

market going up in some cases, not very regularly, and so they get tax cuts because they are in the upper 1 or 2 or 5 percent income brackets. So the economy is going well for them. But unfortunately, it is simply not going well for so many others in this country.

I am not here to criticize and to throw cold water on their birthday party, but what I am here for is to say let us change direction, because those economic plans and programs have clearly not worked. For 3 years, the President has gotten whatever he wanted from this Congress in terms of tax cuts, in terms of cutting spending on education and health care and veterans benefits, but the economy and the country are worse off than they were 3 years ago.

In my State, we have lost one out of six manufacturing jobs since George Bush took office. Let me explain sort of what happened. There is a company in Ohio called Timken, T-I-M-K-E-N. It is a major employer and has been a good company for northeast Ohio and Canton, Ohio. It is President Bush's favorite company everyone says. The CEO of Timken, fourth generation, very wealthy family, are some of George Bush's biggest contributors and fund-raisers. A year ago President Bush came to Timken and spoke to assembled workers and mostly management and applauded the company because the workers are 10 percent more productive, a year ago 10 percent more productive than they were the year before, and congratulations to them and to that company for that.

But then earlier this year, Timken put out a news release saying that they enjoyed record sales for the first quarter, all-time record sales for Timken, and they said that they had a 60-some percent increase in earnings per share from a year ago. A week later Timken announced, we are building another factory in China and we are closing our three factories in Canton where the corporate headquarters is and laying off 1,300 well-paid Ohioans.

So that is what we are seeing. We are seeing on this side of the aisle, my Republican friends sort of parroting what George Bush is saying, saying this economy is really great; and we are hearing people on this side tell stories, with facts backing it up, about how we need change because these policies are not working. Clearly the policies are working if you are in the upper 5 or 10 percent, because corporate profits are up, dividends are up, tax cuts are being enjoyed by the 1 or 2 or 5 percent wealthiest people.

But in the case of so many others, there are more people that are receiving, going to food pantries, there are more people who are seeing their college educations going through the roof, the increases in college tuition, there are more people who have seen their drug benefits pulled back or scaled down or eliminated; and it is time that we take a different direction.

In this country when you criticize, you need to say, what do you do in place? We should pass the Crane-Rangel bill, which will reward American companies that manufacture here rather than abroad; instead of giving tax cuts abroad, pass unemployment benefits, and pass a better prescription drug bill.

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

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.)

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

RESTORING FIRST AMENDMENT RIGHTS TO SPIRITUAL LEADERS OF AMERICA ON POLITICAL AND MORAL ISSUES OF THE DAY

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

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am on the floor tonight because recently we remembered the 60th anniversary of D-Day, World War II. We remembered, we had Memorial weekend, Memorial Day, and then we had the funeral of President Reagan. I think we all remember the price of freedom from those who served in World War II and in all of our wars; and certainly Mr. Reagan led this great Nation as we tried to create freedom for other countries, and he certainly distinguished himself in that way.

I am here tonight to talk about what I consider a real threat to the morality of America, and that is that the spiritual leaders of this great Nation are prohibited from expressing their first amendment rights to speak out on the moral and political issues of the day.

Many people know the history of this. Some do, some do not. The history is that from the beginning of this great Nation, until 1954, a spiritual leader could speak in his church, synagogue, or mosque on any issue of the day and not feel that there would be any retribution from the Internal Revenue Service. Well, one might say, what do you mean the Internal Revenue Service? Well, in 1954, Lyndon Baines Johnson, a United States Senator, offered an amendment on a revenue bill going through the Senate that was never debated. In fact, the Republican majority accepted Senator Johnson's amendment on unanimous

consent, so there were no hearings, no debate, or anything. And basically what Mr. Johnson was trying to do at that time was the H.L. Hunt family in Texas was adamantly opposed to his reelection, and they had a couple of 301 think tanks, and so he wanted to quiet those think tanks. So, therefore, he put an amendment on a revenue bill going through the Senate that was never debated.

