

What about in India? Why did India have to explode its nuclear weapon? Why did Pakistan move forward? Yes, they have their own problems. But at the same time, India is watching China. India is watching China. They might be able to handle a threat from Pakistan, but China? Maybe the democratic countries of the world, even in Thailand.

But let us take this out. What about those people who are struggling to build democracy? What about the former Soviet Union? In Russia, these people are struggling. Any factor can turn Russia this way or that way.

The United States is not seen as a powerful strong force for freedom; and, instead, we are letting the Chinese dominate this huge part of the planet. Russia borders on China.

What about the bad guys in Russia? What about the evil forces in Russia? They will cut their deals with Beijing and undermine peace and prosperity and the development of freedom in Russia.

There are major consequences to these insane policies that we have had with China. We have seen it now with India, as I say, India and Pakistan. It makes it more likely to have a war there. Japan is drifting into an anti-American orbit.

In other words, these are significant issues. These are historic issues that we must deal with. The threats to America's national security and our future prosperity, well-being of our people did not end with the end of the Cold War. We have got to pick up the torch. We have got to be diligent. We have got to be strong, just as our Founding Fathers were, just as every generation has had to be strong in order to maintain this American dream.

There are many scandals that we are going to hear about in the next 30 days. This titillation is swirling through the capital. All this attention is focused on the so-called scandals. Let the American people not lose sight of what we are, what I am talking about today.

Let them not lose sight of what I call Missilegate, if nothing else, the fact that our own weapons, our own technology are being turned against us, and that our policies are skewed toward helping a dictatorship and impoverishing the American people to build up the billions of people in the mainland of China which, in the end, is stolen from them by an oppressive dictatorship.

I will continue to investigate this, and I hope the American people will continue through this other scandal to focus on this important issue. We will move forward on it, as I say, and I will give certain updates, especially when I come back after the August break.

But in the end, our vigilance as Americans, as the world's last hope, last best hope of all of mankind, it is our vigilance that will save us and save all humankind. We are the keepers of the flame. Let us not share the power of that flame with tyrants and the enemies of freedom.

KEN STARR'S LEAKS MAY VIOLATE ETHICAL GUIDELINES AS WELL AS FEDERAL LAW

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

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to put in the RECORD additional information about the serious problems that may have been created by Mr. Starr's recent revelations about the extent of his off-the-record contacts with the media and his justification for those contacts.

□ 1230

The press coverage of this controversy seemed to have missed the forest for the trees by concentrating almost exclusively on whether Mr. Brill, in his interview with Mr. Starr, had produced conclusive evidence that Mr. Starr had violated the Federal law which prohibits the disclosure of materials related to a grand jury investigation. There is evidence that suggests that he may have done just that, and I am hopeful that the Attorney General of the United States, Janet Reno, and Judge Johnson, will take appropriate steps to credibly resolve these issues.

More importantly, however, many of the leaks attributed to Mr. Starr's office raise two additional questions. Namely, whether they violate Department of Justice policy and whether they violate the Rules of Professional Ethics.

What is the Department of Justice's policy? Well, it forbids government prosecutors from making any statement that will have a substantial likelihood of materially prejudicing a proceeding. Moreover, the guidelines specifically direct prosecutors to not discuss certain categories of information which are presumed to have the effect of prejudicing an adjudicative proceeding if released. These include whether or not the accused has offered to make a statement; it includes the results of any investigative tests; it includes any opinion as to the guilt of a witness or any opinion as to the possibility of a plea agreement.

So the Rules of Professional Ethics for the District of Columbia prohibit almost exactly the same disclosures as the Department of Justice guidelines. Notwithstanding these guidelines, which are fairly clear, we have seen numerous press reports that contain exactly this type of information.

It has been reported that Mr. Starr has won his legal fight to prevent President Clinton's lawyers from questioning him directly about numerous leaks that are alleged to have come from his office. It is not clear, it is unknown whether Mr. Starr claims some sort of privilege to prevent his direct interrogation, but his resistance is at odds with his public statements about the importance of truth.

