

freedoms to hard-working entrepreneurs that are taking risks, that are creating jobs, and letting families keep more of their hard-earned money because they know best how to take care of themselves.

I appreciate the gentleman bringing these very important issues before the Chamber and our fellow colleagues and look forward to working with him to continue the type of policies that we have already been able to successfully achieve so far in this Congress and hopefully will have more to come.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Minnesota for coming here today and shedding some light on the facts; not showering with us rhetoric, but getting to the facts, speaking about the facts. He is absolutely right. We did pass legislation to create jobs, and so we are not complaining. We are not just spewing rhetoric. We have results here, and that is a huge difference between, I think, the two sides.

And I again thank the gentleman for his work on health care. I thank him for his work on the budget and transportation. And yes, I think we have to be very proud that we are not going to sit back and just let things happen. We are going to do everything in our power to incentivize this economy so more Americans can have more high-paying jobs, because that is what really it is all about.

TEXAS REDISTRICTING

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CHOCOLA). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SANDLIN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, President Carter once said that we must adjust to changing times, but maintain unchanging principles. Today, in Texas, we have 53 brave and principled men and women, Texas legislators, all who are doing exactly that. They are adjusting to changing times. They are maintaining unchanging principles.

The issue of Texas redistricting has certainly gotten much media attention in the last couple of days due to the principled and brave actions of 53 Texas patriots. I particularly want to thank east Texas Representatives Barry Telford, Mark Homer, Chuck Hopson, Jim McReynolds and Dan Ellis for their leadership; also Representatives Dunnam, Deshotel and others who have been at the forefront of this battle along with many other members of the Texas House.

The issue of Texas redistricting has been a long road for us, and each step of the way paved by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) has been difficult and detrimental to rural Texans and particularly to my constituents in east Texas. Right out of the starting block, TOM DELAY's race to redistrict has been an absolute sham. We know it, the Republicans know it, TOM

DELAY knows it. The media in Texas knows it. Everybody in this House knows it. It is nothing but a sham.

From the get-go, the Texas House Republicans refused to unveil a real map to the public, refused to have open field hearings, refused to have notices in the Spanish language, refused to discuss the issue in the light of day, refused to give our voters a choice, and refused to consider doing anything other than what TOM DELAY just told them to do.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure my colleagues have seen the bobblehead dolls whose heads bounce in agreement to their owner's demands. The leadership of the Texas House comes to mind.

Let me point out that there is no need to redistrict. Two years ago the State legislature could not come to an agreement on a redistricting plan, so the courts approved a fair and constitutional congressional map for Texas after a full and complete hearing with evidence presented by both Democrats and Republicans, with experts, with people from communities, with maps, a complete trial before a three-judge panel. The plan was agreed upon and voters elected who they felt would best represent them in the United States Congress, either Republicans or Democrats. It was their choice.

TOM DELAY's plan seeks to change all that. He wants to choose our congressional Representatives for us rather than the voters choosing their own Representatives. That is not how we operate in Texas. That is not how we operate in this country, and the leader should be ashamed of himself.

On May 7, 2003, the Associated Press attributed the following quote to Mr. DELAY: "I am the majority leader, and we want more seats."

□ 1930

That single statement, in all of its arrogance, pretty well sums up the consideration, the thought that has gone into the Texas redistricting process. We want more seats, and traditions, communities of interest, minorities, constituencies be damned. We want more seats, and we do not care who you are or who you represent. We want more seats, and you cannot do anything about it.

Well, apparently, they can, and they have. When Barry Telford, Mark Homer, Chuck Hobson, and some 50 other Democrats broke the House quorum, they used the only option available to halt DELAY's partisan assault on Texas. And this option is completely within the rules. It is anticipated by the rules of the House. It is a tool available.

Let us see what some Republicans said, not TOM DELAY's lackeys in Washington; but let us see what Republicans in the House in Texas have said about this. Representative Charlie Geren, Fort Worth, Republican, said, "The Democrats were doing what they believed they needed to do in order to represent their constituents. I under-

stand what they are doing. It's just really the only tool in their toolbox," Geren said. "They are passionate about the map that is in front of us not being good for their constituents." Representative Pat Haggerty, a Republican from El Paso, "It's the smartest move they could have made," Haggerty said. "Under the circumstances, it was the only alternative they had. It has been done before. It's in the rules, and they are playing by the rules."

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield.

Mr. SANDLIN. I yield to my friend and colleague from Austin.

Mr. DOGGETT. In addition to those very persuasive statements from Republican leaders in Texas, is the gentleman aware of where President Bush, after he had been declared the President-elect by the Supreme Court, where he had his initial speech to introduce himself to the Nation as our President-elect?

Mr. SANDLIN. Well, Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I believe I am. And as the gentleman well knows, the President had his speech on the floor of the House.

Mr. DOGGETT. In other words, the very same room, the very chamber of the Texas capital that is under lockdown tonight is where President Bush chose, on his own, to go and introduce himself to the Nation.

Is the gentleman aware of the individual that he asked to introduce himself to the American people as our President-elect?

Mr. SANDLIN. Reclaiming my time once again, as the gentleman knows, Speaker of the House, Democrat Pete Laney, was chosen to introduce the new Republican President from Texas.

Mr. DOGGETT. And I believe the President was complimentary of Mr. Laney and of the Texas House of Representatives and its members. And where is Mr. Laney tonight?

