

tempore, appoints the following individuals to the National Skill Standards Board—

Tim C. Flynn, of South Dakota, Representative of Business; and

Jerald A. Tunheim, of South Dakota, Representative of Human Resource Professionals.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Sherman Williams, one of his secretaries.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF RULES COMMITTEE MEETING AND LEGISLATIVE SCHEDULE

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure has filed the conference report on BESTEA. The Committee on Rules will be meeting at 3:35 on that. Of course, all of my colleagues know what is in this 1,000 page bill, so it should not take too long.

I would ask the Members of the Committee on Rules to please come upstairs right now, because we have another bill to act on. We will then act on BESTEA at 3:35. We will try to be back here on the floor within 15 or 20 minutes; and, hopefully, since we all know what is in the bill, we will only take a little while to debate it. We should be out of here by no later than 5 o'clock and possibly sooner, if everybody will control themselves.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces its intention to proceed to Special Orders without prejudice to the resumption of further legislative business.

EPIDEMIC OF CHILD VIOLENCE NEEDS IMMEDIATE ACTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise for a rather solemn occasion, one that pries at the very heartstrings of most Americans. Might I offer my sympathy to the citizens and schoolchildren and the entire State of Oregon for another tragedy of a child with a gun?

I believe it is important for this body to acknowledge that we have an epidemic. We have a situation where, if it goes unaddressed, more and more children will find a level of frustration to act out their frustration through violence, more and more lives will be lost, less attention to the issue will be given, and we will not have a solution. Our children cannot be frightened in their schools. We cannot see a greater loss of life.

As someone who passed the first parent responsibility ordinance in the City of Houston and later became State law, I do believe parents should be held responsible for children holding guns and, ultimately, winding up with a serious and tragic incident. But my main challenge, Mr. Speaker, is that this House must act, and it must act now. We have to save our children and the lives of all others. Guns in children's hands must not happen in this country.

My sympathy to those who have lost their life and to the child who acted out from frustration and heartache.

POTENTIAL DANGER FOR U.S. AS A RESULT OF TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY

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

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, many Members have wondered why the technology that was loosed to Communist China is dangerous to the United States. There is a lot of talk in the newspapers about different facets, but let me be specific.

In planning the war potential in different areas in all Southeast Asian countries, we looked at the ranges of different missiles. The booster that China had trouble with had problems, and we gave it the command and control guidance which allows it to target the MIRVing, which allows multiple warheads on different targets, but, even more important, the satellite technology at the Navy fighter weapon school. We can read the label on a missile stashed on an SU-27 to tell what kind of missile it is, what kind of intel.

So they not only increased the range, the targeting, they increased the ability to target U.S. cities specifically. That is why this is a problem and potential problem not only for the United States but other allied countries as well.

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We need to look into this, Mr. Speaker. It is serious, and it is a problem.

LET THE HOUSE ENACT SOME TYPE OF CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HEFNER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HEFNER. Mr. Speaker, we have heard a lot of debate in the last couple of hours about campaign finance. I do not come here to try to influence anyone about any particular proposal. However, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS) has been someone who has labored in this vineyard for many, many years. He has taken a lot of ridicule for his proposals on campaign finance. I think that this House owes a great deal to his efforts that he has had in the past.

The late Sam Ervin, who was the Senator for a lot of years from North Carolina, when talking about campaign financing, talking about how much it costs to run, he said, spending a half a million dollars or \$1 million running for a job, at that particular time, that paid \$44,000 was kind of like putting a \$100 saddle on a \$40 mule. It just did not make a lot of sense.

Someone in the debate earlier said that the average citizen cannot afford to run for Congress. Actually, the average citizen cannot even afford to run for county commissioner, because it has gotten to where campaigning is so expensive the average person cannot get involved in the political process.

There are some folks here who do not think we need to do anything on campaign financing, some who think we need to put a lot more money in campaigns. The gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) did a marvelous job last night, he should get an academy award, for his opposition to any kind of campaign finance reform.

Let me just remind the Members of a couple of things. If we go back to the old days when it was only the companies, a lot of these towns would get together and they would pick their candidate and they would fund him. He would be the man that was going to win in a State House seat or a congressional seat. That way, the average guy never got to run for political office.

When I first ran for political office, I spent \$44,000. I thought that that was a tremendous amount of money, and it was. We wasted a lot of that. Now it is not uncommon to spend \$1 million to get a congressional seat that pays \$135,000. It does not make a lot of sense, does it?

If Members think that money does not make a difference in both parties, the Democrats and Republicans, they have their sources. And I will be a little partisan on this. We heard in our newspapers and in Roll Call, in the magazines, that the business community was served notice, and the Republicans said, you have been giving too much money to the Democrats. If you are going to have any access to this Congress, you are going to have to come up with more money for Members that are running on the Republican ticket. That is soft money and hard money.

Mr. Speaker, what someone has referred to as third-party, and everybody has had it, in my district we had at the churches all these flyers that were put under the windshield wipers of the cars: If you want to vote for somebody who wants to kill babies, vote for Bill Hefner and Mike Dukakis. I do not think that was real fair, but we did know who put them under there, or what have you.

Television commercials, they do not have to tell us who is paying for these television commercials. This money comes in and it makes a tremendous hardship on people who are trying to go out and raise hard money from constituents. I challenge anybody in this

House in a regular district. I doubt if they can raise, from the constituents in hard money, in small denominations, even \$200,000. So the big money plays a part in campaigns, make no mistake about that. It may not buy a direct commitment, but it buys access to this process.

