

in America. Our laws are falling behind the cyberthreat to kids, and Congress should pass the Deleting Online Predators Act.

HONORING CORPORAL JEREMIAH COSTELLO

(Mr. HARE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HARE. Mr. Speaker, on June 2, Illinois lost another great American hero when Corporal Jeremiah Costello of Carlinville was killed in Iraq by an IED.

Corporal Costello joined the Army in pursuit of becoming an Illinois state trooper, leaving his 4-year-old daughter in the care of his mother and stepfather. Like the 21,000 single parents serving in Iraq, Corporal Costello struggled with being away from his daughter, yet he bravely fought with courage.

Corporal Costello was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart. He is remembered as a cheerful young man with a knack for improving people's moods and surprising loved ones with gifts.

As Father's Day approaches, I ask my colleagues to remember Corporal Costello and his 4-year-old daughter, Lilly, and the approximately 2,000 children who have lost a parent in the Armed Forces over the last 5 years.

On behalf of the 17th Congressional District of Illinois, I extend my thoughts and prayers to the Costello family. Corporal Costello's service to his country will not be forgotten, and a grateful Nation stands humble. Thank you, Corporal Costello.

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LET THE GAMESMANSHIP STOP

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, we have had a wonderful, vigorous and robust debate on the floor of this House for the past couple of days. It has dealt with earmarks and transparency in those earmarks.

I think it is noteworthy that the American people have spoken out, and I thank them for the support that they have shown us and their participation with us in this debate. And I thank them for their awareness of the fact that this is the people's House, that how we spend their tax money is very important. They deserve to know how we're going to spend that on the front end before we vote, and they do expect the reforms that we initiated last year on earmarks to be enacted this year.

They also were asking, Where's the fence? They are aware that there is gamesmanship that is taking place. So, to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, I say, Let the gamesmanship

stop. Let's be focused on addressing the security of this Nation. Let's be respectful of one another in word and deed.

MORE PROOF THAT THE PRESIDENT'S TROOP ESCALATION PLAN IS NOT WORKING IN IRAQ

(Mr. WELCH of Vermont asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Mr. Speaker, this week we received more proof from Iraq that the President's troop escalation plan is failing.

A senior U.S. military commander told the Washington Post yesterday that if the President really wanted to stem the violence in Iraq, he would have to send an additional 20,000 U.S. troops there, something that no American would support. But even then, it appears that Iraq will remain incapable of taking full responsibility. Iraq is in a civil war, and our troops, it is not the job of our men and women in uniform to be refereeing a civil war.

Last week, one of our generals put a surveillance out to determine who was laying these IEDs that are killing our troops, and it turned out to be Iraqi security forces, people who work with us by day and then were trying to kill our soldiers by night.

It is time for Democrats and Republicans to work together to bring the President to his senses, to change the direction of the war in Iraq.

WE NEED A STRONG AND SECURE BORDER

(Mrs. DRAKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. DRAKE. Mr. Speaker, it is in the best interests of our country to have a strong and secure border. At a time when it's more important than ever to know who is entering and who is leaving our country, we should not be tying up funding in more bureaucratic red tape.

Our constituents are begging for something to be done, yet the language in the Homeland Security appropriations bill will cripple the ability of the border fence to be built in high-priority areas.

I understand that process and procedure are important, but this Congress has already made its stand on the fence when, in a bipartisan fashion, it supported the Secure Fence Act back in October.

In the words of Sheriff Pendegruff of North Carolina, if your bathtub is overflowing, would you get a mop and bucket, or would you turn off the spigot? Mr. Speaker, it's time to turn off the spigot, close our borders and build the fence.

SILENCE ON PALESTINIAN VIOLENCE

(Mr. EMANUEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, once again, the world has seen another outbreak of Palestinian violence in the Gaza Strip. At least 14 people were killed and 70 were wounded the other day in Gaza City, bringing the total to at least 63 people having been killed.

Fatah and Hamas are tearing the Palestinian area of the Gaza Strip apart in what they call a political rivalry, and the Palestinian people are paying a price for Palestinian violence. Governments from around the world and the Arab world have said nothing about this violence, while Palestinians kill each other.

I just want you to think for a second, if this was a result of Israeli-Palestinian hostilities, would the international silence and the silence of the Arab world be this deafening? Does anyone really believe that if this level of violence existed between Israel and Palestinians that the U.N. would not be called into an emergency session to condemn Israel for the violence?

Those same countries that normally attack Israel, I would hope you now find your moral voice and your moral conscience with the attack and senseless violence that is leaving the Palestinian people so hopeless.

WE ARE NOW ALL FLAKES

(Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, the debate over the last 2 days has been described in many different ways. I would like to describe it as a tribute to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE).

I have referred to him in the press as Don Quixote with couth, referring to the fact that in the past he has stood there as a solitary figure trying to bring sense to this place when we're dealing with earmarks.

President Nixon once said looking at certain figures about population that we are all now Malthusian. He was proven wrong.

I think I can say without contradiction, after the debate on the floor and resolution of the dispute we've had and the seriousness with which we're about now to undertake the issue of earmarks, we are now all Flakes.

REPUBLICANS ARE MAKING A MOCKERY OF THE HOUSE FLOOR, DELAYING ACTION ON POPULAR MEASURES

(Mr. YARMUTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, it appears that the House Republicans are

operating from the same playbook as President Bush.

