

environmental extremists, how far they will go to pursue their agenda.

We had an opportunity last week to allow people in California to make repairs on a levee that had already broken several times and it actually killed Americans after the levee broke. Yet, when we had an opportunity to allow people to go in and make repairs on that levee, the environmentalists went absolutely crazy and said that they would not allow anybody to fix the levee that had already killed people without waivers.

They said that there was a beetle inside of shrubbery that was so precious that they could not allow these life-saving measures to be taken. So the shrubbery caucus decided that the life of beetles and the life of shrubbery was obviously more important than the life of human beings.

Mr. Chairman, as the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. TRAFICANT] says, beam me up. That just does not make sense.

AMERICORPS' WASTEFUL SPENDING OF TAXPAYER DOLLARS

(Mr. TIAHRT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Chairman, I would like to talk a little bit about AmeriCorps. We found out recently that in Colorado, AmeriCorps has built some hornos, H-O-R-N-O, and hornos are mud stoves that were used by the Indians some 4,000 years ago. And we have spent our American tax dollars at a park in Colorado to build these hornos, so that if we happen to be traveling through Colorado and we have the urge to stop and cook some tortillas or cook some food on these hornos, well, our tax dollars have provided that opportunity to us.

Now, AmeriCorps had a good intent of trying to bring nonprofit organizations together, but these paid volunteers now have taken our tax dollars and they are starting to expend it in funny ways. We have now an opportunity in the very near future to eliminate this tremendous waste, so I just wanted to bring to the country's attention how their tax dollars have been wasted through this organization called AmeriCorps, which is a code word for paid volunteers.

HORNOS FOR COLORADANS

(Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, the previous speaker, the gentleman from Kansas, mentioned a project that takes place in my district in Colorado, these hornos ovens that we will find built in the Fort Collins area. It is a pile of mud. It is about that high, and some people believe they are attractive, but the AmeriCorps Program built this pile of mud in Fort Collins as a gift to the people of my community, as a gift.

I just want to point out that when Members think of the AmeriCorps Program and the volunteers out working hard to deliver important projects to the community, I do invite my colleagues, as the gentleman said, to come through Fort Collins and look at the mud pile that the AmeriCorps Program has left in my community in Fort Collins and think about how vigorously we should support continuation of the program.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HASTINGS of Washington). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

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

[Mr. PALLONE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

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

[Mr. DREIER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

THE SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from the District of Columbia [Ms. NORTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

TRIBUTE TO REGINALD MAY

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

Mr. SNOWBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding teacher.

Reginald May directs the instrumental music program at F.L. Schlagle High School in Kansas City, KS, home of the Mighty Marching Stallions.

Mr. May has been a music instructor in the Kansas City area for nearly 20 years. He is credited with forming the first middle school marching band in the Kansas City, MO, school district and since 1993 has been in charge of the music and auxiliary marching programs at Schlagle.

Mr. May leads his students in performing all over the community, at churches, day care centers, charitable fund-raising activities, and corporate events. I first met Mr. May 3 weeks ago when I was speaking at a memorial service on the anniversary of the Oklahoma City bombing. He conducted the

Schlagle band at the service and we were all very appreciative for their contribution that day.

The marching band has been nationally recognized, including a second place finish in the national parade division at the Circle City Classic parade in Indianapolis. Likewise, many of his individual students have received academic honors and recognition for personal achievements.

One of Mr. May's special challenges has been to keep his students in school. He bonds with his students, not only as their teacher, but as their mentor and their friend. He believes in their potential and helps them believe in themselves. He is a great influence on the determination of many of his students to not only stay in high school, but to go on to college.

But make no mistake. Mr. May is not an easy touch. His music classes are as tough and challenging as they are fun and rewarding. To quote Mr. May, "High standards and no-nonsense policies are set by the Schlagle High School Band program. If you believe in young people and give 110 percent, they will give you the same in return." The marching band program's stated goals are to strive to be the best and to demonstrate pride, perfection in musicianship and precision in marching.

