

would be if the professionals in the Census Bureau did it. He went on to say that he did not believe that that was possible.

Mr. Hubbard is absolutely right, and the opponents of an accurate census should be ashamed of themselves for attacking the Census Bureau like that. Never in the almost 100 years of the Census Bureau has there been a breach in the integrity of that organization.

Just after Pearl Harbor, the President of the United States asked the Census Bureau for a list of the names and addresses of Japanese living in America. The Census Bureau refused. During the 1970s, President Nixon did not like the fact that the rate of poverty was increasing during his administration, and put pressure on the Census Bureau to change the numbers. The Census Bureau refused.

The reputation of the Census Bureau is unassailable, and the opponents of an accurate census do themselves and the country a disservice to suggest otherwise.

Today, the Atlanta Journal tries to make this case once again. They admit that scientific methods will make the census more accurate. They acknowledge that if the count shows a population shift that favors one party or the other, it should stand. But then they claim that only the most optimistic could believe that the numbers would not be manipulated by the politicians.

□ 1300

On that, they are dead wrong. Anyone who has any knowledge of how a census works, and how the plans for 2000 work, know that the only ones who could manipulate the numbers are the professionals in the field or in the headquarters of the Census Bureau. There is not now, and there has never been, any evidence to suggest that those professionals would abandon their professional scientific judgment.

As my Members are all aware, I am sure, my colleagues and I have been destroying, sacrificing the American forests, my colleague, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) and I have, in defense of our positions on the census. He is fond of circulating editorials attacking the census and I have sent out literally dozens in support of a fair and accurate census.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that today the gentleman resists the temptation to use the Atlanta Journal editorial for a partisan battle, but rather joins me in defense of the professionals at the Census Bureau. The Atlanta Journal suggests that only the "blissful optimistic" could believe that the census process is protected from political manipulation by the professionals at the Census Bureau. I hope that the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) will join me in telling the Atlanta Journal that the professionals at the Census Bureau are our best hope of a census that is free of politics and as accurate as possible, regardless of how our battle turns out.

PRESIDENT SHOULD CANCEL TRIP TO CHINA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RADANOVICH). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, I know that all of us are committed, along with the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) to a fair census. I am glad to hear that she did not mention the words "census sampling," because of course we know that what that really means is guesstimating.

Many people who are talking about the census nowadays are the same ones who suggested that we have a thing called the "Motor-Voter Bill" in California, which as we found out was nothing more than the "Illegal Alien Voter Registration Act." So we are all dedicated to an accurate census. That is why we want people specifically counted as they always have been in the past.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ROHRABACHER. I yield to the gentlewoman from New York.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman mentioned that the sampling technique is guessing, yet the National Academy of Sciences has come out with a report that was ordered really by President Bush saying that it is the most scientific method, most accurate method to count Americans.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, it is called guesstimating.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, that is what the gentleman calls it. They call it "accuracy."

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, we do not need some pointy-headed intellectual at some university, who may or may not be an ultra liberal receiving some kind of a grant for study, to tell me that it is more scientific to guesstimate who lives over there, rather than to walk over there and count each person individually as has been the case in every past census.

Mr. Speaker, every time we change these rules and allow these standards what we end up with is the average American gets hurt. And what we did with motor-voter is we permitted massive numbers of illegal aliens to vote and degrade the voting of the American population.

Mr. Speaker, back to the issue of the day, however. Yesterday, human rights activists came to the United States Capitol and I was privileged to join them in underscoring the support for the people of Tibet, especially in light of the President's upcoming visit to Communist China.

Mr. Speaker, many concerns were raised yesterday, and today we finally got the answer to those concerns of yesterday. In a letter published in today's Washington Post, the Communist Chinese Ambassador to the United

States claims all the uproar about Tibet is simply based on misunderstandings, misunderstandings of the facts. And he gave us a couple of misconceptions here in his letter to the Washington Post today. This is the Communist Chinese Ambassador.

Misconception number one is that China actually occupies Tibet. That this was a region that was liberated peacefully through an agreement reached between the Central Government and the local government in 1951. Those are his words.

Misconception number two, that there are a great number of Han Chinese who have immigrated to Tibet. He claims some professionals from the coastal areas do go to Tibet to offer expertise to develop the local economy, but after completing their tenure most return home.

And finally there is a misconception that the Tibetan culture and religion are being destroyed. When we have this type of honest dialogue, or the level of honesty in this dialogue, it makes us wonder why our President of the United States is going there to represent the people of the United States to try to give us hope that there is any type of an agreement with gangsters who make a mockery of the truth like that.

In fact, what we have got today in Communist China with the President's upcoming visit, here he has chosen the 10th anniversary of the massacre of the democracy movement in Tiananmen Square to go visit these gangsters, even though the human rights record has not improved, even though the belligerence of Communist China is in evidence in its smuggling of technologies of mass destruction to volatile parts of the world, even Libya and Iran.

Today in the Capital City's other newspaper, the Washington Times, there is a headline story about the Communist Chinese sending weapons of mass destruction technology to Libya and Iran, these terrorist states. Mr. Speaker, I quote this article, "Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi has said that he would like to have a missile system capable of attacking New York."

