

not to say, "Good work—and how can we help?" Rather, it was to scream about a "domestic spying" scandal, as though Richard Nixon were back in the White House and tapping the telephone of Democratic National Committee Chairman Howard Dean.

And the reaction has been much the same to USA Today's story last week that the NSA "has been secretly collecting the phone call records of tens of millions of Americans" in a program that "reaches into the homes and businesses across the nation by amassing information about the calls of ordinary Americans."

Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.), ranking member on the Senate Judiciary Committee, reacted by asserting that "these are tens of millions of Americans who are not suspected of anything but we're just going to collect their phone information for the heck of it. Where does it stop?"

Similarly, Newsweek's cover this week blares "Spying On Your Calls"—no question mark used—and implies that the Bush White House could be tapping everyone's telephones.

In fact, what seems to be happening, though the details are secret, is that most long-distance phone companies have given the NSA their billing records identifying what numbers are calling what other numbers, when and for how long. Names are not included. And the NSA—not for the heck of it but to protect us from attack—is using the records to track terrorist networks and calling patterns. If a known terrorist in Pakistan calls a number in Los Angeles, I want the government to know what numbers that person calls. Don't you?

Certainly, the government will find out the names of people in a terrorist calling chain. If it wants to tap a domestic phone, it needs a warrant and, unless officials are lying through their teeth, it is asking for them.

The NSA call logs also apparently are being mined to establish patterns of terrorist-related communication—the use of pay phones, duration of calls, times of communication, etc.

But all this scarcely constitutes "reaching into homes and businesses across the nation." If the government is snooping into the business of anyone except terrorists (or drug dealers, Mafiosi and child pornographers, whose names and numbers also can be easily obtained with a subpoena), it is wasting its time and our money.

The phone companies that are cooperating with the government ought to be congratulated for participating in the war on terrorism—as they would have been in WWII. Instead, they are being hauled before the Senate Judiciary Committee as though they were criminals. And trial lawyers are circling like vultures to make them pay zillions for alleged privacy violations.

As for myself, I'm sticking with AT&T as a long-distance carrier because (according to news reports), it did cooperate. If I had Qwest, which reportedly refused, I'd cancel.

Is there a potential for abuse in the NSA spying program? There is. For instance, it would be all too easy for officials to ask the NSA to trace the phone records of the winners of those odious Pulitzers—James Risen of The New York Times and Dana Priest of The Washington Post—in an effort to uncover their sources in the name of "protecting secrets" and "fighting terrorism."

The Senate Intelligence Committee, when it quizzes former NSA Director Michael Hayden in his CIA confirmation hearings Friday, should establish that the terrorist surveillance programs have not been abused, although there is no evidence of it.

To the extent he can do so without giving away secrets, Hayden also should tell the committee and the country why these pro-

grams are so essential and what the legal basis for them is.

If the administration believes, as officials often have said, that the 1978 Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act is obsolete in the age of super-computers and terrorism, it ought to work with Congress to rewrite the law. Skirting it won't work anymore.

But the fundamental problem infecting much of Congress, the media and the political class especially those, left of center—is that they are consumed with loathing for President Bush and all his works and are prepared to do anything to undermine him, even if it makes the country less safe.

Yes, Republicans tried to destroy former President Bill Clinton over sex and politics. But now Democrats what to destroy Bush so badly that they are willing to undercut national security.

Everyone in Congress (and the CIA) should see the movie "United 93" as a reminder of what we are up against, Muslim fanatics will not only try to destroy the Capitol, but also explode a nuclear bomb, if they can.

And, people also should heed the warning delivered by Princeton University professor Bernard Lewis, one of the nation's foremost scholars of Islam, before the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life here last month.

Lewis, now 90, cast the struggle with Islamic extremism in WWII terms—it is 1938, he said, and "we seem to be more in the mode of Chamberlain at Munich rather than of Churchill."

Osama bin Laden and other would-be Hitlers, he said, consider the United States "an effete, degenerate, pampered enemy incapable of real resistance." It's part of the pattern that we fight among ourselves as much as against our enemies. This is more than serious. It's dire.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON
THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR
2007

SPEECH OF

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 376) establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2007 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2008 through 2011:

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Chairman, it's time for Congress to start making tough choices. Projected growth in mandatory spending threatens to crowd out all other spending and choke our economy unless we act now. Over the next 75 years, Medicare's unfunded liabilities amount to a staggering \$30 trillion—more than 5 times as much as Social Security's. We're on a fiscal path that we simply cannot sustain, presenting our children and grandchildren with a legacy of enormous debt or stifling tax increases.

