

other cities, a few home schools for girls operate, although they operate only in secret. Women who conduct these secret classes to educate women are risking their lives or risking a very severe beating. Many of us watched in horror these circumstances which were documented in the film, "Beneath the Veil."

Prior to the Taliban control, Mr. Speaker, especially in Kabul, which is the capital, women in Afghanistan were educated and they were employed. Fifty percent of the students and 60 percent of the teachers at Kabul University were women. And 70 percent of school teachers, 50 percent of civilian government workers, and 40 percent of doctors in Kabul were women. The Taliban shield their behavior behind claims of a pure, fundamentalist Islamic ideology, yet the oppression they perpetrate against women has no basis in Islam. Within Islam, women are allowed to earn and control their own money and participate in public life.

Mr. Speaker, I will be joining my colleagues who will be following this evening in recognizing the women and the girls who have been enslaved and stripped of their basic human rights under the leadership of the Taliban. I hope that we can raise the awareness of gender apartheid in Afghanistan and women around the world who are unable to escape severe poverty, who face an extreme lack of health care and education, and survive day to day with constant hunger.

In the next few weeks, I will be introducing the GAINS Act, which stands for, the acronym, Global Action and Investments for New Success for Women and Girls. I am introducing this legislation because economic globalization is leaving the world's poorest women, girls, and communities behind. Women and their children make up more than 70 percent of the 1.3 billion poorest people today.

Because we have not taken adequate steps to implement commitments made at the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in its foreign policy and international assistance programs, we need a template for ensuring the implementation of these important commitments. I hope that everyone in this body will join me in supporting the GAINS Act and also in taking steps to improve the lives of millions of women and girls in Afghanistan.

#### TRIBUTE TO RUSH LIMBAUGH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I am joined tonight by the distinguished whip, TOM DELAY. I want to say, kind of listening to our Democrat friends speaking before we spoke tonight, it was inspirational, Mr. Speaker. I am

glad to see things are getting back to normal again in Washington. That is what the President has been calling for. And so, doing their part, the Democrats were very partisan and petty. So I appreciate that.

I am sorry to say that they are misguided. They want to create a new Federal bureaucracy in the airports, and I for one feel that we should model security the way they do it in Europe and the way they do it in Israel because they have had so much more experience with terrorism. And the way to do that is to have Federal standards for private sector security, not a new government bureaucracy.

I would ask my Democrat friends in great sincerity, would they want the Post Office to run the security system at airports? Certainly not. Because we all know that the private sector can be far more efficient and effective at doing a job than one more government agency coming out of Washington, D.C.

With this, Mr. Speaker, we are joined by the great man from Arizona, Mr. J.D. HAYWORTH. I want to begin with saying:

No. 15. If you commit a crime, you're not guilty.

No. 18. I am not arrogant.

No. 20. There is a God.

No. 23. The only way liberals win national elections is by pretending they're not liberal.

No. 3. No Nation has ever taxed itself into prosperity.

No. 4. Evidence refutes liberalism.

No. 5. There is no such thing as a New Democrat.

These, Mr. Speaker, are among the great gems of wisdom in Rush Limbaugh's 35 undeniable truths, and we want to be talking about our friend Mr. Limbaugh tonight.

I would start by yielding the floor to the majority whip, the gentleman from Texas, Mr. TOM DELAY.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I really appreciate the gentleman from Georgia bringing this special order on Rush Limbaugh, particularly following what we saw just right before us, in the special order right before us, the Democrats out here talking about security in airports. Rush Limbaugh, I am sure, would have a lot to say in answer to what the Democrats were saying.

It is quite amazing to me. I saw one gentleman, I believe it was the gentleman from Mississippi, talking about we should have the security that they enjoy in Israel and in Europe. Actually that is what the President is trying to do and the Democrats are trying to thwart.

□ 2130

They want to nationalize this system. They do not want to federalize the system; they want to nationalize it, something Europe tried, by the way. And after just a few years, the hijackings and the bombings and the threats that came against the airlines coming out of Europe were so bad that they threw away the nationalized system

and imposed the system now that the President is trying to bring as a model from Europe and from Israel.

Israel has not had a hijacking because they have the right system, the system that the President is trying to see implemented here in the United States. What that system is basically changes the present system that we know has a lot to be desired and changes that system so that the Federal Government comes in with standards and criteria and even certification of those that screen at the airports, but that you use employees in a private entity so that you could get the best work and the best employees to do the job. Rush Limbaugh would understand that, and has understood it and talked about it a lot on his show.

But, Mr. Speaker, anyone who heard the bad news about Rush Limbaugh's ailment and thinks this is a time to hang our heads does not know Rush very well and does not understand why his audiences tune in every day.

Rush is not interested in anyone's pity. He wants our passion. He wants us to succeed. People listen because Rush celebrates the opportunity that America offers to every man and woman with a dream and the passion to achieve it.

He reminds all of us that America is the world's best place to enjoy a happy, fulfilling, and meaningful life. Rush cajoles us all to chase our visions and he tells us to never give in to doubt, fear or failure.

Rush has not let go of his dream. He arrives at work every morning with the same passion for his job that he has always had. He is not going to let a tough break define who he is or even what he does. He is going to work through the problem. He is going to adapt and overcome it. Rush practices what he preaches.

He urges his listeners to pursue their own passions, to work hard to achieve excellence, to overcome life's problems, to remember our roots, to laugh at adversity, to honor our principles, and to insist on an American vision that expands opportunity and celebrates freedom.

What Rush does every day is simply to tell America to roll up our sleeves and go about the business of building Ronald Reagan's shining city on a hill.

Rush understands the American spirit, and he urges all of us to live up to it. He has never dwelled on the depths of the problems that confront us. He has never been susceptible to second guessing about America's role in the world.

He understands that what a person does after a setback will tell you more about them than anything else. That is why Rush's commitment to continue his program reminds us of who Americans are: we do not quit, we do not back down, and we do not let go of our dreams.

We need to keep the faith, keep the passion, and keep working to build an American society that equals all of our

hopes and our aspirations. That is Rush Limbaugh. That is the Rush Limbaugh that we will continue to enjoy on the radio. That is the Rush Limbaugh that understands what true airport security and airline security is. That is the Rush Limbaugh that understands what the conservative movement is all about. That is the Rush Limbaugh that leads us every day in understanding what is good for America.

