

Let the voice of the American people be heard. Let us condemn this unjust and disgraceful decision by the International Court of Justice.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take the Special Order time of the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY).

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GINGREY). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

#### THE REPUBLICAN MAJORITY

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, it has been a bad week in Washington. Adding to their laundry list of legislative arm twisting, House Republicans yesterday once again bent democracy to fit their needs by holding a traditional 15-minute vote open for 38 minutes until they were able to change the outcome of the vote to their favor.

It was not an isolated incident of arrogant disregard for the political process by Republican leadership in this Congress. It was an example yesterday of the "modern-day" Republican and their win-at-all-cost style of governance. Never before when the Democrats were in control or when Newt Gingrich was Speaker of the House, never before has this House of Representatives operated in such secrecy.

At 2:54 a.m. on a Friday in March, 2003, the House cut veterans' benefits by three votes. At 2:39 a.m. on a Friday in April, the House slashed education and health care by five votes. At 1:56 a.m. on a Friday in May, the House passed the tax cut bill, weighted especially towards millionaires, by a handful of votes. At 2:33 a.m. on a Friday in June, the House passed the Medicare privatization bill by one vote. At 12:57 a.m. on a Friday in June, the House eviscerated Head Start by one vote. And then, after returning from summer recess, at 12:12 a.m. on a Friday in October, the House voted \$87 billion for Iraq. Always in the middle of the night, always after the press had passed their deadlines, always after the American people had turned off the news and gone to bed.

What did the public see? At best, Americans read a small story with a brief explanation of the bill and the vote count in the Saturday newspaper. And people here, the Republican lead-

ership, knows that Saturday is the least read newspaper of the week.

What did the public miss? They did not see the House votes, which normally take 15, 17, sometimes 20 minutes, they did not see them dragging on for as long as one hour as members of the Republican leadership trolled for enough votes to cobble together a Republican victory. They did not see GOP leaders stalking the floor for whoever was not in line. They did not see the gentleman from Illinois (Speaker HASTERT); they did not see the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), majority leader; they did not see the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), majority whip coerce enough Republican Members, arm-twisting them, berating them sometimes, threatening them sometimes, offering them things sometimes. They did not see them switching their votes to produce the desired results. In other words, they did not see the subversion of democracy.

Then in November they did it again. The most sweeping changes in Medicare in its 38-year history were forced through the House at 5:55 on a Saturday morning. The debate started at midnight. The roll call began at 3 o'clock late Friday night/early Saturday morning. Most of us voted with this plastic card that we were given within the 20 minutes allotted. Normally the Speaker would have gavelled the vote. The vote would be completed. But not this time because the bill was losing.

By 4 a.m., the bill had been defeated, 216 to 218. Still the Speaker refused to gavel the vote closed. Then the assault began. The gentleman from Illinois (Speaker HASTERT); the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY); the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT); the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS), the Committee on Ways and Means chairman; and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. TAUZIN), the Committee on Energy and Commerce chairman, all searched the House floor for Republican Members to bully.

I watched them surround the gentleman from Cincinnati, Ohio (Mr. CHABOT), trying first a carrot, then a stick. He believes what he does. He remained defiant. He showed his integrity. Next they aimed at the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SMITH), retiring congressman, and these are his words as I tell this story, whose son is running to succeed him. They promised support if he changed his vote to "yes." They promised \$100,000 for his son's campaign. They said if he refused, they threatened his son's future.

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He stood his ground, again showing integrity and courage.

Many of the two dozen Republicans who voted against the bill had fled the floor. One Republican headed into the Democratic cloakroom. I saw her there about 5:30.

By 4:30, the browbeating had moved into the Republican cloakroom, out of

sight of the C-SPAN cameras and out of sight of the insomniac public. Republican leaders woke President Bush, a White House aide passed a cell phone from one recalcitrant Republican Member to another.

At 5:55, two hours and 55 minutes after the roll call had begun, twice as long, twice as long, as any roll call had ever taken in this House of Representatives, two western Republicans emerged from the cloakroom. They walked down this aisle, ashen and cowed, to the front of the Chamber. They picked up cards on this table, they picked up a green card, they surrendered their card to the Clerk, the Speaker gavelled the vote closed, and Medicare privatization passed.

You can do a lot in the middle of the night, under the cover of darkness.

That is what the Republicans did again this week. You wonder how they are going to violate democracy in the weeks ahead as we preach democracy in Iraq and around the world.

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

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

#### ECONOMIC POLICIES OF CURRENT ADMINISTRATION WORKING

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

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, each month the Joint Economic Committee has the opportunity to receive job growth data from the Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics. This month, the JEC was pleased to receive good news; fortunately, good news of two kinds: First, many good paying jobs are being created in large numbers in the U.S. economy; and, second, job growth continues at a rapid rate.

The June payroll employment increases pushed the total employment gains since August to 1.5 million jobs. According to the new data released a week ago by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, job growth continues today as the payroll employment increased by 112,000 jobs in June.

During the past few days, however, some have contended that most of the recent employment gains are in low wage jobs. Quite the contrary is true. Occupations that are relatively well paid accounted for over 70 percent of the net increases in employment between June of 2003 and June of 2004.

Although this does not mean that all of the jobs that were created in these categories were high-paying, most of them were. The jobs in these occupational categories are generally highly paid. It does indicate that most of the recent employment gains have not

been disproportionately in low-wage occupations, as some in this House have claimed.

