

efforts kept interest rates below the market rate and contributed to the financial bubble that is now starting to deflate. But, there is no doubt that this monetary inflation did maintain an economy that seemed like it would never quit growing. Housing markets thrived, the stock market and bond market thrived, and in turn, the great profits made in these areas, especially gains made by stock market transactions, produced profits that inflated greatly the revenues that flowed into the Treasury. The serious problem that we now face, a collapsing stock market and a rapidly weakening economy, was caused by inflating the money supply along with artificially low interest rates. More inflation and continuing the policy of artificially low interest rates can't possibly be the solution to the dilemma we face.

We should never blame economic growth as the culprit. But artificial growth, mal-investment, overcapacity, speculation, and excessive debt that comes from systematic monetary inflation should be blamed, since these are all a result of Federal Reserve Board policy.

Let there be no doubt political and financial leaders will demand lower interest rates in order to alleviate the conditions that are developing. But just because a boom can come from generous Fed credit, it doesn't mean the bubble economy can be maintained or re-inflated by easy credit once a correction sets in.

Besides, Alan Greenspan knows full well that the scenario we are now experiencing can be made worse by lowering interest rates. Under the conditions we are facing it's very likely the dollar will weaken and deliberately lowering interest rates will accelerate this trend. Price inflation, which the Fed claims it is so concerned about, will not necessarily go away even with a weak economy. And the one thing we will come to realize that even the best of all central bankers, Alan Greenspan will not be able to determine interest rates at all times of the business cycle. Inflation premiums, confidence, the value of the dollar, and political conditions all can affect interest rates and these are out of the control of the Federal Reserve Board.

Congress definitely should be concerned about these matters. Budgetary planning will get more difficult as the revenues spiral downward and spending does the opposite. Interest on the national debt will continue and will rise as interest rates rise. The weak dollar, lower stock markets and inflation can affect every fixed income citizen, especially the Social Security beneficiaries. We can expect the World Trade organization managed trade war will actually get much worse under these conditions. Military conflict is not out of the question under the precarious conditions, that are developing. Oil supplies are obviously not secure and as we have seen the run up of prices to dangerously high levels.

The question is what should one expect the Federal Reserve Board to eventually do? We can expect it to continue to inflate as they have always chosen with every crisis. There's no evidence that Alan Greenspan would choose to do anything else regardless of this expression of concern about inflation and the value of the dollar. Greenspan still believes he can control the pain, produce a weakened economy that will not get out of control. But there's no way that he can guarantee that the United States might not slip into a prolonged lethargy, similar to what Japan is now experi-

encing. We can be certain that Congress will accommodate with whatever seems to be necessary for bailing out a weakened financial sector.

But all this will be done at the expense of the dollar. This is a dangerous process and makes our entire economic and financial system vulnerable.

We must someday recognize that neither Congress nor the Fed is supposed to "run" the economy. Yet we still live with the belief that the Administration, our Presidents, our Congress and the Federal Reserve should run the economy. This is a dangerous concept and always leads to the painful corrections to so-called the good times for which everyone is anxious to take credit.

Congress does have responsibility for maintaining a sound dollar and a free market and not much else. Unfortunately this responsibility that is clearly stated in the Constitution is ignored.

A major financial crisis is possible since the dollar is the reserve currency of the world, held in central banks as if it were gold itself. The current account deficit for the United States continues to deteriorate, warning us of danger ahead. Our foreign debt or \$1.7 trillion continues to grow rapidly and it will eventually have to be paid.

Action by the Congress and the Federal Reserve will most likely make the correction that is now starting much worse. Also, under conditions such as these, personal liberty is always vulnerable by the advocates of big government. It is well known that during the times of military wars personal liberties are in endangered. Social wars such as the war on drugs are notorious for undermining the principles of liberty. So too, under economic conditions that are difficult to understand and deal with, personal liberty comes under attack. This should concern us all.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman 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.)

URGING VICE PRESIDENT GORE TO ACCEPT ELECTION RESULTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, today two very important court decisions were handed down, one by the United States Supreme Court and one by the trial court in Florida, dealing with the issue of the Presidential election. These decisions were both again in favor of Governor Bush.

