

God in his loving arms to hold the families who have given a child dying for freedom in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, I ask God to bless the House and Senate, that we will do what is right in the eyes of God for His people. And I ask God to please give strength, wisdom, and courage to President Obama, that he will always do what is right in the eyes of God for his people. And Mr. Speaker, I will ask three times, God, please, God, please, God, please continue to bless America.

THE INTELLIGENCE BUREAUCRACY: THINKING BIG INSTEAD OF THINKING SMART

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I imagine many of my colleagues have read The Washington Post report on "Top Secret America," and I hope they are reacting as I am, with horror and outrage at the sprawling national security and intelligence bureaucracy that has grown like a weed in recent years. This series of articles should shock us into action, at the very least leading us to question the conventional wisdom about how best to keep America safe.

According to the Post, the counterterrorism and homeland security apparatus has ballooned to some 1,271 government organizations working in roughly 10,000 locations around the country. There are now so many agencies analyzing so much information and issuing so many reports that the whole thing has become redundant, unmanageable, and ineffective.

Actually, we can't measure its precise effectiveness because so much of it is shrouded in secrecy. Much of the information about these agencies is classified and therefore not subject to the scrutiny it so badly needs.

If this system, which is so big that the Post refers to it as a fourth branch of government, were a domestic social program, my friends on the other side of the aisle would call it out-of-control spending.

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Yet somehow, when the antigovernment rhetoric starts flying, it is never the wasteful defense and intelligence programs that come in for the harshest criticism. I'd be curious to hear, for example, why we can afford this behemoth, but we can't afford to pass a comprehensive jobs package. The organizational chart for this system looks like an octopus family on steroids, Mr. Speaker, and there are so many tentacles that it makes the proper information sharing and dot connecting nearly impossible.

I couldn't help but note the irony. If memory serves me, 9/11 exposed the inability of our intelligence agencies to coordinate and communicate properly with one another. So what have we done in response to 9/11?

We've grown our intelligence infrastructure in a way that makes it even harder to coordinate and communicate.

Of course, we would tolerate a little bit of bloat if the evidence were clear that the system were working; but according to the Post's analysis, both the Fort Hood shooting and the Christmas Day bomber could have been intercepted early on if this bureaucracy hadn't been so unwieldy, so inefficient and unresponsive. The intelligence was there, but it never got into the right hands or it was lost in an avalanche of other data.

Mr. Speaker, when it comes to protecting America, we are thinking big instead of thinking smart. There has to be a better way. We can have the intelligence capabilities we need at a fraction of the current cost, and we can use much of the savings on initiatives that attack terrorism at its roots—in places where despair and hopelessness lead people to turn to terrorism in the first place. We need to dramatically increase our investment in everything from agriculture to education to democracy-building to conflict resolution in the trouble spots of the world.

Maybe if we increased our global humanitarian outreach, if we empowered nations instead of invading and occupying them, then top secret America wouldn't even be necessary.

A TRIBUTE TO SENATOR PAUL COVERDELLE

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

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man who was a champion from my home State of Georgia.

It has been 10 years this week since the passing of Senator Paul D. Coverdell, and I am proud to honor the life, the work, and the spirit of such an influential man today.

Described by his colleagues as a "soft-spoken workhorse," his strong passion for his country was shown throughout his distinguished public service in the United States Army, the Georgia State Senate, the United States Senate, and as Director of the Peace Corps.

Senator Coverdell was a devoted hard worker who was a pioneer for the conservative movement in Georgia. Some might say he was a "pillar of the community," but that is an understatement. He was the foundation upon which the pillars were built.

As a key figure in the establishment of a strong Republican Party in Georgia, he was the first Republican since Reconstruction to be reelected to the United States Senate. He was notorious for his ability to work on both sides of the aisle. He saw ways through the bitter partisanship, and he was one who was well-liked and respected by all of his colleagues.

Apart from being a brilliant man in his work, he was also a humble and

kind man, characteristics that helped in the advancement of the cause that he fought for. As a testament to his humble and gentle nature, I will share with you a story about Senator Coverdell and a special friendship that he developed that would change his life.

While vacationing in Maine in 1978, Senator Coverdell decided he would look up the former chairman of the Republican National Committee, George H. W. Bush. He simply found his address in a phone book. He went to his home. He knocked on his door and he introduced himself. He introduced himself to the man who would later become the President of the United States. The pair became the closest of friends over the next 14 years, and they helped each other in many different ways. When George H. W. Bush was elected President, Senator Coverdell sent him a letter that read, "If I can help, I'd like to help."

It was at this time that the 41st President then appointed Senator Coverdell as Director of the Peace Corps.

Five years after his death, at the dedication of the Paul D. Coverdell Center for Biomedical and Health Sciences at the University of Georgia, President Bush said of Paul Coverdell, "In the Washington world of bitter partisanship, Paul was, indeed, a voice of reason, always reaching out, always putting the good of the country first, always finding solutions where others may try to find blame or an issue to use as a political weapon. He was successful in bringing together people across the political aisle. I've heard it said that, to the end, Paul Coverdell was the great unifier, and so he was."

Senator Coverdell's legacy is particularly important to me as I am the first graduate of the Coverdell Leadership Institute to be elected to the United States Congress.

Senator Coverdell founded the Coverdell Leadership Institute to support the Republican Party in Georgia through the building of the farm team through the Republican Party. At the time, Georgia was not far removed from being a single-party State. No Republican had served as Governor since Reconstruction. Senator Coverdell began working with current and future Republican leaders, training them in the practical aspects of politics and government service to ensure that, going forward, there would be a bipartisan presence among Georgia elected officials.

Today, I am especially grateful to Senator Coverdell for starting this forward-looking program that continues to be relevant and impactful today, 10 years after the Senator's death. That is certainly a life to be proud of.

From the Paul D. Coverdell Center for Biomedical and Health Sciences at my alma mater, the University of Georgia, to the Paul D. Coverdell Peace Corps headquarters building here in Washington, D.C., to the Coverdell Leadership Institute, itself, and many