

This special access not only raises security concerns, but calls into question the fundamental fairness of the White House press corps. In fact, the favoritism bestowed on this fake reporter may have violated federal law. Mr. Guckert's efforts as a mouthpiece for the White House likely violated statutes banning the Administration from using appropriated money for propaganda purposes.

Finally, Mr. Guckert has claimed that he had access to a classified Central Intelligence Agency document that revealed the undercover status of Ambassador Joseph Wilson's wife. It's now been over a year and a half since Valerie Plame was maliciously outed, and we appear to be no closer to finding out who in the Administration played with her life for political purposes. I hope this resolution may shed some light on whether Mr. Guckert, the White House's go-to propagandist, also received classified information and from who.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF UNITED INDEPENDENT
SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD MEM-
BER WILLIAM JOHNSON

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the important contribution of United Independent School District Board Member William (Bill) Johnson of my Congressional District.

The experience of being on a school board has taught Bill Johnson several things. "Everyone runs with the idea that 'I' can make a difference. But if you're only one vote out of seven it's not going to work. Being on the board has to be a team effort." Johnson says each board member brings a different view of education. "A successful board can harness its members and get them to pull in one direction."

Johnson has always been interested in education. He has taught banking and finance courses at the Laredo Community College and, for the last 10 years, he has taught business through Junior Achievement at United High School. "I like being around educators and kids," Johnson said. In addition, he has served as a little league coach since 1981. "It's a tough job, but I enjoy it."

Johnson, a native of Laredo, has a wife and three children. He graduated from Texas A&M University with a Bachelor's degree in political science. He is a first vice-president at Laredo National Bank.

Overall, Johnson says his experience on the board has been positive. "It's been a good opportunity. You have to work with a lot of different people but it has taught me a lot." One of the lessons Johnson has learned is that being on the board takes a lot of preparation. With the thousands of pages of memos and reports that need to be looked at, Johnson says the board has to make time to study. "When I first joined the board I figured all I had to do was go to about 24 meetings a year." In his first year Johnson had to attend 172 meetings.

"You quickly learn that you need at least four votes to get anything done." According to Johnson, the current United ISD school board may not always agree on everything, but they know how to work well together. The district has several Exemplary and Recognized campuses, whereas before there were none. The district also earned praise from former comptroller John Sharp for saving taxpayers millions of dollars.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have this opportunity to recognize the dedication of United Independent School District Board Member William Johnson.

CHINA'S ANTI-SECESSION LAW

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2005

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I was disappointed to learn that China is drafting an anti-secession law, aimed at annexing Taiwan. The Taiwanese people are very concerned with China's action and understandably so.

China has long presumed that it and Taiwan are unified. However, the reality is, since 1949, they have been two nations existing side by side with neither having control over the other.

The proposed law also assumes that the only outcome of cross-strait negotiation is annexation of Taiwan by China. This would deny the 23 million people of Taiwan the right to decide their own future and would go against the intentions of the Taiwan Relations Act.

Many believe, if enacted, the law would be used to justify the legal basis for the Chinese government to punish anyone speaking or acting against the reunification of Taiwan and China. Moreover, Chinese leaders might that this law permits the use of force against Taiwan if China considers Taiwanese leaders to be engaging in separatist activities.

Clearly, China is seeking to unilaterally change the status quo in the Taiwan Strait. If enacted, this law would destroy any good feelings the Taiwanese people might have gained for China through increasing economic interdependence. It would also make them less willing to sit down and discuss their future with China.

In the end, military tension in the Taiwan Strait will rise, affecting regional peace and stability. This is not in the best interests of either Country.

Mr. Speaker, we should all speak out against China's proposed law. It is a bad law with potentially serious consequences.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE UNITY ACT
OF 2005

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2005

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I have introduced legislation to make English the official language of the United States Government.

The English language is the carrier of liberty and freedom throughout history and the world. For centuries, our common tongue, English, has been the uniting force in this great nation, knocking down ethnic and religious barriers to make us truly one nation. Today, as we rally for unity and patriotism a common means of communication propels us toward our goal.

The English Language Unity Act declares English the language of the United States. Like its predecessors, it does not affect the teaching and study of other languages. It does not deter the use of other languages in the home, community, church, or elsewhere. The Act includes commonsense exceptions to the policy, for international relations, national security, teaching of languages, and preservation of Native Alaskan or Native American languages.

A common language has enabled generations of Americans to realize the dream of American opportunity and freedom. Studies continue to prove those who know English get better jobs, earn more money and receive better health care than those who cannot speak the language. As a result, an emphasis on English decreases reliance on the federal government.

The need for official English appears in our newspapers every day—injuries in the workplace, mistranslations at hospitals, people who are unable to support themselves and their families—all because they could not speak English.

Recognizing a common language is neither racist nor exclusionary. It is a principle enacted by 177 countries worldwide to allow for the transmission of ideas and customs and to allow people of multiple cultures to come together. This bill does not inhibit people from speaking other languages, nor does it attempt to place any limits on culture, religion or customs.

The Unity Act gives newcomers an opportunity to succeed in the United States. It bonds the newcomer with his fellow Americans, allowing both to reach for the highest rung on the economic ladder and provide for a family.

According to the U.S. Department of Education, those with limited English proficiency are less likely to be employed, less likely to be employed continuously, tend to work in the least desirable sectors and earn less than those who speak English. Annual earnings by limited English proficient adults were approximately half of the earnings of the total population surveyed.

Few doubt this reality. In a 1995 poll by the Luntz Research firm, more than 80 percent of immigrants supported making English the official language of the United States. They are joined by 86 percent of all Americans who agree with English as the official language of the United States.

Similar English legislation in the 104th Congress (H.R. 123) drew 197 bipartisan House cosponsors and won a bipartisan vote on August 1, 1996. That spirited effort, led by our late colleague Bill Emerson, is unfinished business that we must attend to for the benefit of all Americans.

I urge my colleagues to co-sponsor The English Language Unity Act of 2005 in the 109th Congress so that we can ensure that all Americans have the opportunity to attain the American dream.