

All of us, all of us want to belong to something larger than ourselves. I'm sure it's why you're in Congress; I'm sure it's why you decided in the beginning, "I'm going to give up this and do that, and it's going to be difficult for my family"—because you wanted to serve something larger than yourselves. It's at the heart of patriotism; it's why we are devoted to our churches, our universities, and, most of all, to our country.

With that kind of allegiance—that kind of devotion—we can rise to the occasion in a greater fashion than we have any idea. And we've done it time and again, we Americans. Think what your institution has achieved. It was Congress that created the Homestead Act. It was Congress that ended slavery. It was Congress that ended child labor. It was Congress that built the Panama Canal and the railroads. It was Congress that created Social Security. It was Congress that passed the Voting Rights Act. It was Congress that sent Lewis and Clark to the West and sent us on voyages to the moon.

Some acts of Congress like the Marshall Plan or Lend Lease, as important as any events in our century, were achieved under crisis conditions. But it doesn't have to be a crisis condition. It can be an ennobling, large, imaginative idea. A big idea.

Much of what has happened in our time has been determined by outside forces. In the Depression, the national aspiration—the national ambition—was to get out of the Depression. In the Second World War, the national aspiration—the national ambition—didn't need to be defined, it was to win the war. In the Cold War, the national aspiration was to maintain our strength against the threat of the Soviet menace, but at the same time, maintain our open free way of life.

But now the Cold War is over. And outside forces are not determining the national ambition. So what is it going to be?

Because we have the chance to choose. You have the chance to choose. And as important as balancing the budget may be, as important as restoring civility and law and order in the cities may be, as important as fourth-grade testing may be, or school uniforms, they aren't the grand ennobling ideas that have been at the heart of the American experience since the time of John Winthrop and the ideal of the City on the Hill.

And we have the chance to do that. We have the chance to create that—you have the chance to do that. There has never been in any of our lifetimes a moment of such opportunity as now with the Cold War over. And if we just lift up our eyes a little and begin to see what we might be able to do, we too—we in our time—could be cathedral builders. We can be a great founding generation, like the founding fathers. And what a wonderful, uplifting, thrilling, unifying sense of purpose that can provide. America itself at the very beginning was a big idea; the biggest idea in the political history of the world. That could happen again.

John Adams, who was one of the most remarkable of our Founding Fathers and whose wife Abigail has left us a record unlike that of any other spouse of a political leader of that time, set something down on paper in the Spring of 1776 that ought to be better known. It's called *Thoughts on Government*. It was originally written as a letter to the eminent legal scholar, George Wythe of Virginia. It was about twelve pages long and when other Members of Congress asked him for a copy he sat there, by candlelight, at night in a room in a house across the street from the City Tavern in Philadelphia, copying it all down. And then Richard Henry Lee of Virginia suggested that it be published.

Keep in mind please that it was written before the Declaration of Independence. And

listen to the language, listen to the quality of the language, which of course, is the quality of thinking. That's what writing is: thinking. That's why it's so hard.

"It has been the will of heaven that we, the Members of Congress, should be thrown into existence in a period when the greatest philosophers and lawgivers of antiquity would have wished to have lived." Right away, you see, he's saying, it is the will of heaven, there are larger forces than we ourselves, and he's applying the moment against the standard of the past: antiquity. It is to a very large degree, a lesson in proportion. "A period when a coincidence of circumstances without an example has afforded to thirteen colonies at once an opportunity at beginning government anew from the foundation and building as they choose." New, unprecedented, and they may choose. "How few of the human race have ever had an opportunity of choosing a system of government for themselves and for their children." And here is the sentence I dearly love. "How few have ever had anything more of choice in government than in climate."

He proposed a bicameral legislature. "A representative assembly," he called it, "an exact portrait in miniature of the people at large," balanced by a second "distinct" smaller legislative body that it may "check and correct the errors of the other." Checks and balances. There was to be an executive whose power was to include the appointment of all judges, and command of the armed forces, but who was to be chosen—and you'll like this—who was to be chosen by the two houses of legislature and for no more than a year at a time.

At the close, he also wrote this—and think about this please, as maybe a clue to what the cathedral we build might be. "Laws for the liberal education of youth are so extremely wise and useful that to a humane and generous mind no expense for this purpose would be thought extravagant."

Then after another month or so he sat down and wrote a letter to a friend back in Massachusetts, a fellow son of Liberty. April 1776. Carved into a mantelpiece at the White House, in the State Dining Room, is the prayer—the wishful prayer taken from a letter Adams wrote to his wife Abigail after his second or third night as President in the White House—the first American to occupy the White House as President—in which he says, "May only wise and honest men rule here."

