

throughout his political career. He was one of the founding members of the Centrist Democratic Party in 1989, one of the leading anti-Milosevic parties. He was also instrumental in fostering the mass protest that ultimately ended Slobodan Milosevic's rule in 2000.

Since that time, he served as the Prime Minister of Serbia, promoting economic development and democratization within the former Yugoslavia. Prime Minister Djindjic was instrumental in delivering Slobodan Milosevic to face the war crimes charges before The Hague Tribunal.

It may be well that Mr. Djindjic's unabashed support for governance and his efforts to end corruption led to his tragic death. As we here in the United States continue to take advantage of our freedom and representative government, we must remember that there are fragile democracies all around the world.

Our Nation learned long ago that liberty does not come without a price. As other nations learn that same unfortunate lesson, the United States must continue to promote international democratization so the sacrifices of Prime Minister Djindjic and other revolutionaries will not have been in vain.

□ 1545

MOURNING ASSASSINATION OF SERBIAN PRIME MINISTER DJINDJIC

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I want to join the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) in his comments about Mr. Djindjic, the Prime Minister of Serbia. Serbia in the 1990s, like Iraq has gone through, was under the heel of a despot who was vicious and who in my opinion was a war criminal. When the United States acted to displace the Milosevic regime and ultimately Milosevic was voted out of office because we went into Kosovo, it was Mr. Djindjic who showed the courage and the moral commitment to ensure that Mr. Milosevic would be transferred to The Hague to answer for his crimes. That trial currently is going on. It is going on because Mr. Djindjic had the courage to facilitate the transfer out of Serbia to The Hague of the alleged war criminal Slobodan Milosevic.

He has now been assassinated. We do not know yet who the perpetrator of that assassination is. Suffice it to say, we have lost someone whose courage and commitment to freedom and human rights was an important aspect for his country and for the international community. We are a lesser international community for his loss.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO MEXICO-UNITED STATES INTER-PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BLACKBURN). Pursuant to 22 U.S.C.

276h, and the order of the House of January 8, 2003, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Member of the House to the Mexico-United States Interparliamentary Group:

Mr. KOLBE, Arizona, Chairman.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO CANADA-UNITED STATES INTER-PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276d, and the order of the House of January 8, 2003, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Member of the House to the Canada-United States Interparliamentary Group:

Mr. HOUGHTON, New York, Chairman.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO BRITISH-AMERICAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276l, and the order of the House of January 8, 2003, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Member of the House to the British-American Interparliamentary Group:

Mr. PETRI, Wisconsin, Chairman.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO HOUSE COMMISSION ON CONGRESSIONAL MAILING STANDARDS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 501(b), and the order of the House of January 8, 2003, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to the House Commission on Congressional Mailing Standards:

Mr. NEY, Ohio, Chairman;
Mr. ADERHOLT, Alabama;
Mr. SWEENEY, New York;
Mr. LARSON, Connecticut;
Mr. THOMPSON, Mississippi;
Mr. HOLT, New Jersey.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces that on February 10, 2003, the Speaker delivered to the Clerk a letter listing Members in the order in which each shall act as Speaker pro tempore under clause 8(b)(3) of rule I.

CONTINUATION OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO IRAN—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 108-46)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice, stating that the Iran emergency is to continue in effect beyond March 15, 2003, to the *Federal Register* for publication. The most recent notice continuing this emergency was published in the *Federal Register* on March 14, 2002 (67 FR 11553).

The crisis between the United States and Iran constituted by the actions and policies of the Government of Iran, including its support for international terrorism, efforts to undermine Middle East peace, and acquisition of weapons of mass destruction and the means to deliver them, that led to the declaration of a national emergency on March 15, 1995, has not been resolved. These actions and policies are contrary to the interests of the United States in the region and pose a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared with respect to Iran and maintain in force comprehensive sanctions against Iran to respond to this threat.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 12, 2003.

PERIODIC REPORT ON NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO IRAN—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 108-47)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), and section 505(c) of the International Security and Development Cooperation Act of 1985, 22 U.S.C. 2349aa-9(c), I am transmitting a 6-month periodic report prepared by my Administration on the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared in Executive Order 12957 of March 15, 1995.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 12, 2003.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

AUTISM

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

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, a few minutes ago, the majority and the minority leaders of the House, or the minority whip and the majority leader of the House, discussed the Amber Alert System and how important it was that we do everything we can to protect our American children. This lectern, or this stand, holds the faces of about 55 or 60 children who have been damaged, their parents believe, by vaccines that contain mercury and they have become autistic. One of those is my grandson.