We all applaud Rush Limbaugh for what he has done and what he is about to do. We all are sorry for his affliction; but at the same time, we all pray for him. We thank you for bringing this Special Order.

Mr. KINGSTON. I thank the distinguished whip. It is exciting to have you with us, because I remember when you were the minority party whip, and that was before the gentleman from Arizona and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT), who has now joined us, were Members of this Congress. They, of course, were part of that great 104th majority-maker class.

Gentlemen, I can tell you things were different, but I will also tell you what you already know: Rush Limbaugh going out, reaching out to 20 million very great Americans and getting them all excited about the political process helped get you in Washington.

I will be honored to yield to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. HAYWORTH).

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Georgia for organizing this time and the fact that the distinguished majority whip joins us, as does the gentleman from Minnesota. In hearing the whip discuss not only our friend Rush Limbaugh, but also the power of ideas, I think it is very important to come tonight in that great tribute, because America is an idea and ideal brought into practice.

As the gentleman from Georgia outlined, as the gentleman from Minnesota and I came to this Congress at a historic time with a transition in the majority, I had the privilege during my campaign to first meet Rush Limbaugh. He came to Phoenix as I was preparing to run for Congress, and our Suns were playing the Bulls in the NBA championship. The folks from Chicago prevailed in that particular matchup, quite unlike what transpired today in baseball, as the Diamondbacks defeated the Braves two to nothing. Sorry about that to the gentleman from Georgia. But we had a great visit with Rush.

Mr. KINGSTON. If the gentleman will yield, that was just Southern hospitality, so we do not have to worry about you in the next game.

Mr. HAYWORTH. Oh, I thought it was skill. But just one point about it, because the whip talked about this, the fact that our friend Rush Limbaugh celebrates the dreams and the pursuit of excellence by individuals, that he recognizes that America is made up of seemingly ordinary individuals who have been called upon to do extraordinary things, and whether it is suc-

ceeding in business, or getting an education, or running for public office, fulfilling dreams is important. That is what makes his excellent broadcast so excellent in terms of the excellence in broadcast for which he strives; the fact that America can rise to its dreams, can discuss the difference in ideas, can succeed on the playing field, or return to the playing field to seek success, as my friend from Georgia identifies with a certain National League franchise from his home State.

But we salute our friend Rush Limbaugh. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, the highest form of praise for me personally is really two-fold: number one, to know that in the Almanac of American Politics, there are those who would compare this gentleman with my friend Rush; and the fact that yesterday on his broadcast I was mentioned, and the constituents started to call saying “Rush was talking about you today,” and that is a high honor indeed.

Mr. KINGSTON. If the gentleman will yield, I am wondering now if that is an economic comparison. I know he is probably the wealthiest talk show host in America. Is there an economic similarity?

Mr. HAYWORTH. Oh, would that it were the case, but apparently it has to do with vocal patterns or some such.

Mr. KINGSTON. I just wanted to be sure. Because the gentleman knows, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. HAYWORTH) is very famous on Capitol Hill, and I am sure in the great State of Arizona as being somebody who can imitate different speakers, which Mr. Limbaugh is also good at, as is the gentleman from Minnesota, who also can imitate Ronald Reagan so well that you think he is still at the Capitol.

But I wanted to say on that subject, number nine in the 35 Undeniable Truths of Rush Limbaugh, Ronald Reagan was the greatest President of the 20th century.

I yield to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT).

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Well, I thank the gentleman from Georgia and my colleagues and the whip for being here tonight to take a few minutes to pay tribute to a very special American. I think he is very special for a lot of reasons.

I remember the first time we were driving through Iowa and we were listening to WHO in Des Moines, Iowa, and this voice came on the radio, and at first I sort of said to myself, is this a joke? But the more I listened, the more I said, hey, finally there is somebody out there who gets it. That was probably at least a dozen years ago.

A tremendous story has been written since then about Rush and his audience around the United States. He did not create that audience. That audience was there. They were desperately looking for somebody who got it, someone who thought the way that they did; and I think it is a tremendous tribute to him that that audience has continued to grow, and I think it is a tribute

to the fact that there is an awful lot of common sense in the American people.

The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON) mentioned earlier about our class, the class of 1994, when after 40 years of wandering in the wilderness, finally the Republicans took control of this House, took control of the Senate, and really began to change the American agenda, and I think for the better. I think Rush Limbaugh was a big part of that.

I remember when we went down to Maryland, Baltimore; and we had some of our programs for new Members, and Rush came and spoke to us one night. It was a very special night, and we actually made him an honorary member of the class of 1994, the majority makers. I think he was touched to receive that pin.

I reminded him that night of something I have needle-pointed on my wall that my wife needle-pointed for me a number of years ago. It is an expression from Winston Churchill. It is one of my favorite quotes from Churchill. It a very simple expression; but I think it says a lot, and in many respects Rush Limbaugh embodies this expression. He said, “Success is never permanent; failure is never fatal. The only thing that really counts is courage.”

If you look back at what happened in 1994, what Rush did for us, what Rush did for the American people, what Rush did for the conservative movement, is he gave us the courage to believe that we were, in fact, the majority. I think it was people like Rush who really psychologically gave us a huge boost in that election and I think began to change the whole tenor of the discussion.

Much of the debate we were having back in 1993 is no longer even relevant. That is how far the debate and the discourse here in this city and in this country have changed. He was a big part of that.

So I want to thank the gentleman for having this Special Order. I have a few other points I might make later.

Mr. KINGSTON. I do want to say, first of all, before we go on, number 35 in the Undeniable Truths, too many Americans cannot laugh at themselves anymore. I think that that is what Rush Limbaugh has taught us to do. It is okay to laugh while discussing politics. With that in mind, I want to point out, all three of you have extremely ugly ties tonight.

I also want to tell a story. In 1992, when I was running for office, 2 years before you guys were, I was at a house, Dr. A.J. Morris' house, a supporter of my mine in Vidalia, Georgia; and it was a good crowd. I was behind in my election. It was my first time running for Congress. I was getting beat in Vidalia, in Toombs County, Georgia, where the delicious Vidalia onions that feed the entire world and are the envy of all farming, they are all grown there.

