

private property ownership as long as violence is not used. Is this matter any different?

We live in an age where it is becoming more common to attack free expression, and that is a danger we should not ignore. We find one political group attacking expression that violates the subjective rules of politically correctness while working to prohibit voluntary prayer. Now another wants to curtail expression through flag anti-desecration laws in the name of patriotism. But there is a better way to handle demonstrations and malcontents.

The danger here is that flag burners frequently express a disdain for big government. Curtailing any expression of criticism of the government is fraught with great danger. Will anyone who opposed big government someday be identified as a friend of the flag burners and treated like one since he is expressing an idea similar to the flag burners? Just because some people are not smart enough to express themselves in any other way than flag burning, it does not justify the careless attack on free expression. Once it is routinely accepted expressing these ideas as dangerous to the status quo, all our freedoms are threatened.

We need to direct our patriotic zeal toward defending the Constitution and to the protection of liberty. Lack of this effort has led to the impending bankruptcy of the warfare state. Now, there is a problem worth directing our attention.

The flag police are no substitute for our policing our own activities and responsibilities here in the Congress. We are endlessly delivering more power in the name of political emergencies, budgetary crises and government efficiency to the Executive, a process not permitted under the Constitution. We permit socialists to attack property rights and the fundamentals of economic liberty as a right under our Constitution. But those who profess respect for private property should not be trapped into attacking flag property when it is used to express unpopular antigovernment views and even change the Bill of Rights to do so.

The socialists know what they are doing, but the anti-desecrators act out of confused emotions while responding to political pressures. We should not further sacrifice freedom of expression with a flag amendment. Especially when compared to the harm done with taxpayers' funding of school programs and NEA desecration, it is negligible. True patriots can surely match the wits of the jerks who burn flags without undermining the first and the fifth amendments.

Mr. Speaker, we can do better than rush to alter constitutionally protected free expression for a nonproblem. We could easily organize bigger and grander demonstrations to celebrate our constitutional liberties for which the flag is our symbol in answer to the flag burners.

I promise to appear any time, any place to celebrate our liberties and countermand the flag burners who work so hard to offend us. We do not need an amendment to the Constitution which for the first time in our history would undermine and curtail the protections of the first amendment.

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.]

TRIBUTE TO NEW JERSEY'S 13TH ANNUAL DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING DAY

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

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, as I stand here today, almost three-quarters of a million of my fellow New Jersey citizens are unable to hear what I am saying. It is not that they are not listening, but rather they are physically unable to hear. Although closed captioning television is beneficial to some, many citizens are without the service.

I rise today to recognize my State's proclamation of June 14 as the 13th Annual Deaf and Hard of Hearing Day. This day sets out to raise awareness for an issue and a segment of our population that face a silent disability.

The ability to hear is truly a blessing and something that those of us who can hear often take for granted. For just a moment think of all the different sounds that echo through our daily lives: The birds chirping in the early morning, the music in the car, or the elevator, or familiar voices of our friends, family members, and coworkers.

As a society we depend on sounds in so many ways: Vehicle horns when we are driving, fire alarms to alert us to danger, and even here in Congress we listen for the bells to alert us of upcoming votes.

It is difficult to imagine the everyday difficulties that those citizens who are unable to hear face in their efforts to function in a society that uses sounds in so many ways as a means of communication.

Beyond the sounds we hear, the spoken language is our primary means of expressing and receiving our thoughts and ideas. We use telephones to communicate, we listen to the television and radio for our entertainment and information, but the deaf community and hard of hearing community communicates in a much different way. The silent disability that they face forces them to converse through sign language and use TDD and relay services as an alternative method of telephone communication.

As a student of sign language myself, I am well aware of the daily efforts

that must be made to express themselves without spoken words. Yet it is a difficult language to learn but highly necessary for survival. I encourage everyone who has the opportunity to learn, to learn sign language.

This Saturday at the Great Adventure Amusement Park in Jackson, NJ, thousands of people from New Jersey's deaf and hard of hearing community will celebrate the 13th Annual Deaf and Hard of Hearing Day. If anyone is interested in seeking out more information on the day's events, they can call either through Voice or TDD, and the telephone number at the Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in New Jersey is 609-984-7281.

I want to congratulate Richard Her-ring, the Director of the Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing of the New Jersey Department of Human Services, for his efforts in making this annual event such a success. His efforts over the years to celebrate, educate, raise awareness, and recognize the achievements made by fellow citizens have truly had a tremendous impact on both the deaf and hearing communities of my State.

BAD MANAGEMENT OF AN EMERGENCY BILL

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

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, today the President, President Clinton, vetoed a bill which he had said very clearly that he was going to veto. Very clearly he had indicated that that veto was coming because of a series of extraneous riders to an otherwise emergency bill. And so we have a situation that I have really in 30 years of legislative life that I have gone through both in Massachusetts, my home State, and here 6 years in the Congress, I think that I have never seen an emergency bill managed more cavalierly, more carelessly by the legislative body and the majority than this one has been managed this year.

It was back in March, the 19th of March, that the President had asked for this legislation totaling about \$7.1 billion, part of it to deal with the very serious natural disasters in the Ohio Valley, the flooding in northern California, the Red River Valley, and the Dakotas, and in Minnesota in order to help put back the lives of hundreds of thousands of devastated families, farms and businesses, people whose lives had really been deeply hurt by that and also, by the way, to carry out \$1.8 billion that was to provide our peacekeepers in Bosnia, those people, men and women, who wear the American uniform and are doing a dirty and a tough job, but a necessary job, the resources that they need in order to do that.

