

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, today we all feel we are part of one great global family, cloaked in sadness as we try to deal with the senseless assassination of Yitzhak Rabin. I think every one of us feels very helpless and impotent that we could not prevent such a senseless act by a killer who killed one of the great soldiers and dreamers who was acting on peace. But I must remind all of us on this day that while we could not prevent the killing, we can prevent the killing of his dream. We must not let the feeling of helplessness and impotence descend upon us to not go forward with his dream of peace.

Instead, it must rekindle the flame even brighter, even harder, and we must work even more vigorously to bring peace to that region that has known so little, and to carry on the great dream and vision he had for that region, his home.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

IN MEMORY OF ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER YITZHAK RABIN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. BENTSEN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, today the world mourns the loss of one of the greatest statesmen of our time, Yitzhak Rabin. A soldier who knew too well the price of war, Prime Minister Rabin spent his life in defense of Israel. But his legacy will be his pursuit of an enduring peace for the entire Middle East.

Rabin's time in office was short in the long history of the Middle East. That makes what he accomplished all the more remarkable—a peace treaty with Jordan, mutual recognition between Israel and the PLO, and the initiation of historic talks with Syria. All this was considered impossible only a few years ago.

Prime Minister Rabin's most remarkable accomplishment was the transformation of the Middle East from a region divided between Arabs and Jews into a region divided between those who want to move forward with peace and those frozen by the hatred of ages.

We here in the U.S. Congress must not waiver 1 inch in our commitment to peace. Our continued strong support for Israel and her quest for peace and freedom should be a tribute to the man who gave his life for it.

Today Israelis mourn the loss of Yitzhak Rabin and the entire world grieves with them. We should all honor the memory of Yitzhak Rabin by giving life to his enduring words: "Enough of blood and tears. Enough."

SMOKELESS TOBACCO CONSUMPTION AND REDUCTION AND EDUCATION ACT OF 1995

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Colorado [Mrs. SCHROEDER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, today I just want to notify my colleagues that I am reintroducing a bill that addresses a very serious public health crisis. That is the growing number of especially adolescents and children who are using smokeless tobacco. This bill would hopefully begin to deter the smokeless tobacco industry by raising the Federal excise tax to at least the level of that on cigarettes. We are seeing children being targeted constantly in commercials by all sorts of popular figures, trying to lure them into snuff and chewing tobacco, and saying it is a safe alternative.

Let me just point out to parents and so many people, this is not a safe alternative, and in fact, some of the health consequences of smokeless tobacco are even more immediate than that of cigarettes. In fact, evidence shows that smokeless tobacco contains 2 to 3 times the amount of nicotine that cigarettes have, and that people become much more subjected to addiction than with cigarettes.

What the users are at such health risk for is developing gum, tongue, cheek, larynx, and other oral cancers. Can you imagine anything worse? Every year some 29,000 Americans are diagnosed with oral cancers, and 8,000 people die of it; 75 percent of those are attributed to the use of smokeless tobacco or cigarettes.

Mr. Speaker, I take this well to say I as a parent get so tired of people seeing children and adolescents solely as consumers, and that if you can lure them in and tell them these things are cool, it only helps your profit and loss statement.

I think it is time we as lawmakers, and all of us in this country, join to say that these children are our future and we should not allow profits to get in the way, luring them in to be consumers, to getting them addicted to nicotine, and to getting them into habits that will haunt them the whole rest of their life.

Mr. Speaker, adolescents develop the habits that they are going to have with them the whole rest of their life during this period. They are terribly vulnerable, they are terribly vulnerable to peer pressure. I think to say that this is a safe alternative and to allow this to continue is wrong.

I thank the cosponsors who are joining with me. I hope many others join with me, and I hope we can begin to attack one more group that is out there preying on our children and going after their pocketbooks for their own aggrandizement.

Mr. Speaker, today I am reintroducing a bill that addresses a severe public health crisis—the growing number of people, especially adolescents and children, who are using smoke-

less tobacco. This bill would deter smokeless tobacco use by raising the Federal excise tax on snuff and chewing tobacco to that of cigarettes. It would also create a trust fund to educate the American public about the health effects of using smokeless tobacco.

