

Government, in Europe and in Central Asia as a knowledgeable, passionate, and hard-working expert on the right to freely profess and practice one's faith. She was intolerant of religious intolerance and was a champion to all those who were disenfranchised and dispossessed. She lived the gospel, especially our Lord's admonition in Matthew, 25, when our Lord said, "When I was in prison, did you visit me." "Whatever you do to the least of my brethren you do to me." Time and time again Karen interceded on behalf of those who were unjustly imprisoned by dictators and despotic governments. Karen always took the time and had the energy to pursue the truth, and to chronicle in a meticulous way the information about someone who was persecuted or harassed by their government, in some way put at risk because of their faith.

Karen played an active role as a member of numerous U.S. delegations to meetings of the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe, and she was selected and served on a panel of religious liberty experts for the OSCE's Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights. Whether the interaction was with nongovernmental organizations, religious believers and clergy, academics or government authorities, Karen was an active listener, an informed interlocutor, and a vigorous and respectful advocate. She was a force with whom others had to reckon, because she was so strong and she would always stand up, on behalf of those who were persecuted for their faith.

Karen surely distinguished herself as the expert on laws affecting religious communities in various countries of the OSCE region, whether the issues were in the Caucasus, Central Asia, Western Europe, or Eastern Europe. Just 3 months ago, even while she was suffering the devastation and the terrible pain of cancer, she participated in conferences in Sofia, Bulgaria and Baku and Azerbaijan, which were focused on religious liberty, rule of law and international standards for protection of the freedom of conscience. She often served as an expert at various venues in other countries with the U.S. Department of State and for the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Members of the commission knew that they could depend on her and her thorough knowledge and vigorous advocacy of this precious freedom of religion.

Time and again as I sat in the chair holding hearings on religious freedom, I would turn to Karen, get her advice and her informed expert opinion.

Karen was a great woman, Mr. Speaker. She was smart, she was articulate, she was a quick study, she was tenacious, and she was breathtakingly courageous. She never uttered a word of complaint. While she was suffering, while she was going through her

frightening ordeal, knowing full well what that cancer was doing to her body, she would have a quiet smile on her face and a very, very deep faith in Jesus Christ. She spent much time in prayer. She suffered her agonies of cancer with courage, working on behalf of religious freedom of all people: Muslims, Jews, Catholics, Christians, Pentecostals. Believers of every stripe will miss her. Karen possessed within herself an abiding tranquility—the peace that surpasses all understanding that our Lord spoke of in the Gospel.

Mr. Speaker, we will greatly miss Karen Lord. She was a dear friend, and I ask all of the Members of the House to keep her in your prayers. Because hers was a life so faithfully lived, she is no doubt looking down from heaven. She was a wonderful person, she will be missed dearly. Our loss is surely Heaven's gain.

PRESIDENT'S TAX CUT NOT FAIR, NOT BASED ON REALITY, AND NOT AFFORDABLE

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, today is a big day on Capitol Hill. The President is sending a \$1.6 trillion tax cut plan to Congress. A very big day. A big day for the White House, a big day for Congress. The only three problems that I can discern with the President's plan thus far, despite the huge size of it: it is not based on reality, it is not fair, and it is not affordable. Other than that, it is a pretty good idea.

Now, the plan is based on an economic scenario that does not exist. The plan is based upon a rosy economic scenario. Even as the country is sliding into recession, and on the one hand, they use the excuse of a projected future tax cut, particularly favoring those at the top, as a rationale for rushing it through Congress, they say, the economy is actually going to grow at 2.4 percent this year, so we will have a surplus to spend, and more than 3 percent every year thereafter.

Mr. Speaker, they are defying the reality of the current economy. Others are saying, in fact, that growth has slowed to near zero and, in fact, that we may even slide into negative growth. So first off, it is not based in the reality of our current economy or current economic assumptions. So we are spending money we might not have, or forgoing income that would drive us back into periods of deficits and add to the national debt.

