

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THE STARR REPORT AND THE CONGRESSIONAL RESPONSE

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 1998

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, September 23, 1998 into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

THE STARR REPORT AND THE CONGRESSIONAL RESPONSE

On September 9, 1998 Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr submitted his report to Congress regarding President Clinton's relationship with Monica Lewinsky. The U.S. House of Representatives now begins the process of reviewing the evidence the Independent Counsel has gathered from his grand jury investigation as well as evidence provided by the President and others. The House, after reviewing the Starr report and other evidence, will decide whether to proceed with formal impeachment hearings. The key judgment will be for the House to determine whether the President's conduct amounts to "High Crimes and Misdemeanors," the Constitutional standard for removing a President from office.

The Starr report: The 453-page Starr report alleges that President Clinton committed acts that may constitute grounds for impeachment. The report lays out in graphic detail the chronology of events surrounding the President's affair with Ms. Lewinsky, and concludes that the facts may establish 11 possible grounds for impeachment, including lying under oath in the Paula Jones case and before Starr's grand jury, obstructing justice, witness tampering, and abuse of power.

The President has acknowledged that he had an inappropriate relationship with Ms. Lewinsky and that his conduct was wrong, but rejects the view that he committed the offenses catalogued in the Starr report. Furthermore, the President's attorneys contend that his conduct, while inappropriate and wrong, does not rise to the level of "High Crimes and Misdemeanors," and therefore does not warrant Congress proceeding with an impeachment inquiry.

Presidential conduct: I have read the Starr report in full, and like many Americans, am shocked and dismayed by its contents. I recognize, of course, that the report represents only the prosecutor's assessment of the facts and that Congress has a duty to examine all the evidence, including evidence which tends to exonerate the President.

Putting the Starr report to one side, I have nonetheless been deeply disappointed by the President's conduct. The sexual misconduct was offensive but that really was not the worst of it. He misled his wife, his staff, and the country. His pattern these last several months to hide his improper relationship has been to conceal, fabricate, stonewall, and attack Starr. He surely could have saved the country much agony by making a confession months ago. His legalistic hair-splitting on the issue of lying insults the common sense of most of us.

Where we go from here: Congress now faces the grave responsibility of deciding whether to move ahead with a formal impeachment

proceeding against the President. Overturning the results of a popular election is very serious business. Next to declaring war, Congress perhaps has no greater duty under our Constitution. Hence, we must proceed in the weeks and months ahead with deliberate speed, but with caution and fairness, to seek the truth and make a judgment. This process is not about partisan political advantage, but about the future of our country.

The key question will be whether the President's conduct, disgraceful as it is, constitutes, "High Crimes and Misdemeanors." The Framers of the Constitution borrowed the expression from the English common law to suggest grave offenses against the state—offenses which undermined the integrity of the Presidency or our constitutional system of government—but did not define what precisely those offenses might be, aside from treason and bribery. "High Crimes and Misdemeanors" has been generally understood to encompass public misdeeds, such as abuse of official power that threatens the country, but not private misconduct.

Nature of process: The impeachment process is a mix of law, politics, and public opinion. It should not be used to remove a President with whom Congress has political differences, nor should it be limited to possible violations of criminal law. Rather, it should primarily ask whether a President's conduct is so bad that he can no longer be trusted to serve. President Clinton's ability to govern the country has been damaged. The looming question is whether he retains enough of the confidence of the American public that he will be able to govern effectively.

Congress will pay close attention to public opinion as this process unfolds. In effect two processes are now taking place: one in Congress and one in the public. Both are necessary. Of the two, the process in the American public is more important. The public deliberation taking place over the next several weeks will drive this process and will eventually drive congressional action.

Thus far, the American public does not support impeaching the President. The public is of two minds about the President. They believe Clinton is doing a good job as President and is a strong leader in touch with their problems. On the other hand, they do not like his morals and question his integrity and his character. The public today appears to favor some form of censure of the President, short of impeachment, and wants Congress to get through this process and back to the people's business as quickly as possible.

My assessment: The Starr report presents a strong case of Presidential misconduct. The evidence that the President lied under oath about the relationship with Ms. Lewinsky is persuasive. The President does not challenge the basic facts of the report, which paint a devastating portrait. Starr's charges of obstruction and, particularly, abuse of power are less compelling, and there is considerable conflicting testimony relative to these charges. I have doubts, at this point, whether the President's misconduct rises to the level of "High Crimes and Misdemeanors" to warrant his removal from office.

