

some point in time Sunday or early Monday morning that that would be the end of the session, at least for the period of time prior to Christmas?

I yield to my friend.

Mr. BLUNT. I thank my friend for yielding and for the question. We have certainly given every indication in every meeting, the Speaker has, I have today, that that would be our timetable, that we would finish, possibly some things could carry over into early Monday morning, but we would not be here on Monday for any official actions of that regard on Monday, though there may be some pro forma thing that has to be done that I am not aware of standing here.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for that information.

Mr. Speaker, I would hope on behalf of my side, and I have talked to my friend from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) on the other side, I know both of us want to bring this session to a close. Members had hoped to be home certainly this weekend. Christmas is a week from tomorrow. I am hopeful that we can conclude tomorrow, and I would hope that we would all work towards that end.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING RECOGNITION OF HELEN SEWELL'S RETIREMENT

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I have a brief announcement. The announcement is that we would also plan in our activities tomorrow to have a brief recognition of Helen Sewell, who has run the cloakroom here for a long period of time. Between she and her father, who started work here 87 years ago, they have been a continued presence in the cloakroom on this side. Tomorrow will be Helen's last official day before she retires.

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#### HOOR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today it adjourn to meet at 1 p.m. tomorrow.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CONAWAY). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Missouri? There was no objection.

#### APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO BOARD OF VISITORS TO UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 6968(a), and the order of the House of January 4, 2005, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to the Board of Visitors to the United States Naval Academy:

Mr. HOYER, Maryland  
Mr. CUMMINGS, Maryland

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE NANCY PELOSI, DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from NANCY PELOSI, Democratic Leader:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
OFFICE OF THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER,  
December 15, 2005.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,  
*Speaker of the House, House of Representatives,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to section 1909 (b) of SAFETEA-LU (P.L. 109-59), I hereby appoint to the National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission the following individuals:

Mr. Frank J. Busalacchi, Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, of Brookfield, Wisconsin.

Mr. Steve Heminger, Executive Director of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, of San Francisco, California.

Best regards,

NANCY PELOSI.

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE NANCY PELOSI, DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Nancy Pelosi, Democratic Leader:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
OFFICE OF THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER,  
Washington, DC, December 15, 2005.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,  
*Speaker of the House, House of Representatives,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to section 1238(b)(3) of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2001 (P.L. 106-398), I hereby reappoint Ms. Carolyn Bartholomew of the District of Columbia and Mr. George Becker of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission for two-year terms expiring December 31, 2007. Their current terms expire December 31, 2005.

Best regards,

NANCY PELOSI.

#### DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILL

(Mr. MEEHAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, the Republican leadership is trying to add to the Defense authorization bill a controversial piece of legislation by Mr. PENCE that would blow the lid off the Campaign Finance Reform Act that Republicans and Democrats joined together to support and pass into law and that President Bush signed into law.

Mr. Speaker, this country is at war. We need a Defense authorization bill to assist the men and women who are serving our Armed Forces. We have reached an agreement on that bill to help our troops; and now, at the last minute, the chairman of the Armed Services Committee wants to take a controversial piece of campaign finance reform legislation and insert it into that bill.

He was exposed by the other Chamber. The chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee took the floor and condemned it; and now he still wants to add this legislation, controversial legislation, against the public interest. He wants to attach it to a Defense bill at a time when this country is at war.

Surely we can do better on this holiday weekend. It is despicable, and I hope this leadership stands up to this. This is one of the worst things I have ever seen this Republican leadership do. A piece of controversial legislation to a Defense bill at a time of war.

#### EXTREME ALITO VIEWS

(Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks and include therein extraneous material.)

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I am struck by the extent to which the right wing seems not to understand how unpopular their agenda is. It is their inability to get a majority for it that keeps us here so many days after we should have gone.

It is also interesting to watch them try to deny the very, very deep conservatism of the nominee for the Supreme Court, Judge Alito. They are hiding his views on abortion. Recently, in the Boston Globe, an article by Kenneth Starr and Ronald Cass tried to explain away one of the most astounding examples of his extreme conservatism: his opposition to the basic principle of one man, one vote as articulated by the Warren Court. And given the difficulty of trying to get someone confirmed who has views that extreme, these two advocates tried to explain it away by claiming it was all about gerrymandering and proportional representation.

