

He has not merely chronicled these developments. His insightful analysis has helped make communities better. That is the ultimate role of the journalist and is deeply appreciated by his many friends, admirers, and readers, to say nothing of millions of Americans who have benefited from his analysis. We thank you, Neal.

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN, FATHER OF TEXAS

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

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, on this day 212 years ago, the Father of Texas, Stephen F. Austin, was born. Austin, only 27 years of age, organized, financed, and led the first legal colony of Americans to settle a portion of Mexico called Tejas, or Texas as we call it.

In 1822, 300 families entered Texas, this fantastic frontier on the plains of civilization. Although the settlers were loyal to Mexico, a new Mexican Government soon began abolishing the civil rights of the colonists, so Austin went to Mexico to voice concerns over the abuses, but he was imprisoned for over 2 years.

After finally being released, Austin and other Texans decided to go their own way. Texas declared independence from Mexico. Thousands of well-trained Mexican troops poured into Texas to stop the rebellion. The outnumbered Texas volunteers and settlers fought and died at the brutal battles of Goliad and the Alamo, but ultimate victory occurred at the battle of San Jacinto in 1836. Austin and others, like Crockett, Travis, Bowie, and Houston, finally won the day for freedom. Texas was free, a new nation, a new republic. The rest, they say, is Texas history.

MISPLACED PRIORITIES

(Mr. BISHOP of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday of last week, the Education and the Workforce Committee, of which I am a member, passed the single largest cut to student aid in history.

By taking \$15 billion out of the Federal aid programs, the Republican leadership proved again that its agenda is replete with misplaced priorities. When we had the choice to lift up a generation of young Americans by helping them achieve the dream of a college education, we chose instead to give more comfort to the already very comfortable. Our differences are profound. It appears that so are our values and what we perceive to be America's priorities.

Future generations of Americans are entitled to a basic education, but they will not be able to afford it after we reconcile how to pay for the hurricane damage, the wars in Iraq and Afghani-

stan, and even two more tax cuts that have not yet begun to take effect and will not even benefit 97 percent of American families.

Madam Speaker, we cannot afford to hold sacred the tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans at the expense of the values, priorities, or needs of the middle class. Americans deserve better.

NEED FOR BUDGET RECONCILIATION

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

Mr. MCHENRY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support our House Republican leadership and their pledge to control government spending through deficit reduction. We must restore fiscal discipline to the Federal Government, ensuring our children and grandchildren live in a society based on opportunity, not dependence on a bloated Federal bureaucracy swimming in greater debt.

It comes as no surprise to hear Democrats cry: raise taxes; spend more. I feel like Bill Murray in "Ground Hog Day," that great movie. Regardless of the day, regardless of the problem, Democrats have no new ideas, just crying: more taxes; more spending.

Higher taxes are a problem, not a solution, and always lead to larger, more intrusive governments, and larger budgets. As elected officials, Madam Speaker, we must make prudent decisions to reduce the deficit. I urge my colleagues to support deficit reduction and work constructively to control government spending.

REPUBLICAN BUDGET PRIORITIES

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Well, the government is in a fiscal crisis. We are borrowing \$1.2 billion a day to run the government under the Bush administration and the Republican leadership. They have raised the national debt to \$8 trillion in 5 short years, but now they are newly born as fiscal conservatives, and they want to cut \$50 billion.

From where? Student loans, the school lunch and breakfast programs, those kids are eating too much, foster care and child support enforcement to help the deadbeat dads. They will, unfortunately, more than overspend their cuts to those struggling people and those good programs. They want \$70 billion of tax cuts, \$20 billion more added to the sea of red ink that is drowning America in tax cuts for, guess who, the wealthy because trickle-down is the highest form of achievement in Washington, D.C. these days. They want to bleed struggling Americans to float the yachts of the wealthy on a sea of red ink one more time while lying about what they are doing.

THE AMAZING AMERICAN ECONOMY

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, if you were to listen to many folks in this Chamber, you would think there was absolutely no good news to be heard anywhere. With the challenges this Nation has faced over the past couple of months, the economy ought to be in awful shape. Right?

Madam Speaker, there is news that you just will not see on the major television stations or read in the newspapers, the one success of our economy, the amazing American economy. The gross domestic product, the most clear measure of our economic activity, rose by 3.8 percent in the third quarter. That is an increase of 3.8 percent. That is in spite of Katrina and Rita and all the damage that they brought to our shores. The past 10 quarters have been phenomenal. That is 2½ years. Growth during that time has been greater than 3 percent in every quarter and more often more than 4 percent. That is good news.

And the deficit? Well, that has improved as well, decreasing nearly \$100 billion in the last fiscal year alone. That is good news.

Madam Speaker, Republicans have a plan to reform the government in order to achieve savings for the American people. I urge my colleagues to embrace the good news in our plan.

REGARDING IRANIAN PRESIDENT'S DISTURBING REMARKS

(Mr. MEEKS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Madam Speaker, the world is much smaller today than it was; and when we particularly focus in on the Middle East, we need peace. However, I am deeply disturbed by the remarks of the new Iranian President, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, when he was addressing 4,000 students, using the language of Ayatollah Khomeini, where he says and threatens: "Anybody who recognizes Israel will burn in the fire of the Islamic nation's fury."

