

Craig Eiland, whose wife was harassed by the Texas troopers, and people like Alan Ritter and Joe Deshotel, who took time away from their families to go away to Ardmore, Oklahoma, and to exhibit a protest.

And shame on those who have said that those people are turning their backs on their jobs and turning their backs on their constituents and not wanting to go back and address the problems of the State of Texas. That is nonsense, it is offending, because these people to want to go back, they do want to go back and do their jobs, and they do want to address the critical problems that face Texas today, whether it deals with financing of our education system, which is in dire straits, whether it is the health needs, or the significant deficit that Texas faces of \$10 billion to \$12 billion, and they will do so as soon as the speaker of the Texas House of Representatives agrees to get rid of these nonpriority, personal political agenda items so that we can address the real needs of the State of Texas.

I had a newsperson ask me today, Mr. Speaker, whether or not the people of Texas could be controlled by one person, and whether the Texas House of Representatives could be controlled by one person. I am thrilled to be able to say no, that it cannot be.

Yes, the Republicans may win on this issue in Austin, Texas, but we will raise every objection that we can possibly raise. And they may win in the Senate, and we will raise that objection again. And they may win in the courts, but we will be right there. And the sad part of it is that the people of Texas will pay over and over again with the costs that are going to be associated with legal assistance and defending this issue and the huge amount of time and effort that is going to be taken away from our need to address the real issues of Texas.

God bless those Texas legislators. We are proud of every one of you, and know you are going to do the Lord's work for all of us in Texas, and we will get to the bottom of it, and the people of Texas in the end will win.

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I yield to the gentleman from Houston (Mr. BELL).

Mr. BELL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is very important as we discuss this important subject that we recall some historical perspective. My good friend from Harris County referred to some recent history just a short while ago in which he pointed out some of the hypocrisy of the current speaker of the Texas House.

It is also interesting to go back to the year 1984. The reason I think it is interesting is because a lot of people in the last few days have said, is this not just politics as usual? Is this not just what happens in the State of Texas?

Well, quite honestly, it is not. If you go back to the year 1984, that was the

year that our current majority leader, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), and five other Republicans were elected. It was an unprecedented success on the Republican side.

Interestingly, in 1984 the majority leader of this body, the United States House of Representatives, was none other than Jim Wright, a Democrat from Fort Worth, Texas. In the State House of Representatives, there was a strong Democratic majority, in the State Senate of Texas there was a strong Democratic majority. But in that year there was absolutely no effort made whatsoever to go back and redistrict and change those seats from whence the six representatives, the six Republican representatives, had been elected, because, quite simply, that is just not the way things have been done.

As we come to a close tonight, I want to go back to the Houston Chronicle editorial that my good friend the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) referred to earlier, because I think it makes a very eloquent case about what we have witnessed this week.

In its closing, perhaps the most valid criticism that could be made of the missing Democrats is that "their place is in the capital, doing the people's business and debating the issues, win, lose or draw. In a more civil era that would be right. But Speaker Craddick throughout the session has discouraged debate, opposition amendments and all of the other give and take of politics. On many occasions, he and his lieutenants seem to regard examination and principal discussion of legislation as irritants. It is not too late to salvage the legislative session. It is past time, however, for Governor Perry, Speaker Craddick, Majority Leader DELAY, et al., to follow George W. Bush's gubernatorial example, and realize that good government is bipartisan government, shaped by compromise, and the broad public interest."

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Houston, Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, let me just quickly say that there has been a representation that this meat cutter of a plan by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) protects minorities and supports the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Let me clearly say, Mr. Speaker, that that was an emotional time in our history. It was a time when there were deaths in Philadelphia, Mississippi; it was a time when the State troopers attacked peaceful marchers crossing the Edmund Pettis Bridge in Selma, Alabama, on March 7, 1965; it was a time when there was great intensity in the United States Congress to be able to pass a Voting Rights Act of 1965.

This district, this plan, does not represent, commemorate or give honor to the Voting Rights Act of 1965. This plan is a sham, it is a shame, when it takes away the historic birthplace of Barbara Jordan out of the 18th Con-

gressional District. All I can do is remind this body of the words of Barbara Jordan during the impeachment proceedings of Richard Nixon, that she would refuse to be diminished, and that she spoke for the people of the United States of America, and that she reinforced her belief in the Constitution.

This is a sham of a process. This Congress should be ashamed, the State legislature in Texas should be ashamed, we all should be ashamed, and we should get back to the business in celebration, commemoration in honor of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

MARKING 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH IN HOLLIDAYSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark a significant historical event in the community of Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania. This month the Zion Lutheran Church in Hollidaysburg will mark its 200th anniversary. The rich history of Zion Lutheran is a testament to its founders and all of its congregants to this day.

By 1803, population centers in the United States were expanding westward. As small groups of people started to settle west of the Allegheny Mountains for the first time, a small group of German immigrants, led by Pastor Frederick Haas, started the first congregation of Zion Lutheran Church in a log building in Frankstown, Pennsylvania, 200 years ago.

While many of the original members were used to the grand cathedrals of Europe, and the new log building was certainly a different way to worship for many settlers, their desire to worship and develop community moved them to embrace their new surroundings.

With the opening of the Pennsylvania Canal and the Allegheny Portage Railroad in 1830, Hollidaysburg flourished and became the county seat. As the town continued to grow, congregants needed a larger building to worship, and a new church opened its doors to the spiritual needs of the community in 1853. Today congregants of Zion Lutheran still make this building their center of spiritual community, and it also serves as a central feature of the historic section of the Hollidaysburg borough.

While the building is, itself, an historic, stately church and provides a beautiful place to worship, it is the people themselves, the congregants, that make Zion Lutheran a real natural treasure.

