

doors in December of 2008, and since that day many new bureaucratic rules have been decreed. These new regulations infringe on the American people's right to visit this Capitol. It is their building. It doesn't belong to us or to the Red Coats.

Mr. Speaker, there once was a time when a family would come from my district. They would show up at my office and they would ask to see the Capitol. Myself or a staffer would bring them over to the Capitol, take them through these mighty halls by showing them the statues of the two famous people from Texas, Stephen F. Austin and Sam Houston, giving them a peak at the old Supreme Court Chamber, and they could spend as much time in this building as they wanted to. But no more. Apparently the good old times have been replaced by censored, controlled tours which can only be given by the CVC staff, the Red Coats.

Now, before a staff member can even help on a tour of this Capitol, that person must attend a 6-hour or 2-day-long propaganda school given by the CVC Red Coats. The actual tour that everybody must see before they come into this building starts with an opening video given by the Red Coats. It is a controlled and censored video and a controlled and censored trip through this building. The theme opens in the video by saying that the national motto of the United States is "E Pluribus Unum", which means, according to the video, "Out of Many, One."

Well, Mr. Speaker, I must have missed something. I thought that the United States motto was directly above your head, which says "In God We Trust." But not according to the Red Coats. They just changed the national motto on their own. There is, in fact, no mention of those words or religious history of our country in the entire CVC complex. This includes their exhibit halls, which are supposed to chronicle the real history of America. But the Red Coats have rewritten the history of the United States and omit religion or any reference to God.

Once citizens watch the video, they are allowed into this building to go on their tour, as long as they do it on time and they are not late. You can't wander around and get away from the Red Coat tour guide like the old days. They get to spend a few minutes in the rotunda, a few minutes in Statuary Hall and a couple of minutes in the crypt. But that is it. There is no looking around at the paintings by Brumidi in the hallways. And if your State statue is not on the controlled tour, you are out of luck. You don't get to see it. Unfortunately, now one of Texas' statues is off the approved route. I guess my constituents will just have to become a Member of Congress before they will ever get to see it.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that we should make visiting our Capitol a safe and pleasurable experience for all constituents and all Americans everywhere, and these politically correct positions

by the Red Coats are not the way to do it.

I recently signed a letter that is being sponsored by Mr. KIRK and Mr. LOEBSACK that outlines just a few of these ridiculous regulations. This letter, bipartisan, of course, goes to Mr. Ayers, the acting Architect of the Capitol, who is the chief Red Coat.

Member offices have little control over scheduling tours. Once in awhile somebody will just show up in my office and they want to go see this building. It is their first and only trip to Washington. You can't do that anymore. You have got to get on a list and you have got to make that request a month ahead of time at least before you can come into this building. Those "dropin" days are over, unfortunately, because the Red Coat police are in charge, and if they walk through the building and they get off the tour, the Red Coat police dress them down.

Late groups are often turned away. If a family misses their tour by a few minutes or the security lines are too long and they don't get there on time, they may be out of luck and not even get in this building. They are sent home to come back another time. Unless they are trained by the CVC, congressional staff members are no longer allowed to even give tours. And don't forget those "reeducation sessions" last between 6 hours and 2 days.

According to a letter I just received from the CEO of the Visitor Center, things are going pretty good, according to them. They say thousands of people are making reservations. Well, apparently that is true, because my staff assistant is having an impossible time booking tours for our constituents during the first week of April, spring break, when most of them are coming up here. And the Capitol, unfortunately, is not friendly anymore.

Mr. Speaker, the United States Capitol belongs to the American people. It doesn't belong to us. It doesn't belong to the Red Coats. It belongs to the American people. And I am disappointed in the new regulations from the CVC and the disrespect that has been shown to the American people and Members of Congress.

Mr. Speaker, the Red Coats have arrived and they are stealing the people's Capitol away from America. That ought not to be, but that's just the way it is.

LET'S GIVE THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD DIGNITY AND OPPORTUNITY

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, the Iraqi Government is reopening the infamous Abu Ghraib prison. It has been renovated to include computers, recreational areas, a library and a barber shop for the prisoners. The Iraqis promise to treat prisoners humanely

and in accordance with international standards.

