

That." The album included a song called "Blue," which was written by another long time Fort Worth great, discjockey Bill Mack.

Bill had originally intended the song for Patsy Cline, but she died tragically before she could record it some 30 years ago. How proud Patsy Cline would be today to know that young LeAnn Rimes sang this special song for her.

So, Mr. Speaker, it was altogether fitting and appropriate that Mack was honored for Best Song for "Blue" and LeAnn was honored as Best Female Country Artist, as well as best new artist in any category.

Shortly after the awards program ended, LeAnn was asked at a press conference how she planned to celebrate her awards. "I guess I will go out to dinner," she said. "I am too young to do anything else." Well, LeAnn, you are certainly not too young to be on a one-way ticket to success. Congratulations to you, LeAnn, and to Bill. We are very proud of you.

But Fort Worth's country stars were not the only ones to shine last week. Fort Worth is also the home of some of the most inspirational gospel music in the world. It was in the pews of these churches that Kirk Franklin honed his talents for singing gospel music.

Kirk was born and raised in Fort Worth. Abandoned by his teenage mother and father at the age of 3, the orphaned Franklin was adopted by an aunt. At age 4, Kirk began to play the piano, and by the time he was in kindergarten, he was a regular on the local gospel music circuit. At age 19, he was recording in the studio.

In the early 1990's, gospel fans all over America got the chance to hear what those of us in Fort Worth had been enjoying for years, the amazing, soulful voice of Kirk Franklin. A month after the release of his 1993 album, "Kirk Franklin and the Family," the album was No. 1. In fact, Kirk's initial album marked the first time in the history of gospel music that a debut album sold over 1 million copies. In just 4 short years, Kirk Franklin has become a musical superstar carrying his message of grace, hope, and love to the whole world.

Last fall, a tragic accident on stage almost ended Kirk's career. After falling off the stage and into the orchestra pit, Kirk was unconscious for several hours. Doctors feared he might be paralyzed or even die. Instead, less than 2 months after the accident, Kirk was back on the road again. For his incredible moral courage as well as his indispensable music contributions, Kirk Franklin last week was awarded with a Grammy for Best Contemporary Soul-Gospel Album for 1997.

So on behalf of music lovers everywhere, but particularly on behalf of a proud hometown, I want to say congratulations to LeAnn Rimes, Bill Mack and Kirk Franklin. You have made your friends, your family and your Nation very proud.

Mr. Speaker, I commend to the American people the examples of Bill,

LeAnn, and Kirk. While all three of these talents come from different backgrounds and different environments, they are uniquely American. They have showed us all that achievement is based more on desire and determination than on situation and circumstance. They have taught us all that hard work is still the surest road to success.

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

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

AMERICA'S TECHNOLOGICAL SECRETS SHOULD BE SAFEGUARDED

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

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, today H.R. 400 passed through the Subcommittee on Courts and Intellectual Property of the Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 400, what I call the Steal American Technologies Act, is disguised as a patent reform bill.

This bill was first entitled, when it was first introduced last year, the Patent Publication Act. Well, people might ask themselves, how does the Patent Publication Act all of a sudden become a patent reform bill? Well, that is because the patent reform bill is a title that does not describe exactly what is going on in the bill, but the Patent Publication Act does.

This bill has not changed a bit. The purpose of the bill is exactly the same. Now, hold on to your hats, make sure you understand the magnitude of what is about to be said.

This bill, H.R. 400, which I call the Steal American Technologies Act, mandates that after 18 months, if an inventor in the United States applies for a patent, even if his patent has not been issued, after 18 months it is mandated that all the details of his patent will be published for everybody in the world to see and to steal. That is it. Every one of America's technological secrets will be mandated to be published so that those adversaries in Japan or in China or anywhere else in the world will have all the details and probably be able to go into production and use our intellectual property, all of our new ideas and technological discoveries against the United States of America.

