

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. MCCARTHY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

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

STATE CONTROL OF PUBLIC EDUCATION

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I am a very, very proud cosponsor of H.R. 3499. I served for 12 years on a school board in Wataugwa County in North Carolina and often felt very oppressed by Federal rules and regulations. When I was on the school board, and even after that, I have checked and double-checked and about 7 percent of the money that North Carolina schools get comes from the Federal Government, but about 99 percent of the rules and regulations that come into the school system come from the Federal Government.

I think passing H.R. 3499 would be one of the best things this Congress or any Congress could do. It would force State legislatures and thereby force school boards and county commissioners to make a decision as to whether or not they want to take the Federal money and the rules and regulations that go along with it.

□ 1530

It would take us out of the business of saying that they have to do this. I think that it is high time that we change the way we do business between the Federal Government and the State governments.

I want to just remind us, and my colleague has paraphrased the words of the Constitution, but I do not think that we can repeat the Constitution too often. I know there are a lot of young people in the audience and some not so young people in the gallery today. I hope you will take the time to read your Constitution at least once a year, and probably more often than that.

I want to read the preamble because my colleague from Texas keeps mentioning the first three words, "we the people." That is extremely important.

I am so proud that my grandson recently has memorized this. He is only in the third grade, but I am so pleased that his teacher has encouraged that.

This is what the preamble says: "We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, ensure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

Now there are lots of important words. Every word in this Constitution is important. Every single word is important, and the Framers were extremely careful about how they wrote the Constitution. But the important words to me in terms of the 10th amendment are "provide for the common defense." That is the number one goal and the number one role of the Federal Government.

That is what we are here for, to provide for the common defense. It is our job to make sure that this country stays free. If we do that, everything else will fall into place.

Now, what the 10th amendment says is the powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution nor prohibited by it to the States are reserved to the States respectively or to the people.

Now I am not reading anything in between and I am not reading afterwards, but you will not find that the Constitution gave any power to the Federal Government for education. There is no role for the Federal Government in education except as has been alluded to, to make sure that we take care of persons who are disabled, and some people might even argue with that issue.

But I think it is extremely important that we return to the way it used to be in this country and that is localities were very much in charge and in power regarding what happens with education.

I am a person who came up through the public education system, as poor as any person you can imagine, but I got an excellent education. There was not unlimited dollars there when I came through school, but I got a good education.

It is my contention that part of the problem with our educational system is we have too much Federal Government intervention. We need extremely high-quality education in this country if we are going to compete with the rest of the world, and we are competing with the rest of the world. And I believe we can do a great deal to restore high-quality education at the local level if we get the Federal Government out of education at the Federal level, or we insist that the States and the localities make not just conscious decisions to take the Federal money but very deliberate decisions to take Federal money.

I applaud the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CULBERSON) for introducing this bill and for allowing me to sign on as a cosponsor and say we need to pass H.R. 3499.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PRICE of Georgia). Members are reminded to refrain from references to occupants of the gallery and to address their comments to the Chair.

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

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

CONGRESSIONAL CAUCUS CONSTITUTION

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

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor tonight and I begin by commending the gentleman from Utah for his efforts every week as we take part in the process of bringing back to the American people the importance of the U.S. Constitution as part of the Constitution Caucus.

At this point I would like to yield to the gentleman from Texas to make a point with regard to his very important legislation that he was referring to, H.R. 3499.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise only to make the point, because I ran out of time earlier, that the legislation that we have coauthored together would give the decision to the locally elected State representatives to enter a contract with Federal elected representatives so that the only control the Federal Government would have over State public education would be the control that the State locally elected officials agree to. It would be a contract between the State legislature and the Federal legislature; and other than what they agree to, there is no Federal control over public education, as the Founders intended.

Mr. Jefferson always said if you apply core Republican principles, the knot will always untie itself. That is true here, and it would continue to be true if we would just remember it.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I will try to remember that expression of Mr. Jefferson. Mr. Jefferson addressed the issue of education. One of the points of the Constitutional Caucus is to take a look at what does the Constitution actually say as to what the role of the Federal Government is.

As we discuss education, we should ask: Is the role of the Federal Government in the area of education? I would hazard a guess it is not. Thomas Jefferson was asked that question as a Founding Father of this country. He was asked the question: Why is it the Federal Government is not involved in education?