But the mark of a great teacher can often be his or her ability to help guide students toward a fulfilling career. Thanks to Mr. May's skill, devotion and enthusiasm, many of his students have chosen a music career. One way he encourages this is by bringing in first rate professional musicians like blues guitarist Michael "Hawkeye" Herman to play with his students. According to a news account, that session with Schlagle students in 1995, which lasted for hours, included an impromptu performance of the classic "Kansas City" by "Hawkeye" Herman.

Obviously, Mr. May knows how to make music fun for his students. As the acting principal of Schlagle High School, Mary Stewart wrote to me that Mr. May's students are proud to say they go to Schlagle, the school with the great band.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud that this great teacher, Reginald May, is leading a great band at a great school in my district. I thank the House for allowing me to recognize today the contribution he makes to our community.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Connecticut [Mrs. JOHNSON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

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

[Mr. HORN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

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

[Mr. SHAYS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

□ 1330

COMMAND SOCIETY VERSUS FREE SOCIETY

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

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, it is safe to say that we now live in what we call a command society, we do not live in a free society where social and economic problems are solved through voluntary and free market solution. Whether it is food for the poor, homes for the homeless, medical care for the sick, we endlessly call on the Government to use force to redistribute wealth and distribute our production of welfare, with total disregard for the conditions required to produce the wealth.

In this misdirected humanitarianism, great harm is done to the very people who are supposed to be helped, both the recipients, as they are forced into a degrading dependency, and the working poor, who bear the greatest tax and inflation burden. In a command society, the Government continuously says, do this, do that, and we obediently do it. But smoldering anger and resentment results, confusion arises, because all the Government does is supposed to be good and helpful.

We are endlessly forced to get licenses for all that we do. Rules and regulations are all around us, from morning till night, cradle to grave. We tax life, we tax death, we tax success, and we tax savings. We suffer from double and triple taxation. Taxes are everywhere, as we work half the time for our Government.

We meet Government regulations and rules and paperwork everywhere we go. We cannot walk, talk, pray, or own a gun without a Government permit. We cannot drive a car without bells and buzzers and horns and belts and bags, without being reminded that Big Brother is watching, just waiting for one misstep, while the rapists and murderers go unpunished. We are intimidated by political correctness to the point that an innocent joke is a crime and the laws are a joke.

Our businesses are subject to invasion all by Government bureaucracy without warning, pretending to save us from ourselves, while destroying our freedoms. As the bureaucracy thrives, the command society expands.

I see no evidence, sadly, of a reversal of this trend. We continue to tinker with the bureaucracy through disburse-

ment and talk of great benefits of block grants and local controls and never talk of the philosophic or moral principles that permit the command society; that is, the concession that the arbitrary use of force to mold personal behavior in the market in our entire society is permissible.

Without change in our philosophic approach to government, we will find all the adjustments and revamping of the command society will not and cannot succeed. It cannot change the course upon which this Nation is set.

Placing confidence in pseudo-reform does great harm by postponing the day we seriously consider the moral principles upon which a free society is built. I am anxiously waiting for that day.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I enter into the RECORD this recent commentary by one of America's leading television newsmen, Hugh Downs. During his May 10, 1997, radio program "Perspective," this commentary was broadcast, making many of the same points I have made today.

BATF'S IN THE BELFRY

(By Hugh Downs)

Not too long ago, the California State Legislature passed a law permitting women to breast feed their children in public. Legislators felt obliged to pass a law about this despite the fact that courts have already upheld the practice. Also breast feeding has long been recommended to women by their physicians as the feeding method of choice. And quite aside from the legal precedent and the medical advantage, breast feeding is the natural way to feed infants; obviously women are equipped to serve sustenance to their offspring this way and it is the safest way to nourish an infant. So why would we need a law to state the obvious?

