

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

ACLU AT IT AGAIN

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, last Thursday in one of our Nation's leading daily newspapers, the Christian Science Monitor, was this paragraph:

"The ACLU is at it again. The organization that opposes school uniforms, obstructs teen curfews, fights metal detectors at airports, and challenges restrictions on child pornography is now turning its legal firepower against single-sex public schools."

As the headline in the Monitor said, "Single-sex schools are a form of diversity." The Christian Science Monitor is not a conservative publication. Also, even many liberals like columnist William Raspberry and others have praised single-sex schools.

People should be free to go to any type of school they want to go to or their parents want them to go to. But everyone should realize how elitist and left wing the ACLU has become, how out of step with the American people it is. It basically has become an organization that is supported by rich socialists.

They fight against school prayer and in favor of child pornography. What a group. Then they try to portray themselves as a pro bono public interest group and then demand \$6.7 million, \$450 an hour, for legal work in their suit against the Citadel. The ACLU charged \$105,000 just to prepare the bill in that case, so now all the students at the Citadel will have to pay higher fees for their college education, thanks to the ACLU.

While I am speaking about the type of education our children receive and the choices or options they have, let me also mention last week's White House Conference on Day Care. Columnists Linda Chavez and Mona Charen both wrote about this conference and the harmful effects of placing small children into institutional day care.

Linda Chavez wrote, "From everything we know about child development, it's a good thing more children, especially infants, are not being cared for in institutional settings. Babies and very young children need the kind of personal attention and care giving that is impossible to find in a day care center no matter how well-intentioned or well-meaning the staff."

She quoted Dr. Stanley Greenspan, a professor of pediatrics and psychiatry at George Washington University, who wrote recently in the Washington Post, "In the rush to improve and increase child care, we are ignoring a more fundamental reality: Much of the child care available for infants and toddlers in this country simply isn't good for them."

Among his reasons were a lack of continuity with one care giver and lack of prolonged interactions between child and adult. In other words, babies and small children need, desperately need and desperately want, much more individualized attention than is possible even in the best, most expensive day care center.

Mona Charen went on to write: "American families are creative. Though we hear endless calls for more and better child care, 66.7 percent of mothers with children under age 6 are full-time mothers or are employed part-time. They are not crying out for more institutional child care. What they do need are tax breaks, flex-time, work-at-home options, telecommuting and job sharing."

She goes on to say this: "The notion of a child care crisis is a myth. We now have expert testimony like that of Dr. Greenspan and other experts cited by the Clintons themselves to bolster the common-sense intuition that parents are the best guardians of young children. The goal of public policy ought to be to ensure that as many parents as possible are free to make that choice."

The thing that would help children the most, Mr. Speaker, would be to drastically decrease the cost of government. Today the average person is paying almost half of his or her income in taxes of all types, Federal, State and local.

Thus, as several commentators have noted, today one spouse has to work to support the government while the other spouse works to support the family. Many families who would like to spend more time with their children simply do not have the option because of our big government, the Nanny State we have created. Our children would be far better off today, Mr. Speaker, if we drastically downsized our government and drastically decreased its cost and left more money for parents to spend on their own children and less on government bureaucrats. Our children will be far better off with less government and more time with and attention from their parents.

WHAT A DIFFERENCE 4 YEARS MAKES

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

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, this last weekend as I do most weekends, I went back to my home State of South Dakota and had the opportunity to participate in the annual governor's pheasant hunt, which was a huge success in spite of the weather. It is always a great reminder and a great opportunity for me to get away to clear my head, get out in the beautiful country, in the fall in South Dakota, which is a wonderful time of the year, and participate in an activity which has become a trademark and something that is very much a part of our culture in

my State of South Dakota. Oftentimes as I travel in my State when I am back home I will hear from some of my conservative friends who express frustration at the fact that sometimes Washington has not come, or that we have not done enough in terms of changing the culture of this city, that we are not making progress fast enough. What I often try to remind them of is what a difference 4 years has made.

As I look at the progress that has been made here in the last 4 years, I think it is important to keep in perspective from where we have come so we know where we are going. Four short years ago, we had a President who was trying to invent a national health care system, where the government, this huge bureaucracy, would take over the health care system in this country. We saw the largest tax increase in the history not only of this country but, as someone has said, I believe a Senator, the biggest tax increase in the history of the world. And now in 4 short years and after the 1994 election, when those policies were repudiated and the Republicans took majority of the Congress, we began to take action to reverse the culture of this city, and it changed the value system that we have here.

I would like to think that the values that we have brought here as a matter of value, that bigger is not necessarily better and that smaller is better in the area of the Federal Government and that my kids are infinitely better off if we have a Federal Government that is more efficient, more responsive and a better value for the taxpayers. As a basic statement of values, that it is not the government's money, it is in fact the people of this country's money, and they ought to be able to best determine how those dollars are spent. Furthermore, that we do not need Hollywood, as the Vice President suggested last week, to force us to consider what our values ought to be. But as a matter of fact, that we want to give a more active role to parents, to families, to churches, to communities, to allow parents to spend more time with their families so they will not have to work 3 jobs by giving them a lower tax structure so they can have the important role in shaping the values of the future of our country and the future of our kids.

These are the things that I think we are making and the areas where we are making historic progress, as we consider the accomplishments of the past 4 years, welfare reform, the first balanced budget in some 30 years, the first tax relief, lower taxes on American families and businesses and people who are farmers and ranchers in my State for the first time in 16 years. Medicare reform. So many issues we have tackled in this Congress and progress we have made.