The unintended consequences of Mr. Johnson's amendment was and is the fact that churches that are 501(c)(3)s are prohibited from having any type of sermons that might be interpreted as being political at all. I do not know how one can uphold the teachings in the Bible if one does not talk about certain moral issues of the day.

This Nation was built on Judeo-Christian principles; and if this Nation is going to remain strong, then it must remember the Judeo-Christian principles that are the foundation of this great Nation.

The reason I wanted to come to the floor tonight, Mr. Speaker, is the fact that the bishop of Colorado Springs issued a pastoral letter to all of the Catholics in his diocese, and I will submit this entire letter for the RECORD.

The reason I bring this tonight to the floor is that the Bishop Sheridan of Colorado Springs has a responsibility to the teachings of Jesus Christ as well as the teachings of the Pope. Being a Catholic leader, he does feel very strongly about the pro-life issue; he does feel very strongly about stem cell research; he does feel strongly about euthanasia, the protection of our elderly. So he issued this pastoral letter reminding the Catholics in his diocese that in this year's election they should look carefully at those running for political office.

Now, he did not mention Democrat or Republican, he did not mention anything of that nature or the name of the candidates. But what he did was to issue this pastoral letter. And then Barry Lynn, who is the leader of the Americans for Separation of Church and State, noted in his letter of complaint to the Internal Revenue Service that Bishop Sheridan used "code words." Code words like pro-choice, pro-life, liberal, conservative, Democrat or Republican.

Mr. Speaker, this bothers me in this great Nation that we would have an agency that because of the Johnson amendment is to enforce the law, but this was not part of the Johnson amendment. There is nothing in the Johnson amendment that talks about code words. That was an administrative decision by the Internal Revenue Service that if you as a religious leader, whether you be Protestant, Catholic, Jew, or Muslim, if you have these types of sermons and you might mention these words like pro-life or pro-choice, then you could have your 501(c)(3) status jeopardized.

Mr. Speaker, I am of the firm belief that this Nation, I do not believe that

my colleagues on either side of the aisle, whether they are religious or nonreligious, believe that we should have code words that someone who is speaking from the heart, speaking from the Bible might get themselves in trouble because they are advocating what the church stands for, what their religion stands for.

So, Mr. Speaker, I tonight want to work toward my close by saying that I hope that we as a legislative body will look seriously at this issue. I do not know if the House will bring this bill up that I introduced, H.R. 235; but I believe sincerely that prior to 1954, every preacher in this country, every rabbi in this country, every priest in this country, every cleric in this country had the right to speak on these issues and to speak based on the Constitution and based on the teachings of their religion.

So, Mr. Speaker, with that, I would like to say that I hope that the men and women who have worn the uniform for this Nation, those who have given their lives for this Nation, I believe sincerely that they believe that our spiritual leaders in this great Nation do have freedom of speech; but when it comes to the moral and political issues of the day, they do not have freedom of speech. So I hope that again the leadership of both parties will work with me to restore that freedom of speech. It only means that a minister or a priest or a rabbi or a cleric, if they choose to talk about these issues, may do so.

I close by asking God to please bless our men and women in uniform and their families and please, God, bless America.

A PASTORAL LETTER TO THE CATHOLIC FAITHFUL OF THE DIOCESE OF COLORADO SPRINGS ON THE DUTIES OF CATHOLIC POLITICIANS AND VOTERS

DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST: This coming November we Americans will participate in one of the most important national elections in recent history. The president, senators and congressmen who are placed in office by our votes will serve at a time in which issues that are critical to the very survival of our civilization will be at the top of the political agenda. As we prepare for these elections I consider it my duty as your bishop to write to you about these matters so that you might go to the polls this fall with a well-informed conscience.

