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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m.

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2003, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 25 minutes, and each Member except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip limited to not to exceed 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate extend beyond 9:50 a.m.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) for 1 minute.

LIBERAL BIAS IN THE MEDIA

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, several days ago President Bush observed that "a lot of times there's opinion mixed in with news."

The media generally present a liberal bias. For example, the three major television networks all carry more negative stories about President Bush than positive ones. Two of the country's largest dailies, The New York Times and The Washington Post, have not endorsed a Republican for President since the 1950s. The few media organizations without a liberal slant do not have nearly as many viewers or readers. For instance, Fox News has less than 1 million viewers while the three network stations have 25 million.

In a democracy we cannot afford anything less than fair and accurate news coverage. The media should trust the American people with the facts, not tell them what to think.

WASHINGTON WASTE WATCH

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr.

BEAUPREZ) is recognized during morning hour debates for 1 minute.

Mr. BEAUPREZ. Mr. Speaker, I and many of my Republican colleagues calling ourselves the Washington Waste Watchers are concerned about out-of-control spending by the Federal Government. Especially concerning to us is waste, fraud, and abuse that is far too prevalent here in Washington. Allow me to highlight but a few examples.

Duplication of programs wastes enormous human and financial resources. By government reports we know that there are 342 separate economic development programs, 130 programs serving the disabled, 130 different programs serving at-risk youth, 90 early childhood development programs, 72 separate Federal programs dedicated to assuring safe water, 50 homeless assistance programs, 12 food safety agencies, and 23 separate agencies providing aid to the former Soviet Union.

Yet, Mr. Speaker, if ever we propose to consolidate or eliminate duplicitous programs to save taxpayers money, we are called heartless and insensitive rather than fiscally responsible.

I call on my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to tone down the rhetoric of class warfare and pull together for the common good of the people who have entrusted us as their representatives in this great Chamber.

CUBS' FAN SALUTES HIS NORTH CAROLINA CONSTITUENTS

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

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I want to revisit the recently concluded American and National League Championship Series. I represent neither Boston, New York, Florida, nor Chicago; but I

do have a direct interest in that two of the managers in the aforementioned series are my constituents in North Carolina's Sixth Congressional District. Manager Jack McKeon of the Florida Marlins calls Alamance County his home while Boston Red Sox skipper Grady Little hangs his hat in Moore County, known to many Americans as America's golf capital.

I am a long-time Cubs fan, Mr. Speaker, but I compromise my Cubs' loyalty in favor of my constituent Mr. MCKEON. And speaking of the Cubs, I hope the Chicago fans will permit the beleaguered left field fan who is now internationally known to become the beneficiary of goodwill in lieu of hostility. Steve Bartman, by his own admission, is a true-blue solid Cubs fan. An isolated ill-fated attempt to retrieve a foul ball does not a seven-game series make or break. Other circumstances as well contributed to the Cubs' elimination; so cut Steve Bartman some slack.

While my love for the Cubs caused me some anxiety while cheering for the Marlins, I felt no such discomfort while I was supporting Grady Little and his Bosox, since I am not a Yankee fan.

Mr. Speaker, permit me to focus on the World Series. Strike that. Permit me to focus on the 2004 World Series. Not unlike many American baseball fans, it is my hope that the Red Sox and the Cubs will square off in that series. Even then I may be forced again to relegate my Cubs' loyalty to the shelf in favor of Grady Little. Constituency loyalty, Mr. Speaker, runs deeper and closer to the heart than does baseball loyalty.

Finally, I extend my best wishes to Trader Jack McKeon and his Marlins as they attempt to conquer the Yankees. If this series, unfortunately, results in the Yanks prevailing, I will reluctantly tip my hat to them and to my New York colleagues who serve

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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here in the people's House with me. Insufferable fans though they are, on balance they are pretty good folks. Meanwhile, go Marlins.

WAXMAN AMENDMENT ON H.R. 3289

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, the company from which Vice President CHENEY, the sitting Vice President of the United States, the company from which he continues to draw \$13,000 a month, Halliburton, is back in the headlines.

The latest example of impropriety from the Vice President's company comes in the form of price-gouging gasoline in Iraq at the expense of American taxpayers. Halliburton is overcharging United States citizens, as reported in *The New York Times*, as reported in studies, to the tune of \$250 million, money we are not spending on prescription drugs for seniors, money we are not spending on education, money we are not spending on highways. Halliburton is overcharging U.S. citizens \$250 million, a ploy that independent experts have termed simply "highway robbery."

