

look north for a chance at life and liberty. But this problem sits squarely in the lap of Vicente Fox and his corrupt government.

“We are a Nation of laws and institutions. If the laws are not vigorously enforced, we are left with anarchy and open borders. . . .

“If America does the hard work now, the border integrity of this country will never again be subject to attack, not only from without but from within.”

Madam Speaker, we are a Nation of American citizens, not illegal invaders, not lawbreakers, not tax dodgers, not transients.

This land is our land. This land is not Vicente Fox’s land. The last thing we need is amnesty anarchy.

And that’s just the way it is.

□ 1015

CULTURE OF CORRUPTION ON THE RX BILL: REPUBLICANS NEGOTIATE IN BAD FAITH

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, we have talked about the culture of corruption here, and it is very interesting that the way I see the culture of corruption is what we do right here on this floor.

Today’s seniors are paying the price for a prescription drug plan that does not have their best interests in mind. Rather, it is a plan that was created to actually help the special interests. Why couldn’t we have a plan in Medicare? Why? Because that is not what the insurance companies want in the law.

They helped to write the bill, and now the persons who worked with them are representing them. So since the time of the law passing, three of the main Republican negotiators are making very large sums of money.

Madam Speaker, the American people don’t like what they see here. They see a Republican majority that is too close to the special interests, and they want Washington to work for the people and work for you again.

HOUSE SPEAKER MALIGNED BY NATIONAL BROADCAST MEDIA

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, “jingoism,” “yellow journalism,” all words that I used to teach in U.S. history class. I have never been a vocal critic of the state of the national broadcast media, but ABC News has caused me to reconsider.

The two-source rule for accusation has been lost on many of the national media. Now, when Speaker HASTERT is nearing a historic landmark, he is maligned.

On May 31, Speaker HASTERT will become the longest serving Republican Speaker in the history of the House of Representatives. You get this by being fair, honest, open and hard-working.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to serve with you.

BACKDATING OF STOCK OPTIONS

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, this may sound strange coming from a Democrat, but I am here to applaud the Wall Street Journal for its work in uncovering a major corporate scandal.

After Enron and WorldCom, we enacted Sarbanes-Oxley to usher in a new era of corporate responsibility. But now a new scandal is brewing, this time involving the backdating of stock options.

When a company backdates stock options, it deliberately moves option grants back to dates when the stock price was lower, ensuring the options will make money for executives while hiding its real cost from shareholders and the IRS. It is free and cheap money for the CEO, and securities fraud for everyone else, plain and simple.

So far, United Healthcare appears to be the biggest perpetrator, but the problem now is spreading to 15 other public companies that are under investigation at this point.

Madam Speaker, the American people don’t deserve another Enron or WorldCom. They deserve an era of corporate responsibility that they were promised from this institution. As the SEC and the Justice Department pursue these cases, I hope they will take swift and decisive action to punish those involved and restore investor confidence in our markets.

THANKING SPEAKER HASTERT FOR HIS LEADERSHIP

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

Mr. GINGREY. Madam Speaker, I also rise today in support of the principled leadership of the Speaker of the House, Mr. DENNIS HASTERT.

As we all know, Denny is a former high school wrestling coach, and he brings those same values of teamwork and fair play to his work here in Congress. It is often said that to be a good leader, one must first be a good listener, and DENNY’s door is always open to every Member.

Under his leadership, this House has passed scores of legislation benefiting American families, children, seniors, taxpayers. We have achieved historic tax reform, a prescription drug benefit for our seniors and legislation to secure our border and prepare our military.

Madam Speaker, last night’s news report’s attempt to cast a shadow on Mr.

HASTERT, despite the fact that the Justice Department has categorically refuted ABC News claims about the Speaker, this is a case of sensationalism over reporting and it should not continue.

Madam Speaker, I know this Congress will continue to focus on passing good legislation for the American people and not resort to muckraking and partisan attacks. I know all my colleagues in this Chamber join me in thanking Speaker HASTERT for his leadership.

FARMERS DESPERATELY NEED DISASTER ASSISTANCE

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

Mr. POMEROY. Madam Speaker, rural America is anxiously awaiting the deliberations taking place regarding the relief for those who experienced 2005 crop failure. Farmers across the country have just completed the most expensive spring planting in the history of U.S. agriculture, and for those carrying the debt from last year due to disaster losses in reaping their crop, it has pushed them to the brink of bankruptcy.

The Senate has committed on a bipartisan basis meaningful disaster assistance, when the House Appropriations Committee voted it down on a party line vote with Republicans opposing. Now in conference committee, we have learned that House Republicans are doing their dead level best to strip this assistance our farmers need so badly out of the legislation.

Farmers of this country need to know if disaster assistance efforts fall short, it was the majority, the House Republicans, that stood in the way and prevented us from getting the disaster assistance they so desperately need.

IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SPEAKER HASTERT

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of our Speaker, DENNIS HASTERT, who will soon become the longest serving Republican Speaker in our Nation’s history.

Speaker HASTERT guides this House in a bipartisan, fair manner. He is a patient listener who works towards compromise in an even-handed manner. In these days of rancor and bitterness, Speaker HASTERT tries to bring balance and civility into this tumultuous legislative process.

It is irresponsible for media outlets to malign anyone with negative information from unnamed and uncorroborated sources. Speaker HASTERT and everyone else who might be attacked deserves to have incorrect information corrected for the record.