A law permitting public breast feeding is part of a tradition of inane legal redundancies generated by America's criminal justice empire. I say empire because legislators, by nature, think they possess, like Roman Caesars, the imperium, as if the laws they pass somehow wield supreme power over the universe. For example, in the past, legislators in Arkansas prohibited the river in Little Rock to swell any higher than the bridge. That's right, the river, by law, was "commanded" not to flood. Wasn't that wonderful? This inane and redundant bit of arrogance reminds me of Canute, the ancient Danish King of England. Canute put his throne on the beach and commanded the sea to retreat. You will not be surprised to hear that the sea dragged Canute, throne and all, to a watery embarrassment. Legislators, from Canute to Congress, can imagine themselves as imperium, because the power to create law seems as if it should include the laws of nature, or the laws of the universe, or let's be honest about it, the laws of the Almighty.

I've also heard that, in the past, legislators once passed a law that forbade chickens to lay eggs before 8 o'clock in the morning and no later than 4 o'clock in the afternoon. I'm told this law is, or at least was, on the books in Norfolk, Virginia. Legislators commanded chickens, under penalty of law, only to lay eggs between the daylight hours of 8 and 4. (If you're looking for "bird brains" here, you could have trouble figuring out which species had more of them.) I wonder what the penalty was for laying eggs after 4 o'clock? Maybe criminal chickens were threatened with being "cooped up."

To be fair, a lot of stupid laws are just old laws that may have seemed like a good idea at the time but now seem quaint. When automobiles first appeared around the turn of the century, legislators rushed laws to regulate them. Since early automobiles made enough noise to spook a horse, several states passed laws that required runners to precede automobiles so that horse riders and buggy drivers could be forewarned of the approaching menace. I can only imagine what modern Interstate highways would look like if such laws were enforced today. I heard that in Pennsylvania somewhere, there is still a law requiring motorists to pull over at the sight of a team of horses and cover the vehicle with a cloth that has been painted to match the local foliage. I looked in my trunk the other day and noticed that I don't carry a camouflage cover. I hope I never need one in Pennsylvania.

Many old laws seem dumb and dumber today, and are innocently amusing. Who cares if it's against the law in Grand Haven, Michigan to toss an abandoned hoop skirt in the street? It may have happened in the 1860's but it'll never happen today because women don't wear hoop skirts anymore. In addition to antiquated laws, some laws can be ludicrous prohibitions that deal with situations that are patently obvious. Is it really true that someone passed a law in Alabama prohibiting motorists from operating a motor vehicle while blind folded? What was in their beverages? And what about that Florida law prohibiting sex with a porcupine? I'm not kidding. This is supposed to be a real law. What were these lawmakers thinking? At least sex with a porcupine must be one crime with a very low rate of recidivism.

Obviously, hubris can propel legislators well beyond the asinine to the really dangerous. America's burgeoning criminal justice empire doesn't just churn out useless laws, it also creates unnecessary law enforcement agencies—whole police forces that we don't need. We don't need them because we already have local police departments. The DEA, or Drug Enforcement Agency is anything but local. The DEA performs a job that used to be done by the War Department during World War II. The DEA sends American GI's into foreign countries and wages war. Prosecution of a drug war sounds like a policy hatched by Dumb and Dumber. Without a war there would be no need for the DEA, or its staggering budget.

Of course, the DEA does not police alcohol and tobacco. We have a completely separate police force (the Dumber half of this duo) just to deal with cigarettes and liquor. The BATF, or Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, is what you might call an "off-beat" police force. The name itself is off the wall?

You might wonder why we need a completely separate organization to police things that are all legal, especially when local police already do that. Local police have been doing it for centuries in America. But lawmakers, anxious to serve in the drug war, decided that extra federal agencies were needed too. We may have too many laws and too many agencies. After the catastrophes at Waco and Ruby Ridge, the BATF came under Congressional scrutiny as an unnecessary organization that sometimes over-steps its bounds.

When they're not being investigated by Congress, the BATF is tracking down dangerous criminals and keeping America safe. For example, America was recently threatened by a naked angel—that's right a naked angel—and the BATF fought valiantly to repel her. They lost. Kermit Lynch, a wine merchant in northern California, reports that he tried to import some Chianti wine