There are difficult decisions that have to be made, but we must be responsible, tighten our belts, and live within our means. I applaud the RSC for its work on this budget alternative, and urge its passage.

HONORING THE 16TH ANNUAL DC
BLACK PRIDE CELEBRATION

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2006

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, Memorial Day Weekend, May 26–29, is the 16th Annual DC Black Pride celebration in Washington, DC.

DC Black Pride is an exciting 4-day event complete with dynamic workshops, receptions, cultural arts activities, small and large nightclub events that culminates in the world's largest Black Pride Festival at Metro Center, on the site of Washington, DC's former Convention Center. Many consider DC's Festival one of the world's preeminent Black Pride celebrations. The Festival consistently draws more than 30,000 people to the Nation's Capital. Attendees come from every major urban area in the United States as well as from Canada, Great Britain, France, Germany, the Netherlands, the Caribbean and South Africa. The Black Pride Festival features activities for the entire family including performances by national recording artists, 200 exhibition booths, book signings from noted writers, participation from national and local health organizations, and arts and crafts.

Black Lesbian and Gay Pride Day, Inc (BLGPD), the celebration's organizing body, chose the theme "Fire 2006" to encourage the Black Lesbian Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered (LGBT) people to "get fired up" about their health and wellness, to strengthen the Black LGBT Community, and to encourage Black LGBT people to live their lives with pride.

Black Lesbian and Gay Pride Day, Inc, a nonprofit organization with a volunteer Board of Directors coordinates this annual event. BLGPD's 2006 Board consists of Clarence J. Fluker, President; James Hawkins, Vice President; Janisha Gabriel, Secretary; Lisa Washington, Treasurer; the following Members at Large: Ramon Gardenhire, Shanika Whitehurst, Sterling Washington, Ray Daniels, Donovan Anderson, Courtney Snowden; and these Members Emeritus: Earl Fowlkes, Eric E. Richardson, and Cheryl Dunn who lead BLGPD in its mission to build knowledge of and to create greater pride in the Black Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered community's diversity while raising funds to ameliorate and prevent health problems, especially HIV/AIDS, in this community.

I ask the House to join me in welcoming all attending the 16th Annual DC Black Pride celebration in Washington, DC, and I take this opportunity to remind the celebrants that United States Citizens who reside in Washington, DC are taxed without full voting representation in Congress.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON
THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR
2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under

consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 376) establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2007 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2008 through 2011:

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in opposition to the Republican budget resolution. The Republican's 2007 budget—and the signing of tax cuts for millionaires today—reflects priorities that are not in line with what our country stands for or the values in which most Americans believe. In keeping with an unfortunate tradition, the Republicans have once again put tax cuts for the wealthy ahead of national security, investing in our economic competitiveness, and meeting the needs of seniors, families, and students. This budget puts K Street ahead of the needs of Main Street.

The Republicans claim that this budget will decrease the massive Bush-era deficit. However, even with all the cruel cuts they make to medical research, health care, and nutrition assistance, their tax cuts add another \$1.1 trillion to the deficit. Is that responsible?

The Republicans claim to have our country's best interests in mind. Yet, they slash funding for education and job training by \$4.6 billion. Is that in our best interest?

The Republicans allege that their fiscal policies spark economic growth and prosperity. In reality, income is dropping, poverty has increased over the last several years, and 7.1 million Americans remain unemployed. Is that growth and prosperity?

What is responsible is funding vocational education to train our future workers, as the Democratic alternative to this budget would do. It is in our country's best interest to fund port security and homeland security. The Democratic budget recognizes that by providing \$6.5 billion more than Republican budget does for homeland and port security. What would spur economic growth is funding initiatives like the Community Development Block Grants program, not cutting it by \$736 million as the Republicans do. That money would help revitalize our dilapidated neighborhoods.

As I have said time and time again, budgets reflect what we value and what is important to us as a country. I value senior citizens—and that is why I cannot support a Republican budget that cuts their housing assistance by 26 percent. I believe it is important to prepare for our future so I cannot support a plan that cuts 42 education programs. I support our troops and refuse to support any budget that would cut veterans' health care by \$8.6 billion even as new veterans, many severely wounded, are returning home every day. But that's what the Republican budget does.

I urge my colleagues to vote with our common American values and dreams in mind and support the Democratic and Congressional Black Caucus budgets and oppose the Republican budget that sells out the needs of the majority of Americans to make room for tax cuts for millionaires and K Street interests.

