

up poor. They end up struggling to take care of their children. They end up struggling to educate them. They end up struggling to provide them health care. They end up struggling to provide them with decent housing. And this government, this administration, the Bush administration, has decided to cut them out of the tax bill.

And they want to talk about fairness in America? They want to talk about justice in America? They want to talk about freedom in America? I do not think so, Mr. and Mrs. America, because they made a conscious decision.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman's time has expired.

The Chair must remind Members to avoid personally offensive references to the President.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. . . .

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman's time has expired.

REGARDING YESTERDAY'S FCC
DECISION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to make a public service announcement. Yesterday was an extremely important day in this country's history.

□ 1115

The FCC voted to allow increased consolidation of the media. They are tightening the noose on the neck of the First Amendment.

The NRA is opposed to what happened yesterday, and so is JIM McDERMOTT, so you know how damning what happened yesterday really is. If you can get people as far apart as the NRA and me on the same issue, you have got a real problem in this country.

Now, my public service announcement is this: Stop watching the U.S. press. Stop watching the television. It is the opiate of the masses. They are using it to put you to sleep. You should cancel your subscription and buy a subscription to a foreign newspaper, maybe the Financial Times of London, or the Guardian, or the Scotsman from Edinburgh or the Sunday Herald from Sidney, Australia.

Why do I say this? Because you have to read the foreign press to find out what is going on in this country. The Financial Times of London was the one that reported that the President hid, or, excuse me, I should not mention the President, it was the administration that hid the report that says we are going to be \$44 trillion in debt because of these tax cuts. To put that in per-

spective, that means every single American, every man, woman and child, everything they earn for 4 years, that is what \$44 trillion is. And the President and his folks did not want us to know about it, so they left it out. But the London Times found it.

Reuters came up with a story about the chaos in Iraq. You think the Iraq war is all over and there is no more problem. According to our press, the only thing that matters is this guy that blew up a bomb in Atlanta about 6 years ago. They have suddenly forgotten Iraq.

But if you listen to what happened, Reuters says they interviewed one of the chiefs in Baghdad who said the entire Iraqi people is a time bomb that will blow up in the Americans' face if they do not end this occupation. "The Iraqi people did not fight the Americans during the war. Only Saddam's people did. But if the people decide to fight them now, they are in big trouble."

One man said, "All of us will become suicide bombers. I will turn my six daughters into bombs to kill the Americans."

That is what we have created over there, and we are glossing over it now. But if you read Reuters, you will find that out. If you do not read Reuters, you will never get it out of our paper.

Then we come to the next issue. You have got to read the Scotland paper, the Edinburgh Scotsman. What do they say? They say regime change in Iran is starting a countdown. That is the editorial headline. Regime change has not been in any of the speaking so far, but you start to see that the phrase has found its way into a bunch of briefings. And now, it is not a done deal, there is a big fight between the war department and the State Department. The war department is the one that took us into Afghanistan, they took us into Iraq, and they are over there ready to go again. It sounds sort of familiar. It is the same way the drumbeat started in this country in September when I said that the President would lie to take us to war. People were outraged. How could you say such a thing?

Well, where are the weapons of mass destruction? Please tell me. I am looking. Mr. Blair is going to have an investigation of him.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SCHROCK). Members must avoid personally offensive references to the President.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I thank you for that reminder.

Mr. Blair is going to be under investigation in the British House of Commons. One member said it is worse than Watergate, what has gone on in Great Britain.

But in this country, do we expect the Republican Party to come out and investigate the President of the United States, misleading us, or the administration misleading us, excuse me? The administration misled us, these name-

less, faceless people they put out there, sent out there to tell what they wanted said.

That is what you have to get. You will get this if you read the Scotsman. If you do not read the Scotsman, you will not know where we are going next.

You know, last night another American soldier died, another American soldier died in Iraq, shot in an ambush. Now, every one of those soldiers is important. When I was a psychiatrist during the Vietnam War and I dealt with these kids coming back, they were all important, and that kid that was killed last night was important. But you will not hear anything about it in our media, because you are not reading the right stuff.

Get rid of the paper. It is the opiate of the masses.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 20 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON) at noon.

PRAYER

The Right Reverend John Clark Buchanan, Retired Episcopal Bishop of West Missouri, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, You gave us this good land for our heritage. May we always prove ourselves a people mindful of Your favor and glad to do Your will. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion, from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the diverse multitudes brought to this welcoming land. Endow with wisdom those to whom in Your name we entrust the authority of government, especially this House of Representatives, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to Your law, we may show forth Your praise among the nations of the Earth. In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in You to fail, a prayer we bring to Your throne of grace. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Missouri (Ms. MCCARTHY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ACKNOWLEDGING TODAY'S GUEST CHAPLAIN, THE RIGHT REVEREND JOHN CLARK BUCHANAN, RETIRED EPISCOPAL BISHOP OF WEST MISSOURI

(Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to acknowledge our guest chaplain today, the Right Reverend John Clark Buchanan. What a joy it was to hear his voice once again, inspiring me and others to do good work.

