

a great many important questions asked about Roberts' judicial philosophy, his views on individual rights and freedoms. But I hope that at least one Senator will ask whether Roberts, a prodigy of and potential successor to Rehnquist, will aspire to succeed not only his mentor's conservative revolution but his all too solitary work to repair the damage to the historic and vital comity between the Congress and the courts.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. HUNTER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take my Special Order at this time.

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

There was no objection.

RELIEF EFFORTS FOR VICTIMS OF HURRICANE KATRINA

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

Mr. HUNTER. Madam Speaker, I want to talk a little bit about the wonderful people of Rescue Task Force who are headquartered in San Diego, who have been operating in the disaster area in New Orleans, and use that discussion about them to reflect on all the great private efforts and public efforts to help the victims who have been created by this incredible disaster in New Orleans.

Rescue Task Force is a small group. It is headed up by Wendell Cutting, who is my chief of staff in San Diego and a guy who a couple of years ago was given only 3 months to live with terminal cancer and who has continued to survive and I think survive as an inspiration based on his continued drive and enthusiasm for helping people.

Wendell and Gary Becks have gone around the world in setting up medical clinics, providing food, providing medical services in Afghanistan and Iraq, in Albania, in Central America, and now are providing a helping hand in New Orleans.

A couple of days ago, they allowed me to go along on one of their missions. We went to Houma, Louisiana. I had with me Scott Turner, who is retiring this year after 10 years in the NFL, a wonderful cornerback who played for the Redskins and the Chargers and the Broncos. And along with Scott was Larry Nelson, the mayor of Yuma, Arizona; and Roy Tyler, who is a businessman from San Diego who now has Tyler's restaurants in Yuma, Arizona.

□ 1715

We brought along some help, but we also stopped in Houston.

When we landed in Houston, we had a lot of supplies there ready, and we trucked them into the affected area in Houma. We went to the civic center in Houma with the rescue task force per-

sonnel, and one of the things that they needed was beds because you have literally tens of thousands of people who are living in gymnasium settings; that is, where they go into a civic center or a gymnasium and they may have a blanket or two, but they do not have a bed, a mattress, between them and the ground.

So we had a need there, and rescue task force personnel managed to run down, working with some of the big stores, 1,000 beds for the folks there, and we got those paid for. I got a call yesterday that they, in fact, had been delivered.

Then we delivered lots of baby food and canned food to the various locations.

But I was really impressed when I was at the civic center there, this refugee center, or evacuee center. I was impressed with the people of Louisiana, because they had so many volunteers, they actually were having to turn them away, and they had mountains of clothes that had been donated to the point where they said, do not bring any more clothes.

They had a great medical system set up where people from the disaster were getting, in most cases, more checkups than they had had in years with the doctors and nurses available, and they were getting good, hot meals.

We went in the next day by air boat, into the streets and the communities that were under water in New Orleans, and I want to report that our military personnel, the National Guard folks, the active duty folks, and also lots of other folks from other agencies like ATF and reserve sheriffs' organizations are doing a wonderful job now in providing that very necessary security.

Now, I think it is a shame that we have to spend so much manpower on security and have active duty military forces come in that have to provide that security, but that is a fact of life, and they are doing a great job.

Madam Speaker, along those lines, I think that the real tragedy of this hurricane, aside from those individuals who lost their lives, is not the water and it is not the hurricane itself or the damage, the property damage, because all of that can and will be rebuilt. The real tragedy to me was that group of people, part of that generation of folks who live in New Orleans, which included people who shot at the rescue helicopters, who looted, and who committed crimes against their fellow citizens during this time of tragedy, during and shortly after the hurricane.

I think we need to put together a program or legislation to make sure that we do not reinstitute the projects, the location where people have lived for generations in a system that has not produced a high degree of moral compass and a high work ethic, and all of the other things you need to have for a solid community.

So let us work to rebuild not just New Orleans, but let us build a new generation of young people in New Orleans who will be outstanding citizens.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Miss McMORRIS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO 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 Georgia (Mr. NORWOOD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. NORWOOD 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.)