As the question of Office of the Special Counsel disclosures continues to be reviewed, we should all keep in mind

that Mr. Starr's obligations go far beyond the legal requirements that he not disclose grand jury information. Any departure from those guidelines threatens to rob his investigation of credibility and also invites speculation about partisan motives.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS DELEGATE ACT

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

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to talk about a piece of legislation that I dropped yesterday, that I introduced yesterday, and this is the Northern Marianas Delegate Act to provide for a nonvoting delegate to the House of Representatives to represent the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands. The Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands is the newest commonwealth and the only American territory acquired by the United States in this century.

Many people are familiar with the fact that the CNMI was the site of the famous battle of Saipan during World War II, but are less familiar with the history of that group of islands. Guam, the island that I represent, is part of the Marianas, but had a slightly different history since Guam was taken by the United States as a result of the Spanish-American War 100 years ago.

The CNMI, as I mentioned, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the newest commonwealth and the newest territory of the United States, came into the United States in 1976, after it made a free choice to have a close political union with the United States, they being formerly part of an organization, an entity known as the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

When the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands came into the United States in 1976, it was decided at that time, and the people of the CNMI were discouraged from having a delegate in this body. Then subsequently in the 1980s, a Commission of Federal Laws appointed by President Reagan in 1985 then recommended that the CNMI should have a delegate in the House of Representatives. The reasons outlined were fairness, democratic principles, and practical utility.

Today, the CNMI is represented, very ably I might add, by a gentleman by the name of Juan Babauta who is in an elected position called the Resident Representative of the Northern Mariana Islands. But he is not accredited to this House.

Frequently, we like to state in this body that this is the People's House, and that all Americans are represented in the People's House. Yet there remains one group of Americans who cannot participate in the debate over policy which directs their lives. There is one group of Americans who cannot

introduce legislation on their own behalf. There is one group of Americans who cannot protect themselves when they are under attack or under criticism in this body. That group of Americans are the Americans of the Northern Marianas Islands.

Mr. Speaker, in the name of all that is fair; in the name of the American sense of fair play; in the American quest for the perfection of democratic principles and the full implementation of representative democracy, the Americans of the Northern Marianas Islands deserve to be heard and deserve to have their points of view addressed in the context of this House.

I am a nonvoting delegate from the Island of Guam, and even though there are many restrictions attached to the nature of the office I hold, I am here and I can have the freedom of mobility and the freedom to use all the talents that I have been blessed with, and to use all the energy that the people of Guam continue to provide me with, to represent their interests in the pursuit of legislation which will benefit my people.

Unfortunately, there is one group of Americans who are not afforded this opportunity, and those are the people of the Northern Marianas Islands.

There are many issues attendant to the Northern Mariana Islands, including alleged labor abuses, which have attracted the attention of the national media and for which many Members of Congress are vitally concerned about, myself included. I too am vitally concerned about that. But those problems that may exist in the Northern Marianas Islands should not be an impediment to being allowed to represent themselves.

The principle of representative democracy stands before us as one of the core principles of the American creed. And it is ironic that today in the People's House, not all of the people that call themselves American citizens, that are blessed to be American citizens, are represented here.

So I call upon my colleagues to co-sponsor this legislation and to move this legislation so that all Americans can speak on their own behalf and represent their own best interests.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. GARY DENNIS AND MRS. SHARMAN DENNIS OF THE NATIONAL MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. CHRISTIAN-GREEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. CHRISTIAN-GREEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Gary Dennis, who is the new President of the National Medical Association, and his wife, Mrs. Sharman Dennis, who will head the Auxiliary to the National Medical Association.

They were both installed this week at NMA's annual convention and sci-

entific assembly in New Orleans. This is the first time in the history of the NMA that a husband and wife will serve simultaneously as heads of these partner organizations.