Secondly, it is not fair. It is very heavily slanted toward people at the top. The top 1 percent, those who earn over \$320,000 per year and up, will average \$46,500 in savings under this legislation. So if one earns over \$320,000, one gets \$46,000 back, on average.

Now, if one is in the lower 40 percent of American families for income, they will get an average of \$110. So what does that translate to? Well, the family that earns over \$320,000 a year can go out and buy a nice new Yukon Denali XL with heated leather seats; not bad, nice ride, and the average American family can take and invest their \$110 in a lube, oil change and minor tune-up for their 8-year-old family jalopy. That is not fair. That is not fair.

Finally, it is not affordable. It is a lot like a very honest man, David Stockman, told us at the beginning of the Reagan administration. He said he knew we could not cut taxes, dramatically increase military spending, and balance the budget; that, in fact, it was a Trojan horse to get at all those social programs and to make Congress reduce funding for or eliminate those social programs, because they knew they could not defeat them frontally.

The American people support Social Security and Medicare and more funding for education and help with our kids getting a higher education. They know they cannot take those things on frontally, so we are back to the Trojan horse scenario, locked in tax cuts projected out over 10 years with the huge tax cuts coming toward the end of the 10 years, projected on a rosy scenario that does not exist. Then, when we go into deficits or we are threatened with deficits, they say, oh, my God we have locked in the tax cuts and people have planned their estates and things around it, so we cannot change the rules now. We will just have to cut spending, cut Medicare, cut Social Security. We cannot afford those increases in education.

Mr. Speaker, that is where this is really headed. People just need to know that when they support it.

Now, it is not fair to criticize if one does not have an alternative, and I have an alternative which has been put together by the Progressive Caucus. Our alternative is fair, it is based on reality, and it is affordable, and it is very simple. Every American would share in the surplus, from the tiniest, teeniest baby to the oldest senior citizen in a nursing home, all would share and share alike, because all have played a role in building the prosperity of this Nation. The American people's dividend.

This year, it would average about \$300 per person, a family of four, \$1,200, no matter what their income. So for that family of four who falls into that lower 40 percent who would only get \$110 under the Bush plan, they would get \$1,200. They could afford more than a lube and the oil change on the family jalopy and the minor tune-up. Of course it is a little disappointing to the family who earns over \$320,000 a year. They would only get \$1,200. One cannot buy a Yukon Denali for \$1,200; but I think that they could probably finance

one, and it would be a couple of months' payments on a 6-year payment plan. So it is fair.

I hear so much from my colleagues on the other side of the aisle that we should go to a flat tax; that would be fair. Somehow, to extract money from the American people on a flat tax is fair, but they will say it is not fair to give it back in an equitable way.

Mr. Speaker, my plan is fair, affordable, based in reality, not spending money we do not have. A better plan.

□ 1030

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin) laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Resources:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 7, 2001.

Hon. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House,
U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I respectfully tender to you my resignation from the Resources Committee effective today. I have enjoyed the four years I have spent with the Committee and am honored to have had the opportunity.

During my years on the Committee we considered many important measures. We did a great deal of good for the American people and we exercised our oversight responsibilities in a judicious manner. I look forward to continuing this work with the Committee as opportunities arise and on the House floor.

I am pleased to have made many friends among the Committee's membership and developed relationships with the hard working staff. Thank you for the opportunity to serve with such dedicated people.

Sincerely,

KEVIN BRADY.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted.

There was no objection.

POTENTIAL FOR WAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I have asked for this special order today to express my concerns for our foreign policy of interventionism that we have essentially followed throughout the 20th century.

Mr. Speaker, foreign military interventionism, a policy the U.S. has followed for over 100 years, encourages war and undermines peace. Even with the good intentions of many who support this policy, it serves the interests of powerful commercial entities.

Perpetual conflicts stimulate military spending. Minimal and small wars too often get out of control and cause more tragedy than originally antic-

pated. Small wars, like the Persian Gulf War, are more easily tolerated, but the foolishness of an out-of-control war like Vietnam is met with resistance from a justifiably aroused Nation.

