

in other times of need, like during World War II and the 1979 energy crisis.

If President Bush had asked America in the days after September 11 to cut down on the use of fossil fuels in order to reduce our dependence on Middle East oil, America would have responded. Sadly, the President did not ask us to do any such thing.

Instead of asking Americans to sacrifice, President Bush irresponsibly gave the top 1 percent of Americans a huge tax cut, leaving our children and their children to pick up the tab for the unnecessary war in Iraq, a cost already over \$200 billion. Because nothing endangers America's security more than our reliance on Mideast oil, instead of promoting these reckless tax cuts, the Bush administration should have advocated immediate development of sustainable and renewable energy alternatives.

I am not the only one who realizes this. Just ask the good people at Physicians for Social Responsibility, the Friends Committee on National Legislation, and Women's Action For New Direction. These groups understand that our dependence on unsustainable energy sources, like Mideast oil, undermines America's security and our health.

And speaking about health, 50 years from now, our children will ask us how we allowed starvation, poverty, and diseases like HIV and AIDS and tuberculosis to flourish in other countries while the citizens of wealthy nations who have so much were not inflicted as greatly. That is why any attempt to fight terrorism must also include providing humanitarian aid to the poorest nations. Humanitarian aid in the form of food and medical supplies would restore hope to the world's poorest people. Nothing breeds terrorism like the hopelessness and despair brought about by starvation, disease and poverty.

For sure, the United States needs to lead the rest of the world when it comes to fighting terrorism, but the U.S., the strongest and richest country in the world, must lead by example rather than through invading other nations and killing thousands of innocent civilians in the process.

Throwing our weight around will not gain the support of other nations. Instead, we must meet our obligations under the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, the Biological Weapons Convention, and the Chemical Weapons Convention. There has to be a better way to respond to the threats America faces. That is why I have introduced H. Con. Res. 392, a SMART security platform for the 21st century. SMART stands for Sensible Multilateral American Response to Terrorism.

SMART security treats war as an absolute last resort. It fights terrorism with stronger intelligence and multilateral partnerships, and it controls the spread of weapons of mass destruction with aggressive diplomacy, strong regional security arrangements and

vigorous inspection regimes. SMART security defends America by relying on the very best of America, not our nuclear capabilities but our capacity for multinational leadership and our commitment to peace and freedom around the world.

Madam Speaker, the true moral test of our government is not how many wars we win, it is our compassion, our compassion for those in the world who are less fortunate than we are. It is how we treat these individuals that determines the true moral quality of America. Physicians for Social Responsibility, the Friends Committee on National Legislation, Women's Action For New Direction, and many Americans understand this.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 5149. An act to reauthorize the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grant program through March 31, 2005, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5183. An act to provide an extension of highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund pending enactment of a law reauthorizing the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 2436. An act to reauthorize the Native American Programs Act of 1974.

□ 1815

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Michigan). 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 Extensions of Remarks.)

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. NORWOOD. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the Special Order time of the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) at this time.

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

There was no objection.

JUDGES OF MADISON COUNTY, PART 2

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

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor to once again discuss the

judges of Madison County, Illinois, Part 2. It sounds like a book. Maybe it will be; maybe it should be.

Last night I rose to address what the American Tort Reform Association calls America's number one judicial hellhole, also known as Madison County, Illinois. As I promised then, I am back to shine a little more light into that hole. There is absolutely no doubt the ripple effect of frivolous civil lawsuits has been felt in every corner of this great country. When greedy trial lawyers get together to brainstorm which companies they can sue for millions and millions of dollars and put no less than 40 percent of their winnings in their own pocket, everyone loses; everyone, that is, except the trial lawyers. And one greedy trial lawyer who makes darn sure he never loses when it comes to lining his own pockets is Randall Bono from Madison County.

Mr. Bono has made a fair living doing business in this judicial hellhole on the backs of hardworking men and women. In fact, he was able to retire at the age of 42 from the millions of dollars that he won in asbestos civil lawsuits.

Madam Speaker, I may never know how Mr. Bono or other trial lawyers sleep at night knowing they have made their fortunes because of civil injustice being doled out in Madison County, Illinois, but I know as long as this hellhole remains open for business and scoundrels like Mr. Bono use it to take hard-earned money away from working folks, I will be in the well night after night in this House to stand up to say enough is enough.

I rise tonight specifically to address the first amendment violations of the courts of Madison County, Illinois. That is right; with the court's authority in Madison County, trial lawyers have violated or at least chilled the exercise of first amendment rights held by members of the media and civil defendants.

I admit, Madam Speaker, it is a rare occasion for me to stand up and defend the media, but I simply cannot and will not let the courts of Madison County trash the rights our forefathers worked so hard to ensure for everybody. If Members think the media or anyone else is safe from the wrath of Madison County, think again, Madam Speaker. Consider just a few of the cases outlined in my letter to Attorney General Ashcroft requesting a formal investigation of Madison County, Illinois and all their shenanigans.

In one effort to trash somebody's first amendment rights in Madison County, a plaintiff's law firm made legal maneuvers in June 2004 to try and force defendants to share and discuss any associations with or support of groups promoting tort reform. At least one of these groups has filed a motion for protective order with the court because their feelings about tort reform have absolutely nothing to do with the case before them, and forcing them to share this information is an infringement of their first amendment rights.

