

process in Haiti, never mind the widespread and serious mismanagement, chaos, confusion, and disorganization that disenfranchised so many candidates and so many voters.

Now the flurry of election reports of 2 weeks ago in Haiti has dwindled to a few inches of space in the major papers. Last Friday, for example, the news that the run-off elections, the important run-off elections scheduled for the end of this month were being pushed back to August. This was buried in the deepest recesses of the major papers. Even the New York Times barely gave it mention, and none among the major media dared question the wisdom of the provisional electoral council's intention to announce results on this past Saturday despite the protests of most of the parties that participated in the election on June 25.

This week, the news that 23 of the 27 parties who actually participated in the elections of June 25 in Haiti have signed official communiques calling for the elections to be annulled, and that still has not made the cut in the smattering of the Haiti-related articles in the major press outlets in this country either.

The New York Times did take the time to editorialize and declare the delay of the run-offs as a step that will give officials time to learn from their mistakes. Of course, some might question whether or not it is appropriate to hold a run-off for an election that is being challenged by almost all the participants, because it was characterized by the widespread disenfranchisement of voters and candidates alike, as we now all know.

But the Clinton administration marches onward down the yellow brick road. At the State Department briefing this weekend, Spokesman Burns declared that Haiti "now has a functioning democracy * * *" and that the administration believes " * * * the Haitians did rather well, if you look at this election as it should be properly viewed in the context of the environment in Haiti and the history of Haiti."

Well, indeed, it is good news that democracy has come to Haiti. Now perhaps we can bring back thousands of troops that are down there at taxpayers expense providing security and stability in that country and perhaps we can cut back on the hundreds of millions of dollars being sent to Haiti every day to help get democracy started.

Mr. Speaker, the truth is the Haitian people who toiled long and hard on election day trying to make the best of a bad process deserve more than the cursory analysis and condescending statements of support we have been hearing from the administration and the media in this country.

Rather than pressure to simply move on, Haitians need the support of the White House, the State Department and the American media to find the truth of what actually went wrong in

the elections on the 25th—and to get it fixed. And before this December's Presidential elections because they are going to be very important, and more importantly for the American people, we need to be kept abreast of where are the taxdollars the Clinton administration has been doling out for the elections and for U.S. operations in Haiti? And what good, if any, they are doing? It is a lot of money. The White House owes us an accounting and it is overdue.

At the most basic level, these elections were about Haitians being free to elect the entire local governmental structure in Haiti and a new national parliament, a congress, being free to construct in those offices the checks and balances envisioned and provided for in the new Haitian constitution. The success of the process will determine how soon we can bring our troops home and whether or not anything lasting, in fact, does come out of all the money, time, and effort the American people have poured into that small friendly Caribbean nation.

Glossing over the rough spots in this process does not help any of the parties involved.

I say to my colleagues, "If you want to shoot the messenger, go ahead, but the fact of it is that there are some problems, and they need to be fixed."

Even the distinguished New York Times today has had the temerity to suggest what they would not suggest 2 weeks ago after the elections, and I quote from the editorial page from the Times today: "Haiti is wise to postpone its next round of elections. The first round, on June 25, was marred by massive disorganization," et cetera. They would not admit that, and now they admit it. We are making progress. We are getting at the truth.

COST OF GOVERNMENT DAY CELEBRATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. BARTLETT] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, July 9, was the kind of day when you did not know whether you should laugh or cry. It was a kind of day when you did not know whether you should mourn or celebrate. You see yesterday, July 9, was Government Free Day. Up until yesterday every American worked full-time just to pay for the costs of government. Until about mid-May we all worked to pay the costs of Federal, State, and local taxes, and then incredibly, incredibly from mid-May until July 9, every American worked full-time just to pay the cost of unfunded Federal mandates. It was the day on which one would cry and mourn that he had spent so much of his time working for government. But it was also a day in which we could look forward to today; you might celebrate that, the

first day on which you could earn any money for yourself.

The average American this year worked a bit more than 189 days to pay for the cost of government. He has left just a bit more than 175 days to do all the things that one needs to do. Father and mother work to pay the mortgage, save money for an education, to prepare for their retirement, to take care of their sicknesses, and all of this has to be done in 175 days after working a bit more than 189 days for the government.

Let us kind of put this in perspective. According to Prof. Charles Adams, author of "For Good and Evil," which is a history of taxation published in 1933, peasant serfs in the Mongol Empire in the period of Genghis Khan had to give their feudal lords just one-tenth of what they produced. When you consider how oppressed we think those people were in giving one-tenth of their income, what do you have to say about us who had to work about 52 percent of this year to pay for the cost of government?

In the last two elections it was a revolution that began at the polling places, and all across America Americans said enough is enough, and they voted to begin to return this country to that vision of our forefathers. The kind of government that they envisioned was stated by Thomas Jefferson when he indicated that the government which governs best is the government which governs least. We have got to be about a million miles from that dream of Thomas Jefferson, and that Abraham Lincoln in a period of crisis in our country said it just as well. He said it differently. He said that government should only do for its citizens what they cannot do for themselves.

