

and all loving mothers like her to set an agenda that will work to strengthen and support the most vital components of our great Nation, the American family.

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

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

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak in the gentleman from California's place.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, many of us want to join in wishing Mrs. Gingrey a happy birthday. And I guess we would say it is 8 o'clock, and she knows where her son is tonight at least.

Mr. Speaker, I am troubled by the assault on freedom of expression that we are seeing in the world today. I want to be very clear. The newspaper in Denmark, the name of which I will not even try to pronounce, had every right to print the cartoon. That does not mean the cartoon was not offensive or disrespectful. Free speech, freedom of expression means nothing if it does not mean the right to be mean and disrespectful and obnoxious. It is easy to be for free speech when it is polite and civil and when you agree with it.

One of the dangers that comes to free speech are those who say, well, yes, we believe in freedom of speech, but it should be respectful. We believe in freedom of speech, but it has to be reined in. No it does not. Freedom of expression means that as long as you are speaking or writing, as long as you are not acting, you are free to exercise what you think you need to say, what you think you need to write. Now, people who are offended by that writing have every right in return to be very critical and, indeed, even to boycott the organ that printed it.

But we see something today that is terribly frightening that goes far beyond it. First of all, we see this extraordinarily disproportionate violent reaction. I am struck that in parts of the Middle East and elsewhere, people who were apparently not moved to action by death and destruction and murder and famine, are moved to violence because somebody printed a cartoon. The values of people who put a cartoon ahead of serious damage to individuals as a cause of outrage are seriously deficient.

But it is also wrong when people say they are going to put pressure on the entire nation of Denmark because it will not censor a newspaper. Again, people have a right to boycott the newspaper. People who exercise their free speech have to expect there might be a response. But what we are being told is that people are going to punish the entire nation of Denmark because that government will not censor a newspaper. That is a terrible threat to free speech. It would be a grave error for the country of Denmark to give in. When I read that people are going to boycott Danish goods, I am myself moved to try to go out and buy some Danish food. I wish some of it was not quite so fattening, from what I look at.

But we must repudiate the notion that it is legitimate to punish the government and the country of that government because it will not censor a newspaper. That is a terrible threat to free speech. It is a threat to free speech again when people defend the newspaper in such a halfhearted way or when people say, well, they should not have printed that, and we understand why people are doing this. And freedom of speech must be tempered by respect for the views of others. No, it must not.

And I speak as someone who has espoused that principle in a variety of categories. I am Jewish and I believe that the Nazis had a legal right to march in Skokie, as despicable as I thought that was, as much as I thought people ought to have expressed their disagreement. I am a patriotic American, but I would not vote to put you in prison if you burned the American flag. And I must say, let us have some consistency here. People who are for jailing those who disrespect the American flag seem to me ought to be thinking about what kind of reaction they are seeing now because people dishonored the prophet Mohammed.

There are people who put their religion ahead of their country. That is not necessarily an irrational or an immoral thing to do. Let us be very careful. And by the way, I think that newspapers in the Arab world have a legal right to print vicious anti-Semitic cartoons that deny the Holocaust, that talk about "The Protocols of the Elders of Zion."

Again, let us have some consistency here. The consistency ought to be this: people have a right to write or say whatever they wish. People who are offended by that writing or that speech are entitled to retaliate, nonviolently, but by boycotts, by criticism from the person who expresses it. But when we see this kind of violence, when it is suggested that a cartoon justifies violence, when people are halfhearted in condemning the violence, when we have people say that it is legitimate to punish a government, not for publishing a cartoon, but for failing to censor the publication of that cartoon, then free speech is in danger.

So I think it is very important for us to say that people may have whatever

view they have about the cartoon, but we must speak up against what is a growing systematic campaign of intimidation that will result in a diminution of those important freedoms.

