

We just had a recommittal motion where we had the opportunity to say, if you vote against this plan for your constituents, then you ought to decline it for yourselves. A vast majority of Members took it for themselves but declined to provide it for their constituents.

That's hypocrisy, Mr. Speaker.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

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

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

HONORING SARGENT SHRIVER

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

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, Members, yesterday we lost a great American, a real hero when Sargent Shriver passed away.

My wife, Patti, and I were honored to be able to call Sarge our friend. He was a great mentor to both of us. Our lives were shaped, inspired, improved by the extraordinary vision and talent of Sargent Shriver when he built the Peace Corps.

We had the awesome experience to join the Peace Corps in its third year and to be assigned to Ethiopia. Were it not for Shriver's leadership, this iconic and pure American program would never exist.

Sargent Shriver became our close friend as the years went by. With each meeting, our love for Sarge grew, as did our respect for his endless enthusiasm and desire to improve the status of all.

In the 1990s, Patti had the opportunity to work closely with Sargent Shriver to spread the Peace Corps to Eastern Europe, Asia, and South Africa. His enthusiasm once again motivated Americans to join the Peace Corps and serve men, women, and children in every part of the globe.

America and the world will miss this compassionate and talented man.

Patti and I send our prayers and condolences to his family, and we will personally miss this amazing individual.

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

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

AFGHANISTAN

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. Mr. Speaker, last night I stood here and spoke about my experience visiting Bethesda Naval Hospital and seeing the broken bodies of our country's young men and women.

After that visit, I was very pleased to see an article this morning about Grover Norquist speaking out and encouraging fellow conservatives to speak out against the war in Afghanistan.

The article is from The Huffington Post on January 12, and one sentence in particular came to my mind. Norquist also suggested that many prominent conservatives privately hold the view that the war in Afghanistan should end quickly.

It is time for them to speak out publicly, Mr. Speaker. We need to become more engaged in the issue and make our feelings known.

Mr. Speaker, I had mentioned before that a retired military general has been my adviser on Afghanistan for the past year. I would like to share two points that he made in a recent email.

The first point he made is: "What is the end state we are looking to achieve? What are the measures of effectiveness? What is our exit strategy? Same old questions. No answers."

□ 1810

The second point that the general made in his email to me: "What do we say to the mother and father, to the wife of the last soldier or marine killed to support a corrupt government and corrupt leader in a war that cannot be won?"

Mr. Speaker, I'm going to repeat that very quickly. From the retired general: "What do we say to the mother and father, to the wife of the last soldier or marine killed to support a corrupt government and corrupt leader in a war that cannot be won?"

These are valid points that we must think about. It is time that Congress and the American people look at what is really going on and what war really means. I would like to thank prominent conservative, Grover Norquist, for speaking out on Afghanistan. I hope this inspires others to do the same. History has shown that we cannot fix Afghanistan. It is in our best interest to learn from what history is trying to teach us, that no country has ever conquered Afghanistan.

Mr. Speaker, I have beside me "The Pain of War: A Broken Body." It's a young soldier who has lost both legs and an arm, and his young wife taking him into a room in a wheelchair. This party of mine, which I'm very proud to be a Republican, needs to learn, and again I want to thank Grover Norquist for speaking out and saying to conservatives, stop sending our boys and girls over there to come back with broken bodies or to come back in a coffin. It is time to end the war in Afghanistan. It

is time for Mr. Obama to keep his word to the American people, and that is to bring them out in July of 2011.

Mr. Speaker, before closing, I would like to say, as I always do, God please continue to bless our men and women in uniform. God please in Your loving arms hold the families who have given a child dying in Afghanistan and Iraq. God, please bless the House and Senate that we will do what is right in Your eyes for Your people. God, please give strength, wisdom, and courage to the President of the United States that he will do what is right for Your people. And God, three times I will ask, please, please, please God, continue to bless America.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION REDUCING NON-SECURITY SPENDING TO FISCAL YEAR 2008 LEVELS OR LESS

Mr. DREIER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 112-3) on the resolution (H. Res. 38) to reduce spending through a transition to non-security spending at fiscal year 2008 levels, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE RESOLUTION 38, REDUCING NON-SECURITY SPENDING TO FISCAL YEAR 2008 LEVELS OR LESS

Mr. DREIER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 112-4) on the resolution (H. Res. 43) providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 38) to reduce spending through a transition to non-security spending at fiscal year 2008 levels, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

THE TRUTH WILL SET US FREE

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

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it has been written many centuries ago that if we know the truth, the truth will set us free. The truth is, Mr. Speaker, that repeal of the current health care law means that we will reinstate conditions that existed prior to the repeal. The truth is that prior to the law that we currently have, we were spending \$2.5 trillion a year on health care. That's \$79,000 a second. That's 17.6 percent of GDP.

The truth is that if we had continued at that pace, we would spend by 2018 \$4.4 trillion per year, more than 20 percent of GDP, \$139,000 per second. The truth is that health care was going to bankrupt this country. CBO has estimated that this bill that currently passed that is in place now and is law, the health care bill that's law, saves

about \$1 trillion over a 20-year period, more than \$1 trillion, to be more appropriate.