That is why I call this the Steal American Technologies Act. It is beyond belief that this is going through the House of Representatives, but it will be on this floor unless the American people call their Congressman or Congresswoman to let them know how heinous it is to permit our adversaries to steal our technology and use it against us.

This is exactly what is going to happen, because the huge multinational corporations who would benefit from stealing our technology and not having to pay royalties are in an unholy alliance with our own big companies who do not want to pay royalties to American inventors.

The idea of course is, oh, it is going to happen anyway. These things would have been invented. You put an infinite number of inventors in a room with an infinite number of typewriters and eventually everything will be invented. No. We have had a strong and prosperous country because we have had the strongest patent protection of any country of the world. Now they are trying to change that, because they are taking away the confidentiality of American inventors, they are taking away our rights to a guaranteed patent term, and this H.R. 400 also obliterates the Patent Office.

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That is right, Mr. Speaker. What this does, H.R. 400, the Steal American Technologies Act also would take the Patent Office, which is written into the Constitution, and resurrect it. As what? A corporatized entity.

Our patent examiners are strong and faithful people, they work hard, and the reason they have been able to do a good job is because they have been government employees protected from outside influences. Now we are changing the entire rules of the game, just as America is entering into this new technological age.

Mr. Speaker, this is a Pearl Harbor in slow motion. This is a catastrophe that will hit our country and destroy our standard of living that is based on America being the technological leader of the world, and the American people in the future will never know what hit them. They will just say, wait a minute; did we not used to be the leader in technology? Could we not out-compete all these countries? That is because we had strong patent protection, and our Founding Fathers knew that as long as Americans had this patent protection, we would have the ideas and creativity to save our country.

I have a bill in opposition to the Steal American Technologies Act. My bill is H.R. 811, and there is a companion bill, H.R. 812. That is 811 and 812, which would restore to the American people their guaranteed right that has been part of our rights as Americans since our Constitution was written, for a guaranteed patent term, that is being attacked today, will be taken away from them.

My bill guarantees confidentiality, so when our inventors come up with new ideas, they are not going to go to our adversaries and be used against us. There is not going to be a line at the Patent Office for a copying machine, and a line over to the fax machine, and get it overseas as soon as possible.

H.R. 812, the companion bill introduced by the gentleman from California, DUNCAN HUNTER, will maintain in

the U.S. Government a strong Patent Office and an efficient Patent Office to protect us and to make sure that our people are serviced well, which is a function, a proper function of Government.

This is an attempt to harmonize our law, and those who support H.R. 400 will tell us that we need to harmonize our law with the rest of the world. No, we need to strengthen the protections of the American people.

I ask for the support of my colleagues for H.R. 811 and 812 in opposition to H.R. 400.

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce the introduction of legislation by Representatives NITA LOWEY, CAROLYN MCCARTHY, and myself which would prevent the purchase or possession of a firearm by a non-permanent resident alien. Unfortunately, this legislation comes too late to prevent the tragedy which occurred at the Empire State Building last month, when a man who had been in the United States for just 3 weeks shot seven tourists, killing one, and then killed himself. Such a violent crime under any circumstances is shocking but the fact that the gunman had been in this country for such a short time and had established residence at a Florida hotel was unbelievable. My colleagues and I have introduced this legislation in the hopes that we can prevent future crimes committed by individuals who are, essentially, tourists.

Current Federal law requires that legal aliens live in a State for at least 90 days before purchasing a firearm. I applaud the President's recent directive which strengthens the law by mandating that legal aliens must produce a photo ID and documentation to prove they have been in country for at least 3 months before purchasing a weapon. However, I fail to understand why a nonpermanent resident alien should be allowed to own a gun under any circumstances.

The Lowey-Engel-McCarthy legislation is very simple. If you are not a permanent resident of our Nation you quite simply should not be allowed to buy a gun. We must have strong comprehensive Federal legislation which prevents tourists from visiting our country to hunt down our citizens. The Empire State Building gunman was able to slip through the cracks of a system which does not adequately address the problem of violent criminal aliens. It now falls to us to ensure that our citizens are protected from violent predators who seek to abuse the laws of our Nation in order to harm law-abiding citizens.