Someone has said that considering how ineffective government is, how much it has interfered with our families, how much it has depreciated the business environment, that we ought to be thankful that we do not get all the government that we pay for. If government was efficient and effective in doing what it does, it would have done even more damage to our families and to our economy.

Another thing that really causes one to stop and think is the realization that after 7 years of balancing the budget, as my colleague from Texas indicated just a little earlier, we will have moved back the Cost of Government Day just 17 days. I do not think that that is what Americans had in mind when they went to the polling places these last two elections and began this revolution.

Moving back the Cost of Government Day just 17 days after 7 years; that is not enough. That is not what Americans had in mind. We have just begun this battle to take back our country and to return it to the kind of country envisioned by our forefathers. Think about it, America.

Think about July 9. Think about spending 52 percent of your time working for government. Think about that when you go to the polls and the next election to continue this revolution.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12, rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 3:30 p.m.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 25 minutes p.m.) the House stood in recess until 3:30 p.m.

□ 1530

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. SHAYS] at 3:30 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

Remind us, O gracious God, and teach us until we understand that each day is Your gift to us, a day which we receive without merit but we receive with gratefulness. As the psalmist has recorded, we ought make a joyful noise unto You and serve with gladness of heart, for Your steadfast love endures forever and Your faithfulness to all generations. May we keep these words before us as we get immersed in the duties of the time, that though our responsibilities are ever before us, we never lose sight of Your promises and Your grace. In Your name, we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. STUDDS. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Chair's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. STUDDS. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, further proceedings on this question are postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. TRAFICANT] come for-

ward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TRAFICANT led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, and pursuant to the provisions of section 169(b) of Public Law 102-138, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment to the U.S. delegation to the parliamentary assembly of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe the following Members of the House: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, vice chairman; Mr. HOYER of Maryland; Mr. TORRICELLI of New Jersey; Mr. SAWYER of Ohio; Mr. COLEMAN of Texas; Mr. FORBES of New York; Mr. CARDIN of Maryland; and Ms. SLAUGHTER of New York.

There was no objection.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Edwin Thomas, one of his secretaries.

TOP 10 REASONS DEMOCRATS WANT TO TIE UP HOUSE WITH PROCEDURAL VOTES

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

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, from the home office in Scottsdale, AZ, the top 10 reasons Democrats want to tie up the House with procedural votes today:

- (10) Build up voting percentage.
- (9) Journal vote important to the American people.
- (8) Like to work hard at nothing all day.
- (7) Manufactured rage makes me smile.
- (6) They say they are not for sale. What they won't say is nobody's buying their line anyway.
- (5) We don't want to work. We just want to bang on this gavel all day.
- (4) Monday Night TV is just reruns anyway.
- (3) Holding breath until blue in the face doesn't work.
- (2) BONIOR told them to.

And the number one reason Democrats want to tie up the House with procedural votes today:

- (1) They have fallen and they can't get up.

AMERICA'S TRADE POLICY—A WISH AND A PROMISE

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. How soon we forget, Mr. Speaker. Another Japanese trade crisis, another Japanese promise, another Japanese victory.

Check this out: At the last minute, Japan promised to buy more cars, to buy more auto parts from America, and open up their markets for the 20th time. It seems like Japan said this time, "Scout's honor, America. This time we really mean it. Cross my heart and hope to die."

Beam me up, Mr. Speaker. America's trade policy is nothing more than a wish and a promise—an American wish for American workers, and the Japanese promise after promise after promise. It was time to hit Japan in the pocketbook. We failed to do that. Two more years now, and we will see how the program goes.

STAND STRONG FOR AMERICA REGARDING VIETNAM

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. TRAFICANT]. He is exactly correct. Promises, promises. Tomorrow President Clinton is expected to break yet another one of his campaign promises.

He promised American veterans and the families of those servicemen still missing in action that he would not normalize relations with Vietnam until we had a full and complete accounting of those still missing in action.

But now, with 55 cases still unsolved, he is going ahead with normalization, praising the Vietnamese for their so-called cooperation. But, in reality, between 1992 and 1994 they provided us more than 21,000 documents, photos, and artifacts. Only 1 percent have pertained to missing Americans.

The Vietnamese have not changed; if they had they would have already opened up all the records and we wouldn't be involved in bartering information for normalization.

You know, I don't expect us to be able to count on the Vietnamese. But, we should at least be able to count on our own President. He should take a strong stand for America, instead of caving in to narrow special interests and giving away America's integrity.

FRANCE NEEDS TO JOIN CONTINUING MORATORIUM ON NUCLEAR TESTING

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

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, French navy commandos seized the Greenpeace ship *Rainbow Warrior*