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No. 71

## House of Representatives

The House met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. WICKER].

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

May 2, 1995.

I hereby designate the Honorable ROGER F. WICKER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,

*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MORNING BUSINESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 1995, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member except the majority and minority leader limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE] for 5 minutes.

### TRAGEDY IN OKLAHOMA CITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, the gentlewoman from Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to be able to offer on behalf of the constituents of the 18th Congressional District my deepest sympathy to the citizens, and families, and victims, adults and children, of the tragedy in Oklahoma City. I watched as the outpouring of love of Americans and aid from across this Nation and

across the world poured into that great city. But, more importantly, I watched as the valor of each individual citizen was highlighted as each came to the cause and the crisis of the people. I watched the laws of this land be in place. I watched the Constitution remain stable during this very severe crisis. I heard the debate as people wanted, most of all, for the safety and security of those that were there and the immediate assistance to those people. It gave me comfort, one, that Americans will always rise to the aid of their fellow neighbors, and, two, that the Constitution is still very strong.

I rise, as well, however, to be able to ask that those who believe in the Constitution would recognize that, if they would oppose some of the actions and activities that we have heard occurring over these last couple of days, that they, too would speak up. If they are against hatred, hate mongering, if they are against intolerance, I would like to hear their voices as well, for it is important, as we do adhere to the laws of this land and as we accept the value of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, that, yes, we recognize all of us have such rights. It is important that America not coddle terrorists, be they domestic or international. It is important not to hear that the actor or alleged actor in this incident is like the boy next door. If the facts are true, the actor is a murderer, plain and simple.

And so I support and appreciate the leadership of President Clinton in light of the fact that he has struck a balance, one of applauding the valor of citizens in Oklahoma City and appreciating the democracy of this Nation, but yet challenging those Americans who would have normally kept silent on the hatred that is violating this Nation. It is time to stand up and speak up.

And those of us in Congress must make a commitment to you, as Ameri-

cans, that, one, we will act in a bipartisan manner, particularly myself as a member of the House Committee on the Judiciary, to accept, and respond, and affirm your constitutional rights, but at the same time enhance your quality of life, and protect you. And to those Federal employees let me say, "Thank you so very much for, yes, you have gone beyond the measure of duty. All over this Nation you serve Americans, and you served them with good cheer, and love, and competence and excellence. Many of them lost their life in Oklahoma City. Many of you are saddened by the tragedy. Many of my district were forced to evacuate their building over the last week or so because of bomb threats in the city of Houston, but you have kept the faith, you have remained strong, and so I salute you."

My commitment is to work ever hard protecting the Constitution with my colleagues, but yet responding to terrorists wherever they may be and acknowledging that they, too, must come to justice, not coddled, but standing up before the courts of law and accepting whatever charges are being made effectively, forcefully, and with the full impact of the law. My hat is off to those in Oklahoma City, my prayers remain with them, and my commitment is that we must make this country a just country, a fair country, an equal country, but certainly a safe country under the laws of the land and keeping in mind the strength of the Constitution of the United States of America.

### CONTEMPLATING THE OKLAHOMA CITY TRAGEDY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. DURBIN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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Mr. DURBIN. Mr. Speaker, it is a very common thing after a congressional break for Members to come back to the Congress and reflect on, what they have heard at home. I have to say that, although there were many opportunities for me to meet and discuss local issues with my constituents, our attention was focused on a city several hundred miles away, as was the attention, not only of the entire Nation, but the world. Of course, I am speaking of the tragedy which occurred in Oklahoma City.

In the rubble of that Federal building in Oklahoma City we find both tragedy and hope. And, as we look at the events of the last several days, I think we can see literally the very best and the very worst in our Nation. In terms of the best, the courage of these rescue workers, to think that they would literally risk their lives on a day-to-day basis to plow through this rubble in the hopes of finding someone alive or, at the very least, to bring out the remains of those who have passed away, men and women who frankly could never be paid enough for the sacrifice and courage which they are showing. The strength of families praying for the missing; we have seen it so often on television and accounts in the media, the mourning of those families who lost a loved one as a result of this tragedy.

As my colleagues know, on the floor of this House of Representatives Federal employees are often vilified as just faceless bureaucrats, numbers on a page, people to be moved around here and there in the budget debate, and yet we find out they are real human beings, going to work every day, doing something for their country, and in this instance literally giving their lives because of what they have shown in terms of sacrifice and commitment to this country.

