

that cannot stand. We must do better. Anthony Shaffer deserves justice.

TOM DELAY'S HOUSE OF SHAME

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. SCHMIDT). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN) is recognized for the remaining time until midnight.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity for us to just grab a few more minutes here and finish up, the 30-something working group that we have here, and we want to kind of end the conversation tonight talking a little bit about a recent periodical that we like to call *Newsweek*. It is about the power outage. And we have mentioned a couple of words here tonight, competence or lack thereof, and cronyism.

Now, we like, at the 30-something working group, to get third party validators. And here on the cover of *Newsweek*, GOP, a mounting crisis of competence and cronyism, which I think is exactly what we have been talking about here tonight.

Madam Speaker, I would like to submit for the RECORD an article here, Tom DeLay's House of Shame, by Jonathan Alter.

Before yielding to the gentleman, I would like to just share a little bit a couple of the quotes. I want to share a couple of quotes from this article today or this week. This gentleman is saying, Mr. Alter is saying that historians will regard this as the single most corrupt decade in the long and colorful history of the House of Representatives. That is pretty sad. And that Congress has always had its share of extremists, but the DeLay era is the first time the fringe has ever been in charge. And when we talked about Katrina, we talked about trying to implement this extremist agenda, regardless of what the circumstances are, and using Katrina as an opportunity to implement this agenda. I want to just share one more quote before we open it up here of what then House majority leader Mr. DELAY said after the hurricanes, and I quote, that Katrina and Rita "introduced a valuable forum to promote the triumph of our ideas and solutions for government over the crumbling and outdated policies of the Democratic controlled Congress of past decades." The crumbling or the triumph of our ideas. Triumph of our ideas. I mean, let's just look at where we are right now. Triumph of the Republican ideas? What? Increased poverty? Stagnant wages? Health care going up by 15 to 20 percent a year? Pharmaceutical costs going up by 20 percent a year. What triumph of ideas?

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Do not forget the deficit.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. A deficit, \$500 billion? Now that is not even factoring in the war, a war that we got ram-rodged into, lied into. Is that the great triumph of ideas?

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. RYAN, where are we getting the money from? Mr. RYAN of Ohio. We are borrowing it from China. We do not even have the money.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Saudi Arabia, too. Do not leave them out.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. And how many years the majority said about the Democratic controlled Congress tax and spend, tax and spend, tax and spend. Well, the last 10 years and the last 5 years in particular, borrow and spend. We are borrowing the money from China, Japan, Saudi Arabia, a lot of people who do not have really friendly interests with the United States of America. And the problem is, we have got to pay interest on the money we are borrowing. Reckless fiscal policy, incompetence, corruption, cronyism, time and time and time again.

TOM DELAY'S HOUSE OF SHAME

(By Jonathan Alter)

A decade ago, I paid a call on Tom DeLay in his Ornate office in the Capitol. I had heard a rumor about him that I figured could not possibly be true. The rumor was that after the GOP took control of the House that Year, DeLay had begun keeping a little black book with the names of Washington lobbyists who wanted to come see him. If the lobbyists were not Republicans and contributors to his power base, they didn't get into "the people's House." DeLay not only confirmed the story, he showed me the book. His time was limited, DeLay explained with a genial smile. Why should he open his door to people who were not on the team?

Thus began what historians will regard as the single most corrupt decade in the long and colorful history of the House of Representatives. Come on, you say. How about all those years when congressmen accepted cash in the House chamber and then staggered onto the floor drunk? Yes, special interests have bought off members of Congress at least since Daniel Webster took his seat while on the payroll of a bank. And yes, Congress over the years has seen dozens of sex scandals and dozens of members brought low by financial improprieties. But never before has the leadership of the House been hijacked by a small band of extremists bent on building a ruthless shakedown machine, lining the pockets of their richest constituents and rolling back popular protections for ordinary people. These folks borrow like banana republics and spend like Tip O'Neill on speed.

