

MARCUS DIXON DOES NOT BELONG IN PRISON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 20, 2004, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today when regrettably when almost half of high school students report having had sexual intercourse, I want Members to consider the following: How would a court likely react when an 18-year-old star high school athlete, a student from a very disadvantaged background, manages a 3.9 average, 1200 on his SATs, full scholarship from Vanderbilt, is accused by a female acquaintance of rape after having sex with a girl less than 3 years younger. Now color the boy black and the girl white, and Members may not be surprised that Marcus Dixon received 10 years for this teen sex violation.

To the credit of the State of Georgia, the State amended its law almost 10 years ago to deal with sex between teens and made statutory rape a misdemeanor. The prosecutor, however, wanted a conviction very badly here because he piled on six different charges, most of them involving forcible rape, and an additional charge of aggravated child molestation which is reserved for very heinous crimes.

The jury had to contend with two very different versions. He said that she suggested please, let us not go to my house, my father is a racist and he has beaten me for less. She said she was a virgin and he raped her on a table. The jury apparently believed this was one more example of consensual teen sex by virtue of the fact that they convicted only for the misdemeanor rape charge. However, they left the aggregated child molestation charge because of testimony that she was a virgin, therefore bled, therefore had been injured; and he, therefore, was guilty of child molestation causing injury. For that injury, literally millions of teenage boys would be in jail as I speak.

That is where Marcus Dixon is, but many on the jury are dumbfounded because they believed that Marcus would walk out of court with a misdemeanor statutory rape conviction with the white couple who adopted him from his crack-addicted mother. The case is on appeal.

Male black, female white, harsh sentence, sound familiar? Consider if the girl had been black and the boy white, can Members imagine a 10-year sentence? Suppose both had been of the same race, can Members imagine a 10-year sentence?

The villain here is not only an overzealous prosecutor who treats teen sex as a sexual predator case and disregards Marcus' achievement in overcoming the kind of severe deprivation most of us have never had.

The villain also is mandatory minimums. For minor drug offenses, we

have put a generation of young black men in jail and left the black community with 70 percent of its children with no fathers and destroyed the black family. Let us be clear: We must do much more to teach our children to abstain from sex, but it is also time to teach prosecutors fairness and equal application of the law and to teach ourselves the injustice of mandatory minimums.

□ 1300

IN SUPPORT OF ISRAEL'S SECURITY FENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RENZI). Pursuant to the order of the House of January 20, 2004, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Israel's security fence. Next month the International Court of Justice (ICJ) at the Hague is scheduled to hold hearings on the international legality of Israel's security fence and it is my hope that the court will rule Israel's security fence a necessary measure to protect their people from the people who believe that their way to salvation is by killing Jewish women and children.

The construction of the temporary and defensive barrier is a legitimate means of protection and the lawfulness or appropriateness of this measure is not the issue. At issue is simply the question of whether complex and contentious issues can and should be placed before the International Court of Justice. The United Nations should not be imposing their politics on the sovereign nation of Israel.

The ICJ has been acting in an anti-Semitic, anti-capitalistic and anti-self-defensive manner. The court does not mention the fact that Israel is building the security fence to protect Israelis from over 20,000 attacks and that they have the right of self-defense and the attacks are the result of the Palestinian leadership's failure to take measures to prevent terrorism. Furthermore, the Palestinian government glorifies homicide bombers as martyrs and Yasser Arafat, the agent of terror, is still calling the shots and is a clear obstacle to President Bush's road map to peace.

Congress must send a powerful and clear signal to the U.N. and to the Palestinian Authority that the United States will not allow either to compromise the freedom and safety of the Jewish people.

U.S. FUNDING CUTS MEAN GREATER HUNGER, ILLITERACY AND POVERTY FOR CHILDREN AROUND THE WORLD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 20, 2004, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) is recognized

during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the President released his fiscal year 2005 budget proposal. Over the next few days there will be many speeches and analyses of his funding proposals. I would like to describe how previous budget cuts have affected just one program that both reduces hunger among children around the world and gets these kids into school. The George McGovern-Robert Dole International Food for Education Program began in 2001 with a \$300 million pilot program. Using American surplus commodities, organizations such as Catholic Relief Services, Save the Children and Mercy Corps and the U.N. World Food Program carried out school feeding programs in over 40 countries. Seven million children received at least one nutritious meal every day in a school setting through this program.

Last year, USDA evaluated these programs and found them to be very effective in reducing hunger and dropout rates among many of the world's most vulnerable children. Enrollment, attendance and academic performance increased, especially among girls. In short, providing food for education gave poor children, including girls, a new future. Unfortunately, since 2002, when Congress made this initiative permanent, McGovern-Dole has suffered significant funding cuts. In fiscal year 2003, President Bush only asked for and received \$100 million. And now in fiscal year 2004, the program will receive only \$50 million.

What does it mean for a program like McGovern-Dole to go from \$300 million to \$100 million? It means literally that food was taken away from nearly 5 million hungry children and many of their families were forced to take them out of school. In Nicaragua, 339,000 preschool and primary school children benefiting from McGovern-Dole were cut off from this food source. In El Salvador, another 45,000 children stopped receiving food at school. In Honduras, anemia among children benefiting from McGovern-Dole was reduced by 50 percent. Sadly, 167,000 of those children have now been cut off from the program. In Peru, 70,000 children living in areas of high chronic malnutrition no longer receive meals or snacks in school. In Colombia, where we routinely send hundreds of millions of dollars each year in military and security aid, we ended McGovern-Dole funding, forcing USAID to pick up the costs and stopping a planned expansion of the program to 165,000 more children.

