

are religious intrusive. "I have taught Sunday school class or otherwise taken an active part in my church," if that is any business of the school.

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Number 24, I believe in a God who answers prayers. I believe that tithing, giving one-tenth of one's earnings to the church, is one's duty to God. Number 41, I pray to God about my problems. Number 43, I like to spend holidays with my family. Number 53, it is important that grace be said before meals. Number 59, I care what my parents think about the things I do. Number 63, I believe there is life after death. Number 72, I read the bible and other religious writings regularly. Number 78, I love my parents. Number 82, I believe that God created man in his own image. Number 91, if I ask God for forgiveness, my sins are forgiven. Number 95, I respect my father and mother.

EDUCATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. REDMOND). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. SOUDER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I want to finish this point, because in my kids' own high school in Indiana, a survey was passed out in class through the high school yearbook that led me to get upset in my first term, and we passed some legislation here, but it concerned questions asked about anal sex, among other things, and it was one of the most offensive surveys I have ever read, even worse than this, even though this is probing even deeper into religious beliefs. But in Indiana the school board responded. They changed the rules of the school and they took back the test.

The parent of the child who was in this class is taking it up with her school board and it can have an impact. When something happens in our local schools, we can try to do something about it and try to affect change. But when something happens in Washington, we are virtually powerless to change that. I say that as a United States Congressman. We are virtually powerless. It is very frustrating.

And if we let Washington take over the national testing, it is a frightening scenario ahead.

Mr. SHADEGG. If the gentleman will yield, I just want to conclude what we talked about the last hour. I applaud the gentleman for going into those other areas and pointing out that it is not just the one example that I chose of math, which is what the President is proposing, math and science, but indeed in other areas it goes into far more subjective subjects, far more invasive and intrusive questions, but importantly, as the gentleman pointed out, those invasions, those abuses, those trends occur at the States level where we have a chance to deal with them.

I just want to conclude this hour, or the hour and now 5 minutes we picked up, by saying I hope that our colleagues listening realize that it is not that we do not care about the education of our children. I know the gentleman has young children both in high school, grade school and in college, I guess, and I have mentioned earlier in the hour I have young children. I care very much about their education. And as I said, I resent it when the other side says Republicans do not care about education or Republicans do not care about public education. I care deeply about public education. And as I said, I went all the way through public education myself and both my children are in public education.

I hope that those listening understand that we can deeply believe in education, we can deeply believe in public education, and we can be very concerned and very, very much opposed to national testing, a sound-good motherhood and apple pie idea, because of the dangerous consequences.

What the gentleman said is exactly right. If we have tests written in Fort Wayne, Indiana, or in Phoenix, Arizona, or wherever it might be, we can deal with the problems that might creep into those. But if they are written in Washington, D.C., in a mindless bureaucracy which is hard to penetrate and where, quite frankly, only the views of the most deeply imbedded, entrenched educational bureaucracy are heard, I think we will lose control of our kids' education.

I do want to point out that this is a critical issue; that it is in a conference report. There are members in the United States Senate mentioned in Lynne Cheney's article who are fighting against the Senate position on this issue, who agree with us that as good sounding as national testing is, it is, in fact, bad for education in America. And I would urge our colleagues to talk with their friends on the other side and try to get them to accede to the House position on this issue and let us study this issue further and make sure we do not write a national test.

I also want to point out that having read Lynne Cheney's column, which mentioned Steven Leinwand, I wanted to find his actual article. I have the actual article and it does in fact say it is time to acknowledge that continuing to teach pencil and paper computational algorithms to our students is not only unnecessary but counterproductive and dangerous.

He goes on to say that learning long division and its computational cousins, meaning subtraction and multiplication, is an obsolete notion.

These are rather shocking notions that are written here. I also wanted to point out that several times in my remarks I talked about mathematics association with which Mr. Leinwand is associated and it is called the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, and they have already written a national assessment which has reduced

the math portion of the exam where we do computational skills by 20 percent already.

These are not us talking about crazy ideas that some individual extreme person has. These are trendy ideas that are catching on across America and could be dangerous if they in fact take hold and are embodied into a single national test.

Mr. SOUDER. Reclaiming my time, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Arizona for bringing the attention of this country to the math standards.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. SCHIFF (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today through October 24, on account of medical reasons.

Mr. POMBO (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today, on account of personal reasons.

Mr. GREENWOOD (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today, on account of waiting in hospital with his family while his father has triple bypass surgery.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. CLAYTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. MINK, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. CANNON) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. GOSS, for 5 minutes each day, on October 7, 8, and 9.

Mr. BILBRAY, for 5 minutes, on October 8.

Mr. JONES, for 5 minutes, on October 7.

Mr. HULSHOF, for 5 minutes, on October 7.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan, for 5 minutes each day, on October 7, 8, and 9.

Mr. HUNTER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SOUDER, for 5 minutes, today.

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

By unanimous consent, permission to revise and extend remarks was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) and to include extraneous matter:)

Mr. POSHARD.

Mr. VISCLOSKY.

Mr. SHERMAN.

Mr. KIND.

Mr. LEVIN.