Some disagree with this decision to reopen Abu Ghraib. They say it should have been turned into a museum to document the crimes that took place there. Others say it should have been simply knocked down. But the Iraqi Government says it must keep the facility because it actually needs the space.

The renovations are designed to remove any reminders of the terrible violations of human rights that took place at Abu Ghraib when it was under U.S. control. Those violations did a great deal of damage, Mr. Speaker, to America's reputation. Even worse, they sent a terrible signal to the world. The UN has reported that nondemocratic countries have used U.S. actions in places like Abu Ghraib to justify their own abuses.

Mr. Speaker, the people of the world expect America to offer a better example than that. They expect us to work for peace and to treat people with dignity and compassion.

The Obama administration has already taken important steps in that direction. The President has renounced torture. He has ordered the closing of Guantanamo Bay. His administration has also released documents which show how the previous administration violated the constitutional rights of the American people right here at home.

President Obama has also pledged to use diplomacy instead of war as the first tool of American foreign policy. He has signaled his willingness to talk to Iran and Syria, two nations that we must engage to create stability in the Middle East. He is trying, Mr. Speaker, to diffuse tensions with Russia, and Secretary of State Clinton has pledged a vigorous effort to kick-start the stalled peace process between Israel and the Palestinians.

But there is still a lot more that we just have to do. We must remove all of our troops and military contractors out of Iraq by August 2010. Leaving 50,000 residual troops is unacceptable. The Iraqi people will view it as an enduring occupation force and it will delay the reconciliation and the unification the Iraqi people need. They need that to build stability and democracy in their country.

We must also redeploy our troops out of Afghanistan and use humanitarian assistance instead of military force to achieve our goals there.

□ 1530

Every expert on Afghanistan knows that foreign military intervention never succeeds in that part of the world. Helping the Afghan people to build schools and roads will work a lot better than sending in more troops.

I've also called for a worldwide ceasefire or "time-out" to give diplomacy, to give humanitarian assistance and conflict resolution a chance to work. By intensifying our efforts in

these areas, Mr. Speaker, our efforts of "soft power" or "smart power" and reducing the size of our military, we can move towards a conflict-free world.

Mr. Speaker, President Obama has said, and I quote him, "We have a significant stake in ensuring that those who live in fear and want today can live with dignity and opportunity tomorrow."

The President is right. Instead of bombs, instead of bullets, let's give the people of the world dignity and opportunity. That's the way to defeat terrorism. That's the way to keep America safe, and that's the way to ensure peace around the globe.

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

DEMOCRATS' CAP-AND-TRADE AMOUNTS TO A STEALTH ENERGY TAX ON EVERY AMERICAN

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. Mr. Speaker, the President of the United States stood here in the well the other night, and one of the things he said that was met with a great deal of applause was that there wasn't going to be one dime, not one dime of new taxes on anybody making under \$250,000 a year, any family making under \$250,000 a year.

And yet what was omitted from his talk was the cost to every single person because of a tax increase that's kind of hidden. It's called the cap-and-trade tax increase. And it's going to cost about \$65 billion a year. And it deals with carbon dioxide emissions.

Every time we use coal or gas or any substance to create energy in this country, it emits carbon dioxide. And so \$65 billion in new taxes are going to be levied on business that will be passed on to consumers in the form of higher prices on their electricity, their gasoline, their oil, their food and almost anything they buy, because anything they buy is made from energy. And the energy in this country is going to be taxed up to \$65 billion a year with this cap-and-trade tax that the President's got in his budget. The American people simply don't realize that.

Now, there was an interview that was on Fox the other night. And I want to read to you just a little bit about that. First of all, let me just say that Peter Orzag, the former CBO Director and current OMB Director down at the White House, verified that energy taxes designed to decrease carbon emissions like those in President Obama's budget will be passed on to American families, and this will be passed on in the form of higher prices to every family in the

form of higher prices for energy, food, lodging and everything else.

Senator Obama, when he was in the Senate, admitted during the presidential campaign, said, "Under my plan of cap-and-trade, electricity rates would necessarily skyrocket."

