

The Washington Post goes on to say in this front-page article that, "The GOP rule drew little notice until this fall, when DELAY's associates were indicted and Republican lawmakers began to worry that their majority leader might be forced to step aside."

"House Republicans recognize that DELAY fought fiercely to widen their majority, and they are eager to protect him from an Austin-based investigation they view as baseless and partisan," said one of the Republican Congressmen. He is quoted as saying, "That's why this (proposed rule change) is going to pass . . . because there is a tremendous recognition that TOM DELAY led on the issue to produce five more seats for the Republicans." After emerging from a meeting of the Republican Conference, it was assumed that in fact the rule would pass.

It did, in fact, pass. I think that it is absolutely disgraceful that it did. And I was very pleased also to see in Congress Daily today that the Democrats, who have a similar rule that requires a ranking member to step down in the event of an indictment, are now working to change the caucus rules to include a provision similar to the one that the GOP just overturned.

So what we will have now is the Republicans saying that they never wanted to do this and that if any of their leadership ever was indicted that they would certainly ask them to step down. Now that they face the possibility, they have decided to change their minds. It does not say much about ethical lapses, and it certainly, I think, will get a lot of scrutiny from the American people who will not want to see this change take place.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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.)

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

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

CARING MORAL VALUES

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, on November 2, Ohio Democrats took our moral values to the polls. For many of us, our faith guided us, too, and our final vote for President was far too close to declare Ohio as a State full of evangelical fundamentalists.

For many of us, moral values are guided in our religious faith. My Lu-

theran upbringing instructs me and my fellow Christians in the teachings of Jesus to read and to follow as best we can the words of the Beatitudes, to try to live our lives and practice our politics as Jesus would have wanted us to.

For others of us, those moral values take the form of a faith in our country's greatness to solve our most pressing problems of racial inequality, of inaccessible health care, of the poverty of millions of American children, and of the war in Iraq.

For 3 years I have worn a lapel pin depicting a canary in a cage. A century ago, miners took a canary into the mines to warn them of toxic gasses. Miners were forced to provide for their own protection. No mine safety laws, no trade unions able to help, no real support from their government.

A baby born in those days had a life expectancy of about 47 years. Today, because of public health initiatives, worker safety laws, Medicare, Social Security, protections for children and minorities and the disabled, as a result we live decades longer. Every bit of progress in the struggle for economic and social justice often rooted in our Judeo-Christian beliefs, every bit of progress prevailed over the opposition of society's most privileged and most powerful.

Today, those struggles continue. Our fight for seniors who are forced to choose between medicine and food in our fight against the large pharmaceutical companies' greed comes from our understanding of the holy word.

Our opposition to tax cuts for America's most privileged adults and Head Start cuts afflicting our least privileged children follow from the teachings of Christ.

Our opposition to the death penalty, keep in mind George Bush approved an execution every 2 weeks during his 6 years as governor of Texas, our opposition to the death penalty is grounded in the scriptures.

Our belief that government programs like Medicare and Medicaid and Social Security, not privatized imitations of those programs, those programs should serve all Americans. Our belief that they should serve all Americans bespeaks a faith in the greatness of our country and its ability and willingness to lift up all of God's children.

As we have seen over the last 4 years, Republicans campaign to their religious friends on their moral values, mostly opposition to abortion and gay rights, and then govern for and with their corporate allies and contributors.

On the floor of the House of Representatives in the light of day we hear much talk from our Republican friends about moral values. But in the committee rooms and in the cloakrooms and in the back of the Chamber, choices are so often made and deals are cut that run counter to the teachings of Christ and Mohammed and the Jewish prophets and fly in the face of the values upon which our Nation was founded.

This Congress hurts families by underfunding Leave No Child Behind and college student loans, while giving tax cuts to the wealthiest among us.

This Congress hurts the elderly by defeating legislation to bring down the price of prescription drugs and then passing a Medicare bill that further enriches the drug and insurance industry.

This Congress hurts our God's earth when it caves to the energy and chemical companies.

This Congress hurts our communities when it gives tax breaks to encourage the largest corporations to outsource our jobs.

This Congress hurts our grandchildren when it loads huge burdens of debt on future generations.

Those are not the right moral values.

Tens of thousands of Ohioans worked feverishly for months to help change our Nation's course because of our moral values, because of our faith in God and because of our belief in the Nation's history of taking care of the least among us.

In no way do I question the faith of my political opponents, but I am weary of the far right's claim that they are the only ones guided by the hand of God.

My understanding of the teaching of Christ, my religious upbringing calls me to walk a different path and to express and act upon my faith in the cause of social and economic justice.

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

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

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSWOMAN DENISE MAJETTE

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

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. MAJETTE) is a lifelong public servant who has spent her career fighting for our families and our children.

DENISE MAJETTE was born into a working-class family, her mother, a teacher, and her father, a civil servant, who instilled in her the values of hard work, dedication to public service and strong religious beliefs. It is these childhood lessons that guided her life and her rise from these roots against tremendous odds to become one of the first African American women to attend Yale University and Duke University School of Law.

Upon graduation, DENISE MAJETTE answered the call of public service, joining the Legal Aid in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, as a staff attorney. At Legal Aid, DENISE MAJETTE helped hardworking families who were struggling to make ends meet.

