

have gotten out of step with the American people, banning innocuous voluntary prayer in the schools in the 1960s; and, as a pro-life American, striking down the laws against abortions in all 50 States in 1973.

Many, and me included, Mr. Speaker, believe that we have a judiciary that has begun to move left when America stayed as a center-right Nation in its philosophies. But we counted on the checks and balances, Mr. Speaker. We counted on the ability, through elections, to correct that imbalance for these lifetime-appointed jurists. When 1980 came along, a center-right majority elected Ronald Reagan President of the United States, and that President nominated to the Court individuals who reflected that philosophy, that center-right majority philosophy in America.

And that is when we all heard of Judge Bork. Because that was at a time, it seems to me, Mr. Speaker, and we are seeing it lived out again at the other end of this building this very night, when the Senate of the United States as an institution departed from its historic role of evaluating the qualifications of appointees to the Court to evaluating their thoughts, evaluating their ideology. Before, throughout American history, the ideology or the views of appointees to the Court were decided in elections. The President's values would no doubt be reflected in his appointees to all parts of the government. But beginning in the 1980s, with Judge Bork's defeat as a Supreme Court nominee, we saw a different impact on the process, an activist Senate joining with an activist Court.

This plays out again today in the nomination of an extraordinary man, Miguel Estrada, President Bush's nominee to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, without a doubt the second most powerful court in the United States of America. This young man, an immigrant born and raised in Honduras, law degree, magna cum laude from Harvard Law, is an American success story, no less than my own immigrant grandfather was, who came to these shores, worked hard, and lived the American Dream. Miguel Estrada is an extraordinary example of the American Dream.

I rise today, Mr. Speaker, to, however impolite, simply urge his confirmation in the Senate and his expeditious review by our colleagues.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair must remind Members that their remarks in debate may not include characterizations of the Senate or its actions or urge a course of action on the Senate.

TRIBUTE TO THE REVEREND DR. HENRY DELANEY

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

Mr. BURNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great American. The Reverend Dr. Henry Delaney is an African American pastor in Savannah, Georgia. While I have not known the Reverend Delaney for long, what I have seen of him and his ministry has been mightily impressive. But I ask that you not just take my word for it. Many other national leaders in our country have recognized Reverend Delaney, including Senator LAMAR ALEXANDER from the State of Tennessee. Mr. ALEXANDER recognized Mr. Delaney in a chapter of his book entitled "We Know What to Do."

I would like to read a short excerpt from that chapter this evening. I have taken a few editorial liberties for the sake of clarity for this tribute.

Of Reverend Delaney Mr. ALEXANDER wrote: "If you roll back the Federal Government, then who is going to do what needs to be done? Henry Delaney, that's who. He already has. He has reminded us how to confront the drug plague and shut down crack houses. He did it with faith and commerce and mostly private funding. He has achieved dramatic results without millions in Federal aid and without trampling anyone's rights.

"Henry moved to one of the poorest sections of Savannah, Georgia, in 1989. It is fair to say that a lesser person would have been daunted by what Reverend Delaney found in Savannah. He moved into a house on 32nd Street that had been boarded up and occupied by crack addicts. He inherited a ramshackle church whose property was about to be foreclosed on by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. His congregation consisted of 216 members, many of whom were afraid to attend church because of the drug dealers who overran the area.

"Reverend Delaney quickly went to work to improve the situation. He sought loans so he could start buying up the houses where the drug dealers lived. He bought five of them on one side of the street and eight in the next block. He kicked out the drug dealers and he started moving in pastors.

"His wife Ethel helped him repair the church and Members of the congregation pitched in to renovate the houses. With every house they overhauled, they expanded their drug-free zone. The church activities expanded and membership leaped to 3,000 members. Delaney now has 16 ministers of the gospel, all of whom live within two blocks of his church.

"His converts includes some of the very drug dealers that he evicted. One was shot 16 times when he was caught in a crossfire from a drug deal gone bad at a car wash. He had a miraculous recovery and now he never misses a Sunday morning service. They say that no

one in the congregation sings "Amazing Grace" with more feeling.

"Reverend Delaney is educating inner-city kids in Savannah who otherwise would not be in school, who would drop out and be rejected or be expelled. Ethel Delaney, meanwhile, opened the Saint Paul's Community Cultural Center, or what she calls a Christian charm school for girls. Since they don't accept Federal money, both schools instill a heavy dose of discipline and religion.