The short of it is I believe for the first time in a generation, we have taken bold steps to shift power out of Washington, D.C. and back home to the

folks who really need to be in a position to make the decisions that affect their daily lives. These are important steps. This is progress that we have made. There is a lot of room to go and a lot of room for improvement here. Those are the things that we are going to continue to work on.

I think as we look into the next year and the challenges that are ahead of us, we have to do something to destroy the Tax Code that has become an abomination to the people of this country. In a very bold way, I believe that we are going to take on the issue of reforming the IRS and restructuring it and then taking this Tax Code and making it simpler and fairer and more practical for the American public. We are going to look at areas like education and making important reforms to, as a matter again of values, say that parents should have more input in how their kids are educated, that the taxpayers ought to get the best possible value that we can out of our education dollar and that we want to see the optimum, the very best quality of education for our kids.

Those are important priorities for us and those are things that we are going to continue to move forward. We have made an important beginning here in the past 4 years. As a Republican majority in the Congress when we took over in 1994, these are accomplishments to which we can point with pride.

I think it points also to the need to continue to build upon a vision for the future which envisions a Federal Government which again is smaller and more responsive, more efficient, and a recognition that it is in fact the people of this country and their initiative and when we give them the opportunity to keep more of what they earn, that they will do what is in the best interest not only of themselves and their family but they will also work in the areas of their communities to make this a better place in which to raise their kids, in which to build a better future for this country.

I look forward to being a part of these initiatives that we are going to continue to work on to build upon the progress that has been made and to continue down the path into the future. We have had a great beginning. We now need to move forward.

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

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

IN MEMORY OF THE LATE HONORABLE WALTER H. CAPPS OF CALIFORNIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentlewoman from Oregon [Ms. HOOLEY] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I would like to especially thank the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. NEUMANN], who allowed us to go first so we may honor our friend and fellow colleague Walter Capps.

I would like to begin this special order with a moment of silence in honor of our friend.

Mr. Speaker, a number of Members, especially some of the Members of the freshman class who were very close to Walter wanted to pay a special tribute to him tonight. It seems particularly appropriate that we should share a moment of quiet reflection for a man whose reflective, thoughtful style was at odds with the often noisy, clamorous tenor of this body.

Even amongst the freshman class, there is a great deal of diversity in the ways my colleagues make decisions. While high-minded ideals play a part in every public servant's decisions, there are few Members who sought a moral grounding for their judgments more seriously and persistently than Walter Capps.

He was once quoted as saying, "The question is, What will I do? Am I being true to who I am? If I go this way, will I have violated anything that is essentially human?" Plainly Walter's humanism, his morality, his seriousness, his rectitude raised the business of the legislature to a higher level. He reminded us all about our reasons for coming to Congress in the first place. Walter was a different breed, a renaissance man cut from the same cloth from which I would like to imagine that the giants of our Republic's history came.

Yesterday on the floor I recalled one of my favorite stories about Walter, how he had told me that when he was laid up from a serious accident and unable to campaign, he had written a book. How remarkable in this age of hard and fast campaigning. I was almost mystified that he could have found time to do such a thing. Later, I learned that it was his 14th book.

By now even those of us who were not lucky enough to have known Walter in the short time here have through his tragedy of death come to realize how greatly he will be missed. I will miss him both professionally and personally. I will miss his bipartisanship and his intelligence. I will miss his warmth and his good humor.

Congressman Capps' spirit will live on among the Members of this freshman class. He will live through the work that we do. His early and unfortunate death deprived us of something wonderful, but the example that he set for all of us during his time here leaves us something wonderful to live up to.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. PRICE].

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Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding and for organizing this special order tonight.

Mr. Speaker, Walter Capps brought rare qualities of insight and grace to political life and to his service among us. In his short time here, he touched us individually and as an institution in ways reflected in the remarkable outpouring of grief and tribute we have witnessed since Tuesday. Walter was, as the President said, a rare soul, and we are much the poorer for his passing.

I first met Walter Capps some 35 years ago at Yale University, where he was a graduate student in religious studies and I was a fellow student of his wife, Lois, and brother, Don, in the Divinity School. Walter went on to a career distinguished for the quality of his teaching and writing and research, and far-reaching in its impact on students and colleagues and in the Santa Barbara community.

His would have been a rich and full life had he never been drawn into politics, but the fact that he took on the challenge of this new career speaks volumes, not only about his remarkable and diverse talents, but also about his openness to the leading of the Spirit and his powerful sense of moral obligation.

It was not as though membership in the Congress fell into Walter's lap. Walter fought two hard campaigns and was preparing for another. He came back from a difficult loss in 1994 and a horrible automobile accident in 1996. His manner was genial and gentle, but those qualities were combined with a bedrock of conviction and courage and persistence.

He was in politics for the right reasons, but he knew that the values and purposes he brought to political life would not prevail without a struggle. With Lois at his side, he was willing to make that struggle, and our country and this institution are the better for it.

When I returned to the House after the 1996 election, Walter Capps was one of the new Members I was most eager to meet. This was partly because of our shared background, of course, but also because of the unique career path and remarkable talents that brought him to this place. I was privileged to become his friend here, as were so many colleagues to whom Walter reached out with an insatiable curiosity about the people and issues with which he was working, a cooperative and generous spirit, and great good humor.

Walter Capps cared deeply about uplifting minds and spirits. He succeeded because his own spirit was centered and at peace. He had much to give, and he gave without measure.

We are deeply saddened that Walter's time among us was so abruptly cut short, but we rejoice in a life fully and usefully lived, and we are heartened that a man like Walter Capps could be elected and could grace this House and our service with his presence.

In the words of the Apostle Paul, we thank God upon every remembrance of him.