

have a system of freedom and opportunities that motivate many in the world to risk their lives trying to get here.

The question remains, though, can we afford to be lax in the defense of liberty at this juncture in our history? I do not think so.

The problems are not complex, and even the big ones can be easily handled if we pursue the right course. Prosperity and peace can be continued, but not with the current system that permeates Washington. To blindly hope our freedom will remain intact without any renewed effort in its defense or to expect that the good times will automatically continue places our political system in great danger.

Basic morality, free markets, sound money, and living within the rule of law, while clinging to the fundamental precepts that made the American Republic great, are what we need. And it is worth the effort.

#### OUR POLITICAL TRADITION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SCHROCK). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, our only manual of House Rules, Jefferson's Manual, traces its heritage back to the mother of parliaments at the Palace of Westminster in London. Our manual still refers to the upper and lower Chambers of this House as the Commons and the Lords. The tradition of our rules is part of my own tradition here as a new Member of Congress.

Early in the 1980s, I served for a member of the House of Commons under Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. And in Parliament, great weight is put on a member's maiden speech. That speech reflects on a new member and what they stand for. And as I enter service for the people of Northern Illinois, I ask myself, what would my maiden speech in this House concern.

I chose to focus on our own political tradition with a special emphasis on the men and women who represented us in this House in the past. A look at their accomplishments and service mirrors who we are and the gifts we provide to the Nation.

On review, and helped by the patient research of Patrick Magnuson of my staff, I found that our community has a 180-year tradition of sending leaders to this Congress who were very independent and ahead of their times. Ours is a rich tradition that I can only hope to reflect well upon in the coming years. Our tradition traces its roots to 1818 when a new State of Illinois stood on the frontier of a growing Nation. My predecessors were committed to the people of Illinois and to especially the good of this Union. At the same time, they understood the important role of the United States in the world as a beacon of freedom; and while they fought for civil rights here at home,

they also fought for human rights abroad and condemned those who would spread intolerance and hate wherever it occurred.

Within its current boundaries, our congressional district encompasses a diverse community. Including northern Cook and eastern Lake Counties, it stretches from Wilmette north along Lake Michigan's shore to the Wisconsin border. To tour our district is to see firsthand both the promise of the American dream and those who have not yet realized it.

We are home to the best educated ZIP code in the Nation, and yet we are also home to some of the most economically challenged schools in Illinois. We have pristine wetlands and forests, as well as the worst PCB contamination in the Great Lakes, and more than 1,000 tons of highly radioactive spent nuclear fuel is stored 120 yards from Lake Michigan. We are also home to the only training center for new recruits in the United States Navy.

But we are mainly communities of commuters where each day 20 percent of my constituents commute to Chicago, clawing their way each morning into the city and repeating the process each evening.

In serving the people of the 10th district, I follow a long list of role models who represented us in Washington. Understanding that I have some very large shoes to fill, I begin my service with a look back at those Members who preceded me.

Our first representative, John McLean, was one of the State's pioneer political leaders. He took his seat in the old House Chamber on December 3, 1818 serving just 1 year. He was later elected to the United States Senate to fill a vacancy caused by the death of Senator Ninian Edwards in 1824 and served through March of the following year. While our pathfinder's service was very brief in both Chambers of this Congress, he was honored by the State, which named McLean County after him. It was about this time that the first European family settled on the North Shore in what is now known as Evanston, residing in a place that was described as "a rude habitation of posts, poles and blankets." More notable, though, was the construction of the first permanent structure on the North Shore, a roadside grocery serving cold beer and liquor to travelers. This grocery was described as "the headquarters of counterfeiters, fugitives from justice and generally speaking a vile resort." Ironically, 100 years later Evanston would become the international headquarters of the Women's Christian Temperance Union; and it is from these Spartan but colorful beginnings that we trace our suburban history.

Representative McLean was succeeded in office by Daniel P. Cook, who in 1824 faced a political situation all too familiar today. He was given the unenviable task of casting the sole

vote for the State of Illinois for President after no candidate garnered sufficient electoral votes. He cast his vote for the eventual winner, President John Quincy Adams; and Cook County bears his name and is one of the most populous counties in the Nation.

Congressman Cook was followed in office by a series of leaders who included war heroes; Jacksonians; Whigs; Democrats; Republicans; several Civil War veterans; a German immigrant; and, in Representative John T. Stuart, a law partner of President Lincoln.

Numerous shifts in population brought many changes in the boundary lines of today's 10th Congressional District and redistricting has changed the landscape of the 10th no fewer than nine times in the past 180 years. We face another change soon as Illinois prepares to lose a congressional seat before the next election.

By 1902, Lake and northern Cook Counties were part of the 10th district, and the first outlines of the current district were formed as a new phenomenon in American living emerged, the suburbs.

In 1913, the election of a Progressive candidate, Charles M. Thompson, was indicative of the new independent voting spirit of the 10th district and our willingness to elect whoever will best represent our interests, regardless of incumbency or party affiliation.

Independent, thoughtful leadership are common themes among the men and women who represented our 10th district. Names like John Stuart, James Woodworth, Isaac Arnold, Charles Farwell, Lorenzo Brentano, George Foss and Abner Mikva. Representatives like George Adams, a Civil War veteran who fought in the First Regiment of the Illinois Volunteer Artillery, and Robert McClory, who served for nearly 20 years and was a House manager for the Equal Rights Amendment in 1972.

But there are five men and women who represented the 10th district that stand out among this impressive crowd and deserve star treatment. These five heroes fought against slavery, advocated equal pay for women and civil rights initiatives, the rule of law and served a number of Presidents as they battled for human rights abuses abroad while funding biomedical research here at home. These five exemplify a high standard of leadership demanded by our constituents and expected by our nation.

Elected in the 33rd Congress as a Whig, Representative Elihu B. Washburne served his final seven terms as a Republican. During his tenure in Congress, he served as chairman of the Committee on Commerce and, in the 40th Congress, as chairman of the Committee on Appropriations. In 1862, President Lincoln personally lobbied to have him elected Speaker, ultimately falling short.

Representative Washburne's independence is legendary. He was a strong opponent of slavery and became known