

The right of free speech belongs to the speaker and cannot be regulated by the listener because it may be offensive and certainly cannot be regulated by government because it is not fair—fair in the eyes of government.

But our most important freedom is being replaced by fear: the fear to speak openly. Some wish to prohibit the voice and speech of others they disagree with or if the opposing view may be offensive. So the controlists want speech regulated or, to put it bluntly, it must be politically correct.

It is interesting that the one place where diversity of thought, ideas, and speech should be promoted is at our universities. But universities are prohibiting free speech in the name of protecting the students, while at the same time professors say anything they want to say about all issues—the doctrine of free speech for me but not for thee.

To make matters worse, the controlists want government to regulate speech. That is a Stalinist concept. Stalin used government to silence all opposing views, views that offended the government and the elitists. It is not just those in the public eye. Everyone feels they must weigh every thought and decision against who and how it could possibly be offensive to someone, somewhere, somehow. It is ridiculous, and it is a threat to our freedom and our prosperity.

We cannot live in fear of speech. We cannot live in fear to speak.

The Founding Fathers intended free speech to include criticism of the government and to advocate unpopular ideas, including controversial ideas. Freedom of speech allows individuals to express themselves without interference of the government and truly debate all issues. But we must not allow that to be lost to this out-of-control, politically correct crowd that only wants to allow speech that agrees with their agenda and, literally, destroys anyone who disagrees.

Law professor Alan Dershowitz said: “Freedom of speech means freedom for those who you despise, and freedom to express the most despicable views. It also means that the government cannot pick and choose which expressions to authorize and which to prevent.”

Voltaire, who lived at the time of our Revolution, said: “I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it.”

Lively disagreements are the foundation of a free republic.

George Washington said it very well when he said: “If freedom of speech is taken away, then dumb and silent we may be led, like sheep to the slaughter.”

America must always remain a free and open space where the marketplace of ideas—even those we detest or disagree with—are freely expressed. It seems our very founding document is at risk of fading into the abyss of history.

The irony of it all is that free speech is becoming anything but free, and

that ought not to be. We should all speak out against the controlling speech police.

And that is just the way it is.

TOXIC CAPITALISM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, GM went to bed with a record \$3.2 billion in profits last quarter alone. Its shareholders went to bed with a 5 percent surge in stock prices, plus the \$10.6 billion the company has spent on buybacks since 2015. Meanwhile, 14,000 GM workers spent a sleepless night wondering if their jobs and livelihoods would still be there for them the next morning.

There is no better snapshot of our country's current, toxic brand of capitalism, where we are operating in a system that demands that workers labor harder and harder to meet basic human needs but refuses to share even a slice of the success that they helped create.

For those of us in this Chamber this morning, it is about more than one company or one balance sheet. It is about 50 years of giving the private sector explicit permission to cast workers aside. It is about an economy that has become the antithesis of what our country stands for: equity, decency, justice, and hard work.

President Trump has made his response to these economic inequities very clear. His is a country of bitter rivalry between fellow citizens forced to endlessly spar over the scraps of that system: “My wages can't go up unless your food stamps are taken away.” “Your medical bills can't fall unless my insurance goes.” So Americans spend their days fighting each other over economic crumbs while our system quietly delivers the entire pot to those at the top.

That is the reality that our new Democratic majority must address for the coal miner in Kentucky, the daycare worker in New York, the fifth-generation farming family in Ohio, the first-generation immigrant family in Massachusetts, the mostly White towns in West Virginia devastated by an opioid epidemic, and the communities of color across our country terrorized by the war on drugs.

Forget where they are from or what they look like or how they vote. All of these Americans face an economy that does not operate for them. They live in cities and towns that are likely to be medically underserved, educationally ostracized from today's job market, plagued by inadequate infrastructure, and burdened by crumbling homes or houses that no one can afford.

They disproportionately shoulder the hard words that can make life hurt: “eviction,” “addiction,” “bankruptcy,” and “violence.”

They hail from the places where polling locations disappear, where the big-

gest economic engine is a payday lender, where lead poisons their children's water, and where injustice and insufficiency fester for generations before a government thinks to step in.

This is the challenge of our time. It is the injustice that we have to solve not just because of our politics, but because our system will not survive if we don't.

I believe in that system.

American capitalism has done great good for a great number of people. It has given the average American a better standard of living than anywhere else in the world, lifted millions out of poverty, and powered our globe. But its current iteration is badly broken, and the sooner we admit it, the sooner we can strip it to the studs and build something better.

A moral capitalism is judged not just by how much it produces, but by how widely it shares, how much good it does for how many, and how well it takes care of each and every single one of us.

ENTREPRENEURIAL CAPITALISM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENSARLING) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HENSARLING. I came here this morning, Mr. Speaker, and I picked up a copy of this morning's edition of The Wall Street Journal. Many Americans would consider it to be the most influential newspaper in America, but certainly, at least on economic matters, I think most would agree.

I just happened to read the lead editorial today, Mr. Speaker, and it says the House, this body, has “done yeoman's work shepherding a compendium of bipartisan bills to expand access to capital.”

This is in the most influential newspaper in America.

There is a lot in between, but let me go to the last sentence, where it says: “Senate Republicans shouldn't scuttle what could be one of this Congress's better achievements.”

That is in today's Wall Street Journal, Mr. Speaker.

The Journal is talking about JOBS 3.0. It is a bill that came out of this body, 406-4. Its purpose, Mr. Speaker, is to promote small business, to promote entrepreneurial capitalism, and to promote venture capital.

Again, Mr. Speaker, it came out of this body, 406-4—we couldn't get a 406-4 vote on a Mother's Day resolution—and yet it languishes on that side of the Capitol.

So I have been in this body for 16 years, Mr. Speaker, and I have learned a few things. One of the things I have learned is never underestimate the Senate's capacity to do nothing. Unfortunately, so far, the United States Senate has done nothing on a bill that passed, 406-4.

Now, Mr. Speaker, thanks to the leadership of President Donald Trump, thanks to the leadership of Speaker