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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m.

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2003, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 25 minutes, and each Member except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip limited to not to exceed 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate extend beyond 9:50 a.m.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) for 1 minute.

LIBERAL BIAS IN THE MEDIA

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, several days ago President Bush observed that "a lot of times there's opinion mixed in with news."

The media generally present a liberal bias. For example, the three major television networks all carry more negative stories about President Bush than positive ones. Two of the country's largest dailies, The New York Times and The Washington Post, have not endorsed a Republican for President since the 1950s. The few media organizations without a liberal slant do not have nearly as many viewers or readers. For instance, Fox News has less than 1 million viewers while the three network stations have 25 million.

In a democracy we cannot afford anything less than fair and accurate news coverage. The media should trust the American people with the facts, not tell them what to think.

WASHINGTON WASTE WATCH

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr.

BEAUPREZ) is recognized during morning hour debates for 1 minute.

Mr. BEAUPREZ. Mr. Speaker, I and many of my Republican colleagues calling ourselves the Washington Waste Watchers are concerned about out-of-control spending by the Federal Government. Especially concerning to us is waste, fraud, and abuse that is far too prevalent here in Washington. Allow me to highlight but a few examples.

Duplication of programs wastes enormous human and financial resources. By government reports we know that there are 342 separate economic development programs, 130 programs serving the disabled, 130 different programs serving at-risk youth, 90 early childhood development programs, 72 separate Federal programs dedicated to assuring safe water, 50 homeless assistance programs, 12 food safety agencies, and 23 separate agencies providing aid to the former Soviet Union.

Yet, Mr. Speaker, if ever we propose to consolidate or eliminate duplicitous programs to save taxpayers money, we are called heartless and insensitive rather than fiscally responsible.

I call on my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to tone down the rhetoric of class warfare and pull together for the common good of the people who have entrusted us as their representatives in this great Chamber.

CUBS' FAN SALUTES HIS NORTH CAROLINA CONSTITUENTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PORTER). Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I want to revisit the recently concluded American and National League Championship Series. I represent neither Boston, New York, Florida, nor Chicago; but I

do have a direct interest in that two of the managers in the aforementioned series are my constituents in North Carolina's Sixth Congressional District. Manager Jack McKeon of the Florida Marlins calls Alamance County his home while Boston Red Sox skipper Grady Little hangs his hat in Moore County, known to many Americans as America's golf capital.

I am a long-time Cubs fan, Mr. Speaker, but I compromise my Cubs' loyalty in favor of my constituent Mr. MCKEON. And speaking of the Cubs, I hope the Chicago fans will permit the beleaguered left field fan who is now internationally known to become the beneficiary of goodwill in lieu of hostility. Steve Bartman, by his own admission, is a true-blue solid Cubs fan. An isolated ill-fated attempt to retrieve a foul ball does not a seven-game series make or break. Other circumstances as well contributed to the Cubs' elimination; so cut Steve Bartman some slack.

While my love for the Cubs caused me some anxiety while cheering for the Marlins, I felt no such discomfort while I was supporting Grady Little and his Bosox, since I am not a Yankee fan.

Mr. Speaker, permit me to focus on the World Series. Strike that. Permit me to focus on the 2004 World Series. Not unlike many American baseball fans, it is my hope that the Red Sox and the Cubs will square off in that series. Even then I may be forced again to relegate my Cubs' loyalty to the shelf in favor of Grady Little. Constituency loyalty, Mr. Speaker, runs deeper and closer to the heart than does baseball loyalty.

Finally, I extend my best wishes to Trader Jack McKeon and his Marlins as they attempt to conquer the Yankees. If this series, unfortunately, results in the Yanks prevailing, I will reluctantly tip my hat to them and to my New York colleagues who serve

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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