Mr. SANDLIN. Apparently, Mr. Laney is along with the other Texas heroes. He is in Oklahoma, standing up for Texas voters, standing up for the people of Texas and our Constitution after having been trailed there by Federal investigators and Federal people that tracked him down using Federal funds, for political purposes, to make sure they knew where he went.

Mr. DOGGETT. Well, if the gentleman would yield to me for just a couple of minutes on both those points.

Mr. SANDLIN. Surely.

Mr. DOGGETT. First, I would say that it is really important to the future of our democracy that we permit diverse points of view to be heard. I believe that our country is stronger when we respect and show tolerance for opposing points of view. And the idea that everyone in Washington and in Austin has to follow lockstep behind TOM DELAY and his extreme point of view, and I believe his point of view needs to be represented here, but I do not think all the rest of us have to agree to it. And that is really what this is about.

Now, President Bush told our country again and again and again that he was a uniter, not a divider. He said that he could work with the Texas legislature, and he pointed to people like Pete Laney and said what good friends they were and how cooperative they were. In fact, he bragged on most every one of those Democrats that is up in Ardmore tonight and said what great people they were.

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield.

Mr. SANDLIN. I yield to the gentleman from Waco, Texas.

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I want to follow up on the gentleman's point about respecting others with different opinions. I am deeply offended, and I think Texans and Americans should be deeply offended, that Texas House Republicans have compared these Texas legislators who are standing up for the important American principle that citizens should have a voice in developing their future, that they have been compared to terrorists in Iraq.

It was Texas legislators who put together playing cards, laughing all the way in the last several days, with the faces of Texas-elected representatives on those cards, mimicking, they knew absolutely well, mimicking the cards that had the faces of Saddam Hussein's terrorists, rapists, thugs and mass murderers. I find it offensive in our American democracy and Texas democracy that Texas Republican legislators would stoop that low in this process.

Mr. DOGGETT. Well, the gentleman's position is very well founded, trying again to tie themselves to our sons and daughters who stood in harm's way in our American military, proudly, for our country. But right, at that very microphone this morning, our colleague from Houston, Mr. CULBERSON, stood up and compared the same Democrats George Bush had his arm around and claimed they were like suicide bombers.

When I hear that kind of extremism, I think whether it is in Texas or up here, that is a fellow that has been spending too much time around TOM DELAY. It kind of rubs off. And while we need to tolerate that point of view, as extreme as it is, we do not want everybody in America to have to be just like TOM DELAY.

Was he not the same fellow who said that Baylor, up in your town, that he thought you could not get a Godly education at Baylor or Texas A&M?

Mr. EDWARDS. The same TOM DELAY, the majority leader of the House, who says what is good for TOM DELAY in redistricting is good for Texas is the same person who said just a year ago to Texas parents, do not send your sons and daughters to Texas A&M University or to Baylor University, which is a great university that I am proud to represent in my hometown of Waco. He said those universities were too liberal.

Mr. DOGGETT. Well, I think the gentleman himself had some years over at

A&M. And I can think, as a Longhorn, of a lot of reasons people ought not to go to A&M, but not getting a Godly education there was never real high on anyone's list until Tom pronounced it.

Now, I just want to conclude this part, if the gentleman will continue to yield to me.

Mr. LAMPSON. Before the gentleman concludes, if my colleague will yield for just a moment, I want to inject something here, because another statement was made that was offensive to me, and that was something that TOM DELAY said about the Democrats' behavior in Texas was "so contrary to what Texas is all about, to turn tail and run and not to fight for what you believe in." Well, not to fight for what you believe in is the more correct part. He could not have missed that mark in a worse way. It is exactly what a Texan is all about, to stand there and fight in the face of knowing they may not be able to win when they are attacked. The backs of the Texas legislators were against the wall. They decided to make a stand for it for the people of Texas, and I am awfully proud of every member who chose to leave Austin, Texas, temporarily.

And they do not want to be gone from there. They have their work to do. They know they do. And they are most anxious to return. But they want to do it in a way they know their voices are going to be heard and so the voices of the people they represent will indeed be heard.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt that the action of leaving the State of Texas and going from Austin to Ardmore, and I have yet to find anyone in Austin that goes to Ardmore for a vacation, but I am sure it is a nice place, and I know it has the Gene Autry Museum and other fine attributes; but they did not go up there on a lark. They took this extraordinary action because, as our colleague from Marshall, Texas (Mr. SANDLIN) pointed out, they had extraordinary intimidation, they had extraordinary arrogance.

But the point I want to emphasize, when we hear these attacks made on these brave Texas legislators, remember who their pal was just a few years ago. That was Governor George Bush. That is where he chose to introduce himself to the Nation. I would just urge again tonight that the President consider the problems that are being caused in Texas by this kind of extremism, and that if he is a uniter and not a divider, though we have not seen a great deal of evidence of that, that he unite the Texas House; that he go right to the place where he kicked off his Presidency and work to bring people back together. Because we cannot go on in this fashion.

There is a second aspect to this that is very troubling, and the gentleman from Marshall made reference to it, and that is the involvement of Federal resources. It is one thing for a colleague to proclaim these extreme

views, and it is one thing for the very Texas legislators that our colleague is talking about to basically concede that redistricting in Texas is of, by, and for TOM DELAY. In fact, not only are they not denying it, I think he is kind of proud of it, that he can go down there and kind of throw his weight around and tell people where to draw the lines and which communities to cut up.