But I said to Dr. Morris, I said have you ever heard Rush Limbaugh? He

said no. This was 1992. He said I never heard of him. I said he is great. He is this conservative talk show host, he is funny, he is entertaining, very much on the edge. He does not just talk. He has Paul Shanklin come in and do these parodies and he talks in strange words like "dittoheads," or that is what his fans call him, all kinds of things, and he gives updates of different liberal groups and homeless updates and so forth.

So I actually got my little handheld recorder, and I recorded on my car the next Rush Limbaugh show, and I sent it to A.J. Morris out in Vidalia. I live in Savannah; Vidalia is about 60 miles away. He said this is great. I sure wish we could get him here.

Well, that was in 1992. Now he is on 600 radio stations; and of course, he is all over the airwaves, not just in Vidalia, Georgia, but all over.

But the reason why I think that is important is because where I think the conservative movement really turned in 1994 was that air attack led by talk show host Rush Limbaugh, which enabled the infantry, led by TOM DELAY, flying all over the country, going into your district and your district and getting the ground troops motivated, and Mr. Leader, if you can tell us about those days?

Mr. DELAY. Thank you for yielding, because as the gentleman from Minnesota was talking about his experiences in 1994, it revived some memories of my own when the leadership of this House in the minority come about in 1991 or 1992 decided for so many years the minority had acted like a minority and it was time to act like a majority.

That was inspired by Rush Limbaugh. Even though he was not on all the stations that he is on now, we knew of Rush Limbaugh. He was telling us to act like a majority, understand what you believe in, stand up for your beliefs and have passion in it, and work for it and work to get the majority; and we came together and we started strategizing to get the majority.

It came to about 1993, going into 1994, the election of 1994; and we came up with this idea called the Contract with America, which told the American people what we would do if we got the majority. I am glad to say that over 70 percent of that Contract with America is law today, and we got most of it in the first year or two that these two gentlemen gave us the majority.

But during that time, especially that election of 1994, obviously the national media, the Washington media, did not pay much attention to us. We did not try to ignore them; we just bypassed them.

We went straight to Rush Limbaugh and many other conservative radio talk show hosts all over the country. And you could be driving up into the lakes of Minnesota, driving for 3 or 4 hours to get to that ice cream social where 10 people showed up to support one of our challengers, or driving into

Arizona, and you could hear the Contract with America.

□ 2145

You could hear the Contract With America. You could hear from Rush Limbaugh the evaluation of what was going on in Washington and what he dreamed of happening if, by whatever chance in 1994, we actually gained the majority. All over this country, wherever I went, I went to 85 to 100 different districts in 18 months, and everywhere we went people were talking about Rush Limbaugh, what he was talking about, what we could do if we had the majority in this country, and what we have been able to do is a tribute to Rush Limbaugh. All the wonderful things: The balanced budget, the tax cuts, the welfare reform; I could go on and on and on, all the wonderful things we have been able to do because we have had a majority, particularly in the face of a President that fought us every step of the way while he took credit for everything that we did, but we had a voice out there and that voice was sending our message loud and clear.

The best part about it was, and we sound like Rush Limbaugh was our campaign manager; Rush Limbaugh did not take his direction from us, he was the standard by which we ran. He was setting the standard for conservative thought. He understood what the American people dreamed about and could implement, and he understood that the only way that that could happen is if the Republicans took the majority in the House of Representatives and in the Senate. He played a huge part in what happened in 1994 and, thereby, played a huge part in all of the successes that we have been able to do over the last 7 years.

So again, Mr. Speaker, we owe so much to Rush Limbaugh. This country owes so much to Rush Limbaugh. We can never thank him enough.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

We are joined also by one of the great Republican pioneers in the dark days of the minority wilderness, the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER). I wanted to give the gentleman undeniable truth number 32, since the gentleman is from California. The Los Angeles riots were not caused by the Rodney King verdict; the Los Angeles riots were caused by rioters.

I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER).

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, that is a great lead-in. I thank my colleagues for letting me participate.

I am reminded that Rush Limbaugh taught the American people to laugh at Washington, D.C., and the self-righteousness of the liberal program was something he just delighted in shredding. He made us think and be creative.

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) just said we came in and did a lot of things, but we did that with the support of the American people because

Rush held up all of the things we were doing with the status quo system, that was architected by liberals and that was held up in a very serious and profound manner with their media support, and people began to understand that literally the king had no clothes. They were able to look at a school system where the Federal education dollar sent to Washington, D.C. resulted in about 25 cents going back to the classroom. They were able to laugh with Rush when he pointed out when we were trying to reform welfare that the average welfare recipient was on welfare for 13 years and Rush wondered if maybe that was not quite a while for a guy to be able to go down and get the want ads in the local newspaper. Rush took all of these aspects of government and he held them up to the American people and he did it with humor. I think to get the attention of the American people, one needs to give them a little humor, and he did that so effectively.

So he entertained us, but the interesting thing is he always entertained us with fact, because his facts with respect to what he called the "liberal welfare state" were much funnier than any fictitious system that one might think up or any sitcom on television. So he made the American people look at Washington, D.C. and made us laugh at ourselves first.

When we saw what we built up as we advanced towards socialism and we were able to laugh at ourselves and reflect on the error of these programs, we then got creative and we came up with reform for the welfare system, and we came up with ways to reduce that education rake-off in Washington, D.C. where 75 percent of every education dollar was pulled off the top by government, by very wise people. I thought that on one of Rush's shows, he pointed out that you have the same people flying from our districts across the country, educators, and asked the question, do people gain an IQ because when they cross the Mississippi River, and the same guy that might be spending 100 cents out of that education dollar in Minnesota or Michigan or Georgia or Arizona or California, is he any smarter once his aircraft crosses the Mississippi River and he glides into Washington and now he is going to tell us how to spend that money from his perch in Washington, D.C. instead of having local government do it back in our respective States.