Specifically, according to the statistics from the Bureau of Labor Statistics Household Survey, between June 2003 and June 2004, 71.4 percent of the net increase in employment was in three relatively well-paid occupational categories: Management, professional and related occupations, that category comprised 23.1 percent of the job gains; construction and extraction occupations, that is, mining occupations, accounted for 36.1 percent; and installation, maintenance and repair occupations accounted for 12.2 percent.

The earnings in these occupational categories are higher than the median and much higher than the earnings of the typical low-income worker. Most of the workers in well-paid occupations have earnings in the middle range or higher.

These employment figures indicate that most of the new jobs are not at low wage levels, but at higher levels of earnings. We have been hearing assertions about "hamburger flippers," jobs dominating employment for about 20 years now. Those stories have not come true. It just is not happening. We are not about to become a Nation of hamburger flippers.

The data shows that most of the recent employment gains have been in relatively well paid occupations. This is good news for the American worker and is good news for the American family. It means that the low-paying job problem that accompanied the economic downturn which began in the last half of 2000, during the Clinton administration, has been rectified.

It further means that the economic policies of the current administration are working to bring pocketbook issues into a positive state.

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

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

#### KNOWLEDGE IS POWER IN AMERICAN POLITICS

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, knowledge is power. That is the hope for America right now. That is the hope, that the American people will see what is happening in the people's House at the direction of the White House.

Democracy was subverted in a brazen manner here, and it is because of the administration that has a policy that States' ignorance is a virtue.

The President of the United States proudly says, "I don't read newspapers.

I don't read books, except for children's books when there is a photo-op possibility. I only take information that is pre-chewed by my staff and brought in to me and given to me." We will talk more about that later.

But the fact is the reason they want the PATRIOT Act is because as a part of this "ignorance is a virtue" policy, we have got to keep the American people ignorant. How can you do that? Keep them out of the libraries. We do not want them going into the libraries and reading books and finding out things that the President does not even know. What will happen if the people know more than the President?

So, the PATRIOT Act says, give the CIA and the FBI the ability to come into the library and see what you, the American people, are reading. What is going on here?

Now, this body came out here and took that power away. But it was suppressed. Democracy was suppressed in this body. After we restored the basic freedoms and civil liberties guaranteed by the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, we took away the people's right to read whatever they want without having the government snooping over their shoulder.

Democracy was censored after the American people's representatives had spoken loudly and clearly through their elected representatives, Democrats and Republicans. This was not just Democrats. The people told us to restore some of the basic freedoms and the civil liberties subverted by the PATRIOT Act. We did it out here on this floor.

But King George III did not want that. He wanted a different outcome. Democracy was subverted in a brazen display of raw political arrogance ordered by the administration and executed by the Republicans. America has never been so divided.

The Republican America is a place where the polls stay open until the Republicans win. Now, you have all voted in an election. You go to the polls and they close at 8 o'clock. You cannot come at 8:10 and say, "Hey, I want to vote." They are closed. It is over. You only can vote until then.

The Republican America is a place where the voice of the people is drowned out by the iron will of this administration. They did it right here on the floor. The Republican America is a place where fear is useful and greed is very, very good.

The Republican America is a place where democracy is endangered by an administration unwilling to accept the will of the American people.

Mr. Speaker, knowledge is power. The administration preordained the war in Iraq. They decided they were going to war. They manufactured reasons and they remanufactured responses as knowledge of the President's war choices began to reach the American people and turned out to be false.

The Senate Intelligence Committee has just put out a report which is just

the tip of the iceberg. They say the CIA gave bad information to the President. Remember, the President does not read anything himself. He does not read the newspapers, he does not read books. He lets people he trusts come in and tell him what has happened.

So, the CIA is at fault for why we are in Iraq. There is no other answer. Our President could not be at fault, because he took the word of people he trusted.

Now, the CIA is not without fault, but they are not solely to blame. What about the trips that Vice President CHENEY made out to Langley to the CIA headquarters, and twisted arms and said, "Can't you find some reason here why we can go into Iraq?" He did it five times, so that when the information came from the CIA to the President, who did not know anything else, he took what Mr. CHENEY squeezed out of the CIA. The process behind the intelligence was tainted. What did the administration know? What did they ignore, mischaracterize or discount, because it did not fit their agenda?

The checks and balances of this government were broken down by an administration that had a blank check from the Congress: "Go out and do anything you want on the war on terror." So they had the blank check in their pocket.

Then they had to have a clear intent for why they should invade Iraq, so they had to go to the CIA: "Give us a reason. Come on, give us a reason. There has got to be a reason. Come on."

The CIA is not without fault, but they are far from alone in leading us to war in Iraq. The administration will happily make them a scapegoat. Put it all on them and send them out in the wilderness. Blame George Tenet, blame all the analysts, public servants, all the public officials. Nothing at the White House. "We are blameless," they say.

I ask every American to compare what the administration will do in the next few days. On this weekend they are going to spin that idea all weekend. "We are blameless. We are blameless. The CIA is to blame."

Just compare that with what John Kennedy did after the Bay of Pigs. President Kennedy accepted responsibility. He had the CIA telling him things. He listened to them and he allowed it to happen, and he said "The buck stops at my desk. I made the decision. I was wrong."

Now, does anybody in this country believe that the President will admit that any mistakes have occurred in Iraq because of his decision making? Will this administration tell the American people that they should be held accountable for a needless war in Iraq?

Can you imagine the President coming on television and saying, "Well, we made some mistakes and I shouldn't have taken us into Iraq. The 1,000 people who have died were for naught."

John Kennedy accepted the blame. Will this President do that? The buck