The Church teaches that "man has the right to act in conscience and in freedom so as personally to make moral decisions." Often we hear people claim that they are making decisions in accord with conscience even when those decisions defy the natural law and the revealed teachings of Jesus Christ. This is because of a widespread misunderstanding of the very meaning of conscience. For many, conscience is no more than personal preference or even a vague sense or feeling that something is right or wrong, often based on information drawn from sources that have nothing to do with the law of God.

The right judgment of conscience is not a matter of personal preference nor has it anything to do with feelings. It has only to do with objective truth. "Conscience must be informed and moral judgment enlightened. A well-formed conscience is upright and truthful. It formulates its judgments according to

reason, in conformity with the true good willed by the wisdom of the Creator. The education of conscience is indispensable for human beings who are subjected to negative influences and tempted by sin to prefer their own judgment and to reject authoritative teachings."

All people have a grave obligation to form their consciences by adhering to the truth, precisely as that truth is found in the natural law and in the revelation of God. As Catholics we have the further obligation to give assent to the doctrinal and moral teachings of the Church because "to the Church belongs the right always and everywhere to announce moral principles, including those pertaining to the social order, and to make judgments on any human affairs to the extent that they are required by the fundamental rights of the human person or the salvation of souls." In other words, as people who profess the Catholic faith, we must "have the mind of Christ" in every judgment and act.

Among the many distortions and misrepresentations that prevail in the current debates about the relationship between religion and the social order (politics) is the assertion that faith and policies are to be kept separated. This, apparently, is based upon the American doctrine of the separation of church and state. In fact, the wall that separates church and state is the safeguard against both the establishment of a state religion and the imposition of sectarian religious beliefs and practices, such as particular denominational forms of worship or theological tenets. In no way does the American doctrine of separation of church and state even suggest that the well-formed consciences of religious people should not be brought to bear on their political choices.

The Second Vatican Council was abundantly clear on this matter. "Nor, on the contrary, are they any less wide of the mark who think that religion consists in acts of worship alone and in the discharge of certain moral obligations, and who imagine they can plunge themselves into earthly affairs in such a way as to imply that these are altogether divorced from the religious life. This split between the faith which many profess and their daily lives deserves to be counted among the more serious errors of our age. Long since, the Prophets of the Old Testament fought vehemently against this scandal and even more so did Jesus Christ Himself in the New Testament threaten it with grave punishments. Therefore, let there be no false opposition between professional and social activities on the one part, and religious life on the other."

When Catholics are elected to public office or when Catholics go to the polls to vote, they take their consciences with them. Pope John Paul II has consistently taught this as, for example, when he said that those who are directly involved in lawmaking bodies have a "grave and clear obligation to oppose" any law that attacks human life. The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith has declared that, "in this context, it must be noted also that a well-formed Christian conscience does not permit one to vote for a political program or an individual law which contradicts the fundamental contents of faith and morals." Anyone who professes the Catholic faith with his lips while at the same time publicly supporting legislation or candidates that defy God's law makes a mockery of that faith and belies his identity as a Catholic.

In November we will once again have the privilege of exercising our most precious right as citizens—the right to vote. Our choices will be made from among an array of candidates who take a variety of positions with regard to many important issues. In the

midst of what could be a difficult and confusing exercise it is very important to remember that not all issues are of equal gravity. As men and women of good will we strive to achieve true justice for all people and to preserve their rights as human beings. There is, however, one right that is "inalienable", and that is the RIGHT TO LIFE. This is the FIRST right. This is the right that grounds all other human rights. This is the issue that trumps all other issues.

The November elections will be critical in the battle to restore the right to life to all citizens, especially the unborn and the elderly and infirm. As a result of the pro-life efforts of countless Americans the number of abortions performed in our country is now declining for the first time since the appalling Supreme Court decision of 1973 that made it "legal" to kill our children. We cannot allow the progress that has been made to be reversed by a pro-abortion President, Senate or House of Representatives. Neither can we permit illicit stem cell research that makes use of aborted babies. Any movement to promote and legalize euthanasia must be halted. Our votes have the power to stop these abominations.