I have no idea if DeLay has technically broken the law. What interests me is how this moderate, evenly divided nation came to be ruled on at least one side of Capitol Hill by a zealot. This is a man who calls the Environmental Protection Agency "the Gestapo of government" and favors repealing the Clean Air Act because "it's never been proven that air toxins are hazardous to people"; who insists repeatedly that judges on the other side of issues "need to be intimidated" and rejects the idea of a separation of church and state; who claims there are not parents trying to raise families on the minimum wage—that "fortunately, such families no not exist" (at least Newt Gingrich was intrigued by the challenges of poverty); who once said: "A woman can't take care of the family. It takes a man to provide structure." I could go on all day. Congress has always had its share of extremists. But the DeLay era is the first time the fringe has ever been in charge.

The only comparison to DeLay & Co. might be the Radical Republicans of the

1860s. But the 19th-century Radical Republican agenda was to integrate and remake the South. The 21st-century Radical Republican agenda is to enact the wish list of the tobacco and gun lobbies, repeal health and safety regulations and spend billions on shameless pork-barrel projects to keep the GOP at the trough. Another analogy is to Republican Speaker Joe Cannon, who ran the House with an iron fist a century ago. But Cannon had to contend with Progressive Republicans who eventually stripped him of his power. DeLay's ruling radical conservative clique remains united, at least for now.

Comparisons with fellow Texan Sam Rayburn fall short, too. Rayburn was respected on both sides of the aisle for his rock-solid integrity. He and most other House speakers carefully balanced their support for corporate interests like the oil depletion allowance with at least some sense of public good. And they had to share much of their power with committee chairmen. Today, seniority is much less important. Chairmen are term-limited (six years) or tossed if they displease DeLay. And this crowd views "the public interest" as strictly for liberal pantywaists.

How have they succeeded? A new book "Off Center: The Republican Revolution and the Erosion of American Democracy," by Jacob S. Hacker and Paul Pierson, explains how the GOP is simply better than the Democratic Party at the basic blocking and tackling of politics, including the exploitation of cultural and religious issues. The authors argue that even if DeLay goes down, the zealotry and corporate shilling will continue as long as the GOP controls the House. Consider DeLay's temporary replacement, Missouri Rep. Roy Blunt. The Washington Post reported last week that Blunt is respected by Republican members in part because he has "strong ties to the Washington lobbying community." That's a qualification for office?

The only reason the House hasn't done even more damage is that the Senate often sands down the most noxious ideas, making the bills merely bad, not disastrous. What next for the House of Shame? If DeLay's acquitted, he'll be back in power. If he's convicted, his protégés will continue his work. Reform efforts by fiscal conservatives determined to curb their borrow-and-spend colleagues are probably doomed. The only way to get rid of the termites eating away the people's House is to stamp them out at the next election.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. I would be happy to yield to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ).

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, and yet they are still, in the aftermath of Katrina, in the aftermath of Rita, with ballooning deficits and horrific corruption and cronyism, still talking about tax cuts, making the tax cuts permanent. They are still talking about budget reconciliation, which is Washington speak for cuts. They are still talking about not providing what people in this country, in the middle, in the middle, the average hardworking American needs.

You know, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN) is absolutely right. It is the fringe that has been governing this institution, and this country for the last 10 years. Most of us are mainstream. Most people consider themselves very middle of the road, moderate, not left, not right, just middle of the road, and they want the course to generally be steering in an almost straight path,

not veering in one direction or another, and most definitely, not favoring one group over another. This leadership has clearly favored the privileged, and it is not like, there is no question about that; that is documented fact. The privileged, they are first in line to get theirs. And you know, if we can throw some crumbs to the people who are average everyday Americans, then you know that is fine, too.

