

war based on lies and misrepresentations.

Democrats' failure to challenge the war represents a failure of the two-party system. For the Democrats to become politically viable in 2006 and 2008, we must take on this administration on the War on Iraq, not giving them more money to keep the war going. We must move to cut off funds, to bring our troops home, to get out of Iraq, to make those who lied to us to get us into war accountable, to hold them accountable in the courts.

THEY WILL NOT JUST DIE ANYWAY

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, some time this summer, the House will vote on a bill to allow Federal funds to be used to destroy embryos stored at IVF clinics in order to harvest their stem cells. Those voting for this legislation will say that these are leftover embryos. They will say they are going to be killed anyway.

Well, they are wrong. Only 2.8 percent of embryos in IVF clinics have been set aside for research; the rest are destined for implantation or adoption.

But, we do not need to kill these embryos to do stem cell research. Stem cells can be taken from many adult sources: fatty tissue, spleen, liver, sinus, bone marrow, just to name a few. These are called adult stem cells.

Adult stem cell research is currently treating 58 diseases successfully. Embryonic stem cell research is treating none: 58, adult stem cell; zero, embryonic stem cell. If there were no ethical alternative, which there is, if we applied "they are going to die anyway" rationale to other areas of research, it would justify such things as harvesting organs from death-row inmates and from terminally ill patients.

We should support adult stem cell research, not embryonic.

UNITED AIRLINES DEFAULT RE- MINDS US OF NEED TO PRE- SERVE SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, today we are given a stark reminder of what is at stake in this debate about Social Security.

Yesterday, United Airlines unloaded their pension plan for their 100,000-plus employees onto the taxpayer, resulting in benefits being cut up to 40 percent. Now, go ask those United Airlines' employees what they think of Social Security as part of their retirement.

Earlier this year, US Airways unloaded their pension plan on the taxpayers, cutting benefits up to 50 percent. Go ask those U.S. Airways' em-

ployees what they think of Social Security.

It may come as a shock to some, but the American people like the security that comes with Social Security. That is what this debate is about. For United Airlines' employees, U.S. Airways' employees, the steel industry before them and probably the auto industry coming next, Social Security is the linchpin to their retirement security. They reject the idea of doing to Social Security what just happened to their private plan, where they put their personal and employer-based savings. It is now on the roulette table, and benefits are being cut by 40 percent.

The fact is, that is what this debate is, for two-thirds of seniors and 40 percent of widows rely on Social Security as their only retirement. Mr. Speaker, this debate is more than about the solvency of Social Security; it is about retirement security for every American.

FILIBUSTER OF JUDICIAL NOMINEES ILL-SERVES AMERICA

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, blocking confirmation of judges by a minority in the Senate ill-serves the American people.

Filibustering judges is not part of the Constitution; it is not even part of the old Senate rules. The Constitution is clear on what is required of the Senate and its responsibility under the Advice and Consent Clause as it applies to judicial nominations: Majority support. Never has a nominee with clear majority support been denied an up-or-down vote.

Four vacancies continue to exist in the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals where my district of Cincinnati is contained. One of those vacancies could have been filled by Judge Richard Griffin whose nomination has been pending for 145 days, 145 days. Judge Griffin has the support of his colleagues and individuals such as former President Gerald Ford. He has been rated by the American Bar Association as "well qualified," a rating that has historically secured a nominee's confirmation, but not anymore.

If the Senate wants to amend the Constitution, it should do so as provided by our Founding Fathers, not by the threats of a minority to shut the place down if they do not get their way.

TRIBUTE TO MIGUEL CONTRERAS

(Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Miguel Contreras, who died unexpectedly on Friday, May 6, 2005.

As executive-secretary treasurer of the Los Angeles County Federation of

Labor and a vice president of the California Labor Federation, Miguel was a staunch champion for working families in Los Angeles and throughout our Nation. His leadership reenergized our Nation's labor movement.

Miguel began his life working in the fields of southern California alongside his immigrant parents. After meeting Cesar Chavez, he became active in the United Farm Workers Union.

Under Miguel's leadership, union membership in the Los Angeles County area grew by more than 125,000, creating a powerful voice for working families. Miguel led successful organizing campaigns for janitors and bus drivers, among others.

In a lifetime dedicated to service of working men and women, Miguel Contreras touched many lives, including my own. It was Miguel who encouraged and supported my run for executive-secretary treasurer of the Orange County Federation of Labor. I became the first Latina to head a federation, so I jokingly described myself as Miguel Contreras in high heels. I want to thank him for being a great role model and teaching me many of life's invaluable lessons.

Miguel was not only a friend and a mentor to me, but more importantly, he was a remarkable labor leader, activist, community spokesman, power broker, husband and father, and he will be sorely missed.

PROMOTING FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY IN EUROPE

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to say welcome back, Mr. President, from your historic trip to Europe.

As a former military officer and a high school history teacher, I thank and appreciate the Soviet Union and the Russian people for their sacrifice in helping to win World War II.

Some would justifiably argue that the Russians carried the lion's burden in Europe, both in sacrifice and materiel. However, as much as we thank the Russian people for their sacrifice, we must also remember the five decades of totalitarian regime that ruled over five of the Eastern European Block countries, those that we call the former captive nations. Loss of liberty, freedom, rule of law, executions, deportations and Russification was imposed on many countries. By the President book-ending his trip with a visit to Latvia and Georgia, we should know that old animosities can be put aside and a new Europe can emerge, one that promotes freedom and democracy and the rule of law.

NEW AXIS OF EVIL

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

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, we all know about the axis of evil. Iran and North Korea's pursuit of nuclear weapons is frightening, and we need to do everything we can do to stop it.

