

The fact that we have been briefed or have not been briefed or have not been briefed enough is totally irrelevant. The fact is we should be supporting our President in a bipartisan fashion the way Congress has always done and support our men and women.

CONSULTATION IS IMPORTANT

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

Mr. DORNAN. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. WELDON] wants to stand tight, I will yield him some time, even though it is only a minute.

I am going to do a one-hour special order on supporting the troops. I am wearing the pin, air force fighter pilot here is wearing the pin of the First Armored Division, which is not an armored division anymore. It is now light infantry in Bosnia, because all our tanks are up in Germany. And that was done without total consultation with this House.

Consultation is important. I served 3 weeks while Jerry Ford was President, 4 years of Carter, 8 years of Reagan, 4 years of Bush, and even though the timing was not timely sometimes, always there was consultation with the gang of 8: the two Intelligence Committee chairmen, the 2 Armed Services Committee chairmen, the 2 Foreign Affairs or International Relations chairmen.

This is just God awful what is happening here. And everybody in uniform knows this chairman supports them, so I do not have to apologize for that.

I demand constitutional authority of this House over men and women going into combat. And the minimum we should get is what we have had ever since World War II: consultation. That is what crossing the beach means: full support with the elected Senators and Representatives of the men and women in uniform; being consulted in this Chamber.

CONGRESS NEEDS TO BE INFORMED

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

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, I want to just echo the remarks of the gentleman from California and the gentleman from Pennsylvania that have just gotten up here and talked about.

I would say to my friend from New York there has never been anybody in this House in the year and 9 months I have been here who has supported our troops more than I have. I have given them my full support in Bosnia, over an operation which I did not particularly agree with, but I supported the men and women once they were there.

We are on the brink right now of potentially another Operation Desert

Storm, but yet nobody in this House has any idea what is going on.

I just left a national security meeting 30 minutes ago, in which the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. WELDON] made the comment, he said does anybody on either side of the aisle have any information about exactly what is going on in Iraq right now.

Nobody, nobody has any idea, and yet we are asked to stand up here and take action to fund operations we know nothing about, to support operations we know nothing about.

I think it is unfair. It is un-American. This body deserves to know. I implore the President to inform us, to let us know what is going on.

TRIBUTE TO MARTI MORGAN

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

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I come before the House for just one moment to announce the passing of one of our staffers, a dear friend, Martha B. Morgan, affectionately known as Marti Morgan, who I had the great pleasure and honor of working with on the Committee on Government Operations, which is now the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

Marti was a professional staffer. She was from New Mexico, I believe, and she sat behind me for several years on the Government Reform Subcommittee with the gentleman from New York [Mr. TOWNS] and others, and she was truly one of those unsung heroes of this Chamber and of this Congress.

She worked so hard. On the minority side we had very few staff members on the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, so she used to have to do double duty. But she was always there and did a great job and I appreciated her service so much to me and to our committee and to our subcommittee.

And then she joined the majority, as I did, and we cut the staff dramatically, eliminated many positions, so our staffers had to work even harder. But she was one of those people who cared about this Congress and who cared about this country and whose efforts will be missed.

I just want to wish Marti's family my sympathy, express the sympathy on behalf of our committee and the subcommittee and this Congress to her family and remember her in this hour.

THE CHURCH INSURANCE PROTECTION ACT

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

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind this House of the continuing threat to our Nation's sacred houses of worship.

Reverend J. Linzie Whitmill recently contacted me to say that his insurance

company is threatening to cancel his church's fire protection policy. Mr. Speaker, Reverend Whitmill and his congregation have not been negligent in minimizing the risk of fire, nor have they been negligent in paying their insurance premiums.

How then is it that this model insurance client is facing cancellation of the insurance that provides his congregation financial and emotional security and peace of mind? Apparently, the insurance company feels threatened by the recent plague of church arson. This injustice must be stopped.

Before we adjourn, I urge this Congress to approve H.R. 3830, the Church Insurance Protection Act [CIPA] to guarantee insurance protection for our churches. America's churches cannot wait until next year for passage of this bill.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COOLEY of Oregon). Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

MEMBERS SHOULD LEARN THE RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. GOSS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, we have seen a good deal of hand-wringing and posturing these past few days on this floor and in the editorial pages of our Nation's major and minor newspapers about the ethics process. I guess that is to be expected, given that we are deep into the blatant partisan election-year politicking that often overtakes us every 2 years. And I suppose I should not be surprised that editorial writers have not studied the rule book of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct or of this House, and, therefore, often write pieces that misstate or confuse facts.

But I do expect more from Members of this institution, all of whom are bound by the rules of this House and all of whom have an obligation to improve in its credibility, not attempt to tear it further down.

The fact is, however, that many of my friends on the other side of the aisle seem not to have read and understood the rules of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct as prescribed in this little blue book. These rules clearly state that we on the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct are not permitted to do what my friends are so desperately trying to get us to do, and that is release information before our process is complete.

Now, I have said before and I say again that I have long believed that the current process, as prescribed by