

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

the rules in this little blue book and our House rules, this process is in serious need of review and reform, and that is happening. But the last time we implemented major changes was in 1989, and most observers, as well as most Members, I think, believe that it is time to do more.

I have been saying that for years, and I have been trying to advance constructive proposals for reform of this process through the Committee on Rules, which is the proper venue for these discussions. But I have been blocked in that effort on the Committee on Rules by some of the very people who are now so vigorously urging our committee to ignore our rules.

So on the one hand they seem to be complaining about the constraints of our current rules, while on the other hand they refuse to allow us on the Committee on Rules to plan for changes in the process so we do not fall into these same problems in the next Congress.

Mr. Speaker, my dear friend from Colorado, Mrs. SCHROEDER, inserted some remarks into Tuesday's RECORD, calling on me to resign my current position on the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct. I would suggest to her, in good nature, that I would like nothing more than to relinquish my post on that committee. I could say it the other way, and do the Brer Rabbit and say, "Oh, please, don't fire me from the committee; don't throw me into that briar patch," but the truth is I have served my time there and I would love to move on.

As all Members know, serving there is a difficult and very thankless task. It is no fun, it is extremely hard work, but, again, I am constrained by the very rules of the committee and by my obligation to faithfully discharge my duty to this House, and I will do that.

I would say to the gentlewoman from Colorado [Mrs. SCHROEDER], and to all my colleagues who have lambasted our committee in recent days, join me in my attempt to get real reform of the ethics process for the next Congress.

For instance, I have proposed changes to the process that would help to address the problem we seem to be having, where Members of this House, perhaps because they have not read or do not fully understand the committee's current rules, make statements that are misleading and confusing to other Members, and to the public, and to the media.

My proposal would make all Members eligible to serve on the ethics panel, similar to a jury approach, where anyone could be called as needed at any time perhaps. Perhaps, then, Members would pay more attention to the rules.

This type of reform would, I think, ensure that Members become more familiar with the rules and procedures of that committee, which are important, and since they too could be called upon to serve duty there in the future. In that case, then, perhaps they would be a little less likely to excoriate their

colleagues who are currently doing the heavy lifting on that committee.

I have other ideas, all of which are included in House Resolution 346, and I invite my colleagues to look at the proposal and add others to it, and to bring forward ideas of their own, so that we can have the best possible reform of the ethics process.

We have an opportunity to turn all the partisan rancor into a positive force for change, and I hope we do not let that opportunity pass us by. The purpose of the ethics committee is to build a credibility of the institution. When we abuse the rules, we detract from the credibility of the institution and that does no Member or the institution any good.

□ 1230

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COOLEY of Oregon). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

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

[Mr. MCINTOSH addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

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

[Mr. PALLONE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

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

[Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

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

[Mr. FIELDS of Louisiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

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

[Mr. METCALF addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Missouri [Mr. VOLKMER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. VOLKMER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION AND THE WAR ON DRUGS

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

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I come before the House once again, I intend to come before the House as many times as it takes, to see what we can do as a Congress, as a Nation, as parents, as concerned citizens to see how we can stem the drug epidemic in this country. I cannot think of any greater failure of an administration in my lifetime then the failure of this current administration in addressing and in fact ignoring the problem of drug abuse and drug misuse.

It is a very documentable history. It is a story that began in 1992, and we see the results today in our communities and our streets and our schools and in our homes. What is interesting to note with this chart that I brought here today is the use of illegal drugs and the history of our efforts in that war on drugs.

In 1980, we see where President Reagan took over and said, just say no. And his wife, Nancy Reagan, said, just say no, and provided the leadership to this Nation and to our young people and said, drugs are the wrong way to go. We see the chart from 1980 going down and then we see President Bush and Mrs. Bush, and they continued that policy of just say no, that drugs will destroy lives and drugs will destroy our young people.

Then we see 1992, and the latest statistics are absolutely astounding. We see 1992, when President Clinton took office and he first fired the drug czar. Then he hired Joycelyn Elders, our chief health officer for this Nation, who said, just say maybe, maybe take drugs, kids.

Then we saw the destruction of our interdiction program to stop in a most cost-effective manner drugs at their source. Then finally, in the insult to the highest office in this land, we saw the White House failing to curtail the employment of people with admitted recent drug use and drug abuse histories, which just startled me as a member of the committee that investigated that matter. So this is what we see, this is what they did, and this is what we get.

Take this second chart, if you would, teen drug use. These statistics should shock every Member of Congress and every parent and every person in the media, the rampant increase in drug use by our teenagers, 12 to 17 years old. I repeated this yesterday, drug use up 78 percent, marijuana use, not the kind of marijuana of the 1960's and the 1970's, we are talking about more potent, more brain destructive, more