

COMMENDING THOSE FIGHTING  
WAR ON TERROR

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

Mr. BEAUPREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support House Concurrent Resolution 177, recognizing and commending people of freedom for having played such a crucial role in the ongoing success in the war on terror.

Mr. Speaker, people of freedom come in all different shapes and sizes. They do not come from one nation, but from all nations. They do not go to the same house of worship, but they all have hearts filled with hope. They do not all carry a rifle, they do not all go into battle, but every single man or woman who believes in freedom also believes we can leave this world just a little better than we found it.

Mr. Speaker, the success of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom is not just a plan, it is not just training, it is not just willpower or determination; it is all of that and much, much more. It is about young men and women who displayed heroism in the face of grave danger. It is about leaders who redefine the very nature of conflicts, it is about a disciplined military equipped with cutting-edge technology capable of delivering surgical strikes with razor-sharp precision. It is about a fighting force filled with compassion, a force capable of delivering the fist of justice and the outstretched hand of comfort at the same time.

I have heard some disturbing things lately, Mr. Speaker. I have heard that the conflict in Iraq was unjustified. I have heard that uncovering mass graves is somehow not a good enough reason for freedom in Iraq. I have heard that mobile bioweapons labs do not count as real evidence of weapons of mass destruction. I have heard that life under one of the most brutal regimes in history really was not all that bad. That is nonsense, pure nonsense. Furthermore, it is an insult to the brave men and women now returning home.

Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues to commend not only our troops but the entire military community, for without the people in the background, the encouragement of a family, the expertise of a scientist, the commitment of a President, the situation in Iraq today and in the free world's war against terror might be very, very different.

May God bless the men and women of our Armed Forces, and may he also bless those who give them aid and comfort.

Mr. Speaker, I call on all people of freedom to join us in celebrating our brave troops returning home. I ask them to join us in celebrating the liberation of the Iraqi people. While there is much work to be done, and while we will continue to bring justice to those who perpetrate terror, it is wholly appropriate to take this opportunity to congratulate our soldiers whose sweat

and blood has made freedom a reality for oppressed people around the world, as well as the communities who support them.

□ 1830

And so, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in sending a clear message of thanks by voting in favor of House Concurrent Resolution 177.

REPUBLICAN TAX CUT LEAVES  
POOR FAMILIES BEHIND

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, this afternoon I received the following e-mail from one of my constituents. It says:

"Dear Janice Schakowsky, our government should stand for basic fairness and justice. That's why I do not understand why families earning between \$10,000 and \$26,000 per year would be excluded from receiving the \$400 per child tax refund that wealthier families will receive this summer just so millionaires can get bigger tax cuts. As a constituent, I ask you to please amend President Bush's unfair tax cut plan to include these poor families and their 12 million kids. To leave the tax cut as it is brings too much shame upon this great Nation. Sincerely."

My constituent is correct. This is a shameful moment in our great Nation, and we should not rest until we undo the tremendous wrong committed by the Republican leadership and the Bush administration. This is no time for business as usual. This is a time to reverse the damage done by the disgusting choices made by our colleagues on the other side of the aisle. There are those who may tell us that the decision to leave 12 million children in low-income working families on the cutting room floor was just a mistake, but that would be a lie. As The Washington Post editorialized yesterday, "Stiffing these children was not a last-minute oversight or the unfortunate result of an unreasonably tight \$350 billion ceiling." In fact, this was a deliberate, mean-spirited action committed in the name of protecting special interests instead of our Nation's children. In fact, a House Republican Ways and Means Committee spokesperson confessed that, "Well, adjustments had to be made."

Let us be clear about what happened. Behind closed doors, Republican leaders got together with the administration and decided who was going to be thrown overboard and who would be brought to shore. There were no Democratic Members in that room. There were certainly no children or working families in the room. And the decision was made to throw children and working families, including military families, overboard and to save the dividend

tax cuts for millionaires while restoring the ability of corporations to unpatriotically stash their profits in Bermuda. Compassion for millionaires and corporate traders, contempt for low-income children and their parents.

As Warren Buffett has said, "If this is class warfare, then my class is winning." There are other winners besides Warren Buffett. Not surprisingly, the Bush Cabinet members who worked so hard to sell this tax cut, job-killing bill are also winners. According to a report just completed by the Committee on Government Reform minority staff, Vice President DICK CHENEY, the President's key tax negotiator, will reap \$116,002 a year from the dividend/capital gains provisions in this bill. John Snow, Secretary of the Treasury, will get over \$332,000 a year. Donald Rumsfeld, who gave Vice President CHENEY's former company, Halliburton, a multi-million-dollar sweetheart contract, wins big, too, as much as \$604,000 a year. No wonder they all worked so hard to sell such a defective product.

We know who the winners are; and now we know at least some of the losers, 12 million children and working families. In my State of Illinois, nearly one in four children, 674,000 children in 378,000 families, were tossed aside so that Cabinet secretaries, billionaires, and corporations like Enron could be protected. We were not given time to read the Republican tax cut, job-killing bill before the vote; and I do not blame my colleagues for trying to push their bill through before we and the American public could learn what it included. I would be ashamed, too, if I decided to give Cabinet members, wealthy Members of Congress, and rich campaign contributors life jackets rather than women and children. And no wonder the Members on my side of the aisle were not given an opportunity to offer even one single amendment. What if we had learned the truth and tried to correct it?

Now we have learned the truth, and it is time to right an incredible wrong. Bob Herbert labeled this as a "quintessential example of what the Bush administration and its legislative cronies are about. The fat cats will get their tax cuts. But in the new American plutocracy, there won't even be crumbs left over for the working folks at the bottom of the pyramid to scramble after."

Now the actions of the Bush administration and Republican tax decision-makers are out in the open. And now it is our responsibility to act by passing the Rangel-DeLauro bill. Children and working families should be our first priority, not tossed out, given crumbs or thrown overboard. We must make the commitment to act this month.

IRAQ: WHAT NOW?

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