

the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL).

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

There was no objection.

PREPARE TOMORROW'S PARENTS

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

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the fourth national Prepare Tomorrow's Parents Month, the month between Mother's Day and Father's Day. This month is a time for teachers, parents and youth group leaders nationwide to promote parenting education and relationship skills classes for all young people.

Prepare Tomorrow's Parents Month is being sponsored by a national non-profit organization formed in 1995 called Prepare Tomorrow's Parents. Suzy Garfinkle Chevrier, founder and president of Prepare Tomorrow's Parents, says, "Parenting is not a hobby. It is the most important work most of us will ever do. Let's not leave our grandchildren's future to chance."

Is it not strange, Mr. Speaker, that one of the most important and difficult skills, raising children, goes untaught? Learning parenting skills is vital because the early experiences of children's lives impact their potential for learning and for mental health. We need to create better parents because neglected or abused children are especially prone to perpetuate this cycle when they become adults without resources for healthy parenting.

An alarming number of children are at risk of being abused, neglected or otherwise poorly nurtured by inadequately prepared or nonsupportive parents. Inadequate parenting can contribute to teen pregnancy, depression, addictions, academic failure, delinquency and, later, criminal behavior.

I imagine that the vast majority of adults in the United States believe that parenting and relationship skills should be taught. Yet few students now receive this instruction. School-based parenting education programs can help to prevent future child abuse and work to build healthy children by developing an understanding of child development in future parents and by providing parenting skills such as empathy, listening, problem solving and critical thinking. Regardless of how much detail the young people remember from their classes by the time they become parents, the instruction gives them a deep sense of the reality of parenting, of the sacrifices and demands as well as the joys. Prepare Tomorrow's Parents is a group working towards a society in which every child is well-nurtured and parenting is valued and undertaken by prepared adults.

Parenting education for students is being taught successfully in many schools around the Nation, primarily

through family and consumer science classes, but not enough young people, especially boys, participate in these elective courses. Expanding and requiring these classes will save many more current and future families much heartache. It will help us to help our young people succeed at being parents that will make them, their children and their parents happy, productive and proud.

Finally, establishing parent education classes honors the work of mothers and fathers by teaching our young people what a complex effort it takes to raise a child. As well as learning new skills, they will begin to appreciate more and more the care they have received from their parents.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Prepare Tomorrow's Parents for sponsoring Prepare Tomorrow's Parents Month.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS

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

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, tonight I rise truly disappointed at the decision of my colleagues in the other body to negotiate this lose-lose situation for minority and civil rights.

While I appreciate and understand my Senate colleagues and their desire to preserve the Senate tradition and to avoid the nuclear option which their leadership unfortunately threatened to use, I join with Senator FEINGOLD, Chairman WATT and members of the Congressional Black Caucus in saying tonight that the deal that was brokered was a bad one for the American people. In the words of the Congressional Black Caucus today, we said that, one, we strongly oppose the deal that trades judges who oppose our civil rights for a temporary filibuster ceasefire.

This deal is more of a capitulation than a compromise. In fact, one of our Republican friends in the other body stated that she thinks that this deal really does help advance the goal of their majority leader.

This deal allows the right to filibuster only in extraordinary circumstances. There is no question in my mind that the judicial extremism of

Janice Rogers Brown, Priscilla Owen and William Pryor constitute extraordinary circumstances. Nonetheless, the right to filibuster their nominations has been given away. I know that when it comes time to vote on their confirmation, Americans are going to be looking to Senators in both parties to reject them based on their extremist views.

The question I have about this deal is, who will really define what constitutes "extraordinary circumstances"? I believe this deal weakens the filibuster and the principles of dissent and minority rights that it was designed to safeguard. As a minority, as a woman, as a Californian and as an American, the nomination of Janice Rogers Brown to the United States Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit is nothing short of an extraordinary circumstance.

The American public needs to understand that we are not bickering here about peanuts. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit is widely regarded as the second most important court in America, second only to the United States Supreme Court. The court is a stepping stone to the United States Supreme Court. The D.C. Circuit has produced more justices to the Supreme Court than any other circuit court. For the rest of their lives, these judges have the potential to implement policies that affect all of us, not 52 percent or 48 percent, but 100 percent of the American public.

Let us look for a minute at Judge Brown's record. First, she authored an opinion that effectively ended meaningful affirmative action in California. Her opinion was severely criticized both on and off the court for its harsh rhetoric and its suggestion that affirmative action resembled racist and segregationist laws that predated landmark civil rights laws.

She has praised turn-of-the-century U.S. Supreme Court cases declaring maximum hour laws to be unconstitutional and called the decision reversing course and protecting workers the "triumph of our own socialist revolution." I could go on and on about her judicial record, and I hope people take a good look at her record. If this does not constitute extraordinary circumstances, I do not know what will.

Let us look at Justice Pryor's record for just a minute whose nomination was given away in terms of the right to filibuster. Alabama Attorney General William Pryor, nominated for the 11th Circuit, has sought repeal of a critical section of the Voting Rights Act that has proved highly successful in overcoming the historical denial of the right to vote for African Americans.

□ 2215

He also believes that some rights now protected by the Constitution should be regarded as "social disputes" that would reduce rights that protect minority views to majority votes in the States. As an African American, again,

I believe that his nomination constitutes an extreme circumstance, an extraordinarily extreme circumstance; yet there can be no filibuster based upon this deal that was negotiated. His view that the eighth amendment protection against cruel and unusual punishment does not bar certain inhumane treatment of prison inmates, and this was repudiated by the United States Supreme Court. Again, I believe this is an extraordinary circumstance which again was negotiated away.

