

exit strategy, no answers, no reports from the President of the United States about how they are really going to get the training done, what does that mean and basically when are we going to bring our troops home.

So we have joined with the American public. The American public have been waiting on us. They are against this war. The polls now are showing us that the American public wants this war to end, and so we have joined with them to provide some leadership.

Our caucus is made up of an array of Democrats, some who come from the New Democrats, some from the Blue Dog Democrats, some from the Progressive Democrats, but we have come together to talk about coordinating activities, helping to give a platform to this discussion, to work with the national peace organizations, to bring in people who have been trying to get to Congress but since we have no hearings that are going on, they have not been able to connect with anybody. We are going to connect with them, whether they are veterans against this war or mothers and fathers and family members who have had their children and relatives killed in this war. They are now going to have Members to talk to.

We are going to create this discussion and this debate, and some people are saying out now. Some people are saying, Mr. President, give us a strategy. Some people are trying to come up with a date certain.

We have a bipartisan effort that has been put together with a date certain attached to it. As far as our caucus is concerned, people see it a little bit differently, whether or not out now, whether or not we just beg the President to give us a strategy or whether or not we insist on a date certain. The most important thing is we are all organized just to get the word out. We want out of Iraq.

This thing will evolve, and as it evolves, we will know what the right timing is. The President will have an opportunity now, given that he has seen the polls and he understands what is going on, he can denounce it or reject it in any way that he wants, but the fact of the matter is the people of this country want us out. The new caucus that I am so proud of that we have formed will work to make sure that we have the debate that we have not had.

CAFTA

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

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I have listened to my colleagues with great interest tonight.

Three issues seem to have been raised. One is on CAFTA, which I will address tonight, and then we talked about Guantanamo, which I am going to try to address later this week. Then we will talk about Iraq because there

are parallels between what we are seeing in Iraq right now and what happened in World War I and World War II, but I cannot cover all those tonight. So I will debate my colleagues on some of those other issues later this week.

Let me talk about CAFTA right now because the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR), my good friend, for whom I have the highest regard, was just talking about some of the problems that occur with women in Central and South America and the living conditions and the working conditions, and I agree with her.

Because of that, and a number of other reasons, I voted against NAFTA and worked with my colleague on that, and I voted against the WTO and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. So you probably ask, well, why in the world, Danny, would you be in favor of CAFTA if you opposed all those others? So I want to tell my colleagues tonight why I support CAFTA.

First of all, we have what is known as the Caribbean Basin Initiative, and the Caribbean Basin Initiative is kind of a one-way street right now. We allow the Caribbean countries and Central American countries to export into the United States without tariffs while at the same time, when we send stuff into those countries, we do have to pay tariffs in many cases. So the bottom line is it is a one-way street.

The Caribbean Basin Initiative will go by the wayside if we pass CAFTA, and we will have a two-way street where there will be minimal tariffs or no tariffs whatsoever, and so our producers will benefit the same as the producers in Central America and the Caribbean. I think that is one reason why I think CAFTA is a better deal than what we see with the Caribbean Basin Initiative.

The second thing is that we need to see stability in Central and South America. President Reagan, when he was President, worked very hard to create democracy in our hemisphere, and as a result of the Reagan doctrine, all of the countries in Central and South America became fledgling democracies over the past few decades with the exception of Cuba. We are starting to see cracks in those democracies because of the poverty down there and because of some leftist leaders. We see problems in four or five, six countries in Central and South America right now, and one of the things that we need to do is to address the issue of poverty down there.

One way to do that is to try to see some foreign investment going in there from places besides China and Europe into Central and South America so that we see a reduction in the poverty rate and a reduction in the pressure that is being brought about on the existing democracies down there to move toward leftist governments.

If we have a change, a sea change in those countries in Central and South America, then what is going to happen is the illegal immigration problems

that we see right now will be magnified. They will grow because people want to flee tyranny. They want to flee conflict, and if you start seeing revolutionary activity take place, like that which we saw in El Salvador in the 1980s, and in Nicaragua in the 1980s and elsewhere, then you are going to see people saying, I am getting the heck out of here; I am going north; I am going to the United States. Our border is very porous. We have a terrible time controlling it right now. We have millions of people that have come across that border that are now in the United States that cost our taxpayers money and cause a lot of hardship and problems.

So stabilizing those governments in Central and South America I think is extremely important. I am now the chairman of the Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere on the Committee on International Relations, and I have had a chance, along with my colleague the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) to start looking at this issue. We may not agree on this, but I think it is important that we go down there and look at these countries and find out how we can make sure there are stable governments in place and that we do not see democracies start to deteriorate and go by the wayside.

So I feel it is very important that we look at this from more than just one point of view. Trade is important. Job loss by Americans is very important. I am concerned about both of those things. A two-way street in trade with no tariffs I think is also very important, but also one of the major issues as far as I am concerned is the stabilization of democracy in our hemisphere. If we do not, as a leader of democratic institutions in this hemisphere and around the world, take the initiative to stabilize those countries, who in the heck will?

So I still believe in free and fair trade. I would not vote for NAFTA today. I would not vote for GATT today. I would not vote for the WTO today, but I am going to vote for CAFTA, and the reason I am voting for CAFTA is for the reason I just said. I think it is extremely important to not only worry about trade and balance but also about national security and immigration, and I hope my colleagues at least understand where I stand on this issue because I love you guys.

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

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. 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 New Jersey?

There was no objection.