Mr. Speaker, this is not the time to enter into a discussion with these type of gangsters who control the government in China. I would suggest, especially when we have evidence that American companies have been using American technology to upgrade Communist Chinese missiles, that this is bad enough, and now we hear that they are using American technology that could be shifted to terrorists like Gadhafi in Libya who would be even more likely to use this technology to kill millions of Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I suggest that the President is not watching out for the best interests of our country and he should cancel his trip to China.

YOUTH IN ACTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. METCALF) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, over the recess I had opportunity to visit Youth in Action in Mount Vernon, Washington, which is a city in my district. Youth in Action was created in Washington State to encourage school age children living in multifamily housing to participate in afterschool programs.

While most parents would like to spend more time with their children, many parents are unable to do so because of their demanding jobs. The Youth in Action program provides adult supervision and engages children in activities while parents are at work.

More importantly, these adults serve as positive role models to children whose parents are not able to be present. Our children are not the sole beneficiaries. Our communities also benefit with lower crime rates, decreased vandalism, and reduction in property damage. Programs such as Youth in Action help encourage children to excel and be active in positive situations at an early age.

Mr. Speaker, it is during these formative years that we can have the most influence on these children by instilling values and building positive character traits.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend Youth in Action for providing this essential service to children of our community, children who may need inspiration.

E-RATE IS TAX ON AMERICANS' PHONE BILLS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SCARBOROUGH) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, earlier this hour a friend of mine came to the floor and was talking about his support for the E-Rate system, the E-Rate tax. He was also talking about confusion surrounding that program.

While I certainly respect the gentleman's opinions and understand his viewpoints, I have got to tell my colleagues there should not be a whole lot of confusion surrounding the E-Rate tax, or the Gore tax as it is more commonly called. If there is, it is because there was a backroom deal between Vice President GORE and a bureaucrat for the FCC.

Mr. Speaker, there should not be confusion, but there may be because of the tax increase on the phone bill of all Americans which was passed on to them secretly by the Vice President and bureaucrats and not by elected officials in this Chamber.

It certainly violates all notions of fair play and constitutional limits that are passed on the Federal Government. There may be confusion because the FCC used heavy-handed tactics to try and stop phone companies from telling their consumers that a 5 percent tax had been passed on to every one of their phone bills secretly. Certainly, that does add confusion.

Now, what the Gore tax does is through the telecommunications bill it misinterprets, or interprets very loosely, a provision that they believe allows the FCC to demand that telecommunication companies increase taxes on phone bills by 5 percent and then passes that money on to a new Federal bureaucracy program.

We have heard, and we will hear throughout this debate, that this tax is about the children. That it is about helping the children. And since I have been in Washington, D.C., I have found that there is not much that we pass on this floor that somebody does not say is about helping the children. Children, children, children. That is all we hear about.

Well, I say if this tax increase on every American's phone bill is so important for the children, then why do we not invite the Vice President and our tax-and-spend friends on the left to come down to this Chamber and debate, fairly and openly for all Americans to see, the issues involved here?

America is not about passing tax increases on to all Americans through a bureaucracy, or for an administration official to decide that, gee, this is a really good program, let us tax all Americans and not tell them about it.

What America is supposed to be about, what this Chamber, the People's House, is supposed to be about, the epicenter of freedom and democracy across the world, it is supposed to be about a fair and free, open debate.

Over 200 years ago, Thomas Jefferson was talking about the promise and the dream of America and what would make the American Republic. What Thomas Jefferson talked about was the fair marketplace of ideas and the free marketplace of ideas where Americans from all sides of an issue could come together and debate the issues that affected Americans.

Mr. Speaker, regrettably, this tax increase on the phone bill of all Americans has not been done openly in this Chamber, but rather has been done in the backrooms of the White House and in bureaucracies across Washington, D.C. When the telephone companies went to the bureaucrats and said we are going to start telling our consumers about this 5 percent tax that has been passed on to them, they met resistance. The bureaucrats said, "You cannot do that." And so now they are debating that issue back and forth.

Because of this reason, because of the backroom deals, today I have introduced a bill called the "E-Rate Tax Moratorium Act of 1998." It is going to do a few simple things. The first thing

it is going to do is it is going to stop the bureaucrats at the FCC from demanding that phone companies tax Americans.

The second thing it is going to do is it is going to stop the FCC from demanding that the telecommunications companies participate in the future in paying more money into this new bureaucracy. It does not destroy this bureaucracy that supposedly is supposed to help children. It does not stop the head of this new bureaucracy from talking \$200,000 a year, not that that is something that we would not necessarily like to do away with.

□ 1315

But, instead, it puts a moratorium on it, and it says wait a second, you all passed this in a manner that the GAO said was illegal. You broke laws. You hiked taxes on every single American with a telephone without doing it in a fair and open democratic debate. Let us just put a freeze on it and take up the issue later.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join in a moratorium on the Gore tax.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RADANOVICH). Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 16 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. EWING) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Reverend James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

Surround us, O God, with the spirit of unity as we cherish together our purposes and our aspirations. We know, gracious God, that you unite us in our common creation and give us solidarity in our shared aspirations. You have also given us individual minds with which to think, hearts with which to care, and hands with which to work. We honor the authentic disagreements we have with each other even as we honor each other in our shared objectives and purposes. Help us to hold high, O God, our noble tasks to your glory and honor. In your name, we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.