

AUTHORIZING CLERK TO MAKE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS AND CONFORMING CHANGES IN EN-GROSSMENT OF H.R. 1817, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Clerk be authorized to make technical corrections and other conforming changes in the engrossment of H.R. 1817 to reflect the actions of the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1526

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have the name of the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JINDAL) removed as cosponsor of H.R. 1526, the Security and Freedom Ensured Act of 2005.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Idaho?

There was no objection.

REPORT ON H.R. 2419, ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

Mr. HOBSON, from the Committee on Appropriations, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 109-86) on the bill (H.R. 2419) making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes, which was referred to the Union Calendar and ordered to be printed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1, rule XXI, all points of order are reserved on the bill.

SUPPORT 527 FAIRNESS ACT OF 2005

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of the 527 Fairness Act of 2005. This is a bill that levels the playing field between political parties, PACs, Federal campaigns and 527s. The 527 Fairness Act lifts up other players by injecting more freedom into the campaign system.

The legislation is very simple. It removes the aggregate contribution limit. It allows State and local parties to spend non-Federal dollars for voter registration and sample ballots. What it does not do is it does not repeal the limits on individual contributions to national parties and committees. It does not allow soft money to go to national political parties.

The answer, Mr. Speaker, to problems and politics in a free society is more freedom, not less freedom. So I

commend my colleagues, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. WYNN) for introducing this bipartisan vital piece of legislation. I urge my colleagues to support the 527 Fairness Act of 2005.

NO FILIBUSTER CHANGE

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I was recently playing a card game with my 5-year-old grandson, Teddy. And he knows it is wrong to change the rules in the middle of the game just to win. But the Republicans do not seem to play by any rules. If they sense vulnerability, they will rewrite historical laws to suit their needs. That is exactly what they did in the House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, and that is exactly what they are trying to do by eliminating the filibuster in the judicial nomination process.

Americans do not want this Nation to be run by leaders willing to change the rules, to forgo the laws of the land, to cater to their special interests. They do not want judicial nominees that are bullied through Congress. They want qualified candidates that receive bipartisan approval like the other 200-plus Bush nominees approved by the Senate. Changing the rules of the game to make an exception for 10 judges is not democratic. It is a blatant abuse of power. Mr. Speaker, this is something even a 5-year-old can understand.

REPUBLICAN QUEST FOR ABSOLUTE POWER

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, President Bush, Senator FRIST, and the majority leader, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) are in a quest for absolute power in Washington, even if it means corrupting our government and the vision of our Founding Fathers.

The White House has manufactured a judicial crisis. Since the President took office, the Senate confirmed 208 of his judicial nominees and turned back only 10, a 95 percent confirmation rate. That rate is the highest approval rating for any President in modern times, higher than Reagan, Bush Senior and Clinton. The President presides over the lowest court vacancy rate in 25 years.

But 95 percent is not good enough for this White House. They want to have it all. That is simply not how it is supposed to work, and America sees this for what it is, an extreme power grab by the majority party. Our country knows that our country works best when no political party has absolute power.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KUHLMANN of New York). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

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

(Mr. GUTKNECHT 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 Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take my Special Order time out of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

THE RADICAL RIGHT

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, the word "nuclear" holds special meaning in our world. It is a word that has become synonymous with chaos, total destruction and annihilation. Nuclear is the word that for the last half century has struck fear in the hearts and minds of people across the United States.

For the last 2 months, Republicans in the Senate have threatened the nuclear option, like destroying the world was something you planned for and even boasted about. Over and over, the Republican-controlled Senate threatened to go nuclear, as if they were shouting "lock and load" at some local gun club.

For far too long, the Senate majority leader has been a trigger happy gun slinger who set aside a Colt 45 and ordered up a thermal nuclear warhead in its place. Just imagine the outcome if he had been President staring down Nikita Khrushchev during the Cuban missile crisis.

Today, Senate Republicans released the nuclear warhead and the blast zone extends east or west, north to south, incinerating the rights of every American. It will be the first strike launched on behalf of the radical right aimed at annihilating the safety, security and freedom of every American.

This is not about politics. The real Republican target is the U.S. Supreme Court and the judiciary. The Republican leaders said so in the House, and

the Senate leaders said so in the Senate. No fallout shelter will keep us safe from the nuclear winter they plunge America into.

The radical Republican right has an agenda and they intend to use every weapon at their disposal to enforce their will upon the American people. The radical Republican right wants to dictate what a woman can and cannot do with her body. The radical Republican right wants to abolish women's rights one court decision at a time. Republicans just gave the radical extremist the right to abolish *Roe v. Wade*. Republicans just handed the radical right the keys to our democracy. Women's rights will be nuked.

Republican extremists will replace a woman's right to choose with a requirement to be subservient. The Republican Party intends to stack the Court and stack the deck against women.

