

democracy. "A political ideology that advocates a peaceful, evolutionary transition of society from capitalism to socialism using established political processes.

"Based on 19th century socialism and the tenets of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, social democracy shares common ideological roots with communism, but eschews its militancy and totalitarianism. Social democracy was originally known as revisionism because it represented a change in basic Marxist doctrine, primarily in the former's repudiation of the use of revolution to establish a capitalist society."

These definitions, paired with some of the actions we've seen so far in the administration, cause us concern that they may be indicative of gradual movement towards social democracy. We've got the stimulus bill, we've got the bank bailouts, now we've got the proposal that they will own 50 percent of General Motors, along with a 39 percent share for the unions, a 10 percent share for the bondholders, and a 1 percent share for the stockholders. As a result of these actions, the Federal Government's outrageous spending now equals almost 90 percent of gross domestic product. The GDP for last year was 14.2, and now 12.8.

So the question is, did we elect a President because we wanted to have a social democracy system? When Americans cast their vote for Barack Obama and they cast it for the Democratic Congress, did they also intend that this country should adopt social democracy, that lesser form of Marxism?

These are issues we need to talk about. And if this is the place our country is going, then maybe we need to amend or adopt new founding documents that more fit this form of government.

These are thoughts we ought to all think about. I know I'm thinking about them. I hope you are, too.

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

(Mr. BOYD 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 North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

NORTH KOREAN FREEDOM AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, in Dante's "Divine Comedy," the in-

scription above the entrance to hell reads, "Abandon hope all ye who enter here." That should also, sadly, be the inscription above the DMZ for those turning northward, for North Korea is truly hell on Earth.

This is a land where the techniques of torture and brainwashing have been finely perfected, as portrayed in the film "The Manchurian Candidate." This is a land where political prisoners labor under conditions of slow starvation and massive abuse, as reflected in the South Korean drama "Yoduk Story."

Madam Speaker, I wish I could say that North Korea was no more scary than an Orwellian novel or a Cold War movie or a tragic musical production. Sadly, however, North Korea is no mere bogeyman who disturbs a child's dreams in the shadows of the night. North Korea is a frightening reality, a daily reality for over 23 million people. It is an immediate threat to our Armed Forces in the Pacific and to our allies in South Korea and Japan. It is a proliferation of weapons of mass destruction to fellow rogue regimes in the Middle East.

North Korea haunts us all, but it is no mere ghost, it is a real and constant threat. That is why I introduced last week a bill, H.R. 1980, the North Korea Sanctions and Diplomatic Nonrecognition Act. United we must stand for North Korean human rights and for an end to the repression of innocent human beings. For if we wish to find the real meaning of repression, we should turn our gaze to Pyongyang. If we seek the true definition of torture, we need look no further than the killing fields of North Korea. We must not forget the horrific accounts which our emaciated prisoners of war brought back to America after the 1953 Armistice.

We must not turn a deaf ear to the haunting tales of refugees and returned abductees who are among the fortunate few who are able to escape this hell on Earth. We must not silence our consciences in the name of diplomatic expediency. To be silent on fundamental freedoms and human rights is to tell the despotic leader, Kim Jong Il, that he can avoid these issues indefinitely. To be silent is to be an enabler.

We must highlight how prison guards cut still living babies out of the refugee mothers' wombs and slam their heads on the pavement for the so-called crime of being the mixed blood seed of Chinese fathers. We must shed light on the imprisoned Christians who were martyred by having hot molten metal poured on their exposed flesh. The executions carried out for stealing a little food to keep one's child alive during the famine. The refugees hunted down or trafficked in the sex trade in China.

On a regular business day in our Nation's Capitol, the topic of human rights and oppression may seem rather abstract. But human rights is found in each individual, case by case, and in their tears. It is found in the tears of

Mrs. Yokota, waiting for over three decades for the return of her little girl snatched away by agents of North Korea. It is in the tears of our own American citizens, Mary Ling, waiting for the return of her daughter, journalist Laura Ling. Laura was grabbed, along with fellow U.S. journalist Euna Lee, 6 weeks ago by North Korean border guards and then imprisoned in the gulag.

Human rights is also found in the tears of a Chicago citizen, Esther Kim, waiting for the return of the remains of her husband, U.S. permanent resident Kim Dong-shik. Reverend Kim was kidnapped by North Korean agents in China 9 years ago while helping refugees, and reportedly died of starvation and torture at a North Korean military base. It is found in the tears of Israeli apartment dwellers hit by missiles developed by North Korea for Hezbollah in southern Lebanon in 2006 from tunnels dug with North Korean assistance.

It is a grim picture, but we must not despair, Madam Speaker. Justice will ultimately prevail. In the same manner that we prevailed against the evil empire and Soviet-style Communism, with perseverance, with dedication to the defense of human rights, and the promotion of core democratic principles, the suffering of the North Korean people can also be brought to an end. May it be so.

HONORING REVEREND TIMOTHY WRIGHT

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

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Reverend Timothy Wright, a loving husband, a dedicated father, faithful pastor, and compassionate humanitarian. Grammy-nominated singer and composer, and also my dear friend.

Sadly, last week, Reverend Wright, the founder of the Grace Tabernacle Christian Center in Brooklyn, passed away. He had suffered for nearly a year with complications resulting from a tragic traffic accident that claimed the life of his wife, grandson, and of course the driver who hit his car head on.

Despite his struggles against improbable odds, having undergone numerous surgeries, Reverend Wright maintained unwavering faith in his God, even in the darkest hour.

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Through his example, he showed us that, although he was physically down, he was spiritually vibrant.