There must be no confusion in these matters. Any Catholic politicians who advocate for abortion, for illicit stem cell research or for any form of euthanasia *ipso facto* place themselves outside full communion with the Church and so jeopardize their salvation. Any Catholics who vote for candidates who stand for abortion, illicit stem cell research or euthanasia suffer the same fateful consequences. It is for this reason that these Catholics, whether candidates for office or those who would vote for them, may not receive Holy Communion until they have recanted their positions and been reconciled with God and the Church in the Sacrament of Penance.

In recent months another issue has reached the level of our legislatures. It is so-called "same-sex marriage." Those who now promote this deviancy often present it as a human right denied homosexual persons and thus illegally discriminating against them. But, in fact, no one has a right to that which flies in the face of God's own design. Marriage is not an invention of individuals or even of societies. Rather it is an element of God's creation. It is God who created us male and female. It is God who joined man and woman so that they could be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth. Every civilization known to mankind has understood marriage as the union of a man and a woman for the procreation and rearing of children. And yet now, in 21st century America, there are those who would want us to believe that all people of all times have been mistaken about the true nature and purpose of marriage. No one can simply redefine marriage to suit a political or social agenda.

Once again, we must be clear about this matter. The future of our world depends upon the strength of the family, the basic unit of society. The future of the family depends on the state of marriage. The family—father, mother and children—reflects the nature of God Himself, who is a communion of selfless and self-giving love. For this reason marriage and family life cannot be whatever we want them to be. They are only and always as God has created them. As in the matter of abortion, any Catholic politician who would promote so-called "same-sex marriage" and any Catholic who would vote for that political candidate place themselves outside the full communion of the Church and may not receive Holy Communion until they have recanted their positions and been reconciled by the Sacrament of Penance.

The Church never directs citizens to vote for any specific candidate. The Church does,

however, have the right and the obligation to teach clearly and fully the objective truth about the dignity and rights of the human person. These teachings, in turn, must inform the consciences of voters. "By its intervention in this area, the Church's Magisterium does not wish to exercise political power or eliminate the freedom of opinion of Catholics regarding contingent questions. Instead, it intends—as is its proper function—to instruct and illuminate the consciences of the faithful, particularly those involved in political life, so that their actions may always serve the integral promotion of the human person and the common good."

Dear friends in Christ, I exhort you with all my heart to take courage and proclaim the Gospel of Life to those who will stand for elected office this fall. It is by your prayers and by your votes that politicians who are unconditionally pro-life and pro-family will serve our country. Conversely, if our voices remain silent or if, God forbid, we vote contrary to our informed consciences, we will see our country led down a short path to ruin. We want freedom for all, but there can be no freedom without truth. In the words of our Holy Father: "When freedom is detached from objective truth it becomes impossible to establish personal rights on a firm rational basis; and the ground is laid for society to be at the mercy of the unrestrained will of individuals or the oppressive totalitarianism of public authority."

Let us all pray for those politicians who claim to be Catholic yet continue to oppose the law of God and the rights of persons that, by the grace of God, they will be converted once again to the full and authentic articulation and practice of the faith.

Finally, I wish to affirm my brother bishops who have proclaimed the truth of these critical matters and who have admonished those Catholic politicians who place themselves at odds with the truth of God. May that truth which is the foundation of genuine freedom prevail in our country.

Given at the Chancery on this first day of May 2004, the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker.

Most Reverend MICHAEL J. SHERIDAN,
Bishop of Colorado Springs.