The decision of the Supreme Court vacated the ruling of the Florida court, which extended the time for the certification of the election results in Florida and remanded the case to the Florida court asking them to justify their action because they did not appear to have any legal justification for the actions that they had taken, essentially

contravening the United States Constitution as well as the laws passed by the Florida legislature setting out a clear procedure for handling the election in Florida.

The Florida trial court judge today ruled in favor of the Bush campaign and against the Gore campaign on each and every one of the contested issues raised by the Gore campaign in Palm Beach County, in Miami-Dade County, and in Nassau County.

Since November 7, the Nation has been placed in a serious case of uncertainty. We have economic uncertainty. We have political uncertainty. And we have a Government that needs to be in transition but is delayed by the fact that the Vice President has not conceded this election.

We are now faced, 4 weeks from that election, with a continuing crisis of uncertainty. It is time for the Vice President to do the responsible thing and accept the results of this election.

Governor Bush was ahead at the time that the networks called Florida for Vice President GORE. He was ahead at the time they pulled it back. He was ahead the following morning when they called the election for Governor Bush. He was ahead when the election returns came in. He was ahead when they conducted the first automatic recount. He was ahead after the recount ordered by the Florida Supreme Court was continued. And he remains ahead today.

These two rulings make it very likely that he is going to remain ahead throughout this process. And to ease the country's uncertainty and to do the responsible thing by allowing president-elect George Bush to begin the process of transitioning to a new government and to have the ability to pull the entire country together, it is absolutely essential that the Vice President do the right thing.

The votes have been counted, recounted and counted again, and yet Vice President GORE has yet to concede. For the sake of the country, he should accept the outcome and move forward from this election with dignity. The country would be better served if the Vice President reconsidered his strategy of countless lawsuits which undermine and delay the process of selecting our next President.

Previous Presidential candidates chose the statesman-like route of accepting the will of the people and moving on. It is important for our next President to have the ability to have the support of Vice President GORE as he moves into the transition process.

Governor George W. Bush has a record of bipartisan leadership. I look forward to working with him in that process and in the next Congress of the United States. But in order to get that process smoothly transitioned, we cannot afford to lose any more days than we already have, where 4 weeks that are ordinarily used to begin the very difficult task of selecting nearly 6,000 people to take positions from cabinet levels on down and then to begin the

process of planning a legislative agenda for the American people.

All of these things are delayed by the uncertainty created by the current situation, which becomes increasingly clear is serving no good purpose. Every time we move further down the process, the results are the same. Governor Bush is still ahead in the election. And it seems to me, Mr. Speaker, that it is entirely appropriate at this time that the Vice President do the right thing for the country, the statesman-like thing for the country, and concede this election.

SEEKING PROTECTION FOR KASHMIRI PANDITS DURING CEASE-FIRE

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. Mr. Speaker, I wanted tonight to spend a few minutes saying, first of all, that I am pleased that the Government of Pakistan has positively responded to India's month-long cease-fire in Kashmir.

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I think many of us know that about a week ago, India declared a cease-fire unilaterally, hoping that it would get a positive response from Pakistan as well as from some of the secessionist or separatist organizations that operate within Kashmir. We have found out over the weekend that Pakistan did decide, as the foreign secretary said, to observe maximum restraint with regard to its troops that were deployed along the disputed border in Kashmir.

Last week, Mr. Speaker, I wrote to the Pakistani ambassador in Washington asking his government to accept India's call for a cease-fire, and I was very pleased again to hear that Pakistan's foreign secretary had indicated now that they will also observe it. In addition, I thought it was particularly relevant that the All Parties Hurriyat Conference had indicated that they might be prepared to begin talks or negotiations with India with regard to Kashmir. Certainly having them come back to the table and have discussions with the Indian government with regard to Kashmir is a positive sign. Between the Pakistani actions and the actions of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference, we might actually see some positive developments over the next few weeks or the next few months with regard to peace in Kashmir.

However, in the midst of all this, I found it very unfortunate that the Kashmiri Pandits, the Hindus as well as the Sikhs, who are a minority in Kashmir, continue to be the victims of violence. Over the weekend again, we heard, in fact, on Friday that four sleeping Hindu children between the ages of 3 and 15 years old were shot and killed in a remote Kashmiri mountain village. This is the third attack on

Kashmiri Pandits in less than a week since India declared the cease-fire.