I am not advocating at this time censure, resignation or impeachment. Congress has the Constitutional obligation to weigh the evidence presented by the Independent Coun-

sel very carefully as well as evidence presented by the other side. I do not see how we can make a judgment about the President until we have had a chance to evaluate all the evidence. I do not think the Congress should adjourn while these issues about the President's future are unresolved.

The question on my mind is how best to get through the next two years with the least harm to the country. We must be very careful with the institution of the Presidency. We must avoid a paralysis of the Presidency and the inability of the President to lead effectively. I do think some kind of judgment needs to be given on the President's conduct. What kind of judgment it is will depend on the evidence. But even on the basis of the information we now have, we cannot permit the impression to prevail that the President's behavior is acceptable.

WELCOMING AND CONGRATULATING PRIME MINISTER ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE OF INDIA

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 1998

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee of India on his visit to the United States and meeting at the United Nations. This is Mr. Vajpayee's first visit to the United States since he was sworn in as Prime Minister for the second time on March 19, 1998.

On September 24th, the Prime Minister will address the 53rd Session of the United Nations, and shortly thereafter Mr. Vajpayee will receive the distinguished Dr. Ambedkar Award for this tremendous government service on behalf of the Indian people. The award will be presented by the founder and president of the Ambedkar International Mission U.S.A., Mr. Hardyal Singh. Dr. Ambedkar was the author of the Indian Constitution and was India's most prominent and vocal proponent of equal rights for Scheduled Castes.

Prime Minister Vajpayee's long and impressive parliamentary career began in 1957 when he was just 22 years old. Mr. Vajpayee was briefly Prime Minister in 1996 and later became the Opposition Leader.

The Prime Minister is also known as a scholar and an articulate speaker. He has published several collections of his poems and speeches including "Lok Sabha Mein Ataji", "Mrityu Ya Hatya", and "Amar Aag Hai." Mr. Vajpayee has also been an editor of several Hindi newspapers.

Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee has dedicated his career to the uplifting of Scheduled Castes and Tribes, promoting women's rights, and defending child welfare.

On behalf of the House of Representatives I welcome this able leader to our country and hope his stay proves to be a productive one.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

"STRIGHT-UP" PROGRAM HAILED

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 1998

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to four outstanding constituents of mine who have made a real contribution to fighting drugs in Northeastern Pennsylvania: Gene Fischl, Al Ottensman, Paul O'Malia, and David Stefanoski.

These four men are the founders of an anti-drug initiative called the "Straight-Up" program that involves prisoners at the Luzerne County Correctional Facility travelling to area high schools and colleges to tell students about life in prison and how drugs ruined their lives and led to their incarceration. The detailed, first-person stories conveyed by these prisoners can convey a powerful message to teenagers about the dangers of drug abuse. Given rising concern in Northeastern Pennsylvania and throughout the nation about the perils of teenage drug abuse, this sort of innovative program is an eminently worthy endeavor.

The "Straight-Up" program could not have survived since April of 1996 were it not for the dedicated work of Luzerne County Correctional Facility Warden Gene Fischl, and Sergeant David Stefanoski, Lieutenant Al Ottensman, and Lieutenant Paul O'Malia of the Luzerne County Correctional Facility. Their efforts have already affected over 21,000 Luzerne County youth. I am pleased to have had this opportunity to bring their accomplishment to the attention of my colleagues and I wish them and the "Straight-Up" program future success.

 TRIBUTE TO DR. HENRY WARREN
BLAKEMAN, JR.
HON. JOHN COOKSEY

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 1998

Mr. COOKSEY. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Blakeman is Senior Minister of St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Monroe, Louisiana. He has been minister of churches in Baton Rouge, New Orleans and most recently, Senior Minister of the 3,000 member Broadmoor United Methodist Church in Shreveport where services were broadcast each Sunday over Television Channel 3. He has also been District Superintendent of the New Orleans and North Shore Districts.

He has served on the Board of Pendleton Methodist Hospital and is currently on the Board of the Louisiana Methodist Foundation. He has directed various civic financial drives and is a consultant for the Biedenharn Bible Museum and Research Center.

Dr. Blakeman collects antiquarian books and manuscripts (dating back to 1247 AD), classic mystery fiction and enjoys classical music. His library contains over 5,000 volumes.

He is married to Mary Lou who is a prison psychologist (specialist degree) and they have three children, Jeff, Jennifer and Julie, and one granddaughter, Katie.

 TRIBUTE TO DR. HERATCH
DOUMANIAN
HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 1998

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to pay tribute to one of Northwest Indiana's leading physicians, Dr. Heratch Doumanian, of Merrillville, Indiana. On Sunday, September 30, 1998, Heratch will be honored by the Asian American Medical Society for his selfless, exemplary service to society, the community, and the medical profession. This Sunday, for his dedicated, consistent community work, Heratch will be awarded the Crystal Globe Award, the Asian American Medical Society's highest service award.

