

the total unresolved cases or denied requests might surpass those that were eventually resolved like Del Toro's.

There is no doubt that when individuals flee across the border, they succeed in evading justice in varying degrees. In the Del Toro case, the suspect was spared the threat of the death penalty. The same can be said of Charles Bradley Price, one of two suspects in the 1997 Oregon killings who murdered two people for "the thrill of it" and then fled to Mexico. When Martin Pang fled from Seattle, Washington, to Brazil in 1995, after setting a fire that killed four firefighters, Brazil would only allow the U.S. to try Pang for arson and not for the four deaths. Francisco Medina is wanted for the murders of at least 17 people in New York, but he is living the high life out of reach in the Dominican Republic. Convicted murderer Ira Einhorn has alluded extradition for over 18 years now and continues to live comfortably in France. Samuel Sheinbein, who is responsible for a brutal murder only a few miles from here, will walk free from Israel when he is only 33 years old.

Unfortunately, these horrible examples only scratch the surface of this problem. It is our responsibility as Federal legislators to do what we can do to improve our odds of getting these suspects back so our local prosecutors can do their jobs without their hands tied behind their backs. Preventing criminals from escaping justice should be a priority of U.S. foreign policy.

That is why I am here today to introduce the International Extradition Enforcement Act. This bill will hold foreign nations accountable for their level of cooperation with our crime-fighting efforts by placing their foreign assistance in jeopardy if they harbor U.S. fugitives. It will require the administration to produce an annual report on extradition, including the total number of pending extradition cases per country and the details of each case. This report will then be used by the administration to assess the level of cooperation for each country on extradition, and uncooperative countries could lose their foreign aid. My legislation would give the administration the ability to waive this provision if the President deems it to be in the national interest. But Congress would also have the ability to overturn the waiver with a vote.

There are also additional criminal provisions provided in this legislation. This bill would increase the maximum sentence under Federal guidelines for flight to avoid prosecution from 5 years to a maximum of 15 years. And it will make the act of transferring anything of value to someone with the intent to assist that person in resisting extradition to the United States a criminal act subject to a maximum of 10 years in prison.

Dealing with extradition cases such as Jose Luis Del Toro has been one of the most frustrating things I have faced as a Member of Congress. I

learned through the process that the victims, their families, State and local law enforcement and our prosecutors, and even Members of Congress, are helpless to do anything other than to draw attention to their cause.

And the fate of justice lies in the hands of a foreign entity, which often may have no legitimate interest in this case. This is just plain wrong. This is not justice. Every country is entitled to its sovereignty, but when the U.S. is providing a nation with millions or billions of dollars in U.S. aid, I believe we have a right to expect and demand cooperation with law enforcement efforts.

I hope that Congress will pass the International Extradition Enforcement Act next year to improve international cooperation with U.S. law enforcement. We need to ensure that criminals cannot find a safe haven anywhere in the world.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GOSS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GOSS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. GILLMOR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GILLMOR addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

TRIBUTE TO WALTER PAYTON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, although it saddens my heart to stand here before Congress today, it is an honor to pay tribute to one of the greatest football players in the history of the National Football League. Walter Payton, a giant of a man, died November 1, 1999, at the young age of 45. He is survived by his wife, Connie; two children, Jarrett and Brittney; and by his mother, Alyne; a brother, Eddie; and a sister, Pam.

There is a saying that big things come in small packages. This holds true for Walter. Hailing from Columbia, Mississippi, Walter did not play organized football until the 10th grade. It was in Columbia where he began to amaze all who saw him play. In 1970, Walter attended Jackson State University where he began his assault on the NCAA history, becoming the all-time leading scorer, earning a fourth place finish in the Heisman Trophy race in 1974.

I might add that I had the opportunity to see Walter in his many games at Jackson State University. He was, indeed, a breath of fresh air for black college football.

In 1975, Payton was selected by the Chicago Bears as the fourth selection overall. From that point on, Payton began a career that would include many accolades, including his place of honor in Canton, Ohio, at the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

For those who saw him play, you were entertained at every level. Whether it was a run, block, kick, pass or reception, Walter gave you everything at 100 percent. His running style deemed him the nickname "Sweetness," because to see him punish would-be tacklers was definitely a delight. He was a total player, involving himself in every aspect of the game. He was unselfish in his play and always put the team first. It was this unselfish attitude that fueled the Chicago Bears to a Super Bowl Championship in 1985, a fitting award for a well-deserving athlete. In 1987, Payton left the game to pursue other goals. He left the game, but not until setting many records, including the all-time leading rushing record of 16,276 yards, a record that still stands strong to this day.

After his final game, Payton was quoted as saying he played because it was fun, and that he loved to play. Mr. Speaker, the next time we see a football game where a player dives over the pile for the extra yard or a goal line, or when a player breaks free from the pack and high-steps into the end zone, let us take a moment and remember who introduced it to us. Let us take a moment and remember Walter Payton.

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE WITH THE PEOPLE'S MONEY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. FOSSELLA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, there is a constant debate around here in Washington as to what to do with the people's money, and it seems that very often, too often as a matter of fact, there is a dismissal of the notion that the American people deserve tax relief. Right now Congress and the White House are negotiating the appropriations bills that essentially are supposed to prioritize how the American Government spends its money.

Now, Congress has done a great job, I believe, in bringing forward and passing out bills that establish priorities, like strengthening national defense, and trying to stop the raid on Social Security for the first time in years; strengthening education and trying to empower parents, as opposed to just enhancing the bureaucracies and defending the status quo and, in essence, failing our kids. And some important programs, like protecting our environment and giving our military the money and the sources they need to defend our country. But somehow, when it comes to tax relief, it becomes a taboo subject.