With 965 members, Zion Lutheran is the largest Lutheran church in Blair County. Leading the congregation is no small task, and its pastors, the Reverends Scott and Carol Custead, are the latest in a long line of God's servants who have provided the community with religious guidance that has brought stability and hope through God's teachings.

The word "Zion" literally means "the dwelling place of God, where God meets His people." It gives me great honor to recognize Zion Lutheran Church in Hollidaysburg on its bicentennial, a place where God truly meets His followers.

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GOP RUNS ROUGHSHOD OVER TEXAS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida.) Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BELL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BELL. Mr. Speaker, I would first like to take this opportunity, because I did not get an opportunity to do so before, to thank several individuals for standing strong in Ardmore, Oklahoma. Representatives Garnett Coleman, Senfronia Thompson, Joe Deshotel, Joe Moreno, Scott Hochberg, Jessica Farrar, Rick Noriega, and Dora Olivo. I just want you to know that the people of Texas are with you, and we are thinking of you here in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS).

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to review after this hour-long debate we have just finished why virtually every major newspaper in Texas is editorialized in saying that "what Mr. DELAY is trying to do in forcing a partisan redistricting plan down the throats of 20 million Texas citizens is wrong."

First they admit and say that what he does diverts the legislature's attention from huge problems facing Texas. A \$10 billion deficit, hundreds of thousands of children being thrown off the CHIPs health care program, school finance, it is important to parents all across our State. The editorials are right; the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) is wrong.

The secret back-room deals that the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) and Texas Speaker Tom Craddick would rip apart historic communities of interest, and they have orchestrated a process that only the Keystone Cops could admire and have drawn a bizarre map that would give modern art a bad name.

Let me be specific. First the process. Texas Republican legislators refused to

have hearings across Texas, thus violating the legislature's own 2001 guidelines for seeking broad Texas citizen input into something as important as congressional redistricting. Finally, the one hearing they did have was in the Texas capital, but you know what? It started about 9 p.m. on Friday night a few weeks ago, did not finish until 6:30 a.m. on Saturday morning, with some of the capitol doors locking Texas citizens out of those hearings in the dark of the night.

Now, the Texas House redistricting committee then started playing the old rope-a-dope game coming up with new plans almost daily, kind of a map du jour to confuse Texas citizens so they would not know which maps were seriously being considered. And, even worse, the House committee chairman had the gall to say that he did not want to have hearings in south Texas because he could not understand Spanish. What a rather crude insult to the millions of Hispanic English-speaking citizens of south Texas.

Finally, the Mother's Day massacre plan. Last Sunday, while Texans, including myself, were honoring our families and our mothers, the forces of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) had a different idea that day. They concocted a map for Texas congressional redistricting that no one had ever seen, not a single Texas elected mayor, city councilman, school board member, not any of the 20 million of Texas citizens. Their plan was slick. It was at 10 a.m. the next morning, this past Monday morning, less than 24 hours after that map was put on one Website with no press announcements, they were going to shove that map down the throats of the Texas House.

I admire Representative Jim Dunnam and John Mabry from Waco, because had they not stood up and broken that quorum, the people of central Texas and our historic rural central Texas district would have been devastated: one district carved into four congressional districts stretching from Fort Worth to the suburbs of Houston to San Antonio.

The process has been wrong, the map is wrong, and I admire these Texas profiles in courage for saying 20 million Texas citizens should not be shut out of having their voices heard when it comes to shaping the future of their communities for decades to come.

Mr. BELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SANDLIN).

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, first I would like to say thank you to all of my Texas colleagues who joined us tonight. This has been a wonderful debate and examination of the issues.

Mr. Speaker, the glorious history of Texas records many brave events like the Battle of Goliad and the Alamo. But the most important of all is the Battle of San Jacinto where General Sam Houston picked his battlefield, surprised his enemy, and prevailed for the people.

Today that battlefield is Ardmore, Oklahoma, where over 50 representatives are fighting for the rights of their constituents. They have clearly surprised the enemy and, God willing, those 50 for Texas will prevail for the people of our great State.

COMMEMORATING THE 49TH ANNIVERSARY OF BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to begin the Congressional Black Caucus Special Order to commemorate the 49th anniversary of the United States Supreme Court's *Brown v. Board of Education* decision.

Mr. Speaker, the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision is one of the greatest decisions of the United States Supreme Court. That decision eliminated the "separate but equal" doctrine in our public school systems and ended what was one of the most abhorrent policies ever put in place in the United States.

"Today, education is perhaps the most important function of State and local governments. It is required in the performance of our most basic public responsibilities, even service in the Armed Forces. It is the very foundation of good citizenship. Today, it is a principal instrument in awakening a child to cultural values, in preparing him for later professional training, and in helping him to adjust normally to his environment. In these days, it is doubtful that any child may reasonably be expected to succeed in life if he is denied the opportunity of an education. Such an opportunity when the State has undertaken to provide it is a right which must be made available to all on equal terms."

Mr. Speaker, these are the words that former Chief Justice Earl Warren delivered in his opinion of the *Brown v. Board of Education* case on May 17, 1954. These words still ring true today.

This Saturday will mark the 49th anniversary of the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision, and sadly, Mr. Speaker, 49 years later, the promise of *Brown v. Board of Education* still has not been realized.

The State of our public education system is extremely fragile. Not only are we living in a society where our public schools are unequal, but we are living in a society, 49 years after the death of Jim Crow, where our students are still learning in separate environments.

In the 2000/2001 school year, at least half of the black students in the State of Maryland attended intensely segregated minority schools. A report released by the Harvard Civil Rights Project last year found that the city of Baltimore has the most segregated school system in the entire Nation; the