

SUPREME COURT'S RULING ON THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I rise to voice my strong disapproval with the Supreme Court's ruling yesterday that barred individual States from displaying the Ten Commandments in courthouses. The five justices who voted for this ruling displayed extreme hypocrisy. As they outlawed this practice, they sat directly underneath our Ten Commandments.

In 1950, the Florida Supreme Court stated: "A people unschooled in the sovereignty of God, the Ten Commandments, and the ethics of Jesus could never have evolved the Bill of Rights, the Declaration of Independence, and the Constitution. There is not one solitary fundamental principle of our democratic policy that did not stem directly from the basic moral concepts of the Ten Commandments . . ."

The Ten Commandments are found more often in public buildings than in individual churches, demonstrating that Americans from all faiths and walks of life recognize their impact on our laws and culture.

Yesterday's ruling sets a dangerous precedent. What is next? Are we going to remove references to God from our pledge, remove the Bible from our court proceedings, and so forth?

Madam Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to look into ways to prevent this type of abusive judicial power. I also encourage the five justices to exercise better judgment in the future.

WE NEED A NEW TRADE POLICY

(Mrs. MALONEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, this Bush administration keeps setting records, only they are the wrong kinds of records.

We have a record debt of over \$7 trillion that breaks down to each citizen's share being over \$26,000. And now they have a new record, a new record debt on our trade deficit. It set a new record of \$195 billion in the first 3 months of this year. That is 6.4 percent of GDP on an annual basis, the largest such trade deficit ever in our history. This deficit has been created by the irresponsible trade policies of the Bush administration, and it is also being supported by the willingness at least so far of foreign investors and governments to keep extending us credit.

The administration cannot continue to ignore this problem. Even if we avoid a sudden flight from the dollar and an international financial collapse, the burden of paying off our mounting international debt will be a drag on our future standard of living. It will be a drag on the lives of our children and grandchildren. We need a new trade policy.

SOLDIERS AT GUANTANAMO SERVE WITH DISTINCTION

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, this weekend I joined a bipartisan delegation to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba led by the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER), House Committee on Armed Services chairman. We were all impressed by the professionals serving at Guantanamo and their commitment to maintaining a humane detention facility for hard core killers.

The patriotic U.S. soldiers protecting America's families are successors to the 132nd Military Police Company of the South Carolina Army National Guard. Commanded by Major Brian Pitts, the 132nd served with distinction from September, 2002, through September, 2003.

Upon their return, the media reported that Major Pitts summarized his service when he stated: "Our goal was to treat the detainees well, and hope that if we were detained, that we would be treated as well."

Guantanamo should be kept open as a symbol of America's resolve to win the war on terrorism. Ten released detainees have already resumed their horrific efforts to kill Americans, and further releases must be subject to administrative review.

In conclusion, God bless our troops and we will never forget September 11.

MIKE GORDON: A CALIFORNIA LEADER LOST TOO SOON

(Ms. HARMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, the seaside community of El Segundo in my congressional district, rich in so many ways, is a great deal poorer following the death on Saturday of its longtime Mayor and State assembly representative Mike Gordon. Those of us who knew Mike well and the countless others whose lives he touched are devastated by his unexpected and untimely passing.

In the course of my public career, few people have had a more profound impact on me and the policies I pursue than Mike Gordon. He was a natural politician, drawn to people, and driven to solve their problems, no matter how big or small.

Mike Gordon was a big thinker, one who could see around corners, anticipating the needs of his community and forging, in a strong but sensitive way, its future. He was a mayor, an assembly member, a baseball coach, community activist, party leader, good husband, father, and friend. And when he succumbed to brain cancer in the early morning hours of June 25, he was just 47 years old.

When Mike received his dire diagnosis 3 months ago, the broader world

of California politics was just opening to him. Years of consensus building and goodwill and enormous potential were cut cruelly short.

I grieve for his family: his devoted wife, Denise; and four children; Ryan, Erika, Amanda, and Gordy; and for our larger loss.

Madam Speaker, Gordy Gordon designed a rubber bracelet which said "I am helping Mike fight." Though Mike lost that physical fight, we who survive him will carry on the fight for the beliefs we share.

CAFTA

(Mr. SHAW asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SHAW. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the United States-Dominican Republic-Central American Free Trade Agreement, which will benefit American farmers, manufacturers, and businesses both small and large. Last year alone, the Central American countries and the Dominican Republic imported nearly \$15 billion worth of United States agriculture and manufactured goods.

The DR-CAFTA countries combined represent our 13th largest export partner. That is larger than Brazil. As these numbers show, there already exists a strong relationship between the United States and Central America, and this relationship is destined to grow substantially.

With the agreement in place, more than 80 percent of the United States industrial and consumer products will become duty free immediately. The agreement also levels the playing field for United States manufacturers who are at a disadvantage to other countries that already have free trade agreements with the DR-CAFTA countries. This translates into increased exports and earnings for American farmers and manufacturers and more jobs.

I urge my colleagues to support this very important piece of legislation.

REPUBLICAN SOCIAL SECURITY SHAM; QUIT RAIDING SOCIAL SECURITY TRUST FUND

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

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, congressional Republicans unveiled their own Social Security privatization plan last week, stating repeatedly that their proposal would protect the Social Security trust fund.

It is an interesting comment considering the fact that Republicans have raided \$670 billion from the Social Security trust fund over the last 4 years alone to help pay for their giant tax breaks for the wealthiest elite. The majority party seems to forget that during the Clinton years, we ensured Social Security trust funds were locked away so they could not be used by the