

have started a movement to eliminate conservative talk radio unless equal time is allowed for liberal viewpoints. Basically, they want a reinstatement of the unfair Fairness Doctrine. But what the critics may really be irate about deals more with illegal immigration than it does with talk radio, because that is the current controversial issue on talk radio stations.

Since their voices are so rarely heard in Congress, the American public has come to express their opinions by talk radio, especially on this issue of illegal immigration. The backroom, closed-door meetings the Senate has had to reach a deal on amnesty that the American public certainly doesn't want has encouraged talk radio shows to inform the public of this absurd nonsense of amnesty.

Talk radio has been one of the only vehicles that has kept the public informed about the "give America away" amnesty program and the political pandering and preference policies for illegals that the Senate bill is advocating.

So because the amnesty crowd doesn't like what they hear on the radio, they want the Federal Government to control this speech by forcing radio stations to give them free air time. If the liberals don't like talk radio, it is patently unfair to force radio stations to pay for and give away air time to them. You see, liberals can't make their case on their own radio station because no one listens to them.

So, Mr. Speaker, the Constitution protects free speech, not equal speech. Congress is to make no law abridging the freedom of speech whether we like the speech or not.

It's simple, Mr. Speaker, speech is to be free, not fair. Fair is too subjective a word. Our grandfathers guaranteed us free speech, not fair speech, and there is a big difference.

Congress is to stay out of the controlling of speech business because it says so in the U.S. Constitution. Our ancestors wrote the First Amendment mainly to protect two types of speech, political speech and religious speech. Those are the most controversial of all types of speech and the most important types of speech. That's why they are protected in our Constitution.

By trying to regulate what is said on the airways, the Federal Government and the speech police are speaking out of line.

And that's just the way it is.

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

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. JONES of North Carolina 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 California (Ms. WATERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WATERS addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana 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 New York (Mr. HINCHEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

DEMOCRATS NOT MOVING TOWARDS ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

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

Mr. SALI. Mr. Speaker, every Member of this body recognizes the honor our constituents have reposed in us in allowing us to serve them here. For me to represent the people of my hometown, my home county, the entire western part of my State in the House of Representatives is an extraordinary honor.

Like all my colleagues, I try to remember why my constituents sent me here. Perhaps Thomas Jefferson captured best what our service here as Members of Congress should really be about, and I quote. "A wise and frugal government, which shall leave men free to regulate their own pursuits in industry and improvement, and shall not take from the mouth of labor and the bread it has earned." This philosophy is not reflected in the priorities of the new majority which, interestingly, celebrates Thomas Jefferson as its founder.

It has appeared to me over the past 6 months the priorities of the new majority are increasing government spending, growing the Federal bureaucracy and deepening America's dependence on foreign fuels.

In the past 3 months of the second quarter of this year, the new majority has approved more than \$80 billion in new spending, new spending for programs, including a proposal to spend Idahoans' hard-earned tax dollars to pay off the student loans of practicing attorneys. At a time when the national debt is out of control, authorizing \$80

billion in new spending just cannot be seen as fiscally responsible.

This new majority has also proposed an increase in Federal bureaucracy. Just recently I was in a hearing discussing legislation that would add yet another layer of red tape to Federal agencies in order to improve customer service. Adding another layer of government bureaucracy is far from frugal, but more ironically, since when has more government ever improved government? Since when has adding more government ever improved government?

Another priority of the new majority is the energy bill, which I've been calling the "no energy" bill. America should be moving towards energy independence. America's economy growth, Idaho's manufacturing and agriculture future and our families' ability to make ends meet are all intertwined. The new Democrat majority, however, is not moving towards energy independence. Rather, the "no energy" bill will only serve to increase America's dependence on foreign fuels.

In their bill, our friends across the aisle propose to curtail nearly all forms of domestic exploration and development, including resources of ANWR, natural gas reserves, offshore drilling reserves, oil shale deposits, nuclear power and hydropower. Such a policy can only increase America's reliance on foreign fuel. Instead, America should be fully engaged in exploration and development of domestic energy.

This exploration and development should be coupled with the development of alternative energy. The majority, however, proposes to bury the development of alternative biomass energy in a myriad of legal challenges and bureaucracy surrounding the so-called Clinton administration Roadless Rule.

The new majority's assault on energy development does not end there, instead extending the assault to one of the most green energies, wind energy. The new Democrat majority recently held a hearing to give ear to complaints that wind energy causes fatalities among the bird and bat populations of this country. Now, holding a hearing on bird and bat fatalities from wind energy does not just sound absurd; it is, particularly when you consider that many more times birds are killed by office windows, cars and trucks, and, of course, cats than by windmills. What's next, outlawing sky scrapers? Outlawing cars and trucks?

America's energy crisis must be solved. Continued reliance on foreign energy while simultaneously curtailing domestic development and exploration will only result in higher and higher fuel prices at the pump. That is an unacceptable result, and Congress must be committed to pursuing policies to reduce our dependence on foreign fuel.

