

only the rich. I wrote: 'One provision cited by liberals as a benefit to the rich is a 50 percent reduction in the capital gains tax, a tax on profits from the sale of property. However, according to IRS figures, 77 percent of those that would benefit make \$75,000 a year or less, helping anyone with a farm, small business, real estate or long-term investment, such as retirement savings.'

'Again, thank you for publishing most of my original editorial and allowing me to share these additional points with your readers.'

I was hoping that they publish this letter. As of to date it has not been published.

Anybody can be wrong in their judgment. They can be wrong in their opinion. But I truly believe that any time the fourth estate decides to take it upon themselves to edit pieces that they have the option of not publishing at all, if they are going to edit, I feel they have the obligation to go back to the person that wrote it. If they are not going to do that, then I think they should put a notice on the letter to the editor, the op ed piece or what have you, that it has been edited. I think it is only fair.

I know I have had lots of people write letters to the editor and send me a copy of it. Then when I read it in the paper, it is not even close to what they wrote, but yet there is nothing in that paper that says that it has been edited.

I am sure that almost every Member of Congress and a lot of people understand exactly what I am talking about, and I would ask the editors, the publishers of newspapers, on their own, to make it a policy that they never edit on anything that is submitted to them; that they never edit without going back to the person that wrote it, give them a chance to either correct it or at least, if they do edit it, to do like most books will say if a book is edited. It will say on that book, edited by some individual.

I think it is only fair. I think that failure to do that, actually, denies, in effect, the citizen's right of the first amendment, which is the right of free speech. I feel that the No. 1 thing that makes the difference of where we are in this day and age is that we have almost instant communication through the television, radio, and daily newspaper. Without that, 200 years ago I do not know whether this country or any other country could withstand the things that are going on now because their citizens would not have been informed that it very well could be too late.

I think we are dependent upon instant communication and communicating with our citizens, informing them. Disagree with the opinion, that is fine. Do not publish it, but do not edit it. Because, in effect, that writer is denied his or her right of free speech.

Naturally, I guess somebody that wanted to be a little facetious could say, well, buy your own newspaper. Well, maybe. I think we have an obliga-

tion, and I would hope that we could get a voluntary commitment, because without a voluntary commitment, I think that even though I am one that says we ought to repeal a lot of laws instead of passing a lot of laws, I would have to recommend and introduce legislation that would require by law what we just talked about; either do not publish it, notify the writer that it has been edited and get their approval first, or put a disclaimer on it.

I think that is only fair and I think that supports the first amendment rights of individual citizens, and I think that it is essential that we are able to communicate and inform the people that are counting on the media to tell them the truth. That is all I am asking.

Mr. Speaker, I apologize again to the staff for having to stay while I talked about what I think is one of the most serious things that can happen. If we cannot count on our media to be accurate, this country has got serious troubles.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. MATSUI (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT), for after 7 p.m. tonight, on account of family medical reasons.

Mrs. MORELLA (at the request of Mr. ARMEY), for after 6 p.m. today, on account of a family emergency.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

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

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

Mr. WISE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FIELDS of Louisiana, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MILLER of California, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BENTSEN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

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

Mr. HAYWORTH, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BUYER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ROHRBACHER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. KIM, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. TIAHRT, for 5 minutes, today.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Mr. THOMAS, from the Committee on House Oversight, reported that that committee had examined and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 1643. An act making appropriations for certain activities for the fiscal year 1996, and for other purposes.

BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTION PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Mr. THOMAS, from the Committee on House Oversight, reported that that committee did on the following day present to the President, for his approval, bills and a joint resolution of the House of the following titles:

On January 4:

H.R. 2203. An act to reauthorize the tied aid credit program of the Export-Import Bank of the United States, and to allow the Export-Import Bank to conduct a demonstration project.

H.R. 1295. An act to amend the Trademark Act of 1946 to make certain revisions relating to the protection of famous marks.

H.J. Res. 153. Joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 1996, and for other purposes.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HASTERT). Pursuant to subsection (a) of the first section of House Resolution 330, the House will stand in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 43 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XXIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

1918. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Assistance Agency, transmitting notification concerning cooperation with France, Germany, and Italy in the project definitions and validation phase of development of MEADS, a mobile surface-to-air missile system, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2767(f); to the Committee on International Relations.

1919. A letter from the Executive Director, Japan-United States Friendship Commission, transmitting the Commission's annual report for fiscal year 1995, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2904(b); to the Committee on International Relations.

1920. A letter from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, transmitting OMB estimate of the amount of change in outlays or receipts, as the case may be, in each fiscal year through fiscal year 2000 resulting from passage of H.R. 1878 and H.R. 2539, pursuant to Public Law 101-508, section 13101(a) (104 Stat. 1388-582); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

1921. A letter from the Secretary, American Battle Monuments Commission, transmitting the annual report under the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act for 1995, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3512(c)(3); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

1922. A letter from the Archivist of the United States, National Archives, transmitting the annual report under the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act for fiscal year 1995, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3512(c)(3); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

1923. A letter from the Chairman, Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board, transmitting