But both types of conflicts result from the same flawed foreign policy of foreign interventionism. Both types of conflict can be prevented. National security is usually cited to justify our foreign involvement, but this excuse distracts from the real reason we venture so far from home. Influential commercial interests dictate policy of when and where we go. Persian Gulf oil obviously got more attention than genocide in Rwanda.

If one were truly concerned about our security and enhancing peace, one would always opt for a less militaristic policy. It is not a coincidence that U.S. territory and U.S. citizens are the most vulnerable in the world to terrorist attacks.

Escalation of the war on terrorism and not understanding its causes is a dangerous temptation. Not only does foreign interventionism undermine chances for peace and prosperity, it undermines personal liberty. War and preparing for war must always be undertaken at someone's expense. Someone must pay the bills with higher taxes, and someone has to be available to pay with their lives.

It is never the political and industrial leaders who promote the policy who pay. They are the ones who reap the benefits, while at the same time arguing for the policy they claim is designed to protect freedom and prosperity for the very ones being victimized.

Many reasons given for our willingness to police the world sound reasonable: We need to protect our oil; we need to stop cocaine production in Colombia; we need to bring peace in the Middle East; we need to punish our adversaries; we must respond because we are the sole superpower, and it is our responsibility to maintain world order; it is our moral obligation to settle disputes; we must follow up on our dollar diplomacy after sending foreign aid throughout the world. In the old days, it was, we need to stop the spread of communism.

The excuses are endless. But it is rarely mentioned that the lobbyists and the proponents of foreign intervention are the weapons manufacturers, the oil companies, and the recipients of huge contracts for building infrastructures in whatever far corners of the Earth we send our troops. Financial interests have a lot at stake, and it is important for them that the United States maintains its empire.

Not infrequently, ethnic groups will influence foreign policy for reasons other than preserving our security. This type of political pressure can at times be substantial and emotional. We often try to please too many, and by

doing so support both sides of conflicts that have raged for centuries. In the end, our effort can end up unifying our adversaries while alienating our friends.

Over the past 50 years, Congress has allowed our Presidents to usurp the prerogatives the Constitution explicitly gave only to the Congress. The term "foreign policy" is never mentioned in the Constitution, and it was never intended to be monopolized by the President. Going to war was to be strictly a legislative function, not an executive one. Operating foreign policy by executive orders and invoking unratified treaties is a slap in the face to the rule of law and our republican form of government. But that is the way it is currently being done.

U.S. policy over the past 50 years has led to endless illegal military interventions, from Korea to our ongoing war with Iraq and military occupation in the Balkans. Many Americans have died and many others have been wounded or injured or have just simply been forgotten.

Numerous innocent victims living in foreign lands have died as well from the bombings and the blockades we have imposed. They have been people with whom we have had no fight but who were trapped between the bad policy of their own leaders and our eagerness to demonstrate our prowess in the world. Over 500,000 Iraqi children have reportedly died as a consequence of our bombing and denying food and medicine by our embargo.

For over 50 years, there has been a precise move towards one-world government at the expense of our own sovereignty. Our Presidents claim that our authority to wage wars come from the United Nations or NATO resolution, in contradiction to our Constitution and everything our Founding Fathers believed.

U.S. troops are now required to serve under foreign commanders and wear U.N. insignias. Refusal to do so prompts a court-martial.

The past President, before leaving office, signed the 1998 U.N.-Rome treaty indicating our willingness to establish an international criminal court. This gives the U.N. authority to enforce global laws against Americans if ratified by the Senate. But even without ratification, we have gotten to the point where treaties of this sort can be imposed on non-participating nations.

Presidents have, by executive orders, been willing to follow unratified treaties in the past. This is a very dangerous precedent. We already accept the international trade court, the WTO. Trade wars are fought with the court's supervision, and we are only too ready to rewrite our tax laws as the WTO dictates.

The only portion of the major tax bill at the end of the last Congress to be