John Clark Buchanan is the retired Episcopal bishop of West Missouri, having served our area from 1989 to 2000. He has a diverse background, having been a lawyer in private practice and in the insurance industry prior to his ordained ministry.

Bishop Buchanan currently serves as a parliamentarian for the House of Bishops of the Episcopal Church. We in western Missouri are very grateful for the 11 years he served us. He created the most successful Bishop Spencer Place, a moderately priced retirement center for our elderly.

He also, in his 11 years, established stable financial funding for the church, and also did extensive planning for new churches in the area outside of greater Kansas City. Key among his reforms and his instrumental efforts were, of course, reaching out and creating and establishing Hispanic missions.

Bishop Buchanan lives in Charleston, South Carolina, with his wife Peggy. They have two daughters and two grandchildren. I thank him for taking his time to come and deliver this thoughtful prayer with us this morning.

CONGRATULATING CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS HIGH SCHOOL ON WINNING FLORIDA STATE CLASS 6A BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Christopher Columbus High School in my congressional district for winning the Florida State Class 6A Baseball Championship. Columbus enjoyed an 8-2 win, thanks to a seven-run rally in the bottom of the sixth. This marks the first State

baseball title for Columbus, that has long had one of the most outstanding baseball programs in Miami-Dade County and, indeed, in our State.

Christopher Columbus is a private Roman Catholic college prep school conducted by the Marist Brothers. In addition to its strong athletic program, Columbus has an exceptional academic program, as well. It uses a holistic approach to education where the entire person is encouraged to grow in truth and freedom.

Please join me in congratulating Christopher Columbus and its coach, Joe Weber, for their phenomenal win.

DEMOCRATS WILL BE HEARD TODAY DURING PROCEEDINGS UNDER SUSPENSION CALENDAR

(Mr. RANGEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I approach the floor to alert the House that a substantial number of Members are prepared to see that we do not pass suspension bills until such time as the grievances of this great body are addressed.

As most of us know, recently this House passed a tax bill without the inclusion of one thought, one amendment, one idea that the Democrats have had. There comes a time that we have to say, enough is enough, not because we are Democrats, but because we represent people throughout these United States whose interests have been ignored.

Six and one-half million low-income working families and 12 million children have been denied the benefits that this House was allowed to believe existed in the tax bill. It was excluded. Why? It was excluded to make certain that the money borrowed from the Treasury would take care of the high-income people receiving relief from capital gains and from interest taxes.

We will be heard today, Mr. Speaker.

BURMA

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I was shocked and deeply disturbed by events over the weekend in Burma, the arrest of Aung San Suu Kyi and the death of the prodemocracy activists there. The Government of Burma should release Aung San Suu Kyi and end its brutal dictatorship of the people of Burma.

The government says that Suu Kyi is in "protective custody." Burma's record of protecting its people is highly suspect. The people of Burma have suffered for too long from the SPDC, from campaigns of systematic rape, murder, forced labor, destruction of villages, food sources, and a myriad of other atrocities, including the deaths of many small children.

The international community, particularly Burma's neighbors, must press the Burmese military government to recognize the fact that the people want freedom. The government must accept the legitimate election of the National League for Democracy. The world community should condemn the dictatorship's actions.

I call on the U.S. Government to take deliberate, serious action to help free Aung San Suu Kyi and the people of Burma. To the people of Burma, we stand with them.

HUMAN RIGHTS FOR THE TIBETANS AND THE BURMESE

(Mr. KIRK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to draw attention to two recent events signaling a step backward for basic human rights. The Nepali Government violated international law by jailing 18 Tibetan refugees instead of turning them over to the United Nations. Nepal then made these refugees prisoners of the Chinese, the very people that they were fleeing.

International refugee law is well settled, that once Tibetans reach Nepal, they are turned over to the U.N. for safe passage. Nepal's action flies in the face of her commitment to international law, and American tourists should not visit Nepal.

Second, in Burma on Friday the military dictatorship detained many members of the National League of Democracy, including Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi, and closed all universities. Suu Kyi, the elected leader of her country, was beaten, and her whereabouts are currently unknown.

I want to commend Secretary Powell for speaking out against both governments, and urge Members of Congress to call attention to these two governments, Nepal and Burma, that are turning back the clock on human rights.

ACTION BY FCC ENDANGERS AMERICA'S BASIC FREEDOMS

(Mr. SCOTT of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to state how disappointed and, quite frankly, disturbed I am with the actions of the FCC on yesterday. That was a very dangerous vote to the future of this country. This country was founded on many, many freedoms, but none more basic than the freedom of the press, freedom of information, and the diversity of that information.

That action on yesterday by the FCC certainly puts us at a very clear and present danger of losing that freedom of the press in many respects. It will certainly short-circuit small business