Committed to his professed calling in life, one of the reverend's main desires in his last days was to return to his Brooklyn pulpit where he could encourage his congregants. I believe that his ability to be selfless during great suffering is evidence of a man who treasured, loved and lived life to the fullest that way as well.

Rev. Wright understood and demonstrated that life is not defined by everyday circumstances, nor is it about one's accomplishments. He defined life by his love for people. Rev. Wright's life was embodied in the example of the way he treated people and by the sacrifices he made for his family, for his church and for the Brooklyn community. It was not uncommon to find him giving tirelessly for a charitable cause, lending an ear to someone in despair or even extending personal resources to help anyone who needed him. He reached out to those society had thrown away. The reverend thought that adversity kept you humble and that sacrifice was a way to demonstrate faith in God's promise.

Many the world over will remember the surmountable feats Rev. Wright accomplished as a renowned musician. Having released more than a dozen gospel albums over the span of his 40-year career, Rev. Wright's songs of praise and worship were a blessing to all who had an opportunity to hear and to experience the testimonies he shared through his music. From his 1984 song "Testify" to his Grammy-nominated album "Come Thou Almighty King," Rev. Wright's music touched millions all around the world. His final one was "Jesus, Jesus." That was a tremendous record, and of course, many people were able to purchase it and to know him in terms of what he was all about.

Born and raised in Brooklyn's Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood, the passing of Rev. Wright is a great loss to Brooklynites, to New Yorkers and to, in fact, the world over because of his humanitarian spirit and, of course, his dedicated life in terms of how he felt and served people. He was an important voice and tireless advocate, concerned about the everyday issues that strangled his fellow neighbors. He hoped for the things his community hoped for, and he cared about the things that his parishioners cared about—family, friends and community.

The immeasurable contributions and countless investments that Rev. Wright made in the lives of people will far outlive his time on this Earth. Now absent in life, he will remain forever with us as his music, message and his legacy live on.

Let me just conclude by saying, "Sleep on, Rev. Wright. Sleep on. You truly made a difference, and I'm happy to have had an opportunity to know you and to live during your lifetime."

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

(Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD 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. MCHENRY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

THE PASSAGE OF THE LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT HATE CRIMES PREVENTION ACT

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

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Madam Speaker, with all of the challenges that we have in our country, the wonderful reality is that we still hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal and that they are all equal because they are all God's children.

In fact, Madam Speaker, the essence of America is that all people should be treated with the same respect and should be protected completely equally under the law. To break up people into different categories and say that one group is more worthy of protection than another and then to grant special protection to some groups and not to others, it fundamentally diminishes the protection of all of the other remaining groups.

Madam Speaker, a short time ago, this body voted to pass H.R. 1913, the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2009, and I believe that it did just that. Regardless of whether a person is white, black, handicapped, healthy, sick, old, young, homosexual, heterosexual, rich, poor, a janitor, a Senator, a veteran, a police officer, a senior, or whatever the case is, he deserves equal protection under the law. That is the foundational premise of this Nation. The legislation that we voted on today moves us all directly away from that basic foundation in a profound and dangerous way.

This legislation would prosecute individuals not on the bases of their crimes but on their alleged motivations for committing those crimes. It requires law enforcement officials and prosecutors to gather evidence of the offender's thoughts rather than of his actions and his criminal intent. This should strike us all as inherently dangerous.

The First Amendment of our Constitution was crafted because our Founding Fathers recognized that the freedom of thought and belief is the cornerstone of every other freedom. It is the foundation of liberty, itself, because, without it, every other freedom, including the freedom of speech, becomes meaningless.

Madam Speaker, there is another insidious aspect of this legislation which, I believe, would have the most tolerant Americans up in arms if they were truly aware of it, which is, not only does this legislation require law enforcement to investigate an individual's motivations—those are the thoughts and beliefs that seemingly motivate him or her to commit a crime—but it would expand the scope of the prosecution to include individ-

uals or members of organizations or religious groups whose ideas or words may have influenced a person's thoughts or motivations when he committed a crime.

Under such a bill, individuals who may not have even been aware of the crimes could receive the same or similar penalties as the criminal, himself, receives. It would only take some arbitrary prosecutor to construe that an individual had influenced the beliefs or thoughts of a perpetrator of a crime and, thereby, somehow caused hateful or violent acts. This raises the very real possibility that religious leaders or members of religious groups could be prosecuted criminally based on their speech, association or other activities that have been specifically protected by the First Amendment of our Constitution for the last 220 years.

Madam Speaker, this would have a devastating and chilling effect on free speech in America. Who could blame pastors, educators or any other cultural leaders if they chose to cease expressing their beliefs for fear of being thrown in prison and charged with a Federal crime? This is not rhetorical speculation. It has already happened in the case of the Philadelphia 11 and in other cases. In the Philadelphia 11, 11 individuals were jailed, and they faced \$90,000 in fines and 47 years in prison for simply speaking the gospel openly and publicly.

One unscrupulous government entity plus this hate crimes legislation equals the perfect combination for tearing away from American citizens some of the most basic constitutional rights in our Nation's history. Advocacy groups and religious organizations will be chilled from expressing their ideas out of fear of criminal prosecution. In fact, "chilled" is probably a profound understatement. Many will be simply terrified or intimidated into complete silence.

The fundamental purpose of this body is to protect the lives and the constitutional rights of the American people regardless of who they are or what they believe. Unfortunately, the hate crimes legislation will do just the opposite by granting unequal protections based on personal beliefs and thoughts, and it will endanger the constitutional liberties of millions of Americans.

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 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.)