

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.

The Coast Guard has intercepted several boatloads this month with more than 240 Haitians on board and bound for Florida. Reports from Turks Caicos indicate that they have enlisted the help of the United States Coast Guard to stem the increased flow of Haitians to their shores. These are Haitians who have been mislead and told that they were being taken to either the Bahamas or the United States or that they could get into the United States via centers in Turks Caicos. With the Artistic government's recent announcement of their adamant opposition to negotiating another repatriation agreement with the United States, there are clearly some important issues to be dealt with in the coming months. Congress returns now to begin the budget cycle. As we are looking for ways to maximize the benefit of every tax dollar we spend, I believe that the President owes this Congress and Americans across the Nation some answers about where we stand in Haiti, where we are going and how much it is all going to cost before this episode is over and done. Most Americans agree our present Haitian policy is another waste of United States taxpayer's dollars.

THE OKLAHOMA CITY TRAGEDY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, the gentlewoman from North Carolina [Mrs. CLAYTON] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, I think that, before we begin our legislative business, we must pause, remember, and offer our prayers to those who faced the senseless and brutal bombing in Oklahoma. I believe we can agree that a safe, secure, and open nation is important to all of us.

As Americans, we must recognize how interdependent we are—young and old—black, white, yellow, and brown—rich and poor—we all mourn with our fellow citizens in Oklahoma.

And, we pray for those who were injured or died because of this tragedy, as well as for those—friends, families, and loved ones—who must live with it—and, for us, as a nation.

Tragedies such as this remind us of how vulnerable we are—how fleeting and precious life can be.

We are also reminded of the need, many of our citizens have, for direction—for strong, moral leadership.

If the Oklahoma bombing does nothing else, it should compel us to assume those roles for which we were elected—to legislate in the best interests of America—to lead in the best tradition of the Congress of the United States. Now, more than ever, we need forceful leadership—leadership that can put aside party and politics and put the people in front—leadership that can overlook minor differences and concentrate on major results.

It is easy to stand in the way. Many can do that. It is difficult to make a way. Few can do that.

But, I offer this challenge to my Democrat and Republican colleagues alike—each a leader in his or her own right—let the bickering end—let breakthroughs begin.

There are so many perils in this world—injury, disease, famine, nature's occasional vengeance, the unknowns and uncertainties of life, and the assurance of death.

One wonders why, given these natural hazards, any person would create further hazards of the kind that caused the harm, the death, the destruction and the pain of the Oklahoma bombing.

Consider this, however—to those who watch us on C-SPAN, when we are in session—we display attitudes that far too often fuel division and fight consensus.

To those who watch us on C-SPAN, our philosophy, our point of view, more often than not, seems to become paramount to concordance or compromise.

And, while no Member has the intent of promoting malice—to those who watch us on C-SPAN, at the very least, we seem to wink and nod at the very worst in relationships. We live in a time of much hope—and a time of great despair.

Hope—engendered by what we can be. Despair—engendered by what we are.

Let us lead by example.

When Nelson Mandela was freed from the jail that confined him by the jailer that kept him, he did not use the power he later secured to hurt him, instead he used the conditions that caused his incarceration as an example of what humankind could be.

Nelson Mandela invited his jailer to his inauguration—as a special guest.

As we begin our legislative business—let us lower the volume—let us eliminate the venom—let us stand for consensus—let us not forget those principles that made this a great nation, all are created equal, with certain inalienable rights and that among those rights are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness—let us not forget Oklahoma.

A DARK CHAPTER IN AMERICAN HISTORY

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

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for the time this morning, and I in many ways endorse what the preceding speaker, the gentlewoman from North Carolina [Mrs. CLAYTON] had to say. I was listening with great interest this morning to my fellow newcomer, the gentlewoman from Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE], and indeed at the outset of her remarks I would endorse fully that no one, no one in this Chamber, would ever endorse the acts of violence,

the unspeakable acts against those in Oklahoma City.

History points a way for us, it compels us, it offers lessons, and at this juncture in human history, at this juncture in the history of this proud Republic, I believe it is important for all of us to remember the admonition of that great and good man, Dwight David Eisenhower, who led the most powerful army ever assembled in the free world against the most onerous and evil regime in human history. Eisenhower, when he stepped onto the beach at Normandy following the waves of invasion, noted that it was impossible to walk a step without stepping on dead or decaying human flesh, such was the magnitude of destruction there, and yet following the war's completion and the restoration of peace, when Dwight Eisenhower answered a clarion call to serve this Republic as its Chief Executive, he made some very valid points regarding political battles. To paraphrase Ike, he said, "Always believe the best of your political adversaries. Always assume that they, too, want what is best for the American people and yet move in a different direction under a different philosophy to bring about their desired results."

I think those words are incredibly important for us to remember as we again come into this Chamber, the site of so much of our history. Let us note once again that good people may agree to disagree. Let us not impugn the motives of those duly elected by their respective districts to offer a point of view as we move to achieve a consensus. But by the same token, and perhaps it is somewhat ironic because, after all, the political process is the vehicle which brings us here. Let us never confuse dissent with hatred. Let us never politicize such a tragic event as the one that occurred in Oklahoma City in hopes of increasing our number for either side of the aisle. Let us truly join together in debate that is, yes, oft times contentious, but always with the knowledge of the inherent wisdom of what Dwight Eisenhower said, that good people may disagree.

And I noted with some concern this morning the seeming implication that there was silence from this side, that there was an endorsement of violence, and, if I mistook the remarks, then I would stand corrected. But let us all avoid the temptation to politicize this dark chapter in American history, and let those who are working amidst the rubble in Oklahoma City to rebuild lives, to revitalize their community, let them stand as an example to the overwhelming goodness that is ours in this constitutional republic.

To the people of Oklahoma City and to the people of the United States of America, Mr. Speaker, I say, Let us rejoice in this process of representative democracy that allows us to peacefully state our differences.