

Will the voters of Indiana's Eighth Congressional District make the choice and return Frank McClosky to Washington or will 40 ghost voters send us their choice, Mr. McClosky's opponent?

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1617, NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS AUTHORIZATIONS, 1986 AND 1987

Mr. BONIOR of Michigan, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 99-41) on the resolution (H. Res. 128) providing for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 1617) to authorize appropriations to the Secretary of Commerce for the programs of the National Bureau of Standards for fiscal years 1986 and 1987, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1210, NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION AUTHORIZATIONS, 1986 AND 1987

Mr. BONIOR of Michigan, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 99-42) on the resolution (H. Res. 129) providing for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 1210) to authorize appropriations to the National Science Foundation for the fiscal years 1986 and 1987, and for related purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

THE MOST IMPORTANT DEBATE OF THE DECADE

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

Mr. RITTER. Mr. Speaker, these Chambers will soon witness the latest chapter in what perhaps is the most important debate of the decade. This debate will not only be about Nicaragua and its establishing of a Soviet Communist base on the land bridge between North and South America, it will be about the soul of the Democratic Party. All over the country Democrats are holding conferences on how to move their party back toward the center.

Well, I call upon my Democratic colleagues to see this crucial debate on Nicaragua as an opportunity to show the American people that you are serious about returning to the mainstream.

The fringe philosophy of "blame America first" has heralded our foreign policy setbacks and paralleled the setback of the Democratic Party in national elections.

As a Republican, I might welcome this self-immolation, but as an American I view it as a disaster for the well-being of our mutual enterprise.

Mr. Speaker, the ghosts of Franklin Roosevelt, Harry Truman, John F. Kennedy, Hubert Humphrey, and Henry Jackson will be present during this debate.

Democrats who are talking about recapturing the center should pay heed to them. Not to do so will only injure their memory and further injure the Democratic Party itself.

CENTRAL AMERICA: A DOSE OF REALITY

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

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, beginning today, I will speak to the issue of Central America. Each day, I will seek to provide factual background, because we cannot hope to formulate a workable policy without a clear understanding of Central America, what our role has been, and how our policy has not only violated decency and offended commonsense, but has violated the letter and spirit of law after law.

I will discuss how our own laws have been violated in Central America. I will show how our policy has violated international law. And I will discuss what the region is like, what our role there has been, and how current policy in no way differs from failed policies of the past.

Each day, I will present a little dose of reality. Each day, I will light a little match, in the hope of igniting a torch of honesty, in a region where dishonesty and utter cynicism has been the rule of our policy. After all, where else in the world but Central America, and specifically Nicaragua could or would a U.S. President justify support of a dictator as evil as Somoza by saying: "He may be an SOB, but he's our SOB." It is long past time that our policy becomes more decent than that. It is time that we understand how we are perceived, what we have done, and we can now do to redeem ourselves in Central America, the most notable scene in the world of benign neglect and malign action from our Government. It is time that we base our policy on decency rather than expediency, on humanity rather than greed, and on honesty rather than paternalism.

HOUSE SHOULD CONSIDER RESOLUTION CONDEMNING SOVIETS FOR MURDER OF MAJ. ARTHUR D. NICHOLSON

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

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, earlier this morning, the House Democratic leadership made a capricious decision to remove House Resolution 125 from consideration by the House. House Resolution 125 is the resolution condemning the Soviet Union for the

brutal murder of Maj. Arthur D. Nicholson, and had over 60 cosponsors, including 18 members of the Foreign Affairs Committee, from both sides of the aisle.

I believe that if the majority of Members feel that it is not in the best interest of the United States for the House to issue such a condemnation, then they should vote the resolution down—but we should not be prevented from considering the issue on its merits.

By playing down the importance of the murder of Major Nicholson we are once again doing our best to paint a rosy picture of the nature and intentions of the Soviet leaders, and in the process creating a false hope for a faithfully observed arms reduction agreement.

For once let's expose the dishonorable methods and motives of the Soviet leadership, and let the people of the world pass judgment. As a start, let's consider House Resolution 125.

This is the strongest statement to date expressing American indignation over the murder, and our refusal to tolerate future violations of treaties and agreements. If Mr. Gorbachev is testing our resolve, let's show him we've come to play hardball. If Mr. Gorbachev is seeing just how far he can push us, let's call his bluff.

No retaliation, as such, is necessary. My proposal is simple: Present the facts to the people of the world and let them pass judgment. This means maintaining a full-scale information barrage throughout the United States and the world. If ever there was a situation which demands public diplomacy, not silence, this is it.

SOCIAL SECURITY/REAGAN

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

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, last November President Reagan promised that he would never stand for a reduction in Social Security.

Last month Ringling Brothers Circus announced that its new star attraction would be a live unicorn.

Both turned out to be a hoax.

President Reagan has now given his blessing to a Republican budget plan which proposes a major reduction in Social Security. By supporting this plan, he has flatly broken his promise to millions of senior citizens.

Mr. Speaker, we Democrats believe a promise is a promise is a promise. Obviously, the Republicans believe a promise is a promise only as far as the next election. After all, if Mr. Reagan did not cut Social Security, he might have to forego an increase in Pentagon spending or, even worse, close tax loopholes that allow thousands of wealthy Americans and corporations to avoid taxes, General Dynamics,