

Well, we in the Congress that served with President Ronald Reagan know better. He was a great President. He was a great man. He was a humanitarian. He was a visionary, and he was a man who when he said something he meant it and everybody knew he meant it, and for them to try to destroy his memory is something I do not think we should tolerate.

I would like to just say that Peggy Noonan, who worked in the White House with Ronald Reagan, was one of his speech writers. She wrote a book that was called "When Character Was King," and I wish all of the people who criticized Ronald Reagan and participated in this CBS miniseries will read that book because, if they read that book, they are going to see what the man was really like. He was a great man. He is a great man, and his legacy and his memory should not be tarnished by a bunch of trash being put out by CBS.

I understand they have pulled that miniseries, and it is not going to be on the network now; but they said that they are going to sell it, I guess, or use it in one of their other areas like "Showtime," and it will be shown as, I guess, a made-for-television movie. I want all my friends to know that I watch "Showtime," and I pay for "Showtime," but I want to say to my friends, if they put that trash on "Showtime," and they have a right to do it under the first amendment, but if they put that trash on "Showtime," I will tell all of my friends and people across this Nation they ought to drop it because that is not the kind of thing you do to a great man like Ronald Reagan who served his country so well and did so much, not only for America but for the whole world.

LETTERS FROM CONSTITUENTS

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I have always believed in free speech in this institution, and I have always thought that we should have free speech throughout the country. I have for the last 4 months come to the House floor and read letters from constituents who often do not have a voice in this body, especially when the conservative leaders of this body so often shut down debate. They shut down debate on the \$87 billion for Iraq. They shut down debate on discussing whether the President told the truth about Iraq. They shut down debate on the Halliburton scandals and ineptness of the Bush administration in Iraq.

Those same people apparently want to shut down the debate in our country by browbeating CBS and threatening CBS to say we cannot run a documentary on a former President. I do not fully understand that; but Madam Speaker, I would like to share these letters about the concerns my con-

stituents have, similar to what John Quincy Adams had done when the conservative leadership 160 years ago shut down debate in this House on slavery.

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Madam Speaker, Amanda Harland from Brecksville, Ohio, writes: Congress has allowed too many cuts in America's education, housing, arts funding, jobs training, and other programs that are vital for working families in America. She says: Because of the tax cuts that President Bush and this Congress have given to the wealthiest Americans, every millionaire gets a \$93,000 tax cut. Half of my constituents got exactly zero tax cut.

She writes: An \$87 billion bill is nothing more than an excuse for the opportunity of infinite military occupation and corporate connections. Amanda from Brecksville is obviously referring to the Halliburton scandal, the fact that Halliburton has gotten well over a billion dollars in unbid contracts, Halliburton is a major contributor to the President of the United States, Vice President CHENEY is still receiving \$13,000 a month from the Halliburton corporation while taxpayers are funneling money to that corporation to the tune of hundreds of millions of dollars a month.

Wesley from Strongsville writes: This administration's go-it-alone policy will not accomplish a long-term secure Iraq, and will only result in a bankrupt American economy and government. If there are sacrifices to be paid, they should be paid now and not by my children when they must pay off the growing deficits from too much spending and not enough revenue.

Madam Speaker, I get letters talking about shared sacrifice. The only people that are sacrificing in this war are the soldiers and the sailors, the young men and women in Iraq, and their families, and people who have lost jobs under the Bush economy, while the administration is not sacrificing at all because they have politically gained from giving these huge tax cuts to their friends who have turned around and given major campaign contributions to the Bush administration.

Wesley writes: I urge you to work to change the administration's unilateral policy on Iraq and to seek a more equitable manner of funding the transition to include more contributions from other countries, from future Iraq oil revenues, and from tax cut rollbacks for the most privileged people of our society.

Jeannie of Akron writes that \$87 billion could be spent here for families, for senior citizens, and for college loans that people cannot repay. She says, by the way, we read the people in Washington got a raise. How nice. My husband has not had one in 3 years.

What Jeannie is also talking about is that almost 200 Republican Members of Congress voted for a raise for themselves, yet voted against a raise for our troops. A \$3,000 raise for themselves,

and against a \$1,500 raise for our men and women in harm's way.