HONORING THE LIFE OF NORTH CAROLINA SENATOR HAM HORTON

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, last week the State of North Carolina lost one of its finest citizens, North Carolina Senator Hamilton "Ham" Horton. I had the great privilege of serving with Ham for 10 years in the North Carolina senate. I considered him to be not only a great role model and mentor but a trusted friend.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Senator Ham Horton for leading a rich life of service to others. I rise in trepidation because Senator Horton was such a wonderful orator and my skills are so inferior to his in intellect and expression.

Hamilton Cowles Horton, Jr., was born in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, on August 6, 1931. He was the great-grandson of Calvin Josiah Cowles, who represented Wilkes County in the United States Congress and the great-grandson of William Woods Holden, who was the Governor of North Carolina following the War Between the States. Obviously, public service was in Ham's blood from the start.

Ham went on to receive his bachelor's and law degrees from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He served nine terms in the general assembly, one in the House, and the remainder in the State senate.

During his time in the general assembly, Ham gave impassioned and eloquent floor speeches on a wide range of topics. Whenever he took to the senate floor, Ham commanded the respect of everyone in his presence, Republicans and Democrats alike. I often said he was like E.F. Hutton: when he spoke, everyone listened. Ham had a strong sense of justice and doing what was right. He was an ardent supporter of the individual liberties bestowed by our Founding Fathers.

I will never forget when State inspectors tried to shut down a Winston-Salem market because it sold slices of country ham. Ham promptly introduced the Country Ham Preservation Act to exempt small markets from regulation on meat preparation. After all, he said, the only difference between tasting wine and tasting ham is that you spit out the wine and no one has been known to spit out the ham.

In all of my years in the senate, I have never seen a bill move so quickly. The senate passed the bill just 2 days after Ham filed it. Then the State House passed it the following day.

□ 2000

Ham had a gift of bringing people together, despite partisan differences, to

do what was best for our State. The North Carolina Senate Republican leader Phil Berger once said that Ham "harkened back to another age in the Senate, an age when there was debate that focused greatly on the merits of the issues rather than politics and personality." Likewise, the editorial page of the Winston Salem Journal wrote, "If only America could have more political leaders like Ham Horton. Smart, talented, intellectual, yet in touch with every man. A staunch conservative who saw liberals as his opponents, not his enemies. A man who understood that politics is the art of working with others . . . In an era of politicians who rage with anger, questioning the morality, patriotism, and goodness of those with whom they disagree, Horton never had a disagreeable thing to say to anyone. He just took their arguments apart the way a chef carves a turkey."

At Ham's funeral at Calvary Moravian Church last week, the Reverend Lane A. Sapp noted that Ham acknowledged his Lord with a life of unselfish service, whether he was "serving as someone's lawyer, representing his constituents in Raleigh, serving on a church board or agency, or helping someone in need." Ham cared about helping others more than he cared about helping himself. Despite his difficult fight with cancer, he recently asked his daughter Rosalie to drive him to Raleigh for a Senate committee meeting. When asked why he did not stay home and rest, Ham responded, "I took an oath to serve my constituents and I must fulfill it."

Reverend Sapp put it eloquently when he said, Ham Horton was a man who took to heart Jesus' parable of the talents, using the blessings given by God, not hiding or squandering them for his own use, but using his gifts in service to others, whether it was caring for his wife Evelyn and daughter Rosalie; serving his beloved Moravian Church, his Nation, or the State of North Carolina. Ham Horton was a good steward of all he had been given, and he never became too important that he forgot the call to humble service. In this he emulated his Master, who once told his quarreling disciples that "whoever would be great among you must be your servant," Matthew 20:26.

As I said, Ham was my mentor and someone for whom I had the utmost respect. Anytime I had the privilege to be with him, I went away as a better person because of him. He was a great calming influence on me, and I will miss his wise counsel more than I have words to express.

Mr. Speaker, my thoughts and prayers are with Ham's wife Evelyn, and daughter Rosalie and his extended family. May God bless them and comfort them during this difficult time. The State of North Carolina is fortunate to have been served by Senator Hamilton Horton. He was truly a blessing to everyone whose life he touched, and there

were many. Ham Horton will be sorely missed.

