

before I moved to the country some time ago.

The city is under a Federal court order to desegregate the school system of School District 205. And what is happening in Rockford is happening across the Nation today as judges take on the roles of legislators, as judges attempt to be school administrators, school boards, teachers, PTA, and as judges arbitrarily and without taking into consideration the impact have raised taxes on the people of School District 205 in an attempt to resolve the proven segregation that took place years ago in that city.

The legislation that I introduce says as follows: That a Federal judge should follow the Constitution and leave to the legislature the business of raising taxes. Unfortunately, it is impossible to do away with the power of a Federal court to raise taxes, and that goes back to years ago when railroads were issued bonds by municipalities and municipalities defaulted on those bonds and courts had to pose something called a structural injunction in order to pay back those bonds.

What has happened in Rockford is that a court has raised taxes, almost doubled taxation in the past 4 years, and the people of Rockford just got their tax bill 3 or 4 days ago. Taxation went up another 10 to 15 percent. And instead of a remedy bringing together a community, instead of a remedy that looks at the past civil rights abuses and says what can we do to bring this community together in order to redress the past civil rights grievance, the remedy ends up dividing a community; the remedy has increased real estate taxes, lowered property values, made it very difficult for people to sell their homes, made it uninviting for people to want to move into School District 205, and put such a hard press especially on seniors, those who are on fixed incomes, seniors whose taxes are much more than they can afford to pay.

As the seniors call my office and as the families who call my office, many with tears in their voice, and say, Congressman, I do not understand why a Federal judge can raise my real estate taxes and I can be subjected to taxation without representation, when in fact a Revolutionary War was fought in that nation over the fact that we as colonies were taxed without having one person representing us in the parliament in Great Britain.

□ 1345

We thought that was done away with 200 years ago, but it still continues today. The purpose of my legislation is to send a message to the Federal court that you are not a taxing, that the power to tax is with the legislature. If you dare try to raise the taxes of the people, you have to meet very certain guidelines, the first among which is the fact that a remedy cannot be fashioned without the increase of taxes. Then thereafter, the other guidelines that we set up serve as a curb on the powers of

the Federal courts to raise taxes and to destroy the quality of life in cities such as Rockford, IL.

My bill, the Judicial Mandate and Remedy Clarification Act, is constitutional because it sets up the guidelines which under those very rare circumstances under which a court can undertake to raise the taxes of the local people.

I would encourage my colleagues to become signatories to this type of legislation because when we talk about judicial activism, ultimately it is the U.S. Congress under article III, sections 1 and 2 that has the power to give the jurisdiction to these district courts and the power to set the remedies.

THE GOVERNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HASTINGS of Washington). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from West Virginia [Mr. WISE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, I was struck by an earlier speaker this afternoon who talked about his many concerns about government. I understand that government is not perfect. Government often needs correction. But I think it is time that we also speak about what government does and why government exists and why we believe government is important.

Yesterday this House passed an emergency supplemental bill to assist flood victims not only in my State of West Virginia but across the Midwest and in several other areas. I can testify personally, because I was there when the flood waters were still going down, about the hundreds of sets of eyes that I looked into, that the one thing they were hanging on was the fact that the Federal Emergency Management Agency was there telling them they were going to help them dig out. Right before FEMA got there, the West Virginia National Guard was there. That was government.

I also know that last night, as I drove home, I was reassured to see a police car driving around our block just keeping the calm in our area. Of course right in front of this Capitol, President Clinton addressed a memorial service for fallen law enforcement officers. Those officers fell in the name of government and protecting citizens.

I know that my children and I will sleep secure tonight knowing that we will not be invaded and that even though we live in the richest, in many ways most sought after nation in the world, somebody is on guard protecting us. That is called the military. Yes, we do pay a higher proportion of our budget for military defense than almost any other nation in the world, but I think most of us think that that is a good investment.