Richard of Valley City writes: They have created a real mess in Iraq and Afghanistan, now they want to take money from the taxpayers to help the people in Iraq and Afghanistan, who will never pay us back. There are so many things we need money for in our country. What about Medicare, Social Security, the space program, and cities and schools who are running a deficit.

Madam Speaker, there is a theme in these letters that people are sickened by the ineptness of the Bush administration in Iraq, they are sickened by the corruption of Halliburton and Vice President CHENEY and all that is happening in Iraq. They are saddened by the fact that while the administration is so focused on helping Halliburton and Bechtel get richer, they have lost their focus on supplying and providing for the troops. The fact that one-fourth of our troops still do not have enough antibiotics, they do not have safe drinking water, all of the things that the President and Vice President have forgotten to supply and protect our troops, while at the same time they are giving hundreds of millions of unbid dollars in contracts to these largest corporations who are major contributors to the President.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). Members are reminded they should refrain from improper references to the Vice President.

CONGRESS NEEDS TO PUT TEETH IN PRESCRIPTION DRUG LEGISLATION

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

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Madam Speaker, outside the House Chamber, in fact it is the only statue in Statuary Hall which faces the House Chamber, there is a statue of Will Rogers. Will Rogers was an amazing person. One of my favorite quotes from Will Rogers was: All I know is what I read in the newspapers. Sometimes I feel like Will Rogers because all I know is what I read in the newspapers.

Let me read some things that were in a recent column in the Congressional Quarterly, the November 1 www.cq.com edition, talking about the prescription drug bill and what may happen to Medicare. "Some observers speculate that Medicare conferees will include language in their final report that will express support for importation, but will also make certain it never happens." Here is a quote from one of the lobbyists, "You can tell them, the lawmakers, that this will only kick in after FDA has appropriated \$100 million for border safety or FDA has to have counterfeit, tamperproof packaging devices in place," said one health

care lobbyist who asked not to be named, "Whatever that trigger is, just say it will never be met."

In other words, pretend like we are going to do something and make sure it never happens. Talking about other things we read in the newspapers, here is a quote from Mark McClellan, the head of FDA, who says, "These Members are out of touch with the realities of keeping our drug supply safe, and the clear and present dangers to America's supply of drugs that their bill would create."

Madam Speaker, let me ask Mr. McClellan a rhetorical question: How many Canadians are dying, how many Europeans are dying, and then tell me who is out of touch.

The problem is that if we do not put some real teeth into whatever we do, the drug companies will figure out how to get around it. They say later in the article that even if lawmakers turn to Canada to soothe concerns about safety, the drugs Americans want to buy may not be available. Several drug companies, and they include Eli Lilly and Co. and Wyeth, have decided to curtail sales to Canada anticipating that Congress could enact importation legislation.

Madam Speaker, that is called antitrust and that is why 22 Members of this House sent a letter last week to Attorney General Ashcroft, and I would like to read the letter. It says, "Six major pharmaceutical manufacturers have moved to restrict supply of prescription drugs to Canadian pharmacies and wholesalers. It is obvious that these actions are an attempt to prevent American consumers from accessing affordable prescription drugs. This action is putting lives at risk in the United States and Canada.

"Americans should not have to wait for States' attorneys general to enforce antitrust laws. Therefore, we request a thorough investigation by your office. If any pharmaceutical companies are found in violation of antitrust laws, the Department of Justice must take all available steps to correct this injustice.

"We must not allow pharmaceutical companies to abuse American consumers, and place lives at risk, by illegally manipulating supply."

Madam Speaker, this was signed by 22 mostly senior Members, including some of the highest ranking members of the Committee on the Judiciary. The American public now knows the dirty little secret, and that is American consumers pay the world's highest prices even though they are world's best customers for prescription drugs. If this Congress produces a bill that is filled with obfuscation, manipulation and pretending that we deal with the issue of affordability, well, as we say out in rural America, that dog will not hunt.