Who is this guy? We cannot allow this kind of language to stand in this day and age. We must make sure that we condemn this kind of language and those kinds of acts. Here is a guy with a questionable background. Some of our hostages say that he is the individual who was there when they were held in Iran. The international community must come together and make sure that there are no nuclear reactors there. We must make sure that it is clear that we are going to stand by our friends and allies in Israel in this regards and that we are going to be the ones that are going to force peace to be in the Middle East and we are not going to have this kind of rhetoric language continuing. We cannot allow this

man with this questionable background to continue to go unchecked.

PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS

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

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, Republicans are moving forward to protect one of the most foundational rights we cherish, the right to own private property. One of our great former Presidents, John Adams, said: "Property is surely a right of mankind as real as liberty." The first Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court said: "No power on Earth has a right to take our property from us without our consent."

We have seen our Supreme Court rule that property can be taken from one private owner and given to another. Republicans in Congress are taking action to fix this problem with legislation we will consider today on the House floor. Government should not and must not have the authority to take property away from private landowners for the sole sake of giving it to another private landowner.

Madam Speaker, I applaud the efforts of the majority in bringing forward this important legislation and look forward to supporting it on the floor this afternoon.

ADVANCE DIRECTIVES

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

Mr. GINGREY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the 27th annual National Hospice and Palliative Care Month. This month health organizations all around the country will be educating individuals on what it means to have an advance directive, or living will. So today I am joining with these organizations to encourage everyone to take a moment and discuss with their loved ones what their wishes would be in a health care situation where they were unable to communicate them.

Madam Speaker, the term "advance directive" describes two types of legal documents that can enable you to plan for and communicate your end-of-life issues in the event you are unable to convey them yourself.

First, Madam Speaker, is a living will. It allows you to document your wishes concerning medical treatments at the end of life. The second is a medical power of attorney, or health care proxy, which allows you to appoint a person you trust as your health care agent. This person would be authorized to make medical decisions on your behalf.

Madam Speaker, living wills and medical powers of attorney are valuable tools to help communicate wishes about future medical care. Thoughtfully prepared advance directives can ease the burden on those who must make health care decisions for us.

In conclusion, I want to encourage all Americans to set aside time to have what may very well be one of the most important conversations that a family can have.

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US VERSUS THEM

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, an esteemed colleague recently said, it is much better to be us than to be them. He is probably right. It is better to be us than a middle-class family burdened with high energy costs, rising health care inflation and \$8 trillion in national debt. It is probably better to be a Republican Member of Congress than a college student whose loans are about to be cut, or a child who has lost their health care because of a Republican Congress.

After years of reckless spending, the Republican Congress has left the Nation \$3 trillion further in the hole.

But rather than going after corporate welfare, like the \$16.5 billion handouts to oil and gas companies, this Congress is about to cut \$50 billion from investments in middle-class families. They are eliminating nearly 40,000 children's nutritional programs. And while the average year of tuition at a State university is now \$15,000 a year, the Republican Congress is cutting student loan programs by \$14 billion. They are slashing \$12 billion from Medicaid, affecting nearly 20,000 children currently covered by the program.

For what? So the Republican Congress can cut taxes for the wealthiest 1 percent. There is no question, it is better to be a Republican Member of Congress than a middle-class family.

Madam Speaker, the American people deserve better. We can do better. We need a new set of priorities, a change in the status quo.

SUPPORT FOR THE WAR IN IRAQ

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, night after night we watch the left come to the floor and beat the drums of retreat on the war on terrorism. They want us out of Iraq, they want us out of the Middle East, and they want us to end our aggressive war on terrorism.

I have to admit in my heart I would like to see the troops home, but my intellect tells me we cannot afford to leave our children a world in which Middle Eastern terrorists have free reign.

I want our troops to know that they have a grateful Nation behind them, regardless of what they may hear from some in this body. I want our Tennessee National Guardsmen, our Fort

Campbell families and, as we approach Veterans' Day, all of our Nation's patriotic veterans to know we appreciate their service and their commitment.

As of October 4, 2005, a total of 206,500 Iraqi security forces have been trained and equipped. That is progress, and the American people can be confident that progress is being made.

So do not believe the ranting of the left when they tell you all is lost, that hope is pointless and that we are losing. We are not.

EXPRESSING CONCERN ABOUT WAR IN IRAQ

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to once again express my deep concern about this war in Iraq, which is a violent, endless quagmire. Those of us who dissent on this war support our troops. We honor our troops. We respect our troops. In fact, one of the things that we have tried to do is urge the other side of the aisle to provide budgets that actually support our troops when they come home.

It is shameful that our veterans' budgets get slashed each and every year. If Members of Congress are going to send young men and women over to Iraq to fight in this war, we had better make sure that when they come back they have the resources they need to get on with their lives.

We have lost 2,000 Americans in this war. There is no end in sight. There have been no weapons of mass destruction. There was no imminent threat. There was no nuclear threat. There was no tie to al Qaeda.

This war has nothing to do with the War on Terror. In fact, it has diverted important resources from the overall war on terror. We need to get our priorities straight. We need to focus on the war on terror. Let us end this war in Iraq.

HONORING PLAYERS, STAFF AND PARENTS OF COUNCIL ROCK-NEWTOWN LITTLE LEAGUE TEAM

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, it is my honor and privilege this week to host the players, staff and families of Bucks County, Pennsylvania's own Council Rock-Newtown Little League team to our Nation's Capital.

This past August, the CR-Newtown team defeated the Toms River American Little League team of Toms River, New Jersey, to qualify for a seat at the 59th Little League World Series. Their victory marked the first mid-Atlantic championship for Pennsylvania since 1960, and their 20 post-season victories