Over the first 5 months of this year, this new Democratic Congress has approved more than 45 key measures, most of them with strong bipartisan support. Unfortunately, President Bush has been a stubborn opponent of our efforts to move this Nation in a new direction. He opposes or has threatened to veto 60 percent of the House's work.

The President threatened to veto a Defense authorization bill because he believed it gave our brave soldiers fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan too big a pay raise. His administration opposes a bill that would make college more affordable by cutting student interest rates in half. And he has once again threatened to veto legislation promoting life-saving embryonic stem cell research.

While the President has been obstructing our agenda for months, House Republicans have jumped on the bandwagon and are now delaying critical appropriations bills. Rather than obstructing the process, Republicans should join us in passing bills that will help us better secure the homeland and better serve our veterans.

TRANSPARENCY IN EARMARKS

(Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, for the last 2 days, I've sat on the floor waiting to introduce and have debated an amendment that I have.

And what that amendment does is that amendment provides an additional \$89 million to go toward building the border fence. That fence is to keep out those people who may be criminals, who may be terrorists, who America was promised that we would build the fence.

What has all of the delay been? Let me tell you what the delay has been. The delay has been about your tax dollars.

I've got a dollar bill here in a clear transparent folder. It's about transparency of earmarks. It's about the fact that we should be voting on bills where we know what that earmark is, what those earmarks are, regardless.

Now, here's the way it was last year when we voted on appropriations bills. We knew where those earmarks were. We knew who introduced them.

This is what it is this year. It is a hidden appropriation pool that we will not know who this money's going to.

DEMOCRATS WANT TO PROVIDE OUR VETERANS HISTORIC FUNDING; REPUBLICANS JUST OBSTRUCT

(Mr. WALZ of Minnesota asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, this week Democrats are trying to

honor our Nation's veterans and servicemembers by fulfilling our sacred obligation to provide for their care.

We would like to bring a bill on the floor today that includes the largest increase in veterans' health care funding in the 77-year history of the Veterans Administration. It is enthusiastically endorsed in its current form by the American Legion, the Disabled American Veterans, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Paralyzed Veterans of America, and countless other veterans' service organizations. It should have been on the floor yesterday, but House Republicans continue to obstruct the process.

I ask my colleagues across the aisle to join us in supporting bills that will secure America by better providing for our veterans. Forcing meaningless procedural motions does nothing. Think of all the great things we can accomplish on the House floor for our veterans if we just simply work for the greater good.

Last week, every single member, Republican and Democrat, of the House Appropriations Committee supported the Military Construction and veterans funding bill. They all supported it because it provides for our veterans, as we promised.

I would hope today that Republicans would stop obstructing the process so that we can produce real results. Our veterans deserve nothing less, and they are watching.

CONSERVATIVES ARE RETURNING TO THEIR ROOTS

(Mr. MCHENRY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, my Democrat colleague is misinformed. We've had a big debate this week between Republicans and Democrats about the size and scope of government, whether or not there should be a secret slush fund for earmarks. And you know what? Today, what's happening here today is that this body is coming in the conservative direction.

My voice is weary, but my spirit is strong because conservatives have a victory that we're very close to achieving here today because we've brought pressure on the Democrat leadership to free up, to make public, to be honest about the earmarks they have put in and a slush fund they have put into this appropriations bill.

And the American people should be proud because finally conservatives are returning to their roots and talking about restraining government spending.

I'm very proud of the actions that my conservative friends are taking on this House floor to hold the Democrats accountable for their slush fund, their secret earmarks and their pork-barrel projects. And I urge the body to move in the conservative direction.

REPUBLICANS ARE ALL ABOUT DELAY

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, nothing could be further from the truth than the Republican claims of increased spending. The fact of the matter is, during the 12 years that they were in the majority spending on the budget on appropriations bills increased every year. It was a free-spending Congress. It was a Republican Congress that continued to put this country further and further into debt.

And now that the Democratic majority is trying to pass bills, what is happening on the other side? They're trying to delay it. That's all they're about is delay.

They couldn't pass a budget in the last Congress. They couldn't pass the appropriations bills before they lost control. They increased spending every year. Don't believe their rhetoric.

When Democrats took control, we vowed to do things differently. We vowed to pass a budget, and we did that earlier this year. We also vowed to pass every appropriations bill in a timely fashion, and that's what we're trying to do.

But rather than joining us and making this institution run more smoothly, congressional Republicans have chosen to constantly bring forward procedural motions to delay action on the spending bills that help us protect our homeland and help the veterans.

TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ARE NEEDED IN SPENDING

(Mr. PRICE of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on this Flag Day we celebrate liberty. On this Flag Day, we celebrate democracy. And on this Flag Day, we're hopeful that the majority party will recognize and honor democracy and liberty by allowing all Members of the House, Republican and Democrat, the right to see and to know everything in appropriations bills, spending bills, before we vote. That's what our constituents expect, and that's what they demand.

These past 2 days have been an eye-opener for America, clearly demonstrating that Republicans are the champions of fiscal responsibility and honest debate as we've fought for democracy on the floor of this House.

Transparency and accountability in spending will confirm for the American people that new leadership is needed to preserve not just the Federal budget, but the family budget as well; and the American people are watching.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair