

restitution, because for many of victims of violent crime, especially if they lose a spouse or someone who is a source of income and revenue for their family, not only do they lose a loved one but they lose the financial support, the ability to send their children to college, the ability to spend time and have a house in which their children and those who survive the victim can live.

This constitutional amendment ensures that the victim's safety is always considered when a parole board or similar organization is looking at releasing a criminal in custody at whatever level. Finally, because rights mean nothing if we do not know of them, in this constitutional amendment we ensure that victims are notified of these rights early in the process.

As obvious as these rights are, the fact of the matter is, today in America very few enjoy them. With the exception of some enlightened States and some individual communities, for the most part the victims have no rights in these proceedings, are ignored in the process, are left behind, bewildered at a time in their life when they are stunned by what is occurring to them.

Our family has had some experience in this matter. When I was 12, my father was murdered in a South Dakota courtroom. While I was young at the time, and we do not remember everything as distinctly, I recall our family going through the trial, through the conviction, through the sentencing. And like a lot of families, we were before the parole board trying to keep dad's killer behind bars.

We have been through it. The fact of the matter is that no one ever expects it to happen to them. They are sure it only occurs in someone else's neighborhood, someone else's family, in someone else's community. But the fact of the matter is, in this America there are two classes of Americans: those who have been touched by violent crime and those who someday will be.

This constitutional amendment is designed to protect those who have not yet been victimized by a crime, to make sure that at a time in their life that they never thought that they would be involved in, when justice seems so distant and remote, that they get the one thing in life that they most need at that time, which is justice.

□ 2000

Last year, I think in the year before, many of us watched the O.J. Simpson trial. We watched and read about the victims of the Oklahoma City bombing, and we had to pass a Federal law to ensure that the victims of Oklahoma City bombing could be present in the courtroom when that trial occurred. In most States all that a shrewd defense attorney has to do is identify the family or the victim's family as a possible witness in a courtroom case and excludes them, leaving the courtroom where the accused has a family behind them and full of supporters and where the victim

is basically abandoned and empty. It is time that jurors see the victims of these crimes so that as they weigh the evidence, as they weigh the sentence, they understand that these are real people whose lives they affect.

I support this constitutional amendment and urge my colleagues to do so as well.

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

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

RANCHERS IN COLORADO KNOW HOW TO TAKE CARE OF THE LAND

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

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I woke up this morning and, doing the usual morning, looked at the newspapers and read some of the comments about Earth Day yesterday, and I was surprised at some of the remarks that were made that seem to want to imply to the American people or convince the American people that the way to protect our environment is to have a larger and bigger government in Washington, D.C.; that the people in Washington, D.C., truly know better than those of you out there who own property, who have worked property, who work your land and live your land; that the people in Washington, D.C., really should be trusted with your water, they should be trusted with utilization of your land, they should be trusted with all of the decisions to be made about the environment.

So briefly tonight I wanted to talk to you about a few people that live on the land.

David and Sue Ann Smith, the Smith ranch located in Meeker, Colorado, that ranch is what they call a centennial ranch, which means one family has been on that ranch more than a hundred years. In the Smith case, it is one of the most beautifully managed ranches that I have been on, and I have spent a lot of time on it. It is a centennial family, they care about it, they make their living off that land.

Down in Carbondale, Colorado, former Congressman Mike Strang, Mike and Kit Strang have their ranch down there. It looks out over Mount Sopris. They take care of that land as if it were their own child.

You go back up to Glenwood Springs, Colorado, Al Strouband's. Al has a beautiful ranch up there, Storm King Ranch. He takes care of it. You should see what he does with the vegetation, you should see what he does with the utilization of the water, how he takes care of the game.

And not only does Al have a ranch in Colorado, he also has a farm in Vir-

ginia. Go down and see the farm and what he does with his farm, how well manicured it is, the animals that are taken care of, how he takes care of the environment, the soil, the water.

