PROTECTING UNBORN CHILDREN

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

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Unborn Victims of Violence Act, a piece of legislation that is now rightfully receiving overwhelming support and one that I am proud to now be an original cosponsor of.

It is the responsibility of every public elected official to try to do all that we can to protect those who cannot protect themselves. And that is exactly what this piece of legislation does. It does that by punishing those who would intentionally try to harm or in some cases kill an unborn child.

This piece of legislation has the further benefit of actually trying to encourage the efforts to discourage crimes against women, the mothers. It does that by punishing those who would inflict the crimes against women and their unborn children.

So I would encourage people today from both sides of the aisle to do what all public elected officials should do: protect those who cannot protect themselves.

PRACTICE WHAT YOU PREACH

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, George Bush made his first address to the Nation as President-elect from the chamber of the Texas House of Representatives. Today that same House is in lockdown. He was introduced by Democrat Speaker Pete Laney. Today, Mr. Laney is at work with 50 courageous colleagues in Ardmore, Oklahoma, while some Republicans outrageously call them ''fugitives'' and ''criminals.''

Throughout his campaign, Mr. Bush professed to be a ''uniter, not a divider.'' If that quickly-abandoned moniker is ever to achieve any meaning, perhaps home in Texas is the best place for him to practice what he preached. Mr. President, tell Karl Rove to stop messing with Texas. Mr. President, tell TOM DELAY to withdraw his redistricting plan that slices and dices communities across our State.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Remarks in debate must address the Chair, not the President of the United States. The Chair reminds the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT) that he is to address his remarks to the Chair, not to the President of the United States.

Mr. DOGGETT. A distinguished predecessor as President of the United States, Dwight David Eisenhower, pledged, ''I shall go to Korea.''

To achieve peace, why don't you simply pledge, ''I shall go to Austin.''

UNBORN VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE ACT

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of the Unborn Victims of Violence Act. For too long Federal law has failed to recognize what is obvious to so many Americans, that when an unborn child is injured or killed during the commission of a crime of violence, there are two human victims, not just one.

Already 26 States have enacted criminal penalties. Now Congress must lead a national effort to bring justice to criminals who would harm pregnant women and their children. To those who would perform these heinous acts, we should say we, as Americans, will no longer tolerate your callous disregard for human life and for the families that you devastate.

Mr. Speaker, this bill requires the Federal law recognize an unborn child as a victim if he or she is harmed during a Federal crime by letting the assailant be charged with a second offense on behalf of the second victim, the unborn child, the exact charge depending on degree of harm done to the child.

We should all take a moment and reflect on the profound loss and sorrow suffered by a family and their community when a new life is extinguished by an act of violence and let that thought guide this debate.

HONORING TEXAS HOUSE DEMOCRATS

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, let there be no mistake, this action by 51 sheroes and heroes is by no means dealing with the political aspect of redistricting. These individuals are dealing with the constitutional principles of freedom and human dignity.

The Houston Chronicle today said the ability of the Democrats to thwart DELAY is good for all Texans. I am going to add something else: it is good for America. Because you do not know the kind of oppressive leadership that the majority leader is bringing to the State. He says he will not relent. He indicates that at a breakfast the President of the United States said when he said redistricting is ongoing, the President said, well, I would like to see that happen. Fair enough. But this is a divisive, implosive act by the majority leader. This is Washington telling Texas what to do. And do you know why? Because TOM DELAY says he is not going to compromise because Republicans are in control in Austin and Washington.

Well, let me thank Garnet Coleman, Jessica Farrar, Joe Moreno, Senfronia Thompson, Kevin Bailey, and Rick Noriega. The Governor of Texas said they should resign. Mr. Governor, you need to consider your own words. Maybe some believe you should do the same.

HONORING SAVANNA, GEORGIA, PORTS

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

Mr. BURNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contribution to the economy that the port of Savannah provides to the port city in Savanna, Georgia, in the 12th district.

Last year, the port city served more than 50 steamship lines serving more than 150 countries around the world. Exports of kale and clay, wood pulp and machinery helped send Georgia products abroad, and the port is responsible for more than 80,000 Georgia jobs, paying more than $585 million in State and local taxes. These jobs provide a total of $1.8 billion of personal income to the citizens of Savanna and the surrounding areas of Georgia.

The economic impact from my district and the State of Georgia is enormous, and we must make sure that the port remains open, efficient, and secure. I support the efforts of the Governor and the Georgia Port Authority to maintain and improve this vital commercial center. I look forward to working with all branches of government to secure the necessary resources to protect this asset and expand its influence in the community.

HONORING THE TEXAS 53

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

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I come to the House floor today to salute heroes in my State, the Texas 53. Yes, these 53 State House representatives have taken a courageous stand to preserve justice and democracy in Texas. As those State representatives said in a written statement, they are taking a courageous stand for fair play for all Texans. We refuse to participate in an inherently unfair process that slams the door of opportunity in the face of Texas voters.

The proposed redistricting plan blatantly violates the Voting Rights Act and the U.S. Constitution. In south Texas, border cities are cut up into as many as three different congressional districts and grouped into residents of downtown Austin over 350 miles away.

□ 1030

Democratic representatives have no voice in the development of this redistricting plan, nor did citizens throughout the State of Texas, in violation of State law.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I commend these 53 representatives for their courageous