MANIPULATION OF ENERGY MARKET

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, 3 years ago, with a bipartisan group of lawmakers, I met with Vice President CHENEY to discuss the then crisis and run-up of electricity prices in the western United States. On a bipartisan basis, Republicans and Democrats, we told the Vice President that we believed the market was being manipulated by Enron and others, and he lectured us and told us that we were out to lunch, that this was nothing but market forces and, in fact, if we did not build a 500 megawatt electric generating plant every week for the next 16 years, prices would stay up at \$2,000 or \$3,000 a megawatt hour.

Now, of course, the transcripts are now out there from the Enron traders. I cannot read them on the floor because they are absolutely chock full of obscenities, but they carry on about a few things. They carry on about how

great it is going to be when the Bush administration goes to the White House, no more price caps; how Ken Lay was the greatest single contributor to George Bush over his political lifetime and might even be Secretary of Energy, or otherwise would be setting energy policy for the United States.

One has to wonder why Vice President CHENEY is still hiding the records of those conversations. Then, as they manipulated the market on 450 out of 573 days, one day they were on the phone yelling, cheering, "burn, baby, burn" as power lines were scorched by fire. They bragged about stealing millions from Grandma Millie in California.

□ 1800

They talked about withholding power, increasing prices, wandering power through Oregon and other neighboring States in order to jack up prices in California, and still today people in my State are paying about 43 percent more for their electricity than they did 4 years ago for the same electrons generated by the same plants because of these scams by Enron, scams that of course Vice President CHENEY said were nothing but market forces.

Now the Republicans are refusing to do anything about it. This energy bill does nothing to deal with what Enron has done to defraud the people of the western United States and roll back these illegal and unfair contracts and prices.

But now we are on to a new one, oil. Now, this is kind of familiar. DICK CHENEY and George Bush say it is market forces, nothing we can do about it. In fact, the White House has done nothing about the escalating oil prices here in the United States.

Now, it is kind of interesting because it is awfully similar to the electricity industry. There have been 2,600 mergers in the petroleum industry in the last decade. There are virtually no more small independent distributors, and many of the smaller companies have been gobbled up by others. Tremendous concentration in this industry.

Of course the same thing that follows with these market forces is an absolutely obscene runup in profits. We are seeing just in the first quarter this year British Petroleum 165 percent increase in profits. ChevronTexaco, 294 percent increase in profits. ConocoPhillips, a measly 44 percent. Their market forces are not working as well as the others, I guess. And Exxon-Mobil, 125 percent, and this next quarter promises to be even more lucrative for these companies.

Now, there was a day when the United States Congress set an independent path on critical issues to the American people, like the oil crises of the 1970s, and the Congress actually took definitive steps. They enacted windfall profit tax to get at the price gouging of the industry. They adopted

mandatory fuel economy standards. They in fact capped the price of fuel, because they knew that this was being manipulated and the American people were being gouged.

But not this Congress. This Congress is offering the same old lame energy bill that it passed 3 years ago, 2 years ago, last year, and now we are going to vote on it again, same bill, \$18 billion of subsidies to the suffering oil-gas industry that has record profits, profits of over \$700 billion last year, and the taxpayers should subsidize it. Oh, come on now. I guess that is market forces. No. Wait a minute. How can subsidizing the industry be market forces? Well, I guess it is socialism, but we do not count that as socialism because we are giving it to a meritorious industry that needs the money; or, well, it does not need the money but it should get the money.

Now, what is going on here? When are we going to begin acting on behalf of the American people? When is the Bush administration going to file their complaint in their favorite organization, the World Trade Organization? They love rules-based trade. They love the WTO, but guess what? Eight of the OPEC countries are in the WTO. They are violating the rules of the WTO by constricting supply to drive up prices; but the Bush administration, no, they are not going to file a complaint against OPEC.

Then of course there is the Petroleum Reserve, which the President is filling at outrageous prices, and the list goes on and on. I have offered productive alternatives, as have other Democrats, but this administration stands mute because their friends in the oil industry are making out like bandits.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENSARLING) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

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

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

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

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

ABUSE OF POWER BY SECRETARY RUMSFELD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr.