

bank are subject to regulation. Only the largest Wall Street banks know the price or volume of these trades, leaving federal regulators and consumers in the dark. H.R. 4173 does nothing to change this.

Leaving these markets to police themselves has resulted in the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, FDIC, taking over 133 banks so far this year, a record. When these markets implode, credit across the financial system freezes. Small businesses and farmers can't secure loans. Community banks, credit unions and businesses are threatened with insolvency, and ultimately employees and taxpayers are left out in the cold. H.R. 4173 attempts to bring regulation to these markets, but leaves loopholes and creates new ones that far outweigh any positive reforms in the bill.

I want to thank Congressman CHRIS VAN HOLLEN, Congresswoman ROSA DELAURIO and Congressman JOHN LARSON for their strong support in working with me to try to strengthen this bill and bring true reform to Wall Street.

As H.R. 4173 moves through the legislative process, I will work with Senators MARIA CANTWELL, BERNIE SANDERS, BYRON DORGAN and others who have a shared interest in closing loopholes that remain a threat to our economy. It is imperative that the bill be strengthened in the U.S. Senate to rein in speculators and end the abusive practices of Wall Street's largest financial houses. I hope the Senate can accomplish these goals in the form of a final bill I can support.

I did not vote for the Wall Street bailout last year. Once again, I stood up to Wall Street's reckless financial transactions. Now, we need more members of Congress to stand with me for effective regulatory reform. For I believe, in this one instance where doing too little is a far greater threat than doing too much.

TREATISE ENTITLED "SHINING CITY ON A HILL"

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, one of my constituents, E.M. Massey, is a dedicated Christian who is very concerned about the moral decline of this Nation.

As the late Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan said, we have been "defining deviancy down, accepting as a part of life what we once found repugnant."

I want to call the attention of my Colleagues and other readers of the RECORD portions of a Treatise entitled "Shining City on a Hill," submitted by Mr. Massey.

A SHINING CITY ON A HILL

Introduction: In 1630, John Winthrop, governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, wrote a sermon while on the Arbella, on his way to the new world. "For we must consider that we shall be as a city upon a hill. The eyes of all people are upon us. So that if we shall deal falsely with our God in this work we have undertaken, and so cause him to withdraw his present help from us, we shall be made a story and a byword throughout the world." (This was one of President Reagan's favorite quotes.)

Truly, the founding of America was in so many ways, the work of God. Yet as we look at the America of today, we see a vastly different picture.

On April 6, 2009, President Obama, speaking in the country of Turkey said: "America is not a Christian nation, or a Jewish nation, or a Muslim nation. We are a nation of citizens who are bound by ideals and sets of values."

Over the past 40 years, the idea of a "Christian America" has been disparaged by many. Christians have been criticized and vilified for their involvement in the political arena. The Revisionist's interpretation of the First Amendment has been at the forefront in this debate. Michael Medved in his book, *The 10 Big Lies About America*, points this out.

Following the 2004 reelection of George W. Bush, a frenzied flurry of books and articles warned unsuspecting Americans of the imminent takeover of their cherished Republic by an all-powerful, implacable theocratic conspiracy.

In *American Fascists: The Christian Right and the War on America*, former New York Times correspondent Chris Hedges breathlessly reported:

"All it will take is one more national crisis on the order of September 11 for the Christian Right to make a concerted drive to destroy American democracy. . . . This movement will not stop until we are ruled by Biblical Law, an authoritarian church intrudes in every aspect of our life, women stay at home and rear children, gays agree to be cured, abortion is considered murder, the press and the schools promote 'positive' Christian values, the federal government is gutted, war becomes our primary form of communication with the rest of the world and recalcitrant non-believers see their flesh eviscerated at the sound of the Messiah's voice."

According to Hedges (a recent—and surprisingly genial—guest on my radio show), it makes no sense to try to reason with the "Christian Fascists" he fears. "All debates with the Christian Right are useless," he writes, because they "hate the liberal, enlightened world formed by the Constitution."

Scores of other releases from major publishers sought to arouse the nation's slumbering conscience to confront the perils of "the American Taliban." These titles include the blockbuster best seller *American Theocracy* plus additional cheery volumes such as *Jesus Is Not a Republican: The Religious Right's War on America*; *The Baptizing of America: The Religious Right's Plans for the Rest of Us*; *Why the Christian Right is Wrong*; *Liars for Jesus*; *The Theocons: Secular America Under Siege*; *The Hijacking of Jesus*; and many, many more.

