

say something that does not have unanimous approval because it infringes on someone else's rights, what you are really doing is stomping on the rights of almost everyone just because somebody there is intolerant.

I think of the case, this was the graduation prayer case, the prayer there was said by a Jewish rabbi. The Supreme Court said it was unconstitutional to expect people to be there because they would be expected to be respectful. That interfered with their constitutional rights.

I suggest to you and to everyone that if they said, well, we expect students to be respectful when somebody is speaking, we expect them to be respectful if the school choir is singing a song, we expect them to be respectful of all the occasions, but if it is a prayer, you cannot expect respect.

What a terrible doctrine the Supreme Court unleashed there. We have to correct it. You do not have free speech if you can only say things with which people agree.

If I could close and just share a thought expressed recently, just about 3 months ago by Pope John Paul II, concerned with religious freedom in the United States of America, when he received the new American ambassador to the Vatican just in December. He said this: "It would truly be a sad thing if the religious and moral convictions upon which the American experiment was founded could now somehow be considered a danger to free society, such that those who would bring these convictions to bear upon your Nation's public life would be denied a voice in debating and resolving issues of public policy. The original separation of church and State in the United States was certainly not an effort to ban all religious convictions from the public sphere, a kind of banishment of God from civil society."

Those were the words of Pope John Paul II just in December, expressing concern about religious freedom being stripped away in America.

The religious freedom amendment will correct that. I thank the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BISHOP). I thank the Chair for having the time to present it. I look forward to the day in the next few weeks when we will have a chance to debate and to act upon this House floor on the religious freedom amendment.

1997 ANNUAL REPORT ON ALASKA'S MINERAL RESOURCES—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. REDMOND) laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Resources:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

I transmit herewith the 1996 Annual Report on Alaska's Mineral Resources,

as required by section 1011 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (Public Law 96-487; 16 U.S.C. 3151). This report contains pertinent public information relating to minerals in Alaska gathered by the U.S. Geological Survey, the U.S. Bureau of Mines, and other Federal agencies.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, March 10, 1998.

FEDERAL AGENCY CLIMATE CHANGE PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 105-226)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Science, the Committee on International Relations, and the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

In accordance with section 580 of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1998, I herewith provide an account of all Federal agency climate change programs and activities.

These activities include both domestic and international programs and activities directly related to climate change.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, March 10, 1998.

MILITARY READINESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from California (Mr. CUNNINGHAM) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, one of my favorite speakers is a guy named Will Rogers. First of all, he tells stories and he relates to people. And my subject tonight is the readiness, the national security of this great country.

We just finished a hearing in San Diego headed up by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BATEMAN). Our Republican and Democrat colleagues, I was very, very proud, they listened. They watched. And they unanimously contended that the readiness state of our armed forces in this country is at a critical state.

I think it best relates, as my friend Will Rogers used to relate the stories, and it tells about a case of a gentleman that was in an accident and he was banged up. His horse was killed. His dog was killed.

And the insurance agent came to the gentleman and said, Well, is it true the day of your accident you told the police officer that it was the best day of your life and that you had never felt better? And the gentleman looked at him and said, Yes, this is right. I did that. He said, But you had broken legs and broken arms. He said, Yes, but I

still said that I never felt better. He said, Can you explain? He said, Well, my horse had broken legs and the policeman took out his revolver and he shot the horse. My dog was near death, and he reached over and shot the dog and the police officer looked at me and said, how do you feel? And of course, I replied I never felt better in my life, even though I had broken legs and arms.

Kind of the truth in the same story could be related to our service chiefs as they testified before the different committees.

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A four-star General or Admiral will come before the committee and state, "Our readiness state is high, we are well trained, we are well prepared." And these are the same words that they said in the '70s when we were at an all-time low. But we know and they know if they do not agree with the President's budget and they say otherwise, the President will find someone who will agree. And there is the paradigm.

If we take a look, the White House budget is a good one. But our service chiefs try and give us the information to read between the lines. For example, in the President's budget education impact aid has been cut. What is education impact aid?

If a military service person signs up for aid in one State and moves to another, and they reside in that State and keep their registration there, their State taxes go to that State. And say that they go to California, the State that I am from, and their children go to that school. Well, they impact that school, but yet there are no State funds. Ninety-seven percent of education is paid for, excuse me, 93 percent, out of State funds, so there is a direct impact on that school. Yet the budget is okay, but education impact aid is not in the budget.

The service chiefs testified that 80 percent of the equipment of all of our services, 80 percent, is of 1970 vintage. But the budget is okay. There is not enough money for modernization, because modernization over the past 7 years has been cut 70 percent. So our new tanks, our new aircraft, our new weapon systems, our ships cannot be built. But yet the system is okay.

The bottom-up review that was charged by then Secretary of Defense Les Aspin pointed out that the Navy was going from 546 ships, but yet we needed only 346 to complete two combat zones at one time. They refer to it as a two MRC. It would take 346 ships to do that. But yet in the budget that we see today, in the outgoing years and this year, we are only building three to five ships, which will put us well below 300 ships. But yet the budget was okay.

There are limited parts, so bad that many squadrons in the United States have but one or two aircraft that will fly because they have had to take the parts off of those aircraft and send