

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Supreme Court is the most important court in the world. However, very few citizens have the chance to watch the Supreme Court in action when historic lawsuits come before it. This is because the seating in the courtroom is limited. The Supreme Court will soon take up the health care bill and rule on its constitutionality. This monumental case affects every single American; yet only a select group will be able to attend the hearing.

Representative GERRY CONNOLLY has introduced legislation that I support to allow cameras in the Supreme Court. A single nonintrusive-type camera, controlled by the Court staff would allow for greater access in the decisions made by the nine jurists in black robes. I know cameras can be placed in a courtroom without disruption because I was one of the first judges in Texas to allow cameras to film criminal cases.

A lack of seating capacity is no reason to deny the American people the right to see Supreme Court proceedings. The American people deserve an all-access pass to watch the High Court rule on the law of the land.

And that's just the way it is.

SHINING LIGHT ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN BELARUS

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give voice to a concern that I have heard raised from numerous constituents who originally hail from Belarus. Since 1994, President Lukashenko has abused his power and has actively worked to undermine the freedom of the Belarusian people.

Recently, the State Department released a report on the human rights situation in Belarus. Under this authoritarian regime, Belarusians have been subject to manipulated elections and oppression on the basis of political affiliation, ethnicity, and religious beliefs. Following the most recent election, security forces arrested political activists, presidential candidates, and journalists.

Mr. Speaker, it is unacceptable that this kind of oppression exists today in Europe, and I hope that more Americans will be made aware of the tyranny in Belarus. I thank the Belarusian-American Youth Association for bringing this issue to my attention. And I stand with my constituents in support of freedom for the Belarusian people in opposition to this oppressive regime.

ETERNAL VIGILANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

There is so much going on these days, and we have to trust the United States, the Federal entities of the executive branch to keep us protected. That's why our hearing last week with the Attorney General of the United States, Eric Holder, before the Judiciary Committee of the House was very disturbing. We had Attorney General Holder before our committee back on May 3 of this year; and at that time, the Attorney General said, with regard to this horrible project, this undertaking called Fast and Furious, the Attorney General said he had only known about it "a few weeks." To most of us, "a few weeks" means about 3 weeks. However, in testifying under penalty of perjury last week, the Attorney General said in essence, Look, 3 weeks, 3 months—a few weeks is 3 months; there's not really any difference. When you have the highest-ranking person in the United States Department of Justice who plays so fast and loose while testifying under oath, who plays so fast and loose with the facts, it is quite disturbing, and it's time for a change.

Our Attorney General testified that there were a certain number of guns, 94,000 firearms, submitted for tracing and that 64,000 of those firearms were sourced to the United States. The further we get into that, the more inaccurate we find out those figures are; and of course we recall—and it's understandable that with a boss like the United States President who has previously said, 90, 95 percent of the guns seized at crime scenes in Mexico came from the United States, it's understandable that if the boss is making those kinds of glaring errors on numbers, then perhaps the head of the Department of Justice would make substantial mistakes in numbers.

But, fortunately, the Department of Justice is not the only source of information regarding those types of matters. The Congressional Research Service is a bipartisan group. They do an extraordinary job. I've gotten the impression that potentially the majority may be Democrat, but it doesn't matter to those folks. They do a very good job of researching thoroughly whatever project they're given.

And the information that we were able to get back from the Congressional Research Service indicates that there are maybe only 25 percent of the weapons that Mexico has seized that are capable of being traced back to their original source and that most of the weapons that Mexico seizes are never offered for the process of tracing because they know there's no way to trace them. So if only 25 percent of those that are seized in Mexico are asked to have tracing done, then it is very clear that not 95, not 90, not even 70 percent of the weapons seized can be traced to an American owner first.

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We also know from the testimony and the information about this Fast and Furious project of the ATF Depart-

ment of Justice, because the ATF is a subsidiary of the Department of Justice, but we know that gun dealers were pushed into making sales to people they didn't believe should be sold the weapons; and our own Federal Government, our own Justice Department, urged them to go ahead and make the sales on behalf of their country anyway. Then some in this administration have the nerve to say this, too, was Bush's fault, and they point to programs in the Bush administration as being the source.

Andrew McCarthy, back November 8, had a great article in National Review Online, "Fast & Furious Was . . . Bush's Fault." He goes on to point out that Fast and Furious did not begin until 2009, months after the end of the Bush administration, and he also goes on to point out a number of things.

For example, Wide Receiver, which was a project under the Bush administration, involved what were considered controlled deliveries. As a former judge, we'd hear constantly about controlled deliveries where the government would have people—find out people were inquiring about making drug sales, and they would set up a delivery. There would be plenty of agents there to intervene as soon as the transaction had actually been made. The controlled delivery meant not only do you have people watching, you may even have some way to follow what is being transferred in that controlled delivery. That's what was anticipated with Wide Receiver, the project under the Bush administration.

Unfortunately, there was an incident where Wide Receiver, apparently that project had a controlled delivery setup of weapons, the intent never ever to allow them to actually leave this country or to actually have the individuals involved get away with those weapons, but actually to have them have an interdiction, have them arrested. And also, one other thing, they had homing devices on the weapons. Well, unfortunately, everything went wrong. The homing devices were detected, they were removed, the controlled delivery went bad, and folks got away.

That is a far sight different from this administration deciding we're going to see that massive number, at least a couple of thousand weapons, are put in the hands of criminals who will likely take them across the border. They will certainly end up in the deaths of Mexicans, and there's a good chance will result in the deaths of Americans. Anyone in any administration who thinks such an idea is a good one needs to go from that administration. Anyone from any administration who allows something so insane to take place does not need to be in that administration. Anybody who has such lax control over his department that though those directly under him know about it, they leave him plausible deniability to come in and say: I didn't know anything about it. Maybe Lanny Breuer; yeah, apparently he knew all about. Yeah, I see