

House manual book, our rules manual. It is in every office. On page 360, you will read that an attack upon a Member about his representative duties is a bona fide point of personal privilege. I would recommend that you do what I said I would not do myself to correct some attacks on my honor. I will not waste the committee's time, because they were more personal. But that is an attack on the whole freshman class, on me, on all of us, on what we are trying to do. I would recommend you do it in the middle of the day tomorrow, or as soon as you can next week, check it with the Speaker, but not—

Mr. GEKAS. And not tonight.

Mr. DORNAN. And not tonight.

Mr. GEKAS. Thank you for yielding back my time.

Mr. Speaker, I am engaged in a small war of "Dear Colleagues." My office sent out a "Dear Colleague" letter on the impending conference report and the vote we are going to take on the VA-HUD-Independent Agencies appropriations. That "Dear Colleague" was answered by another one, and now we have submitted a surrebuttal "Dear Colleague."

I would like to explain this to the House, because this information flowing back and forth is going to be very important in the decision that each Member of the House has to make on the appropriations for EPA under the Independent Agencies portion of the VA-HUD conference report that we are going to be debating.

First of all, Mr. Speaker, let us start from the beginning. This is important. When we passed the Clean Air Act, and all of us want clean air, for gosh sakes. Who can accuse anybody in the Congress or outside the Congress of not wanting to have clean air? Well, anyway, because of the language in the Clean Air Act and the authorization granted in there, the EPA had certain powers. One of them was to set auto emission standards for the 50 States.

What has happened is that the mandates issued out of the EPA for centralized emissions mechanisms in the various States were so draconian and so devoid of proper standards for clean air, and really devoid of the necessary information upon which proper testing could be accomplished, that 16 States had to throw up their hands and determine that it was impossible for them to comply with that kind of centralized emission mechanism called for by the EPA.

So what has happened is that, with a lot of intermediate history which I will not reiterate here, we came to the point where a rider, one of the 16 or 17 riders, is being inserted into these Independent Agency appropriations for the EPA which would say, very innocuously and reasonably, that we would like to see the EPA conduct a 2-year study of air sampling, shall we say, to determine what is an alternative to the centralized mechanism that they are mandating, because we do not think that 16 States, and perhaps others, will be able to safely and cost-effectively

comply. That is all we wanted to do with this rider that is 1 of the 16 or 17 riders.

Now, when I sent out my letter, my "Dear Colleague" letter, I alerted everyone that we ought to vote no on the Stokes-Boehlert motion to instruct conferees, because we could be cutting out highway funds unless we supported this rider. If we supported Stokes-Boehlert, we could be cutting out highway funds for the 16 States. That is the essence of my "Dear Colleague."

What that was followed by was a "Dear Colleague" by the gentleman from New York, SHERWOOD BOEHLERT, and I guess the former chairman, the gentleman from Ohio, Mr. STOKES, that that was not true, that no State would be facing losing highway funds if they got rid of this rider and let the EPA do what it wanted to do.

So what did I do? I researched as fast as I could, and my staff did an excellent job to try to bring this into focus. We have learned that indeed the EPA sends out letter after letter to California, to Pennsylvania, to Virginia, threatening the loss of highway project funds and highway funds unless those States and others comply with this centralized version.

Then they say, "We do not mandate centralized monitoring of auto emissions," but then if you do not, then if you implement something else, you could lose 50 percent of the credits that in themselves wind up costing highway funds to the States.

Mr. Speaker, I am trying to straighten this out. Let me repeat, the rider which is in the bill now, which I want to protect, is one that would put the EPA on hold on these mandates for this centralized system, put them on hold until we can test the air, get some samples, determine the best way to determine this auto emissions program, not to force this down our throats in an ineffective, cost-ineffective manner.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ALLARD). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida [Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. SCARBOROUGH] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. SCARBOROUGH addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

DEMANDING INFORMATION ON THE WELFARE, WELL-BEING, AND WHEREABOUTS OF JOURNALIST DAVID ROHDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maine [Mr. LONGLEY] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LONGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to express my serious concern over the welfare of an American journalist who has just been reported missing in Bosnia. I received a phone call from the father of David Rohde this morning indicating that—he was aged 28 and currently serving in the Balkans as a reporter, Eastern European correspondent for the Christian Science Monitor—I am advised that he has been reported missing as of last Saturday.

