

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

people, entrepreneurs, and others from having an opportunity to own media. It will certainly lessen the diversity of thought, shaping the opinions, and will certainly almost completely devastate community values and community controls.

I daresay that certainly what is happening on the national stage and international stage is important, but is it not important knowing what happened to a parent's Little League son and how he performed, or what is happening in the board of education?

I urge Members to join with me in sponsoring a bill that will overturn this FCC ruling, the Byrd-Dingell bill.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE AMERICAN FLAG

Mr. BURNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for the American flag. For more than 200 years, the American flag has been the symbol of our Nation's strength and unity. It has been a source of pride and inspiration for millions of citizens. It has been a prominent icon in our national history.

To the colonists, it represents the free country for which they fought. For the Jewish people in World War II, it simply symbolized survival. For African Americans, they view the flag as the promise of a time when all men will be treated equally. Now it symbolizes a new day in Iraq.

So many brave men and women sacrificed their lives to protect the principles for which it stands, a flag that embodies justice, democracy and, most of all, freedom. The American flag deserves to fly proudly throughout America.

FCC MEDIA OWNERSHIP DECISION

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

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my concerns over the FCC's decision to relax media ownership rules. The new regulations would allow a single company to own 45 percent of media that reaches United States households, instead of the current 35 percent.

As it stands now, there are only a handful of media companies that we get to see, that we see, that we hear, and that we can read. When we do this, there will be an even smaller number of media companies owning a larger share of the media market.

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And that moves us dangerously close to a monopoly-like situation in the mass media business. One of the greatest things about our country is freedom of press and freedom of speech. That is what our Constitution has in it. Under these new regulations, we are moving toward limiting the informa-

tion that citizens get to see because there will be fewer points of view brought forward because there are fewer companies. Congress should take a closer look at this.

DO NOT LEAVE CHILDREN AND VETERANS BEHIND

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

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, this Congress has passed and the President has signed into law a tax cut that takes care of the millionaires but leaves many of our children and our veterans behind. Right today, young Americans are serving this Nation in Iraq with young children waiting for them here at home. And ironically, many of those children will not receive any benefit from the child tax credit that was contained in that tax bill.

Think of that. Young Americans fighting for this country and their children are going to be left out of the benefit. Not only children, but veterans are getting the shaft. It is shameful, it is shameful that we would drive this country into debt, take care of our millionaires, and leave our children and our veterans behind. It is time for the people of this country, Mr. Speaker, to wake up and realize what is happening.

CLOWN CAR TAX POLICY

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, the Leave No Child Behind President recently signed into law the third largest tax cut in history. But the tax bill was really like one of those clown cars you see at the circus. Because of the budget gimmicks, the Republicans squeezed nearly a trillion dollars in tax cuts into something that only looked big enough to hold \$350 billion.

The whole tax bill was a big masquerade and the Congress participated in the party. While pressing for these tax cuts, President Bush declared, My jobs and growth plan will reduce tax rates for everyone. Everyone, I emphasize, who pays income tax. That is wrong.

In fact, 8.1 million lower- and middle-class Americans who paid billions of dollars in income tax will receive no tax reduction whatsoever; 36 percent of American households, 50 million households, in the United States will receive no benefit whatsoever.

Now, if I wonder where the next clown will pop up, maybe it will be in the White House.

TAX BILL ROBS MILITARY FAMILIES

(Mr. FILNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, there they go again. When the Republicans are faced with a choice of helping millionaires with tax credits or giving low-income people some help they need with the same tax credits, they choose the millionaires every time.

Once again, the President, and the President's bill, and the Republicans have robbed millions of low-income families of the child tax credit that has long been part of the bill. What some might not realize is that a large number of low-income military families, that is right, military families, will be affected by this change. These are men and women who have been serving overseas, enduring economic hardship in order to protect our country. But by this shameful act of the majority that we should address immediately, they will not be able to get the same tax benefit that a millionaire will get.

It is offensive to say, it is offensive to say to the people of this Nation that we can afford to give huge tax credits to millionaires, but cannot come up with a few hundred dollars to help low-income military families who have sacrificed so much and need this money the most. I hope the sanity of this House will restore those tax credits.

ABSTINENCE EDUCATION

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

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind my colleagues of the devastating effect of sexual activity on our Nation's youth.

Just today the Heritage Foundation released a new report entitled "Sexually Active Teenagers Are More Likely to Be Depressed And to Attempt Suicide." In this study, Robert Rector, Kirk Johnson, and Lauren Noyes outlined the psychological and emotional aspects associated with teenage sexual activity.

The data shows that there is a real correlation between teen sexual activity and depression and even between sexual activity and suicide in the ages of 14 through 17. Sexually active teenage girls are three times more likely to be depressed than their classmates who are abstinent. Sexually active boys in their teens are more than twice as likely to be depressed. Furthermore, 14 percent of sexually active teenage girls report having attempted suicide, a three-fold increase over their peers who are abstinent.

This report demonstrates the value of abstinence education.

TAX CUT LEAVES MANY FAMILIES OUT IN THE COLD

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