After moving to Georgia in 1983, Ms. MAJETTE continued working for her community, serving as a law clerk for the Georgia Court of Appeals, a special assistant attorney general and an administrative law judge. Then in 1993, Ms. MAJETTE was appointed as a judge on the State court of DeKalb County.

In 2002, DENISE resigned from the bench and was elected to Congress, a talented legislator fighting for our children, our seniors, our veterans, and yes, our families.

DENISE lives the lesson her parents taught her, that to whom much is given, much is required. So when it looked like time was running out for Democrats in Georgia, she put it all on the line. When no one else was willing to take a chance and give up what they had, DENISE made that sacrifice, and we thank her for her courage, her determination and for the thousands of new voters in Georgia.

She made history, the first African American woman in Georgia, and that is the deep south, to become the Democratic nominee for the United States Senate. The Democratic nominee for the United States Senate from Georgia, just think about that. There were a lot of little girls watching this race. They saw DENISE's commercials. They saw DENISE debate time and time again and hold her own. They saw a legitimate, professional campaigner. Those little girls now know about a new option, a new path in life that is open to them.

It is rare these days to meet a politician who is willing to make real sacrifices, someone willing to put it all on the line for the greater good. DENISE MAJETTE serves as a reminder to all of us that this position we hold is not really about us. It is not about how many titles we obtain or how many plaques hang on our walls or how many dollars we raise.

We are here to be of service. We are not celebrities, but we are servants, and I thank DENISE for reminding us of that.

So, Mr. Speaker, we are so proud of DENISE MAJETTE and all that she has accomplished, and I do not have to wish her luck because with her faith in God, who is on her side, a strong conscience and an unshakable will, DENISE MAJETTE will never need it. She will be sorely missed in this body. May God bless her.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed bills and a concurrent resolution of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 2986. An act to amend title 31 of the United States Code to increase the public debt limit.

S. 2991. An act to suspend temporarily new shipper bonding privileges.

S. Con. Res. 146. Concurrent Resolution to direct the Secretary of the Senate to make corrections in the enrollment of the bill S. 150.

The message also announced that the Secretary be directed to return to the

House of Representatives (S. 1301) "An Act to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit video voyeurism in the special maritime and territorial jurisdiction of the United States, and for other purposes.", in compliance with a request of the House for the return thereof.

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

(Mr. DUNCAN 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 gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask to claim the time of the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON).

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

There was no objection.

THE HOUSE FACES A GRAVE MORAL CRISIS

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

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, as I reflect on my time as a member of this great institution, my most important concern is to leave the House of Representatives a better place than when I started. Unfortunately, the House faces a grave moral crisis, and we have already heard other Members speak, within the last few speakers, of these morals that we have brought to bear.

Two weeks have barely passed since election day and, the majority party has just perpetrated one of the biggest hypocrisies that this institution and, more importantly, our Nation has seen. Today, just as the Washington Post reported that it would and just as our nightly news reported that it did, the majority amended its own leadership structure, if we can believe it, to allow a Member under felony criminal indictment to hold a position of leadership in this body.

The majority party campaigned on its alleged moral values agenda, but when they got back to Washington, moral values flew right out the window. I am sorely disappointed to see the majority so quickly and so arrogantly turn its back on its biggest promise to America. The proposed leadership rule change is a flagrant and despicable insult to the American public and is firm evidence that the major-

ity party's moral compass is permanently off center.

Indeed, this rule was adopted by the majority in 1993 as an effort to bring accountability to this House's leadership structure, and rightly so. Our elected leaders must be of the highest, utmost moral fiber, and I dare anyone to disagree with that notion.

Now, the majority finds it politically inconvenient to hold congressional leaders accountable and wants to allow Members facing felony criminal charges to continue tarnishing this institution. What sort of moral value does the majority exhibit by allowing those under criminal investigation to infiltrate our highest leadership posts? Can our children ever truly understand moral clarity when the majority allows those facing criminal felony indictments to rule the roost? Has the majority lost so much control of its own moral balance by rewarding Members facing felony criminal indictments with the perquisites of leadership?

Clearly, the majority is struggling, and unsuccessfully at that, to find its own moral balance. The majority is verbally tap dancing around this issue, claiming incredulously that State court criminal indictments carry less weight than Federal court criminal indictments. Instead of supporting State prosecutors, the law enforcement officers who protect our communities against waves of criminal behavior, the majority has attacked them as partisan hacks with hidden agendas.

What sort of moral values does the majority display by declaring local law enforcement efforts irrelevant? Would any of us tell our children to ignore the safety warnings given by our brave police officers, firefighters and other law enforcement figures? For the safety of our Nation, I pray not.

Mr. Speaker, the law is the law, period. If you are suspected of breaking it, then you are the subject of a criminal indictment. This is a simple, basic and fundamental moral lesson anyone can faithfully recite, yet one the majority apparently does not understand.

The Congress is not the place to play fast and loose with the principles of moral clarity nor should any majority exploit its own internal rules and structure for crass political purposes.

When we make excuses to allow anyone under felony indictment to lead Congress, we set ourselves down a slippery slope of immoral activity and scheming. These are not the type of morals and values that the voters thought they were voting for on election day; nor should the majority so brazenly embrace this foundation of corruption.

Absolute power corrupts absolutely. The majority talked about moral values on the campaign trail but clearly blanked on their empty promise once back in Washington. The majority is not about morals. It is not about values but one thing and one thing only,