

drawn, obviously, the attention of everybody across the country. It has happened in Massachusetts where, 3 days ago, in keeping with the rulings of four Massachusetts Supreme Court justices last November, the State of Massachusetts started issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples, as thousands descended on the State.

This event has significant repercussions for all Americans. According to news reports, local officials across the State were giving licenses to all who requested them, without asking for proof of State residency. This is in open defiance of Massachusetts law, which bars out-of-State couples from marrying in the State if the union would be illegal in their home State.

Let there be no mistake about this. The stakes in this battle over the future of our culture are enormous. This attempt by an imperious judiciary to radically redefine marriage by a few people is both a grave threat to our central social institution and a serious affront to democratic rule in our Nation.

Our reaction to this threat hinges on not only the future of marriage, which is a foundational unit for building a strong society, but our future as a self-governing people as well—whether the people here rule or a few on the judiciary. The actions of the Massachusetts Supreme Court in *Goodridge v. Department of Public Health*, to mandate homosexual marriage, is simply the latest instance of arrogant judges riding roughshod over the democratic process and constitutional law alike, in a quest to impose a radical social agenda on America.

The decision in this case could not have been more radical. The court declared that our society's longstanding, historical understanding of marriage as between a man and a woman was irrational or completely lacking a foundation in reason. As such, according to the court, the only possible explanation for the State denying marriage licenses to homosexual couples is prejudice, which the court compared with racial prejudice of the past that opposed interracial marriages. This analogy, of course, is false. It is misleading. The vast majority of African Americans recognize that. The vast majority of all Americans recognize it. All America should have the right to marry whomever they choose, regardless of race. But while most Americans believe that homosexuals have a right to live as they choose, they do not believe that a small group of activists or a tiny judicial elite have a right to redefine marriage for the entire society and to impose this radical social experiment on the culture.

Almost every benefit that is being sought can be attained through contract or power of attorney. But let us be clear, this is not a battle over civil rights. It is a battle over whether marriage will be emptied of its meaning in contradiction to the will of the people and their duly elected representatives.

This is a key issue. I look for this body to take up the issue in a constitutional amendment defining marriage as between a man and a woman. This is going to be a very difficult discussion. I hope we can have a good, healthy discussion about the importance of marriage as a foundational building unit in this society, a marriage between a man and a woman bonded together for life. That, indeed, is the best place to raise children according to all of our sociological data. This institution has been in disrepair for 40 years—has had difficulty for a long period of time—but this is not the answer to curing it. This will harm it.

While this is going to be a difficult debate and discussion for us as a country, it is a valuable and important one for us to have. I look forward to this body, later this year, voting on a constitutional amendment defining marriage as between a man and a woman.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Texas.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Madam President, I yield up to 10 minutes to the Senator from Colorado.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Colorado.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE LAST FOUR YEARS

Mr. ALLARD. Madam President, I thank the Senator from Texas for yielding.

I want to talk a little bit about what has happened during the last 4 years after the President assumed office, and after we have had a Republican Congress.

I think there were problems within the world and within this country that nobody wanted to admit were happening.

For example, when this President took office, the economy was going down. The previous President—President Clinton—didn't want to admit that, but it was a fact. And that is an accepted fact today which everybody understands.

Look at what the economy was doing when President Bush assumed office. The economy was going down. This President and this Congress, instead of putting the problem off to future generations and putting out a lot of rhetoric, did something. We cut the tax burden to stimulate this economy, and today the economy is doing much better. Employment is growing. We have a strong economy; it is getting stronger. People are being productive. We are getting people into homes. Right now, we have the highest home ownership rate in the history of this country, which means people of all races and ethnic backgrounds are getting an opportunity to own a piece of America. That is where the strength of this country is.

Because of this President and this Congress working on those kinds of issues, there is a real difference in people's personal lives.

The other thing that was not recognized and which some people wanted to ignore is the fact that we are much more secure today than we were 4 years ago. We didn't realize, 4 years ago, the threat that was happening as far as America.