"Henry also runs a homeless shelter for young men who are recovering drug addicts and recent parolees from prison, helping them find jobs and keeping them clean from drugs. What is different is the evangelistic fervor Reverend Delaney brings to this task. Many of these fellas have gone through the 28-day detox programs, but within 4 or 5 days, they are back at it. So every week, Monday, Wednesday and Friday, he keeps them busy with evening worship. On Tuesday, they have Bible study. On Sunday they attend church regularly. So far it has worked very well.

"He calls his shelter the Hallelujah House. This is how you have to conduct a war against drugs, using a series of trenches. It starts in the family. If you fail there, you have to take them off the streets, and you have to reassemble them at the workplace.

"Of all the uphill battles he and his wife wage, Henry is most perplexed by the Nation's failure to focus consistently on the drug issue. His is a voice from the inner city of Savannah that we should be listening to. In the 1970s, when national voices suggested that marijuana was cool and drugs were okay, kids used drugs. In the early 1980s, when national leadership and some of the media said it wasn't okay, drug use began to decrease.

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Simply put, it is virtually impossible for people like Henry and Ethel Delaney to succeed if the streets of Savannah are awash with cocaine and crack. Keeping drugs out of the country is a matter of Federal law enforcement and foreign policy.

Of course, those local efforts depend on men like Henry Delaney. We need to learn from Henry Delaney and use his example to inspire others to achieve the same success in their communities.

So while there is no shortage of experts on national drug policy, it is probably time we started paying attention to the real experts like Reverend Delaney. He now has 60 preachers affiliated with his church, not all of them ordained, but his goal is to keep buying up the crack houses, moving in his ministers, and pushing out the drug dealers a block at a time until they are on the other side of the county line.

Mr. Speaker, we need more Henry Delaneys in this world.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEARCE). Under a previous order of the

House, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

VETERANS ISSUES

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

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to talk about the shocking and shabby treatment that this administration is directing toward our Nation's veterans. I would like to share some of the reasons I would make such a statement.

Approximately a year ago this administration decided they were going to raise the copay on prescription drugs that veterans would have to pay from \$2 to \$7 a prescription. So if a veteran goes to a VA hospital today, they are likely to see this poster up on the bulletin board, "Did you know the medication copayment has changed from \$2 to \$7?"

I thought that was outrageous, and I introduced legislation in the last Congress to reduce that copayment back to \$2, but in the President's most recent budget, he does not just want to charge veterans \$7 a prescription, he wants to increase that to \$15 per prescription. Think about that. In less than 2 years, the copayment will have gone from \$2 to \$7 to \$15 a prescription.

Many of the veterans in Ohio get 10 or more prescriptions a month. If we multiply \$15 times 10, that is \$150 a month, and then veterans frequently get 3 months supply at a time. That is \$150 times 3, for many veterans who are living on fixed income. It is shameful. It is shabby treatment.

Now, what else have they tried to do to veterans? Well, about a year ago they put out a memo from the VA headquarters saying that all of the health care providers were forbidden from marketing services that veterans are entitled to receive. In other words, the health care providers can no longer participate in community health fairs. They can no longer send out newsletters describing their services to veterans. They can no longer go to an American Legion post, for example, and sign up veterans for health care services. It is a gag order.

I call it the "if they do not ask, we will not tell" policy. If the veteran does not ask what they are entitled to receive, the VA will not tell them what they are entitled to receive. Furthermore, they will prohibit their health care providers from simply giving out that information.

Then, a few weeks ago, the VA decided to have a new category of veterans; priority 8, they called them. They said if you are a veteran and you are honorably discharged and you have served this country, but you make \$26,000-\$27,000 a year, you can no longer

enroll in the VA health care system. Sorry, veteran, you paid the price, you have served the country, you have been honorably discharged, but we do not want to have anything to do with you because you make too much money. You make \$26,000-\$27,000 a year.

It gets worse. In the President's most recent budget, they are proposing that veterans who make as little as \$24,000 a year, and they are referring to them as high-income veterans, would be required to pay a \$250 annual enrollment fee just to participate in the VA health care system.