I do not know what is going to pass on campaign finance reform. I am going to be leaving here after this year. Thank God I do not have to raise any more money. But if something is not done to get a handle on campaign financing and the money that influences it, it is going to get to where even the middle-income folks cannot afford to run for office.

It will only be the people that have the contacts, the people that are millionaires, that will be able to run for Congress, either that or they will be able to go out and get a pretty charismatic candidate that could never make \$100,000 in the private sector and fix him up for television, get a smooth consultant, and he will get elected. But it will still be the money trail that puts people in this House. Let us put together some kind of campaign finance reform.

TRIBUTE TO AMERICA'S VETERANS AND TO DR. CARL GORMAN ON MEMORIAL DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. HAYWORTH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I would ask that all of us pause to remember the reason why we are preparing to take a break from our activities here in Washington, the reason why the highways will be filled with vacationers in just a couple of hours. The reason why has more to do with the history of this country than any type of chronological observance on the calendar, for we approach Memorial Day.

Mr. Speaker, I have a special wish for this coming Memorial Day, that those who are wrapped up in the ball games at the beach and the fun and the activities that surround this time of year, that those who pause not even a New York nanosecond to remember the significance and the history of this holiday, I would ask that perhaps they would pause to remember and reflect on what we approach.

In so doing, Mr. Speaker, I would remember one for whom this Memorial Day will carry a special significance, because he no longer walks among us. He passed away in February of this year. His name is Dr. Carl Gorman, one of my constituents from the Sixth Congressional District of Arizona.

Dr. Gorman has a very interesting story, because Dr. Gorman, born in 1907 in Chinle, Arizona, in the sovereign Navajo Nation, overcame many obstacles to have a chance to serve this Nation in the military.

First and foremost, we should note that the Navajo Tribal Council in fact

set the pace for this Chamber, for it was the Navajo Tribal Council in 1940, over a year before the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, the Navajo Tribal Council passed a resolution asking the United States to enter World War II on the side of the Allies.

Then following that attack, December 7, 1941, Carl Gorman, who was older than what would fit the profile, got a little creative about his age, said he was a younger man, drove all night to the Navajo capital of Window Rock to enlist, and he and 28 others formed an elite unit, a unit so elite that its activities were not declassified until 1968.

Mr. Speaker, they were known as the Navajo Code Talkers. Dr. Gorman and his Navajo brethren went into the South Pacific using terms from their unique language, and so befuddled and confused the enemy that the code, the Navajo language, was never interpreted. That code was never broken, and it reigns as one of the great successes of World War II.

The Marine Corps high command, in looking back at the activities of Dr. Gorman and his comrades, considered the Navajo Code Talkers heroes. They determined that the Code Talkers saved hundreds if not thousands of American lives because of the success in the South Pacific. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, were it not for the actions of Carl Gorman and the Navajo Code Talkers, our Marine Corps high command believes that perhaps the battle of Iwo Jima would have had a far different outcome.

Like for so many who returned from World War II, life went on for Carl Gorman following that war. He went to art school in Los Angeles. He taught Navajo art at the University of California at Davis. He went on to work again in his home State down in Douglas, Arizona.

But always and forever on this Memorial Day and those that follow, we should remember all our veterans, yes, those who fell on the field of battle, but those who continued to contribute to their Nation, like Dr. Carl Gorman. We honor his memory and those of all veterans this Memorial Day.

CONGRESS CAN ENACT LEGISLATION TO PREVENT ACCESS TO WEAPONS FOR CHILDREN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, yesterday for the seventh time in the 2 years that I have been in Congress we have been witness to what can only be described as a massacre on one of America's schoolyards, for the seventh time in less than 2 years.

This experience struck a little close to home because it was in my State of Oregon. I am finding already the connections with family and friends of people who knew people who were victims of this event.

But in a sense, I hope all of us in this country who look at those anguished faces, the terror-stricken young people, the sense of what was happening in what should be a sanctuary for our youth, causes us in Congress to reflect on what we are prepared to do to try and make a difference.

Last fall we were unable to secure the right for Members of this assembly to vote on a simple piece of legislation in the juvenile crime bill that would have provided for child access protection against access to guns. This is not something that is some sort of bizarre, hard-edged gun control proposal. These efforts have already been successful in 15 American States, starting with the State of Florida, to make it clear to gun owners at the point of purchase that they have a responsibility to keep that deadly weapon from the hands of children. It requires the person who sells the gun to make available at point of purchase a lockbox or a trigger lock.

We reflect on what happened almost exactly 2 months ago today in Jonesboro, Arkansas, where there was another massacre in a schoolyard. Those two young men who are allegedly the people who inflicted that attack tried first to get the guns from one of the parents' homes. They even tried using a blowtorch, but because it was in a lockbox, they could not get access to it. Their next stop was at the home of someone who had the guns readily available to them, and the rest was history. Five people were dead.

There is no reason that we in this Chamber have to sit back and assume that there is nothing we can do to make America safer for our children. Is it going to take an example like this in the home district of some member of leadership that has denied the House the right, and then be accountable to people they know personally because of a massacre?

□ 1545

If it makes a difference stopping one of these multiple tragedies, it will be worth it. Survey research indicates that over 80 percent of the American public support this legislation. I have been involved with a voluntary program with my sheriff in Multnomah County, Portland, Oregon, Dan Nolle, who has been so enthusiastic supporting lockbox initiatives that he has decreed that every deputy who takes a loaded gun home at night has a lockbox.

There are things that we can do to make sure that this is not something that is replicated across America. I would hope that the leadership of this Chamber would look into their heart and soul and relinquish for a moment and allow the Members of the House to vote on noncontroversial, meaningful proposals that will reduce the carnage of gun violence in this country. Our young people deserve it.