

the eve of all modern treaties and international legal precepts regarding cultural property, even in the same decades that the Allies in Europe broke historic ground when they returned the cultural property seized by Napoleon to the Nations of origin. The committee will need to apply strict interpretation of its own legal principles as it weighs the rights of the possessor against the rights of the creator, a very important principle.

The return of the Parthenon Marbles would raise no cause for concern for any other world museums, especially in the United States. Additionally, the Parthenon Marbles is unique, and their reunification would not create a precedent for other museums. Likewise, reunification of the Parthenon Marbles neither establishes a principle for American museums nor poses a threat to our own cultural heritage.

From an ethical point of view, we can imagine the United States position if a foreign diplomat began carting away sculptures from the roof of the Lincoln Monument, which actually the Lincoln Monument was structured after the Parthenon, and they were now in a foreign museum.

From an artistic and cultural point of view, we should consider that the sculptures were integral, structural parts of the architecture, dismembered and taken from the roof of the Parthenon temple. The Parthenon Marbles are not merely "statutory," movable decorative art, but integral, interdependent parts of a temple. Over the centuries, the Parthenon has been a place of worship for three religions in addition to pre-Christian worship of Athena, goddess of wisdom, Orthodox Christian, Catholic, and Muslim.

President Clinton's recent comments in Athens and to British Prime Minister Tony Blair have advanced the debate. Significantly, within days, Prince Charles announced his support for the return of the Marbles to its original place. This will promote a dialogue between the Greek and the British governments which may lead to the reunification of the Marbles to their original home on the Acropolis, hopefully in time to celebrate the 2004 Olympics, which as we know starts in Greece.

Emblems of our culture, in fact, were adopted from the Parthenon and the democracy and culture it represents, including the Lincoln Memorial, the Supreme Court, and innumerable important public buildings and monuments. In the United States, the Committee on the Parthenon has served as a primary catalyst in building public awareness and government support.

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I urge that we support this and I have introduced legislation to move it forward.

EARTH DAY 2000

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, we are on the verge of celebrating the 30th anniversary of Earth Day, which falls on April 22. We have much to celebrate, improved air quality and water quality and other environmental standards and better protections for human health. However, we also still have a long way to go to preserve and protect our natural resources.

Unfortunately, the Republican leadership has not promoted an environmental agenda in this Congress. This is a shame because, if we continue on the path that the Republican leadership has been advocating, our planet will be in far worse shape 30 years from now.

I just wanted to mention a couple actions that took place just yesterday in the House in the committees that I serve on. For instance, Republicans on the Committee on Resources yesterday promoted efforts to drill the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. If we open the Arctic Refuge to oil and gas development, we will only have the equivalent of 6 more months' worth of oil supply. Yet, in the process, we would destroy one of our Nation's greatest natural resources forever.

Just yesterday, Republicans on the Committee on Commerce in which I serve tried to eliminate water efficiency standards for shower heads and toilets. Fortunately that attempt was defeated. Many of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle are already experiencing severe water shortages back home. One study estimated that indoor water use could be reduced by 31 percent per person per day with products that meet the current standards.

Let me just mention also other aspects of the environmental report in general with regard to the Republican majority. I believe very strongly that many of their policies have harmed our domestic and global energy and environmental security by cutting funding for energy efficiency, renewable energy, weatherization, and alternative fuel programs during the last few years.

In their first effort upon taking control of Congress, the Republican majority cut energy efficiency programs by 26 percent. Over the past 5 years, the GOP has slashed funding for solar energy, renewable energy, and conservation programs by nearly \$1.4 billion below the administration's request.

They have also inserted anti-environmental riders into critical funding bills at the 11th hour, hoping that these stealth efforts would not be discovered by the American people. If we look at the situation in Texas where Governor Bush is claiming to be helping the environment, we see that that State ranks first in air pollution in the Nation and third worst in water pollution from chemical dumping. Governor Bush has appointed industry represent-

atives to State environmental agencies that had previously fought against environmental regulations.

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And he also has underfunded the cleanup of Superfund sites and has pushed a strictly voluntary program for dirty power plants to reduce harmful emissions, even though Texas's deteriorating air quality has reached a crisis proportion.

While the rest of the world is taking practical steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and save money and energy, the Republican-controlled Congress is lagging behind by debating whether the science is real enough to take similar actions domestically.

Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Earth Day this year, let us reflect on our responsibility for stewardship of our natural resources. I just hope the Republican leadership will stop trying to gut our environmental laws, and I hope all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will join me in working proactively to protect our environment now for the present and for future generations.

SUBMISSION OF AMENDED RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on April 12, 2000, in accordance with Rule 1(b) of its rules, the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct amended its rules as follows: (1) to conform the language of Rule 20(f) to the superseding language of Rule 22(a), the last sentence of Rule 20(f) was deleted, which sentence read "The Committee shall transmit such report to the House of Representatives"; (2) to conform the language of Rule 27(o) to the intention of that rule, the word "of" in the first sentence of Rule 27(o) was deleted and replaced by the word "or." The committee hereby publishes its amended rules in their entirety.

LAMAR SMITH,
Chairman.

HOWARD L. BERMAN,
Ranking Minority Member.

RULES: COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT, ADOPTED JANUARY 20, 1999, AMENDED MARCH 10, 1999, AMENDED APRIL 14, 1999, AMENDED APRIL 12, 2000

FOREWORD

The Committee on Standards of Official Conduct is unique in the House of Representatives. Consistent with the duty to carry out its advisory and enforcement responsibilities in an impartial manner, the Committee is the only standing committee of the House of Representatives the membership of which is divided evenly by party. These rules are intended to provide a fair procedural framework for the conduct of the Committee's activities and to help insure that the Committee serves well the people of the United States, the House of Representatives, and