

Ninth Amendment. No two people of either of those rallies were the same; they were indeed very different. But what they were advocating was both in the Bill of Rights, and both supported such and the Bill of Rights supported them.

I have devoted much of my career to fighting for fairness in our criminal justice system. It's the Bill of Rights that builds fundamental fairness into that system, particularly the Fifth, Sixth, and Eighth Amendments. It guarantees that we'll have a reasonable bail, a fair chance to prove our innocence, have a lawyer, be able to question witnesses, and, if convicted, we won't be subject to torture or other cruel and unusual punishments.

The Bill of Rights embodies the core values of this Nation: freedom, fairness, justice, and equality.

We need to remember, though, that we have not always upheld those values. For example, the Fifth Amendment guarantees that we won't be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law. But many of the same people who drafted the Bill of Rights and the Constitution owned slaves, treated them as property, and gave them no rights whatsoever. It took almost 100 years to abolish slavery and almost another 100 years to get beyond the Jim Crow laws that continued such.

We must honor the Bill of Rights and respect it for what it has done and recognize it today.

I thank Thomas Jefferson and James Madison and others who gave us the Bill of Rights; and I swore upon the altar of God, eternal hostility toward all forms of tyranny over the mind of man.

We must always strive toward that "more perfect union" discussed in the preamble of the Constitution.

That's why we should be thankful for the organizations that fight each day to defend the Bill of Rights and our freedoms.

You may not always agree with them, but groups like the ACLU, People for the American Way, and the Freedom Forum, are on the front lines defending our rights, even when it means taking unpopular positions.

Every day, we're touched by the Bill of Rights, but too often we fail to recognize its importance.

I hope my colleagues, and all Americans, will take time today to think about the Bill of Rights and how lucky we are to live in a country that guarantees us the liberty and freedoms enshrined in that document.

GUNS AND MONEY SENT TO CARTELS BY U.S. GOVERNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, when most people think of smuggling, they envision outlaws in the dark of night lawlessly shuffling around guns and money to other outlaws. Most people would never imagine that the government of the greatest nation of the

world would be engaged in a stealth smuggling operation by sending guns and money to narcoterrorists.

It appears a group of people in the ATF and the DEA, all under the supervision of the Department of Justice, facilitated trafficking of guns and money to the drug cartels—the national enemy of Mexico and of the United States. These vicious cartels have inflicted terror on both sides of the border. They are literally at war with the Mexican people, the people to the south of us, our neighbors.

First we learned that the Justice Department, with the help of the ATF, apparently facilitated smuggling of over 2,000 weapons to the drug cartels. These guns included semiautomatic weapons and sniper rifles. People have died because of this activity. These weapons were used to kill at least 200 Mexican nationals and two U.S. agents.

The Attorney General admitted to me in the Judiciary Committee last week, more people are going to die, all because our government is helping the drug cartels in Mexico obtain automatic weapons.

Of the 2,000 weapons smuggled to Mexico, most are still unaccounted for. We don't know where they are.

The Attorney General is the chief lawyer and law enforcement officer in the country, but he claimed last week in the Judiciary Committee he didn't know about Fast and Furious until recently. He either didn't read the memo or he didn't get the memo. What is more remarkable, Madam Speaker, he claims he doesn't know who authorized the smuggling ring. To coin a phrase from Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, the idea that Eric Holder, the head of the Department of Justice that oversaw this operation, was not involved or was unaware of what took place requires a "willing suspension of disbelief."

The question is: Is there a rogue group of moles operating stealth activity in the Department of Justice? Apparently, no one really knows. The Attorney General also admitted last week that this operation was in fact reckless.

It's worth noting, Madam Speaker, when a person recklessly causes the death of another person, it's the crime of manslaughter. If people under the Attorney General violated U.S. or international law, they need to be accountable for their actions.

It's been almost 1 year since Agent Brian Terry was murdered and when we first learned about this foolish operation we now know as Fast and Furious. Terry was killed by one of these smuggled guns to Mexico, but yet no one claims to know who is responsible.

