

But I offer, Mr. Speaker, that we need to hear a different voice today. It is the voice that comforted our founders and has comforted every American hero throughout our history. As the Psalmist wrote so many years ago, "He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. He will say, 'He is my refuge and my fortress, my God in whom I trust.' He will save you from the fowler's snare, from the deadly pestilence; he will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge."

May the favor of the Lord our God rest upon our President, our troops in the field, and all those brave men and women who serve in every Federal place in this Nation this day.

THE WAR ON TERRORISM

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow we are going to pass the welfare reform act without a single hearing in the subcommittee or in the full committee. It simply went to the Rules Committee and will come to the floor without debate in this House.

I implore you, Mr. Speaker, to bring the domestic security enhancement bill to the committee and then to the floor with full debate before you try and run it through in the confusion around some terrorist act.

I give two quotes and let people decide who said what. The first is: "The people can always be brought to the bidding of the leaders. That is easy. All you have to do is tell them they are being attacked and denounce the pacifists for lack of patriotism and exposing the country to danger. It works the same way in any country."

The second quote is: "To those who scare peace-loving people with phantoms of lost liberty, my message is this: 'Your tactics only aid terrorists, for they erode our national unity and diminish our resolve.'"

The first is a quote from Hermann Goering, the propagandist for the Nazis. The second is John Ashcroft. Consider the similarity. We do not need to lose more of our liberties to defend ourselves in this country.

BURMA

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the ethnic minorities of Burma, otherwise known as Myanmar. In January, I visited the Thai-Burma border and met with refugees, democracy activists, prisoner-of-conscience groups and others working to help the people of Burma. Sadly, the international community has failed to recognize that there is, under international legal definitions, a campaign

of genocide against the ethnic minorities by the ruling SPDC dictatorship in Burma.

We met with victims' groups, land mine victims, orphans, rape victims and others. One little boy I met was an 8-year-old orphan. He had seen both of his parents killed, then he was trafficked over the border into Thailand and there he escaped to the refugee camps. This little boy was so traumatized that he could not even smile. I saw many children like him.

Mr. Speaker, the U.S. Government and the international community must do something to assist the people of Burma and stop the brutality. Otherwise, we will all be responsible for the successful genocide campaign ethnic cleansing going on by the vicious military of the SPDC.

ELIMINATE THE UNFAIR DOUBLE TAXATION ON DIVIDEND INCOME

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call for an end to the unfair double taxation on dividend income. President Bush has made it known that it is fundamentally wrong to tax any income twice.

Many would like to play class warfare politics with this issue, but that argument simply does not stand up. Since 1990, stock ownership in the United States has doubled. Today in America more than half of all households own stock and half of all dividend income is owned by seniors. Economists anticipate that the stock market will rise between 10 and 20 percent once this unfair double taxation is eliminated. This creates more capital for spending and investment which leads to job creation.

I thank President Bush and Federal Reserve Chairman Greenspan for their leadership on this issue. Also, I want to commend Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform, for his outspoken advancement of a more fair tax system. That is why I have introduced H.R. 225, the Double Taxation Elimination Act of 2003. I ask my colleagues to join me in stopping this unfair double taxation on dividend income.

THE JUDICIAL NOMINATION OF MIGUEL ESTRADA

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

Mr. CHOCOLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support Miguel Estrada to be United States circuit judge for the District of Columbia circuit. Mr. Estrada was nominated nearly 21 months ago. He has argued 15 cases before the United States Supreme Court. He would also be the first Hispanic judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. circuit. Mr. Estrada has served in

the Justice Department under Presidents of both political parties as a Federal prosecutor and as the assistant to the Solicitor General.

Despite all of that, to date the Senate has not acted on the nomination of Miguel Estrada, along with many other judicial nominations. There is no question that Miguel Estrada is highly qualified to serve on the Federal bench.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to give the President what he has asked for and what the American people deserve, a great judge in Miguel Estrada.

HONORING LEGENDARY WICHITA, KANSAS, RADIO PERSONALITY MICHAEL C. "OL' MIKE" OATMAN

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man who had a tremendous impact on the country music industry, was a strong advocate for Wichita, Kansas, and was a great friend to many, including me.

Michael C. Oatman, or Ol' Mike as we all knew him, left this Earth on January 27. Although we wish he could have spent more time with us, he certainly made the most of the time that he had.

Mike was born in west Texas where he began a legendary radio career. In 1964 he moved to Wichita and built not only a radio empire but a reputation that earned him love and respect. His morning show of 36 years was popular not because of the music he played but because of the man who played the music.

Ol' Mike received just about every award a radio broadcaster could earn. All of those honors pale in comparison, though, to his final reward. Mike accepted Christ as his personal Lord and savior and now is in a much better place. And oh how I wish I could have been at those pearly gates to see St. Peter's response when he was introduced to the tee-legged, toe-legged, bee-legged, bow-legged, curly-haired, pee-williker Ol' Mike. That was Ol' Mike's radio show sign-on and was certainly as unique as the man himself.