But now there is a new axis of evil, apparently, and it starts right here in Washington. The axis of evil for this administration is bull's-eye, square one, the United States Senate and the 45 members of its minority. Because while not yet a nuclear State, that is exactly what the Republicans want to make it by eliminating the filibuster rule.

Not only does the Republican Party demonstrate yet again that when they do not get their way, they do not believe in playing fair, they want to change the rules. When they cannot change the rules, their leadership bullies judges and pushes legislation that has no business being in the United States Congress and is left best to the States. When that does not work, they eliminate the voice of the minority and appoint, for lifetime appointments, to the Federal and supreme Court.

Let us remember that Democrats in the United States Senate combined represent more Americans than do their Republican colleagues.

We have a proud history of an independent judiciary and checks and balances. That is something that Iran and North Korea cannot say. If Bill Frist gets his way, it is something we will not be able to say, either.

ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE DAY

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, today we mark Israel Independence Day.

Israel has stood as a symbol of perseverance and courage for the entire world from its birth in 1948. It has struggled constantly to maintain its independence and to ensure its survival amidst military attacks from hostile neighbors and prolonged terrorist campaigns. Even while at war, Israel's democracy and its vibrant, diverse and free society has remained strong. Its doors have been opened to victims of persecution and intolerance around the world. It has been said that the strength of a nation is determined by the caliber of its people, and there is perhaps no better example of this than the State of Israel and the Israeli people.

Today, as the State of Israel marks its 57th anniversary, we reiterate our commitment to its security and its stability.

I extend my best wishes and congratulations to the Israeli people and to the Jewish Nation.

REPUBLICAN CHANGE OF FILIBUSTER RULE IS ABUSE OF POWER

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, Republicans have become so arrogant with their absolute power here in Washington that whenever they do not get their way, they try to change the rules of the game. In January, House Republicans ignored protocol and weakened the ethics rules in order to protect one of their leaders, and now Senate Republicans are preparing to change the filibuster rule which has been in place beyond anyone's memory.

Republicans say Senate Democrats are preventing President Bush's judicial appointments from taking the bench, but let us set the record straight.

During President Bush's first 4 years in office, the Senate confirmed 204 of his 214 nominees; that is a 95 percent confirmation rate.

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The Senate has been so productive in approving Bush's nominees that the Federal court vacancy rate is at its lowest point in 15 years.

Mr. Speaker, the filibuster has been used by Democrats and Republicans for 200 years to protect the rights of the minority party. After 2 centuries, it would be a mistake and an extreme abuse of power by Senate Republicans to change the rules now and eliminate this important check and balance.

EMPLOYEE PENSION PRESERVATION AND TAXPAYER PROTECTION ACT

(Mr. PRICE of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, did you hear the news this morning? The U.S. Bankruptcy Court allowed United Airlines to default, to end four pension plans. They will be transferred to the Federal Pension Benefit Guarantee Corporation and ultimately the American taxpayer. Unless Congress acts, other major airlines will follow the same path and end their pension plans, the cost of which will ultimately be borne by the taxpayers. We need to act now. Hard-working taxpayers are already on the line for nearly \$10 billion in unfunded pension liabilities from just two airlines that are in bankruptcy.

There is a solution: H.R. 2106. This bill limits taxpayer liability and allows responsible companies to manage their pension liabilities. It makes certain that airline carriers meet their current obligations with no subsidy from the Federal Government, the taxpayers.

Mr. Speaker, when major airlines file for bankruptcy, taxpayers lose, employees are out of jobs, retirements are jeopardized, and the economy suffers.

We should act now on behalf of the American taxpayer. More bankruptcy headlines are coming unless we move responsibly, and I ask my colleagues to join me in this important and vital

matter to save jobs, retirements, and taxpayer money. Support H.R. 2106.

PULITZER PRIZE WINNERS FROM OHIO

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to announce and commend the 2005 winners of the Pulitzer Prize and take particular notice that four of this year's winners are graduates of Ohio's public State universities.

Walter Bogdanich, with the New York Times, won the Pulitzer for National Reporting, getting a master's degree in journalism from Ohio State.

Julia Keller, with the Chicago Tribune, won the Pulitzer for Feature Writing after earning a doctoral degree in English from Ohio State.

Nick Anderson, with the Louisville Courier-Journal, won the Pulitzer for Editorial Cartooning after graduating from Ohio State with a degree in political science.

And of course I am most proud of my wife, Connie Schultz, of the Plain Dealer in Cleveland who won the Pulitzer for Commentary. She graduated from Kent State with a degree in journalism and was editor of the Daily Kent Stater.

The Pulitzer defines excellence in journalism, and it is personally gratifying to me that Ohio's public universities helped these talented individuals achieve this extraordinary honor.

DR. CALVIN R. FREMLING

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

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, the Mississippi River is called the Father of Waters.

I rise today to honor the work of Dr. Calvin R. Fremling of Winona, Minnesota. For nearly 50 years, Dr. Fremling has been a student of the Mississippi River. He has shared his passion as a teacher, researcher, historian, and photographer.

He received his bachelor's degree in biology and physical science from St. Cloud State University in 1951 and his Ph.D. in zoology from Iowa State University in 1959. After brief service as a teacher in Motley High School and with the U.S. Army's Ecological Research Unit, he returned to SCSU to earn his master's degree in biology.

Dr. Fremling then joined the faculty at Winona State University where he taught and conducted research for 32 years until his retirement in 1991. He just released his book, "Immortal River: The Upper Mississippi River in Ancient and Modern Times." The book is a record of lifetime of work dedicated to protecting the ecology of the Mississippi River.

I thank Dr. Fremling for his work with one of our national treasures and