This bill, if it becomes law, will reinstate the past that we have tried to overcome. This bill will bring back, reinstate, preexisting conditions. And as has been said, and for edification purposes, pregnancy is a preexisting condition. This bill will reinstate the doughnut hole that we have been trying to close to help seniors with their pharmaceuticals. This bill will reinstate kicking children off of the policies that they're on now with their parents until they are 26 years of age. This bill will reinstate a condition wherein approximately 45,000 persons per year were dying from a lack of insurance. That's one person every 12 minutes. This bill will take us back in my State to 6 million persons being uninsured without the possibility of having insurance, will take us back to 1.1 million persons in Harris County, Texas, being uninsured, 20 percent of the children in the State of Texas are uninsured. This bill will take us back to a time and the place that we tried to escape.

And I thank God that this so-called repeal will not become law because I believe that this bill, if it becomes law, will hurt too many people. And there are some I have actually heard say, it would be good for it to become law because then people could understand the pain that this bill will invoke. I don't agree. I do not agree because I don't want people to suffer unnecessarily. I believe we do have a duty to be our brother's keeper. And by the way, it's easy to be your brother's keeper when you don't have to keep your brother. It is difficult to do the right thing to make sure that every American has health care. In a country wherein we will take the bank robber who is harmed in the process of robbing a bank and give him aid and comfort, in a country wherein we will give our enemies in mortal combat aid and comfort if they should become wounded, in a country wherein we will give the person on death row who is to meet his Maker next week aid and comfort if he gets sick this week and then send him to meet his Maker next week, in this country, the richest country in the world, if we can give aid and comfort to the bank robber, if we can give aid and comfort to the mortal enemy of this country, if we can give aid and comfort to those who are on death row, we can give aid and comfort to those who are among the least, the last, and the lost.

I believe that we've made a mistake today. This is why I voted against repeal.

RENEWED INTEREST IN THE CONSTITUTION

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

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the Constitution has received a

lot of attention in recent weeks, thanks to the tea party movement. It goes without saying that Members of Congress should have read the Constitution many times, and we should continue to study it.

Citing the particular clause of the Constitution that authorizes newly introduced legislation is a reasonable suggestion, yet in reality it will do little to restrain unconstitutional growth of Federal Government. We have had such rules in the past and no benefit came of it.

The laws that are passed reflect the preferences of those in charge, who promote their personal agenda. For too long that agenda has expanded government at the expense of personal liberty, regardless of which political party was in charge. Generally this trend was supported by voters, who rewarded most Members of Congress with reelection.

For many of us, this expansion of government clearly violated the Constitution, yet it was always argued that the program somehow conformed to that "living" document.

By misinterpreting the general welfare clause, the interstate commerce clause, and the "necessary and proper" clause, Congress has justified every conceivable expansion of the Federal Government. Congress also has misinterpreted the 14th Amendment and legislated as though it had repealed the 10th Amendment. Sadly, Congress has also systematically abdicated its prerogatives and responsibilities to the executive branch over many decades.

Too many people, in and out of Congress, grew up being taught that the Constitution was malleable. This has allowed judicial, legislative, and executive flexibility to make the Constitution "a modern living document." Though the authors allowed for "flexibility" through the amendment process, this process has been ignored for the sake of speed and convenience.

□ 1820

As a result, the Constitution now has little meaning since most Members pay only lip service when taking their oath to obey it.

But I am encouraged by our growing grassroots interest in the Constitution, especially among the younger generation. I am glad Congress is becoming aware of it.

Our Constitution should be viewed as law, and Members of Congress should be expected to follow the rule of law. But a document is just that, and it is only as good as the character of those who represent us and promise to obey it.

Distorted interpretations come easily when the goal is opposite of what the original authors intended and what the plain text provides.

If true liberty is not our goal, persistent efforts to rationalize misinterpretations and circumvent the Constitution will continue.

Without men and women of character in Congress, respect for the rule of law

and a love of liberty, the Constitution becomes but a worthless piece of paper. Celebrating the Constitution without this understanding will do nothing to restore the greatness of America.

Simply praising the document distracts from the need for Members to gain the courage to resist special interests; political self-interests; emergency needs in times of crisis; fear-based economic myths; and the persistent temptation to seek security over liberty while ignoring personal responsibility and self-reliance.

Providing instruction in the Constitution for staff and/or Members begs the question: Who will be the teacher?

I wonder, will this welcomed renewed interest in the Constitution lead to a healthy reassessment of all of our policies?

Will there be no more wars without an actual congressional declaration?

Will the Federal Reserve Act be repealed?

Will only gold and silver be called legal tender?

Will we end all of the unconstitutional Federal departments, including the Department of Energy, Education, Agriculture, Commerce, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, and Labor?

Will the Patriot Act be repealed and all of the warrantless searches stopped?

Will TSA be restrained or abolished?

Will the IRS's unconstitutional collection powers end?

Will executive and judicial quasi-legislative powers be ended?

Will we end the Federal war on drugs?

Will we end the Federal Government's involvement in medical care?

Will we end all of the Federal Government's illusionary insurance programs?

Will we ban secret prisons, trials without due process, and assassinations?

Will we end our foreign policy of invasion and occupation?

For America to once again become the standard for a free society, our love of liberty and desire for peace must far surpass any public display of fidelity to the Constitution. We must first look to strong moral character, respect for the rule of law, and an understanding of the proper role of government in a free society.

REMEMBERING SARGENT SHRIVER

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

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight very sadly to talk a little bit about one of the greatest Americans of our generation, a true American hero, in my view, Sargent Shriver.

I really have to say I am also very upset that the Republican leadership wouldn't allow for a moment of silence in today's session for such a distinguished American.