But it goes beyond that, that kind of arrogance, that kind of intimidation when you begin to use taxpayer-financed resources to advance that agenda and when you pull in institutions from Federal law enforcement and try to convert them into your private police force.

That is why, as the gentleman from Jefferson County and from Harris County and from McLennan County and from all the Texans that are here, we have joined today in a statement and in a communication to Attorney General John Ashcroft, to Secretary Tom Ridge at the Homeland Security Department, and to Director Robert Mueller of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Because we are most alarmed that yesterday TOM DELAY himself indicated that he already had a United States Attorney, a taxpayer-funded employee of the people in Texas, researching how they could employ Federal resources to bring these legislators, who have committed no crime and certainly there is no Federal offense involved in staying there and working in Ardmore, Oklahoma, until the Republicans in Austin decide to play by the rules.

We also read from today's press that TOM DELAY told reporters the justification for this, of bringing in U.S. marshals or the Federal Bureau of Investigation is because redistricting concerns a Federal issue. And a spokeswoman, according to another publication in the U.S. Attorney's office in San Antonio, Texas, said she had no official comment; but a source confirmed that an unidentified person had called to inquire about federalizing the arrest warrant. That is taxpayer resources. That is using the Federal Bureau of Investigation in much the way that Richard Nixon did in Watergate.

And there is another aspect of this, a further report. How did they happen to find these Texas legislators at a Holiday Inn in Ardmore, Oklahoma, of all places? Well, it did not just happen by chance. According to today's Fort Worth Star-Telegram, one Federal agency that became involved early on was the Air and Marine Interdiction and Coordination Center based in Riverside, California, which now falls under the auspices of the Homeland Security Department.

The agency received a call to locate a specific Piper turboprop aircraft. It was determined that the plane belonged to former House Speaker Pete Laney, Democrat, of Hale Center, and I would add parenthetically, who just happens to be the same Pete Laney that was introducing President Bush to

the Nation in the House of Representatives' chambers in Austin that is locked down tonight.

The paper goes on to report the location of Laney's plane proved to be a key piece of information, because Craddick, that is Texas House Speaker Tom Craddick, said it is how he determined the Democrats were in Ardmore.

That is a use of Federal resources. We have had ample reason to be concerned in recent months about whether the Federal law enforcement services would be used with reference to our private lives, and we have ample reason to be concerned when a powerful figure like majority leader TOM DELAY is involved with these Federal agencies when the Federal agencies from Homeland Security are out there tracing a plane operated by an elected official in Texas to give clues as to where these legislators are.

□ 1945

Mr. SANDLIN. Reclaiming my time for just a moment, let me make an inquiry of the gentleman, and I would like for him to continue, but let me make sure that I have this straight so that we understand what we are saying and what he is talking about.

Is the gentleman saying that the home Homeland Security Department that is charged with our homeland defense, that at a time when we are facing terrorism abroad and at home, and at a time when our State has a \$10 billion deficit, and at a time when the Federal Government has a \$7 trillion debt, are you saying at a time when these folks are charged with protecting our shores, our homes, our families, the very security of our country, at a time when that is their charge, that the government is using them for a political purpose to track down airplanes of State legislators for their political purpose?

Mr. DOGGETT. That would appear to be the report not from me, but from this morning's Fort Worth Star-Telegram, a very credible newspaper in our State. It is the Air and Marine Interdiction and Coordination Center. I would suppose that is the same entity that is supposed to be monitoring any airplanes that might be coming this way and placing American citizens again in harm's way, but they apparently had time, according to the newspaper report, and citing as apparently a source they talked to, Texas Republican House Speaker Tom Craddick, that they had time to provide him with key information.

It is unusual they would be following a plane from Hale Center, Texas, in the Texas Panhandle to Ardmore, Oklahoma, but apparently they had time to do that. As the gentleman knows full well as being one of the signatories of this letter, our concern is that there is a war on terrorism, and that resources would be diverted by TOM DELAY or other people away from the war on terrorism, away from fighting crime and into politically motivated activity of this nature.

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Beaumont, Texas (Mr. LAMPSON).

Mr. LAMPSON. I am just curious in listening to this and knowing what kind of time and cost that that would be, when I know that many of our entities, ports along our coastline and many other places in the country, are strapped for money, is there any precedent in the history of the United States where something like this happened and what occurred following that incident?

Mr. DOGGETT. Of course we have the tragic history of Watergate that led to the departure of a President and growing disrespect and cynicism of our people as a result of the Watergate scandal, the misuse, the invasion of people's personal information, the misuse of Federal law enforcement services. That has been one of the concerns that people have had as we have given more and more power in our desire to combat those who would threaten our families, but giving more and more power to John Ashcroft and the people over at the Department of Justice. That is why we all write and ask to be assured that they are doing everything possible to see that there is no Federal tax dollar involved and that there is no diversion, but there would appear that there has already been some activity in this area.

Mr. LAMPSON. And not since the time of Richard Nixon when they interfered with a political activity using Federal funds, Federal people, Federal employees has something like that occurred until now?