And what a story of Oklahoma City. I have only visited there once, had a nice impression of the town, but little did I know the inner strength of that American community that would rally and come together, black and white, rich and poor, to help those who were touched by this tragedy. And across the country so many people were inspired by this tragedy to do a little bit more, to become a community, to become a Nation. In my own district a local individual, Don Eastep, Jr., of Virden, IL, went down to Oklahoma City, volunteered, went into the rubble, risked his life in order to try and help in that situation. I think we all watched in awe at the prayer service that was held in Oklahoma City. Gov. Frank Keating, a fellow who went to Georgetown University a year ahead of me, did an exemplary job as the leader of that State. He welcomed President Clinton, who made very eloquent remarks at that prayer service, and then, of course, the Reverend Billy Graham, who called on the United States to begin the healing process.

These were the very, very best of America coming forward at a time of

great trial and tragedy. But unfortunately we have also seen the worst. It is still hard for me to believe that this heinous crime was the work of an American citizen, and of course that is the allegation. What kind of demented mind filled with hatred would bring a person to the point where they would destroy innocent lives, as apparently occurred here at the hands of another American citizen?

And we have heard since this event on television and radio the venomous rhetoric of those who would find some rationale or support this idea that the only way to express oneself politically is through violence. We have heard talk show hosts, the lunatic fringe among them, and most of them are not; most of them are in the middle, speaking to the American people, as they should, under the Constitution, but there are a handful, and we all know it, who just go entirely too far. We have heard them and their divisive language testing the limits of free speech in this country.

President Clinton was right when he said they have the right to speak. We must fight to protect that. But those of us who disagree also have an obligation to speak out, too. As my colleagues know, I think, if one needs a gun or a bomb to express their political point of view in America, they really have no place in this Nation. They have really crossed the line.

I hope in the weeks ahead, as we contemplate this tragedy and what it means for America and its future, that both Democrats and Republicans can come together and draw a very clear line, and say we will not accept violence on the right or on the left as political expression. We will make it very clear that we want to protect our Bill of Rights, but we will not allow those who will turn to violence to be in any way honored. I think, Mr. Speaker, if we do that on a bipartisan basis, the American people will have new confidence that we, too, understand in Congress the need to come together as a Nation. It is time for both parties to draw that clear line and do everything in our power to make certain that another Oklahoma City tragedy never occurs.

#### HAITIAN POLICY—ANOTHER WASTE OF UNITED STATES TAXPAYERS DOLLARS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. GOSS] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, on April 11, the Associated Press ran a story that I believe bears noting: "Postponed Elections, Unrest, Could Prolong U.N. Mission." That one small headline speaks volumes. Keep in mind that there are more than 2,400 American troops on the ground in Haiti still and that we have already spent in excess of \$1.4 billion on that small Caribbean island. Al-

though the May update from the administration on the situation in Haiti is not available yet, I think we all understand that the possibility of a longer mission—even under the auspices of the United Nations—equals more American tax dollars and more exposure for our troops. With that possibility clearly on the table, perhaps the President will refocus his attention on Haiti for a moment to give us a candid answer to this candid question: Despite all of the money, time, and manpower the United States has already poured into Haiti, are we really headed for a longer term commitment than February 1996? It seems to me that we are. April voter registration was supposed to bring May elections to Haiti and Haitians. But those elections, originally planned for last December, have once again been pushed back—this time to the end of June. The longer that deadline slips, the longer Haiti goes without its 700 local elected officials and without a parliament—and that does not bode well for the growth of Haitian democracy.

General crime and lawlessness aside for the moment, politics in Haiti are becoming an increasingly dangerous pursuit. From the murder of former Deputy Eric Lamonthe on March 7, to the gunman's assault on Philip Stevenson as he departed a Panpra Party meeting on March 14, to the brutal assassination of Madame Bertin on March 28, to violent clash on April 17 between the supporters and opponents of one political candidate in the city of Cap-Hatien—it is clear that, in Haiti, it pays to keep your head down and your hat out of the political ring. In addition to these personal attacks, machete and rock-wielding mobs have launched a series of attacks on electoral offices in La Chapelle, Petite-Riviere, Saint-Michel and Grande Saline, to name just the Artibonite Valley hotspots. Clearly, this is not what an elections process is supposed to be about.

Of course, violence is not the only thing threatening to disrupt elections. Voter registration is behind schedule and reports from politicians, law enforcement and electoral officials alike indicate that voter cards are being sold to the highest bidder. But we should return to the issue of general lawlessness as well. Jobless Haitians who once lined up peacefully outside of outside of United Nations and United States military headquarters have begun staging aggressive, impassioned jobs protests. Just last week in the market at Tete-Boeuf, 20 gunmen fired randomly into crowds and robbed bystanders in an effort to gain control of that small commerce center. United States businesses in Haiti report that smuggling and general lack of authority mean that legitimate businesses cannot prosper. Additionally, although I do not want to overstate the significance of the numbers, there are Haitians who are still feeling desperate enough to get into boats and take to the seas.