

depending on who you are and what chairman you are the committee of, and then, too, what party you belong to or where you are at in the pecking order in the majority party as to what kind of opportunity you will have to put your opinion or your constituent's thoughts into a bill.

We need to do better with that. We need a transparency. You know, sunshine is the best disinfectant in the world, and we need to let light into this body. We need to let sunshine shine in here.

And what is so bad about making somebody vote on something? That is the question I always have is, well, we are sent up here to vote. That is our job. Why don't we vote on the tough issues? Nobody wants to vote on the tough questions because they are afraid they will not get reelected if they have to make those decisions in the light that shines on what they do up here versus what they say at home.

□ 2130

That is the reason our constituents are so disgusted with this system. They are tired of hearing people say one thing and do something else.

I appreciate the opportunity the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER) has given me tonight. I know that I have gotten off the subject a little bit on some of these things, but I do think that people want to hear that some of us are aware of the frustrations and the disappointments that they have had with their government. And I wanted to make sure that they understand that there is a group of us who want to flush some of these things out and bring it into the light and try to put some sunshine on it so people can tell what is really going on up here.

My good friend from Iowa who is in the construction business has suffered many of the things that I have suffered through in business, and I thank him for his dedication and service.

Mr. CARTER. It is true we got off the subject matter, and the subject matter here is equal treatment under the law. But, quite frankly, I think a good title, we may have just created a good title for people who want to lay things out in the sunshine for the American people to look at, without calling names, which is not what we have experienced in this body in previous Congresses, but just lay it out there. We are not going to say culture of anything. We are just going to say let's let some sunshine on the process, and let's let the common sense of the American people make that decision.

I trust the common sense of the American people. I think that there is no better common sense than the folks back home. I did a telephone town hall last night and I heard the best assessment of the bill we passed today, spending \$825 billion from the folks back home, because they looked at it with common sense and said this is ridiculous.

I am proud of those people back home that take the commonsense view. We

are going to be, and I'm not going to say sunshine boys because we have some ladies that are going to join us, too, but maybe the sunshine group. We will shine light on what is going on in the Congress, and I think that is a good thing to do. I think we ought to expose warts and all.

But having served 20 years in the judiciary and in the law for almost 40 years, I think the oath, the original oath I took when I became a lawyer and then the oath that I continually took for five terms as a judge and the oath I take in this Congress requires me to stand up for equal protection under the law as part of our Constitution of the United States. I think we are all required to seek for every American equal protection under the law.

And that is why we have raised this issue. It may be a small issue to some people. It may be something that they say I don't care anything about that. They will care when the IRS sends them their penalties and interest. I can guarantee you they will care because they will look at that check and say holy cow, where did that come from. When you are talking about 10 years of failure to pay taxes, you are talking about what could potentially be a large number of especially penalties.

So, you know, all we are asking is let everybody take a look at it and see if we can't all agree to give equal protection under the law; and, therefore, step up and tell the IRS if they are wanting penalties and interest that you are going to claim the Rangel rule and you hopefully will get the same equal treatment that is available in Washington, D.C.

I yield to the gentleman from Iowa.

Mr. KING of Iowa. I thank the gentleman from Texas for yielding, and the phrase that I hear ring true from you is that everyone deserves equal protection under the law.

As reflecting upon a State of the Union Address that was delivered to this Congress by Thomas Jefferson in his early years as President, he said, "The minority possesses their equal rights which equal law must protect and to violate would be oppression." That is Thomas Jefferson in his first inaugural March 4, 1801. I happened to have run across it because it was included in Speaker PELOSI's document titled "A New Direction for America."

I think that is quite instructive for tonight's discussion. The most open, honest, ethical Congress in history, quoting Thomas Jefferson's inaugural address in the case of requiring equal protection under the law and the rights of the minority, feeling a little trampled here in the 111th Congress.

Mr. CARTER. Reclaiming my time, we operate under a variation of Jefferson's original manual for the operations of this House. So he is the one who wrote the original rules for the operation of this House. Although there are variations and amendments that have been done to it, they give you a copy of Jefferson's Manual because it is

the Bible, if you will, of the United States House of Representatives.

So that is a good quote and one we should repeat to ourselves both in the minority and ultimately when we get back into the majority. I think that is where we should be, and I think that is where all of the minority and majority should be.

We are about to run out of time. I want to thank my colleagues for coming here. I hope you will join me as we put sunshine on other issues that need to have sunshine shining upon them.

We would encourage the new media that is out there to start interacting and discussing this because I think this is something that the public needs to talk about. I am not sure whether it is going to be talked about with the big boys, but the bloggers can talk about this and other folks can get a common discussion about are we putting sunshine on issues that are important and is fairness under the law important to all Americans.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. WOOLSEY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SCHIFF, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. COHEN, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. OLSON) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, February 3 and 4.

Mr. POE of Texas, for 5 minutes, February 4.

Mr. JONES, for 5 minutes, February 4.

(The following Member (at his request) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. PETERSON, for 5 minutes, today.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Concurrent Resolution 26, 111th Congress, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 36 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until Monday, February 2, 2009, at 2 p.m.

#### RULES AND REPORTS SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO THE CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW ACT

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(d), executive communications [final rules] submitted to the House pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1) during the period of May 16, 2008, through January 3, 2009, shall be treated as though received on