FOLIC ACID AWARENESS

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

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, every year in the United States, thousands of babies are born with serious, preventable birth defects of the brain and spine.

Spina bifida, the most common neural tube defect, is the leading cause of childhood paralysis. Anencephaly, a neural tube defect of the brain, is always fatal.

To bring attention to this preventable tragedy, we highlighted National Folic Acid Awareness Week as part of January's National Birth Defects Prevention Month. Since we were not in session at the time, I will take this opportunity to focus on the public health significance of folic acid and the important role it plays in the prevention of these devastating neural tube birth defects.

The value of folic acid became clear in 1991 when absolute scientific evidence showed that a daily supplement of synthetic folic acid could prevent spina bifida and anencephaly in most pregnancies. In 1992, the finding led the United States Public Health Service to recommend that women, beginning at puberty and continuing through their childbearing years, take a daily dose of 400 micrograms of folic acid.

It was in response to the Public Health Service recommendation that I authored the Folic Acid Promotion and Birth Defects Prevention Act. This act authorized the CDC to develop programs to educate health professionals and the public about the importance of folic acid consumption. I am very pleased that this bill became law as part of the Children's Health Act of 2000.

The Food and Drug Administration also responded to the need to increase consumption in the general population by requiring the addition of folic acid to enriched grain products like bread and cereal. It is important to note, however, that new evidence has found that the current fortification level of grains is not adequate for full protection against birth defects. Nevertheless, over the past 10 years, our efforts have succeeded in increasing the consumption of folic acid. This has resulted in a considerable decline in the rate of spina bifida and anencephaly.

The fact remains, however, that last year approximately 3,000 babies in the United States were born with preventable neural tube defects. Recent studies show that despite our efforts, only 40 percent of women ages 18 to 45 take a daily vitamin with the recommended level of folic acid. And Latino women, who have almost double the likelihood of delivering a baby with a neural tube

defect, have the lowest reported folic acid consumption of any racial or ethnic group.

Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt we have considerable work ahead of us in order to adequately protect our newborn babies from preventable neural tube birth defects. It is therefore our duty and our obligation to, first, increase our efforts to inform all women of childbearing age of the essential role folic acid plays in protecting their babies from spina bifida and anencephaly; second, to increase the required concentration of folic acid in enriched grain products as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics, the CDC, and the March of Dimes.

And, finally, it is our duty and our obligation to encourage manufacturers to fortify cornmeal products with amounts of folic acid that meet the FDA requirements. This recommendation is especially critical to our Latino communities, which consume large amounts of the unfortified corn flour sold in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, we have the knowledge and the ability to prevent the majority of neural tube defects in this country. It will be a tragedy if we choose to ignore this compelling public health challenge.

I urge my colleagues to work with me in the 109th Congress to support policies that enrich our foods with sufficient folic acid and to strengthen CDC's national folic acid education campaign. By working together, we can and will save thousands of babies and families from the suffering and the pain of neural tube defects.

THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION'S EPA BUDGET

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

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise because I believe that working Americans deserve a Federal budget which is compassionate, decent, hopeful, and accountable to their needs. Yet the budget shortchanges many environmental programs designed to protect public health and improve our communities' quality of life. It cuts funding for environmental justice programs by 28 percent and cuts funding for clean water infrastructure by \$199 million. It also fails to address the more than \$300 billion gap in drinking water infrastructure, funds for brownfields cleanup and redevelopment at less than 20 percent of what Congress has authorized, and zeroes out funding to bring more green space to our communities.

These cuts, Mr. Speaker, have very real implications on the quality of our health and our communities. Let us first consider the 28 percent cut in funding for environmental justice. For decades minority and low-income communities have lived in close proximity to industrial zones, power plants, toxic waste sites. These are the communities