

the debt? Yet, every American knows that when your Visa bill gets too high, you are starting to indulge in too many things you cannot afford. To the average American family, getting a hold on our finances means making priorities and tough decisions. Yet, no family forced to cut back on spending would neglect to feed their children in order to pay for a Las Vegas vacation.

Similarly, we should not be cutting crucial government services to pay for an inflated tax cut.

Mr. Speaker, as we enter this new fiscal year, I hope my colleagues will learn from the fiscal follies of the past. And I hope we can collectively make a New Year's resolution to put the Federal Government's priorities in order, tighten our belts, and get our fiscal houses in order for the sake of our country, but more importantly, for the American people.

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

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

HONORING MILLIE O'NEILL

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

Mr. FRANK. Mr. Speaker, sometimes the cliches come true. I thought about that when I got a phone call last night telling me the death of Millie O'Neill. I was profoundly sorry.

She was an extraordinary woman of warmth and strength and humor, a genuine believer in and participant in this American political system through the real partnership she had with her husband, the late Speaker Tip O'Neill.

All of the cliches we summon up about the partnership of marriage, about a woman who could combine toughness when it was appropriate with gentleness at other times, all of those Millie O'Neill exemplified.

I had a great privilege when I came here in 1981 as a Member of the House from Massachusetts. I became, particularly as a Massachusetts Member, but not only those of us from Massachusetts, a member of that extended family that the O'Neills presided over. I had known other members, Tom O'Neill, the oldest son who was a legislative classmate of myself, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. DELAHUNT), and a former member, Mr. Donnelly, we were all elected to the legislature that same year, and so we came to know each other then.

I got to know over the over the years other members of that family, the O'Neills' son, Kip, the daughters, Susan and Rosemary, the son, Michael, who sadly passed away a few years ago. And

I interacted with them and did a lot of work together with them.

Millie O'Neill was not always a presence here. She came down when her husband became the Speaker, but once she did, she became a vital part of this city. I was privileged as a Massachusetts Member from time to time to be at the events where we were celebrating any number of holidays or other important political functions. Sometimes you go to those things reluctantly. Sometimes you finish a day here and just want to go home. But, Mr. Speaker, when you knew that Tip and Millie O'Neill were going to be at an event, then you wanted to go because you knew it would be suffused with laughter and warmth and all of the best things about people coming together. Because separately Millie O'Neill and Tip O'Neill were wonderful people of strength and of great commitment; together there was a synergy. They brought out in each other the best of the best.

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They enjoyed each other's company, and they made it impossible to be in their company and not to share in that enjoyment.

When we mourn, Mr. Speaker, we mourn for the person who has passed away. We mourn also for ourselves. We mourn for our lost memories, for the good times we once had and will not have again; and as I said when I learned of the death of Millie O'Neill, I was profoundly saddened by the passing of that wonderful woman, and I was also saddened myself to realize that never again would I be in her company, never again would I be one of the beneficiaries of what she radiated.

So, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the chance to come say to Tom and Kip and Rosemary and Susan how sorry I am; but I am confident that very soon, having had the privilege to be the children of that wonderful woman, that the very, very good memories of their mother, just as they have of their father, will crowd out the pain.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this Special Order in commemoration of Millie O'Neill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MURPHY). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

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

(Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts 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 Massachusetts (Mr. TIERNEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. TIERNEY 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 Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

TRIBUTE TO MILLIE O'NEILL

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

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, Millie and Tip O'Neill were members of the Studs Terkel generation. They were Democrats because they saw the Democratic Party as a vehicle to help the common people of this country. They were Democrats who accepted human nature. They did not try to change people. They simply tried to appeal to their better natures. They just did not appeal to their common sense. They appealed to their sense of common justice.

Millie loved her man. She knew her man. She knew he was a strong man, but she also knew that he could be even stronger buttressed by love, and she gave of it fully. Millie would make every congressional spouse feel like she or he were welcome as family. They were two strong and good people who made their community and their country better for everybody.

In my view, Tip O'Neill's finest hour as a defender of this institution outside of the Watergate era came on a day after the regular order of business was done, just like today. Only in those days, during this period known as Special Order, the camera did not pan the Chamber. The camera simply focused closely on the person speaking in the well; and on one famous occasion, a young Newt Gingrich, later to become Speaker, took the well of the House and began a speech attacking Members on this side of the aisle, and with the camera close upon him, he challenged Members who were not there, but the camera gave the appearance that the Chamber was full. Mr. Gingrich challenged Members in an empty Chamber to answer him if his allegations were wrong.

Tip felt that that was a fundamental misleading of the American people. So he rushed to the House floor and told Mr. Gingrich what he thought of that kind of conduct. In my view, what he said may have been a technical violation of the rules; but in my view and in Millie's view, it should not have been, because in Tip's view and in her view and in the views of many of us, we thought that what Tip was saying was

the truth. Unfortunately, as was pointed out, sometimes truth is not a defense on this floor under the House rules, and so Millie was proud of the fact that Tip stood up for what he felt was right, as were we all that day.