The second part of the rogue operation was the apparent laundering of money to the Mexican narcoterrorists facilitated, once again, by the United States Government.

According to a New York Times report last week, undercover American narcotics agents from the DEA

laundered or smuggled millions of dollars in drug money to the drug cartels. How many millions, no one knows. They allegedly handled the money on its path to the hands of the drug lords. This failed operation, like with the guns, was an effort to track the money and bring down the cartels. Of course, the cartels are as strong as ever.

The administration claimed in a statement last week that it was working with the Mexican Government on the operation on "joint investigations to detect and dismantle money laundering networks." However, according to a spokesperson for President Calderon of Mexico, they had no idea the DEA was involved in this drug money laundering operation.

The DEA and the ATF are under the control of the Justice Department. These disturbing operations facilitated the worst kind of result: They have resulted in people dying. And millions of money and hundreds of guns are unaccounted for.

□ 1040

The drug cartels are the narcoterrorists. They are the enemy of Mexico and the U.S. They exist to obtain money and guns, and the United States helped them get both. Somebody needs to go to jail.

We need an independent counsel to investigate the Justice Department and the ATF. The Justice Department cannot be trusted to investigate themselves because the agency has lost credibility. Even Washington insiders responsible for Fast and Furious and money laundry smuggling cannot hide from the long arm of the American justice system because, Madam Speaker, justice is what we do in this country.

And that's just the way it is.

IN GOD WE TRUST, BUT CAN HE TRUST US?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RANGEL. I rise, Madam Speaker, to share with the House the importance of extended unemployment insurance, increasing disposable income, and to try desperately hard to shatter the myth that some of the opponents of extended unemployment have expressed, and this is that Americans don't want to work and would prefer to receive a check and that receiving this check is a deterrent for them to go out and search for jobs.

I can't believe that this is a Republican doctrine because, outside of these Halls, most Americans don't wear on their sleeves whether they're Republican or Democrats or liberals or conservatives. Most Americans just want to be a part of this wonderful American Dream.

And while we work in order to have wages, so much a part of having a job is self-esteem. That's what our great country is about. Not since the Depression have Americans felt so embarrassed because their kids are being

asked questions as to did your daddy and mom lose their job.

People who thought they made it into the middle class, which is the economic heartbeat of this great Nation, moved into communities with higher rents or higher expenses in terms of their homes; and then they were hit by this economic nightmare. Through no fault of their own, they lost their jobs, their homes, their savings, their hope. And they are out there, and we are saying that they don't want to work, that they enjoy being unemployed?

You know, this great Nation has the Constitution as its foundation, but there's something that's not written there, and that is, if you can make your way to America, you can improve, not just your status, but the status of your kids and your grandkids.

Something has happened with this dream as it becomes a nightmare, and it has to do with disparity of the income because if you are born into poverty, chances of getting out of it in the United States of America is far less than in some other countries. That's not us. That's not what we believe in.

And no one is asking for a class war. We're talking about a class in understanding the economy of this great Nation. Less than 1 percent of Americans own 42 percent of America's wealth. And worse than being poor, more Americans who thought they reached the middle class wake up each and every day and find out that they're back into poverty.

Can't we find some way to realize that this is not a party issue, that these are the principles of the United States of America?

Don't we know that these debates that we're having as to who can be the meanest and most ridiculous is causing us, as a Nation, to lose the principles? And aren't these principles how do we treat the lesser of our brothers and sisters in this country? Isn't the question of how we treat our children, is that gone out of the window? Our aged, our sick and those in poverty?

Isn't there something when middle class people have to watch the cash register when they're paying out at the counter to make certain that they didn't pick up more than they can pay for?

What about having your possessions put in the street for nonpayment of rent?

They're looking for unemployment compensation checks as a way of life? They have to explain this?

No, we have to get back our dignity as a Nation, and it doesn't include the gridlock that we have in the House of Representatives. Sure, getting elected is important. But fulfilling the American Dream is far more important than anything this Nation's based on.

Yes, God bless America. Yes, in God we trust. Let's hope that God trusts us.