Fortunately, Professor Michael Tolley of Northeastern University wrote a very good letter exposing the inaccuracy of this attempted defense of Judge Alito and reaffirming that in fact what was involved in his 1985 statement was an objection to that basic principle of democracy articulated by the Warren Court, that it should be one man, one vote.

The following are the inaccurate article and the correction:

#### ALITO'S STICKY THICKET

(By Kenneth W. Starr and Ronald A. Cass)

A Political sidebar that made surprising news the last few weeks is a phrase in a 1986 job application from now-Judge Sam Alito questioning the Warren Court's reappointment decisions. That tidbit sent shock waves through the political and pundit classes.

It shouldn't have. Justice-to-be Alito's statement wasn't an attack on equality, voting rights, or protecting victims of racial discrimination. It was a simple observation that a liberal court created a doctrine that, however salutary, has significant problems.

Americans have long embraced the idea of equality from "all men are created equal" forward. Equality did not mean identical political influence in every respect. Yet the past 40 years have seen repeated judicial efforts to prescribe something that looks like

identical influence for voters. Prior to 1962, the Supreme Court rejected efforts to draw the judiciary into the "political thicket" of apportionment. That changed with *Baker v. Carr*, when the court decreed that states could not depart too far from the principle of "one-man, one-vote" in allocating legislative representatives. Since then, the problem has been figuring, out what is too far.

Politicians often attempt to allocate political representation in ways that both dramatically increase and decrease the influence of citizens' votes. But the Framers designed checks and balances to prevent any group from dominating another permanently or from taking property or liberty to serve prejudice or politics. Integral was a division of government power reflecting different influences, some defined by historical boundaries, others by more local populations. The Constitution does not sweepingly embrace one theory of political representation but instead allocates power in several disparate ways.

Useful as "one-person, one-vote" is, it isn't a universal directive. Consider the Senate. The Constitution decrees that each state has two senators, regardless of the state's population or acreage. In contrast, the House of Representatives is based mostly on population, except for the requirement that each state have at least one representative. Making House districts roughly equal has been a source of dispute for 200 years. In the early 1800s, Elbridge Gerry redistricted Massachusetts to help his political allies, creating one district shaped like a salamander—thus giving birth to the term "Gerrymander."

After *Baker v. Carr*, the courts have insisted on greater degrees of mathematical equivalence in votes across districts. Since then, the problems associated with apportionment have grown. The Supreme Court rejected a plan with less than seven-tenths of one percent difference among districts. Courts have repeatedly invalidated efforts to draw lines between districts without totally disrupting traditionally established communities. At times the result has been to divide neighborhoods.

Added attention to other aspects of the reapportionment process, encompassing equality along racial and ethnic lines as well as across geographic districts, spawned further opportunities for realigning political districts to suit political interests rather than historical ones. Although boundary adjustments probably have increased minority representation in Congress, the jurisprudence of reapportionment has become needlessly complex and largely ineffective. The court has permitted a realignment of political power to advantage incumbents, create more safe districts, and facilitate greater division among elected representatives who no longer have to appeal to swing voters.

After fragments on the standards on racial gerrymandering, the court came up with no realistic way to assess what constitutes political gerrymandering. As Justice O'Connor said in *Davis v. Bandemer* in 1986—roughly contemporaneous with Judge Alito's statement—the court's effort to identify political gerrymandering was "flawed from its inception." Justice O'Connor charged that the court's decisions have been "contrary to the intent of [the] Framers and to the traditions of this Republic."

No one should be alarmed that Alito—like many other justices—found some aspect of the court's reapportionment decisions unfortunate. His position should reassure us that, as a justice, he will be open to seeing the flaws as well as the virtues of constitutional decision-making by judges. That is an important virtue in a Supreme Court justice.