In 2003, I visited one of the McGovern-Dole programs in Colombia. I was told by mothers, fathers, grandmothers and community leaders how the school and the meals were the one stable reality in these children's uncertain lives, and often the only food these children receive. And I was told time and again how these kids often leave home and join one of the guerilla or paramilitary groups simply because

these groups can provide them a daily meal.

So, thanks to our funding cuts, we are robbing money from USAID development programs to pick up the costs originally covered under McGovern-Dole. Does this make sense to anyone? School feeding programs in Chad and Kenya were also especially hard hit by the McGovern-Dole cutbacks, and 125,000 children in Congo and 35,000 in Eritrea also lost their funding. In Vietnam, the McGovern-Dole program administered by Land O'Lakes that provided meals to over 700,000 children was eliminated. A similar program in Bangladesh reaching 350,000 children has just run out of funds. Mr. Speaker, the list goes on and on and on.

Eliminating these programs also means that food produced by our hard-working farmers no longer finds its way to hungry school children around the world. Mr. Speaker, the McGovern-Dole program deserves to have its funding restored, not just because these programs work, not just because they help our farmers, not just because they reduce hunger among the world's most desperate children, not just because they get poor families to send and keep their children in school but because these programs, I believe, are central to our struggle to defeat terrorism.

For fiscal year 2005, President Bush has proposed \$75 million for McGovern-Dole, a modest increase from last year's devastating cutback to \$50 million. I am glad to see the number going back up, but it is simply not enough. I would call upon my colleagues and the Bush administration to find a way to bring the funding levels for McGovern-Dole back to \$300 million.

IN MEMORY OF CHRIS DUFFY, INDIANA BROADCASTING LEGEND

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 20, 2004, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, this week the State of Indiana said farewell to a memorable Hoosier and a dear friend, Chris Duffy, a man whose impact on Indiana broadcasting in the 20th century can scarcely be overstated but whose impact on the lives of thousands of Hoosiers, myself included, was greater still.

Chris Duffy was born in 1936 to George Christopher Duffy, who was himself a legendary band leader back in the days when traveling band leaders were the equivalent of rock stars today. Chris was born to a promoter and he was himself a born promoter. He came by it honestly.

Long before arriving in Indianapolis where he would run or build three out of the five television stations in that city, Chris Duffy cut his teeth on the first successfully syndicated daytime television show in history, the Mike Douglas Show. Young Chris Duffy was a producer for the Mike Douglas Show

and his energy and comic timing led not only to the show's success off the air but resulted in Mike Douglas actually routinely pulling a young Chris Duffy on-stage and turning him and his antics into a regular that contributed to that show and still contributes to quality daytime television today.

From the time Chris Duffy moved to Indianapolis in 1975 to his retirement a few years back, he was not so much a business leader as a force of nature. He transformed Channel 13 into an NBC affiliate and turned it into one of the premier local news stations in America. He built Channel 59 Television with several local leaders and then went on to build another independent UPN station. During a time when local broadcasting was thought a thing of the past, Chris Duffy made an investment in high school athletics as the leader of WNDY Television like no other.

His accomplishments, though, in people far outweigh his Indiana Broadcasting Hall of Fame career. Chris Duffy was all about his people. Whether it was recognizing that a young FM radio man named Tom Cochran who could someday reach the highest levels of recognition in local news or even recognizing that a young political has-been could achieve success in talk radio and someday in politics, Chris Duffy loved to bring out people's potential. He did it with toughness, straight talk and a heart that made you want to be better, better even than you ever thought you could be.

Chris Duffy was a devoted American. At the time of his retirement from the Marine Corps Reserve, he put in more than 20 years of distinguished service for his country in uniform and his courage was not just in uniform. While leading the NBC affiliate in Indianapolis in the early eighties, he broadcast a documentary of the Ku Klux Klan that drew death threats before it aired but Chris went ahead undeterred. Chris Duffy believed in America and in the highest ideals of the American people.

And Chris Duffy was about family. His 41-year marriage to Bobbi and his total devotion to Maureen, Karen, Susan and Chris pervaded everything he did. It was impossible to talk to Chris for any length of time and not eventually hear about Bobbi's opinion or some progress in his children's careers.

I last saw Chris Duffy over breakfast this last December. In his usual style he put the bad news up-front. He told me he had cancer and that it did not look good. But he also told me, MIKE, I'm not the least bit worried, and he reflected on his life, his family and his profound faith in God. He thought he had more time. When the Lord called him home last week, like so many other lives that he touched, I felt sorrow in my heart at the loss of a friend but not at the loss of a life. Chris Duffy lived a life and then some. Chris Duffy died, as he told me, rich in family, friends and accomplishments that any

10 men would envy. I have no complaints, he said, I'm not mad at God or anything like that, and he meant it.

Chris Duffy will be missed. He was for so many of us, as his father must have been before him, the leader of the band who believed that behind every instrument was a performer who still does not know how good he could really be. Thank you, Chris, and God bless you.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 11 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SIMMONS) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord God, Creator of the heavens and earth, be attentive to the prayers of the Members of the House of Representatives today.

By Your Provident Care answer the needs of this Nation, that we may enjoy prosperity and peace. Shed light upon the conscience of all, that Your holy will may be accomplished in and through Your people.

Inspire those who serve in leadership positions of government, religion, business, and in families, that the least in our midst be protected and the common good of all may be sought and brought to fruition, both now in our day and always. 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 Florida (Mr. FEENEY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. FEENEY 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.

PRESIDENT'S SIGNATURE ON OMNIBUS BILL MEANS VICTORY FOR AMISH COMMUNITY

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