

Whitman made "Livable New Jersey" the theme of her second and final inaugural address.

The most important strength of the Livable Communities movement is that it transcends even bipartisan politics. Over 200 local and state ballot initiatives faced voters this November from around the country signaling a new era of grassroots pressure to create more livable communities and to have government become a better partner in that effort. I would note that an overwhelming majority of those initiatives passed.

For some it is too easy to discount the Federal role, citing local control, fear of regulation or simply misreading history. The fact is the Federal Government has been a partner with local government and the private sector in shaping the landscape and building communities since the Federal Government first started taking land away from the native Americans, who were largely hunters and gatherers, and gave it to European farmers, who cut and burned the forests for farms.

Now that President Clinton and Vice President GORE have made Livable Communities a priority, raising new levels of interest, it is more important than ever that the problems of dysfunctional communities be addressed by we in Congress.

This movement brings together communities, large and small, rural and urban, inner city and suburb. This Congress has an historic opportunity to rise above partisanship and business as usual to work together to improve the quality of life of all Americans.

These proposals will not end up costing great sums of money; indeed, by and large, they will save money and create wealth. They are not going to put people at risk. They will indeed strengthen the lives of our communities and enrich them.

It does not require picking winners and losers. Livable Communities do not discriminate against one another, they reach out to include people. There is something in it for everyone.

During the work of the last Congress, on the ISTEPA reauthorization to create T-21, I used a scriptural reference found in Isaiah, 58:12. If anything, it is more applicable for the Livable Communities initiative.

Those from among you shall build the old waste places; you shall rise up the foundations of many generations; and you shall be called the Repairer of the Breach, the Restorer of Streets to Dwell In.

In the weeks ahead, I will be suggesting simple, inexpensive steps that we can all take to make our communities safe, economically secure and healthy; from not having our communities held hostage to the whims of billionaire sports franchise owners, to making the Post Office obey local land use, planning and zoning codes and work with local communities before they make decisions that have the potential of tearing the heart out of historic small town America; to reforming flood in-

surance, to make it more cost effective and efficient.

It is time for us in Congress to heed the Prophet Isaiah and to be about this important work of making our communities more livable.

□ 1630

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MORAN of Kansas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

AMERICA'S LEADERS, PAST AND PRESENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I would like to highlight tonight the accomplishments of Jennifer Valoppi, a woman who has served as a wonderful example for teenage girls in my community of South Florida, and at the same time she has committed herself to her profession, rising to excellence within her chosen field as a television anchor.

In 1997 Jennifer conceived, created and founded what is now a very successful program in South Florida called Women of Tomorrow. She convinced her employer, NBC 6, to sponsor this wonderful, ambitious program that has helped so many teens who otherwise might not have successful role models to look up to.

"Women of Tomorrow" is structured in such a way that it pairs professional women in our South Florida area with teenage girls in order to improve their self-esteem, and it also provides guidance and nurturing in their lives. This fantastic program is designed to show young women the endless possibilities ahead of them as they embark on the beginning of their adult lives.

Mentors meet with small groups, usually no larger than 10 girls in a group, to discuss the girls' ambitions, their motivations, their positive attitudes, the achievement of their dreams, in addition to sharing personal stories of triumph and, of course, temporary setbacks and obstacles.

In addition to launching this wonderful organization devoted to teenage girls, Jennifer Valoppi is a multi-E Emmy award winning journalist who has twice been named "Best TV News Anchor." She inspires us with her dedication and her drive to improve the world around us.

Madam Speaker, Jennifer Valoppi has made a tremendous mark on our community. I applaud all of her efforts, and I hope that more women of South Florida get in touch with Jennifer and also become part of this teen mentoring program, Women of Tomorrow.

THE DANTE FASCELL NORTH-SOUTH CENTER

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, another leading citizen of our community unfortunately is no longer with us, and I would like to say a few words about this very unique individual.

In Latin there is a phrase "sui generis" which refers to something unique and rare. I can think of no other way to describe our former South Florida colleague, Dante Fascell. Dante was a man of vision and of skill, whose intellect and political sense were instrumental in the passage of countless foreign policy measures throughout his tenure in this House, and in particular during the 14 years that he had the great privilege of chairing the Committee on International Relations which was then called the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Dante Fascell was a vital figure in the fight for democracy in my native homeland of Cuba, in all of Central America. He authored programs such as the Cuban Refugees Assistance Act, and he advocated the founding and was successful in establishing Radio and TV Marti. The freedom fighters throughout our Western Hemisphere always knew that they enjoyed the support of Chairman Dante Fascell because he not only fought to protect the national security interests of his country, our beloved United States, but he was unwavering in his efforts to help those who are struggling to regain their rights as freedom-loving human beings, as citizens of the world, and as brothers and sisters in the greater family of nations.

Dante Fascell understood the idiosyncracies, the internal political dynamics, the historical context, and the global developments which impacted our region, especially the North-South relations, and for this reason he spearheaded and was successful in the creation of the North-South Center in his hometown of Miami and his beloved university, the University of Miami. He did this in order to promote an even greater understanding of the issues, in order to move the discussions toward a proactive solution-based approach.

It is appropriate that the father of the North-South Center, the man whose vision and perseverance helped make this dream a reality, be honored by having the North-South Center carry his name and the University of Miami, and in this fashion the legacy of Dante Fascell will continue to inspire future generations of leaders.

So I am honored today to say some words of praise to a man who is no longer with us, Dante Fascell, but also to praise today's leaders who are very much with us, like Jennifer Valoppi,

and who are leading the way for the women leaders of tomorrow.

