

happy retirement—with much time spent with her husband, Tom; her daughter Lora and Lora's husband John Williams and their son Evan; and Tom's son Sean.

I am proud to also note that Eve has a number of family connections to West Virginia, Mr. Speaker and it is my hope that her travels will bring her to our state often.

It is a pleasure to help recognize the career of one who has served this House so very well. Thank you, Eve, and all the best in the days to come.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. I yield to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Eve, I want to rise with my colleagues. I was here at 3 o'clock when DAVID DREIER gave that short, but very heartfelt thanks to you. I did not join him at that point in time; I thought that at 3 a.m. you might want to go home. But I do want to rise at this point in time.

Mr. Speaker, the Members of the House, the House as an institution, and this country are all blessed by having some extraordinarily dedicated, extraordinarily able people serving this body. Other than our terrific reading clerks, few of them get on camera, at least in terms of being identified. But without them, this House would not run nearly as well as it does. And to the extent that it does not run well, it is not for any lack of ability or dedication on their part but because the Members sometimes get out of hand.

But the staff that serves this House of Representatives, the people's House, is an extraordinary one. Each time we lose one of them by retirement or for any other reason, we are a lesser place. We will be a lesser place for some period of time because one cannot replace the 20 years of experience that Eve takes with her. But she takes with her the thanks and gratitude of all of us who are Members of this body. Whether brought in by the majority or the minority, Democrats or Republicans, matters not to any of our desk personnel or our Parliamentarian or our timekeepers or whatever their particular designation. They serve us well and they serve this country well.

Eve, I wish you and Tom the very best. You are still a very young person and you will have many years to enjoy service to church, service to God, but I know that you will continue in many ways to serve your country. I know you will take with you the deep affection and respect for this institution that you have served so well. Godspeed.

FAREWELL TO KIRK BOYLE

(Mr. CANTOR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and privilege to be here today to salute an individual who has served this House for many years, who is also leaving us today. Kirk Boyle first

started his career with this House with the former majority leader, Dick Armeey. He served as Dick Armeey's page in the House and later returned after schooling to be a floor assistant for Dick Armeey. In the last year he has become part of the majority whip's team and has been on the floor with leadership, with the majority whip ROY BLUNT.

Anybody who knows Kirk knows he is a source of accurate information. He always knows what is going on. He has been a tremendous asset to all of us.

Lastly, I would just like to note that I think he will be best remembered as the cofounder and creator of the Boyle-Turton precedent which, as you know, contributes to the expeditious proceedings of this House.

Again, I salute Kirk Boyle and wish him well as he continues his life journey and development as an individual as he goes and moves on to Chicago to perform some mission work and to do good for the people of this great land.

Congratulations. We will miss you, Kirk.

APPOINTMENT OF HON. TOM DAVIS OF VIRGINIA TO ACT AS SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE TO SIGN ENROLLED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS THROUGH SEPTEMBER 3, 2003

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 25, 2003.

I hereby appoint the Honorable TOM DAVIS or, if not available to perform this duty, the Honorable FRANK R. WOLF or, if not available to perform this duty, the Honorable ROSCOE G. BARTLETT to act as Speaker pro tempore to sign enrolled bills and joint resolutions through September 3, 2003.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the appointment is approved.

There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT OF INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR 108TH CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule II, and the order of the House of January 8, 2003, the Chair announces the joint appointment by the Speaker, majority leader and minority leader of Mr. Steven A. McNamara of Sterling, Virginia, to the position of Inspector General for the United States House of Representatives for the 108th Congress effective January 3, 2003.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 2(a) of the National Cul-

tural Center Act (20 U.S.C. 76h(a)), amended by Public Law 107-117, and order of the House of January 8, 2003, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Member of the House to the Board of Trustees of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts:

Mr. KENNEDY, Rhode Island.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL COUNCIL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to 36 U.S.C. 2301, and the order of the House of January 8, 2003, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to the United States Holocaust Memorial Council:

Mr. LANTOS, California;
Mr. FROST, Texas.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO BOARD OF VISITORS TO UNITED STATES COAST GUARD ACADEMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to 14 U.S.C. 194(a), and the order of the House of January 8, 2003, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Member of the House to the Board of Visitors to the United States Coast Guard Academy:

Mr. FILNER, California.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

THE HORROR STORIES OF CASTRO'S JAILS

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 rise this evening to draw attention to the continued plight of political prisoners locked away in Cuban jails. In March of this year, Fidel Castro began a campaign against political opposition. Over the course of a few weeks, Castro's regime arrested an array of political opposition leaders, including signers and supporters of a joint statement from the Cuban dissident community to the European Union, promoters of the Varela Project, members of the independent press, owners of independent libraries and members of Cuba's independent civil society.

Inside of a month, the dissidents were arrested, arraigned, tried and sentenced, some receiving prison terms as long as 27 years. The prisoners were refused access to their wives and family, allowed little or no legal defense and were denied the ability to read the state's case against them. The Cuban Government provided no information

about the trials and barred access to international journalists. However, that was only the beginning of Castro's reign of terror.

Accounts of psychological torture, abuse and neglect have slowly begun to emerge from Cuba's prisons. Stories of rat- and bug-infested cells, beatings, solitary confinement and a lack of medical treatment seem to be the standard in Castro's prisons. The accounts are so horrible that they have led a spokesperson for the U.S. State Department to declare that "the Cuban Government seems to be going out of its way to treat these prisoners inhumanely."

The wife of journalist Hector Maseda, sentenced to 20 years, shared his accounts of bed bugs so rampant in one jail that prisoners cannot sleep. Family members of journalist Oscar Espinosa Chepe, who is suffering from liver disease and gastrointestinal bleeding, shared his stories of being denied medical care. His family fears he may die.