Mr. DOGGETT. I think it is a sign of desperation, a sign of extremism, a sign of the same kind of arrogance that goes to the Texas Legislature after the Governor, after the Lieutenant Governor, after the Speaker, all Republicans, as well as a number of Republican State senators have said, "We got a lot of problems. We want to focus on Texas. We don't need to take up redistricting." But now the pressure has been put on, the hammer has been applied there to them as individuals, and the knife has been pulled out to slice up one community after another in our State.

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from central Texas (Mr. EDWARDS).

Mr. EDWARDS. As I understand the article from the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, the homeland security agency, the responsibility of defending American citizens from terrorists here and abroad, they actually took taxpayer resources to follow a twin-engine plane from Hale Center, Texas, to Ardmore, Oklahoma; is that correct?

Mr. DOGGETT. They apparently had that information and supplied it to the Texas Speaker of the House.

Mr. EDWARDS. I have not been to Hale Center, Texas, lately. I think I recall they have a small cotton gin there. I know they have got maybe a drug store, a health center, perhaps known

as a center for an al Qaeda cell, perhaps?

Mr. DOGGETT. He is a pretty good farmer up there. Mr. Laney is a farmer, a citizen legislator. I doubt there are that many Texans outside of west Texas that know precisely where Hale Center is. I do not know. Maybe that is why the current Speaker of the House had to turn to some Federal agency that is supposed to be protecting us from threats to try to find out where Mr. Laney's plane had gone from Hale Center.

Mr. EDWARDS. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I thank the distinguished gentleman for yielding. I think the news that the distinguished gentleman from Austin, Texas, has really reinforced is that not only do we have a crisis of the Constitution; be reminded of the 10th amendment that clearly delineates an argument that there is absolutely no Federal question inasmuch as the 10th amendment protects States from intervention on State issues. It has been my knowledge that the Republican Party has been champions of what we call states rights and lack of Federal intervention.

So I would like to ask the distinguished gentleman from Austin, Texas, we hope that there will be a district that is respectful of the people of Austin, Texas, because none of us claim any of these districts. Is he suggesting, then, that two things, or three things, happened: One, this is the former speaker of the house, my understanding, Pete Laney, who, in fact, opened the chambers of the house to the newly ascended President of the United States Mr. Bush; two, this is the former Pete Laney who has consistently collaborated in a bipartisan manner; three, there is speculation that with the inertia, sadly, of the work that is not being done here in this Congress on homeland security, that there was enough activity to utilize that resource?

And I guess lastly I would say that we have a situation where there is seemingly a use of money, might I make it very clear, dollars, Federal resources, being utilized for purely political purposes. Is that what we seem to have reported or was read in the Fort Worth newspaper?

Mr. DOGGETT. That seems to be what is reported by the Associated Press, the comments in the Houston Chronicle, in the Fort Worth Star-Telegram and in the Washington Times, all of these papers with Mr. DELAY as the principal source on most of them himself since he is rather proud of the way he projects his power around here. And certainly our concern is that resources that are very much needed to protect our families not be diverted for a personal political police force.

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN).

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Let me follow up to that line of questioning to my colleagues from Houston and Travis County. I think we all agree that we should not use Federal resources committed to the war on terrorism and to protecting our homeland to find people who have committed no Federal crime and no State crime. There is not a violation of the State penal code, and there is no Federal law violation. Not since Richard Nixon have we seen such an abuse of the law enforcement authority of the Federal Government.

As far as for most folks, as a Texan, I am proud of my State representatives for standing up for what they believe is right. I think that is what Texas was all about literally from 1836 to today. I am not the only one who thinks they are doing the right thing.

Monday the Houston Chronicle said, "If they believe their principles are worth fighting for, and they have only one means to fight for them, it's difficult to fault them for it, particularly in a fight that was thrust upon them by Washington-driven partisan politics."

Today the Houston Chronicle said, "By thwarting DELAY's secretly drawn Washington redistricting plan, the House Democrats are preserving State prerogatives and doing all Texans a favor."

Let me repeat that: "Doing all Texans a favor." I think that is so true. That is why here tonight we see so many of us here on the floor at one time.

I want to thank my colleague from northeast Texas. We hope you will still be from northeast Texas and the legislature will go about their business to deal with school finance, deal with the \$10 billion plus State deficit, and also with insurance reform, because I know our property and casualty insurance are the highest in the country. I thank the gentleman and thank all my colleagues for being here this evening.

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT).

Mr. DOGGETT. I want to thank the gentleman for taking the leadership on this. This is something that affects more than a few Members of Congress or even something as big as the State of Texas. It does affect the future of our democracy and whether alternative voices will be heard or will instead just be monitored by Federal agencies as they fly a plane or travel or engage in their personal lives.

I cannot help but conclude as I see colleagues from Harris County in saying, as the gentlewoman from Harris County pointed out, under the DeLay plan my home county, my hometown that I have spent all my life in, that I represent 80 percent of the people of now, within a stretch of about a mile and a half, there are four congressional districts. One connects Lago Vista out

on Lake Travis within the city limits of Houston, traveling through all the little rural towns in between. Another goes a length of about 400 or 500 miles connecting another part of Austin, around San Antonio, down the Rio Grande all the way almost to the tip of Texas. The other two will trail off in different ways.

It is the same kind of extremism that tries to bring in the FBI. It is the same kind of extremism that hammers the people in the Texas Legislature to do the plan that he wants done. And it is the same kind of community that is being split asunder, the community that has the name of William Barrett Travis on it, who stood there and drew that line in the sand at the Alamo. It is that community that is being torn in four pieces in a way that is as unfair to the people that are being attached to Travis County as it is to the people of Travis County.