Here is what they are doing. They are saying, we are not going to tell veterans what you are entitled to receive, but if you happen to find out about our services, we are going to increase your copay from \$2 to \$15 a prescription. And then if you make \$24,000 a year, which does not sound like a lot of money to me, not compared to those of us who make about \$150,000 a year, but if you make \$24,000 a year, we want to force you to pay a \$250-per-year enrollment fee. And we want to increase the cost of going to a VA outpatient clinic from \$15 to \$20.

I think Members get the point. It is as if this administration has declared war on our Nation's veterans.

It is a shameful situation, and I urge this Congress to look at this veterans budget and to reevaluate what we are trying to do; and what we are suggesting needs to be done.

PUBLICATION OF THE RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE 108TH CONGRESS

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

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, in accordance with clause 2(a) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House, I am submitting for printing in the RECORD a copy of the Rules of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure for the 108th Congress, adopted on February 12, 2003.

Rules of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure United States House of Representatives 108th Congress (Adopted February 12, 2003)

RULE I. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

(a) APPLICABILITY OF HOUSE RULES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Rules of the House are the rules of the Committee and its subcommittees so far as applicable, except that a motion to recess from day to day, and a motion to dispense with the first reading (in full) of a bill or resolution, if printed copies are available, are non-debatable privileged motions in the Committee and its subcommittees.

(2) SUBCOMMITTEES.—Each subcommittee is part of the Committee, and is subject to the authority and direction of the Committee and its rules so far as applicable.

(3) INCORPORATION OF HOUSE RULE ON COMMITTEE PROCEDURE.—Rule XI of the Rules of the House, which pertains entirely to Committee procedure, is incorporated and made

a part of the rules of the Committee to the extent applicable.

(b) PUBLICATION OF RULES.—The Committee's rules shall be published in the Congressional Record not later than 30 days after the Committee is elected in each odd-numbered year.

(c) VICE CHAIRMAN.—The Chairman shall appoint a vice chairman of the Committee and of each subcommittee. If the Chairman of the Committee or subcommittee is not present at any meeting of the Committee or subcommittee, as the case may be, the vice chairman shall preside. If the vice chairman is not present, the ranking member of the majority party on the Committee or subcommittee who is present shall preside at that meeting.

RULE II. REGULAR, ADDITIONAL, AND SPECIAL MEETINGS.

(a) REGULAR MEETINGS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Regular meetings of the Committee shall be held on the first Wednesday of every month to transact its business unless such day is a holiday, or the House is in recess or is adjourned, in which case the Chairman shall determine the regular meeting day of the Committee for that month.

(2) NOTICE.—The Chairman shall give each member of the Committee, as far in advance of the day of the regular meeting as the circumstances make practicable, a written notice of such meeting and the matters to be considered at such meeting.

(3) CANCELLATION OR DEFERRAL.—If the Chairman believes that the Committee will not be considering any bill or resolution before the full Committee and that there is no other business to be transacted at a regular meeting, the meeting may be canceled or it may be deferred until such time as, in the judgment of the Chairman, there may be matters which require the Committee's consideration.

(4) APPLICABILITY.—This paragraph shall not apply to meetings of any subcommittee.

(b) ADDITIONAL MEETINGS.—The Chairman may call and convene, as he or she considers necessary, additional meetings of the Committee for the consideration of any bill or resolution pending before the Committee or for the conduct of other committee business. The Committee shall meet for such purpose pursuant to the call of the Chairman.

(c) SPECIAL MEETINGS.—If at least three members of the Committee desire that a special meeting of the Committee be called by the Chairman, those members may file in the offices of the Committee their written request to the Chairman for that special meeting. Such request shall specify the measure or matter to be considered. Immediately upon the filing of the request, the clerk of the Committee shall notify the Chairman of the filing of the request. If, within 3 calendar days after the filing of the request, the Chairman does not call the requested special meeting to be held within 7 calendar days after the filing of the request, a majority of the members of the Committee may file in the offices of the Committee their written notice that a special meeting of the Committee will be held, specifying the date and hour thereof, and the measure or matter to be considered at that special meeting. The Committee shall meet on that date and hour. Immediately upon the filing of the notice, the clerk of the Committee shall notify all members of the Committee that such meeting will be held and inform them of its date and hour and the measure or matter to be considered; and only the measure or matter specified in that notice may be considered at that special meeting.

(d) PROHIBITION ON SITTING DURING JOINT SESSION.—The Committee may not sit during a joint session of the House and Senate or during a recess when a joint meeting of the House and Senate is in progress.