So Rush Limbaugh was a guy who first I think got the attention of the American people by entertaining them a little bit, and then they realized that all of his one-liners were based on facts and they realized that the facts described their government. So then we got creative and did something about it. So I thank my colleagues for letting me come down and join with these great Americans, with all of my colleagues, and talk about Rush a little bit.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I would say to the gentleman from California

(Mr. HUNTER) that we are always glad to have him with us and anybody who is a conservative from California we have to treat as an endangered species anyhow. We always have a program for the gentleman, okay?

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. HAYWORTH).

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Georgia. I think back to those days in 1994 when the gentleman from California was kind enough to pay a visit to his neighboring State, and to hear the whip and to hear our friend from Minnesota talk about those days has been very interesting indeed.

As I was listening to the remarks, I am reminded that another great wartime leader who went on to become President of the United States, Dwight David Eisenhower said, always take your job, but never yourself seriously. How appropriate, how descriptive that is of our friend Rush Limbaugh. But how important that philosophy is now in another hour of national need.

We rejoice in the fact that we can bring different approaches and seek practical solutions from different philosophies and, Mr. Speaker, we would be remiss if those who follow this hour, this Special Order, would think that everything we do is rubber-stamped or met with complete approval by our friend in radio. The fact is that is not the case, nor, to borrow Mr. Jefferson's phrase, in the course of human events will it ever be the case.

So we celebrate the fact that we can have differences of opinion, not only within the conservative movement, but in this Chamber, yet in this hour of national need we unite for a common goal, celebrating legitimate differences, understanding that the exchange of ideas, whether in this Chamber or over the airwaves, is the key to our dynamism as a constitutional republic.

Indeed, the fact that our friend Rush brought and continues to bring a different way, a somewhat irreverent way, of reviewing the day's news has led to great citizen participation, both part of the conservative movement and those who might seek another way. Indeed to the point, Mr. Speaker, I remember upon our election to this Chamber, one of the leading news magazines actually ran a cover story citing the dangers of hyperdemocracy, as if Americans being involved, giving voice to their concerns, taking time to be involved in any political movement, regardless of their personal philosophy, taking the time to care, as if somehow that were wrong.

What we have seen with the rise of the new media of which our friend Mr. Limbaugh is part of the vanguard, talk radio, the Internet; the fact, Mr. Speaker, that Americans and indeed citizens of the world can see these words transmitted instantaneously, that friend and foe alike internationally understand that we believe in the power of ideas, that is the best testi-

mony to those who willingly engage in those ideas, to those who champion the delivery of those ideas over the airwaves, on the Internet, and typify what de Tocqueville first found about America, that America is great because we are good, and that we can be of goodwill and disagree, and that yes, it is perfectly within the realm of public experience to be frustrated, to step back and take not so serious a look, but when there is a time of national need, we can rally because the people, we have this affinity for the freedom we celebrate in free and open debate.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman would yield on that, too, I think that one thing that Rush Limbaugh did, he was a great leader with respect to ideas, very creative. But I think also like a lot of other great radio talk show hosts, I think he developed a lot of his ideas by listening to people. There is a great difference in this country between the guy who is on the 20th story of a building in a newspaper office, an editor who decides what is going to be written the next day, who is separated from the people by three or four electronic doors, a set of elevators, lots of security guards, and expounds on what he thinks America should do based on his education, his background, and the people he may talk to when he goes to lunch.

A radio talk show host takes that call from Joe on a cell phone in a car and Joe, who is driving home from work, who may be a plumber or he may be a high-tech guy, may have a great idea in any given area, and he is able to transmit that idea and get some feedback from Rush Limbaugh, and I think Rush Limbaugh has resonated, not just led America, but I think he has learned a lot from Americans, as most talk show hosts do.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, is the gentleman suggesting that he did not get all of his wisdom by listening to National Public Radio? I am shocked.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I think it is very possible that he got his wisdom from the American people, and I think he got a lot of it just from everyday folks who, in many ways, are a lot smarter than a lot of the folks in this city.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I think there is a lot of wisdom on the street and I know one thing, that Congressmen do not become veterans without listening for that wisdom and trying to bring it to Washington instead of trying to bring Washington's wisdoms home.

One thing that Mr. Limbaugh had observed about Congress under novel truth number 25, follow the money. When someone says it is not the money, it is all about the money.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT).

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. Of some of my favorite undeniable truths, here is one. There is a distinct single American culture, rugged individ-

ualism and self-reliance which made America great. Another is character matters; leadership descends from character. Finally, there is something wrong when critics say the problem with America is too much religion.

What Rush Limbaugh really did is he talked about the time-tested values that are America. In many respects, he just continued to refresh our memories about what Ronald Reagan talked about all of his political career. He talked about those time-tested values such as faith, family, work, thrift, and personal responsibility. Those are the cornerstones. Those are the basic building blocks upon which this great American culture is built. It really is those things that he talked about again and again and again and helped us refocus on what is important in this country. He used humor, he used facts, he used quotes; he listened to the American people, but he put into words what a lot of people were thinking. I think that is why he has such a big audience and I think it is also why some of the media elites in this city and in New York and in other big cities were so envious and so angry originally. Now they have come to accept Rush. But originally they were so angry and they were so angry because all of a sudden they did not have a monopoly anymore.

□ 2200

It used to be there were three networks on television. There were maybe four, five, six large newspapers around the country. They basically controlled what people learned about what was going on in Washington and around the world.

But then along came people like Rush, and all of a sudden he democratized the media. Everybody could participate. All of a sudden, they did not have to rely on just a couple of large newspapers and three networks. All of a sudden, there was a wealth of information coming at them, and things that they did not see on the nightly news were talked about on Rush Limbaugh. It made all the difference.

Mr. Speaker, in 1994 when I first came to Congress, Rush Limbaugh had recently published a list of 35 Undeniable Truths. A couple of my favorites are more appropriate than ever.

"There is a distinct singular American culture—rugged individualism and self-reliance—which made America great." We are still a people of individual characters who, together, make up the rich fabric of a nation. As we have united together during this time of national tragedy, we will continue to demonstrate the "can-do" attitude which has carried us each, through personal challenges. Knowing Rush, this rugged individualism will carry him through as well.

