

Florida are null and void. There were no standards and certainly no uniformity in how the counts were established by initio.

The Court examined the recount process in an effort to find some way to invalidate what the Florida court has ordered.

Had the U.S. Supreme Court been interested in making every vote count in Florida, it could have easily remanded the case back to the Florida Supreme Court, established the uniform standard to be used, and allowed the count to proceed.

Instead, in remanding the matter to the Florida Supreme Court it noted that the time had run out.

There was no basis for the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling that December 12 was an absolute deadline. If it had to rely on a deadline why not December 18. It didn't use December 18 because that would have allowed enough time for the recount to have been completed.

Even December 18 is not a real deadline. In 1960, Hawaii Democrats went to court to ask for a recount, after the Lt. Governor had certified the results of the Presidential election. The Court ordered a statewide recount which took until December 27 to complete. It was not transmitted to Washington, D.C. until early January. When the Joint Session met on January 6, 1961, there were three certifications on the Speaker's desk. One sent from Hawaii on November 28, the one announced by the electors on December 19, and the one sent by the Court after the recount.

On election night 1960 Hawaii thought that Kennedy had won by 92 votes. The next morning the "final" tabulation had Nixon winning by 142 votes. After the court ordered recount Kennedy was ahead by 115 votes.

Vice President Nixon presided over the Joint Session on January 6, 1961 and declared that Kennedy had won Hawaii.

As Justice Stevens noted in his dissent, the Hawaii court ordered recount took precedence over the State's Lt. Governor's certification done pursuant to state law, and even took precedence over the electors announced vote on December 18.

In the Hawaii case, December 12, and December 18 were not regarded as deadlines that would interfere with the state Judiciary's power and responsibility to make sure that all of the votes were properly counted. The Republican Governor William Quinn, the Republican Lt. Governor James Kealoha, and the Republican United States Senator Hiram Fong all agreed that Kennedy had indeed carried the state of Hawaii in the 1960 Presidential election.

I see no justification for the U.S. Supreme Court's interference in the 2000 presidential election.

Florida could have taken until December 31st to recount all of its ballots. The December 12th deadline was arbitrary.

The people of America have been cheated of a full and fair outcome.

I especially resent those who asked that Vice President Gore not contest the outcome in Florida. Without Florida he was the clear winner. He had won 267 electoral votes. Bush only had 246 votes without Florida. In addition Gore had won the nationwide popular vote as well. Gore had the duty to defend the outcome, not as he wished, but as the voters all across the country had determined. He had no right to concede the outcome without a fierce defense. It was not his to concede. Fifty mil-

lion voters had expressed their will. A Florida recount was needed to validate their choice.

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

(Mr. WOLF 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 Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois 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 Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SHIMKUS 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 California (Mr. ROHRABACHER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. ROHRABACHER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE INSPIRATION OF THE U.S. CAPITOL, AND ITS LESSONS FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

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

Mr. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, last evening I looked out upon this Capitol from my office window in the Rayburn Building. The Capitol dome was lighted. It was a cool evening. The flags were flying, and the lights were on the Capitol dome.

I paused to look about 10 p.m. because I thought that was going to be my last evening in office as I retire from this United States House of Representatives. I had virtually cleaned out my office. I just sat there for a few minutes, having a very beautiful view of this Capitol.

It occurred to me that we often look at the Capitol, but we do not see it. As Members of Congress, we are often in another world in our minds, doing things of the people's work that we should be doing, making decisions and doing all the things we are involved with. Very often we do not get off the train and smell the roses and really look around us. It is difficult to do, living these busy lives that we do.

But our Capitol represents that which is the greatest in America. It represents the history of this Nation, the greatest free nation in the history of the world. It represents and symbolizes lots of things.

It is a wonderful piece of architecture. Those of us who have had the

privilege of taking the architect's tour and taking constituents to the top of the dome know it intimately from that standpoint.

But just looking at it from the outside, and looking at its intricate workings under those beautiful lights, makes us in awe of it as a building and a structure, and realizing that structure was conceived years and years ago before we had all of the modern technology we have today.

But it is far more than an architectural structure, it is a symbol of this great free Nation. It is, like our Constitution and our Bill of Rights, a part of our heritage. We have this greatest free Nation because we had Founding Fathers with the wisdom to adopt a Constitution and the Bill of rights that protect us from government, that require government to be closest to the people in the States and local communities, where they can, and have a Federal or central government only to do those things of national security and matters which really cannot be done by an individual one of the 50 States.

We have also a check and balance system, where the legislative branch, the executive branch, and the judicial branch of governments work together in harmony to produce outcomes that sometimes, upon their initial appearances, look messy, untidy, and difficult, but they are not. They are actually things that can resolve, because of those mechanisms, great crisis problems in ways that do not involve bloodshed, that do not involve riot in the streets, that simply involve a serious debate and serious consideration; in ways that engage the American public in a democratic fashion.

We just witnessed one of those great moments in our history: a presidential election that went on for days after the balloting, in which we had lots of partisan views and personal opinions, and engaged the American people.

Some thought that the election should have been resolved sooner; some thought it should have gone on beyond the Supreme Court decision of this past few days. But the reality is that our system worked. The beauty of it is that our Founding Fathers' gift to us has indeed shown forth again in bringing about in a fashion that our republic is proud of the resolution of the issue of who will be the next president of the United States and the next Vice President, George W. Bush and Richard Cheney, Dick Cheney.

I am honored to have served in this body, to have been a Member over the last 20 years of this House of Representatives; to have been a party to a small piece of history for events that have unfolded here in my time.

During that tenure lots of things have happened: We have seen the end of the Cold War. We have seen the fall of the Berlin Wall. We have seen the balancing of the Federal budget. We have seen the advent of the age of the Internet. We have seen vast changes in our lives.