

the first district was transferred, departing residents left behind nasty surprises by opening gas valves, causing several small fires. "For the next transfer, we put soldiers on top of the valves," he says. That created a new problem: "They knew the gas was off, so it made it easier for them to take meters and regulators."

In each area where the 353rd operates, rebuilding is complicated by Bosnia's simultaneous conversion from socialism to free markets. Smoothing that change is the main task of two 353rd members detailed to the World Bank office here. "It used to be the ministry would tell [banks] to lend money to a certain concern, and at the end of the year they'd get an interest payment," says Col. Renato Bacci, in civilian life a vice president of the American-services unit of ABN Amro Holding NV, the Dutch bank holding company.

Col. Bacci, a Chicagoan, is teaching Bosnian bankers about cash-flow statements and balance sheets. His colleague, Lt. Col. Gerry Suchanek, a former Special Forces officer who teaches economics at the University of Iowa, says that "everything I do at home is teaching capitalism. Everything I do here is similar."

Asked what business book best applies to his unit's work here "Managing Chaos" perhaps? Brig. Gen. Thomas Matthews says his soldiers are writing the real book. "Let's put it this way," says the commander, who is a district sales manager for AT&T's Lucent Technologies Inc. spinoff. "The art of war is very mature. It goes back thousands of years to Sun Tzu. The art of peace is much newer. . . . We're learning about it here."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. RIGGS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. RIGGS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

AMERICA'S ECONOMIC LULL BEFORE THE STORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee [Mr. DUNCAN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I intend to get into something else, but just on what the gentlewoman from Ohio has just mentioned, let me say this: Some people think because the stock market is at record highs that that means that everything is OK, but I think we need to ask ourselves, are we really in the lull before the storm? Because in the last 3 years, 1.5 million people have lost their jobs due to corporate downsizing, and as one of the national newscasts reported a few days ago, almost all of the people, unlike in the eighties, almost all of the people who lost their jobs in the nineties have stayed out of work on average about twice as long as in the eighties and they have had to take jobs at far less pay than the ones they lost.

In addition to that, we had a \$153 billion trade deficit last year, and every leading economist will tell us that conservatively we lose 20,000 jobs per billion dollars. So that means we lost over 3 million jobs due to poor trade policies just in the last year.

And then, even more importantly than that, Mr. Speaker, our unemployment rate is relatively low but our underemployment rate is terrible. We have millions of college graduates who cannot find jobs in the fields for which they were trained, and we are ending up with the best educated waiters and waitresses in the entire world. We need to work on these things if we are going to straighten this country out and make it a land of opportunity again, as it should be.

LIBERAL BIAS OF NATIONAL MEDIA

Mr. Speaker, tonight I wanted to get into the very liberal bias of the national news media.

Mr. Speaker, a couple of weeks ago, the superintendent of the Prince Georges County, MD school system revoked an invitation to U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas to speak at a graduation ceremony.

Another high-ranking Prince Georges official called this action the "epitome of intolerance and bigotry."

She was certainly correct.

Today, in the U.S.A. Today newspaper, columnist Richard Benedetto, has written an outstanding column about this and about the very unfair way in which the liberal national news media treats conservatives.

In fact, this liberal bias, this double standard, is so obvious that longtime CBS correspondent Bernard Goldberg, wrote recently that "the old argument that the networks, and other media elites have a liberal bias, is so blatantly true that it's hardly worth discussing anymore."

In fact, the Freedom Forum and U.S.A. Today recently conducted a poll of Washington reporters and Bureau chiefs and found that only 2 percent classified themselves as conservatives.

At any rate, back to today's column by Mr. Benedetto.

Mr. Speaker, I submit the following article for the RECORD.

[From the U.S.A. Today, June 10, 1996]

MEDIA SILENT ON RIGHT'S RIGHTS (By Richard Benedetto)

Picture this: Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg is invited to speak at an awards ceremony at a suburban Washington, D.C., school. A member of the school board who is also a member of the Christian Coalition objects because Ginsburg supports abortion rights.

The board member threatens demonstrations. The school superintendent, seeking to avoid a messy scene, withdraws the invitation.

Of course, this never happened. But imagine it did.

Women's groups would have been outraged. The American Civil Liberties Union would have denounced it as an egregious breach of free speech. The hue and cry in the media would have made it a national cause celebre. Liberal politicians would have been incensed.

A similar incident did occur last month, except the Supreme Court justice was not Ginsburg—it was Clarence Thomas, a conservative and the only black member of the nation's highest court.

Remarkably absent from the debate were the free-speech groups that usually rush to

the defense of those being prevented from legitimately expressing their views, no matter how controversial. Black and civil rights groups also took a pass.

And the national news media largely ignored or played down the story.

It's the kind of thing that provides ammunition to anyone who believes the media are in the clutches of liberals. In this case, the complaint wouldn't be that a liberal bias crept into how the story was reported, but that it influenced how the story was played—or not played.

Why hasn't more attention been paid? Maybe it's because Thomas doesn't hold the "right" opinions.

In the lexicon of political correctness, support of abortion rights is good; opposition to affirmative action is bad. And for those with the temerity to go against the grain, the laws of free speech and rules of civility apparently don't apply.

One of the few national columnists to defend Thomas was Richard Cohen of The Washington Post. While he doesn't subscribe to all the jurist's views, he argued Thomas has a right to be heard. "The black inner city has gone to hell in a handbasket while (Thomas' critics) have been leading the African-American community," Cohen said. "If they are so sure that their path is the correct one, they should spend less time vilifying Clarence Thomas and more time engaging in a battle of ideas."

The invitation for Thomas to speak at the school followed a student field trip to the Supreme Court. There, Thomas was the only justice to invite the students into his chambers. For 90 minutes he patiently spoke and answered questions. The invitation was extended by the PTA as a thank you.

Thomas, unlike the other justices, routinely visits with students when they tour the court.

These days we walk around wondering why our young people seem to be in the grip of a moral and spiritual crisis. When public officials, community leaders and news media demonstrate such double standards, the reasons why should be clearer.

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BURNING OF BLACK CHURCHES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JONES). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this poignant picture in the Washington Times says it all. It is a parishioner praying in a church in North Carolina that has been under siege and burned down last Thursday.

As we reflect on the Constitution of the United States, we realize that the first amendment is one of the more fundamental rights of this Nation. In that amendment, in addition to the right to free speech, is the right to freedom of religion, the opportunity for all of us as Americans to be able to worship in peace and as we please.

In fact, as this Nation was founded, we were founded on the very tenets and underpinnings of religious freedom. It seems, however, a few in this Nation would want to lay siege upon the Constitution of the United States of America. I find it both outrageous and inexcusable and, therefore, am calling upon all of those of goodwill to rise up in opposition to what may be random, what