Each year, the Asian American Medical Society honors a prominent, extraordinary resident of Northwest Indiana for their outstanding contributions to the community. In recognition of their tremendous efforts for the betterment of Northwest Indiana, they are honored at a banquet and awarded the prestigious Crystal Globe.

This year's recipient, Dr. Heratch Doumanian, is one of the most caring, dedicated, and selfless citizens of Indiana's First Congressional District. As a physician, Heratch serves as not only a respected member of the medical community, but also as a teacher, a mentor, and a community volunteer. He offers his services and time to many professional organizations including the Radiologic Society of North America, the American Medical Society, the Lake County Medical Society, the Indiana State Medical Society, the American College of Radiology, and the Asian American Medical Society. In addition, Heratch served as the President of St. Mary's Medical staff in 1995, is a present member of the St. Mary's Medical Quality Assurance Committee, and served as the President of the Asian American Medical Society in 1988.

Since 1966, Heratch has served as a Radiologist at both the Diagnostic Outpatient Center, and the St. Mary Medical Center. In addition, he shares his knowledge as a teacher at the Indiana University Northwest Medical School. Before starting his work in 1966, Heratch attended the American University, in Beirut, Lebanon, and in 1957 he graduated from its Medical School. After graduation, Dr. Doumanian came to the United States and completed two Internships in Chicago, Illinois, at the St. Bernard Hospital from 1957-1958, and the Michael Reese Medical Center from 1959-1960. In 1960-1962, Heratch served our country as a Captain in the United States Army Medical Corps. After his military service, he completed a Residency at the University of Chicago Hospital, and he earned a Fellowship from the University of Minnesota, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. When his Fellowship ended in 1966, he moved to Northwest Indiana and began his successful medical and community work for the people of this region.

While Heratch has dedicated considerable time and energy to his work as a physician, he has always made an extra effort to give to the community. He is currently very involved in the Armenian Assembly of America, and serves the organization as a Fellow Trustee. Additionally, he is a Parish Council Member of the St.

Joachim and Anne Armenian Church, and is a member of the Armenian General Benevolent Union, Chicago Chapter. Although his work and community service often limits his time, Heratch has never limited the time he gives to his most important interest, his family. He and his wife, Sonya, have three children: Greta, a lawyer; John, a medical student; and Leo, also a medical student.

The Hippocratic Oath discusses how a doctor or medical professional should conduct his life, public and private. "... I will lead my life and practice my art in uprightness and honour; that into whatsoever house I shall enter, I shall be for the good of the sick to the utmost of my power, holding myself far aloof from wrong, from corruption . . ." When Heratch moved to Northwest Indiana in 1966, he brought with him a dedication to uprightness and honor that has touched many lives. His dedication to the community and his family, in addition to his commitment to the unfortunate and sick are clear examples of one man working to the utmost of his power and ability. We in Northwest Indiana are lucky to be the recipients of his service.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Dr. Heratch Doumanian for receiving the 1998 Crystal Globe Award from the Asian American Medical Society. Truly, Heratch has earned this recognition. His service, dedication, and altruism inspire us all to greater deeds.

 IN HONOR OF HIS HOLINESS POPE
SHENOUDA III
HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 1998

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome Pope Shenouda III of the Coptic Orthodox Church to the United States and specifically the New Jersey/New York region.

The Coptic Church is responsible for many contributions to Christianity, including the Nicene Creed which is today recited by Christian churches around the world and thousands of biblical and theological texts produced by the early Coptic Church. Today those texts are valued by historians and theologians alike.

Pope Shenouda III is a profound theologian, an eloquent preacher, an accomplished author, and an able leader of Christian unity. Before his consecration as Pope, His Holiness was a successful student, a charismatic teacher, and a pious monk.

Since his consecration in 1971, Pope Shenouda III has led the Coptic Orthodox Church to a world-wide resurgence. In North America alone, the Coptic Church has established over 70 new churches in the last twenty years.

Pope Shenouda III has traveled around the globe in the interest of Christian unity. In 1973, His Holiness was the first Coptic Pope to visit the Vatican in over 1,500 years. His Holiness has also kept in close contact with sister Orthodox churches with visits to Constantinople, Moscow, Romania, Bulgaria, and Antioch. Pope Shenouda III has also advanced relations with many Protestant churches as shown by his dialogue with the World Alliance of Reformed Churches in 1993.