We constantly hear, well, the American people do not want tax cuts, so

some claim; or we are giving a tax cut to people who do not deserve it. Well, I would just urge Members here to understand that there are millions of hard-working Americans, and I know this because where I come from, in Staten Island and Brooklyn, I know that there are people working every single day, 6, 7 days a week, sometimes the parents are working two or three jobs, the father is a fireman who works at night, the mother is a teacher who works during the day, and they are juggling responsibilities, who is going to watch the kids, and they just want to put a little money aside to buy a washing machine or to buy the kids' clothes for school, or to save a little money for their education or perhaps a great treat like going away on vacation. But somehow, when we have the opportunity to send some of the money back to them, there are those here who say, oh no, they do not deserve it.

Well, I suggest strongly that we stand for tax relief for the American people. Yes, we should fund the priorities for the American Government and the American people; we should fund things like our defense and education and protecting our environment, and keeping our hands off Social Security and protecting and strengthening Medicare.

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But why can we not cut taxes? For years I heard when I was not in Congress that, well, we are facing a deficit and we cannot afford to cut taxes. Now we hear, well, we are going to face a surplus and we cannot afford to cut taxes. Well, if we cannot do it when we have a deficit and we cannot do it when we have a surplus, when can we?

I suggest that we put our faith in the American people, put our faith in their spirit and their ingenuity and their creativity to go out there and provide incentives to work hard, put a little more money in savings, put a little more money back in investment not only in themselves and their family but in their neighborhoods in this country.

Just look at Erie County in upstate New York. A 12-year incumbent who ran on a platform of he was going to spend more and more of the people's money, as opposed to the Republican candidate who said, you know what, you work too hard. I am going to run primarily on one issue. I am going to run on a 30 percent tax cut. Well, no surprise. He won handily.

I again submit to the Members of this body, and I believe I speak for the vast majority of Americans, is the American people deserve tax relief. If we truly believe in the notions of personal freedom and individual liberty and if we want to instill in our children a sense that if they work hard in this country and they go to school and do the right thing and work and do the right thing in their community and they are able to give back and invest not only in themselves but again in

their community and their family, that they will benefit and our country will be richer and better for it.

But, instead, we are constantly barked by those who say, huh-uh, you do not know how to spend your money wisely, the American people.

In fact, we hear about these bills that come through and they are vetoed, as another one was vetoed today by the White House, and we heard recently the litany of reasons why. Why? Because it does not spend enough money.

Well, where is that money coming from? The cherry trees here in Washington only bloom once a year. They do not bloom every day with money. I would just hope that the people of reason and common sense would understand that the American people work too hard for their money. They deserve more of it back.

TRIBUTE TO FAMILY AND LOVED ONES OF EGYPTAIR FLIGHT 990

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COOKSEY). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, this evening I stand before my colleagues with a heavy heart in the wake of the EgyptAir Flight 990 tragedy. The unsettling news of the plane crash struck a particular cord within me, as several of the passengers on that flight were in some way connected to my home district in Baltimore.

Arthur and Marie Simermeyer were both active and upstanding seniors who were citizens of my home district and were on that plane. They volunteered at the Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church in Glyndon and were described by family and friends as having a kind and giving nature that was surpassed only by their love of life even in their elder years.

These were people who made positive contributions to the community and helped keep the neighborly spirit, which can sometimes be rare, very much alive among those who knew them. Yes, this tragedy was indeed a major loss. But the Simermeyers were special people who gave to a special location.

We also had some students that were killed in the EgyptAir flight. They were exchange students from Egypt. As I thought of the situation over in my head repeatedly, I searched for an answer, a positive amidst the sea of disaster and despair, any silver lining that would help me and others feeling the pain of this tragedy pass this deep and dark cloud. Then I realized that, just as there is a lesson in everything, there is something that we all can take away from this unfortunate occurrence.

We can all at some point identify with the loss of a loved one, a friend, or a dear community member. Still, just as we here in the United States grieve over the death of those Americans on

Flight 990, we must remember those teenagers returning home and show our support to the Egyptian communities that mourn their deaths as well.

This is an important opportunity for the strength and support from one person to another to transcend ethnic, racial, and national boundaries. This is the time where we must come together across international lines and show our sympathy and compassion as we all share in the unexplainable loss of good and innocent people.

Just as pain knows no color, country, or social class, support, compassion, and comfort should not know the difference between nations, either. Just as we mourn the loss of the Simermeyers and the other passengers on that flight, our hearts and prayers are also with the families and friends of those Egyptians who also perished in this tragedy.

We must seize this opportunity before us and learn the lesson that we must all come together to help each other cope with the results of disaster.

As I close, I feel compelled to focus on the newly developed friendship between a Baltimore teen, Shantell Rose, and Walaa Zeid of Egypt. The two had been inseparable as they lived, studied, shopped, and played together for 2 weeks as a part of the exchange program. At the end of this precious time, Shantell stated that, as they parted, they said, "I love you." In describing this experience, she said that they had started a relationship that will last for decades and cross continents.

I say to Shantell Rose, other students, and to all the loved ones of those that have departed us in this tragedy that the journey of life takes us through many times of happiness and sadness. We remember the happy times as the most loved and enriching experiences of all. Although the sad times do not outwardly appear to benefit us, they are, in reality, what builds strength and character in all of us.

Remember that our relationships will still last decades and the new relationships that Americans and Egyptian families will make will continue across the continents. These relationships will build your strength and character and allow you to say these simple words: Do not cry for me, for the time we shared will always be.

THE CUBA PROGRAM: TORTURING OF AMERICAN POW'S BY CASTRO AGENTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from New York (Chairman GILMAN) for convening tomorrow's hearing on the Committee on International Relations on "The Cuba Program: The Torturing of American POWs by Castro Agents," and for his ongoing leadership and commitment to veterans' issues.