

ould not actually cut benefits, but would establish w "efficiencies" for Medicare. That simply isn't believable to anyone with any knowledge of government's inability to things efficiently.

Republican congressmen were angered by Grayson's claim — and rightly so. They demanded an apology from him, on grounds that Grayson's speech was "a breach of decorum and (it) degraded the integrity and proceedings of the House."

It did all that. But more important, it was a deliberate attempt to mislead the American people about the liberals' health care plan. Grayson indeed owes someone an apology — not it is because he twisted the facts about health care form.

the income tax reduction on budget?

is: 60%

acted by the health care

nations rooted in the cleavages of a long-gone Cold War." The United Nations is an odd venue to say such things. The Security Council is premised on nothing if not a balance of power, and the U.N.'s roots go nowhere if not deep into the chilled soil of the Cold War. It is odder still for the president of the United States of America to say such things.

Is NATO — currently fighting what until recently Obama defined as a "war of necessity" in Afghanistan — now obsolete? What do the South Koreans or the Japanese think of such rhetoric?

More important, our alliances weren't merely the balancing of

trait, in Berlin and in Cairo. He has said this stuff so often, some might be forgiven for thinking they are more than just words.

The greatest danger, Obama declared in Berlin, is not terrorism or global warming or even nuclear war. No, the "greatest danger of all is to allow new walls to divide us from one another."

Last week he rehashed the same rhetoric. "The time," Obama assured us again, "has come for those walls to come down."

Walls often exist for a good reason. They mark clear lines between peoples and nations. The Berlin Wall was not built by us, but by those who could not tolerate liberty. It is good

any. Call it a progressive version of "if you're not with us, you're against us."

According to Obama, a highlight in his nine months of redemptive accomplishments was his decision to join the Human Rights Council, a corrupt, farcically bureaucratic carbuncle designed to vilify Israel and whitewash the abuses of evil regimes. Critics say we should not lend it more authority.

But by Obama's logic, such concerns are rooted in old arguments and ancient, irrelevant cleavages.

Meanwhile, 53 paragraphs into a 63-paragraph speech, Obama said that we should not view the principles of democracy as an afterthought.

The Readers Say

Who Will Pay for Repairs?

Editor, News-Register:

Ohio County taxpayers, please read this. This letter is in response to an article in newspaper on Sept. 7 concerning the settling of the southwest corner of the Cabela's Distribution Center No. 2 building, which sits on approximately 65 feet of fill. The S.W. corner has settled over one foot, causing that portion of the building to be unsafe and unusable.

Emergency tie backs had to be installed at the top and bottom of each concrete wall panel and a hundred feet, or so, each way from the corner of the building, to keep them from falling off the building. The tie backs show in the picture used in the newspaper.

Who paid to have these tie backs installed? Some of the upright steel support beams in the building are bent like bananas. This will all have to be dismantled and demolished and rebuilt at a cost of millions of dollars. Who's going to pay for this?

Now, speaking as a county commissioner, Mr. Wharton said, we didn't build it, we're not responsible for it. Now that's the truth, answering from his Ohio County commissioner position.

However, Mr. Wharton, as well as the other commissioners, are all members of the Ohio County Development Authority and they "own the building." A little fact that Mr. Wharton didn't volunteer, that makes a big difference to the real truth and to the taxpayers.

Mr. Wharton also said he could not remember the names of the original contractors who conducted work on the job. Let me refresh his memory. The site work that failed and let the building settle over a foot was done by Cast & Baker out of Pennsylvania. The building was built by Norwood Construction, also from Pennsylvania.

Again I ask, who's going to pay to rebuild this building, owned by the Ohio County Development Authority, which is really the citizens of Ohio County?

Jim Rosenberry
Wheeling

Thanks for Library Help

Editor, News-Register:

I would like to thank the following for providing programs for the Summer Reading Club at Bellaire Public Library: Chase Bank, Susan West of the Ohio State University Extension Service, Mike Kinter, Bob, Peggy and Karri Haglock and the library staff.

Thanks also to the following who donated prizes and food for our party: Lew Delbert of Snyder's Potato Chips, Pam Lacefield of Domino's Pizza, McDonald's, The Bengals and the Nailers.

We appreciate those who volunteered their time and made donations to make our Summer Reading Club a success.

Marnice Gooch
Bellaire

Makes Our Lives Better — Socialism Does Not

There has never been a pure free market capitalistic system just as there has never been a pure communist or socialist system, where there is government ownership of the means of production and each individual has equal access to society's resources.

However, we can rank economies as to whether they are closer to capitalism or closer to communism or socialism. If one ranked countries according to whether they were closer to the capitalistic end of the spectrum or the socialistic or communistic end, then ranked countries according to per capita GDP and finally rank countries according to Freedom House's "Map of Freedom in the World," he would find a pattern that is by no means a coincidence. The people in those countries closer to the capitalist end of the economic spectrum have far greater income and enjoy

greater human rights protections than those toward the socialist and communist end.

According to the London Telegraph article, Moore's film features priests who say capitalism is anti-Christian by failing to protect the poor. This is pure nonsense and revealed as such by asking, "If you're an unborn spirit, condemned by God to a life of poverty but allowed to choose the country in which to be poor, would you choose a country near the communist end of the economic spectrum or the capitalistic end?"

If you chose the United States, you'd find that according to the government surveys, the typical



Walter Williams

"poor" American has cable or satellite TV, two color TVs, and a DVD player or VCR. He has air conditioning, a car, a microwave, a refrigerator, a stove, and a clothes washer and dryer, and whether he has health insurance or not, he is able to obtain medical care when needed. Try to find that in Cuba, Russia, China or North Korea.

If we buy into the nonsense of Moore's priests, the world's poor people are incredibly stupid. Whether fleeing legally or illegally, their destination country is likely to be closer to capitalism than their departure country.

Most of our country's serious problems can be laid at the feet of Congress and the White House and not at capitalism. Take the financial crisis. One-third of the \$15 trillion of mortgages in existence in 2008 are owned, or securitized by Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, Ginnie Mae, the Federal

Housing and the Veterans Administration. Banks didn't mind making risky loans and Wall Street buyers didn't mind buying these repackaged loans because they assumed that they would be guaranteed by the federal government: read bailout by taxpayers. Under a capitalist system, financial institutions would not have been intimidated or encouraged into making risky loans and neither would they have been bailed out if they did so.

Social Security, Medicare and its coverage of prescription drugs have an unfunded liability that exceeds \$100 trillion. When those roosters come home to roost, they will make the financial meltdown we've been though look like child's play.

Notwithstanding all of the demagoguery, it is capitalism not socialism that made us a great country and its socialism that will be our undoing.