

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the EPA is trying to exploit the poor people in my district for their pseudo-Nazi and Tuskegee-like studies to determine what pesticides do to infants and toddlers in Duval County Florida.

In October, the EPA received \$2.1 million to do the study from the American Chemistry Council, a chemical industry front group that includes members such as Dow, Exxon, and Monsanto Critics of the research, including some EPA scientists, claim the study's funders guarantee the results will be biased in favor of the chemical industry, at the expense of the health of the impoverished children serving as test subjects.

The families would have to keep spraying, even when the directions on the bottles say "cover all food and keep pets and children outside and away from the pesticides."

The point of the study is to determine what happens to children exposed to pesticides. There is no reason to believe that the participants would be informed about incorrect use of pesticides that would abnormally affect the children. Any change in pesticide use would skew the results.

In fact, EPA policy recommends that children be kept away from all pesticides because all pose some health risks. But the agency will not be warning parents in this study group. Doing so would interfere with the study. Infants and toddlers up to 3 years in age are involved, and the agency will warn their parents of the pesticide danger only if their children begin to show risky levels of pesticides in their urine.

There are no safeguards to prevent a family from increasing their pesticides use to become eligible for the study.

This is a low income area. \$970 over two years, plus a video camcorder is a lot of money to many people.

The EPA Press Release for this study said: "As part of this exposure study, the American Chemistry Council (ACC) has signed a cooperative research agreement with EPA to collect information on exposures of young children to several household chemicals, including phthalates, brominated flame retardants, and perfluorinated chemicals."

These classes of chemicals have been shown to have effects on male sperm counts in adults, and are known to be dangerous. The European Union is in the process of banning these drugs.

This project is symptomatic of a larger problem.

This administration has been pushing to increase human testing.

American kids should not be guinea pigs for a misguided administration proposal to help the large pesticide companies increase sales.

HONORING THE LIFE OF POPE JOHN PAUL II

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

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay homage to the life of Pope John Paul II. Although I am deeply saddened by his passing on Saturday,

April 2, I join my colleagues in honoring the extraordinary life that he led.

Born in Poland in 1920, Karol Wojtyla secretly studied theology during the Nazi occupation, and then became a leader in the opposition to communism as a young priest and bishop. His elevation to the papacy in September of 1978 was full of symbolism and significance. Pope John Paul II was the first Slavic Pope and the first non-Italian Pope in 455 years. During his 26-year papacy, he led the Catholic Church and its members with dignity and conviction. He traveled more miles, gave more speeches and published more material than any of his predecessors, and ushered the papacy into the modern era.

In the insightful words of his biographer, George Weigel, his life was a witness to hope. He was a large influence in the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe and the dismantling of the Berlin Wall. His trip to his native Poland in 1979, just a year after his investiture as Pope, set the country spiritually afire against the communists and inspired the Solidarity movement on every level.

His unique relationship with President Ronald Reagan, what Time Magazine called "the Holy Alliance," enabled a bloodless end to the Cold War. President Reagan sent his top envoy, General Dick Walters, to the Vatican many times to take intelligence on the Communists to the Pope. In December of 1980, the Pope, the Reagan White House, the Solidarity movement and many other players were able to stop a planned Soviet invasion of Poland.

Pope John Paul II also made friends of the progressive Russian President Mikhail Gorbachev in the 1980s who would later tell an Italian newspaper that what happened in Eastern Europe over these last few years would have been impossible without the Pope's presence.

Pope John Paul II held a deep desire for the unity of the Christian churches, in particularly that of the Western Roman Catholic and the Eastern Orthodox Churches. He preached understanding between religions, and in his later years in the papacy, he astounded the world by visiting synagogues, mosques and Protestant churches. He sought reconciliation with the Jews, asking God's forgiveness for the sins of the Church against Christianity's "elder brother" by placing a memorable prayer on the Western Wall during a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in March 2000.

As a Catholic who served as an altar boy and attended parochial school in my youth, I recall the pride I felt when, after an assassination attempt in 1981, Pope John Paul II sought out his assailant to offer him forgiveness rather than condemnation. He leaves behind a legacy of grace and compassion.

Pope John Paul II spoke directly to the concerns of the family, understanding the family to be the foundation of a society rooted in relationships of love. He spoke frequently about human rights, especially the right to life. As a prolife obstetrician, I was inspired by his strong stance against what he referred to as a disturbing phenomenon of widespread destruction of so many human lives and the blunting of the moral sensitivity of people's consciousness because of it. He stood against this culture of death as a violation against the human person and against God, the Creator and Father. Without his tireless voice, these rights would be even further threatened.

He shows us a great example of how to live, and then how to die. With his death, the world has lost one of the great figures of our lifetime, and his leadership will be sorely missed. My prayers today are of thanksgiving for his life and service to all humankind, and that we will continue on his sacred legacy.

POPE JOHN PAUL II

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from New York (Mr. HIGGINS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in expressing the deep sorrow of the House of Representatives upon the death of the Holy Father, Pope John Paul II. As a Catholic myself, but also as a public official with a keen eye toward domestic and international affairs, I rise also to celebrate the life and the 26-year papacy of John Paul II.

As history's third longest pontificate, it was not without its faults, to be sure. All told, however, it is undeniable that the papacy of Pope John Paul II was the most significant in the 20th century and one of the most significant of all time.

Born in Wadowice, Poland, in 1920, Karol Wojtyla was a serious if nondescript youth. Young Karol enjoyed dramatics and thought of becoming an actor, but was instead called to serve the Church. Studying in secret for the priesthood as Poland was occupied by Nazis during World War II, young Karol became Father Wojtyla on November 1, 1946, and subsequently served in various capacities in his native Poland, serving under the legendary Stefan Cardinal Wyszynski, and later serving in his own right as Archbishop of Krakow, Poland.

On June 26, 1967, Archbishop Wojtyla was elevated to the College of Cardinals, receiving the Red Hat, as it is known in Vatican circles, from Pope Paul VI.

Krakow is known in official European guidebooks as the gem among European towns, although its survival