WELCOMING MEMBERS TO THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I come to the floor this afternoon to welcome all Members, especially new Members, to the 106th Congress. Whether one is Republican or Democrat, I am your Congresswoman away from home, and I want to tell you a little bit about this city and a little bit about the assistance I can offer you while you are here, because you are going to spend more time in the District of Columbia than you will spend in your own district.

Some of you live here, all of you work here. Many of you will have your entertainment here. Matters arise in the city. If you need help, including help for your constituents, I hope you will call me. If you live in the city, there are inevitable problems that arise with your trash, with rodents. No tickets, please. We cannot take back tickets, for the most part, although there are a few instances where the District cannot write tickets for Members of Congress, and I suppose we will submit those to the District. What we really love are shortcuts to getting a marriage license. Since I have been in Congress, I have helped at least three Members get marriage licenses.

In any case, when one is wondering where to turn when anything arises in this city, whether it is city services or the city at large, please call my office.

On Monday, February 23, 1999, we are having a formal event called Ask Me About Washington. You and your staffs are invited, with a free lunch.

I want to tell you about hometown Washington. Forget what you have heard. A revolution has occurred in this city. It has a new mayor, a reinvented city council, and a control board that operates with a much reduced capacity. The city is in the hands of its new mayor, Tony Williams, the man who helped repair the city's finances and, as a result, got elected mayor. I work closely with him and have great hopes in what he can do for this city, because he has already done a great deal for the city when he was chief financial officer.

The city's problems came largely from the fact that since its establishment 200 years ago, it has been the only city in the United States that has carried State, county and municipal functions. It is a miracle that the District was up and standing so long carrying State functions, despite its big city urban problems that all of you have in your own States.

Congress has relieved the city of some of its State functions, much to the credit of the Congress and the

President. So the District has had three years of surpluses and is no longer even close to insolvent.

You should also know about the city that it is a city at the very top in so many ways. We are fifth per capita in the United States in the number of residents who have a bachelor's degree. The residents keep this city running for the 25 million people who come here to see the monuments and the city every year, and we keep it running out of our own pocket with \$5 billion raised from taxpayers in the District. We do this with no grant from the Federal Government, despite the fact that the Federal Government takes 40 percent of the land off of our tax rolls for Federal office space and monuments.

We are third per capita in Federal income taxes paid to the Federal Treasury, and yet my folks have no representation in the Senate, and only me, a delegate, in the House. This is a historic anomaly, along with the fact that you will be asked to vote on local matters, occasional local matters affecting the District, and even on our appropriation, none of which is raised by the Federal Government. This is an anomaly that is impossible to justify today. All that we ask is that you be respectful of local government, as you insist in your own district and State. Congress should never intrude on the Democratic prerogatives of a local people, and I ask for that respect in the name of the people I represent.

Please know that you are in one of the most livable and beautiful cities in the United States. New Members will shortly be receiving a letter from me about this city. Members who have been here before will be receiving an update. You do not need to go far to know what a beautiful city this is as a hometown community. Not only the Congresswoman, but all of the elected officials and the residents stand ready to help you enjoy the city.

I want to be clear that my office is here at the disposal of Members of the House and the Senate. If you have a problem in the District, you do not have to call the District straight away to try to find out where and who to go to to deal with it. Call your Congresswoman away from home, Congresswoman ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON, who proudly represents the more than one-half million people who have the good fortune to live in the Nation's Capital.

ILL-ADVISED U.S. INTERVENTIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I have always believed that national defense is one of the most and at times the most important and most legitimate function of our national government. I have strongly supported our military, although at times I have also supported some cost-saving measures in defense spending.

I voted for the Gulf War several years ago because Saddam Hussein had moved against another country, Kuwait, and was threatening others. He had what was considered to be the strongest military in the Middle East, although we now know that we vastly overestimated his strength. There were fears then that he might try to take over the entire region if he was not stopped.

A few months ago I voted for the \$100 million U.S. contribution to try to remove him. From what I have read, Saddam Hussein appears to be a horrible megalomaniac, a terrible dictator who has killed people to stay in power, and I would agree with anything bad that one could say about him.

But I believe that Robert Novak, the nationally syndicated columnist and TV commentator, is right when he calls our action against Iraq "a phony, political war."

Iraq's military strength was almost wiped out by the Gulf War eight years ago. Our sanctions since that time have ruined what was left of Iraq's economy. Our latest bombings have been against an extremely weak, almost defenseless nation, and in fact, against a military the size and strength of ours, Iraq is defenseless. We are doing this to a country that made no overt action against us, and in fact did not even threaten to.

There is no threat to our national security. There is no vital U.S. interest at stake or that is even threatened. Iraq is not even a paper tiger today.

Some of our leaders have tried their best to make Iraq sound threatening by repeatedly talking about weapons of mass destruction, yet in several years of inspections by U.N. inspectors, no weapons of mass destruction were found. Besides, many nations, including us and our leading allies, have weapons of mass destruction. We cannot go bomb every nation that has some weapon of mass destruction.

We have spent over \$2 billion on the Iraqi deployment over the last few months and are still spending huge amounts; many, many millions each day. This is a surrealistic war. Most Americans do not even feel like we are at war. The news from Iraq is not even making the front pages.

All we are doing is wasting billions of dollars and making enemies all over the world. We are repeatedly involving ourselves in ethnic, religious and historical conflicts, some of which have been going on for centuries and which will go on long after we pull out, if we ever do. All we are doing is wasting billions of dollars and making enemies all over the world.

We have turned our military into international social workers. A few years ago the front page of the Washington Post carried a story that said we had our troops in Haiti picking up garbage and settling domestic disputes. Last year on this floor I heard another Member say we had our troops in Bosnia giving rabies shots to dogs. Most