ADVOCATING FOR SUPPORTING THE VICTIMS OF HURRICANE KATRINA IN A FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE WAY

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

Mr. KING of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I feel compelled to come to the Floor here and make some remarks with regard to Hurricane Katrina, what we have done here from Congress, and what we need to do in the future.

First, I want to say that as I look across the broad expanse of that disaster, the 90,000 square miles, roughly the size of Kansas, and I listen to the description that was delivered by Secretary of Homeland Security Michael Chertoff, that if you were going to do a military assault on a city, that storm did what a military assault would do. It went in on the wind and blew out the electricity and the communications, took the communications systems out, the power grid out, and then it cut off the transportation avenues in and out of the cities by taking out the bridges.

Then, once it had isolated the city, then it attacked, and that was the flood that went in and did such devastating damage, damage that we have not quantified to date and will not quantify for at least some months to come, if not years to come.

The work that was done down there, I know that the National Guard as early as a week ago Wednesday took chain saws and sawed their way into some of the communities. We have 70,000 military on the ground down there providing all of the assistance that they can. There were volunteers that came from everywhere, as the chairman of the Committee on Armed Services has said, so it is a huge human effort on the part of our people in this country. The donations have been flowing in. We have all reached out.

Now, having said that, Madam Speaker, I want to also qualify this

statement by informing this body, Madam Speaker, that I am a flood victim. I lived through the floods of 1993 in Iowa, and I had a business at that time. Actually, it did survive the flood, barely, with four major contracts going on simultaneously that had been under water intermittently throughout all the spring; and by July 9, they were all under water simultaneously, and I was looking at whether I was going to be able to survive as a business or not.

I have gone through this pain. I walked away from my own business and let it sit and went and helped other people on the other side of the State. I am not a person without compassion. I am also not a person without fiscal responsibility.

So when we were requested to support a unanimous consent agreement last week that appropriated \$10.5 billion, I asked some questions on that, and some of the answers that I got were, well, it was \$500 million a day, now it is \$750 million a day, so we need to get FEMA through until next week, and then we can take up this issue in a rational fashion.

Well, we took up this issue in a fashion today, but I do not think it can be defined as a “rational” fashion. The \$750 million a day became \$2 billion a day, and when I asked the director of the Office of Management and Budget for an itemization of how they calculated this, we got asked to vote for \$51.8 billion, with only about three line items in it: \$1.4 billion, and I have it here, for the military; there is a \$15 million set-aside, thankfully, for an inspector general to help audit some of this, but basically, we are looking at \$50 billion in one line item that says, Trust us, we know what we are doing.

Well, after I asked for the line items in this, I got a sheet at 5:34 this morning, no time to drill down through this data. One of the things that we questioned OMB about yesterday was their announcement to us that there were 200,000 trailer homes purchased as part of that first \$10.5 billion, for a cost of \$3.3 billion, \$16,000 a unit, roughly. There are only 30,000 temporary home trailers available for purchase in the United States; the balance of those 200,000 would need to be constructed. Apparently, the Federal Government has signed a contract for the delivery of the 30,000 and the construction of 170,000 units for the price of \$3.3 billion. That is one of the ways that they are spending \$2 billion a day, is to create trailer homes in a region where they may or may not be useful in the long term, approximately 100 miles north of New Orleans on the high ground, the dry ground, as I am told.

That is imprudent early spending of money; it is not disaster spending of money.

In addition, this appropriation that passed this House today has in it also a provision for \$1.6 billion to go for another 100,000 trailer homes, none of which are built, and probably they are not contracted at this point. We do not

have the oversight ability to be going in and spending \$51.8 billion and doing so in an unchecked fashion.

I asked to slow down this appropriation process, do it a week at a time so we could evaluate where we are going. That is why I voted “no.”

I am going to be part of this reconstruction effort, I am going to be part of standing with the victims of this flood, but in a fiscally responsible fashion.