Some worried observers expected Christian conservatives to remake America along the lines of Iran or Nazi Germany, while others suggested that they would follow the genocidal path of Communist China. In reviewing the Oscar-nominated documentary *Jesus Camp*, Stephen Holden of the New York Times solemnly declared: "It wasn't so long ago that another puritanical youth army, Mao Zedong's Red Guards, turned the world's most populous country inside out. Nowadays, the possibility of a right-wing Christian American version of what happened in China no longer seems entirely far fetched."

So, we are faced with a question: Was America founded on Christian principles and were we ever a Christian nation?

March 23, 1775, Patrick Henry spoke in the Virginia House of Burgesses "There is no longer room for hope. If we wish to be free,

we must fight! An appeal to arms and to the God of Hosts is all that is left us! They tell me that we are weak, but shall we gather strength by irresolution? We are not weak. Three million people, armed in the holy cause of liberty and in such a country, are invincible by any force which our enemy can send against us. We shall not fight alone. God presides over the destinies of nations, and will raise up friends for us. The battle is not to the strong alone; it is to the vigilant, the active, the brave, * * * Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty or give me death."

On July 4, 1776, The Declaration of Independence was unanimously adopted * * * Samuel Adams rose * * * "We have this day restored the Sovereign, to whom alone men ought to be obedient. He reigns in Heaven and * * * from the rising to the setting sun, may His Kingdom come * * *"

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, and are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among them are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness * * * The Declaration contained a solemn appeal "to the supreme judge of the world" and concludes with * * * "A firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor."

Of the 56 signers, 54 were identified as Christians * * *.

Benjamin Franklin once said: "I have lived, Sir a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth: that God governs in the affairs of man. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid?"

"We have been assured, Sir, in the Sacred Writings that except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it. I firmly believe this. I also believe that, without His concerning aid, we shall succeed in this political building no better than the builders of Babel; we shall be divided by our little, partial local interests; our projects will be confounded; and we ourselves shall become a reproach and a byword down to future ages. And what is worse, mankind may hereafter, from this unfortunate instance, despair of establishing government by human wisdom and leave it to chance, war or conquest."

Joseph Story, a Supreme Court Justice from 1811 to 1845 (appointed by James Madison, the father of the Constitution) and, as a long-time Harvard professor, was the leading early commentator to the Constitution. He observed: "The general if not universal sentiment in America was that Christianity ought to receive encouragement from the State so far as was not incompatible with the private rights of conscience and freedom of religious worship. An attempt to level all religion and to make it a matter of state policy to hold all in utter indifference would have created universal disapprobation, if not universal indignation. The real object of the First Amendment * * * was to exclude all rivalry among Christian sects, and to prevent any national ecclesiastical establishment which should give a hierarchy the exclusive patronage of the national government."

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE IN THE STORIED HISTORY OF THE TRI-CITY RECORD

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a cornerstone of our community, the Tri-City Record, which is currently celebrating its 25th year with Anne and Karl Bayer at the helm. Since its founding as the Weekly Record in 1882, the Tri-City Record has been a lifeline for southwest Michigan, reliably keeping folks informed on significant news and community events.

What began as the Weekly Record became the Watervliet Record in 1884. Through the years, with only a handful of owners, the newspaper grew to report not only on news in the city of Watervliet, but also the surrounding communities of Coloma and Hartford. A century after the first name change, the newspaper was purchased by Anne and Karl Bayer in 1984, and soon became the Tri-City Record.

Under the Bayer family's stewardship, countless residents have come to rely upon the Tri-City Record to stay connected with the community and keep up on current events. I commend the Tri-City Record's rich tradition of excellence and proud history of reporting to Coloma, Hartford, Watervliet and across the State of Michigan.

As the newspaper industry across the Nation has been strained during the digital age, the Tri-City Record continues to be a jewel in our corner of southwest Michigan. I salute Anne and Karl Bayer and the entire staff on reaching this milestone and wish them continued success for many years to come.

Twenty-five years later and still going strong, the Bayers represent a most important chapter in the storied history of the Tri-City Record.

THANKING JOHN BRANDT FOR 40 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor a broadcasting icon in western Nebraska, John Brandt. Yesterday, Ogallala joined together to thank John for his 40 years of broadcasting service to the area.

A 1963 graduate of Superior High School in Superior, Nebraska, John has been a fixture on the airwaves for listeners in my district since December of 1969.

Never one to shy away from the hard-hitting questions, John earned his reputation as being a tough but fair interviewer, whose only motivation was to provide his listeners with the most up-to-date information available.