I find it ironic that Millie died last night, just as the Boston Red Sox were winning the right to move on to the post-season series by seeing the last pitch of the game go the Red Sox way. As a huge, huge Red Sox fan, I know Tip would have been thrilled to see that; but with Millie's dying at that same time, she could at least rush and tell Tip the good news. So I think all of us are hoping that for the next 2 weeks Millie and Tip will have a good box seat in heaven, watching the Red Sox hopefully playing the Cubs in the World Series.

They brought grace to their State. They brought grace to this institution, and they brought good feelings and warmth and cheer and respect to all of us who knew them both; and I know that, as will the family, we will all miss both of them greatly.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. FILNER 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 New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. HOLT 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 New York (Mr. HINCHEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

LETTERS FROM CONSTITUENTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I just got the good news that in the first inning the Cubs versus Marlins, that the Cubs are three to nothing, scored three runs. So Chicago fans are very, very happy after waiting since 1908 to win a World Series. We think this is the year, and it would be great if it

were the Chicago Cubs and the Boston Red Sox.

But I am here for another purpose this evening, and that is, I wanted to read some of the letters that have come from constituents of mine regarding the war in Iraq, the ongoing war in Iraq, as has the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and others.

The letters and e-mails that have been largely generated by *moveon.org*, that has an online petition asking people, and hundreds of thousands have responded to sign on to their online petition, that says that Congress must withhold the \$87 billion requested by President Bush until he dismisses the team responsible for the quagmire in Iraq, starting with Defense Secretary Rumsfeld, and ends the U.S. occupation of Iraq by transferring authority for rebuilding to the United Nations.

I know that the writers of these letters did not mean just a kind of shuffling of the players, that is, to move Condoleezza Rice up one and Donald Rumsfeld down one, but rather, that the team that has gotten us into this situation in which day after day Americans wake up to news of more of our troops being killed and still no plan. These are the sentiments that are expressed in these letters from my constituents.

David from Chicago says, "Do not authorize the spending of any additional American citizens' money on this madness until the people in charge make a drastic personnel change, draft a complete and detailed game plan directly involving the United Nations, and apologies made to all peoples and nations caught up in this disgraceful and bloody mess!"

Dorothy from Evanston says, "Please zip the open purse closed before our billions and billions of dollars go into the quagmire which is Iraq, largely because of the policies of Secretary Rumsfeld, and President Bush's espousal of same. Secretary Rumsfeld ought to be removed from office as quickly as possible, and we should ask the United Nations to join us as full partners, in authority as in other ways, in trying to normalize Iraq. Thank you very much."

Mary from Chicago says, "I am appalled at the amount of money this administration paid to companies that have such close ties to Bush and his friends. As this atrocity drags out, it is clear that their agenda has always been to get their hands on Iraqi oil and they don't mind sacrificing our servicemen and -women to do it. It is an insult to those men and women, to the American people, and to the world to give this administration the money they have the audacity to demand. If you give it to them, why not make the check directly payable to Halliburton care of Dick Cheney? Please do not give your stamp of approval by voting to give this money, especially before all of the 'players' in this disaster are held accountable for their lies and deception."

David from Chicago says, "The people of Iraq deserve our continued commitment to helping them redevelop their country. However, we must recognize that we can't do it alone and that the United Nations must be legitimately engaged in leading us out of Iraq. Secretary Rumsfeld and his team are clearly unwilling and/or incapable of taking this course and therefore are unfit to continue in their current role."

Another David from Chicago says, "I hear story after story of parents of our men and women serving in Iraq sending regular care packages with things like sunscreen because their children are not being provided these items by the military. It is clear that the money being sent is not being targeted to those in the service and apparently not to the Iraqi people who still lack power, food, water and medical facilities. It does appear that Halliburton is profiting quite nicely from its no-bid contract."

Catherine from Chicago, "I have already voiced my opinion on the issue of the \$87 billion in aid to Iraq in phone calls to my representatives in Congress. This is an outrageous, egregious use of American and my tax dollars. I support appropriate aid. This is a completely inappropriate boondoggle turning into a disaster!"

Keith from Chicago says, "Please do not fund another cent for the occupation of Iraq. It is immoral to expect future generations to pay for a war that does virtually nothing to make Americans or other peoples safe from terrorism."

Jonathan says, who is from Chicago, "Don't reward failure! The war in Iraq was won handily, but the Defense Department's hamfisted attempts to run things in Iraq, over the objections of the more experienced State Department, has been dismal and embarrassing. By all means, fund the continue rebuilding efforts in Iraq, but not while the architects of the current mess are still choosing how to spend the money."

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MILLIE O'NEILL

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

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, in 1976 Congressman Tip O'Neill from Massachusetts was selected by the House to serve as Speaker; and while for most of us that was an exciting era, most people did not know that when he came to Washington and brought his family, he brought the wonderful and the beautiful Mildred O'Neill with him.

All of us have heard and talked about so often the partnerships and the sacrifices that wives and children make for those of us who have offered ourselves for public service, but I do not think that was so with Millie and Tip O'Neill because they just seemed like a