Here is how their scheme works: Halliburton procures gasoline that they generally get from Kuwait, gasoline that can be bought in the Persian Gulf for 71 cents a gallon. It could be transported to Iraq for no more than 25 cents per gallon. It is brought to the United States, to New York Harbor, for under a dollar. So they buy it for 71 cents; they transport it to Iraq for 25 cents. That brings the total to 96 cents a gallon. Halliburton then adds on its profit margin 2 to 7 percent, bringing the price total to \$1.03 a gallon. Yet Halliburton charges the Federal Government, the government where DICK CHENEY is the Vice President, the government where the Vice President, DICK CHENEY, used to work for Halliburton and still gets \$13,000 a month from Halliburton, Halliburton charges our government, us taxpayers, between \$1.62 and \$1.72, an extra 60 or 70 cents per gallon, a profit margin of over 55 percent. That is the \$250 million which independent experts have called highway robbery from Halliburton.

To add insult to injury, the American taxpayer subsidizes that cost when it is sold to the Iraqi people for between a nickel and 15 cents a gallon.

My constituents in northeast Ohio remember seeing gas prices skyrocket the afternoon of September 11, 2001, as some gas station owners sought to make profit from a national tragedy. It did not work for them when they tried that kind of war profiteering. Unfortunately, it is working for Halliburton, and my constituents are outraged that Halliburton is making money at our taxpayers' expense ultimately from a national tragedy.

The Bush administration has asked for an additional \$2 billion for the Iraqi oil sector. One billion of that would go to buying gasoline, cooking gas, kerosene, and diesel fuel for Iraq; and it costs about \$4 million a day. Halliburton will continue to pocket outrageous, some might say corrupt, profits.

All taxpayers bear the burden of unbid contracts, of price hikes, of inadequate supplies for our troops in Iraq. We are spending \$1 billion a week in Iraq. That number will go up as Congress just appropriated last week \$87 billion more for Iraq, as we had already appropriated \$70 billion before that. We are spending \$1 billion a week. A third of that money is going to private contractors. A lot of that money goes to Halliburton and Bechtel, companies close to the President. Companies which are major contributors to the President of the United States in those unbid contracts simply are not accountable.

At the same time, this administration has not been able to supply and to provide for our troops. Not enough safe drinking water for our troops. Too many of them have come down with dysentery. Not enough body armor, Kevlar jackets for our troops. One quarter of them do not have body armor. The administration has said by December, even though they knew they were going to war a year ago, they would finally get the body armor to our troops. All of that against the backdrop of \$1 billion a week, \$300 million of that going to unbid contracts to companies like Halliburton. And, again, understand, Mr. Speaker, Halliburton is still paying \$13,000 a month to the Vice President of the United States.

The private contractors seem to have all the money and supplies they want, but our troops do not. Something is wrong with this picture.

The gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN) offered an amendment to cure this gasoline gouging problem, this highway robbery problem where Halliburton has taken \$250 million extra from U.S. taxpayers. I cannot understand how Members of this body can support Halliburton as it continues to gouge the U.S. taxpayers. In almost a party-line vote, this House of Representatives rejected the amendment that would have stopped the abuses from Halliburton from the Vice President's company, that would have stopped this highway robbery.

The administration continues to give Halliburton a free hand to exploit American taxpayers for every last dime they could get. Halliburton should be ashamed. This Congress should be ashamed. The administration should be ashamed for that kind of a ripoff of U.S. tax dollars especially in wartime.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair

declares the House in recess until 10 a.m. today.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 13 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until 10 a.m.

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AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BASS) at 10 a.m.

PRAYER

The Reverend Tom Nelson, Senior Pastor, Denton Bible Church, Denton, Texas, offered the following prayer:

Could we pray. Our Father in Heaven, You created us. Your law, the edict of Thy very nature is our protection and our guide. Your benevolence continually sustains us. Your grace hath protected us always in the defense of the weak. Guide now these men and women to steer a clear path and to guide our Nation amidst the obstacles of our day. Grant them discernment to perceive the true, the courage to stand in it, and mercy to administer it to all.

And in so doing, may You be pleased and may You lift up the light of Thy countenance upon us. For Your pleasure is our solitary good and our confidence. May evil be winnowed at this our gate and may the sun of Thy favor rise upon us. For it is in Thy saving name that we pray. 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 gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey 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.

WELCOMING THE REVEREND TOM NELSON, GUEST CHAPLAIN

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, today is a special day for me and a special day for this House to have our deliberations blessed by the Reverend Tom Nelson.

Born in 1950 in Waco, Texas, Tom grew up in a family of four boys. For higher education, he chose the University of North Texas, my alma mater, where he graduated in 1973.