He has given back to the Ogallala community in so many ways and I fully expect this service to continue. I wish him well as he continues to serve the community and our State as a whole.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2996—Interior and Environment Appropriations Act, 2010:

1. Project Name—Walkkill River National Wildlife Refuge Land Acquisition Project
Requesting Member—SCOTT GARRETT
Bill Number—H.R. 2996, Interior and Environment Appropriations Act, 2010

Account—U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Land Acquisition

Requesting Entity—U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service/Walkkill River National Wildlife Refuge, 1547 County Route 565, Sussex, NJ 07461

Description of the Project—This funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund will further consolidate refuge ownership and important habitat, increase recreational opportunities within the refuge, and maintain the water quality in the Highlands region of New Jersey. The national wildlife refuge system was created to ensure protection of ecologically sensitive wildlife species and the Walkkill River NWR was added to the system because of the importance of the biodiversity along the river. Adding these 237 acres to the refuge would also meet the criteria of the Land and Water Conservation Fund by providing additional opportunities for public recreation, outdoor education and research, and by protecting open space and habitat for wildlife, including endangered and threatened species, in our rapidly developing state.

Description of the Spending Plan—(\$1,400,000)

The \$1.4 million from the Land and Water Conservation Fund in FY 2010 will further consolidate refuge ownership and important habitat, increase recreational opportunities within the refuge, and maintain the water quality in the Highlands region of New Jersey. The national wildlife refuge system was created to ensure protection of ecologically sensitive wildlife species and the Walkkill River NWR was added to the system because of the importance of the biodiversity along the river. Adding these acres to the refuge would also meet the criteria of the Land and Water Conservation Fund by providing additional opportunities for public recreation, outdoor education and research, and by protecting open space and habitat for wildlife, including endangered and threatened species, in our rapidly developing state.

Total—\$1,400,000

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Speaker, I was absent from votes on December 14, 2009 due to a medical appointment. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall 969 and "yea" on rollcall 970.

JASON FABINI'S SERVICE IN THE NFL

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Mr. SOUDER. Madam Speaker, today on the floor of the House of Representatives I would like to recognize the amazing accomplishments of Jason Fabini of Indiana. As an eleven year veteran of the National Football League Jason was a member of three teams, playing under five coaches. Mr. Fabini began his football career in Fort Wayne, Indiana at Bishop Dwenger High School. A standout high-school athlete, Mr. Fabini was recruited to play football at the University of Cincinnati.

As a Cincinnati Bearcat Fabini truly developed his skills, and prepared for a lengthy career in the National Football League. While at Cincinnati, Fabini was a three-time All-Conference USA selection. As a sophomore, Fabini started every game and was named to the third-team All National Independent list. His growth continued when, in his junior year, he received Cincinnati's top award for an offensive lineman—the John Pease Award. In the 1997 season Fabini helped lead the Bearcats to their first bowl-game victory in 47 years.

In the 1998 NFL Draft, the New York Jets selected Jason Fabini as their fourth round pick. As a rookie for the Jets, Fabini started all sixteen games. In his second season with New York, Jason suffered a setback when he tore his ACL in a game against the New England Patriots. While Fabini was forced to miss the last seven games of his second season in the NFL due to his knee injury, he persevered and returned to the field ready to play the following season. In 2000, when Jason Fabini returned to the Jets' starting offensive line, he led the offensive to a tie with the Indianapolis Colts for fewest sacks allowed, 20. In recognition of Fabini's return to play after his injury, the New York Jets awarded him the Ed Block Courage Award in 2000. While with the New York Jets Fabini paved the way for Curtis Martin, RB, to rush over 1,000 yards in seven consecutive seasons, 1998–2004, and in 2004 helped Martin set a club record for most yards rushed in a single season, 1,697 yards. In 2004, Fabini started his 100th career game against the Arizona Cardinals.

In 2006 Fabini went to play for the Dallas Cowboys. During his year with the Cowboys, Fabini played fifteen games for Dallas.

In 2007 Jason Fabini signed with the Washington Redskins, a Dallas rival. As a Redskin, Fabini played in all sixteen games, starting in 13 of them. His versatility as a lineman was truly an asset for Washington and helped Clinton Portis, RB, rush for over 1,200 yards. In 2007, in a game against his old team, the New York Jets, Fabini lead the offensive line to block for 296 yards, the third-highest single-game rushing total in Washington Redskins' history.

In February of 2009 Fabini was inducted into the University of Cincinnati Athletics Hall of Fame.

Jason Fabini has had a long, successful football career. He played in over 152 games, starting over 129 of those games. Throughout his career, Fabini started in eight postseason