American embassies in Belgrade, Zagreb, and Sarajevo are all assisting in attempts to locate Mr. Rohde, along with the United Nations. It is believed that David is being held at Pale, and the Christian Science Monitor quoted a U.S. State Department spokesman as saying that "All indications are that Mr. Rhode was traveling in an area under the control of the Bosnian Serbs, and we hold them responsible for his safety."

I have to confess, Mr. Speaker, that I have a personal interest in this. Not only is Mr. Rohde's father a constituent, but barely 4 years ago I served in uniform as a member of the U.S. Marine Corps. My responsibility in the early days of the American incursion into northern Iraq was to work with the international press corps who are in that part of the world, in that god-forsaken part of the world, attempting to cover the story.

I have nothing but profound admiration and respect for the courage and the integrity of the international press corps, particularly many of the brave American journalists who risk their lives on a daily basis to bring back to the American public information on critical crises around the world. Mr. Rohde is no exception to my observations.

I might also note for the record that on the issues of Bosnia and the difficult conflict in the Balkans, I have tried to be scrupulously neutral. At no time have I favored any one side over the other. I feel, and have felt for a long time, that our interest in the Balkans is to ensure that all three warring countries resolve their differences and they they live together in peace. But there is a certain irony that on the very day that the peace process is beginning, in Dayton, OH, and that the Presidents of Bosnia, Croatia, and Serbia have arrived in our country, it is ironic that Mr. Rohde has been reported missing in one of those areas, possibly in the Bosnian-Serb area.

I would say to the Presidents of those three countries and to the people of those three countries that your credibility is on the line. Whoever took David captive owes it to report immediately on his welfare and his well-being. We want an accounting of Mr. Rohde. We want his whereabouts disclosed, and we will hold you, whoever took this individual captive or is holding him against his will, we will hold you responsible for his safety.

Again, if peace means anything to the people of the Balkans or to the countries that are represented in Dayton, OH, this evening, and for the foreseeable future during this peace process, we want an immediate accounting of David Rohde. We want to know that he is in good condition, and that his safety and health are being respected. We want him released at the earliest possible moment.

KID-GLOVE TREATMENT OF FIDEL CASTRO; AND SHOCKING STATISTICS ON OUR NATION'S INCIDENTS OF KIDNAPINGS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. DIAZ-BALART] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I want to briefly touch upon two subjects this evening.

One, there was a visit to the United States last week by the Cuban dictator, Castro. Unfortunately, he was received by many in New York as though he were something else than what he is. He was, unfortunately, received by some as though he were a democratically elected leader, or someone who was not a horrendous violator of human rights. That is more than unfortunate, because it is really degrading to those who receive someone like that, someone who is a murderer, someone who is responsible for the killing of tens of thousands of human beings, and for maintaining an oppressive system, denying all human rights and democratic possibilities for an entire Nation.

He was received, for example, by Dan Rather on CBS News, given a gift by Dan Rather. Mr. Bernard Shaw of the CNN network interviewed him in an hour, and asked absolutely no followup questions. When Castro was asked by Mr. Shaw, for example, why he did not permit political parties, and Castro said they were divisive, there was no followup question. When he was asked by Mr. Shaw with regard to why Castro's daughter calls the tyrant a murderer and a drug trafficker, the Cuban dictator simply says, "That is personal," and there was no followup question.

I would assume that an appropriate follow-up question would be, "I'm not asking you a personal question, I'm not asking you if you are a good father, I am asking you to react to the fact that your daughter says you are a drug trafficker and a murderer." Of course, there was no follow-up question. I was really sad to see a journalist of that reputation engage in an interview like that.

I guess the key is that there are names, there are hundreds and really thousands of names that we could list, I have no time to list them, but I simply want to name a few, because they are right now in dungeons in Cuba because of the Cuban tyrant, and they were in those dungeons last week while some of our colleagues in this House

were receiving the Cuban tyrant, and some of them giving him gifts: Francis Chaviano. Omar del Pozo, a former colonel in Castro's own security force, is receiving electroshocks in a mental institution for demonstrating democracy. Enrique Labrada. There is a 30-year old young woman, Carmen Arias, in a dungeon right now because she wrote a letter supporting democracy. Jose Miranda, a political prisoner with 72 days on a hunger strike, and for more than 6 months has been refused visits by his family.