HONORING OUR VETERANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentle-

woman from California (Ms. SOLIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and honor the courageous men and women that have served our country. It has been over 2 years since our great Nation was attacked on September 11, 2001. That day, and every day since, we are reminded that our freedoms are protected by the men and women in the United States Armed Forces. These individuals have given their sweat, blood and sometimes their lives to protect our freedoms.

Today, American servicemen and women from the mountains of Tora Bora to the deserts of Iraq are, once again, in harm's way protecting and defending our freedoms all over the globe. I am standing before Members today with a deeply felt sense of gratitude and pride that these men and women in uniform are defending our Nation. In 2002, there were 25.6 million living veterans, and over the course of this country's history, more than 12 million servicemen have sacrificed their lives to defend our freedoms.

I want to take a moment to highlight the Latinos and other minorities that have contributed to the peace we have enjoyed for so many years in our country. According to the latest U.S. Census figures, there are 1.3 million living Latino veterans, with more than half residing in California, Texas and Puerto Rico. Many have fought and defended the United States during World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the first Gulf War, and now in Iraq. There are 41 Latinos that have received the highest Congressional Medal of Honor award, 11 were awarded for their bravery during World War II, a war in which as many as 500,000 Latino soldiers fought bravely for the U.S.

We honor our Nation's veterans, we must honor our brave men and women who are currently serving in Iraq, and as of today, 382 members of our U.S. troops have lost their lives.

In particular, two of my constituents have lost their lives. One is Lance Corporal Francisco Martinez Flores, and I display his photo, and Private First Class Jose Casanova, Jr., and I want to tell my colleagues about these fine young men. Lance Corporal Francisco Martinez Flores was not just a brave and self-sacrificing Marine, but he was a loving son, a brother, a friend, and someone who lived in my district who was outgoing and was the eldest of his four siblings who immigrated to this country at a young age. He was not even a U.S. citizen. He was one of the first soldiers killed in Iraq. He was granted citizenship posthumously. That is great that we can do that, but we have so many other soldiers like him who are serving our country who are not being granted the opportunity to become citizens. They are not asking for U.S. citizenship when they sign up, they are asking to be there to support us and defend our country.

I am asking Members of Congress to help appeal to the Senate and to this

administration to grant the opportunity for over 37,000 U.S. soldiers just like this young man here who died and gave his life, and many others that are currently there in the line of battle protecting us, asking you to support them to have citizenship within a 2-year process. Instead of 3, 2 years, to grant them the opportunity if they have siblings or a wife or spouse, to also have an opportunity to become fully-fledged participants in our society. We do not ask our own kids to go to war, but we ask folks who represent us in our districts. We should do something for them as well, especially as Veterans Day nears, that we pay a tribute and honor to these young men and women, who all they want to do is look for a better life in our country, who look for a future, to become law enforcement officers, custodians, teachers, and government officials, but their lives are cut short defending us in the line of duty, something that they took as an oath of office to serve and defend our country. Let us remind ourselves of those many soldiers serving us now. I urge the Senate and other Members of Congress to support legislation to give citizenship to legal permanent residents.

WASHINGTON WASTE WATCHERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KING of Iowa). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENSARLING) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise again this week as part of Washington Waste Watchers, a Republican effort dedicated to bringing the disinfectant of sunshine into the shadowy corners of the wasteful Washington bureaucracy. We are here to show the American people how Federal agencies need to be held accountable, for they routinely lose huge portions of taxpayer-funded budgets to waste, fraud and abuse.

This week, let us talk about the Department of Education. Today America's schools face a number of challenges. The Democrats have said time and time again that the answer is simply more Federal money, more Federal spending. Unfortunately, that is simply not true. Congress has already dramatically increased Federal spending for education. According to the Office of Management and Budget, from 1994 to 2002, funding for the Department of Education grew by a greater percentage than any other cabinet-level agency, number one. Yet test scores have either stagnated or actually declined. The problem is not how much money the government spends, the problem is how government spends the money. Unfortunately, much of the money that we spend on education is not going to the children. Enormous sums of the American people's hard-earned tax dollars intended to help teach our children are lost in waste, fraud and abuse.