

and regulations have become stumbling blocks, and because of that, we do not have common sense anymore in our process.

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. If the gentleman will continue to yield, Mr. Speaker, I believe the 104th Congress, especially with many of the freshman Republicans, and you have joined as an honorary Member of the freshman Republicans, although you are a more senior Member, we have tried to have what we could call the new approach to Government, in which we call for Government to downsize, privatize, consolidate, and where possible, eliminate.

We do not believe, as you do not, that we need to have the Federal Government do things that are best left to the private sector. We believe that the private sector has the best chance to create jobs. If we can have an environment with less regulation and less taxation, we can have businesses provide for our local people the kinds of jobs that are lasting, meaningful, and important jobs that mean a lot to folks back home.

I think we are on the right track to reduce needless regulations that do not really improve the quality of life, and to make sure we do what we can to sunset Federal agencies that are not doing their job, like we did in Pennsylvania, and eliminate the wasteful bureaucratic system that exists here in Washington as a culture.

GOVERNMENT RUN AMOK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. FOX] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. KINGSTON] to further this colloquy we were discussing about regulations.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, let me give another example of government just not using quite common sense. I have in my hand a letter from Lee Heyer. Lee Heyer is a student at Georgia Southern University. He is actually the student body president. He sent to me a letter he got from the U.S. Post Office declaring June 12 to June 17 National Dog Bite Prevention Week. It tells people how to prevent their dog from biting a letter carrier. Again, it is well-intended, but, he said, he called the office.

First of all, this mail that was delivered at taxpayer expense went to his apartment complex where they do not allow dogs, so everybody in the apartment complex got notified how to tie their dog up, which they are not allowed to have.

The second part, he called the actual office in his area and found out there were zero dog bites in that particular area in the previous year. Again, Mr. Speaker, the private sector would not do that. They would think it through twice.

I see the gentleman from Florida [Mr. WELDON] has joined us. I do not control the time.

Mr. FOX. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman's efforts here today to do something, to speak out about doing something for the terrible problem of excessive regulation, and the impact that has a job creation. This is a very important issue in my district, Mr. Speaker, where the defense cutbacks have put a lot of people out of work, but there are a lot of people trying to set up new businesses and trying to be independent, and the Government regulations that are required in setting up a new business, and just hiring a new person, is actually stifling business creation all across our country, including in my district.

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We as Republicans, I believe, need to continue the effort to try to not only downsize Government but make the Government as the gentleman said, more user-friendly and more open to job creation.

One thing I do want to add to this discussion, which I think is very important, is the need to deal with our terrible problem of excessive litigation.

I know a business in my district approached me, and this particular business, they had been in the printing press business for a time way back in the early part of the century, but they are now out of that business. There was a printing press that had been in use, safely in use, for 70 years, that an employee at a company had recently been injured on, and that company was, now that they have been out of the printing press business for something like 25, 30 years, they are now being sued for a product that has been in safe use for something like 70 years.

I just think that is wrong, it is unreasonable. We need our tort reform legislation to get through the Senate and we probably need more provisions to be passed in the future.

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I think the support that the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. WELDON] has given as well as the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. KINGSTON] for our products liability reform legislation will go a long way in helping businesses. As the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. KINGSTON] just talked about, we certainly need to have less regulation.

Another area I would like to have us consider, not only the regulatory reform and legal reform but what about making sure we provide those investment tax credits, the research and development tax credits, which will encourage businesses to expand, produce and hire and not have those jobs go overseas but keep those jobs here in America for companies and employees who really want to make sure that we grow. That I think along with reform dealing with the ability to obtain cred-

it, I think we can keep our businesses viable here in the country and move along.

Mr. KINGSTON. I was meeting this last weekend with the Georgia Hospitality and Travel Association. One of the battles they just fought with regulatory reform is that on the back of your hotel door, they have escape plans. I was in the insurance business and I am one of these nerds, I guess, who always reads those things. But 99 percent of the people who stay in hotels, particularly at Days Inn on a ground level, don't read how to escape from the room. They can kind of figure it out on their own. But new regulation, you have to print that bilingual.

In south Georgia, where you don't get that many people speaking Spanish, they wanted to put it in Spanish language, as well as English language. You cannot even tell if the door is wooden or painted already because you have all these different instructions on what to do in a hotel room.

The Hospitality Association was able to kind of break that, postpone the regulation, I would say, just break the thinking pattern there. In Los Angeles County, they have to put the voting ballot in 7 different languages.

The gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. ROTH] has a bill entitled "English First" which addresses this. I believe he is on the floor.

MAKING ENGLISH OFFICIAL AMERICAN LANGUAGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHAW). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. ROTH] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROTH. Mr. Speaker, I was interested in the dialog that just took place here.

We Americans are very fortunate because we represent the most diverse country in the world. We are a people from every corner of the globe, every religious, every ethnic, every linguistic background right here in America. Yet we are one Nation and one people. Why? Because for over 200 years, the history of our country, when people came here, they adopted English as the official language. While we were from every corner of the globe, and every background, we are all Americans because we have this common glue, this commonality.

Today in America we are splitting our country up. We are no longer the melting pot, but we are becoming, as the anti-English establishment would have us, as a salad bowl. I don't believe America is a salad bowl. I don't believe in hyphenated Americans. I believe we are all Americans. That is why this issue of the English language is so important.

Teddy White, who has written "The Making of a President" any number of times from 1960 on, before he passed away, he wrote this book, "America in Search of Itself." He talks about as we come to the new century, to the new

millennium, that his greatest concern is for America breaking up into groups.

Arthur Schlesinger has also written a beautiful little book I would like to recommend, "The Disuniting of America," where he talks about the cultural changes and, for example, what bilingual education is doing to American citizens and what is happening in America today. It is very well done, and I recommend that to our citizens.

