

It is very important, I think, to recall the lessons of history. Again, I offer the observation that I offered as this House began business earlier today, that oftentimes, while the dynamics of this institution often rely on partisanship as one of the mechanisms utilized to get business done during the course of the day, that even as we recognize we may have partisan labels, it is important to remember that at moments of great import, people of different parties have offered valuable advice.

I remember well a quarter century ago when the gentleman from Minnesota, the former Vice President and one-time Democratic presidential nominee, Hubert H. Humphrey, advised, in a public way, President Nixon to come clean, to offer a full explanation and accounting of the events that history now recalls as Watergate, to the best of President Nixon's ability for, as Senator Humphrey maintained, that action in itself would go a long way toward allowing the American people to address the problems, allowing the Congress of the United States to address the problems, and then to move forward.

Indeed, Mr. Humphrey was of the opinion that if President Nixon would take this action, the American people would be forgiving of the problems and President Nixon could move on in his second term.

Mr. Speaker, again, not to score partisan points tonight, and again, devoid of the one-upsmanship that so often characterizes political debate, honestly, and sincerely, I would call on this administration and this President, Mr. Speaker, to step forward with all the information at hand. For indeed if this administration will be forthcoming with the information and allow the American people to decide, while I cannot guarantee that the outcome would be similar to what Hubert Humphrey envisioned for Richard Nixon, I can say that the American people deserve no less than a full accounting because of the concerns we have in so many different areas, but because the questions raised by the possession of these FBI files have implications that strike at the very fiber of our Republic, for they deal with issues of vital import to every American and every American's individual rights as provided in this document, the Constitution of the United States.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that the President and members of his administration have a duty to step forward with the whole story. The American people deserve no less than a full accounting of some of the questionable actions that have occurred with reference to FBI files, now with a suspicion, and indeed, the implication

that more FBI files, that indeed, IRS records may be involved, to a certain degree; and that by taking that step, the President will show true leadership, allow us to deal with this most fundamental of questions, and then move forward to address the other vital issues of the day.

I would suggest this Congress will continue to do its work, as witnessed with the various appropriations bills. This Congress will continue to do its work with reference to our concerns about a tax on Americans abroad. This Congress will continue to do its work, yes, with reference to legislative oversight of the executive branch, should the President's decision and that of his legal counsel turn out to be only a halfway or halfhearted approach in any circumstance.

But it is vital that this administration address these troubling questions for the American people and for the process of government provided for in our Constitution, and indeed, for the very fabric of our constitutional Republic.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I make this call not in the interests of partisan one-upsmanship or gamesmanship, for this is not a game. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, what this entire process should typify in its best sense is a competition, a discussion, a difference of ideas, a difference of opinions, a difference of philosophies and vision as to how best serve the American people.

As we approach the new century, do we take money, power, and influence out of the hands of Washington bureaucrats and, indeed, turn that influence, power, and money over to governments closer to home, and, indeed, ultimately by allowing the American people to hang onto more of their hard-earned money, allow the American people to make those decisions at home that directly influence their lives?

But in this context, Mr. Speaker, it is vital that this administration move forward tomorrow in a spirit of candor, in front of the committee of the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. CLINGER], to lay out the entire story for the American people, and quite frankly, to change a pattern of denial, evasion, and a new formulation of answers that seems to have typified the conduct of this administration with reference to these FBI files and with reference to so many other questionable endeavors.

Again, it is my hope that every Member of this House and that every American citizen would watch closely what will transpire in committee tomorrow, even as we work in this full House to deal with other vital issues of the day.

THE VA, HUD, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1994

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MICA). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York [Mr. SOLOMON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, we are waiting for a resolution to come before the floor dealing with the bill we might have on the floor tomorrow, the motion to disapprove most-favored-nation treatment of China.

I just want to take a few minutes to talk about the bill we have on the floor today. It is the Department of Veterans and Housing and independent agencies appropriation bill for the fiscal year 1997, and in that bill we have, in my opinion, adequately funded the hospital-health care-medical care delivery system of the Veterans Administration.

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That is so very, very important. Often we are asked the question, why should veterans have their own medical care? Just to point out what the need for it is that when many of our men and women enlist in the armed services of this country, they, in a way, even though they get so much out of it, they lose so much of their time on the advancement ladder. Just, for example, if you were a young man or woman who graduates from high school at the age of 18, and you enlist in the service instead of going on to college, you are working at what our minimum wage is compared to what your counterparts would be doing if they went into the private sector. All the way through life, these young men and women trail their counterparts who did not take the opportunity to serve in the military, whether it is in running their own business, whether it is advancing up the scale, up the promotion scale of success. Consequently, that is why we deal with earned benefits for our veterans of the armed services.

In this particular bill, I am very proud that we are now funding a national cemetery in my home district, in Saratoga Springs, or in the County of Saratoga. This will be a veterans cemetery which was named the Saratoga National Veterans Cemetery. It will be similar to Arlington Cemetery, and I will provide for the interment of approximately 75,000 veterans and their dependents for the next decade or so.

This is so terribly, terribly important. I want to thank the gentleman from California [Mr. LEWIS] and the entire appropriations subcommittee for funding the \$13 million that will provide the final construction money for the hospital.

Mr. Speaker, the bill will be brought up again tomorrow morning. The gentleman from Arizona [Mr. STUMP] of the Veterans' Affairs Committee and his ranking member, the gentleman from Mississippi [Mr. MONTGOMERY] and myself will be offering an amendment to that bill, which will add approximately \$65 million to the appropriations bill to increase the funding for the medical care delivery system portion of that bill.

I would hope that when Members do come to the floor tomorrow that they will watch for the dear colleague letters that we have sent out showing the

support of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, the Disabled American Veterans, AMVETS, the Vietnam Veterans Association, and all of the other major veterans organization.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.J. RES. 182, DISAPPROVING EXTENSION OF MOST-FAVORED-NATION STATUS TO PRODUCTS OF PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, AND H. RES. 461, REGARDING THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Mr. SOLOMON, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 104-636) on the resolution (H. Res. 463) providing for consideration of a joint resolution and a resolution relating to the People's Republic of China, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.