Unfortunately, the priorities of the new majority, as evidenced over the second quarter, are not Idaho's priorities, and consequently, they are not

my priorities. In my view, Congress must make it a priority to cut spending, making the tough choices to live within its means. Congress must make it a priority to shape bureaucracy in Federal Government. And Congress must work to solve the energy crisis by providing for domestic exploration and development.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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 Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

□ 2300

HONORING LT. COL. KEVIN SONNENBERG

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, tonight, I rise to honor the life of Lt. Col. Kevin Sonnenberg of the Ohio National Guard, another American war hero who was laid to rest today in his beloved State of Ohio. His peers have noted that Col. Sonnenberg will be remembered as a fearless fighter pilot who perished before his time serving the Nation he loved.

Col. Sonnenberg died on the 15th of June, 2007, when his F-16 Fighting Falcon crashed near Balad Air Base in Iraq, shortly after takeoff.

He had just departed on a mission to provide air support to Coalition ground forces fighting anti-Iraq forces.

Colonel Kevin Sonnenberg was an instructor pilot and C Flight Commander assigned to the 112th Fighter Squadron in Toledo, Ohio. He had numerous deployments with the unit, including Operation Northern Watch, Turkey; Operation Southern Watch, Kuwait; Operation Enduring Freedom, Qatar; and Operation Iraqi Freedom, Iraq. He truly is an American hero.

Colonel Sonnenberg was well decorated for his service during these missions, receiving awards and decorations including: The Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal with Valor, the Air Medal, the Aerial Achievement Medal with two Devices, the Air Force Achievement Medal with two Devices, the Joint Meritorious Unit Award with Gold Border, the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with one Device, the Combat Readiness Medal with four Devices, the National Defense Service Medal with one Device, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Iraq Cam-

paign Medal, Global War on Terror Service Medal, the Air Expeditionary Ribbon with Gold Border, the Air Force Longevity Service Award with three Devices, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with four Devices, the Bronze Hourglass "M", Arabic four, Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon with one Device, the Air Force Training Ribbon, the Ohio Distinguished Service Medal with Valor, and the Ohio Faithful Service Ribbon with two Devices.

A 1983 graduate of Napoleon High School, Kevin Sonnenberg earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Bowling Green State University in 1987. He graduated from the Academy of Military Science in 1991, followed by the Squadron Officers School in 2001 and the Air Command and Staff College in 2007.

An Instructor Pilot of F-16s with more than 1,900 hours flown, Lieutenant Colonel Sonnenberg served several assignments in his tenure with the Ohio Air National Guard, including his most recent with the 112th Fighter Squadron.

A traditional member of the Ohio National Guard, Lieutenant Colonel Sonnenberg was also a commercial pilot and farmer. He had been a commercial airline pilot with Delta Airlines since from 2000 until his death. He grew up farming with his father and remained devoted to their partnership.

In the Great War of the last century, the poet Alfred Noyes penned his thoughts about English fighter pilots in "To the Royal Air Force." His words written so long ago capture the spirit of today's F-16 fighter pilots and Kevin Sonnenberg when he wrote,

"Whether at midnight or at noon,

"Through mist or open sky,

"Eagles of freedom, all our hearts

"Are up with you on high . . .

"From realms beyond the sun

"And whisper, as their record pales,

"Their breathless, deep, Well Done!"

His fellow airmen wrote that, "Lieutenant Colonel Sonnenberg will be remembered as a Renaissance man, able to maneuver America's most advanced aircraft in a perilous war zone one week and then discuss corn and soybean crops with Henry County farmers the next. And he did both with his natural, down-home nature that endeared him to so many across Ohio, the Air Force and the world. He should be honored as a patriot whose commitment to his country was surpassed only by his devotion to God."

Lieutenant Colonel Kevin Sonnenberg was a man of action, a man of character, a man who revered God and country and family. He drank deep from the cup of life and lived the journey well, though too short. I imagine he would concur with the words of Christina Rossetti in her poem, "Remember":

"Remember me when I am gone away,

"Gone far away into the silent land;

"When you can no more hold me by the hand,

"Nor I half turn to go yet turning stay.

"Remember me when no more day by day."

I would like to close my remarks by paying tribute to him on behalf of the F-16 fighter pilots of the 180th Tactical Fighter Squadron in our region, to their support staff, to all the members of the Ohio National Guard, to their families and all Buckeyes who truly revered this man's life.

Just about a month and a half ago, I wished off that unit with over 350 members of the Ohio National Guard to fly to Iraq to join their colleagues who have been based there for several months. I gave Kevin Sonnenberg a hug before he left, as I did to every F-16 pilot that left.

This F-16 unit is the best that America has. They rank at the top of every single measure that this Nation has. He was among the finest of the finest in our country. He gave his all to us. He did all he was asked to do. He died loving his family, his country and his God; and we love him and his family and his country and our God.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting that we end this evening in tribute to the life of a great American airman.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. PALLONE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WATERS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HINCHEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. POE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. SALLI, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GOHMERT, for 5 minutes, today, and June 27 and June 28, 2007.

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

By unanimous consent, permission to revise and extend remarks was granted to:

Mr. PEARCE and to include extraneous material, notwithstanding the fact that it exceeds two pages of the RECORD and is estimated by the Public Printer to cost \$4,696.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 1612. An act to amend the penalty provisions in the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.