years. Henry Hyde, currently chairman of the International Relations Committee in the House of Representatives, proposed legislation to create a Joint Intelligence Committee in 1984. He spelled out what he had in mind in numerous forums, including op-ed pieces that appeared in major newspapers. Nearly 17 years ago, Hyde's idea was the top recommendation of the Republican members of the Iran/Contra Committee. Among those endorsing the Hyde initiative were Dick Cheney, Mike DeWine and Orrin Hatch, who served with Hyde on the Iran-Contra Joint Committee. All of these political figures remain major players in Washington.

The reluctance of Congress to get its own house in order is politically understandable. A Joint Intelligence Committee would require a number of committees and their powerful chairmen to sacrifice their jurisdictions over intelligence matters. But given what is at stake, it is time to subordinate such parochial concerns to the national interest.

To really be effective, a Joint Intelligence Committee must have both oversight and legislative authority. Otherwise, those committees with an interest in intelligence issues will try to recapture their lost purviews. Historically, those committees have been Armed Services, Judiciary, Appropriations and Foreign/International Relations. To mollify these traditional bailiwicks, membership on the joint committee should include representatives from each of these committees. The panel must be small to ensure secrecy and promote individual responsibility and accountability. To encourage bipartisanship, neither political party should have more than a one-vote edge. The committee staff should be composed of apolitical professionals.

In summary, the time has come to think outside of the box and adopt radical congressional reforms to meet national security challenges in the post 9/11 world. The 9/11 Commission put it best when it warned that ''the other reforms we have suggested—for a national counter-terrorism center and national intelligence director—will not work if congressional oversight does not change too. Unity of effort in executive management can be lost if it is fractured by congressional oversight.''

INTRODUCTION OF THE ''OMNIBUS NONPROLIFERATION AND ANTI-NUCLEAR TERRORISM ACT OF 2005''

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, early on the morning of October 11, 2001, as lower Manhattan still lay smoldering, President Bush was told by George Tenet, the Director of Central Intelligence, that a CIA agent was reporting that al Qaeda terrorists armed with a stolen Russian nuclear weapon were loose in New York City.

The threat was not made public for fear it would cause mass panic, but senior U.S. Government officials were evacuated, including Vice President CHENEY, to a series of undisclosed locations away from the capital. Nuclear Emergency Search Teams were dispatched to New York to look for the weapon, reportedly a 10 kiloton warhead that could have killed at least 100,000 people if it were detonated in Manhattan.

Thankfully, the CIA report turned out to be untrue, but the danger we face from nuclear terrorism is all too real. Osama bin Laden has termed the acquisition of weapons of mass destruction ''a religious duty,'' while his press spokesman has announced that al Qaeda aspires to kill 4 million Americans, including 1 million children.

President Bush has deemed a nuclear terrorist attack on the United States the number one national security threat facing this country. In a valedictory interview with the Associated Press, Attorney General John Ashcroft also singled out the danger to America posed by terrorists armed with nuclear weapons.

We agree with the President and the Attorney General, and we share the conviction of almost every expert in and out of government who has looked at this problem: If we do not act now to secure existing nuclear material and weapons, as well as the expertise needed to build them, a nuclear terrorist attack on the United States is only a matter of time.

We have consulted with a range of experts to produce a comprehensive set of policies that we believe will be effective in enabling the United States to prevent what Graham Allison of Harvard University has termed ''the ultimate preventable catastrophe.''

Today, my colleague, Mr. SHAYS and I, are introducing the ''Omnibus Nonproliferation and Anti-Nuclear Terrorism Act of 2005'' which lays out a comprehensive plan to overhaul our nonproliferation program.

As with America's intelligence programs, nonproliferation and disarmament programs are spread across the United States government. Thus, the centerpiece of our proposal, is the creation of an Office of Nonproliferation Programs within the Executive Office of the President to coordinate and oversee America's efforts to prevent terrorists from gaining access to nuclear weapons and to manage the effort to secure existing nuclear material in the former Soviet Union and other places.

We need to modernize the Cooperative Threat Reduction program, created by Senator RICHARD LUGAR and Former Senator Sam Nunn, by giving more flexibility to the President to carry out nonproliferation projects outside the former Soviet Union and by reducing red tape.

The most vulnerable nuclear sites around the world must be secure. Our bill enhances the Global Threat Reduction Initiative announced last year by former Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham.

We also propose a number of multilateral and bilateral efforts to secure nuclear material. In order to prevent another A.Q. Kahn ''nuclear supermarket,'' we urge the President to expand and strengthen his Proliferation Security Initiative to interdict the shipment of nuclear material. We also recommend that the President work with the international community to develop and implement standards to improve the security of nuclear weapons and materials and to explore ways to strengthen the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

We must address the vulnerability to theft of the Russian tactical nuclear arsenal, and our legislation authorizes the Department of Energy to assist Russia in conducting a comprehensive inventory of its tactical weapons.

The President's authority to fund non-defense research by Russian WMD scientists must be expanded so these scientists would not be tempted to sell their secrets to North Korea, Iran or al Qaeda.

As the nation grappled with the attacks of September 11, we repeatedly asked ourselves how we could have failed to foresee the danger posed by al Qaeda and taken steps to prevent 9/11. We know about the danger of nuclear terrorism; we have been warned repeatedly. We are in a race with terrorists who are actively seeking nuclear weapons. The choice is ours. We can continue doing what we are doing now and risk an almost inevitable nuclear attack or we can take action to prevent it. When one considers the consequences, the choice is really no choice at all.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF OSSIE DAVIS

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the great life and legacy of Ossie Davis, a leader, innovator, and inspiration to us all.

Ossie Davis was the older of five children born in the small town of Cogdell Georgia in 1917, but mainly grew up in nearby Waycross and Valdosta Georgia. In 1935 he left home, hitchhiking to Washington DC, where he entered Howard University as a student of Drama. At the time he had plans of becoming a playwright and expressing his artistic ability on stage. In 1939 his career as an actor began with the Rose McClendon Players in Harlem where he developed for 3 years and gained his first professional acting debut in 1941 performing in ''Joy Exceeding Glory''. During World War II, Mr. Davis spent close to 4 years serving his country as a surgical technician in an Army hospital in Liberia, tending to wounded troops and the people of the country.

After the war in 1946 and back in New York, Mr. Davis debuted on Broadway in ''Jeb'' a fitting story about a soldier returning home from the war. His co-star in this love story was a well known actress Ruby Dee. In December of 1948, the couple jumped on a bus to New Jersey and got married on a day off from rehearsal. Since meeting on the 1946 Broadway production, Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee have stood out as a collaborative beacon of light leading generations of African Americans to follow in their footsteps in the field of fine arts and at the same time standing in the foreground of social consciousness.

The era of the Cold War brought with it feelings of uncertainty concerning political ideas and racial issues. During this period of social upheaval, Mr. Davis and others as Black performers found themselves under a watchful eye with McCarthyism on the rise. While the Cold War was in full swing, Mr. Davis stood by, most notably, Paul Robeson, a fellow actor and singer who was a well known communist sympathizer. Mr. Davis stood by his side like a true friend when others severed ties to Robeson, and along with his wife Ruby Dee, they resisted the ever growing threat of McCarthyism. Davis was remembered to have said, ''We young ones in the theater, trying to fathom even as we followed, were pulled this way and that by the swirling currents of these new dimensions of the struggle.''