TRIBUTE TO PETER RODINO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, we are gathered here this evening to pay tribute to one of the true heroes of our time, a man who earned a stellar national reputation but who also holds a very special place in the hearts of those of us from his home State of New Jersey and those who had the privilege to serve with him, former Congressman and Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, the Honorable Peter W. Rodino. I feel privileged to hold the seat in Congress which Chairman Rodino previously held from 1948 until his retirement 40 years later in 1989.

It is certainly a testament to his outstanding work here in the House of Representatives and the high esteem in which he was held among his constituents that he won reelection to Congress 19 consecutive times over the course of his career. From my personal experience growing up in Newark, New Jersey, I was inspired to enter public service after reading stories in the newspaper I delivered as a youngster, the *Star Ledger*, about the work of my local Congressman, Peter Rodino, and the passion he brought to his job. We felt proud to have such a hardworking and dedicated public servant representing our interests in Washington, especially since I lived in the neighborhood in the old North Ward of Newark where he served and lived.

Peter Rodino was a driving force behind all of the major civil rights legislation and opened up doors of opportunity for an entire generation. Throw his service on the House Judiciary Committee he authored the majority reports on which the civil rights legislation of 1957, 1960, 1964 and 1968 were based. In addition, he played a key role in the passage of the fair housing bill in 1966.

He was active in the movements to establish a national holiday in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Junior, and to provide the District of Columbia with a voting delegate.

During the Watergate hearings, Chairman Rodino won praise from both sides of the aisle for his fairness, evenhandedness and sense of decorum. He carried out his constitutional duty, but it was not a role he chose or relished. In fact, he broke down in tears after the Judiciary Committee approved articles of impeachment against a President not of his own party. That kind of sensitivity and compassion is indeed rare today in the political arena.

After his retirement from Congress, Congressman Rodino continued work-

ing diligently, serving as a distinguished visiting professor of constitutional law at Seton Hall University in Newark, New Jersey. I was excited during my first term in Congress to be part of a successful effort to secure over \$5 million for the establishment of a model center for social justice at Seton Hall University School of Law, the Peter W. Rodino, Junior, Institute of Social Justice.

Despite all of his achievements, Peter Rodino was most proud of being the son of an Italian immigrant who achieved the American dream. In fact, in a tribute to his Italian heritage, he sponsored the bill that made Columbus Day a Monday national holiday. He never forgot where he came from and he always had time to help other people who needed a hand.

In fact, after his passing on May 7, the *Star Ledger* ran a story about a sixth grade student, Christina Rodriguez, who had never met former Congressman Rodino, but called seeking an interview for a school paper she was writing. Although he was in the middle of celebrating his 95th birthday with friends and family, he generously spent 45 minutes giving her a firsthand account of a chapter of history that took place long before she was born.

Mr. Speaker, former Congressman Rodino was not only an admired leader and a great champion for all of the right issues, he was also a wonderful human being. Let us express our deep appreciation for his service in Congress.

Our heartfelt condolences go out to his wife, Joy; his son, Peter W. Rodino, III; his daughter, Margaret Stanziale and her husband Charles Stanziale; his three grandchildren, Carla Prunty, Maria Stanziale and Talia Rodino; and his twin great-grandchildren, Annabel and Charlotte Prunty.

At this time, Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS), who served on the Judiciary Committee with Mr. Rodino, the current ranking member on the Committee on the Judiciary, who has served in the Congress for close to 40 years.

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Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me, but would be pleased if the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), the minority leader, would precede me.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI).

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I know how close the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) was to our former colleague, Congressman Rodino, and I am very honored he would yield to me to speak about him.

I want to express my appreciation to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) and say how impressive it is to see him; the Chair of our caucus, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ); and all of the members of

the New Jersey delegation; along with the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) and the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN) and the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) of the Committee on the Judiciary, all who served with Mr. Rodino or served under his legacy, or are just proud to speak out this evening. I thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) for organizing this Special Order.

First, I join the gentleman in expressing heartfelt condolences to the entire Rodino family, to his wife, Joy, daughter Margaret, and of course his son, Peter. I hope they find comfort in the proud legacy he leaves. I hope it is a comfort to them that so many people mourn their loss and are praying for them.

A man of integrity and humility, Peter Rodino was a great American who served our Nation with great dignity and honor. He was truly a historic figure and consequential leader who changed the course of history for the better.

Many years ago, President John Kennedy spoke of "the high court of history" by which public officials will be judged. History will treat Peter Rodino very well.

By conducting the Watergate impeachment hearings with fairness, Peter Rodino ensured that the rule of law prevailed during one of the greatest constitutional crises in our country. He spoke before this House when the Watergate impeachment hearings and said, "Whatever the result, whatever we learn or conclude, let us now proceed with such care and decency and thoroughness and honor that the vast majority of the American people, and their children after them, will say: 'That was the right course. There was no other way.'"

He did all that and more. His contribution was immeasurable. Americans will be forever grateful for his courage and for his defense of the Constitution.

Though most renowned for the service he rendered during the Watergate impeachment hearings, Peter Rodino left a lasting imprint as a distinguished chairman of the Judiciary Committee, an author of significant legislation, ranging from civil rights to immigration to protecting consumers. A Seton Hall law professor, Paula Franzese said at his funeral, "He was a champion for the underdog. He was a speaker for those who had no voice." What a magnificent compliment, and still understates the contribution he made.

Peter Rodino was a main sponsor of the Civil Rights Act of 1966 and authored the extension of the Voting Rights Act in 1982. He reformed immigration quotas and promoted fair housing laws, and he was one of the authors of the Hart-Scott-Rodino Act that protects consumers by preventing anti-