Our Speaker has not been a Republican or a Democrat presiding officer, he has been the presiding officer for the whole House, a man who takes his oath seriously. We place our trust in Speaker HASTERT, and he has not let us down. He is our coach.

Congratulations, Speaker HASTERT, for this historic milestone.

TIME FOR NEW MANAGEMENT IN THE HOUSE

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

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, my oldest son Jack is a carpenter, and one of the reasons I am so proud of him is he is such a hard worker. It doesn't matter how hard it is raining out in Seattle, he is out there swinging the hammer.

That is one reason we should not respect the current pathetic management team of the Republican Party who is on a course to make this Congress the least productive Congress in American history, for one reason, because we don't do any work.

Of the 5 months that we have been here, we are on a track to work about 38 days. If you have an employee that out of 5 months does 38 days of work, what do you think you ought to do? Unemployment. A pink slip for the folks who are not running this Congress.

In Truman's time, we had the do-nothing Congress. This is the do-less-than-nothing Congress. If you want to know why there is no progress on Iraq, why there is no progress on energy, why there is no progress on helping the folks after Katrina, it is because the people here in this management stay home and don't do any work.

It is time to start swinging a hammer, and, to do that, it is time to get new management in this House and get Congress working for the American people again.

MEXICO'S HYPOCRISY

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

Mr. MCHENRY. Madam Speaker, Cox News Service reported last week that the Mexican government threatened to file lawsuits against the United States if the National Guard troops detain aliens at the border trying to cross illegally into this country.

Mexico's liberals, the liberal party, called President Bush's decision unjustified, unacceptable and implies a serious aggression toward a sovereign nation. That is simply because we are defending our borders.

Let's talk about Mexico. What is striking here is that foreign born Mexicans can't even hold office in either house of their congress. They are also banned from state legislatures, The supreme court and all governorships.

We don't do that here in America. We allow immigrants to participate in the process.

In fact, they are even encouraging a ban on firefighters, police and judges from being non-natives. It is amazing to me what Mexico is doing.

Madam Speaker, we are a Nation that respects immigrants and embraces them, unlike Mexico, and I just ask their respect of their immigrants as well.

SECURING CITIZENSHIP FOR THOSE SERVING OUR COUNTRY

(Ms. SOLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, to all those that are going to be celebrating this Memorial Day weekend, my special condolences go to the soldiers and their families that have given their lives so bravely and courageously. In fact, in my district in Los Angeles, 11 soldiers were killed, the first soldier being Francisco Martinez Flores, who is a green card soldier.

He was not a full-fledged citizen, but he honored us by fighting for us and defending our freedom in Iraq. I found out later that his parents were not here legally. But through the work of some of the Members on our side of the aisle, we worked very diligently to secure citizenship for those serving in our country.

Why could we not honor these soldiers beforehand, when they enter in and help to define who we are as a country? He was granted posthumous citizenship. When I read about that, I moved quickly to see how we could assure that no other soldier who came home in a coffin or a body bag would be given just that identification on their grave, that they be granted full citizenship, and that their families have every right to the same securities that any other citizen has in this country.

Let's remember Francisco Flores and the 10 other soldiers that have given their lives, most of whom were Latinos from my district, proud Latinos, who carried their uniform and their bravery with them.

ABC NEWS REDUCING CREDIBILITY OF NATIONAL MEDIA

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

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, last night, ABC Nightly News in the height of irresponsibility reported that the Department of Justice is "investigating Speaker Hastert." That report has been denied by both parties.

Such a blatant falsehood comes at a time when the Speaker of the House has reached out to work with our friends on the other side of the aisle to ensure that the separation of powers within the Constitution is fully upheld.

It is sad to say that at a time of declining and questionable journalistic standards, with an increasingly shrill and partisan ideological media, at a time when national news broadcasts seem to have more of the flavor of entertainment than hard news, ABC News has written a sad new chapter in the annals of yellow journalism.

I support a free press. I believe it is a fundamental institution that is central to a free society. But ABC News, Madam Speaker, has, at a stroke, reduced the credibility of our national media. Mr. HASTERT's reputation, however, remains impeccable among those of us who have had the privilege of working with him.

ADMINISTRATION PUTTING NATION'S VETERANS AT RISK

(Ms. WATSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, once again the administration has put our Nation's veterans at risk. First it was underfunding the Veterans Administration services in fiscal year 2006, and now it is a security breach of 27 million veterans' personal information.

The administration has jeopardized tens of millions of veterans' financial futures because they have failed to implement safeguards and adequate security measures at the request of the VA Inspector General. This information was known for 19 days before we found it out.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the 42,000 veterans that I represent, I call upon the President to act immediately to safeguard these brave veterans from identity fraud. We must protect our veterans who have protected us. It is the right thing to do.

DEFENDING THE SPEAKER FROM FALSE ACCUSATIONS

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, the press has reached a new low in this country. I am appalled that ABC World News Tonight ran a false story claiming that our Speaker of the House, who is of the utmost integrity, is under investigation by the Justice Department.

How convenient for them to mistakenly accuse the Speaker of the massive corruption that a Democrat Congressman is charged with, and then use the capabilities that only the mass media possesses to deliver that lie into the living rooms of every American.

Let me read to you the Justice Department's press release issued yesterday. Here it is. Before ABC ran its blatantly false story, this press release did not mince words and said, "Speaker Hastert is not under investigation by the Justice Department."

Enough said.