

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, on the 16th, the House pages played two games with the Senate pages. The Senate pages lucked up and won a Frisbee match—but with probably some cheating—but the House pages, standing strong, following all the rules, doing the right thing, defeated the Senate pages badly, 10–4, in kickball. And as the Senate pages, with their heads dropped and their spirits torn, left the field, they reported to the Senate only one part of that day, which was the game they lucked up and won.

So, Madam Speaker, I want to commend the athletic pages of the House of Representatives and hope that we can continue to get superior pages, as we have this year, in the future.

Congratulations to the pages.

IS NEWSWEEK THE CANARY IN THE LIBERAL COAL MINE?

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, The Washington Post Company is trying to sell Newsweek because the magazine is losing money, according to news reports.

In response, The Weekly Standard wrote that “not only has Newsweek suffered from its online competition, it seems to have done everything within its power to hasten its own demise.

“During the 2008 presidential election, for example, its fawningly voluminous coverage of Barack Obama made it something of a journalistic laughingstock, and certainly affirmed every weary accusation of liberal bias in the mainstream media.”

The Standard wrote that Newsweek’s recent overhaul was “designed to create a left-wing journal of opinion.”

The American Spectator called Newsweek, “The Canary in the Liberal Coal Mine” and outlined the magazine’s history of liberal bias.

Maybe Newsweek’s biased reporting didn’t cause its downfall, but it certainly didn’t help.

URGING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO SUPPORT LOUISIANA GOVERNOR’S REQUEST TO BUILD SAND BARRIERS

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

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, today I sent, along with Representative SCALISE of Louisiana, a letter to the United States Army Corps of Engineers supporting Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal’s request for an emergency permit to dredge and build sand barrier islands. The United States Corps of Engineers must conduct an environmental assessment before granting the State a permit to build the barriers.

Governor Jindal petitioned the Corps of Engineers on May 10, more than 2 weeks ago, for approval to dredge and build the sand barriers. He has yet to receive a response. In the meantime, oil has begun to inundate Louisiana’s fragile coasts and marshes. The proposed sand barriers would create a permanent barrier to prevent oil from reaching the shores and the wetlands.

We support Governor Jindal’s efforts to protect the fragile ecosystems and natural resources that are of critical importance, not just to Louisiana, but in fact the entire national economy, and we urge the Army Corps of Engineers to act swiftly so that they may assist the governor in protecting these valuable resources.

Mr. SCALISE and I were both part of a congressional delegation that visited the Gulf and the protected area 3 weeks ago. We have seen the spill and the waters firsthand and seen the way it is threatening Louisiana’s coastline. Every resource should be utilized to stem this spill and protect the Nation’s coastline.

I insert for the RECORD a copy of the letter we sent to Lieutenant General Robert L. Van Antwerp.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 24, 2010.

LTG Robert L. Van Antwerp,
Commanding General and Chief of Engineers,
Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
Washington, DC.

LTG ROBERT L. VAN ANTWERP: As oil from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill begins to reach the fragile marshes and estuaries of the Louisiana coastline, it is imperative that the federal government do everything possible to stop the flow of oil and act immediately to protect the natural resources along Louisiana’s coast.

On May 23, 2010, the Associated Press reported that Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal, frustrated with Army Corps of Engineers delays over environmental impact studies, will move forward unilaterally in building sand barriers to protect the coastline. Gov. Jindal petitioned the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers the week of May 10 for approval to dredge and build sand barriers to protect the wetlands, but the USACE has yet to grant approval of that request, and oil continues to damage areas of Louisiana’s coasts.

We support Gov. Jindal’s efforts to protect the fragile ecosystems and natural resources that are of critical importance not only to Louisiana but also to the entire national economy. And we hope the Army Corps of Engineers will expedite any environmental studies so that the Corps may assist the Governor in protecting these valuable resources.

The oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico is a serious tragedy, resulting in the loss of 11 lives onboard the exploratory rig. Every resource should be utilized to stem this spill and protect the nation’s coastlines. We appreciate your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL C. BURGESS, M.D.
STEVE SCALISE.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. KOSMAS). Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House,

the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

AMERICA’S ENERGY POLICY

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, the recent explosion of the BP Deepwater Horizon oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico has raised legitimate concerns regarding safety and environmental standards of deepwater, offshore drilling. My thoughts and prayers go out to the families that lost loved ones in this tragic accident. Eleven individuals were killed.

Safety and responsible operating procedures must always come first, particularly when human lives are at risk. It is important to reevaluate and address our safety procedures and hold those responsible for the accident accountable.

At the same time, I believe the Federal Government has the obligation to make informed and responsible decisions regarding offshore drilling. We have to differentiate between the causes of this accident and other responsible and safe drilling operations.

Our primary purpose right now should be to stop the leak and determine the cause of this tragedy, and the Federal Government needs to simultaneously address the cleanup. We need the full cooperation of Federal, State, and local agencies, as well as private industry, to immediately address the cleanup and containment situation in the Gulf of Mexico.

In my opinion, there has not been sufficient urgency to do this thus far. Cleanup remains inadequate and is still bogged down in redtape from Federal bureaucrats. This bureaucratic response from Interior Secretary Salazar has been to shut down all new offshore drilling permits, including both shallow water and deepwater offshore drilling.

However, shallow water drilling is fundamentally different from deepwater drilling. It has operated safely in the Gulf of Mexico for over 60 years, yet this prohibition treats both the same. This drilling in shallow water is primarily for natural gas. The oil remaining in these reservoirs has largely been produced, so it is at lower pressure than the oil found at deeper depths. And unlike deepwater drilling, the blowout preventers in shallow water drilling are located above the surface, not thousands of feet below on the ocean floor.

I recently joined our congressional neighbor in Louisiana, Congressman CHARLIE BOUSTANY, and 40 other additional colleagues in sending a bipartisan letter urging Secretary Salazar to resume permitting for the shallow water drilling.

The unintended consequences of this wide range ban are far-reaching. The blanket ban has the potential to cause