And you come back to Colorado. Go back up to Meeker again, go visit Bart and Mary Strang. They have been there a long time, these Strang families, long, long time. See how they take care of the land, see how protective they are of the environmental issues.

Go back up to Evergreen, Colorado, to Bill and Leslie Volbright. That is the utilization of conservation easements so that they can protect their land into the future.

Or if you want to, go back to Grand Junction, Colorado, Doug and Cathy King. I go up there every year to bugle elk. Some of the finest elk in the country are up in that area, beautiful aspen trees. You should go up there sometime in the fall, should go and ride in the pickup truck with Doug and see how much he cares about that land, how fragile they are with the land.

Go to Carbondale, Colorado to Tom and Ruth Perry's ranch; to their in-laws, Tom and Rossie Turnbull's. Look at what they do with their land and how protective they are.

You will find three things in common with all of these families. Obviously the first thing in common is they care about that land. They love that land. They know how important the land was for generations before them. They know how important that land is for generations ahead of them.

The second thing they all have in common is no one in Washington, D.C., no one in Washington, D.C., no Environmental Protection Agency, nobody from Earth First or the National Sierra Club had to march onto this property and tell these people how to care for that land. Nobody from Washington, D.C. or Earth First or these organizations had to tell them about the future generations. Nobody in Washington, D.C. or Earth First or any of those programs know anything about the past generations of this land.

The other thing that is in common, they are all Republicans.

Now when I read the papers this morning, the Democratic Party seems to think that through big government, through a larger EPA, through organizations like Earth First, that that is the way we ought to control and protect our environment. Well, I am telling you they have got it all wrong.

What they need to do is just take a few minutes, go talk to their local members, go talk to the local ranchers, go talk to the men and women that make their livings off farms and ranches. Take enough time to ride around on horseback or in a pickup or walk around, whatever you want to do. That land, see how they care for it, see how they talk about it, see how they cuddle it like it is a small child, see how they talk about future generations, and then reassess whether it is

necessary for Washington, D.C. to impose their excess regulations, to impose some of the utopian ideas and in many cases to drive these people off that land.

You know it is very easy in the East to tell them what to do in the West because there is not much government land in the East. In the West, my district for example, my district, geographically larger than the State of Florida, 20-some-million acres of Federal land. We know about that land. We do not need Washington, D.C. to tell us.

Sometime take a deep breath and go visit a ranch in Colorado.

AN AWESOME RESPONSIBILITY

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

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, let me first apologize to the wonderful people who work for this House. I am sorry we are keeping you late, I am sorry I am contributing to that.

As far as the American people, I want to apologize for the expense of this speech and the others. It costs about \$8,000 an hour for special orders.

I tried when the Democrats were in the majority to do away with it, to have us use a room upstairs, let these good people, approximately 80 House employees, go home. There is no reason for these 80 people to be here, there is no reason for the clock to keep running. And I hope that some of my Republican friends who are equally cost-conscious would work with me on ending this practice.

Mr. Speaker, there is a room upstairs we can use. We do not have to keep 80 people around. My worries are not so great they need to be transcribed, and I can always ask that they be included in the RECORD if I think it is worthwhile.

I am sorry Mr. DELAY left. I do like Mr. DELAY. But I do feel like he said some things that need to be clarified, and I want the American people to know where I am coming from as I make these remarks.

I have been here almost nine years, and in those nine years have come to the conclusion that both the political parties have degraded themselves to the point where they are not much more than organizations that raise money and peddle influence. So I hope that no one will take this as a partisan speech, but merely somebody who cares about his country and wants to fix it.

I regret that Mr. DELAY would lead the public to believe that we have a balanced budget, because we do not, and I do consider our Nation's debt as the greatest threat to our Nation. I regret to tell the American people that we are now spending a billion dollars a day on interest on that debt and it is growing.