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There is no reason whatsoever why this bill should not have been passed

and signed by the President, a clean emergency bill to deal with these natural disasters and with our peacekeepers' needs in Bosnia, no reason at all why that should not have been passed by the Congress and signed into law by the time we went home for our Memorial Day long weekend, and the 10 days that we, as Members of Congress, spent in our districts.

However, on May 23, we recessed. There was an attempt by the majority to adjourn, but instead, that was denied by a relatively wise majority that day, a majority of the Members, and we instead recessed for those 10 days, leaving those hundreds of thousands of families without having been dealt with fairly for the disasters that they had undergone.

Then it took us the whole next week after we came back until June 5, late last week, when we finally passed the emergency legislation, and even then, the majority did not send it to the President. Even then, they held it over the weekend until the beginning of this week, when they knew that they had added provisions to the legislation that the President had said very clearly change the balances of powers that were extraneous to any emergencies that would force a veto, and so early this week he vetoed the legislation.

Why did the Republican majority follow this kind of strange procedure in this legislation? Well, they had a major environmental rider in the legislation which was to the conversion of certain claimed rights-of-way, conversion of rights-of-way to paved highways across National Parks and Public Lands and military installations. That legislation, that rider by itself, could never have passed this Congress, could never have passed either branch of the Congress, yet it was put into this bill and it was not even an emergency.

Then they had a census rider in there that the President said that he would have to veto which would have removed the procedure for sampling that has been used in each of the last two censuses under a Democratic President, under a Republican President, that procedure for sampling of our population that gives us the most accurate possible census at the lowest possible cost.

Now, why was that? Well, it turns out that there seemed to be some belief that it was an advantage, it would be an advantage to the Democratic Party. Well, that is not really the case. It is not at all clear who would be advantaged. The only thing happening here was that by adding that rider, we end up with a higher cost census, a less accurate census, and one that is very difficult to get done at all. So that rider was put on.

Then the third and probably the most critical item among the riders was that to impose a distinct power shift in the constitutional powers in dealing with budgets between the Congress and the presidency. For those reasons it was vetoed, and for those reasons the clean

bill should be passed by this Congress and sent back to the President so he can sign it.

EUROPEAN SECURITY ACT

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 rise today to speak about a very important issue and that is NATO. On April 4, 1949, the United Nations, Canada and 10 European governments signed the North Atlantic Treaty creating NATO. It was established to deter potential Soviet aggression in Europe and provide for the collective self-defense of the alliance.

Since then, NATO has reshaped its military strategy fundamentally in the wake of the Conventional Armed Forces in Europe Treaty, the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, and the massive cuts in U.S. short-range nuclear forces towards power projection with more mobile forces and away from an armored positional force in Central Europe.

During the December 1994 NATO summit, the U.S. expressed its interest in expanding NATO in order to, one, strengthen nations that share our U.S. belief in democracy; two, continue the development of free market economies open to U.S. investment and trade; and, three, secure allies willing to share in cooperative efforts on a range of global issues; and finally, four, preserve a Europe free from domination by any single power.

I believe that the enlargement of NATO will enhance stability by providing NATO's security guarantee for candidate states working to construct viable democracies and free market systems, Mr. Speaker. I call for my colleagues tomorrow to support the European Security Act, which will help to expand NATO. H.R. 1758 declares that the door to membership in NATO should remain open to all emerging democracies in Central and Eastern Europe, and expresses the sense of Congress that the Baltic Nations and Romania should not be admitted to NATO, and declares that Congress will not approve international agreements that accord second-class status to any new NATO members.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, the bill declares that the door to NATO membership should not close in the first round of NATO enlargement this summer. Aspiring members who may be left out of the first round must be assured they will be considered for NATO membership in the future. This particular measure provides that Romania, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania shall each be designated as eligible to receive assistance under the NATO Participation Act of 1994.

So I urge my colleagues to give careful attention to this legislation when it is debated on the floor, because I believe it is of interest not only to Amer-

icans, but to all of those who live in the countries that have been designated as those who will be positive for NATO and positive for world peace.

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

[Mr. STRICKLAND addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.]

STOP THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE IN THE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS BILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this evening I would like to talk about the battle of the bulge, or maybe it is a battle with the bulge. That is the emergency supplemental appropriations legislation that the Republicans seem to think will play politics with the lives of thousands and thousands and thousands of citizens in the Dakotas, Minnesota, and California, and 29 other States ravaged by flooding and other natural disasters.

Coming from the State of Texas, we well know the tragedy of natural disasters, whether it is hurricanes or floods or tornadoes. Most States in this Nation have had their share. Therefore, it seems much more than a crisis, but a literal shame that the Republicans have decided to play politics with a simple act, and that is, show them the money and get them the money. That is the call, and that is what we need to be doing in the U.S. Congress.

It is interesting that I stand here on June 10, 1997, for it was on March 19, 1997, that the President sent to this Congress, almost 3 months ago, the need for emergency disaster assistance and urged this Congress to act promptly. There is no hardness or difficulty to this legislative act. It is simply to pass an emergency supplemental appropriations bill that will provide \$5.8 billion of much-needed assistance to people hard-hit and hit in the pocketbook, if you will.

In addition, it included \$1.8 billion for the Department of Defense in related efforts for our peacekeeping needs in Bosnia and Southwest Asia. But yet, rather than send a clean supplemental appropriations bill, this Congress decided to load it down with ill-advised and unnecessary pieces of legislation.

For example, rather than emphasizing the need of those individuals over and over again by passing this clean supplemental appropriations bill, we would find in this particular legislative package the battle of the bulge. We would find elimination of the ability to use sampling in the census.

Someone might ask, why is that relevant? Why are we even having that in legislation without full discussion and