I offer for your consideration the possibility that what I'm about to read might be carved, if not in a mantelpiece, somewhere in our Capitol where it would have appropriate attention. I can think of almost no other line from any of the founders so appropriate, so pertinent, to what you face—what we all face—not just in problems, not just in personal animosities or contention or rivalries, but what we face in the way of opportunity: to be builders as they were. Because he establishes both a way and a warning: "We may please ourselves with the prospect of free and popular governments. God grant us the way. But I fear that in every assembly, members will obtain an influence by noise not sense, by meanness not greatness, by ignorance not learning, by contracted hearts not large souls. There is one thing my dear sir that must be attempted and most sacredly observed or we are all undone. There must be decency and respect and veneration introduced for persons of every rank or we are undone. In a popular government this is our only way."

I salute you all. I salute you as a fellow citizen, as a fellow American, as the father of five children, as the grandfather of nine children. I salute you as one who has spent a good part of his working life trying to write some of the history of your great institution.

Our country deserves better—from all of us. But we look especially to our leaders as we should rightfully do. And there are no more important leaders than you. We don't expect you to be perfect. We do expect hard work, diligence, imagination, a little humor, civility, and especially, the sense that there is really no limitation to what we, a free people, can do. And that, with the grace of God, and a common sense of purpose, there is no limit—which has always been at the heart of the vision of American since the beginning.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JOSÉ "JOE" TORRES

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 1997

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mr. José "Joe" Torres, an artist in the culinary field who for many years has satisfied the most demanding palates at Jimmy's Bronx Cafe, in the Bronx, NY.

Mr. Torres was recognized for his culinary ability in an article written by Josue R. Rivas which was published in *El Diario*, on December 18, 1996.

A chef of Puerto Rican cuisine "por excelencia," Joe was born in Guaynabo, PR. He credits his success to his mother, from whom he first learned the art of cooking, and later on, to the chefs with whom he worked in New York City.

At Jimmy's, Joe cooks everything and for all occasions. One of his most overwhelming and, at the same time, joyous times, is the Christmas holiday season. He prepares the best Puerto Rican roast pork, rice with black-eyed peas, and "pasteles," plantain dough filled with roast pork and vegetables. The food is so delicious that one almost forgets to leave room to try his "coquito," his glorious coconut egg nog, for dessert.

Almost a synonym for the restaurant where he works, Joe Torres welcomes the clientele at Jimmy's Bronx Cafe with the same warmth with which he would receive friends and relatives at home. At age 50, he is one of the best chefs of Puerto Rican cooking in New York City.

Even though I share Joe's name and Puerto Rican origins, I must admit I do not share his ability for cooking. Hence, I feel most privileged to try his dishes when I visit Jimmy's Bronx Cafe.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing José "Joe" Torres, for his extraordinary culinary ability and for giving to all of us visitors to Jimmy's Bronx Cafe the joy of tasting delicious Puerto Rican cuisine.

RECOGNIZING A UNIQUE PARTNERSHIP IN THE CREATION OF AFFORDABLE HOMES

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 1997

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, an amazing and largely untold story has been developing for the past decade as nonprofits

throughout the Nation move block-by-block to provide new homes in America's low-income neighborhoods and, at the same time, reinvigorate communities. To underscore these successes, Habitat for Humanity International, Local Initiatives Support Corporation [LISC], the Enterprise Foundation, and the National NeighborWorks® Network are joining together to make an unprecedented commitment and challenge that will touch the lives of millions of people in communities across the country.

Today, these four organizations announced a multibillion-dollar commitment to develop safe, decent, and affordable housing and have challenged Congress and the Nation to join them in this deeper commitment.

The \$13 billion commitment is projected to generate 193,800 affordable homes and apartments in 2,475 urban, suburban, and rural communities. The homes they will provide range from remodeling and modernizing multi-family apartment buildings to constructing new homes for sale to low-income families. The initiative will touch neighborhoods across the country in farm towns and in dense urban inner cities. Tens of thousands of jobs will be created and tens of billions of dollars in private investment will be stimulated.

And, Mr. Speaker, knowing of the past successes of each of these nonprofits, I am convinced that their commitment to this initiative will result in the exciting goals they have set for themselves.

Congress can be an active partner in reaching these goals by continuing to provide the necessary tools to enable individuals, corporate leaders, philanthropic institutions, and others to continue to expand their support of providing more affordable homes. For example, programs like the Low Income Housing Tax Credit, Community Development Block Grants, the Community Reinvestment Act, the Earned Income Tax Credit, Rural Homeownership, HOME and Housing Opportunity Program are just a few of the programs that are uniquely effective and efficient in channeling private resources into community renewal and stretching scarce public dollars.

I am pleased to join these organizations in celebrating these success stories and call upon my colleagues to make housing issues a priority in their legislative agendas.

TOM NEWSHAM: A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF HONOR AND INTEGRITY

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 1997

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, the strength of this country rests among a select group of men and women that are entrusted with the responsibility of public safety. These individuals put their own lives at risk to that neighborhoods across the country are kept safe and citizens in these neighborhoods feel personally secure.