That is at this very moment that is going on, and it was going on last week when Castro was being received in New York.

Orson Vila, a Baptist preacher, is in a dungeon now for preaching the word of Christ in Cuba. These are things I wanted to mention. I will continue mentioning them in the following weeks, Mr. Speaker.

I wanted to, very briefly, comment also on another subject, but very important as well, and commend my dear friend, the gentleman from Florida, PETER DEUTSCH, who in a few weeks will be holding a special order on the issue of kidnappings, and the fact that so many children in our country are abducted each year, and specifically remembering a constituent of his and child from our community who we do not forget, young Jimmy Ryce, who was kidnapped on September 11 of this year.

He remembers, and we remember others in our community who were also kidnapped, like Shannon Melendi, a college student at Emory, who we will not forget. We will continue not only to recall, but ask for all, all due efforts to be engaged in by the authorities.

I just want to bring out the fact, I have the figures from 1988, the last year I have: 3,200 to 4,600 children were abducted in our country, ages 4 through 11, and most of these attempts involved a car. What is happening in our society, Mr. Speaker? There can be no crime, obviously, that is more inhumane and simply unjustifiable than kidnapping children.

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I commend the gentleman from Florida [Mr. DIAZ-BALART] for bringing this subject out. We will continue talking about it. There can be no more important subject.

THREE GOALS OF THIS REPUBLICAN CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. AL-LARD). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DORNAN. Mr. Speaker, would the gentleman from Connecticut [Mr. SHAYS] yield for 10 seconds?

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I will yield very briefly.

Mr. DORNAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, I wanted to add, at the end of the remarks of the gentleman

from Florida [Mr. DIAZ-BALART], this column on Fidel Castro from this week's Time magazine. The party at Mort Zuckerman's house with Mike Wallace, Dianne Sawyer, Peter Jennings, Barbara Walters, all sorts of other millionaires, and the guest in uncharacteristic civilian clothes is Fidel Castro. Unbelievable.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Florida [Mr. DIAZ-BALART] for the work he has done in trying to awaken us to the need to be very aggressive as we deal with Mr. Castro.

Mr. Speaker, I wanted to address the House for the 4 minutes I have remaining to respond very strongly to the fact that we have three basic goals in this Republican majority. One, we want to get our financial house in order and balance our budget. The second issue is that we want to save our trust funds, particularly Medicare, and in the process preserve and strengthen it. Also, just as importantly, we want to change this social and corporate welfare state into an opportunity society.

Now, in the process of doing this, I have heard tremendous reference to the fact that we are cutting certain programs that we are not cutting. Admittedly, discretionary spending is going down. There are real cuts in discretionary spending. Foreign aid is being cut. Defense is a hard freeze, but we are oversubscribed in defense programs, so there will be cuts in defense.

But when we come to the earned income tax credit, it is going up, it is not going down. It is going from \$19.8 billion this year to \$27.4 billion in 7 years. Only in this city, and where the virus has spread, when you go from \$19.8 billion to \$27.4 billion do people call it a cut.

The School Lunch Program, calling it a cut when it goes in 5 years from \$6.3 billion to \$7.8 billion. How can that be a cut? It is an increase any way you look at it.

Student loans, over a 5-year program it is going to go from \$24 to \$33 billion. I say again, only in this city when you go from \$24 to \$33 billion in student loans is it a cut. Now, what we are doing is saying students are going to pay the interest rate from the moment they graduate until that grace period ends. That will accrue to them. It will cost them, over the life of the program, \$9 more a month if they borrowed \$17,000.

Then, Medicaid. Medicaid is not being cut, it is going up. It is going up from \$89 to \$124 billion. We are going to spend over \$329 billion more on Medicaid than we did in the last 7 years, we are going to spend in the next 7. That is a 73-percent increase.

Medicare is going to go from \$178 to \$278 billion, \$178 to \$278 billion over 7 years. That is a 54-percent increase. Or, in terms of what we spent in the last