I thank the gentleman and all my colleagues.

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to a new Member the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BELL).

Mr. BELL. I appreciate this opportunity. I would like to first thank my good friend from Austin for bringing to light what could have been the use of Federal homeland security funds for the purpose of tracking a State legislator's plane. Obviously if that proves to be an accurate report from the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, I think everyone here, probably everyone in the country, would agree that that would be an outrageous use of Federal resources, and hopefully there will be a complete investigation to get to the bottom of that.

But while that might top the list of outrageousness on this particular evening, I think it is extremely important that we continue to remind our fellow Texans and our fellow Americans about what has created this particular situation, because going back even several months, this entire affair has been extraordinarily outrageous. It could have been easily avoided, and there was absolutely no reason for it whatsoever.

This is an unprecedented act in American history. We did research early on to find out if any State had chosen to undergo a redistricting process simply for partisan reasons long after a census had been taken. We found that that had not occurred in some 50 years, and if I am incorrect on that, I am sure my good friend the gentleman from Dallas, Texas, (Mr. FROST) will correct me because he was the one who was kind enough to have the research performed. But it has not taken place, because that is when redistricting occurs in the United States, after a census, after we can look at how the population has shifted and how the lines should be drawn.

But Mr. DELAY has said that because he is the majority leader, he wants more seats. He worked very hard to make sure the majority would change

in the State House of Representatives and so he decided to use his heavy-handed tactics and force this power grab, this unprecedented action.

When I was back home in my district over the course of the last few days, people said, well, Texas is a majority Republican State now; is it not? So should it not have a majority congressional delegation? I think it is very important that we make that very clear tonight and set the facts forward here this evening.

Because of the way our Texas congressional districts are drawn, there are a majority of Republican districts in the State of Texas. In fact, there are 20 Republican districts and only 12 Democratic districts. You might be scratching your head because you have heard there is a Democratic majority. Yes, there are 17 Democratic Representatives from Texas and only 15 Republicans. Why? Because in five of those Republican-dominated districts, the voters have decided that they would prefer the Democratic Representatives to serve them in the United States House of Representatives. That is the way democracy works in America, ladies and gentlemen, and that is the way democracy works in Texas, or at least it did work that way until the majority leader decided that because he is the majority leader, and this is his quote, that he wants more seats.

This comes at a time when the State of Texas is facing a 10- to \$12 billion budget deficit, when we are dealing with school finance, Medicaid funding, a children's health insurance program, serious issues, serious issues that are deserving of our State lawmakers' attention. But even in light of all of that, our majority leader decided to force their hand and go forward with redistricting. That is what brings us here tonight.

□ 2000

And that is what caused our representatives in the State House of Representatives to go to Ardmore, Oklahoma.

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BELL).

Let me say before the gentleman from Austin leaves the Chamber, we appreciate his leadership in working on the issue of the misuse of Federal Government assets for intimidation and for political use, and I would also like to point out before yielding that this is also happening, as we know, at the State level with the use of State assets for political purposes. One of the State representatives in Texas, one of the heroes helping break the quorum is Representative Craig Eiland. Unfortunately, Representative Craig Eiland's wife was in the hospital, and they had premature twins. The twins are patients in the neonatal intensive care unit. The hypocritical speaker of the Texas House, Tom Craddick, sent investigators, sent the Texas Rangers, to the hospital to interview the nurses,

blasting into the neonatal unit to find out where in the world are the State legislators. And everyone in America knew where they were because it was on the television. They were in Ardmore, Oklahoma.

One of the State representatives from my district, not only a great State representative but a personal friend of mine, Chuck Hopson, his wife was in Austin and determined to go home. She left Austin to go to Jacksonville, Texas, probably about 4 hours. Upon leaving Austin, Tom Craddick put DPS officers on her tail and followed her 4 hours to Jacksonville, Texas, all the way. When she slowed down, they slowed down. When she speed up, they sped up. When she pulled over, they pulled over. This is getting dangerously close to a police State. That is improper. There was no allegation of breaking the law. There were no criminal allegations, no civil allegations; but we are using the power of the State to intimidate free citizens of the State of Texas.

And I have got a question. I want to know from Tom Craddick how many men he is following around in those cars. I want to know how many investigators he is putting on the men in Texas. I want to know why he is determined to try to intimidate the wives of our State representatives and using State assets and State funding to do that.

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SANDLIN. I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. LAMPSON. The gentleman spoke of Craig Eiland, who is one of my constituents, Craig and Melissa; and their prematurely born twins are doing well in the hospital, thank goodness, but the night that those Department of Public Safety officers showed up in the hospital questioning the nurses that were taking care of those babies concerned Melissa significantly so, and then following that they went to her home to question her when it had already been announced, as the gentleman said, that they knew Craig Eiland was in Ardmore, Oklahoma, as did the rest of the country.

That is bordering on harassment, but it is also the use of public funds and public employees to perform tasks, as the gentleman says, reminiscent of a police state. But what about the work that the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FROST) did recently on the AMBER Alert? I have done a lot of work in my 6 years here about the issue of missing and exploited children and worked diligently to pass legislation that would give our law enforcement capability to work with the public of this country to help find missing people. Interestingly enough, I understand that the State of Texas turned on the AMBER Alert system to try to find members of the Texas legislature. Can anybody answer that? Is that the truth, Mr. FROST? Do you know that? Or Mr. SANDLIN?