I recall an opportunity where I was interviewed on BBC. This was an interview that happened a couple or 3 years back. There was an individual on the other side who was from the Middle East.

He said: Senator, what you don't realize is that you have been at war in America for 5 years already because of what is happening in the Middle East. They have already declared war on you.

If you look at it historically, we had a few terrorist attacks on small areas that were rather insignificant. We ignored them. Then we had terrorist attacks on our embassies. We ignored them. We had a terrorist attack on Khobar Towers, and we ignored it. We had the attack on the USS *Cole*, and we ignored that. Then we had the World Trade Center in New York, and basically that was ignored. Finally, it took the attacks by terrorists on the Twin Towers and the Pentagon of the United States for people to wake up, and this President and this Republican Congress stepped to the plate and we dealt with those security issues. We provided the money to make this a modern military. This President said we needed a more modern military; that is, more mobile because times are changing.

Our threat is terrorism throughout the world. We need to be prepared to address that. This President and this Congress didn't put that off to the next generation. We didn't put it off until somebody else would make a decision—some future Congress or some future President. We addressed that problem immediately. We got after it. We are continuing to get after it. We still have a concern.

I am excited about the fact that we are now talking about sovereignty for Iraq where they are going to be their own leaders. That doesn't mean necessarily that we are going to have less involvement as far as the conflict is concerned.

But we need a leader in this world who is trying to promote world peace. And we need a leader who is trying to secure the economic health of this country and the world, too.

If we look back at the accomplishments of the last 4 years, there is a lot to be proud of. I am glad we had some real leadership in the White House. I am glad we had some real leadership in both the House of Representatives and the Senate that took on those issues. They are not easy issues. They are difficult issues.

But the good message to the rest of the world is, America is stepping to the plate.

I am looking forward to continuing the fight and the work with my other Members to make sure we have a strong economy. That is a challenge.

We need to make sure those tax cuts we provided are stimulating our economy and economic growth; make that economic engine go so we have a free market system which is working; and make sure those incentives are out there so Americans who work hard are justly rewarded and they can keep the benefits of their hard work in their own pockets and it doesn't have to be sent to the Federal Government for it to spend; they get to spend it themselves in their own communities to meet their own needs. That means less government. It means we can rely more on individuals to assume responsibility. We need to work to make sure we create opportunities for everyone.

That is the challenge we have ahead of us. Tax cuts are expiring. One of the challenges we are facing in the Senate is the budget deficit. We have to be sure we reduce the deficit. Our economy is responding to the tax cuts. I don't think anybody can say tax cuts didn't help. We have to keep our country strong for our security.

We still have challenges, we recognize that. But we have to face up to those challenges and not push them off to future generations.

I happen to believe you have to stand up to terrorism. We learned the hard lesson. We learned if you ignore terrorism, it doesn't go away. We learned that you have to stand up to the terrorists. If you do not, with each success the recruitment of terrorist groups goes up. We saw that. With each success, the terrorist groups get more money, they get better financing, and they are a greater risk.

I compliment this President. I am proud to be a part of a body which has over the last 4 years made a difference in this country. That is not to say we do not have a lot of challenges; we certainly have a lot of challenges. But we are off to a good start. We need to continue.

I look forward to working with this President for another 4 years because I think he has done a good job in leadership. I think this country needs him.

I think this Congress has some challenges ahead of it, and we need good, strong leadership.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Texas.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Madam President, how much time remains?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. There is 18 minutes remaining on the Republican side.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Madam President, I would like to be notified at the end of 5 minutes, after which I will yield the remainder on our side to the Senator from New Mexico.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITMENT TO NATIONAL SECURITY

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Madam President, we just heard a wonderful talk by the

President of the United States. He talked about our commitment and reminded us once again that our commitment to winning in Iraq is everything. There is no alternative. The President talked about the commitment of winning the war on terrorism.

That means we must stabilize Iraq. We must begin to show the people in the Middle East what freedom, free enterprise, economy and jobs can do, and an educational system that includes boys and girls, giving them hope for the future.

