

billowing proud and tall in the same soft breeze, I am reminded of why that flag is still flying. This is my commitment to America's future, and it is something that not only I, but all of us, as Americans, must never forget.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the house, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

CONCERN ABOUT DEMOCRATIC VICE PRESIDENT NOMINEE

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

Mr. MICA. Madam Speaker, I come before the House tonight as a Member of Congress concerned about the impending Presidential race and particularly concerned about the Vice Presidential nominee chosen this week by the Democrat nominee for President.

I am very concerned, Madam Speaker, because the choice that has been made is a divider rather than a uniter, and I think we are about to engage in a debate that will determine who will lead us for the next 4 years. I am very concerned that someone has been chosen that has talked about two Americas, and that is a great concern to me, the framing of this debate around two Americas.

Quite frankly, Madam Speaker, I am concerned about two Americas. I am concerned about giving access and a platform to the trial lawyers in America, a stage and the ability to launch their efforts, which is unprecedented in the history of our Republic.

I see two Americas. A lot of trial lawyers, attorneys are my best friends, but I see an America with a few trial lawyers who have benefited greatly and substantially financially, and I see an America in which the rest of us have paid and are paying every day for what those trial lawyers have done to our society and our country.

This is a very serious issue because we are going to decide in this campaign if we continue to let trial lawyers have two Americas, where a few benefit, and then we all pay.

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I do not know any American that has been paying lower hospital bills or lower medical care costs. And if we look at the root of the higher costs, it is because of the system that has evolved. A few are suing, and a few are benefiting. I am very concerned about what I see for health care costs and, in manufacturing, the jobs that have been driven out of this country. I come from the business sector. I am so pleased I am not in business because of the threat of lawsuits today.

Everything we do in our society now, the cost is dramatically affected; not

just prescription drugs or health care, access to health care, but also manufacturing, our ability to compete in the world. Sometimes we compete on a wage basis, but when we look at lawsuits, I will give two examples.

One, the only bill that we overrode when President Clinton was in office was one in which we attempted to do something about civil aircraft manufacturing. We were losing it in the United States, and we had lost most of it. We did override a veto, and we did restore some civil aviation manufacturing. However, we have lost all regional jet manufacturing, lost 50 percent of the large aircraft manufacturing. If we look around the States, North Carolina, the South, the North, Ohio, we see manufacturing closing down, because we would not want to manufacture in the United States when we can take that activity outside the United States.

Another example is Orlando Helicopter, in my own backyard in central Florida. It does not exist anymore. They moved to South America and China. Why? Because of liabilities.

So I see two Americas. I see an America where we may have a great opportunity for people to get health care at affordable costs, I see opportunity where we can expand jobs and have great economic opportunity, but I do not see it with, unfortunately, the Democratic nominee who is being brought forth.

What concerns me, too, having just survived 2 years ago a \$5 million unprecedented election by a contestant who was a trial lawyer who spent \$5 million to oust me from office, I see that same onslaught of funds coming in to try to capture the second highest office in our land. I see two Americas, and I see one that does concern me.

STOP PLAYING GAMES WITH AFRICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Michigan). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, as we mark the first anniversary of the President's historic tour of Africa, we cannot help but wonder when, if ever, the government of this country will end the "promise game" they are so adept at playing with the peoples of Africa.

The administration's whirlwind, 1-week tour was ostensibly undertaken in pursuance of a policy "to work with others for an African continent that lives in liberty, peace, and growing prosperity." It offered a laundry list of financial aid and development initiatives that could wipe out its poverty and dependence.

It is up to us to insist that the promises are kept and not relegated to unfunded programs for Africa, so characteristic of compassionate conservatives.

Startled by the realities of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, a threat potentially more devastating than global terrorism, the administration announced a tripling of its relatively modest commitment to battling the spread of the dreaded disease in Africa. The proposed \$15 billion appropriation over the next 5 years in a region in which the pandemic has infected more than 30 million people, a tenth of them being children under the age of 15, is a drop in the bucket compared to the several billions we are committing annually to the pursuit of geopolitical strategies of a significantly less danger to the world at large.

But as generous and noble as this initiative is and touted to be, it is subject to political strings and is actually presented as another means of imposing our ideological concepts on the suffering people of Africa.

The other priority of the administration's African policy is the so-called advancement of political and economic freedom. Considering the means by which this government sat itself in power, it remains a source of wonder that they have had the unmitigated gall to propose to lecture any other state, least of all ancient African kingdoms, on the arts of governance and the democratic path to freedom.

The supposedly well-intended African Growth and Opportunity Act, known as an AGOA, is designed to build trade capacity with Africa and will, no doubt, be renewed and extended. Yet its full effect may never be realized until its implementation is not limited to those African nations that place themselves under the thumb of U.S. business interests.

The administration's third African policy priority is, they say, to create peace and regional stability. This would and could have been a lofty goal in itself had it not been proffered by an administration whose overall relations with other nations is based on a doctrine of preemptive aggression and regime change by violent external force.

We of the Congressional Black Caucus have been dubbed the conscience of this Congress. It is our duty to watch over the actions and activities of this government and to insist that, in words as well as in deeds, the interests of our constituency primarily and of the Nation ultimately are served.