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, I believe that is the truth, and I guess they are

treating them as exploited children. I do not know, but it is clearly a misuse of the purpose of that notification center. It is absolutely outrageous; and as the gentleman knows from his leadership in the Caucus for Missing and Exploited Children, this Congress and the statehouse in Texas has worked very hard to help identify missing and exploited children, children that are away from their parents, and the assets and the energies of the AMBER Alert system are to do just that, not to find adult legislators, number one; and, number two, certainly not when everyone in the whole country knows exactly where they are.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SANDLIN. I yield to the gentleman from Dallas (Mr. FROST).

Mr. FROST. I do want to answer the question, and then I do want to talk about one other item. As far as we can determine, that is exactly what they did. They activated the AMBER Alert, posting the information on the DPS Web site, clearly an abuse of that system that we worked so hard to get in place to help missing and exploited children.

I would like to call the public's attention and the Speaker's attention to something that is far worse than what they did with AMBER Alert. Thirty years ago I was a young man. I remember following this in the news. Thirty years ago President Richard Nixon tried to use the FBI and the CIA to get involved in the Watergate issue. That was widely reported in the press of this country. It was an abuse of power by the President of the United States and is one of the things that led to President Nixon's ultimate resignation. Now we have reports in the Texas papers, in the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, the Houston Chronicle, the Associated Press, that TOM DELAY attempted to use the FBI in this situation to intervene in a domestic political matter.

I remember when Nixon did this, Republicans were outraged. I remember when Barry Goldwater, a conservative Republican, went to the White House and said to Richard Nixon enough, enough, and urged him to resign.

I would urge Republicans, my Republican colleagues here in Washington and Republicans around the country, to tell TOM DELAY, as Barry Goldwater told Richard Nixon, this is not the kind of country we have. Tell TOM DELAY he cannot use the FBI to further domestic political agendas in this country.

As far as we have been able to tell and as far as the newspapers of the State have been able to tell, the FBI did the right thing and they refused, they refused to be involved in domestic politics, and I applaud that. Tell TOM DELAY, anyone who is watching this on television, whether you are a Democrat or a Republican or an independent, that the greatness of America is the freedoms that we enjoy. May we never become a police state. May we never become a society where the FBI is used

against political dissenters in this country. It is time to put this to an end. And if TOM DELAY continues in this matter, continues trying to abuse our political system, then maybe there are some people in this country including Republicans who should go to him and say, Mr. DELAY, it is time to step aside as majority leader. You are no better than Richard Nixon; and I regret the fact, TOM DELAY, that you are from the State of Texas and that you are emulating Richard Nixon and what he did 30 years ago. I yield back to the gentleman.

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman. Along this same line, I would like to point out that all of us here completely support law enforcement, the Texas Rangers, the Department of Public Safety, our police; but they are acting under the direction of a misguided and a wrong-headed speaker of the House in Texas, Tom Craddick, in conjunction with the majority leader here, the two Toms, the Tom Toms, and they are beating drums, sending these folks out. And our Department of Public Safety folks, they have little choice of what to do.

But let me bring out a couple of other things that have happened. El Paso Police entered the home of Representative Joe Pickett where his 17-year-old daughter was at home alone, and his wife, who was a block away, quickly returned to the house. Representative Joe Menendez's wife found her car vandalized, parked right in front of the governor's mansion. A senior staff member, and this is particularly troublesome to those of us who protect the Constitution, a senior staff member of Representative Elliott Naishtat's office was told it was a felony to withhold information on the whereabouts of that legislator, and when asked what law was broken, the staff member was shown a copy of the House rules.

Police searched Representative Patrick Rose's car, which was left at a friend's house hours after the lawmakers were found in Ardmore, Oklahoma. The friends said law enforcement had staked out the house where the car was parked prior to the search.

Listen to what the Corpus Christi Caller-Times said: "The wife of State Representative Jaime Capelo, Democrat, Corpus Christi, looked out her kitchen window Tuesday and noticed a blue four-door vehicle driving past. The driver looked at her home as he passed. The vehicle pulled up next to a white Chevrolet pickup parked down the street. 'I asked him why he was watching my house.' The man identified himself as a State trooper and told her that officials in Austin had called his office and told the troopers to follow her." Told the troopers to follow her. This is nothing but police state activity. It is something that we should be concerned about.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida). The

Chair would remind the Members to address their remarks to the Chair and not to the television audience.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SANDLIN. I yield to the gentleman from Houston (Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas).

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman for yielding.

I think it is important to capture the intensity of what we are trying to discuss. This is not an ordinary circumstance. This is an extraordinary circumstance. We have already gone on the question of the utilization of Federal resources. We have already gone on or discussed the idea of the very sensitive legislative initiative that took years in the making, the AMBER Alert. Then we add to that the insult of tracking and stalking family members to the extra added insult of the representation that the PATRIOT Act could be the underpinnings of Federal intervention and/or arrests of these members.

In questioning both the Department of Justice and the U.S. Marshal today in the Committee on the Judiciary, I am grateful to report that they were as dumbfounded as the questioner. Would they have any authority to either arrest and/or seek these members? To those questions there was a resounding no answer, and certainly there was an answer of not having any idea of their authority to do so.