A couple yards away from me is a real neat human being by the name of

DUNCAN HUNTER. He is the chairman of the Subcommittee on Military Procurement of the Committee on National Security. One of DUNCAN's great misfortunes is trying to replace an aging fleet for the Navy, replace aging airplanes for the Air Force, on a very, very small budget. And quite frankly, if we were not squandering a billion dollars a day on interest on the national debt, we could be buying a destroyer a day with enough change left over to buy about 20 Blackhawk helicopters.

That is why it is important that we balance our budget, that is why it is important we be honest with the American people. And it is not a Democrat or Republican issue because, doggone it, they are both guilty in creating the debt, and the only way we are going to get out of debt is working together.

I am sorry to say that the Cato Institute can back up everything that I have said. Actually, overall spending in the first three years that the Republicans have run Congress has increased at a greater rate than the last three years that the Democrats were in the Congress. They are both wrong. It is wrong for both of us.

But defense spending has either shrunk or been frozen under both, and that is equally wrong. There are kids today flying around in 30-year-old CH-46s, 30-year-old CH-47s. Almost a thousand UH-1 Hueys have been grounded because we finally came to the conclusion that it just was not fair, and above all it just was not safe to send those kids up. But people are still flying old F-14s, still flying old C-103s, and they are still going to sea in old ships.

That is why it is important that, number one, we face up to the reality that we are still not balancing the budget, that we are borrowing from the trust funds, and it does not get any easier to get out of that hole for a lot of reasons, but the biggest reason is as a Nation we are getting older. As a Nation we are getting fewer and fewer people who are taxpayers and more and more people who are receiving benefits.

My dad a couple of days ago turned 77 years old, and I will use his generation as an example. When my dad was a teenager in the 1930's, there were 19 working people for every retiree. One hundred years later, in the year 2030, it has been estimated that there will only be 1.2 working people for every retiree. If we do not pay our bills now, we will never pay our bills because the ratio of workers to retirees continues to decline. It gets only worse all the way out to at least halfway through the next century.

So what I am going to ask Mr. DELAY on one side, what I am going to ask my fellow Democrats on the other, let us not claim victory in the budget because we have not even started. We are \$5.5 trillion in debt, and we do not need the Democrats over here or the demagogues over there misleading the public.

We have an awesome responsibility to defend this nation. We have an

equally awesome responsibility to pay our bills. We have an equally awesome responsibility to be honest with the American people, make them aware of the problem and then, as their elected representatives, both Democrats and Republicans, let us solve them.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

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

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to address an important issue that really took a different spin this week. As we entered this week in legislative business, I did not expect campaign finance reform to be an issue that was going to be on the front lines of legislative business this week nor next week.

But it took a turn this week, and it goes to show the legislative process works, and I want to express my appreciation, I think the appreciation of the American public, that the leadership indicated their willingness to have a full and fair and open debate on campaign finance reform. The procedure that has been outlined could not be more fair and open than having a base bill that comes to the floor of the House, which is the bipartisan Campaign Integrity Act, the freshman bill that is a bipartisan bill that addresses campaign finance reform, and then it is subject to amendments. It is a full and free open debate that no one can quarrel about as to its fairness.

That is what the American people expect, and that is what they have received, and I think it is a tribute to the leadership for recognizing this, responding to it in a very fair fashion.

□ 2015

Now, they have selected the freshman bill, it is called. It is really the result of a freshman task force, as the base bill that would come to the House on campaign reform. If you look at this bill, it is bipartisan in nature, but it is also bipartisan in process, and that is why it is so unique.

Let me talk just for a second about how that bill, I suspect, might have been chosen. If you go back to the beginning of this Congress, the two respective freshmen classes, the Democrats and the Republicans, said let's work together on an issue, and they choose finance campaign reform.

A task force of six Republicans and six Democrats met together over the course of 5 months, heard experts on constitutional law. We heard from the Democratic Party and heard from the Republican Party as to what they believed needed to be done.

We heard from the American people. We heard from academia. We heard from everyone imaginable; from the unions to the business side. And from those hearings we learned a lot, but we also came up with a proposal. We said we need to avoid the extremes. That is