as are my constituents in Florida.

Mr. Speaker, let me quote from a story which appeared on the AP wire Thursday. It read:

An offshore rig that had been spewing oil into the gulf of Mexico for almost 2 days caught fire Thursday as workers tried to cap it. One person was hurt, the Coast Guard said. The injured person, whose identity was not available, was taken ashore by helicopter-ambulance.

The well spewed 42 gallons of crude a minute when it blew out at the wellhead Tuesday * * * the oil formed a slick that by Wednesday afternoon reached East Timbalier Island and Timbalier Island, among a fragile chain of barrier islands about 65 miles south of New Orleans.

Mr. Speaker, when my Florida colleagues and I stand in the well and espouse the dangers of offshore oil drilling, this is what we are talking about.

My Florida delegation colleagues and I have fought hard to ensure that our beaches remain pristine and inviting by preventing oil drilling from taking place near our shores. Every year, we make our case to the Interior Committee. This year, we wanted to establish a long-term policy through the national energy bill.

Apparently, our efforts will not bear fruit in the stripped down NES. But make no mistake, our resolve is clear. As stewards of our State's natural resources, I believe we need to protect these resources for the next generation of Floridians just as we inherited them.