"Character matters; leadership descends from character." Thomas Paine when writing during the birth of our nation said, "These are the times that try men's souls." Our Founding Fathers tested their character and produced amazing acts of leadership. The character of our President and Congress are being tested

and we have pulled together to defeat terrorism. Rush Limbaugh's character will continue to uphold the leadership he provides every day to millions of listeners.

"There is something wrong when critics say the problem with America is too much religion." Clearly the past month has demonstrated that America's faith in God has been the mainstay which has supported us in our grief and in our action to secure a terror-free future. Faith will also see Rush through his personal challenge as well.

He talked about Time tested values—faith, family, work, thrift, and personal responsibility.

I have no doubt Rush Limbaugh will overcome this temporary adversity and continue to shine as a bright star in the broadcast realm. I'm looking forward to the next show.

Mr. HUNTER. Rush Limbaugh and others like him introduced into the national forum something we did not have when we had the three networks and the big newspaper chains, and that is called debate. Rush Limbaugh would debate with people who called him up. Whether they called him from a phone at work or from home or on a cell-phone, he would debate with people. He was not afraid to debate.

The idea that somehow if one's ideas are better than the other guys, they should be willing to take him on, that is the American way. Yet, it did not exist in the media, as the gentleman from Minnesota has stated. We had a couple of nightly news anchors who would tell us the way it was. If we heard a President make a speech, we would see the President, but we would not hear him; we would see the image of the President making the speech, and the voiceover from the anchor would tell us what the President said and why it was right or wrong.

That was it. That was our information for the night.

I have to say, Rush Limbaugh has a lot of great colleagues out there who think a lot of him. I know Mike Reagan thinks a lot of him and does a great job; Oliver North, another guy who does a wonderful job; in San Diego, there is Mark Larson; and of course, Roger Hedgecock, friends of Rush Limbaugh.

People who like Rush are willing to have somebody call up on a cell-phone, offer a different point of view, and take them on and have a dialogue. That is how we develop ideas in America.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman bringing that up. Ten years ago, there were something like 200 talk shows in the country. Now there are over 1,000, and the listening audience is something like 15 percent of the radio market. Rush Limbaugh and all of his friends have made it a common staple for something like 40 million to 50 million Americans on a steady basis who use it to get their news, not just entertainment.

We have all been on the Ellen Ratner show, Blanquita Cullum, Alan Nathan, Neal Boortz, Sean Hannity, Alan Colmes. As Rush said, if you do not have someone who disagrees with you,

it is like playing tennis without a net. You have to have somebody who will banter with you.

He told all of us, conservatives and liberals, get off the bench, get down in the arena and engage in the debate.

I know the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. HAYWORTH) wants to speak. I would ask the gentleman to introduce our friend, the gentleman from Colorado. He has a decent-looking tie on, but I know people will not be able to notice, he is wearing some of the ugliest shoes that have been on the House floor in the history of the U.S. Congress tonight. I think he came slushing through the mountains of Colorado to join us, and we appreciate that.

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, parliamentary inquiry: Does the gentleman from Georgia hope to open one night for Jerry Vale? I did not know he was going to insult comedy.

But I would seize the opportunity from the gentleman from Georgia to introduce a fellow Westerner who joined us following the 1996 elections. I would introduce him with this note. I know that every Monday in his district he goes to great pains to bring together people for a breakfast town hall.

As I was hearing the gentleman from California and the gentleman from Minnesota and the gentleman from Georgia relate, what happens on talk radio, what we celebrate with Rush Limbaugh and hosts of all different ideological backgrounds, is the notion that we in essence have a town hall of the air.

In our congressional districts we have town halls. The gentleman from Colorado (Mr. KINGSTON) has one. He makes this a staple every Monday morning on his schedule.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. SCHAFFER).

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman for yielding, and also for the introduction. I thank the gentleman for the introduction, but only because it is polite.

I appreciate the gentleman mentioning my tie here. Quite literally, I had left for the evening and thought I was done for the day and changed clothes, and then I heard the gentleman talking about Rush Limbaugh, and I ran back over here, borrowed a tie from a staffer so that I could meet dress code here on the floor, and threw the coat on. So I want to apologize to my mom first, who is one of Rush's biggest fans.

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman should take responsibility for his own actions. That is something we are taught.

Mr. SCHAFFER. I first heard about Rush Limbaugh I do not know how many years ago. I was in Cincinnati, Ohio. We were there for Christmas visiting with family, and my brother-in-law asked if I had heard about this radio talk show host who was conservative. I was a State senator from the

Colorado legislature. We talked about politics all the time, and had these great family arguments.

He asked about this talk show host. I said, Gee, I have never heard of him. The next day we happened to be in the car and Limbaugh was on the radio there, WLW in Cincinnati. I remember listening, and wherever we were going, the rest of the family got out of the car and went in to go shopping or whatever they were doing, and I stayed there in that car listening to Rush Limbaugh for about another hour, just fascinated, not only with Rush's treatment of important issues that we deal with, that the country deals with and all citizens do, but the way he managed to accomplish that within the context of good-natured humor. He had really done that well.

I was not even imagining at the time the impact Rush Limbaugh would have, not only on me but on my community. I live in Fort Collins, Colorado. A couple of years after that event or after that Christmas, Rush Limbaugh came to Colorado. A few stations ended up picking up Rush.

There was a young man, a college student from Colorado State University, who called the Limbaugh program who lived in Laporte, Colorado, next door to Fort Collins. His name was Dan. I remember this well because he wanted a copy of Rush Limbaugh's monthly newsletter.

Limbaugh says, Well, you have to buy it. Dan says, I am a college student. Why don't you just give it to me? And Rush gave him this lecture about working hard and earning the things that you really want to obtain in life. This newsletter was obviously an important thing, and no American citizen should go without it, so he challenged Dan to raise the money to buy the newsletter.

I remember Dan saying, I am a student. What am I supposed to do? And Rush said, I do not know; hold a bake sale. So Dan on the air says, well, if I hold a bake sale, will you show up here to Fort Collins and help me sell my cookies and bread and whatever else we sell? And Rush said, Well, I might.

