

many in my home State of Washington, that we categorically detest such rhetoric. I will say on behalf of every Democrat that we wholeheartedly support Native Americans, we support treaty rights, and we recognize that this generation can and must honor the culture and contribution of Native Americans.

Last night, the Republican rhetoric should remind us all that 100 years later, there still is much left to be done in this country. I will say that that Republican from Florida made the case for why America needs people to defend its citizens on the battlefield and in the courtroom.

Civil rights, civil liberties, the First Amendment, the Second Amendment, all the amendments, the right to be safe in your home, the right to be safe from unsafe products and unsafe practices, Americans have rights we have paid for in world wars and in cold wars.

Somehow the Republicans think defending those rights in a court of law is un-American. Somehow the Republicans think that defending Americans in an American courtroom is un-American.

Truth is stranger than fiction these days in Washington, DC. It has gotten so bad that the other body had to reaffirm that the United States actually supports the Geneva Convention. And there is a question about whether the Republicans in this House will even support it here. They may not even bring it to a vote. What kind of message is that? The Geneva Convention is not for us?

We have to take a vote to say moral leadership is something he still think is a good idea. The issue is before Congress because of what administration civilian leaders have done to America's moral leadership in the world.

Senator JOHN EDWARDS, the vice presidential nominee, speaks of two Americas; one for the rich friends of the administration and the other America for the rest of us. How right he is.

America has been divided by this administration into the have-less and the have much, much, much more. The Republicans would like to continue that trend. They shift the money through massive tax cuts to the rich.

Forget the rhetoric. Here are the numbers. Over \$112,000 a year to the average millionaire; under 700 bucks for the rest of us.

Now Republicans want to shift power to their corporate patriarchs to ensure that companies can escape responsibility and accountability when they do something wrong. Fairness is not a word in the Republican dictionary, nor is accountability.

They will tell you the fiction that America suffers because lawyers can go to court and defend Americans. I thought protection under the law was something the Founding Fathers thought was a pretty good idea. It seems Republicans think accountability belongs in the same closet with

the Geneva Convention, civil liberties and the basic respect for our first citizens.

Republicans like us to believe that every American has a right to keep and bear arms in order to defend themselves. These same Republicans would like us to believe that Americans do not have the right to defend themselves in court.

Republicans advocate unilaterally disarming Americans. Why? Why would the Republican Party want to prevent average Americans from defending themselves in court? Who benefits? Average Americans or corporate lobbyists? You decide for yourself. I think the words defy gravity.

Republicans would have us believe they know best. They are willing to let big corporations operate without the checks and balances our legal system provides for the safety and protection of every American. That is not representative government, it is Republican doctrine. Reward the rich, over and over and over and over again.

There are two Americas today, but that is going to change. America needs one America, the Nation where ordinary people count and where the common good is what we practice, not preach. The world needs one America, the Nation that recognizes its moral leadership is not secondary to military might or arrogance.

The current Republican administration divided America. The new Democratic administration will unite us.

There are only 118 days left. It is a long time to wait. But America is strong enough to hold on and compassionate enough to hold out until JOHN KERRY is President. If you have lost hope, hang on. Help is on the way.

Mr. Speaker, let the President know he only has 117 more days down at the White House, and he ought to start packing.

□ 2340

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEARCE). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that the House will resume proceedings on H.R. 3980 tomorrow.

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

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

#### EXCHANGE of SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take the time of the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

#### CONGRATULATING COLUMBUS HIGH SCHOOL BLUE DEVILS BASEBALL TEAM, THE 2004 AAAA BASEBALL CHAMPIONS

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

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Columbus High School Blue Devils baseball team in Georgia's 11th Congressional District. Columbus added the 2004 AAAA State baseball crown to its trophy case this year by defeating the Northgate Vikings of Coweta County for the championship.

Columbus is no stranger to State championships. This year's title marks the school's eighth. It was the twelfth time the school had played in the finals.

In this year's 2-game series final, Columbus outscored the Northgate Vikings 20 to 1. The Newnan Times-Herald stated that the Blue Devils, who finished the season with a 35 and 2 record, are arguably the best team in Georgia, regardless of any classification. Two members of the team have signed on to play with Division I college teams.

In two games, Columbus' fielders avoided a single error, while the Blue Devils' pitchers held the Vikings to one run and five hits over two games. At the same time, their offense was at its peak, racking up 23 hits.

Although teammates mobbed Ric Bishop after he caught a foul ball to end game 2, that was not the only memorable moment of the playoffs for the first baseman. Earlier in the week, Bishop hit his 13th home run of the season, a school record. The previous record-holder at Columbus High was former Blue Devil Frank Thomas of the Chicago White Sox. Bishop knocked out another homer in the championship series to finish the year with 14 home runs.

The Blue Devils' pitchers also put in notable performances. Iain Sebastian and Brad Rulon quieted the powerful bats of the Northgate Vikings who entered the series hitting 357 as a team. Sebastian shut out the Vikings and Rulon allowed only one run.

As Coach Bobby Howard told the Columbus Ledger-Enquirer, "Everybody has talked about our hitting, but our common denominator for winning is with our pitching. I would have hated for anybody to try to hit those guys today."

Sebastian's fastballs zipped at speeds up to 90 miles an hour and Rulon notched nine strikeouts. They contributed to an overwhelming team effort for which the high school and the entire Columbus community can be proud.

Congratulations to the Columbus Blue Devils for continuing a tradition of excellence.