We will miss you, Mike, but we will keep our old Hank Williams records and look you up when we join you on those streets of gold.

ON THE ISSUE OF THE MIGUEL ESTRADA CONFIRMATION

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

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the House on a very important matter. I would like to speak about Miguel Estrada, President Bush's nomination for the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. I applaud the nomination. Miguel Estrada would not only be the first Hispanic to sit on this court but

more importantly he is a very well-qualified nominee. Miguel Estrada has argued 15 cases before the Supreme Court. He received a "well-qualified" rating from the American Bar Association, the highest rating possible. He has also received an "outstanding" rating in every performance category during his tenure in the Solicitor General's office under a previous administration.

It is interesting to note that five of eight judges currently serving on the D.C. circuit had no previous judicial experience. Mr. Speaker, it is clear Miguel Estrada is a well-qualified candidate for the bench. Yet the Senate has still not acted on this important appointment.

THE JUDICIAL NOMINATION OF MIGUEL ESTRADA

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

Mr. BURNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss an issue that affects all Americans: judicial nominations. It is imperative that we in this Congress take a stand today and say enough is enough, that together we will end the politics of ethnic and gender exploitation and begin an era where our constitutional prerogatives override personal or party political ambition.

Mr. Speaker, the judiciary is the branch of the Federal Government that people rely on for impartiality and sound judgment. If they must be impartial, then as a coequal branch of government, we should be impartial in selecting them. It stands to reason that America's diversity extends to the judiciary, not simply for diversity's sake but because citizens of this great Nation have the right to be judged by their peers. As Americans are diverse, so should be its jurists.

Mr. Speaker, in the past 2 years we have seen nominees for the Federal bench swept aside not because of ideological disagreements or their prior decision-making record, but due to political calculations about the effect their ethnicity or gender may have on the next election. The base politics of ethnicity and gender, couched in rhetoric of ideological bias, is destroying qualified nominees' potential for good public service.

Mr. Speaker, let us go forth today and end ethnic and gender political maneuvering and begin an era of true impartiality in our judicial system and improved public service for our fellow citizens.

ON MEDICAID "CASH AND COUNSELING" DEMONSTRATION PROJECT: CONSUMER DIRECTED CARE WORKS

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, Medicaid is a mounting expense and a source of frustration to beneficiaries, providers, and taxpayers. Our States need long-term solutions, not short-term cash infusions. But there is good news. There are regulations in Medicaid, section 1115 waivers. These give States more flexibility to design and implement programs that work. One success story has the potential to save money and even more importantly instill choice into the program.

Florida, Arkansas, and New Jersey have a demonstration project called the Cash and Counseling Program. It permits participants, with minimal assistance, to direct their own health care and manage the funds allocated for their needs. In Florida, it is entirely voluntary for frail elders, the developmentally disabled and physically disabled. The eligible are given their own personal cash allowance to spend on established health care purchases. This is resulting in choice, heightened personal responsibility, and potential cost savings. I commend Governor Jeb Bush for his success and only hope that Cash and Counseling is expanded across this Nation.

REGARDING THE NOMINATION OF MIGUEL ESTRADA

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

Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the nomination of Miguel Estrada to the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. Mr. Estrada has proven himself to be an extremely qualified candidate for this position. A lawyer with a distinguished educational background, Mr. Estrada has argued 15 cases before the United States Supreme Court, all before the age of 40, which is truly an accomplishment. In addition, he has received a unanimous "well qualified" evaluation from the American Bar Association, its highest ranking.

Mr. Estrada has spent time at the Justice Department under both Republican and Democratic administrations and has demonstrated a commitment to upholding the integrity of the law. He has been called "an extraordinarily legal talent" and "genuinely compassionate" by a former Solicitor General, two accolades which lend much support and credibility to his nomination.

□ 1030

SUPPORTING THE NOMINATION OF MIGUEL ESTRADA

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, what is the deal with the Democrats and Miguel Estrada? Is it racism or is it

that they just do not like the guy? Because he is definitely qualified to sit on the D.C. Court.

He would be the first Hispanic on that court. He graduated magna cum laude from Harvard, graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Columbia College. He has argued 15 cases before the Supreme Court and was unanimously rated "well qualified" by the American Bar Association and called an extraordinary legal talent by the Clinton Solicitor General.

So what seems to be the problem, Democrats?

Let us go on further. He is 41 years old. He has been in private practice 7 years. He was a U.S. attorney for 2 years. He worked for the U.S. Justice Department. But do the Members know what? He is Hispanic, and what the Democrats are saying is because he has no prior judicial experience. That is interesting because out of the seven judges on the D.C. judicial court circuit, five of the seven did not have judicial experience. Is it not interesting that two of the Supreme Court justices did not have judicial bench experience? And yet this Hispanic guy comes along, and suddenly the Democrats are really concerned about judicial experience.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the Democrats to let this nominee go and put him on the D.C. Court. We need people like this. He is an American success story, and I applaud President Bush for nominating him.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 32 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1505

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT) at 3 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later today.