The Wall Street Journal editorialized that the plaintiff firm's requests have no legal merit and their purpose is simply to intimidate and coerce these folks.

In June 2003, the presidents of several major tort reform associations got slapped with subpoenas only after they appeared at a press conference to speak out against the outrageous litigation abuse in Madison County, Illinois. The subpoenas demanded that two of the individuals travel halfway across the country a month later to appear for a deposition in a product liability case. Once again, the clear purpose of these subpoenas was to harass and intimidate.

At an April 2004 public forum hosted by Washington University Law School in St. Louis, former U.S. Attorney General and former U.S. Court of Appeals Judge Griffin Bell said that counties like Madison County that are known for treating civil defendants unfairly are a stain on our system. Judge Bell called for a Federal investigation into the administration of civil justice in Madison County, but again the wrath of the judicial hellhole was felt the very next day. A Madison County judge retaliated by barring Judge Bell and his firm from appearing in their courtroom.

Madam Speaker, we will continue this discussion every night until somebody looks into the injustices of Madison County, Illinois.

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I ask to proceed out of order and take the time of my Special Order at this time.

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

There was no objection.

ACCUTANE'S IMPACT ON BRAIN

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

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, last night I spoke on the floor about the troubling new information about the effects of Accutane. I will continue to speak out and advise Americans about the dangers of Accutane until the FDA does its job.

Next to me is a PET scan taken from a study completed by Dr. J.D. Bremner from Emory University. It is a brain scan of a patient who took Accutane. The first scan on the far right is the baseline scan before the patient even began Accutane. On my left here is a

scan after 4 months of Accutane treatment. Dr. Bremner studied 30 patients, 15 on Accutane and 15 on antibiotics.

His research found that Accutane affects the metabolism of the orbitofrontal cortex, a brain area known to mediate depression in the front part of the brain. Four months after the baseline PET scan was taken, he found that with antibiotics, they had no changes in the brain. Accutane patients, those who complained of headaches, had a change in the front of the brain.

Even an untrained eye can see there is a difference in this PET scan. There is a 21 percent difference in the brain after 4 months of Accutane.

Dr. Bremner will present the findings of his study in November at a neuroscience conference. I will share those complete findings at that time. For now, his abstract is found on the Internet and we can see that Accutane causes changes in brain function.

Why is this important? Here is an e-mail I received from a family in North Carolina. "On July 12, 2004, our precious 17-year-old son, Nicholas, took his life by a gunshot to his head. He had been taking the drug Accutane. I have read about what happened with your son, and certainly understand what you and your family are feeling. Like your son, Nicholas was a star athlete and honor student. Please send us any information you think would be of help. We are overcome with grief and still have a hard time realizing that he could take himself away from us and his four siblings."

I receive an e-mail like this on average once a week or so. As of 2004, according to reports received by the FDA, there have been 235 suicides associated with Accutane. The FDA admits they are receiving only 1 of 10 percent of the actual events being reported. If 235 suicides represents 10 percent of the total, that would mean there are actually 2,350 suicides associated with this drug. If 235 suicides have been reported and it represents 1 percent of the total, that would mean there are actually 23,500 suicides associated with this drug.

Still, the drug manufacturer, Hoffmann-LaRoche, Roche Pharmaceuticals, continues to deny that Accutane affects the brain. Just look at this scan. It does. FDA believes there is a link. That is why there is a bold warning on its label, "Accutane may cause depression, psychosis, and, rarely, suicide ideation, suicide attempts, suicide, and aggressive and/or violent behaviors."

However, the FDA says they do not know the reason for this link. They need to look at these PET scans. They need to demand research, they need to demand answers. The bottom line, 235 young people have taken their life while on Accutane, including our son, B.J., who died in May of 2000.

Some patients never recover from their adverse effects to the drug. There is damage to the brain. I am constantly

receiving e-mails like this one from Michigan. "Dear Congressman, Just a note to thank you for your ongoing effort to educate the public about the dangers of Accutane. I am a psychiatric social worker in a hospital emergency room, and whenever I meet an adolescent patient who is depressed and taking Accutane, it raises a red flag. I make sure that the other social workers are informed about its link with depression and suicide, as I have a personal connection with it."

"My son Eric was an outgoing, happy kid and a respected leader in his school. He began taking Accutane at age 16 and, a few months later, began having difficulty keeping up in school. He failed to turn in homework and his grades took a nose-dive. To make a long story short, he became deeply depressed and he began talking about ending his life. That is when we knew this was not the run-of-the-mill ups and downs that teenagers sometimes have. We did manage to get help for him, but it was a long journey through a dark tunnel of despair. He is now 23 and still has a bright, articulate mind, but he is forever marked by the depression that stole his joy during adolescence. It is because of his journey that I have added an MSW degree to my high school teaching credentials, so I can be more educated to help young people who are at risk."

As we can see, there is damage done to the brain. Why the FDA allows Roche to continue to market this drug is beyond me. We should not leave this drug out there until these questions are answered. Questions such as, is this damage to the brain permanent? For more than 20 years, the FDA has done little to address the adverse effects caused by Accutane. We know Accutane affects the brain. It is time for the FDA to pull this drug from the market until all of the questions surrounding Accutane are fully addressed.

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

(Mr. CONYERS 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 Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio 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 New York (Mr. HINCHEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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