#### ALITO'S VIEWS AND O'CONNOR'S

(By Michael Tolley)

Be alarmed when two partisan advocates—Kenneth W. Starr and Ronald A. Cass—say "no one should be alarmed" ("Alito's sticky thicket," op ed, Dec. 11). Their attempt to defend Judge Samuel Alito's disagreement with the Warren Court's reapportionment decisions by linking his position to Justice Sandra Day O'Connor's views fails for two reasons:

The two quotes they rely on in *Davis v. Bandemer* (1986) express O'Connor's view on whether the 14th Amendment's equal protection clause requires the principle of "proportional representation," not the principle of fundamental voting equality—one person, one vote. Second, *Baker v. Carr* (1962) and *Reynolds v. Sims* (1964), two of the landmark Warren Court decisions on reapportionment that Alito disagreed with, are actually treated favorably in O'Connor's concurring opinion in *Davis v. Bandemer*.

O'Connor was careful to distinguish the Supreme Court's legitimate concern about racial gerrymandering from partisan gerrymandering at issue in *Davis v. Bandemer*. Only by misreading O'Connor's opinion can Starr and Cass bring Alito's views in line with moderate justice he has been nominated to replace.

Does Alito believe, like O'Connor, in the principle of "one person, one vote"? Or is he against the use of federal judicial power to remedy discrimination resulting from malapportioned legislative districts? The difference between disagreeing with the extension of the principle "one person, one vote" to issues such as partisan gerrymandering and disagreeing with the principle of "one person, one vote" is the difference between a moderate and someone out of the judicial mainstream.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

#### DOMESTIC SURVEILLANCE

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, merely hours after the Bush administration was celebrating the Iraqi election as a triumph for human freedom, what did we discover courtesy of the *New York Times*? That our own government, through the National Security Agency, is secretly spying on the phone calls and e-mails of American citizens without a warrant or a court order. And they have been doing so for nearly 4 years at the explicit direction of the President of the United States of America himself.

This is even more egregious than any of the other suspensions of civil liberties that we have seen in the last 4 years. It makes the PATRIOT Act look like it was written by the ACLU. Has anyone in the White House read the Bill of Rights and the fourth amendment about the right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects against unreasonable

searches and seizures? It is a part of the same Constitution that the President has sworn to preserve, protect, and defend.

Mr. Speaker, I am not exaggerating when I say that sometimes I do not recognize my own country. Secret gulags in Eastern Europe, the Vice President personally lobbying Senators to give the CIA the right to torture detainees, and now this. What do I tell my grandchildren about what America stands for?

Does this White House believe in any transparency or oversight for anything they do, or do they think that getting 51 percent, or 51 out of every 100 votes gives them a mandate to operate behind a veil shielded from the day-in and day-out accountability that sustains a functioning democracy?

Remember, this is coming from the folks who preach about limited government. It turns out that they only want limited government as long as it would protect the wealthy and the powerful from high taxes and burdensome regulations. When it comes to privacy rights and ordinary Americans, they are in favor of the most intrusive and invasive big government imaginable.

The whole thing is Orwellian, Mr. Speaker. To defeat totalitarian extremism, we are adopting extremist totalitarian tactics of our own. In defense of freedom, we are undermining freedom. The whole thing is morally incoherent.

Let us remember that the war on terrorism is partly an ideological struggle. It is about winning over hearts and minds. But when we violate the very principles of freedom that we are preaching in the Middle East, what happens to our moral authority? What happens to our global credibility? Why should anyone take us seriously?

Those around the world who are skeptical of American values are surely noticing that we do not honor those values ourselves. And those who hate us will hate us even more when our government's hypocrisy is exposed.

And even if you do not believe this surveillance authority holds the key to victory on the war on terrorism, let us think for a minute about whom we have empowered to exercise it. The very same intelligence apparatus that has proven itself dysfunctional time and time again over recent years.

After all, the President himself just got through telling us this week that the U.S. intelligence community got it wrong on the most monumental and consequential issue it has faced in decades: whether Iraq had weapons of mass destruction. If they blew it on something as fundamental as that, why should we have confidence that they are conducting this domestic spying operation competently, without any abuses or overreach.

Mr. Speaker, is that what more than 2,100 Americans have given their lives for in Iraq, the right for a government to snoop and eavesdrop on its own people without probable cause? If we, the