The same thing, I hope people look at Justice Owen once again. She was nominated for the fifth circuit. She is known for her dissents opposing women's rights and reproductive rights and favoring corporate interests against consumers and workers.

Mr. Speaker, we are not talking about nominees with a record of impartiality and informed reflection when making decisions. These are administration choices who were nominated, nominated under the threat of a filibuster. Heaven knows whom the administration will nominate now that that threat is gone.

The American public needs to understand that this entire process, the entire process, just threatening the nuclear option, is an abuse of power. It was designed to water down our constitutional systems of checks and balances and to turn the Congress into a rubber stamp for the President.

So I appeal to my colleagues in the other body to uphold our constitutional system of checks and balances and to at least vote against these extreme nominees that are coming forward. Extraordinary circumstance, I ask the Members, what constitutes an extraordinary circumstance when we look at nominees who affect the decisions that affect our daily lives, our children's lives?

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

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

CHRONIC FATIGUE AND IMMUNE DYSFUNCTION SYNDROME

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, over 800,000 Americans have chronic fatigue syndrome, CFS, also known as chronic fatigue and immune dysfunction syndrome, or CFIDS. This is a complex and debilitating medical disorder characterized by profound exhaustion, intense widespread pain, and severe problems with memory and concentration. It usually lasts for years; and recovery, in the few cases where that occurs, is slow and unpredictable.

Because the symptoms of CFS are common to other conditions and no diagnostic tests exist, it is often overlooked by health care providers. In fact, government studies show that only 15 percent of those who have CFS have been diagnosed by their doctor. It is even more difficult for CFS patients to get appropriate symptomatic treatment or to obtain disability benefits if they become too disabled to work.

The cause of CFS is not yet known. Much of what we do know about CFS has been documented by researchers funded by the National Institutes of Health and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Here are some facts: women age 30 to 50 are at greatest risk for developing CFS, and Latinos and African Americans are at greater risk for CFS than Caucasians or Asians. Children can get CFS too, although it is more common in teens than younger children. The condition may begin suddenly as with the flu, or it may build gradually over time. Physical or mental exertion makes symptoms significantly worse.

Individuals with CFS are severely impacted by the disease; and according to the CDC studies, their functional status is the same as or worse than those suffering from obstructive pulmonary disease, osteoarthritis, and coronary heart disease. People with CFS often lose the ability to maintain full-time employment, attend school, and participate fully in family life. Symptomatic treatment can provide some improved quality of life, but is generally inadequate in helping patients return to normal activity levels. The Nation's economy is also seriously affected. The annual direct cost of lost productivity due to CFS is \$9.1 billion, an amount equivalent to our largest corporations' annual profits. This sum does not include medical costs or disability benefits.

There is hope, though. The Department of Health and Human Services has chartered a CFS Advisory Committee that meets quarterly to advise the Secretary for Health on research and on education policy as it relates to CFS. The CDC is conducting promising research that may lead to a diagnostic test. Other researchers are following important leads that may improve treatment and deepen understanding of the way CFS affects various body systems. However, in fiscal year 2004, just \$15 million was spent by the Federal Government to conduct research on this devastating illness.

CFS consistently ranks at the bottom of the NIH funding charts; and even during the period when Congress was doubling the NIH budget, support for CFS research declined. A June 2003 commitment by NIH Deputy Director Vivian Pinn to issue a request for applications for CFS has not been fulfilled. The Secretary for Health has not yet acted on a set of 11 recommendations delivered by the CFS Advisory Committee on August 23, 2004.

Many challenges remain, and more Federal funding is needed to answer

basic questions. CFS warrants the support of this Congress, and we must find a way to do more for the hundreds of thousands of Americans affected by this serious illness.

HONORING FALLEN SOLDIER LANCE CORPORAL LAWRENCE R. PHILIPPON AND THE STRENGTH OF HIS FAMILY

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

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak of the inspiration and strength of Ray and Leesa Philippon and their family in confronting the ultimate sacrifice, the loss of their son Lance Corporal Lawrence R. Philippon, who on Mother's Day, May 8, tragically lost his life while serving his country in Iraq. In 2002 Lance Corporal Philippon answered his country's call to service and joined the United States Marine Corps. Again stepping forward for his country, Lance Corporal Philippon came up and gave up his position with the Washington, D.C. Color Guard to become an infantryman with the 3rd Battalion Second Marines deployed to Al Qaim, Iraq.

In the eulogy, Ray Philippon spoke of his son's courage, his ability to overcome life's obstacles, his Forrest Gump-like philosophical manner in dealing with life. He was proud of his family, his fidelity to the Marine Corps, his commanders, his President. He was 22 years old.

Ray Philippon; his daughter, Emilee; and Olivia Lawrence, Larry's fiancée, spoke eloquently and emotionally. How this father, a veteran himself, found the strength and composure to deliver a compelling, humorous, and heartfelt tribute to his son is among the remarkable traits of the human character. He transcended his pain and heartache and credited his strength as coming from his son. He capped his comments with a final salute to his son that left no dry eye in the church.

Reverend Miller quoted Scripture and the New Testament, repeating the refrain: "No greater love can a man have than to lay down his life for his friends."

Governor Rell rose and spoke tearfully and with empathy as both a mother and the State's chief executive. Her heartfelt response, her grace veiled only by her tears of motherly sympathy, were equally moving.

As we all pause this Memorial Day to honor the fallen, our hearts are filled with gratitude for those brave soldiers, like Lance Corporal Philippon, who have laid down their lives for their country but also for their families who gave their sons and daughters to military service. In honor of those soldiers and families, I hereby submit for the RECORD his mother's farewell, a letter Leesa Philippon composed on Mother's Day, the day she learned of her son's death. This letter's sincerity, love, and