I know that my children and I hope they will have the opportunity to go on to higher education just like millions of others before them. And we know that the Government is there providing

those opportunities whether through Pell grants for lower income students or through guaranteed student loans, and indeed, this Congress will debate other means of assisting people to go to college. That is government. I also know that the GI bill, which I consider the single greatest economic development device that the free world has known, which came about following World War II and by which millions of Americans returning home from World War II were able to greatly improve their lives by going to college, they did that through something called government.

I know that my family and I are trying to go see Aunt Connie in a distant State. We will, hopefully, fly to see her over a long weekend. We will depend and fly secure knowing that the air traffic controllers are guiding our planes through the air. Yes, they are government.

I know that when I drive home this evening that I will drive on roads and, quite frankly, no business would build some of the roads between some of the towns in our country. It is just not economically justifiable on today's bottom line, but those roads are built because they are designed to create economic opportunities in the future. Who built those roads? The taxpayer built the roads but the roads were built, the taxpayer built them through something called government.

I understand that nobody likes taxes and I do not either. But when tax day came did anyone point out that the United States of America has the lowest tax burden in the world in the individual tax burden compared to any major industrial democracy. Yes, the tax burden is too high still on low- and middle-income persons but that can be adjusted. But I think it is important to note the value of the services that we receive. I hear concerns about Medicare and Social Security, Social Security is government. It is the single greatest antipoverty program in the world. It dropped the level of senior citizens in poverty by one-half.

Medicare, which is health care for the senior citizen, I might point out, is also insurance for the middle income, middle-age person as well or the younger person because Medicare means that the low-income or middle-income person trying to make a living with a family does not always have to be worrying about supporting their family. Medicare and Social Security are taking care of those aged loved ones for that. That is government.

So it is fair for us to argue about the role of government, but I think we ought to be talking in respect about what government can and does do. It does not always work perfectly. It sometimes fails. But it also has many, many purposes and that it provides. Government, finally, is an expression of the people about what they want to be done as a group that they are not able to do individually.

Finally, the final testament to government is the fact that the gentleman

who spoke several speakers before me, who has such diametrically opposite views from mine, we were able to stand in this well exchanging these views. Neither one may be right and neither one may be completely wrong, but we have the freedom to do so and have those views expressed. That is government as well.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 7 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of my special order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

JONNA LYNNE CULLEN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. UPTON] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer a tribute to a special friend who sadly is fiercely battling this awful disease called cancer.

Jonna Lynne Cullen, J.L. as we call her, served in this House as a staff member from 1967 until 1981. I got to know her very well when she was my boss at the Office of Management and Budget. She headed the Office of Legislative Affairs and to everyone's recollection she probably is the first woman that ever headed that office working for President Reagan from 1981 until 1984.

Mr. Speaker, she was a special friend. She was back here on the back rail. Many Members of Congress from those years, as they came into office, really learned the ropes in terms of what was going on, her ability to understand legislation, to work with all Members on both sides of the aisle. And it was sort of interesting, when she came in 1967, she worked for then the chairman, the Democratic chairman of the Committee on Rules, Bill Colmer. TRENT LOTT was his administrative assistant.

And TRENT LOTT came into office, of course, later on and is now the majority leader in the Senate. I know as I have spoken with both TRENT LOTT and other Members of the House that have moved to the other body, whether it be OLYMPIA SNOWE, JIM JEFFORDS, a whole host of Members that served here, they would very much like to speak this afternoon but of course as Members of the other body they are unable to do so.

As I look around the floor today and we have adjourned with legislative business, I have a number of my colleagues that are anxious to catch their planes and go back, but I wanted to recognize them in this hour that I have.

First, Mr. Speaker, I yield to the very distinguished chairman of the

Committee on Appropriations, the gentleman from Louisiana [Mr. LIVINGSTON].

Mr. LIVINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Michigan for yielding to me. I thank him for taking out this special order. I want to take this opportunity to wish our friend, Jonna Lynne Cullen our very best because I join with the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. UPTON] in recognizing J.L. as a truly remarkable lady.

