

fake pledge cards away. Abandon the empty Republican promises and secret plans. Tell the pollsters to keep their new words to themselves. Let us conduct a free and fair debate in the open, in the sunshine, in the public about the consequences that will be caused by the privatization of Social Security. Let us rise up in the highest tradition of this body and debate the future of this most important program. Let us save Social Security first and today.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR RESOLUTION ON IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 23, 2002, the gentleman from New York (Mr. McNULTY) is recognized during morning hour debates for 2½ minutes.

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to support the bipartisan resolution on Iraq which we will vote on later this week.

Mr. Speaker, I have been a member of this body for the past 14 years, and I have heard Members throughout those years describe various votes as the most important votes that they will cast during their careers in Congress. I would submit to my colleagues that those votes—all of them—pale in comparison to any vote to send young American soldiers into harm's way.

My family knows the pain of war. On August 9, 1970, my brother Bill was killed in Vietnam. He was a medical corpsman, out in the field patching up his buddies, when he stepped on a land mine and lost his life. I do not want any other American family to go through what the McNulty family went through back in 1970. That is why I only favor a military option as the last option.

As a great New York Governor used to say when involved in debates, "let's look at the record." Let us look at the record with regard to Saddam Hussein. He has chemical and biological weapons. He has used them. He has killed tens of thousands of Kurds. He gassed to death 5,000 Kurds in a single day—2,000 more than all of the people we lost on September 11, 2001. And, as the President pointed out last night, there have been 750 attacks on American pilots just in the past year.

There are 135,000 American service personnel within the range of Saddam's missiles right now. And what is most disturbing of all, Mr. Speaker, is Saddam's efforts to obtain nuclear weapons. Most of the experts up until recently have been saying that he is 2 to 5 years away from a nuclear capability. Now several are saying it is less than a year.

Mr. Speaker, how can we possibly contain a modern nuclear war? I remember the statement by then-President Lyndon Johnson when asked about the impact of a modern nuclear war. He responded to the question by saying simply, "The survivors will envy the dead."

Mr. Speaker, this is the bottom line. Saddam Hussein can never be allowed to possess a nuclear capability. This bipartisan resolution emphasizes international cooperation, working with the United Nations, and exhausting all other options before we go to a military option. It ensures that military force will be used only as a last resort.

This is a substantial reordering of priorities from the first draft, and for that I thank the bipartisan leadership. I support the resolution.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 10 a.m.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 30 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until 10 a.m.

□ 1000

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE) at 10 a.m.

PRAYER

The Reverend Dr. John Putka, Department of Political Science, University of Dayton, Ohio, offered the following prayer:

Eternal God and Father of us all, we stand in Your presence and lift our minds and hearts in prayer.

As we gather in this place of ongoing history, we pray for the Members of this House, chosen by our fellow citizens to represent us in the governance of our Nation. We ask You to bless them and all who assist them, so that Your laws may be reflected in our laws, and Your ways may become our ways.

We ask, in the words of the prophet Isaiah, that You send Your spirit upon them, a spirit of wisdom and understanding, a spirit of counsel and of strength, a spirit of knowledge and fear of the Lord. We make this prayer in Your most holy name. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PITTS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain 15 1-minutes per side.

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST CHAPLAIN

(Mr. SCHAFFER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege and honor to welcome and introduce to the House of Representatives our guest chaplain this morning, Father John Putka.

I have known Father Putka for quite a long time. He was a teacher of mine when I was a high school student at Moeller High School in Cincinnati. He also was a professor at the University of Dayton school I also attended. He has also been in the classrooms of St. Joseph in Cleveland, Chaminade in Mineola, and many other schools around the country.

Father Putka's Ministry has taken him far and wide. Not only has he preached throughout the State of Ohio and surrounding States, but his ministry also takes him to my State of Colorado at least once a year, also to the State of Wyoming. He is well-known and respected by a great number of people, but, more than that, he has inspired those who have had an opportunity to sit and observe and participate in the masses that he has led and listened to his homilies.

As a professor of political science at the University of Dayton, Father Putka is one who has trained his students to consider their role in the world through the broad context of a properly trained conscience. He is joined at the University of Dayton by Dr. Jason Pierce and others who work on a day-by-day basis to try to deliver the best education possible to the students before them. Father Putka is one who is trained and preaches in the Marianist tradition.

Again, he is one who I have known for quite a long time; and let me just finish by saying that, for me personally, this is really a blessing for him to be here today. It was 6 years ago that I was sworn into Congress. Father Putka was here to wish one of his former students, me, well as I was sworn in. And as I enter the last few weeks of my congressional service here in Washington, it is very nice that he is here today to be a part of this important day in congressional history.

IRAQ

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, last night the President gave a well-thought-out speech about Saddam Hussein and the

dangerous regime he has built in Iraq. I do not think there is any doubt that Iraq poses a danger to the world, to the United States, to the region, to its own citizens.

But what occurs to me is that in the past year there have been some on the other side of the aisle who have repeatedly asked why the President was not able to prevent September 11; why did the FBI and the CIA not focus more on the threats of hijackings; why did the FBI and CIA not coordinate better; could September 11 not have been prevented?