But I want to just make this point. The reason why this is so extraordinary is because we have had the Killer Bees. In fact, Speaker Craddick some few years ago, 1971, 30 members disappeared during the 1971 session. Craddick was part of it, and they were called the "Dirty 30." And they were protesting what I think was a positive protest to clean up the State of Texas with respect to the Shawtown scandal. Hooray for them. It is equal to the very act that has occurred by these 50, but do my colleagues know what? There is no evidence, none whatsoever, that any Federal authority was sought, that any family members were abused, that any hospitals were visited, that any inquiries were made because of sick family members, that any children were intimidated. None of this occurred.

And so, Mr. Speaker, this is why we are on the floor of the House. Not because there is not more important business to do in this Congress or in the State legislature. But we want to remind America and the State of Texas that the reason why these 51, 53 are standing tall is because this is an extraordinary and outrageous action that is occurring by the Speaker of the House in Texas and of course the leadership of this body.

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from San Antonio (Mr. GONZALEZ).

□ 2015

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I know we have gone over some matters that have transpired in the State of Texas that should shock the conscience of any American citizen.

What are we talking about, because I know we have alluded to it, and maybe it may have been read into the RECORD earlier, but I would like to revisit it and use the very quotes from Mr. Craddick and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) as they appear in the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. This is from the newspaper article.

"At the Capitol in Washington, United States House Majority Leader TOM DELAY said that the speaker of the Texas House in Austin, Tom Craddick, had asked for the FBI or U.S. marshals to intervene. 'The Speaker asked the FBI and/or U.S. marshals to go up and get these Members,' DELAY told the reporters.

"But Craddick, who a day earlier had suggested the possibility of Federal involvement, said Tuesday that he made no calls to any Federal agencies, saying that it was an issue for the Department of Public Safety in Texas. He said, 'I'm not into that.'

"However, a spokesman for the United States Attorney's Office," in my hometown of San Antonio, "had no official comment, but a source confirmed that an unidentified person had called to inquire about federalizing the arrest warrant.

"The point seems moot now," a spokesman for the U.S. Department of Justice said, "because it definitely is not for the Federal authorities. However, one Federal agency that became involved early on was the Air and Marine Interdiction and Coordination Center based in Riverside, California, which now falls under the auspices of the Homeland Security Department.

"The agency received a call to locate a specific Piper turboprop aircraft. It was determined the plane belonged to former House speaker Pete Laney, Democrat from Hale Center, Texas.

"The location of Laney's plane proved to be a key piece of information because, Craddick said, it's how he determined that the Democrats were in Oklahoma. 'We called someone, and they said they were going to track it. I have no idea how they tracked it down,' Craddick said. 'However, that is how we found them.'"

So we know there were Federal funds, Federal personnel used, definitely for an improper purpose if not for an illegal act.

We will get to the bottom of this. But what has spurred all this on? When they could not get the Federal authorities to go and arrest these individual members, our great Governor of Texas, Rick Perry, contacted the attorney general in New Mexico, because they thought that is where they were going.

New Mexico Attorney General Patricia Madrid responded today to a request from Governor Rick Perry's office to allow Texas officials to make arrests in her State. "My office is re-

searching the issue. It appears the short answer is no. Texas, as all other States, must first issue a valid arrest warrant upon which New Mexico officials may act and make an arrest, and then extradition procedures will apply to remove the person arrested to Texas."

That can never happen, because we do not have a criminal act. No warrant is going to be issued, we know that, but, nevertheless, the Governor of Texas had the audacity to make that kind of request.

Now, how did the attorney general handle it in New Mexico? She ended it with this quote: "Nevertheless, I have put out an all-points bulletin for law enforcement to be on the look out for politicians in favor of health care for the needy and against tax cuts for the wealthy."

Because that is really what it comes down to. At the beginning of this process, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) and other members of the Republican leadership were telling Texans that their plan would create new minority districts. This was not about partisan politics and more Republicans and getting rid of Democrats, it was about doing the lofty and admirable thing of adding minority districts.

Well, the map is out there, 1 of 10, but all 10 do not create minority districts.

Last week the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) finally admitted, "Hey, look, I am a Republican. The purpose of all this is to get more Republicans."

So now the mask is off, and that is where we are today. We have an abuse of the legislative process for partisan gain. It is the worst thing that could ever happen. It is practiced day in and day out in the Capitol of the United States, and they are attempting to export it to the State of Texas, and we have 53 brave and courageous State legislators saying, no, thank you, and do not mess with Texas.

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Beaumont, Texas (Mr. LAMPSON).

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for putting together this Special Order and giving us the opportunity to come and express some of the concerns about what is happening in Texas with a number of issues, redistricting being one of them.

We have heard a great deal about an abuse of power. But what was it all about? It was about someone who stepped in and tried to control Texas from outside of Texas, and that someone happened to be a Texan, but who holds a very high position as one of our colleagues here in this body, the majority leader of the House of Representatives, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY).

I find it absolutely amazing that our friends in Texas and some of our constituents in Texas who serve in the Texas House of Representatives have been able to choose to stand up in the manner in which they have; people like

Craig Eiland, whose wife was harassed by the Texas troopers, and people like Alan Ritter and Joe Deshotel, who took time away from their families to go away to Ardmore, Oklahoma, and to exhibit a protest.

