

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain 1-minute requests.

CONFIRM MIGUEL ESTRADA AS
FEDERAL JURIST

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

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, I have taken this time during 1-minute to simply rise in strong support of some very important work that is taking place, and that is the prospect of confirming Miguel Estrada.

I do not personally know this man, but I wanted to say, Madam Speaker, that I have read about his record and I have talked to many people who know him very well; and I happen to believe that he would be a superb jurist. And having spoken with people of both political parties, I have heard very good things about him. And I would simply like for the record to make it clear that I believe that he would be a phenomenally good jurist, and I hope very much that will take place.

APPOINT MIGUEL ESTRADA AS
FEDERAL JUDGE

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

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Madam Speaker, I too join my colleague from California (Mr. DREIER). I do not know personally Mr. Estrada, but I understand he is considered to be quite outstanding by all those who have known him. It is remarkable. It is also my understanding that at the age of 17 he came from Honduras and had very limited English abilities, and then he ended up going to a university and graduating from Harvard Law School magna cum laude and served as an editor of the Harvard Law Review. He was, I understand, an official in the Clinton administration, actually in the Solicitor General's office and has support from former Clinton administration people and has support from, I believe, the past six or seven Solicitors General of the United States. Truly a premiere candidate to serve in this important U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. circuit.

I just wanted to register my support for this individual, someone who is very outstanding, a great American, the first Hispanic to be appointed to the court of appeals. It would be outstanding, Madam Speaker, and I appreciate the opportunity to voice my support for him today.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEARCE). 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.

SUPPORTING MIGUEL ESTRADA

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

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, Thomas Jefferson said, "The great object of my fear is the Federal Judiciary. That body, step by step, holding what it gains, is engulfing insidiously the special governments into the jaws of that which feeds them."

And today, Mr. Speaker, the object of my fear is an unrestrained judiciary, a judiciary too quick to abandon the ideals of our forefathers and the tenets of our Constitution, a judiciary swelling with unchecked authority.

The heart of a republic rests on its judiciary, Mr. Speaker, and the confirmation of Miguel Estrada is vital to this Republic. He is a brilliant attorney who has repeatedly upheld and has been upheld repeatedly and will continue to be upheld. He also upholds the virtues of this Nation's sacred Constitution.

Arriving from Honduras at age 18, speaking no English, this man has become the personification of the American dream. And I urge the President to stand strong in his support of Miguel Estrada and to stand strong in his support of making sure that we maintain a judiciary in this country that reads the law for what it is.

For if our judiciary continues on the path that it is, Mr. Speaker, I think perhaps the rest of us can go home. I just call upon the President to be encouraged and to recognize that there are Americans that are very grateful to him for the courage that he shows and for the clarity that he shows in his appointments.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that this appointment and this confirmation can go forward unfettered.

□ 1730

EXPLORING SPACE MORE
EFFICIENTLY

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

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, now, some more than 7 days after the fateful return of the Columbia seven, those of us from Texas and around the Nation are quick to understand the headline in a local newspaper that says, Astronauts, the hero next door. For those of us in Texas, these were, in fact, our neighbors, our friends, certainly those who many wor-

shipped with. But today, now more than ever, we recognize that these individuals were willing to give the ultimate sacrifice, and that was their lives, for the betterment of humanity.

Unfortunately, what tragedy causes us to do is to reflect, to understand that what we often take for granted is, in fact, precious and unique. It is unique to send man, woman, humanity into space. It is unique what the United States has been able to do now for almost 40 years.

I want to applaud the NASA employees' commitment that they have as a unified group. I know that they are hurting because of this tragedy.

I have always said over the last 7 days that it is important for us to heal and to be able to acknowledge the pain that the families are feeling, but today was appropriate for the first congressional hearing to be held; and I thank the Members of the other body and the chairman of the House Committee on Science and the ranking member for convening us today to begin the process of reality.

The words that I often say are that we find fault without blame, that we are not afraid to acknowledge mistakes and that we make it better. For example, it is important to note that there is now some interest in an orbital plane, a very good vehicle, but we must be reminded that what the space shuttle meant was not just a transportation vehicle, but it was a floating laboratory where scientists, medical professionals and others were able to engage in science and research that helped to create better lives for all of us, research in diabetes, research in HIV/AIDS, heart disease, cancer, stroke, research in prostate cancer and breast cancer.

So we cannot fail to understand the mission and out of fear or expeditiousness move to another vehicle because we are concerned about this tragedy. Be concerned and get the facts.

We understand that the shuttle cost \$450 million. The fatality rate is about 1 in 57. On the other hand, we realize that there are better ways of enhancing the safety. One of them, of course, is finding the facts and being able to provide the resources for putting the United States at the cutting edge of science. I cannot imagine that because of where we are that we will not listen to the families who issued the statement, "The human space flight must continue." That should be the legacy.

Yet we must not fall away from the fact that in 1994 a commissioned NASA study by Stanford and Carnegie-Mellon said that 15 percent of tiles could cause 85 percent of failure, or of the observations of a NASA engineer in 1997 that said debris striking the tile would cause damage. Let us not run away from facts or the mistakes.

I believe that we have seen a considerable imbalance of funding. I am gratified by the increase that we see coming in the 2004 fiscal year proposal, and I hope the Congress will recognize

that in addition to the moneys we need and have received, or will receive, for the investigation, let us put NASA and the space program and human space flight on the track it needs to be.

Let us not forget the dream that we would go to Mars, we would go to the moon, but most importantly, what we would do would enhance humanity with the research and understanding of these bright and outstanding men and women who are willing to give us the ultimate sacrifice.