Well, now we have another threat. Saddam Hussein hates us enough to kill. He has weapons of mass destruction. He has shown a willingness to use those weapons. He thwarts U.N. inspections while he seeks to develop nuclear weapons. We have a known threat and the opportunity to do something about it.

Mr. Speaker, those who have been critical of our inability to prevent September 11 have a special opportunity to see to it that we prevent the next threat. The next threat is Iraq.

AMERICA HAS A HIGHER CALLING

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Oh say does that Star Spangled Banner yet wave, o'er the land of the free, and the home of the brave?

America, let us remember on this day the connection between freedom and bravery, that to preserve our freedom we must be courageous. Let no fear, no threat, let no premonition obscure our vision and lead us down the dark path of preemptive war against a people who have not attacked us.

Let us be guided by the truth, the truth which shall set us free, the truth which keeps us free. Let us lift this Nation up into the light of peace, into the eternal promise where we are all one, where nations shall not take up arms against nation, where we shall turn our swords into plowshares, our spears into pruning hooks.

America has a higher calling. Our Founders call us on this day to defend our country by defending universal truth, by defending international justice, by defending the very spirit of our Constitution, which calls us to form a more perfect union with each other and with the world.

BROADCAST OF PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, last night the President of the United States made the moral and the strategic case for confronting the Iraqi regime of Saddam Hussein; and for Americans with

basic cable it was no doubt a compelling and an important night.

I rise today, Mr. Speaker, as one of the very few former broadcasters in this institution, to denounce CBS, ABC, and NBC for the total abdication of their public duty in refusing to broadcast the President's address to America in this hour of national need.

Under the Telecommunications Act of 1934, public broadcasting companies use the public airwaves; and, therefore, Mr. Speaker, they have public duties. As we prepare on this floor to debate sending American soldiers into harm's way, it was wrong and appalling for those corporations to abdicate their duty.

Rather than the details of biological and chemical weapons, NBC broadcast Fear Factor; rather than the status of the Iraqi nuclear weapon system, the King of Queens on CBS; and rather than telling the American people of Iraqi complicity with terrorism, the Drew Carey Show.

Mr. Speaker, this is appalling; and it is an absolute abdication of their duties under the Act.

HONORING ELOISE MILAM

(Mr. LAMPSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday I held an event to honor Eloise Milam, a great lady and a proud American, who gave much and has given much to her country and its military by founding the Melody Maids.

Founded in Beaumont, Texas, the Melody Maids traveled countless times from coast to coast, singing for conventions and programs of all sorts but primarily for military installations and especially veterans hospitals. They made tours to Europe, several more to England, three to the Far East, seven to the far north, four to the Caribbean, five to Mexico, seven to Hawaii, and four to Bermuda, Iceland, and the Azores.

Many of the tours were financed by the girls themselves with money made from musicals, style shows, cake and pie sales and other benefits. The Melody Maids were the most frequently requested of all performers who traveled with the Department of Defense's professional entertainment branch.

Eloise Milam's leadership is characterized by a combination of kindness and emphasis on excellence. The standards she set for the group are many we should set for ourselves today. Eloise stressed the value of service to our fellow human beings, the rewards of helping one another in group activities, and a respect for different cultures and religions.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to stand here today and recognize Eloise Milam's tireless work and passionate dedication to service and country. She continues to be an inspiration for us all.

ANYONE GIVING ENEMY COMFORT SHOULD BE CHASTISED

(Mr. CUNNINGHAM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, as a combat veteran from Vietnam, I and many other men and women still harbor ill feelings towards Jane Fonda and Tom Hayden, who gave the enemy comfort and gave them propaganda against the United States.

Anyone, anyone who would travel to an enemy country and do the same thing should be chastised by this body and by this country.

CONGRATULATING ERIKA HAROLD, 2003 MISS AMERICA

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on September 21, Erika Harold from Urbana, Illinois, in the district of the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. JOHNSON) became Miss America 2003. She is intelligent, talented, a role model, and a passionate advocate for young people.

In 2001, Erika Harold graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Illinois, with a Bachelor's Degree in political science and prelaw. She was a University of Illinois Chancellor Scholar, a Truman Scholarship finalist, winner of the first prize in the African American studies research paper competition, a member of the President's Award Program, a three-time member of the National Dean's List, vice president of the minority student newsletter, a selectee to the "Senior 100 Honorary" by the University of Illinois Alumni Association, and a selectee to USA Today's 2000 All-USA College Academic Second Team.

Members of my family are friends of her family, and I am pleased to note that she has been accepted by Harvard University Law School. I am also pleased to congratulate and commend Erika Harold for her outstanding accomplishments and achievements.

CONGRESS MUST FIX AMERICA'S ECONOMY

(Mr. ETHERIDGE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, as we prepare to consider authorization of the use of force to deal with Saddam Hussein, Congress also must address critical issues facing our families. Congress must act to improve education, reduce health care costs and protect Social Security and get our economy back on track.

Mr. Speaker, the people of my home State of North Carolina are worried. America's families have seen the bottom fall out of Wall Street. As the