It is very interesting, Madam Speaker, that today we found out that there is a just-published report in the "Journal of the American Association of Physicians and Surgeons" that involves a research study on autism. The research, conducted by Drs. Mark Geier and David Geier, analyzed mercury doses children received from thimerosal, which contains mercury in childhood vaccines in comparison to Federal safety guidelines. The doctors concluded that mercury from thimerosal did exceed Federal safety guidelines and that the study provides strong epidemiological evidence for a link between increasing mercury from thimerosal-containing childhood vaccines and neurodevelopmental disorders such as autism which has reached epidemic proportions. The authors stated, "A causal relationship between thimerosal-containing childhood vaccines and neurodevelopmental disorders appears to be confirmed."

The Geier research confirms the findings of an unreleased CDC study, Centers for Disease Control, obtained through the Freedom of Information Act, which found a relative risk of 2.48 between thimerosal exposures and autism. Courts of law have generally held that a relative risk of 2.0 or higher is sufficient to substantiate that a given exposure causes diseases.

So there is no doubt, no doubt, that the mercury that has been injected into our children is a cause, a contributing cause at the very least, but a cause, of the autism that these children are suffering. I have asked the parents of these children from across the country to write to me, to give me information on how their child became autistic and how close it was to when the child was vaccinated with vaccines containing mercury.

We had a big problem in the last session. Right at the end in the homeland security bill, there was an amendment

stuck in at the 11th hour which took away any liability that the pharmaceutical companies might incur because of mercury-related damage done to children. We were able to get that out early this session. But now in the other body they are trying to put that back in in a bill that was introduced today by the majority leader. That is something that is intolerable. It is something that cannot be tolerated by this body or the other body.

I want to tell you why real quickly. Here is one example, a letter from a lady named Sue McManus from Kenesaw, Georgia. She says:

"Eight years ago, in 1994, I adopted a lovely daughter, Jessica, from Paraguay at age 5 months. Jessica was not identified as a special needs child at the time of adoption and was in fact seen by pediatricians in Paraguay who were U.S. trained as well as in this country and given a clean bill of health. Being a responsible parent and following directions from my doctors, I had her vaccinated within a few weeks of bringing her home. On 11/15/94, she received OPV, DPT, HIB and hepatitis B. On January 17, 1995, she received her second series of shots. Within 4 hours of the second series of shots, she reacted with severe infantile spasm seizures and she became autistic. She had three seizures that week and had never had any form of seizure prior to the second shot. Per medical recommendation, she received several shots that day. I don't have any doubt that my daughter reacted severely and directly as a result of this DPT shot or combination of shots."

She goes on to say that "she has not developed normally, she has become autistic, she stares at the walls, she flaps her arms like my grandson does and she has chronic diarrhea or constipation and it is a problem that will not go away." If you saw the movie "Rain Man," you know how bad autism can be. If we do not deal with this problem now, we are going to deal with it in 15 to 20 years when these people all become dependent on society.

Let me just say to my colleagues, this is something this House is going to have to address. It is not a partisan issue. Both Democrats and Republicans have said they want to protect America's children. The President said he does not want to leave any children behind. These kids are being left behind and their parents are being saddled with \$50,000, \$100,000, \$200,000 bills. They are selling their homes, they are going bankrupt to take care of their children, and the people who are responsible for the damage to them, the pharmaceutical companies, are being left high and dry with no damage whatsoever being attributed to them. There is a responsibility here for this government to make sure these children are treated properly.

In the next few weeks I am going to be reading every night letters from these parents talking about how their child was damaged and in what prox-

imity it was to the shots they received containing mercury. We can no longer turn our backs on this. We went from one in 10,000 children who are autistic to one in 150 right now. It is an absolute epidemic. We cannot sweep it under the rug.

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

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take the time of the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

CYPRUS TALKS COME TO AN END

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

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, first let me tell the gentleman from Indiana that I would like to join in his remarks and I want to commend him for taking to the floor to talk about this issue. I agree with him wholeheartedly in what he has been saying tonight and previously.

Madam Speaker, I come to the floor this evening to express my supreme disappointment with Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash for his unwillingness to compromise, an action that led to the end of the Cyprus peace negotiations earlier this week.

Yesterday, after some 20 hours of continuous negotiations, U.N. Secretary-General Annan declared they had reached the end of the road.

Madam Speaker, let there be no doubt that Turkish Cypriot leader Denktash is to blame for this sorry conclusion. Yesterday, State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said he found it regrettable that, quote, "Mr. Denktash has denied Turkish Cypriots the opportunity to determine their own future and to vote on such a fundamental issue." Lord David Hannay, Britain's special envoy for Cyprus, also blamed Denktash when he stated, and I quote, "I am sad about it but I do not think that Mr. Denktash left him, Secretary Annan, any alternative."

Finally, in today's Washington Post, columnist Jim Hoagland writes, and I quote, "The defiance of one grumpy old man derailed peace plans put forward by diplomats from the United States and the European Union because this grumpster would not see multilateral