While cigarette use has been declining for the past 7 years, the use of smokeless tobacco has risen for the fourth year in a row. In fact, since 1972, the number of users has tripled. Smokeless tobacco is now the only tobacco product for which consumption is increasing. More than 10 million Americans use snuff and chewing tobacco, and, sadly, 3 million of those users are under the age of 21. Statistics show that more than 35 percent of high school boys are occasional or frequent users. What is worse, the average smokeless tobacco user starts his or her habit at age 9; 25 percent of users start by age 5.

Smokeless tobacco marketers are smart, engaging in intense and well-funded marketing efforts. They target young males with visions of sports fame and rugged masculinity. They ease adolescents into their habit with snuff flavored with mint and cherry.

Most importantly, the health consequences of smokeless tobacco are even more immediate than that of cigarettes. Evidence shows that smokeless tobacco contains 2 to 3 times more nicotine than cigarettes, making snuff users more susceptible to addiction than smokers.

Users are at a serious risk of developing gum, tongue, cheek, pharynx, and other oral cancers and of developing cancers of the larynx and esophagus. Some 29,000 people are diagnosed with oral cancer a year and 8,000 people die of it—75 percent of those cases are attributed to the use of smokeless tobacco or cigarettes.

Children and adolescents who use smokeless tobacco are at a special risk of damage to teeth, gums, and bone tissues. Nicotine and other carcinogenic substances absorbed from smokeless tobacco use can aggravate human illness in progress and accelerate the development of coronary artery disease and hypertension.

Ten percent of the revenue generated by my bill will be placed into a trust fund for programs to educate the public of these health risks and for other programs to reduce consumption. Higher taxes and an educational trust are one step toward helping kids kick the habit. Join with me in protecting America's youth.

TRIBUTE TO YITZHAK RABIN AND ISRAEL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. FRANK] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I have not in my 15 years as a Member of this House felt sadder on taking the well. The murder of Yitzhak Rabin is one of the most despicable, frightening acts we have witnessed, because it was not simply the murder of one of the genuinely great men of our time; a man who, having excelled in war, a war forced on him and forced on his countrymen, a war they never wanted but a war of self-defense, a war

which they had to fight from the moment of their birth for their very existence; a man who, having excelled at that war, excelled at peace; but of a man who, which is rare in politics, risked everything to make peace.

We talk of those who stand up to their enemies, but that is easy to do. Standing up to your friends, to your brothers and sisters, to the people to whom you have been closest, that takes a real kind of moral courage. Yitzhak Rabin did it. It is not simply the murder of this great man. It is an assault on democracy. It is an assault on one of the great accomplishments that we have seen in this world, in this century. That was the creation of the democratic State of Israel out of the terrible horrors of the Holocaust.

It is appropriate for us today, in expressing our deep sorrow at the murder of this great man, to remark on the extraordinary society which gave birth to him, not in the physical sense but in the political sense, because he is one of the man who brought Israel into existence, but his political career then thrived within Israel.

It is a terrible tragedy that just as he appeared to be on the verge of success in bringing about a true peace, a thoughtful and sensible peace, he was murdered. Israel was created, through no fault of its own, in the midst of war. This small nation had to fight for its very existence from the moment of its existence. After five decades, nearly, of a war of self-defense, Israel society was taking great risks for peace.

We in the United States can be very proud of the role that has been played by the United States, by the Clinton administration, by this Congress, by American society, in giving Israel the necessary support that it needed as a small nation in the midst of what was once a sea of hostility to go forward to making peace.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to mourning the death, in addition to condemning the despicable act, and condemning also those who condoned this in advance, I think it is appropriate to pay tribute to Israeli society, and at this moment of greatest sorrow for Israeli society, to express my confidence, my pride as a Jew, as well as an American, in the relationship that our country has had with Israel, but also in the ability of Israeli society, in the midst of an effort to wipe it out before it came into existence, to foster its own security and at the same time democracy.