And on Fox the other night, Jim Angle was reporting on the cap-and-trade issue, and he said, "Almost every activity in the U.S. economy emits carbon dioxide, but President Obama wants to impose a cap on total emissions throughout the economy and charge industry a new tax of at least \$65 billion a year for their current activities."

Now, when the President said he's not going to tax anybody, any family making under \$250,000 a year, that's erroneous, because when you take the tax they're going to have to pay indirectly for the cost of food, lodging, energy of any kind, it's going to result in thousands and thousands of dollars to every family.

When you turn on your lights in your house, when this budget is passed, you will be paying much more money for your electricity. When you buy gasoline at the pump, you're going to pay more for your gasoline. When you get fuel oil or coal or anything else that you use for energy, you're going to be paying because of this tax that's being passed in this budget by this President.

And it's going to be on everybody, not just the people making under \$250,000. It's going to be on everybody. Every man, woman and child who lives in this country that uses energy will be taxed. And I think the American people need to know that. That's why I'm down here on the floor, because when they say they're not going to raise your taxes, and that everybody making under \$250,000 is not going to pay one dime more in taxes, they're not telling you the whole story. You are going to pay more in taxes and you're going to pay through the nose.

VEGAS IS MAD AND IS NOT GOING TO TAKE IT ANYMORE

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

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I'm mad and I'm not going to take it anymore. I've had enough of my colleagues bashing my district, my hometown and the community I love, Las Vegas. I've sat back as Las Vegas has been maligned, insulted and lied about for the sole purpose of making political points. I've been waiting for common sense to prevail. But I'm here to say that this nonsense, the bashing and the lies about Las Vegas have got to end, and they've got to end now.

It started with Senator MCCONNELL's misguided attack on the stimulus bill by singling out a mob museum in Las Vegas as an earmark in the stimulus package. There's only a couple of things wrong with that. There never

was an earmark in the stimulus bill. There are none. And there certainly wasn't one for a mob museum. There was never a mention of it in the stimulus package. But the lies continued.

And then we found out about the maglev train. Countless Republicans have misrepresented the \$8 billion included in the stimulus bill as being an earmark for the Las Vegas-Anaheim maglev route. The only problem is, even after it was pointed out that there is no earmark, that Las Vegas and California are going to have to compete with the other projects, that this has been a project that's been in the works for 20 years, and that it will bring thousands of visitors to the Las Vegas area and to the Southern California area, the lies continue.

The latest one was Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal. He repeated the lie in his televised response to the President's remarks to Congress, claiming the bill included funding for a magnetic levitation line from Las Vegas to Disneyland. That is absolute nonsense.

And then it goes one worse. Representative TRENT FRANKS just mentioned today that there's a maglev train going all the way from Disneyland to the Moonlit Bunny Brothel. Now, I grew up in Las Vegas. I've never heard of the Moonlit Bunny Brothel. But I guarantee that maglev train is not going there.

And then the latest whipping boy is in the omnibus bill. Sustainable Las Vegas. Just yesterday Senator MCCAIN took to the floor of the Senate to attack Sustainable Las Vegas. What does Sustainable Las Vegas mean, he yelled?

Well, let me enlighten the Senator. It's a University of Nevada education and research program on energy supply, water supply and air quality, very serious issues for the desert Southwest, cities like Las Vegas and Phoenix and Tucson. But the Senator knows that.

So why is that program being singled out? Why is it different from the hundreds of other projects that are given to university research programs throughout the United States, including universities in Arizona? Because it has Las Vegas in its name.

And let me tell you about my hometown of Las Vegas. It's a community of families looking for a better life, a community of schools and churches and mosques, Saturday soccer, a community of working people, small businesses and beautiful hotels.

And that brings me to the most egregious affront to Las Vegas. Stop bad-mouthing Las Vegas, and stop telling businesses and major companies to stay away from Vegas. You are hurting our economy. You're forcing major layoffs of employees in the hotel industry. Hundreds of thousands of Nevadans depend on the tourism and convention business for their livelihood.

Las Vegas has long been a city where serious business is conducted, where small and large conventions can be accommodated. When it comes to business meetings, Las Vegas is the best