In closing, Madam Speaker, our priority, therefore, is to ensure that the advantageous promises made to Africa are kept, and that every cent committed is spent as appropriated; that this and every other administration become fully convinced that its appropriations to Africa are not charitable contributions, but at least are reparations for past exploitations and, at the most, investments in the prosperity of Africa's people and all of the world.

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD PROVES USEFUL FOR PRESERVING REMARKS

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

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, we have heard from several people tonight on the other side of the aisle who spoke out against the activity in Iraq and said that they were opposed to the activity in Iraq, and that is their right, their privilege, their obligation to do so.

Madam Speaker, I was not here when the Congress voted on authorizing the use of military force in the country of Iraq. I think had I been here that I would have voted in favor of that use of military force, but that is merely speculation. I was not here.

But, Madam Speaker, I think it is useful to go back in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and read the remarks of people who were here who had those debates, who had to work through those issues, and who did then ultimately vote for the use of force in Iraq.

I quote the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD from September 12, 2002, where an individual said, "I firmly believe the issue of Iraq is not about politics, but it is about national security. We know or have known for at least 20 years that Saddam Hussein has aggressively and obsessively sought weapons of mass destruction by any means available. We know that he has chemical and biological weapons today. He has used them in the past, and he is doing everything he can to build more. Each day he inches closer to his long-term goal of a nuclear capability, a capability that could be less than a year away. I believe," this speaker said, "I believe that Saddam Hussein's Iraqi regime wants a clear threat to the United States, to our allies, to our interests around the world, and to the values of freedom and democracy that we hold dear."

Madam Speaker, this individual went on to say, "Saddam has proved his willingness to act irrationally and brutally against his neighbors and against his own people. Iraq's destructive capability has the potential to throw the entire Middle East into chaos and poses a moral threat to our vital allies. Furthermore, the threat against America is all too clear. Thousands of terrorist operatives around the world would pay anything to get their hands on Saddam's arsenal."

The speaker went on to say, "There is every possibility that he could turn those weapons over to terrorists. No one can doubt that if the terrorists had had weapons on September 11, had had those weapons of mass destruction, they would have used them. On September 12, 2002, we can hardly forget the terrorist threat and the serious danger that Saddam would allow his arsenal to be used. Iraq has continued to develop its arsenal in defiance of the collective will of the international

community as expressed through the United Nations Security Council. It, Iraq, is violating terms of the ceasefire that ended the Gulf War and is ignoring as many as 16 United Nations Security Council resolutions, including 11 resolutions concerning Iraq's efforts to develop weapons of mass destruction. These U.N. resolutions are not unilateral American demands; they involve obligations that Iraq has undertaken to the international community. By ignoring them, Saddam Hussein is undermining the credibility of the United Nations."

Let me repeat that.

"By ignoring them, Saddam Hussein is undermining the credibility of the United Nations openly and openly violating international law and making a mockery of the very idea of international collective action."

Madam Speaker, this individual on September 12 of 2002 wrapped things up with the very concise statement that goes on to say, "The path of confronting Saddam is full of hazards, but the path of inaction is far more dangerous. This week, a week before we remember the sacrifice of thousands of innocent Americans made on 9/11, the choice could not be starker. Had we known that such attacks were imminent, we surely would have used every means at our disposal to prevent them and to take out the plotters."

Well, Madam Speaker, unfortunately, these words were spoken by a Member of the other body, and the decorum of the House prevents me from properly attributing them, but most people would recognize the speaker of these words as the man who has recently been designated for the second highest office in this land, the Democratic, purported Democratic nominee for Vice President of the United States.

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

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to proceed with my 5 minute at this time.

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

There was no objection.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF ROLLAND "BOB" LYONS OF ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

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

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise this evening to honor and remember Rolland "Bob" Lyons,

who lost his struggle with cancer June 17, 2004.

Bob was born in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and lived in several Michigan cities before graduating from Kalamazoo High School in 1948. He served his country in Korea as a second lieutenant in the Army. A graduate of the University of Michigan, he founded the Michigan Trenching Service, Incorporated, and became a prime contractor for service companies. Although he was a highly successful businessman, he humbly referred to himself as "just a ditch digger from Ann Arbor."

Bob Lyons inspired optimism and a community-minded spirit that has left a lasting mark on those who were fortunate enough to have known him. Bob's commitment to improving society can be seen through his membership on the Mackinac Center Board of Directors. However, he will best be remembered, I think, for his boundless energy and commitment to numerous causes: Cleary University, St. Joseph Hospital, the Boy Scouts, the Hands On Museum, and many, many others.

Bob Lyons' humor and outgoing personality made him a natural at fundraisers and political events where he was a regular. He recruited, encouraged, supported and helped elect many political candidates.

Bob was passionate for his causes and was a role model for all of us who seek to improve our communities and our country. Thank you, Bob, for all you did for us. You will be remembered fondly. We offer our condolences to your beloved wife Jan, daughter Suezahn, son Rob. Bob, your service to your community and your country will be remembered.

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HONORING Doug Bereuter

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Michigan). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. OSBORNE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. OSBORNE. Madam Speaker, at this time we would like to honor the gentleman from Nebraska (DOUG BERREUTER), who is from the First Congressional District. I would like to begin the Special Orders by recognizing the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS), who is the chairman of Committee on Ways and Means and who graciously arranged this hour for us.