Our thoughts and prayers are with her as she lies in bed fighting an ongoing bout with cancer. But we do extend our love and best wishes to her for a speedy victory over that dreaded disease. Jonna Lynne's accomplishments here on the Hill and in the Reagan Office of Management and Budget in the early 1980's are well known. She came to the Committee on Rules as a teenager some time ago.

Mr. Speaker, I met her when she was on the staff of TRENT LOTT from Mississippi. His district was neighboring mine and we had that natural southern affinity. And in fact I guess I am wearing the right suit for this effort because she was a true southerner, represented the grace and charm and dignity of the Deep South and yet the calm efficiency as well of a lady that knew her way around Capitol Hill and with open and friendly manner literally could get anything done in Congress and throughout Washington, DC.

She served for many years as a staffer here in Congress. Her expertise and her talents and her dynamic personality won her the respect and admiration of many Members on both sides of the aisle. Those talents and abilities were tapped by OMB Director Dave Stockman during President Reagan's first term where she served as head of legislative affairs for OMB. And in fact J.L.'s knowledge of the Hill and her terrific relationships with so many Members of the staff were invaluable assets to the Reagan budget team. She played a pivotal role in garnering congressional support for the Reagan tax cuts and the budget plans that led to the greatest sustained peacetime economic expansion in this century.

Jonna Lynne Cullen was not your average liaison official. Her influence with the House and her abundant talent won her the trust of the most senior Members of the Reagan and Bush administrations. The real reason we rise to pay tribute to her transcends her accomplishments on the Hill and down at the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue. We here honor a woman who never for one moment took her life for granted. She was a painter. She was a traveler. She was a gourmet chef. She most importantly has been a fighter and a fierce patriot whose love of America drove her to share our Nation's dreams and ideals with people across the globe.

She is a lady who, when faced with breast cancer, refused to just give up but poured her energy into helping others. The American Cancer Society was

one of the chief beneficiaries of her time and her passion and her efforts, notwithstanding all of the other many demands on her time.

When she thought she had cancer beat, she not only continued her efforts on behalf of the American Cancer Society but she traveled worldwide, teaching and encouraging women in Latin America, Russia, and other emerging nations to reach out for success. She was an ambassador of entrepreneurship and excellence and a beacon to women around the world who never imagined that they had the ability to achieve success.

Today we think of Jonna Lynne Cullen who by sheer force of will has refused to give in to cancer. I last saw her a few weeks ago when she came to a reception on behalf of Blanquita Cullem who is a radio personality here in Washington. And there was Jonna Lynne with her Raggedy Ann red wig because she was going through chemotherapy and just brightly showing off that she was fighting every inch of the way.

She continues that fight and, as she lies in bed, she is still struggling against that dreaded disease. Her courage is an inspiration to all of us. We wish her well. We wish her success. We wish her victory in that fight. Keep on fighting, Jonna Lynne. We love you.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I would yield to the gentleman from California [Mr. THOMAS].

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Michigan for taking this special order. There will be a number of Members who will speak about their recollections of J.L. I do not want to catalog her many achievements. I would much rather provide a personal profile.

I had not planned to come to the House of Representatives. I enjoyed what I was doing out in California. I was at that time in the State legislature and was on a faculty of the local college.

The incumbent Congressman died, had a heart attack after the primary. There was a special convention that was convened which placed me on the ballot to come back here if I were successful in November. I had not gone through a primary. I had not gone to the Kennedy schools. I literally knew no one. And when I was elected in November 1978, I was amazed at how many of the 77 classmates that came back in the 96th Congress had some connection or relationship. They were either on a Member's staff, their family had been involved in politics, their relatives were involved or they indeed had worked in the private sector that was directly involved. And I had had no involvement whatsoever. So I walked onto the floor about as green a freshman as we can ever imagine.

Sitting in the back row was a woman who already knew about me. She asked me to sit down. And J.L. began to explain to me who was who and how the place worked and what I should and