Can we as Americans and the United States Congress do any less for them? Yes, these are ordinary people who have been chosen to do extraordinary things. These are the astronauts, the heroes next door. We cannot falter, we cannot stop or stumble. We must pay tribute to their legacy by exploring space more efficiently, more safely and with the resources we need to have.

HONORING BISHOP BORGESS HIGH SCHOOL AND ACADEMY

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

Mr. MCCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, as our Nation's space program has touched the lives of all Americans with both triumph and tragedy, I rise today to honor the special bond of courage and discovery between our seven *Columbia* astronauts and Mr. Ronald Ferenczi's science class at Bishop Borgess High School, which is located in my district.

In conjunction with NASA's initiatives to foster a love of scientific knowledge and exploration amongst America's youth, Mr. Ronald Ferenczi's science class created a space experiment to study the effects of solar radiation on the T-4 virus, antibiotics and related drugs and materials. Then, to their delight and awe, the students' ingenious experiment was then chosen for inclusion on *Columbia's* mission of discovery, and brimming with curiosity and pride, the students eagerly watched and awaited *Columbia's* return, until . . .

Mr. Speaker, our Nation's space program, buoyed by courage and dedicated to discovery, echoes the journey of life, for cradled within our frail vessels, our lives constitute courageous voyages of discovery about our world and about ourselves; and as with every worthy journey of discovery, the road ahead is often hard and as often filled with triumph as it is with tragedy.

Consequently, how we cope and continue along our path of self-discovery is now and will always be our greatest trial and our greatest triumph because the courageous endurance of unfathomable suffering on the path to self-discovery is now and will always be the greatest moral measure of humanity.

In conclusion, then, to Mr. Ferenczi and his students at Bishop Borgess Academy whose names are Jason Bowens, Tangie Brooks, Evan Collins,

Christopher Hill, Lawrence Nelson, Melvin Packer, Ashleigh Roberts, Darryl Earthen, Arielle Williams, Kelsey Dean, Martez Mitchell and Pauline Smith, I offer my sincerest accolades on their accomplishment.

My deepest condolences on their suffering, and I join them in thanking *Columbia's* fallen crew, not only for what they have taught us about space, but for what they have taught us about ourselves. May we honor their memory by continuing their voyage of discovery.

MAKING AMERICAN PEOPLE SAFER IN THEIR HOMES

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, Americans are nervous. The United States is on Orange Alert. The reports are that stores have sold out of duct tape, plastic sheeting, bottled water, minimal supplies for people to defend themselves against the unthinkable, chemical or biological attack, and to make themselves safe in their homes. Americans do not feel safe in their homes or here in the United States of America.

We are told by intelligence sources and the FBI that there are hundreds of al Qaeda operatives at large in the United States of America who they are either tracking or cannot find. Yesterday Osama bin Laden, their fanatical leader, gave a speech urging them to attack, suicide attacks against the United States of America.

Osama bin Laden. My colleagues remember him. Remember, the President wanted, dead or alive; we will get him; we will bring him to justice. The President is not allowed to mention his name anymore. It has been more than 10 months since the President has mentioned the name Osama bin Laden because his administration has failed miserably in finding and bringing him to justice. In all probability, he has been given safe haven by the intelligence services in Pakistan, and he, according to our intelligence services and his operatives, according to our FBI and others, presents the greatest threat to the security of Americans and the most immediate threat to the security of Americans.

There are other threats that are out there that are making people nervous. We have here a poster from a rally in Pyongyang a week ago Saturday. Now, Kim Jong-il, psychopathic leader and oppressor of the people of North Korea, he has thrown out the U.N. inspectors, thrown them out, and he is actively pursuing more, not a, more nuclear weapons. He already has them. He is actively building more missiles of longer range.

We were told today by Mr. Tenet he may have already achieved a missile that can reach the western United States and target my home State in addition to Alaska and Hawaii.

He has threatened preemptive strikes against the United States of America or, minimally, against our 36,000 troops who are trying to safeguard the people of South Korea from this fanatic. This is a poster from a rally a week ago Saturday, and it says here, Merciless Punishment to the American Empire, and it depicts the United States Capitol being blown up by a North Korean soldier.

But this is a back-burner issue with the Bush administration. It pales in the face of the real threat to America. Osama bin Laden? No. Saddam Hussein, who is in a box, without nuclear weapons, without the capability of delivering whatever chemical-biological weapons he might have had hidden and he is shuffling around his country, trying to keep them away from the inspectors who are on the ground in Iraq, unlike the inspectors who were thrown out of North Korea.

But the Bush administration says, Do not worry, we will get around to this someday, sometime, maybe later, through diplomacy. This could be settled through diplomacy, a maniac who has nuclear weapons and is encouraging rallies, showing the United States Capitol being blown up, someone who has the capability of actually doing that; we can solve that diplomatically, but somehow we cannot work through the U.N. and the inspectors in Iraq.

We have got Saddam Hussein in a box. Get more inspectors in there. Get the overflights going. Keep him in that box, work with our allies. Keep him in that box. Sooner or later, the inspectors will find and destroy his weapons just as they did in the 1990s. Yeah, he is playing games. Yeah, he is hiding stuff. He did that then. We found it. We destroyed it. We can do that again.

Is the United States so diminished in the eyes of this administration and others that we cannot contain a threat like Saddam Hussein and deal with extraordinary threats like this up front, and find and apprehend and bring to justice Osama bin Laden and his operatives? I think not.

I think the American people have real doubts about this rush to war and real doubts about the priorities that this administration is putting on the threats to our Nation and our country.

I hope the administration begins to deal more seriously with this problem and gets out there and finds Osama bin Laden, and I will support those efforts, and then continue to contain and defang Saddam Hussein. That would make the American people safer in their homes.

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

(Mr. TERRY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extentions of Remarks.)