Well, it was just a few weeks later this thing started gaining momentum. We scheduled Dan's bake sale in downtown Fort Collins. As we got closer and closer to the event, the law enforcement and the city started realizing we needed to plan for more than a simple bake sale. People were coming from all over America. In fact, they were coming from around the world to Fort Collins to be part of Dan's bake sale.

So I hurried up, as a young politician in the Colorado Senate, and I went and got my booth space reserved, because I figured I should be there. It was an event to behold, let me tell the Members, for those who did not have the chance to be there. People did come from all around the world.

In fact, if people are familiar with Colorado, there is only one highway that goes north and south, and that is

I-25. The traffic comes from Denver up to Fort Collins in the north part of Colorado. Traffic was backed up for 7 miles way out on the highway back to Denver trying to get off the highway to come into Fort Collins.

The amazing thing was the way the media treated this, because they tried to downplay the whole thing. In fact, the next morning the front page of the Fort Collins newspaper showed a picture of a little petunia that was in a flower planter that was bent over, and said, "Rush Limbaugh came to town. Look at this dead flower, it got crushed."

Meanwhile, the real story went untold in that paper, but could not be concealed from just the massive numbers of people who showed up in town. The media went through the effort of trying to downplay the numbers of people who were there.

Rush flew in on a helicopter. There were so many people that we could not drive him in. The sheriffs brought him in, escorted him in on horseback with the sheriff's posse there. He got up and gave a rousing speech. Dan not only made enough money to buy the newsletter, but paid for the rest of his college education at the bake sale.

I wrote Rush Limbaugh a letter that next day and faxed it out to him. I wrote about what an important event that was. It was all fun, it was all entertaining, but people gather around sports in America, we gather around our kids, we gather around all kinds of music, arts, culture, lots of entertainment. But to see people come from far and wide to meet and rally around politics, about civic participation, about patriotism, was something that I think really says what Rush Limbaugh is all about, and the reason so many listeners tune in to Rush Limbaugh every day: this simple notion that we are all in charge of our country.

His challenge to us as individuals and as citizens is to hold our politicians accountable and to participate on an individual level; to become knowledgeable about our history, about our philosophy, about our future, and to be optimistic about it.

I wrote all that into a letter, and talked about how the liberals were baffled. I sent that letter, and figured I would never hear anything. The next Friday evening, I will never forget, Rush Limbaugh had a TV show that came on usually late in the evening. The networks tried to bury that in the middle of the night so nobody would watch it, but it came on in Fort Collins around 11 o'clock at night.

My wife and I were sitting there. I was laying on the floor watching Rush. He read my letter on the air. Then he put it in his book, too, *The Way Things Ought to Be* book, as well.

As one who has driven across a pretty big State with long distances between rural towns, I have spent a lot of time in the car with Rush Limbaugh, listening to his perspective on optimism and about America. It has an awful lot to

do with the attitude and values and beliefs that I have taken to the political battlefield with me and won a lot of victories.

It is a compelling message: a message for America, a message for America's future. It is a message that is one of hope. I, like all Americans, was very sad to hear about Rush's loss of hearing, but I know that the power of ideas is more important than that. Still Rush's appeal to the American people I think is going to continue to get stronger.

I appreciate all of the Members being here tonight and leading this special order, and giving America and ourselves a chance to talk a little bit about one voice out there in America that is leading toward America's greatness.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. If the gentleman will yield further, I could just close, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank all the gentlemen, and particularly our colleague, the gentleman from Colorado. I remember that story, but I did not live it the way the gentleman did. We followed it on the radio.

I would just say that Rush is going to keep going strong for many, many years to come. The power of ideas is stronger than anything. I have no doubt that Rush is going to overcome this adversity, and we will see and hear from him for many years to come.

There is an old German expression. My German is not that good. It is something like this. (Expression in German). It translates to "That which does not kill me only makes me stronger."

He may have lost his sense of hearing, but he has not lost his perspective, he has not lost his voice, and he has not lost his keen interest and attention to the American body politic. I think as long as he has those, he will continue to be that voice of common sense, of reason, of traditional American values.

I salute him tonight. I look forward to many years of listening to his program, and most importantly, I look forward to listening to the next show.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Minnesota for joining us, and I yield to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. HAYWORTH).

Mr. HAYWORTH. It has been interesting during this allotted time on the floor of the United States House of Representatives, Mr. Speaker, to reflect on an American original, and to realize that the success which our friend, Rush Limbaugh, has met with is because, like many other great Americans, he has been able to tap into the interaction and the free flow of ideas and expressions that Americans have long championed.

As we find ourselves in the midst of difficult days, indeed, what could fairly be described as a battle for our very survival as a nation, literally, we take stock of the fact that 1 month ago visited upon us was an attack so dastardly, so horrible that it eclipses the losses in our own Revolutionary War.

I ask Members to think about it. In the multiyear conflict that was the American war of independence, fatalities for the new United States of America were a little over 4,000. In 1 day, we lost an estimated 6,000 to 7,000 of our fellow citizens, not to mention workers from around the world who came to this free society.

To absorb that type of attack as a people but to stand up, roll up our sleeves, and with American resolve, whether we are Republicans, Democrats, Independents, Libertarians, vegetarians, to move forward with a commonality of purpose, I think is something that has been mirrored in a personal way for our friend, Rush.

He put it in perspective because he suborned his personal challenge to the need confronting America, and revealed to us, almost in passing, the nature of his hearing affliction; the fact that efforts are being made to restore that.

But whatever the future may hold, it paled in comparison both to the accomplishments of the past and the requirements, the necessity, to unite as a people for what we must do in the immediate future.

□ 2215

There is no way to calculate or to quantify the value of rallying together as Americans, even as we agree to disagree, perhaps on how best to achieve victory, on how best to meet the future, on how best to set our priorities.

Rush Limbaugh, in his town hall on the air, on a daily basis, with the biggest radio audience on a sustained basis we have seen in our history, gives voice to the notion that we can achieve our dreams; that we can endure our setbacks; that we can meet tomorrow confident that we can be stronger and this Nation can be better than it was in the past.

Cheerful persistence and eternal optimism, not the optimism of the cock-eyed, but the optimism of the realist, that is what has always propelled America to greater times and better days.