DEFINING DEVIANCY, UP AND DOWN

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

tleman from Florida [Mr. SCARBOROUGH] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, we just took a vote on the Ten Commandments and a controversy that is occurring in Alabama. I heard ridicule from a lot of Members saying, gee, is this the only thing that the House of Representatives can do? This is a trivial little matter. It is something that just does not really make a big difference.

But I am here to tell the Members that I think it is an extremely important thing we just voted on. If nothing else, it shows there are a group of us that are ready to say enough is enough to the radicalism of the past 30 years. It has created a valueless void that I believe has torn down our civilization.

To reject the radicalism of the past 30 years, the first thing we have to do is recognize what has happened. We have had what has been called by many, defining deviancy down and defining deviancy up. To define deviancy up, what you do is try to make conventional behavior seem radical and radical behavior seem conventional, so just putting the Ten Commandments of God up on the wall in a courtroom in the United States of America is suddenly a radical, dangerous concept.

But, Mr. Speaker, I would say to these ACLU members and to other Americans that would call that a radical notion, I would say to them, read the writings of James Madison. He, after all, is the father of the Constitution that these radicals claim to be protecting.

As he was drafting the Constitution, James Madison, the father of the Constitution, wrote:

We have staked the entire future of the American civilization not upon the power of government, but upon the capacity of Americans to govern themselves, control themselves, and sustain themselves according to the Ten Commandments of God.

How can they claim that the Ten Commandments are a radical part of our heritage, and how can they claim that they must strip the Ten Commandments from public life to protect the Constitution, when the father of the Constitution and the fourth President of the United States of America said that American civilization's future is based upon this, as we are drafting the Constitution?

How could they say that when the father of our country, George Washington, in his farewell address, speaking to a young America, said: It is impossible to govern this country or any country in the world rightly without a belief in God and the Ten Commandments. How could they say it?

How could they say that a judge in the State of Alabama or in California or in Massachusetts has absolutely no right to decide whether the Ten Commandments goes on the wall, when our Framers said it was an issue that States could address?

We had Justice Joseph Story, who wrote one of the first commentaries on

the Constitution for a sitting justice of the Supreme Court. He wrote that:

The whole power over the subject of religion is left exclusively to the State governments, to be acted upon according to their own sense of justice and the State Constitutions.

Thomas Jefferson wrote the same, saying that the 1st amendment and the 10th amendment combined left matters regarding religion to the States. Jefferson wrote, "Certainly no power to prescribe any religious exercise or to assume the authority in any religious discipline has been delegated to the general government." It must, then, rest with the States.

I am sure many people, including some on the school board in my hometown, would consider radical the words of Abraham Lincoln if he said these words in our school system, where in my hometown a political set of guidelines has driven any mention of faith from the schools.

What would these radicals say to Abraham Lincoln's 1863 proclamation, while President:

We have grown in numbers, wealth, and power as no other Nation has ever grown, but we have forgotten God. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us.

Is that radical? Were the words of Madison, the father of our Constitution, radical? Were the words of Washington radical? If so, Mr. Speaker, I admit, maybe some of us today are considered radical. We have to reverse what happened in 1947 with Everson, and rewrite what has happened.

ECONOMIC EQUITY FOR WOMEN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentlewoman from Connecticut [Mrs. JOHNSON] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to introduce a special order that my colleague, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia, ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON and I are cohosting for the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues. We are the cochairs of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues, a bipartisan organization of the women Members of Congress, and in recognition of Women's History Month, we are holding a series of four special orders on four different subjects of great concern for women.

Today we turn to the issue of economic equity. I am going to start by talking about the contributions of women during Women's History Month in the area of our economy in today's world.

Women today are making an extraordinarily valuable contribution to all sectors of our economy, and in particular, to the dynamic growth of small businesses. Women are opening new businesses at twice the rate of men.