He reminded us of the commitment we must make to see the war on terrorism through. This is not going to be a war that goes exactly the way it was planned. Name for me a war that did. Name for me a war that we said, Here is what is going to happen, and it happens just that way. This is war. We have been attacked. Thousands of Americans have been killed by fanatics. Nick Berg was assassinated on videotape in a brutal manner by terrorism. This will continue to happen if we lose our resolve. There is only one way that we can lose; that is, for America not to see this through.

It means winning the immediate war. It means stabilizing Iraq and Afghanistan. It means sowing the seeds of freedom and representative government in those countries to show how it can be done where people have not lived in freedom for years. We must see it through. But it means more than just the next year in which we have the big important war on terrorism that we see evolve before our eyes. It means we are going to have to stick with it for 25 or 30 years because it is going to take that long to show education can give children hope for the future, so you will not be able to brainwash a child to think life is not worth living, that the best thing one could do with their life is to give it up by killing other people in a suicide bomb.

The only way to warp children to believe a suicide bomb is their best hope in life is by failing to give them an education. An education gives them hope for a future, for a job, for a family, for a quality of life that is worth living.

The President of the United States is laser-beam focused. He is focused on winning the war on terrorism for the security of the American people and for the ability for freedom to live throughout the world. If America does not carry the beacon and the flag for freedom in the world, who will? Who has the capacity and the will to do it? If freedom dies in America, it will not flourish for very long anywhere else on Earth. That is why the President is so focused on the security of our country by finding and winning the war on terrorism.

We see people wringing their hands, asking, What can we do. We see the assassination of Nick Berg on videotape and we ask, What can we do to get out of this. We can make sure the violent death of Nicholas Berg is not in vain, that the hundreds of Americans who

have died in this cause do not die in vain, that they are dealing with an America that has the leadership to stand up for our country and our security and our freedom and see it through. That is what the President of the United States is doing for our country today. We must not lose focus.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD an article by David Brooks from the New York Times.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the New York Times, May 18, 2004.]

IN IRAQ, AMERICA'S SHAKEOUT MOMENT

(By David Brooks)

There's something about our venture into Iraq that is inspiring, painfully, embarrassing and quintessentially American.

No other nation would have been hopeful enough to try to evangelize for democracy across the Middle East. No other nation would have been naive enough to do it this badly. No other nation would be adaptable enough to recover from its own innocence and muddle its way to success, as I suspect we are about to do.

American history sometimes seems to be the same story repeated over and over again. Some group of big-dreaming but foolhardy adventurers head out to eradicate some evil and to realize some golden future. They get halfway along their journey and find they are unprepared for the harsh reality they suddenly face. It's too late to turn back, so they reinvent their mission. They toss out illusions and adopt an almost desperate pragmatism. They never do realize the utopia they initially dreamed about, but they do build something better than what came before.

This basic pattern has marked our national style from the moment British colonists landed on North American shores. Overly optimistic about the conditions they would find, the colonists were woefully undercapitalized, under-equipped and under-skilled. At Jamestown, there were three gentlemen and gentlemen's servants for every skilled laborer. They didn't bother to plant enough grain to see them through the winter.

But they learned and adapted. Settlement companies were compelled to send more workers, along with axes, chisels, scythes, millstones and seeds. Eventually the colonies thrived.

Centuries later, it was much the same. The guides who aided and fleeced the pioneers who moved West were struck by how clueless many of them were about the wilderness they were entering. Their diaries show that many thought they could establish genteel New England-style villages in short order. They leapt before they looked, faced the shock of reality, adapted and cobbled together something unexpected.

And it is that way today. We are tricked by hope into starting companies, beginning books, immigrating to this country and investing in telecom networks. The challenges turn out to be tougher than we imagined. Our excessive optimism is exposed. New skills are demanded. But nothing important was ever begun in a prudential frame of mind.

Hope begets disappointment, and we are now in a moment of disappointment when it comes to Iraq. During these shakeout moments, the nay-sayers get to gloat while the rest of us despair, lacerate ourselves, second-guess those in charge and look at things anew. But this very process of self-criticism