They intend to violate the environment, too. Republican extremists want to stack the courts so their corporate lobbyists and special interests are shielded from liability, protected from acting responsibly, and given the right to foul the air, pollute the water, dump toxins on the ground, and spew carcinogens in the atmosphere.

Greed is God to these radicals who are attempting to subvert democracy with religious idolatry. Run for your lives, America, the Republicans are coming. Right wing extremists in the Republican Party control the House, the Senate, and the White House, and they want the new trophy, and it is called the Supreme Court.

They want to send their militants into your homes, into your lives, next to your death bed, to force their will upon you. The Republicans in charge today want to replace the Constitution with the Bible. The Republicans in charge today would like nothing better than to enforce a literal interpretation of the Bible in every American home, every American school, and every American mind.

The Republican majority leader from Tennessee wants America to return to 1925 when the Butler Act in his State told people what to think and what to believe. But before the Republicans shout their Hosannas on high, let me recite a passage from the Bible. It was used by the defense in the Scopes monkey trial.

Dayton, Tennessee, science teacher, 25 years old, John T. Scopes was persecuted and prosecuted for teaching science and not religion in the classroom. The great attorney, Clarence Darrow, who defended Scopes, called upon the Bible. "A holy book, a good book, but not the only book," Darrow said, in defense of a man who was convicted but later acquitted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

And I recall his words today to remind the Senate majority leader and every Republican intimidated into hypocrisy to remember the Bible. Clarence Darrow quoted Proverbs, chapter

11, verse 29, and here is what the Bible says: "He that troubleth his own house shall inherit the wind."

Tonight we begin the ice age because the wind is going to be cold coming out of that Senate. Remember, "He that troubleth his own house shall inherit the wind."

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

(Mr. JONES of North Carolina 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 York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. MCCARTHY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

SMART SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, the time has come for a new national security strategy because our current path will only lead to future acts of terrorism and an increasingly insecure United States of America.

Most Americans understand that the best way to protect our country is through smarter policies right here at home, not through aggressive military combat abroad. In fact, a poll released today indicates that support for the war in Iraq is at its lowest level yet. Maybe that is because most Americans know that Iraq never possessed weapons of mass destruction, never had a connection to al Qaeda, and never played a role in the terrorist attacks of September 11.

Yet the Bush administration claimed each of these examples as fact in order to justify going to a war in Iraq and just over 2 years ago the U.S. invaded Iraq. Since then, more than 1,600 American soldiers, at least 24,000 noninsurgents Iraqi civilians, have paid for this false war with their lives, and over 12,000 American soldiers have been wounded forever.

Clearly the Presidential national security platform is not just immoral, it is incompetent. There has to be a better way, a better way than this. Fortunately, there is. Earlier tonight I reintroduced the SMART Security reso-

lution for the 21st century. SMART security clearly has increasing support among Members of Congress because at the end of the 108th Congress we had 50 cosponsors to the SMART security bill. This year alone, SMART already has 49 original cosponsors, and myself, and it was just introduced today. SMART, which is Sensible Multilateral American Response to Terrorism, has five major components.

First, we must prevent future acts of terrorism by strengthening international institutions and the rule of law. For the past 4 years, the Bush administration has worked to discourage international cooperation. Most recently, his example of hostility toward diplomacy is the nomination of the hard-line unilateralist John Bolton to represent our country to the United Nations. Unilateralism is not the answer because terrorism is not just America's problem.

We can reinvigorate our international relationships by encouraging our United Nations and NATO partners to help us root out terrorist networks and put a stop to financing international terrorist groups.

Second, we must stop the proliferation and spread of weapons of mass destruction. In the past, President Bush has indicated this is the greatest threat America faces. Yet he has both aggressively pursued new nuclear weapons like the bunker buster bomb, and he does not support international treaties that seek to end the spread of chemical and biological weapons.

□ 1945

Not only does SMART security promote compliance with America's commitments to existing treaties, it also calls for the United States to set an example for the rest of the world by renouncing the development and testing of new nuclear weapons.

Third, we must address the root causes of terrorism. The first front line in the war on terror has to be confronting the despair and deprivation that foster it. There is a demonstrated link between an educated citizenry and a decrease in support for terrorism which is why SMART security wholly encourages democracy-building; human rights education; sustainable development; and education, particularly for women and girls in these nations. These are the programs we need to pursue in Iraq, not continued military operations.

Fourth, we must shift America's budget priorities to more effectively meet our security needs. We need stronger investments in peacekeeping, in reconstruction, and humanitarian and developmental aid. We simply cannot afford to spend billions each year on outdated or unproven weapons systems like the missile defense shield which has yet to be proven successful.

Fifth, the U.S. must pursue to the fullest extent alternatives to war. War needs to be the very last resort, to be considered only after every single possible diplomatic solution has been exhausted.