PLANNED PARENTHOOD INVESTIGATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. OLSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, last week, seven former Planned Parenthood employees wrote a joint letter to the Energy and Commerce Committee detailing the facts that many of my colleagues and I have long believed to be true. Planned Parenthood is grossly misusing taxpayer funds.

These former employees revealed that clinic staff failed to properly follow correct billing procedures to prevent Federal tax dollars from being used to fund abortion services as demanded by law. They outlined other horrific violations, including failure to properly notify parents when a vulnerable young girl may have been a victim of rape and is seeking an abortion.

These former employees also wrote that abortion is indeed offered as a means of family planning, in blatant violation of Federal law. For years, we feared that Planned Parenthood was engaged in several of these abuses, and now we have the inside information from brave folks who have confirmed these fears.

In an effort to shed light on how much taxpayer money is at stake and to keep a promise I made to the people of Texas 22 when I was first elected, I requested a GAO report to give the public a full accounting of exactly how much Federal money is sent to organizations that perform abortions each year. We learned that over a 7-year period, the taxpayer price tag to these organizations is almost \$1 billion.

And last week I was further sickened to learn that, according to the former Planned Parenthood employees, between Federal and State contributions, Planned Parenthood alone receives roughly \$1 million per day of taxpayer funds. And yet they're accountable to no one, including the taxpayers who morally oppose these funds being used to end an innocent life.

I thank my Energy and Commerce colleague, Subcommittee Chairman CLIFF STEARNS, for launching an investigation into this matter. And I'm confident that the full committee will do a thorough audit of this corrupt organization. An investigation is sorely overdue.

Madam Speaker, behind me is a picture of one of the largest Planned Parenthood clinics ever built. Tragically, it's located right outside of the district I represent in Houston, Texas. It's surrounded by four low-income minority neighborhoods, Planned Parenthood's target audience.

This massive building has an entire floor dedicated to abortion services and rumored late-term abortions. And because of the seven former Planned Parenthood employees, we know doctors and clinic employees have illegally encouraged young girls to abort an unborn child as a means of family planning, all on the taxpayer dime.

Americans should be outraged to learn of this horrific and possibly illegal use of their tax dollars. Planned Parenthood must be held accountable.

I will continue to fight to cut off every single tax dollar that Planned Parenthood and similar organizations receive. We can never tire. We can never rest in our moral obligation to protect our Nation's unborn children.

□ 1050

Federal tax dollars are legally prohibited from being used for abortions. Under our Constitution, the Obama administration has a duty to enforce these laws. Under the same Constitution, the Congress has a duty to ensure that the executive branch follows the law of the land. I applaud those Americans who bravely raise their voices on behalf of innocent children who don't have one and maybe never will.

BILL OF RIGHTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington (Mr. MCDERMOTT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, today we celebrate an action that took place 220 years ago when we passed the Bill of Rights. But I rise today to express my dismay at the passage of the National Defense Authorization Act yesterday. Not only did this bill curb our ability to keep America safe, it made a mockery of our constitutionally protected rights.

But there is a larger point about the state of this country which is worth noting. Over the past several months, this body has wasted precious time writing a defense authorization bill with so many unsavory provisions the President threatened to veto it.

National security officials from all political spectrums condemned it as dangerous and unnecessary. In the end, the bill was watered down in response to many of the serious concerns about the bill, though it did not go nearly as far as it should. The final bill still contains restrictions on transfer of Guantanamo detainees and grants the President the power to indefinitely detain without trial American citizens in military custody. It shows just how far along the slippery slope our country has moved since 9/11 in authorizing sweeping powers to the President at the expense of our civil liberties.

Let's be clear. The over-militarization of our counterterrorism efforts goes against American values and civil liberties, though some people continue to justify it through fearmongering. We saw this after the horrific events of 9/11 when President Bush signed into law the Patriot Act that dramatically expanded law enforcement agencies' ability to search telephone, email, and financial records without a court order in the name of intelligence gathering.

One section of the Patriot Act even allows the FBI to review library