Many have argued at times of stress that democracies have to give up on their basic rights. The Israeli experience is, of course, a repudiation of that, because the Israeli society has been one of the freest and most democratic in the world at the same time it has been under attack. Now that society, that great democracy, is going to be called on, as few societies have been called on. But that is not new for the Israelis. They have had to go through this before.

I am confident that in the midst of this terrible tragedy and mourning, the strong democratic nation of Israel will rise to the task, and those who tried to murder peace by murdering this great man will fail. I believe that the democratic society of Israel will repudiate this effort, and I am proud to say that as a Member of the United States House of Representatives, I look forward to working with all of my colleagues in continuing to provide Israel with the kind of support and reassurance it needs to go forward on the path that Yitzhak Rabin had begun.

THE DEATH OF YITZHAK RABIN AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE FOR AMERICA AND THE WORLD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from West Virginia [Mr. WISE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this time to continue for just a moment discussing the death of Yitzhak Rabin, and what it means to the world, and certainly to us. I have grappled with this all weekend, as I know many Americans and citizens across the world have, about the meaning, because once again a great leader, who has already accomplished much and pointed the world in a new direction, has been struck down.

There is a sense of horror and tragedy and shock at this, and in many ways, hopelessness. But at the same time, out of this sense we have to resolve to go on, to remember this man who was a patriot and leader of Israel, who led Israel in one of its major wars, who commanded armies, who knew military arms, and yet could also bring a nation to peace.

I have thought many times that probably it was only Prime Minister Rabin who could do that; having been such a successful general, he could be the only one whose word and authority could be accepted when he would say there could be peace.

I put him in the same category as many other great leaders who have been struck down in the Mideast. Of course, in 1981 another one who dared to strive for peace and was struck down by an extremist within his own country was Anwar Sadat, the President of Egypt. Before him, the grandfather of the President King Hussein, King Abdullah, was struck down in Jerusalem by the same extremist type of person. People who did not want to see a dream succeed are those who would strike down such leaders.

The death of Yitzhak Rabin, though, really has meaning far beyond Israel. Obviously, we focus on the Mideast, and I think if there is a success story for the United States, it is that there has been a true bipartisan support of the nation of Israel and its strivings and endeavors and struggles.

Obviously, the Mideast is a large part of what we focus on today, but what Yitzhak Rabin was about and what

struck him down is not just the Mideast, it is an extremism that is in all parts of our society worldwide; it is an extremism that says "We do not have to work through democratic principles; if your dream differs from ours, we will cut you down."

That is what we have to root out. That is something we have to do as individuals as well. We cannot just count on there being Yitzhak Rabins on every street corner. They depend upon us, ordinary citizens, to lead that fight as well, to be the soldiers, if you will. So I hope that is something, that we redouble our efforts. As we focus on the Mideast and the sorrow and grief that we feel today and we are going to feel for quite a while, and the absence we are going to feel for quite a while, so let us focus on what needs to be done across the world as well.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I just want to ask that all of us as Americans redouble our efforts to deal with extremism no matter where it is: Left, right, religious, racial, however it comes up. That is what this is about. That is the struggle that must be led.

As I watched excerpts of the funeral I was struck by something, Mr. Speaker, You could not help but feel tears well up, to see, of course, not only Prime Minister Rabin's granddaughter so eloquently eulogize her grandfather, as a person who knew him well, better than anyone else, I think, but also to see his former adversary, the King of Jordan, whose soldiers had fought and he had fought against Israel several times before, stand beside the bier of his former fallen foe and call him friend; the Arab King, the Israeli flag-draped casket, side by side; two men who dared, two leaders who dared to reach out.

Now they call, I think, upon us, all of us, to dare to reach out the same way, for if we are to gain anything out of this great tragedy, if we are to try to pull anything out of this, that is what we must double and triple our efforts to do, which is to heed that call and to dare to reach out to each other.

PERMISSION TO FILE CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 395, ALASKA POWER ADMINISTRATION ASSET SALE AND TERMINATION ACT

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the managers be given until midnight tonight, November 6, 1995, to file a conference report on the Senate bill (S. 395) to authorize and direct the Secretary of Energy to sell the Alaska Power Administration, and for other purposes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.