Eisenhower said the hallmark of a leader is to be optimistic. Reagan said America's greatest day is still way ahead of it. Rush Limbaugh, like him or loathe him, agree or disagree, gives voice to the same type of vision, and at this hour, in this place, at this time of national need, we pause from our traditional debate to celebrate the achievements of one who encourages so many achievements among all of us. Not a celebration per se of political party or conservative doctrine, but an outlook on life that inspires involvement, that gives voice to the very essence of what it means to be an American.

That is the idea, that is the ideal behind EIB, Excellence in Broadcasting; and it is not a far stone's throw from the ideals that created this constitutional republic, what Catherine Drinker Bowen called the *Miracle at Philadelphia*, that gave us as mere mortals

and humans, despite our many imperfections, a remarkable form of government where we celebrate individual achievement and out of many form one united in purpose for national success and for the survival of free men.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER).

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I want to thank everybody for their wonderful tribute to Rush, and I would just observe that 30 years ago people used to get their news and spend a little time thinking about America and thinking about the surroundings and our democracy and reflecting on this country seated at their breakfast table or local coffee shop or at some other place. And Rush Limbaugh ushered in an age in which Americans read their newspaper, not by picking up a paper, but by turning on a radio dial, whether at their place of work or in their car, where we all spend a great deal of time now, and Americans transferred that important time in their daily lives, when you really reflect on who we are and where we are going, from the written media to radio, to the media where you actually could hear a thought proounded and then hear an answer or an argument or another idea to come back from somebody who called into that station.

So that is how we read our newspaper, largely as a result of Rush Limbaugh. To Rush Limbaugh I say, it has been a great read.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman. To the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. SCHAFFER) I would say that we have got about 5 minutes.

I guess what I want to do is remind our listeners that there are four great books that they can read for further information: *The Way Things Ought to Be*; *See, I Told You So*; *The Way Things Are Not*, Rush Limbaugh's *Reign of Error*; and *Sometimes You've Just Got to Laugh*. Remember, that the proceeds will all go directly or indirectly to benefit an oppressed conservative in a university near you someplace, somehow.

I yield to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. SCHAFFER).

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman yielding once more.

I just want to remark on the impact that I think Rush has had on our constituency because if you listen closely, as I have over the years, Rush never suggests his audience pick up the phone and call their Congressman. We hear a lot of talk show hosts that will rally around the cause and say these people in Washington just do not get it, pick up the phone, call. He has never done that, but his listeners do it, and they do it because of the overall suggestion and message that, as I mentioned before, that Americans are ultimately in charge of their own country on an individual by individual basis.

When he treats issues the way he does, with passion, with humor, with sincerity and with a great degree of seriousness, too, it does inspire his listening audience to react in a very responsible way. Many of the letters we receive in our office, many of the phone calls, many of the people who show up every Monday morning at my town meeting, they come and they bring issues or perspectives, and how many times have we all heard, "I heard this on the Limbaugh show; I heard Rush talking about this issue or that issue; Congressman, is it really the case back there in Washington."

He has inspired so many citizens to become personally involved in this process and in this city all across the country that it is a remarkable legacy that has done more than just provide entertainment, which is clearly important, provide more than just a successful enterprise of a radio program from a business standpoint. It really has inspired the best of America and reminded Americans of what it is we stand for as a Nation and what our individual responsibilities are as citizens.

I, too, from the bottom of my heart, I want to express to the House my thanks and gratitude for what this one leader has accomplished for the country and how his inspiration has really provided encouragement. And I mean that in the ultimate sense of that word, has helped impart courage on so many people to stand up at the town meetings and challenge the old ideas that we know have failed, that have inspired so many of us to run for office and not be afraid to stand in a room full of left-leaning opponents and stand up and talk about the truth and simple observations and win these arguments and these debates on important causes at important points in time in our political battles back home.

Rush has accomplished quite a lot so while his hearing may be somewhat impaired at this time, the American people are listening and tuning in and Rush just needs to keep talking.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I am confident that he will be.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, how fitting it is to get a time cue from the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON) knowing how important time is to the medium of radio and of broadcasting. But there are timeless truths to which we all subscribe and that is what we celebrate here tonight. Not the fact that our friend faces adversity. Not completely the fact that many of us have met with political triumph based on his encouragement. Not the fact that now in an hour of national need we must rise again with the eternal optimism that has been part of the American experience, but just to understand and give thanks for the three words that epitomize not only EIB and the whole dynamic of talk radio, but the essence of our constitutional republic.

Our founders had the great and good sense in that poetic and yet very practical preamble to our Constitution to start with three special words, "We, the people." Not it, the government or us, the politicians, but we, the people. And so tonight we take time to celebrate a special person who encourages others to understand their special role in this special place that we call home and the rest of the world calls America.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. HAYWORTH).

In closing on our friend, Rush Limbaugh, who is so involved leading the way on the conservative cause, we appreciate all the good work that he is doing. And the doors are always open.

If he ever wants to take advantage of his status as an honorary member of the 104th freshman Republican class and actually attend one of the gentleman's meetings, please be sure to let everybody know because I think a lot of people would like to receive him on both sides of the aisle because he has won the heart and the respect of liberals and conservatives alike.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMMONS). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man who has faithfully served this great country as a voice for democracy and freedom for the American people. Rush Limbaugh's listeners—both conservative and liberal—know him as the "Dr. of Democracy," the "Truth Detector," the "Voice behind the Golden EIB Microphone."

His daily radio broadcasts attract 20 million listeners every week, giving him rights to the claim as the most-listened-to talk radio host in the world.

I personally want to commend this American patriot who has dedicated his life to the cause of educating the American people about the principles of democracy. Whether you agree or disagree with Rush politically, you have to admire the depth of his political articulation and analysis—packaged in three hours of radio excellence. Mr. Limbaugh's brilliant use of satire, humor and witicism to convey fundamental principle are a testimony to what he calls, "talent on loan from God."

Rush has been an inspiration to the American people for more than a decade on the airwaves of AM radio. His boisterous commentary reaches one of the most diverse radio audiences ever. Farmers, nurses, construction workers, mothers, military personnel, bankers, chefs, manufacturers, rich and poor, left-wing radical liberals and right-wing conspiracy theorists all tune in every afternoon to hear Rush's clever voice for three solid hours.