But we have got to make sure that we get back to the competence that we need to run this government. We have to rid this government of the cronyism and the corruption, and we have got to restore the fourth C which is the American people's confidence.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. I have had very little to say in this condensed time that we have. I think it is important for us to make sure that folks are not just, Members are not just watching thinking that we are going, just coming out of the sky with this stuff. We gave it at the WashingtonPost.com. We also said, if you wanted to cosponsor on House Resolution 3764, which is a bill that we have put forth to be about the solution, making sure that we can head off a lack of governance, not paying attention to the things that we need to pay attention to.

One thing about Katrina, Madam Speaker, and Rita was the fact that we are not ready to respond to a catastrophic event here in the United States. And I can tell you that our military is ready, but the question is, are our American leaders ready to respond? Do we have what we need to have in place as it relates to the management?

And if you want to cosign on this independent commission, that I must say to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN) that we talked about before, 81 percent of the polls show that Americans want to see an independent commission, you can sign on to this bill just as a regular U.S. citizen, HouseDemocrats.gov/Katrina.

With that, I say to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN) that we have a lot of work here to do. No one is saying that anyone is guilty or whatever the case may be because we know that there will be a court of law that that will take plays and on behalf of the institution, I hope all works well as it relates to democracy prevailing.

But I will tell you that it is important, and it is embarrassing to be a Member of the 109th Congress with this cloud over this institution. And people are going to look at, they do not care. They look at you as a Member of the House, not as a Democrat or a Republican or the one independent that we have here in this House. They look at us as stewards of this democracy that people have died for us to have the opportunity.

And I yield back to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN).

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Well, I am just going to wrap up here in the final, unless the gentlewoman has any final comments.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. No, I was just going to suggest that you give out the website. And we always encourage people who watch us each week to contact us, give us your thoughts and opinions and please let Members know.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. It is a little late tonight. If you are still up, 30somethingdems@mail.House.gov. Send us some e-mails. We have been getting some really great ones, and a lot of them lately.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. DELAHUNT (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and October 7.

Mr. CROWLEY (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Mr. POE (at the request of Mr. BLUNT) for today after 2:00 p.m. on account of business in his district.

Mr. ROYCE (at the request of Mr. BLUNT) for today and October 7 on account of medical reasons.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. PALLONE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SCHIFF, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFazio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. EMANUEL, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. SOLIS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GRIJALVA, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HOLT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BARROW, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. KUHl of New York) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. PAUL, for 5 minutes, today and October 7.

Mr. OSBORNE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GINGREY, for 5 minutes, October 7.

Mr. McCAUL of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. McHENRY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. KUHl of New York, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. POE, for 5 minutes, October 7.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today and October 7.

Mr. FORBES, for 5 minutes, October 7.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, October 7.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 392. An act to authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of Congress, collectively, to the Tuskegee Airmen in recognition of their unique military record, which inspired revolutionary reform in the Armed Forces; to the Committee on Financial Services.

SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The SPEAKER announced his signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 1413. An act to redesignate the Crowne Plaza in Kingston, Jamaica as the Colin L. Powell Residential Plaza.

BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Jeff Trandahl, Clerk of the House reports that on October 3, 2005, he presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill.

H.R. 3863. Natural Disaster Student Aid Fairness Act.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at midnight), the House adjourned until today, Friday, October 7, 2005, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

4398. A letter from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Title IV Conservators, Receivers, and Voluntary Liquidations; Receivership Repudiation Authorities (RIN: 3052-AC26) received September 26, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

4399. A letter from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Funding and Fiscal Affairs, Loan Policies and Operations, and Funding Operations; Investments, Liquidity, and Divestiture (RIN: 3052-AC22) received September 8, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

4400. A letter from the Assistant to the Board, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the Board's final rule—Community Reinvestment Act Regulations [Regulation BB; Docket No. R-1225] received July 29, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

4401. A letter from the Assistant to the Board, Division of Consumer and Comm. Affairs, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the Board's final rule—Truth in Lending [Regulation Z; Docket No. R-1231] received August 10, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

4402. A letter from the Regulatory Specialist, Legislative and Regulatory Activities Division, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule—