

St. John's Seminary Theologate in 1980 and is a priest in good standing with the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. He served with Cardinal Roger Mahony at the old Cathedral Church of St. Vibiana for 5 years.

His current assignment, we are sorry to see him go because he has brought our parish together and is adored by all of the children of the school and those that go to our church, will be assigned as pastor of Holy Trinity Church in San Pedro on July 1. We are very happy he was able to spend some time with us today and offer the blessings to the House.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you very much for allowing Father Brennan to give the morning prayer, and I thank Father Brennan for the ability to be here and our resident chaplain for allowing him to be here.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1078

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 1078.

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

There was no objection.

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this morning the news indicates that some of our Democrats have politicized the war in Iraq. It is a war against terrorism. We have got to support our troops. Our Secretary of Defense is doing a super job.

The question is, are we here in the United States of America as citizens going to support them to the hilt? When I was in Vietnam as a POW, we were scared to death that the United States was going to turn on us, politicize it and end it without getting us out.

They did get us out of Vietnam, but they did not get all of our people out of Cambodia and Laos, and it was because of the peaceniks who did not believe we could win.

We have to support our troops. Our freedom, our Nation, our liberty depend on it. God bless the United States.

A PRESCRIPTION FOR CONFUSION

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to discuss the extreme frustration that our senior citizens are experiencing in applying for this Medicare discount card.

This card was created from a flawed Medicare prescription bill, so it is no

surprise that our seniors are having problems utilizing it.

The Houston Chronicle recently published an article about how confusing this discount card is for seniors. The article found the discount card more confusing than preparing your income taxes or dealing with an insurance company regarding a hospital bill.

With great fanfare on Friday, Medicare released a Web site to provide seniors with the ability to compare drug prices. The problem is a lot of our seniors do not have access to the Web site or are not proficient.

Even if seniors are willing to go through the steps, it is so confusing that our seniors cannot make a truly informed choice.

The story, unfortunately, gets worse for our seniors. They spend time and energy and brain power and choose the best card, and seniors are not even guaranteed that the company will hold up their end of the bargain. The company has no obligation to maintain its advertised price that is on that Web site or even carry those drugs for the full year. And yet our seniors, once they sign up, are stuck for that full year. Also, if they do not sign up now, then they lose their benefits. They get penalized if they do not sign up now. It is a flawed bill, and it is causing problems now.

WINNABLE WAR

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

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I give thanks that we serve in a Chamber where we can champion differences of opinion. Yet I rise really more in sorrow than in anger to see the headline in today's Roll Call newspaper, the senior Member from the other side of the aisle now calls our war effort in Iraq "unwinnable."

Mr. Speaker, our troops in uniform do not wear their political registrations on their sleeves. They are Americans representing all over America. I would caution those even as I embrace the right to dissent. I would caution those who choose to blame America first even in the wake of the challenges we see now with the abuses that are being found out and the people are going to be punished and punished and brought to justice from our side.

I would caution those who would paint with a broad brush every member of our military. I would caution those who would attempt now for political reasons to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory. It is not becoming this Nation. It does not well serve our men and women in uniform. And even as I defend the right to dissent, I disagree in the strongest possible terms with those who attempt to politicize this conflict and, in essence, place in jeopardy our men and women in uniform.

PRIORITIES OF THE HOUSE

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, since April 1 this body has been in session 11 days. In those 11 days of legislative activity, we have named eight post offices and other Federal buildings, authorized the use of the Capitol grounds for the Soap Box Derby, congratulated the University of Connecticut, the University of Denver and Kennesaw State for their sports achievements.

Mr. Speaker, since April 1, 163 soldiers died in Iraq, bringing the total to 767.

Yesterday, the administration announced that it will keep our current troop level through 2005, and that we will need another \$25 billion on top of the \$112 billion already spent.

But while we name post offices and congratulate sports teams, our constituents are asking us the whys and the hows of Iraq. When the chairman of the Committee on Armed Services and the majority leader refuse to hold hearings, they are failing America.

As President Kennedy once said, "An error does not become a mistake until you refuse to correct it. Without debate, without criticism, no administration and no country can succeed, and no republic can survive."

Mr. Speaker, to govern is to choose. We can name post offices, or we can ask the hard questions about the direction of our country, and we might even be able to do both in this House.

WHATEVER IT TAKES

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, the book on terrorism has a chapter in it called "Iraq." You cannot close the book on terrorism until you close the chapter on Iraq.

It saddens me that the Democrat leaders have now joined the ranks of the French and Spanish in calling the war in Iraq unwinnable. That is not what our troops told me when I visited them in Iraq. I asked a soldier what did he think about being in Iraq where all the terrorists are congregating from around the Middle East.

He said, this is where we ought to be. He said, this is the only place in the globe where every American carries a gun.

That war is winnable. We must support our troops. We must do like the firemen in New York City said on September 12 when they spoke to the President: do whatever it takes. We must do whatever it takes to win, and we will win.

God bless America.

MISMANAGED WAR

(Mr. BLUMENAUER asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I have been listening to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle. The issue has never been whether or not our troops could win a war. They are the finest fighting men and women in the world, and they can win a war.