I know of no other person who is able to articulate his opinions and thoughts with as much passion as Rush. I am continually amazed when I listen to the Rush Limbaugh Show. Most radio hosts have a remarkable level of professional skill just to gain an audience. But Rush has achieved a standard of

professionalism that has surpassed all expectations. Every day he manages to discuss fresh and bold topics. He never tires.

With "half his brain tied behind his back," Mr. Limbaugh is proving to the world that when you have a dream and are dedicated to achieving that dream, all things are possible. Rush has shown us all that when you live in America, you are able to achieve anything you set your heart to accomplish. Rush has recently encountered new challenges with the loss of his hearing. But because of his determination and spirit of adventure, he has chosen to remain seated in the throne behind that golden EIB Network microphone. In doing so he personifies the American spirit he has encouraged us all to embrace.

I commend Rush for his encouragement to me and all Americans to never settle for second best, but to strive for the higher mark. I ask my colleagues to join me today in paying a special thanks to Rush Limbaugh as a great American.

#### SUPPRESSION OF WOMEN IN AFGHANISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SOLIS) is recognized for one-half of the time until midnight.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, when the Islamic fundamentalist group, the Taliban, seized control of Afghanistan in 1996, it launched the Nation into a pit of oppressiveness and inequality. In the blink of an eye, the millions of women and girls who live in this desert nation in Central Asia were relegated to second class citizenship. The basic human rights that we in the free world take for granted were suddenly stripped away from these people.

Prior to the civil war there that propelled the Taliban to power, women in Afghanistan and especially the capital of Kabul were highly educated and employed. Women in Kabul represented 70 percent of school teachers, 50 percent of the civilian government workers and they also were members of parliament, and 40 percent of them were represented as doctors and physicians. And at Kabul University, females comprised half of the student body and 60 percent of the faculty.

In fact, the Afghani Constitution, which was ratified in 1964, had an equal rights provision for women contained within it. But today in Afghanistan, girls are no longer allowed to attend school. They are punished. Women are no longer allowed to work, forcing many to resort to begging or even prostitution to survive.

Females are not permitted to leave their home unless accompanied by a male relative. And when they do leave,

they are forced to be covered in a shroud which is known as a burqa.

Mr. Speaker, I have with me this evening a sample of what the women in Afghanistan have to wear, this burqa that covers their body. If we look closely, we will see that there is a section here about 3 inches wide that is kind of a filtered material that allows these women to see through this shroud. She must wear this every time she leaves the home and goes out in public. And if it is 100 degrees or 110 outside, she must wear this and have her body fully covered. If she does not, then she is faced with perhaps a public beating and even in some cases with death.

□ 2230

This garment is hot, as you can tell. It is restrictive, and it is difficult to see. In fact, some of the women who have to wear this burqa cannot see, or do not have any peripheral vision; and countless women and girls have been known to have had traffic accidents in their cities because they simply cannot see where they are going. In fact, the Taliban regime is so wary of women that it has ordered that publicly-visible windows where these women live be painted black so that no man can see inside of those homes.

Women who dare to defy these edicts imposed by the Taliban are subjected to brutal beatings, public floggings, or even death. For example, a woman who defied the Taliban orders by running a home school for girls was killed in front of her friends and family. A woman caught trying to flee Afghanistan with a man not related to her was stoned to death for adultery. An elderly woman was brutally beaten with a metal cable until her leg was broken because her ankle was accidentally showing underneath this burqa. But it is doubtful this woman ever had the chance to see a doctor or a physician, because male doctors are not allowed to treat women and women doctors are not allowed to practice their profession.

The most heart wrenching part of this story, though, is that millions of children, young girls, are growing up in a hostile environment. Here I have, Mr. Speaker, some artwork created by little girls growing up in Afghanistan. And even though we cannot read the writing, because this is a foreign language to me, it depicts what they are suffering, what they have seen with their own eyes. Basically, in this picture here, what we see are young girls, one woman in the background with the shroud, the other two holding and grasping their hands and looking at a fellow colleague who has been slain in front of a school house. Near the school house is a Taliban soldier carrying a rifle.

These are the kinds of things that these youngsters are having to go through every single day of their lives, since 1996. Here, on this side, we see a picture depicting three women covered

in their shrouds, almost held by chains up against a tower that looks like an area where praying goes on. These are some of the vicious kinds of things that these women are seeing and feeling, actual real-life incidents that are occurring in Afghanistan.

Despite these repeated condemnations of the Taliban actions by the international community, little has changed in Afghanistan; and millions of women and children, innocent people, caught in the crossfire of the Taliban's artillery have fled to the outskirts of Afghanistan to refugee caverns in Pakistan, where disease and starvation run rampant.

Despite the fact that we have airdropped more than 100,000 food rations in Afghanistan, international relief organizations are repeatedly warning us that these military food drops fall too short of fulfilling the need. Part of the problem is that we are not sending enough food. And although the administration has pledged \$320 million in humanitarian relief efforts to Afghanistan, the United Nations estimates that it will take \$584 million to see Afghanistan through the long cold winter.

We need more help from the international community to ensure that these innocent Afghani citizens do not starve to death. Every effort has to be made to provide these people with adequate resources to survive this upcoming harsh winter, but part of the problem is that the food that we have dropped is not reaching these people. Many of these ready-to-eat meals are not being collected by the Afghani people, and in some cases are not easily located. Other times it is because the people fear retaliation for accepting the U.S. aid. Finally, some of the meals are falling into the hands of the Taliban forces that we are working so hard to fight against.

It is important for us to provide humanitarian aid to the people of Afghanistan, but aid alone cannot be the sole means of action. It is up to the United States and the Members of this body to speak for the class of women who are too oppressed to speak for themselves. We must work with the women of Afghanistan to form a more representative government, one that recognizes their accomplishments and allows them to participate in the process of democracy. We must be vigilant in our attempts to force the Taliban government to alter its treatment of women and girls and begin to correct these transgressions. Only by bringing these offenses to light can we hope to combat them.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD), who is also co-chair of the Women's Caucus.

(Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Speaker, let me first thank my colleague, the gentlewoman from the