THE SHARED SACRIFICES OF WAR

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

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to read into the RECORD an insightful article by Dr. Uwe Reinhardt, one of the Nation’s leading authorities on health care economics and a distinguished resident of central New Jersey. Dr. Reinhardt is known for his health care economics, but here he articulates the danger of what economists call the “moral hazard” we are currently facing with regard to Iraq.

Economists refer to moral hazard when people, insensitive to the costs of their actions, increase the costs to others. With regard to Iraq, we have a situation in which the vast majority of policymakers and the general public are utterly insulated from the human and financial costs of the war.

Dr. Reinhardt, as the father of a U.S. Marine, personally understands the angst that families feel every day about loved ones serving in harm’s way. President Bush has taken to analogizing the war in Iraq to the American Revolution and, most recently, the Second World War. What follows is an opinion article written by Dr. Reinhardt that appeared in the Washington Post last month, in August, entitled “Who is Paying For Our Patriotism?” I will insert the entire article for the RECORD.

Dr. Reinhardt writes, “President Bush assures us that the ongoing twin wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are worth the sacrifices they entail. Editorialists around the Nation agree and say that a steadfast American public was willing to stay the course.

“Should anyone be surprised by this national resolve, given that these wars visit no sacrifice of any sort, neither blood nor angst nor taxes, on well over 95 percent of the American people? At most, 500,000 American troops are at risk of being deployed to these war theaters at some time. Assume that for each one of them, some 20 members of the wider family sweat with fear when they hear that a helicopter crashed in Afghanistan, or that X number of soldiers or Marines were killed or seriously wounded in Iraq. It implies that no more than 10 million Americans have any real emotional connection to these wars.

“The administration and Congress have gone to extraordinary lengths to

insulate voters from the money costs of the wars to the point even of excluding outlays for them from the regular budget process. Furthermore, they financed the wars not with taxes, but by borrowing abroad.”

Dr. Reinhardt continues, “The strategic shielding of most voters from any emotional or financial sacrifice for these wars cannot but trigger the analogue of what is called ‘moral hazard’ in the context of health insurance, a field in which,” Dr. Reinhardt says, “I have done a lot of scholarly work. There, moral hazard refers to the tendency of well-insured patients to use health care with complete indifference to the costs they visit on others. It has prompted President Bush to advocate health insurance with very high deductibles. But if all but a handful of Americans are completely insulated against the emotional and financial cost of war, is it not natural to suspect moral hazard will be at work in that context as well?”

“A policymaking elite whose families and purses are shielded from the sacrifices war entails may rush into it hastily and ill-prepared, as surely was the case of the Iraq war. Moral hazard in this context can explain why a nation that once built a Liberty ship every 2 weeks and thousands of newly designed airplanes in the span of a few years now takes years merely to properly arm and armor its troops with conventional equipment.

“Moral hazard can explain why, in wartime, the TV anchors of the morning and evening shows barely make time to report on the wars, lest the reports displace the silly banter with which they seek to humor their viewers. Do they ever wonder how military families with loved ones in the fray might feel after hearing ever so briefly of mayhem in Iraq and Afghanistan.

“Moral hazard,” he says, “also can explain why the general public is also so noticeably indifferent to the plight of our troops and their families. To be sure, we paste cheap magnetic ribbons on our cars to proclaim our support for the troops.”

□ 1730

But at the same time we allow families of Reservists and National Guard members to slide into deep financial distress as their loved ones stand tall for us on lethal battle fields and the family is deprived of these troops’ typically higher civilian salaries. We offer a pittance in disability pay to seriously wounded soldiers who have not served the full 20 years that entitles them to a regular pension. And our legislative representatives make a disgraceful spectacle of themselves bickering over a mere \$1 billion or so in added health care spending by the Department of Veterans Affairs in a Nation with a \$13 trillion economy.

When our son, says Dr. Reinhardt, then a Princeton graduate, decided to join the Marine Corps in 2001, I advised him, do what you must. But be advised