The wife of Juan Carlos Gonzalez Leyva, a blind dissident, recently presented one of his letters to the U.N. Human Rights Commission in Geneva. In the letter he talks of the daily "sawdust shower" that he has been subjected to by a fellow inmate. Gonzalez writes that the substance "gives me the sensation of millions of bugs constantly running all over me." He continues, stating, "I don't know if this is a biological substance or a chemical agent. But I know that it is not insects because when I touch my skin there are no actual bugs that I can feel."

Other prisoners, Mr. Speaker, complain of leaking cells, no sheets, no pillows and no eating utensils.

Amnesty International recently declared the 75 dissidents and opposition leaders "prisoners of conscience." These 75 convictions bring Cuba's total to 90 "prisoners of conscience" currently in Cuban prisons. This makes Cuba the country with the highest number of prisoners with that status in the Western Hemisphere. Various other organizations inside and outside Cuba place the number of political prisoners at more than 300.

However, these are the stories and prisoner accounts that have managed to be leaked to the public. There is no telling what evils lurk in Castro's jails and what stories and horrors have yet to see the light of day.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me and condemn Castro's incarceration and mistreatment of the 75 dissidents and all of its political prisoners. Congress must send a strong message to Castro that the abuse of Cuban political prisoners has not gone unnoticed and will not be allowed to continue.

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

(Mr. PENCE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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TIME FOR AN END TO THE
ADMINISTRATION'S SECRECY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the special congressional panel looking into the September 11 attacks issued its report. It said the intelligence community could have done a much better job in protecting the American people. That truly is an understatement.

But what stands out is the fact that the Bush administration has taken secrecy to a new unacceptable level. The administration insists on keeping secret 28 pages of that report. It is widely believed that these 28 pages deal with the possible involvement of foreign governments in the 9/11 tragedy and specifically Saudi Arabia.

Mr. Speaker, the Bush administration clearly exaggerated the immediate threat to the United States posed by the regime of Saddam Hussein in order to justify the war in Iraq, and, indeed, I have supported the calls for an independent commission to get to the bottom of that deception.

The administration's credibility has been greatly damaged by the revelations about the manipulated statements in the President's State of the Union address. Now we have 28 pages of a report of a vitally important study that are being kept away from the American people.

Do the American people not deserve to know the truth, whole truth, the whole story about 9/11? Do the families of 9/11 not deserve to know? What is the Bush administration now hiding about Saudi Arabia's possible involvement? How can the Bush administration justify keeping this secret from the American people?

In an editorial entitled "Deception and Denial," the London-based Financial Times this morning says the following about the Bush administration:

"The scale of the Bush administration's official obstruction is clear." And the article goes on to say "The Bush administration has done everything they can do to make sure that's not the focus," said William Wechsler, a former White House official who coauthored a recent report critical of the Saudi failure to cut off financing for terrorist troops." The Bush administration wants "to talk about tactical breakdown, but they do not want to talk about the elephant in the room," i.e., specifically Saudi Arabia. According to the Financial Times, "the tantalizing glimpses of the Saudi role that survived the censor's pencil are by far the report's most potentially explosive aspects."

We know there were meetings between some of the hijackers and Omar al-Bayoumi, a Saudi citizen. What does that mean in the context of 9/11? There are reports that al-Bayoumi supplied at least some of the hijackers with cash. Is that true? Unless the Bush administration drops its insistence on secrecy, the American people and families of the victims of 9/11 might never know the truth.

The Bush administration says it cannot tell the American people the whole truth because of national security concerns. One should ask, is it national security that the Bush administration cares about or is it political security? Or could it be access to Saudi oil? As the Financial Times said this morning, "It is hard to avoid suspicion that some of the coyness may have political origins." The decision to keep this information secret adds "a new layer of haze over its credibility," says the Financial Times.

It is time for the Bush administration to tell the families and to tell the American people what it knows about the possible involvement of foreign governments or foreign nationals in the events of September 11, and no one should be exempt from that scrutiny. No country, no person. It is time for an end to the Bush administration's secrecy.

[From the Financial Times, July 25, 2003]

REPORT RAISES NEW QUESTIONS ON SAUDI
ROLE IN 9/11 ATTACKS

(By Marianne Brun-Rovet and Edward Alden)

WASHINGTON.—The September 11 hijackers received foreign-government support while they were in the US plotting the attacks on New York and Washington, the leader of a congressional inquiry charged.

The conclusion, which is strongly hinted at in the declassified parts of the inquiry's 900-page report released yesterday, will raise new questions about the role of Saudi Arabia in particular. The Bush administration insisted on deleting a 28-page section of the report that focused on the link to foreign governments.

Senator Bob Graham, the former Democratic intelligence committee chairman who led the investigation, said the hijackers "received, during most of this time [in the US], significant assistance from a foreign government which further facilitated their ability to be so lethal". He would not identify the government.

But he charged the Bush administration with refusing to release the information "to protect the country or countries . . . that were providing direct assistance to some of the hijackers".

The report also contains new evidence that US intelligence agencies and the Federal Bureau of Investigation knew far more about some of the hijackers activities than has been revealed.

While the administration has insisted that the plot could not have been unraveled from the information available, a congressional official said: "There was no smoking gun in the sense of all the details and the specifics in one piece of intelligence . . . But that is not the same as saying that this attack could not have been prevented."

Despite the deletions demanded by the administration, which held up the report's release for nearly seven months, it contains new evidence that indicates the Saudis may