A TRIBUTE TO THE EAST NEW YORK FAMILY ACADEMY GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the East New York Family Academy Girls' Varsity Basketball Team. They are champions of the 2006 Girls Varsity Division VIII-B of the Public School Athletic League of New York City. Under the direction of Head Coach Earl S. Mitchell, Assistant Coach Eddie Barron, and Managers Rayon Clarke, Shakeema Mattocks and Bukky Odubanjo; the 2006 "Lady Eagles" excelled to an undefeated regular season record of 18 wins and no losses, while losing only one out of five games during the playoff season. Additionally, the East New York Family Academy Lady Eagles currently holds a record of two consecutive undefeated regular seasons.

I want to especially recognize the work of Athletic Director, John Cortese; and Principal Sheila Richards, who have worked hard to infuse excellence, respect and accountability not only in athletic programs, but in academic departments as well. At East New York Family Academy, it is truly a family affair. Coaches Mitchell and Barron have received a tremendous amount of inspiration from Tony Yard, the Head Coach of the Boys' Varsity Basketball Team and former member of the Panamanian Olympic Team, and from Donald Vanteerpool, the Head Coach of the Boys' Junior Varsity Basketball Team. Coach Mitchell is deeply appreciative of these coaches for teaching his team to respect the fundamentals of the game and for always being there when needed.

Although athletics are important, academics have not taken a backseat. In an era when sports achievements have sometimes replaced excellence in English, math, science and other academic areas, the coaches have demanded a high level of academic performance from team members. As an example, two players rank in the Top 10 of their senior class and four members of the starting five have received college acceptance offers.

Long after the last shot has been taken and the last ball dribbled, the members of the 2006 "Lady Eagles": Naledi Anderson, Alana Arthurs, Veldina Chaunce, Karanja Craig, Tiffan Dugue, Tabrese Harris, Ayana James, Shada Jordon, Dalkeitha Layne, Shamika McIntosh, Krista Mitchell, Tashanya Morris, and Tara Powell will benefit from the leadership, love and guidance given to them by their coaches, teachers and administrators at East New York Family Academy.

I am certain that in the days to come, the members of the 2006 "Lady Eagles" will build upon their experiences in basketball and their days at the East New York Family Academy and there will be more achievements to come.

Mr. Speaker, in this spirit, I believe that the accomplishments of the 2006 "Lady Eagles," and the work of their coaches, teachers and administrators, are truly worthy of our recognition here today.

TRIBUTE TO ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL OF THE SACRED HEART

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2006

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor St. Joseph's School of the Sacred Heart, on the occasion of the celebration of its centennial on May 20, 2006.

Emilie Blain Donohoe, an alumna of Sacred Heart in St. Louis, strongly believed in the educational mission of the Religious of the Sacred Heart. In 1904, she made an offer to them to fund a new school if they would agree to run it. In 1906, St. Joseph's School in Atherton, California opened its doors to 74 students. Then and now the school is guided by the spirit of the foundress of the Religious of the Sacred Heart, St. Madeleine Sophie Barat, who said, "Let us respect childhood; let us honor the soul of that small creature of God." It was her vision of teaching children of all social levels that inspired Emilie Blain Donohoe to fund a tuition-free school.

One hundred years later, St. Joseph's School of the Sacred Heart is considered the "gold standard" in K through 8 education. It is led by capable leaders and a faculty headed by Cee Salberg, Principal of the Preschool and Kindergarten, and Karen Eshoo, Principal of grades 1 through 8. Karen is my daughter and a graduate of St. Joseph's (Class of 1983) and Sacred Heart Preparatory (Class of 1987) and as such; exemplifies the best of a Sacred Heart education. The enrollment today is 520 children from Preschool through 8th grade. St. Joseph's has undergone many changes in 100 years but its mission remains the same: the development of the whole child spiritually, intellectually, emotionally and physically.

A St. Joseph's education represents the finest in academics . . . serious in principles, and rich in the spirit of life and love. The five Goals of the Sacred Heart Network inform everything that is done at St. Joseph's. They guide the community in a genuinely integrated approach to learning which is spiritually nurturing, academically challenging, and produces students who are committed to social justice in a spirit of Christian community. St. Joseph's students are continually challenged to support each other, while at the same time achieving their own personal goals.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring an extraordinary school, St. Joseph's of the Sacred Heart, as it celebrates one hundred years of educating our children. I pay tribute to the Religious of the Sacred Heart for their inspired work of educating generations of children and my congratulations to the entire Sacred Heart community of students, teachers, staff, alumni, parents and donors who have all helped to shape responsible citizens of our country. May the next century be marked by the excellence and achievements of the first 100 years at St. Joseph's School of the Sacred Heart.