And shame on those who have said that those people are turning their backs on their jobs and turning their backs on their constituents and not wanting to go back and address the problems of the State of Texas. That is nonsense, it is offending, because these people to want to go back, they do want to go back and do their jobs, and they do want to address the critical problems that face Texas today, whether it deals with financing of our education system, which is in dire straits, whether it is the health needs, or the significant deficit that Texas faces of \$10 billion to \$12 billion, and they will do so as soon as the speaker of the Texas House of Representatives agrees to get rid of these nonpriority, personal political agenda items so that we can address the real needs of the State of Texas.

I had a newsperson ask me today, Mr. Speaker, whether or not the people of Texas could be controlled by one person, and whether the Texas House of Representatives could be controlled by one person. I am thrilled to be able to say no, that it cannot be.

Yes, the Republicans may win on this issue in Austin, Texas, but we will raise every objection that we can possibly raise. And they may win in the Senate, and we will raise that objection again. And they may win in the courts, but we will be right there. And the sad part of it is that the people of Texas will pay over and over again with the costs that are going to be associated with legal assistance and defending this issue and the huge amount of time and effort that is going to be taken away from our need to address the real issues of Texas.

God bless those Texas legislators. We are proud of every one of you, and know you are going to do the Lord's work for all of us in Texas, and we will get to the bottom of it, and the people of Texas in the end will win.

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I yield to the gentleman from Houston (Mr. BELL).

Mr. BELL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is very important as we discuss this important subject that we recall some historical perspective. My good friend from Harris County referred to some recent history just a short while ago in which he pointed out some of the hypocrisy of the current speaker of the Texas House.

It is also interesting to go back to the year 1984. The reason I think it is interesting is because a lot of people in the last few days have said, is this not just politics as usual? Is this not just what happens in the State of Texas?

Well, quite honestly, it is not. If you go back to the year 1984, that was the

year that our current majority leader, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), and five other Republicans were elected. It was an unprecedented success on the Republican side.

Interestingly, in 1984 the majority leader of this body, the United States House of Representatives, was none other than Jim Wright, a Democrat from Fort Worth, Texas. In the State House of Representatives, there was a strong Democratic majority, in the State Senate of Texas there was a strong Democratic majority. But in that year there was absolutely no effort made whatsoever to go back and redistrict and change those seats from whence the six representatives, the six Republican representatives, had been elected, because, quite simply, that is just not the way things have been done.

As we come to a close tonight, I want to go back to the Houston Chronicle editorial that my good friend the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) referred to earlier, because I think it makes a very eloquent case about what we have witnessed this week.

In its closing, perhaps the most valid criticism that could be made of the missing Democrats is that "their place is in the capital, doing the people's business and debating the issues, win, lose or draw. In a more civil era that would be right. But Speaker Craddick throughout the session has discouraged debate, opposition amendments and all of the other give and take of politics. On many occasions, he and his lieutenants seem to regard examination and principal discussion of legislation as irritants. It is not too late to salvage the legislative session. It is past time, however, for Governor Perry, Speaker Craddick, Majority Leader DELAY, et al., to follow George W. Bush's gubernatorial example, and realize that good government is bipartisan government, shaped by compromise, and the broad public interest."

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Houston, Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, let me just quickly say that there has been a representation that this meat cutter of a plan by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) protects minorities and supports the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Let me clearly say, Mr. Speaker, that that was an emotional time in our history. It was a time when there were deaths in Philadelphia, Mississippi; it was a time when the State troopers attacked peaceful marchers crossing the Edmund Pettis Bridge in Selma, Alabama, on March 7, 1965; it was a time when there was great intensity in the United States Congress to be able to pass a Voting Rights Act of 1965.

This district, this plan, does not represent, commemorate or give honor to the Voting Rights Act of 1965. This plan is a sham, it is a shame, when it takes away the historic birthplace of Barbara Jordan out of the 18th Con-

gressional District. All I can do is remind this body of the words of Barbara Jordan during the impeachment proceedings of Richard Nixon, that she would refuse to be diminished, and that she spoke for the people of the United States of America, and that she reinforced her belief in the Constitution.

This is a sham of a process. This Congress should be ashamed, the State legislature in Texas should be ashamed, we all should be ashamed, and we should get back to the business in celebration, commemoration in honor of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

MARKING 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH IN HOLLIDAYSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark a significant historical event in the community of Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania. This month the Zion Lutheran Church in Hollidaysburg will mark its 200th anniversary. The rich history of Zion Lutheran is a testament to its founders and all of its congregants to this day.

By 1803, population centers in the United States were expanding westward. As small groups of people started to settle west of the Allegheny Mountains for the first time, a small group of German immigrants, led by Pastor Frederick Haas, started the first congregation of Zion Lutheran Church in a log building in Frankstown, Pennsylvania, 200 years ago.

While many of the original members were used to the grand cathedrals of Europe, and the new log building was certainly a different way to worship for many settlers, their desire to worship and develop community moved them to embrace their new surroundings.

With the opening of the Pennsylvania Canal and the Allegheny Portage Railroad in 1830, Hollidaysburg flourished and became the county seat. As the town continued to grow, congregants needed a larger building to worship, and a new church opened its doors to the spiritual needs of the community in 1853. Today congregants of Zion Lutheran still make this building their center of spiritual community, and it also serves as a central feature of the historic section of the Hollidaysburg borough.