Again, why is it that the minorities in Kashmir, the Pandits, the Hindu minority as well as the Sikhs who have also suffered and some have been killed over the last week since the cease-fire, continue to be the subject of these attacks? I can only hope that with the joint cease-fire that now appears to be in existence and the fact that there may be talks with some of the separatist groups, that the violence against minorities such as the Pandits and the Sikhs will stop, because for too long they have been the victims, if you will, more than any other group, of the problems and of the violence and of the continued dispute over Kashmir.

Mr. Speaker, today I wrote a letter to the Pakistani ambassador in Washington not only thanking him for deciding to go ahead with the cease-fire but also asking that steps be taken to try to end the violence against the Pandits. I wrote a similar letter to the Indian ambassador in Washington, not only commending him and Prime Minister Vajpayee for sticking with this Ramadan cease-fire for the month but also asking that steps be taken by the Indian government to try to protect the Kashmiri Pandits as well.

I wanted to add, Mr. Speaker, that the Prime Minister of India, Mr. Vajpayee, has to be commended not only for unilaterally declaring the cease-fire last week but also for doing so despite the fact that the separatist militants continued with their violent acts over this last week and despite the fact that many domestic opponents criticized his action. Prime Minister Vajpayee has told me many times that he cares for the plight of the Kashmiri Pandits and understands that there will never be peace in Kashmir unless they can live in their homes without fear. I also ask once again that when any peace talks take place over the next few weeks, that the status of the Pandits and their security also be raised in the context of those peace talks. If we are ever going to see toleration of all religions in Kashmir, it is certainly necessary that steps be taken now to protect them, to protect their security, and that reference be made to their status in the context of any peace talks that might take place.

INAUGURATION OF MEXICAN PRESIDENT VICENTE FOX

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, at a time when the world's attention is focused on the presidential election here in the United States, I would like to take a few minutes to talk about a very historic occurrence that took place at the end of last week. I had the honor, along with several of our colleagues, a delegation led by the gentleman from New

York (Mr. GILMAN), the Secretary of State here, and several others, including the Governor of California, Gray Davis, to represent the United States at the inauguration of Vicente Fox in Mexico.

This inaugural took place last Friday morning. It was very thrilling because it was clearly one of the most historic developments in modern history for the western hemisphere. After over 7 decades of one-party control where the Institutional Revolutionary Party, established in 1928, had controlled Mexico, we saw an election take place on July 2 at which the opposition party, the National Action Party, and its nominee, Vicente Fox, was successful.

When we look at what it is that actually brought these free and fair elections about, it is very important to realize that it has been the expansion of our Western values that has been responsible for it and was really a coalition that consisted, I believe, of primarily the statement that was first made by Ronald Reagan in November of 1979 when he announced his candidacy for President in which he said he envisioned an accord of the Americas where we would have the free flow of goods and services.

As we all know, that ended up with legislation that passed in 1993 known as the North American Free Trade Agreement. While I know that NAFTA is often maligned, we have to realize that there has been tremendous success in Canada, the United States, and Mexico. We have seen a dramatic increase in the standard of living in all three countries, in large part due to the expanded trade that we have enjoyed.

Now, what happened was that 6 years ago, following the beginning of major economic reforms in Mexico, we saw the call by President Ernesto Zedillo for free and fair elections. He established an organization known as the IFE, the Federal Electoral Institute in Mexico, that would in fact be independent of the government and oversee the electoral process. It worked out extremely well, and we finally saw the completion of that tie between economic and political freedom last Friday.

We were very privileged, as I said, to be able to represent the United States. Our governor, Gray Davis, was the first governor of California since Earl Warren to attend an inauguration of a Mexican president. I believe the significance of that and the representation that we had from the United States is very, very important.

President Fox has a very interesting challenge ahead of him, but he had some moving remarks in his inaugural address. He talked about the challenge of improving the economy and making sure that no one in Mexico is left behind. He said, "We can't have islands of prosperity amidst seas of poverty." His commitment to ensuring that the children of Mexico are addressed, their needs are addressed and taken care of, his commitment to making sure that