The issue is the mismanagement of this administration, their inability to win the peace. The mismanagement of our war is not the fault of our troops. It starts with the Secretary of Defense who is out of the loop. It is a failure of candor with people in this Congress who have to rely on the *The New Yorker* magazine to find out things that the Administration should have provided to our committees. It is a failure of our committees to move forward to deal with the investigations of problems of supply, of inappropriate activities on the part of contractors, of why there has been a failure of command that has produced the horrific pictures that put not just our troops at risk but put at risk any American traveling in the Middle East.

I think it is time for my colleagues to get a grip and get back to the business that we should, as Members of Congress, fulfill our responsibilities, not try to play politics.

STAND UP FOR AMERICA

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

Mr. BURNS. Mr. Speaker, I am disturbed. I am disturbed by the Democrats who would suggest that this war in Iraq is unwinnable. I reject that premise. Nothing could be further from the truth. We must continue to fight terrorism wherever it exists in the world.

Mr. Speaker, I am convinced that the security of our Nation depends upon stabilizing Iraq, Afghanistan, the Middle East and bringing peace and freedom to that region of the world. It is time to stand up for America. It is time to stand firm for freedom.

Mr. Speaker, we are blessed to live in the greatest Nation on Earth.

God bless America.

RUMSFELD MUST GO

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

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, Secretary Powell came before the Congressional Black Caucus yesterday. Every Member was there. They asked him, Are you going to ask for more money? He said, There is no need for more money.

Within 2 hours, the President of the United States came on and said, We need \$25 billion more money.

Even the Secretary of State is left out of the loop. This government has

no plan; and the fact that a Member has finally stood up and said what everybody knows, the emperor has no clothes, it is about time somebody said that.

My newspaper, the lead editorial this morning is "Rumsfeld Must Go." He laid our people out there in danger. There is a study out of the Army that says that a quarter of the people who have died would not have died if they had provided the proper equipment.

Now, this was a war of choice. We did not have to go. Nobody was attacking us. It is clear we were not in danger.

□ 1015

They chose a day to go and so they went, whether they were ready or not. They did not care about the troops. Our troops are being badly used by rotten leadership. They should go.

SADNESS OVER COMMENTS ON IRAQ WAR

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, this morning it is with a sense of profound sadness that I address the House of Representatives, and usually it is not so. I cherish the time that I have been able to spend here representing my District.

Mr. Speaker, my son is a member of the Air National Guard of the 136th Wing out of the old Carswell Air Force Base in Dallas. He is a staff sergeant, but I picked up the paper this morning like so many of my friends, and we see that the leaders on the other side have proclaimed the war unwinnable, and I think of all of the brave young men and women that I saw when I was in Iraq two times in the past year, and I cannot help but feel a profound sense of sadness that they feel that their leaders have abandoned them.

Now, we are all outraged and saddened by the photos of mistreatment of the Iraqi prisoners we have seen on our television screens. The abusers will be punished. The commanding officers will likely have their careers in ruins, but I just want to caution the leaders on the other side, indeed the candidates who are running for the highest office in this land, that this response is reminiscent of the response that a candidate named KERRY, 30 years ago had before the Senate committee where he condemned all of our troops in Vietnam.

This is not the case of our brave men and women over in Iraq today.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOSSELLA). For what purpose does the gentleman from California rise?

Mr. FILNER. Do the rules of the House allow personal reference to a

candidate running for the presidency of the United States?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members may not personally attack a presumptively nominated candidate but may criticize his policies.

Mr. FILNER. The candidate was personally attacked on this floor, and I ask for his words to be taken down.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the words.

□ 1030

The Clerk read as follows:

"Now we are all outraged and saddened by the photos of mistreatment of the Iraqi prisoners we have seen on our television screens. The abusers will be punished. The commanding officers will likely have their careers in ruins, but I just want to caution the leaders on the other side, indeed candidates who are running for the highest office in this land, that this response is reminiscent of the response that a candidate named KERRY 30 years ago had before the Senate committee where he condemned all of our troops in Vietnam. This is not the case of our brave men and women over in Iraq today."

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOSSELLA). In the opinion of the Chair, while personal attacks on a presumptive candidate are not in order, general references to past statements or positions by such a candidate are not, as with the reported choice of words, necessarily prohibited under the rules.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRIES

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I am still not sure where that line is. If I were to say that the Republican candidate for President misled us into this war, is that crossing the line?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will state these guidelines.

As the Chair stated on March 11 and April 22, 2004, the standards of decorum in debate applicable to the President are applied against any apparent nominee for that office. Thus, although remarks in debate may include criticism of such a candidate's official positions as a candidate, it is a breach of order to refer to the candidate in terms personally offensive, whether by actual accusation or by mere insinuation.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, further parliamentary inquiry.

I am not going to challenge the ruling of the Chair; but if the candidate of the Democratic Party is accused of condemning our troops, I find that crossing the line, inappropriate and wrong. We are allowed, the candidate is allowed at Senate hearings to make his voice known about the war in Vietnam. He did not condemn the troops. I am upset with the ruling of the Chair.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The point of order has been overruled.