I would like to take this time to commend a man of great honor and integrity that has devoted his life to keeping communities safe. This man is Bay County deputy sheriff Thomas A. Newsham, who has served as a police officer in Michigan for over 20 years.

In 1974 Tom started his career in law enforcement when he was hired at the Bay

County Sheriff's Department as a deputy sheriff for road patrol. Tom performed admirably in this position for many years and received number distinctions along the way. These include a Meritorious Service Award for excellence and dedication and an Exemplary Service Award for his work at a crisis hotline.

In 1984 Tom was promoted to sergeant II on road patrol and shortly thereafter received a supervisory certificate at the Law Enforcement Officer Training Council. As Tom was moving up professionally, he began to devote more time to a personal priority of his—keeping children off drugs. Tom committed himself to learning how to counsel kids to stay off drugs through Drug Abuse Resistance Education and D.A.R.E. instruction. In 1995 Tom became a D.A.R.E. officer, going to different schools to talk to kids about their opportunities in life and to discourage them from using drugs.

At the same time, Tom was taking classes in community policing services from Lansing Community College, earned his B.A. from Saginaw Valley State University and received advanced training in critical incident stress debriefing.

This month, Tom is retiring from the Bay County Sheriff's Department and I think all would agree that we are losing an outstanding law enforcement officer who combines skill, professionalism, and compassion. I want to thank Tom for his years of service to the community which I represent here in Congress and to wish him all the best in his retirement years.

TRIBUTE TO BARB McTURK

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 1997

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity today to honor the hard work and strong leadership of one of our party's most dedicated volunteers. For the past 4 years, Barb McTurk has served as vice chairwoman of the Colorado Republican Party, and for the past 2 she has served simultaneously as its volunteer executive director. Since taking office in 1993, Ms. McTurk has worked tirelessly on behalf of the Republican Party and its candidates. She has striven to advance the principles of the Republican Party while maintaining the highest level of integrity and earning the respect of friend and foe alike. Her record of achievement is truly impressive.

Ms. McTurk's work has resulted in Republican gains across Colorado as well as an increase in voter participation—an essential element of our representative process. Our gains in registered Republican voters, gains in the State legislative majority and gains in Republican held statewide elected offices are due in large part to the Herculean efforts of Barb McTurk. These gains have elevated the Colorado Republican Party to its strongest level in years.

Mr. Speaker, the political process depends on the hard work of volunteers as well as the ability of all of us to engage in constructive and informative political discourse. As Barb McTurk ends her tenure as chairwoman of the Colorado Republican party, I, along with the

rest of the Republicans in the Colorado congressional delegation, want to thank her for her commitment to our cause and convey our utmost respect which she so rightfully deserves.

INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1997

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 1997

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, today, I am cosponsoring the Indian Child Welfare Act Amendments of 1997, a timely bill that reflects a carefully crafted compromise between the interests of Indian tribes seeking to protect their culture and heritage and the interests of non-Indians seeking greater clarity and security in the implementation of the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978.

This bill is virtually the same bill that I cosponsored last year along with the chairman of the Resources Committee, Representative DON YOUNG, and the bill is the direct result of several high-profile adoption cases involving the adoption of Indian children. These cases, involving lengthy disputes under the Indian Child Welfare Act, focused our attention on whether the act fairly, and to the greatest degree possible, took into account the best interests of the children, the parents, and the tribes.

In the last Congress, early attempts to rectify these problems were misdirected and would have amended the Indian Child Welfare Act to severely limit its scope and the protections it affords Indian children, parents, and tribes. The first proposed amendments to the act were drafted without any input at all by Indian tribes or by members of the committee of jurisdiction, the Resources Committee. The amendments survived a close vote on the House floor, but failed to make it out of committee in the Senate.

Recognizing the need for legislation, however, we immediately initiated discussions with Indian tribes to lay the foundation for compromise legislation. The tribes in turn prepared draft legislation that was then shared and negotiated with adoption professionals, including attorneys, who ultimately endorsed the new legislation. Proponents of the compromise legislation now include the American Academy of Adoption Attorneys and Jane Gorman, the attorney who represented the family in the Rost case.

This bill is intended to strengthen the act, to protect the lives and future of Indian children first and foremost. This bill was crafted not only with the input of the tribes but also with the input of the attorney for the Rost family, whose well-publicized case was one of the adoption cases that sparked this debate. We understand that to a few parties on either side of the debate this bill may not seem perfect. Few compromises are. But what this bill does is truly important. This bill helps Indian children by providing allowing adoptions to move forward quickly and with greater certainty. This bill places limitations on when Indian tribes and families may intervene in the adoption process. Yet at the same time, this bill protects the fundamental rights of tribal sovereignty.