

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SINS OF THE FATHER

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 16, 2010

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, I doubt anyone in this Chamber would deny the enormous amount of hard work and sacrifice that went into building this great nation. Honest and hard labor are at the very heart of our economic system and why our nation has achieved such greatness.

But there is a fundamental shift in the very notion of "hard work" in the country that will have unforeseen consequences for generations to come.

Madam Speaker, my district includes several high tech companies and I was having a conversation with some young professionals—including Michael Young, a former legislative director—last week when the topic of taxes came up.

Each of these professionals was in their 30's and each lamented the higher taxes that await them as they finally begin to be rewarded for the hard work they have endured.

What was particularly frustrating for them was that they had done exactly what they had been told they should do: go to college, work hard and play by the rules.

And it wasn't that they were opposed to taxes either. No, what incensed them was the Administration's insistence that those who did well over the last 30 years should be heavily taxed in the future.

What about those who didn't do well in the past 30 years but who are now, after having sacrificed so much, now finally on the threshold of being successful?

These young people are just entering the prime of their business and professional careers. They played by the rules. They went to college; they saved and struggled. And most importantly, they worked hard. Now, they are going to be penalized for doing everything right.

And penalized not because of what they have done, penalized for what they are going to do—succeed.

I say "going to do" but many of them expressed the opinion that why should they work hard now when the money they earn will just go to the government. Some told me they had already scaled back their future career plans. A few even told me they have worked out the numbers to work just enough so they don't get hit with higher taxes and surcharges.

What a sorry state of affairs when our best and brightest are no longer willing to work hard, to take chances, to achieve greatness. Instead they are content with "getting by" and mediocrity.

The implications for the country as a whole are downright frightening.

As young people in China, India, Brazil and others capitalize on the economic freedom that has been unleashed; America's very system reward for hard, honest work is at stake.

HONORING PETER CARTWRIGHT
AND THE CALPINE GEYSERS
GEOTHERMAL FACILITY LAKE
COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 16, 2010

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, on April 16th, 2010, Calpine's Geothermal Visitors Center in Middletown, California, will be dedicated as the Cartwright Geothermal Visitors Center, in honor of Calpine founder and pioneer Peter Cartwright. I am proud to rise today to recognize Peter Cartwright and thank him for his decades of ingenuity and service to the cause of renewable energy technology.

Mr. Cartwright graduated from Princeton University with a B.S. in Geological Engineering and went on to receive his Masters in Civil Engineering from Columbia University. After serving in the Navy, he spent nearly 20 years at General Electric before founding Calpine in 1984. Calpine has since grown to become one of the largest independent power companies in the United States and is North America's largest producer of clean, renewable geothermal power. The Calpine Geysers is a portfolio of 19 geothermal power plants which supply approximately 750 kilowatts of reliable base load electricity to northern California's power grid.

Mr. Cartwright is widely known for his vision, dedication and commitment to the energy industry, receiving more honors for his work than can be recited here. In 1999, he was awarded the Geothermal Pioneer Award by the Geothermal Resources Council. In 2000, he was named Man of the Year by the Power Association of Northern California and as one of the 100 most influential leaders in the gas and electric industry. In 2004, Scientific American named Mr. Cartwright Business Leader of the Year and Calpine was recognized as a Clean Air Champion by the New York League of Conservation Voters.

Mr. Cartwright has also been very active in community and business organizations. He has served on the Board of Directors of the Sierra Club Foundation for years. He is also Symphony Chair of the Symphony Silicon Valley Governing Board. In the past, he served on the California Chamber of Commerce California Business Round Table as well as the Silicon Valley Manufacturing Group. In addition, Mr. Cartwright was instrumental to Calpine's annual support of the American Lung Association's Asthma walks.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, it is my distinct pleasure to recognize Peter Cartwright for his years of excellence and to congratulate him on this honor. I join his wife, June, his four children, two grandchildren and our colleagues in wishing him continued success and fulfillment.

NUCLEAR WEAPONS POLICY

HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 16, 2010

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Madam Speaker, President Obama has recently taken three key actions to strengthen our national security and help bring us closer to a world without nuclear weapons.

First, the President issued a Nuclear Posture Review which prioritizes stopping the spread of nuclear weapons and securing nuclear materials that could be used by terrorist groups or states to harm the United States and our allies. Focusing on securing nuclear materials and stopping proliferation will make America safer.

The NPR also maintains America's role as a leader in non-proliferation by demonstrating our commitment to continuing a safe, secure, and reliable nuclear deterrent without resorting to nuclear testing. While I share the President's goal of creating a world without nuclear weapons, it is important to have a deterrent capability to keep Americans safe as long as other states possess nuclear materials.

Second, the President signed a New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty with Russia. The New START Treaty will require the United States and Russia, the two largest nuclear powers in the world, to reduce the number of strategic nuclear warheads and launchers. This will send a strong message to the global community about our commitment to ending proliferation and securing nuclear materials around the world.

Importantly, the New START treaty will place no restrictions on the United States' ability to develop missile defenses that will keep the United States and our allies protected from missile attacks from countries such as Iran.

Third, the President hosted a summit of forty-six nations to discuss the need to prevent nuclear proliferation and secure loose nuclear materials. This meeting has resulted in a historic commitment by these states to secure all the world's loose nuclear materials in the next four years. This is an ambitious goal, but it is necessary to take swift action to reduce the risk of a nuclear attack.

Getting to a world without nuclear weapons will be a long journey, but the steps that the President has taken over the last few weeks have us moving in the right direction.

THE WRONG STUFF

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 16, 2010

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, it was reported this week that India's Chandrayaan spacecraft detected water on the Moon. And another study revealed that

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there may be larger deposits of water on Mars than previously thought.

Yet despite these two incredible discoveries, this Administration is content with “earth observation” and “low Earth orbit studies.” Hardly The Right Stuff.

Madam Speaker, when President John F. Kennedy declared the intention of the United States to land on the Moon he knew it wouldn't be easy. To the contrary, he stated boldly that this great challenge would bring out the best in America. He was right.

Two generations of school children dreamed of landing on the Moon and then on to Mars. Countless engineers and scientists credit the Moon endeavor as their inspiration for entering

their field of study. This effort directly led to many of the incredible scientific and aerospace discoveries over the last 30–40 years.

Sadly, the decisions of the Administration will keep Americans stalled on Earth for decades to come. Canceling the Constellation next generation rocket program was just the latest in this Administration's inward looking approach.

Meanwhile, China, India and others are redoubling their efforts to not only go to the Moon, but beyond. It would be a sad state of affairs for the U.S. if the first person back to the Moon was not an American.

And what are the long-term consequences of this visionless endeavor? Important as they

may be, it's hard for anyone except perhaps a special interest group to get excited about earth observation and orbital animal migration studies.

It is a well-known fact that today's students are uninspired and uninterested in careers in math, science and engineering. But it's understandable considering this Administration's lack of vision for space exploration.

Yes, budgets are tight. Yes, we need to prioritize.

But considering the incredible benefit for the U.S., we must have a sustained manned space program.

Madam Speaker, Americans must once again lead in space exploration.