Recently, I think, closer to home, right here in the House of Representatives, our Speaker has written a book, and for the people who read the Speaker's latest work, the Speaker understands this problem very well because in chapter 15 of the book, he talks about America breaking up into groups, and English as the American language.

The Speaker points out that there are nearly 200 different languages spoken here in America. He makes the observation that nearly all business, politics, education, and commerce is conducted in English.

We want Americans to have an understanding of other languages, but that is a different issue. I have 3 children. All of them have taken foreign languages or are taking a foreign language today. The point is, is that we have to keep our commonality and our common glue, so that if people want to speak one language at home or promote their culture, keep their culture, I think that is great and laudable and we want to continue that. But we have a melting pot here in America, so we do not break up into groups.

Look what is happening in Canada, where you have the heart being taken out of that country. Here in America, we have our country breaking up into groups and we cannot allow that to continue.

Mr. WELDON of Florida. If the gentleman will yield, I would just like to share with the gentleman that my mother grew up in an Italian home and she learned to speak Italian along with her 3 sisters and her brother and they were all proud to go out on the streets and learn English. My mother went on not only to get a good command of English but to get through the public school systems of the city of New York and get a college degree and go on to become a teacher. She was a strong advocate for English as a common language in the United States, because she saw firsthand the importance of knowing the language and the need to know the language to be able to get ahead. She taught me the importance of what you are talking about. That is why I am a sponsor of the bill of the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. ROTH], and I am proud to be a sponsor of that legislation.

Mr. ROTH. I thank the gentleman and I appreciate the testimonial, because what the gentleman is saying, I think, is what many, many Americans can say, that when our immigrants came, they adopted English as their language so we became a melting pot.

What is happening today, thanks to the misconceived policies back in the 1960's, we have whole sectors of our society now being brought up in school in bilingual education. Most of the time the kids do not have an education in either language.

Mr. KINGSTON. If the gentleman will yield, I am on the Committee on Appropriations. We have spent a tremendous amount of time reducing spending. Along the way I saw a statistic that we spend \$242 million, I think, on one program for bilingual education.

Does the gentleman know how much we spend totally?

Mr. ROTH. On State, national and local, according to USA Today in a recent article they did, it is something like \$12 billion we spend on bilingual education. There is nothing that harms youngsters or holds them back, makes them second-class citizens as much as bilingual education.

We have got to have people melt into our society. That is why this bill is so important.

SALUTING NASA ON RECENT SHUTTLE MISSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. WELDON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to speak out and to salute the people at Kennedy Space Center as well as the officials in NASA and those at the other centers as well as our astronauts in particular and additionally our cosmonauts on the tremendously successful recent *Mir* rendezvous mission.

I went down, Mr. Speaker, to see the shuttle take off for that particular flight. Unfortunately we got canceled because of rain the few days I was down there and I had to return back here because the House went back in session.

But then we had a flawless liftoff and the mission, I can only say, was a tremendous success. Not only did the commander of the mission, Hoot Gibson, do a fabulous job, but so did the entire crew. It was a historic mission. It was the 100th space flight for the United States, and it was the first rendezvous mission involving our space shuttle, clearly demonstrating the technology that is needed for our space shuttle not only to continue to go up and link up with the *Mir* space station but in a few years to be able to go up and link up with our future space station.

I think it is a tremendous testimonial to the efforts of all the workers there at Kennedy Space Center as well as at Johnson Space Center and the other NASA centers that this mission went off flawlessly.

I was delighted to be able to be there to see the shuttle land and to meet with some of the Russian officials. I could not help but think how our nations, the United States and the former

Soviet Union, what is now Russia, enemies for so many years, for so many years engaged in an escalation of hostilities, how we can now in this arena join together and to show that through cooperation and trust that we can achieve great things.

I, by no means, Mr. Speaker, mean to imply that I feel that we should let down our defenses. I am personally an advocate for a very strong national defense. I think what is going on now with the Soviet Union today, or the Russian people today, is something new, we need to take 1 year at a time and see how it goes. But I think this was a tremendous testimonial to the success of a cooperative effort.

I also think it was inspiring to all our young people. Today our young people are looking for role models. So many of their role models in society let them down. When they look at the success of this mission and the astronauts in this mission, it is something they can look up to.

As the Speaker knows, we have to compete in the international marketplace and we need to have the best in science and technology if we are going to be able to be competitive. I think through our space program, that is a key way in which we can continue to maintain our strong posture, leading the world in research and in science.

This space station holds out the prospect for some tremendous breakthroughs in areas of medicine that I happen to be very familiar with as a former physician. I spent many years treating many women with osteoporosis and additionally treating many senior citizens who had problems with fainting or syncope episodes.

With the medical research that we are going to be doing on the space station made possible with our shuttle, we should be able to unlock some of the secrets that led to this disease and how to achieve some meaningful cures to some of these problems.

To be there at the landing of this shuttle was just very inspiring. I had seen many shuttles take off before from my parking lot at work in Melbourne, FL, but I had never actually been there at Kennedy Space Center to see one of them land.

It comes in over the coast of Tampa at about 200,000 feet. By the time it arrives over at the east coast at Kennedy Space Center, it is at 50,000 feet. Within 4 minutes, it is landing on the ground. It drops and drops and drops and drops, and then when it is just a few hundred feet off the ground, the pilot noses the shuttle up, the landing gear comes down, and it comes in for a landing just like an airliner.

As it landed, Mr. Golden was there, the administrator of NASA, turned to me and he said, "No other country in the world can do that."

He was right. No other country in the world can send a spacecraft up with a crew and bring that spacecraft back and have it land on an airstrip safely.

Mr. Speaker, I salute the astronauts and cosmonauts on this mission, and I