Mr. Speaker, the NMA is a 103-year-old organization which represents African-American physicians and the patients we serve. As I congratulate this outstanding couple and wish them well and Godspeed, I also want to commend the National Medical Association for its caring service for over a century.

As we approach a new century, we still face many of the challenges that were the impetus for its founding in 1895. Wide disparities in health status still exist for people of color.

Mr. Speaker, we know that Dr. Dennis, Mrs. Dennis, and the entire NMA stand ready to continue to meet that challenge.

INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC ISSUES AND A PERSONAL TRIBUTE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, before I begin my tribute this morning, I did want to acknowledge the tragedy in Africa that occurred just this morning and last night where a tragic bombing occurred in Kenya and Tanzania. The reports have it that thousands were injured, many were killed, and amongst those were public servants of the United States, members of the State Department who may have lost their life.

I would like at this time to offer my deepest sympathy to both the Americans and Africans who have lost their life for this random terroristic act, and to acknowledge that no one is immune from terrorism. But it is important that this Nation remains open to the world promoting democracy and claiming freedom.

I would hope that we would recognize that the African people do not hold to this mass destruction and that where there are a few that would try to destroy the relationship between the African people and this Nation, let me be one to say that it will not be destroyed.

Mr. Speaker, my prayers go out to the family members. Our flags now fly at half-mast, and I join the President of the United States recognizing that our fight is just beginning to ensure freedom and democracy on the continent of Africa, to join hands with the likes of Nelson Mandela and other leaders of democratic Nations to fight against terroristic acts and to find and prosecute all those who would commit such terrible and heinous acts.

WELFARE TO WORK

Mr. Speaker, I also congratulate those who joined the President this morning to acknowledge the signing of a wonderful new direction for welfare to work training where now we give

the opportunity for those who were on welfare, who have lost their jobs, to get the resources to choose their own destiny, to be able to select the kind of training they would like, to find out the kind of training institution they would like to go to. To have counselors and career advisors who would direct them into a new career.

Now it is in the hands of the American people. We will not give agencies money and they tell Americans what to do. This new job training bill, the "Workforce Investment Act of 1998," will give the money directly to those in need and they will go back into the community and determine whether they want to get an undergraduate degree or go to a community college or want labor training or apprenticeship training. All of this is now provided with new leadership and job training and the new emphasis of moving people from welfare to work.

TRIBUTE TO CARL S. SMITH

Mr. Speaker, I now want to speak about a good friend of mine, and this is a tribute to Carl S. Smith, the Harris County tax assessor who lost his life and, of course, we lost him.

But Carl gave us 50 years of service and so I wish to say this afternoon, "Farewell my friend." For those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not be faint.

Carl Smith was that kind of servant. Henry David Thoreau once said, "The death of friends will inspire us as much as their lives * * * Their memories will be encrusted over with the sublime and pleasing thoughts, as monuments of other men are overgrown with moss; for our friends have no place in the graveyard."

That is the testimony of Carl Smith's life. He served the State of Texas for some 50 years. He was an individual that was willing to take a chance when no others would. That is why Reverend McAdow indicated that in the early '50s Carl promoted the first black deputy clerk and he also helped in our segregated community of Houston, Texas, with bringing about race relations and interrelations.

Carl was not afraid of opposition. He was tall and stately and he recognized that his responsibility as a public servant, one which I greatly admire, was to serve the public. Nothing else.

Reverend Thompson who delivered his eulogy at the Bethany Christian Church said this about my friend Carl Smith: He was smart, insightful, unpredictable and, yes, he was a darned good Democrat. Dynamic, he was colorful, caring about all he served. And I personally know how Carl Smith walked the hallways of the tax assessor's office dignified as he was, but he would stop on those long lines for those getting their license plates or trying to pay the taxes on their property and he would individually share with them their concerns or questions.