

confronts," and that maybe for 59 years of his life, that is exactly what this leader of Iraq has done.

This time, maybe he has not acted to invade a nation, as he did with Kuwait, but to reassert his authority over a part of Iraq. In any event, he rises to assert his power over those who would not want it.

I think it is important to be able to congratulate and to thank the President for his measured, but pointed, response. As the Presidential race continues and politics become intertwined with government, I think it is important Republicans and Democrats alike should recognize what the responsibility of America is all about. That is that, if we enter into any conflict where we offer our men and women in the Armed Forces, we do it with caution, with seriousness, with understanding.

Mr. Speaker, I am gratified that the captain of the B-52 bomber was from Texas and that their initial mission was successful and that they were able to make the pointed determination as ordered by the Chief of our command, President Clinton, but as well they were able to come away with American lives not lost.

It is important to know that the President did not hastily decide to send Americans in, nor has he committed ground troops to that action. But what he has done is continue to study the issue and to continue to be on top of the issue and to assure us that he will act on behalf of all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, it is important to recognize that the Bosnian decision that was made after some of us had the opportunity to visit Bosnia, the former Yugoslavia and Croatia, was one of peace, to ensure that the Serbs and Muslims would not fight anymore, and those who wanted to come home could come home. Although it has not been perfect, I again thank the President for his measured response and his commitment to peace.

To my constituents let me say that it is important, now that we have gathered here in Washington, that we not raise our voices in political rhetoric, that we monitor this situation, that we be concerned about the Kurds and their desire for peace, that we recognize that this is an internal conflict, but it is led by a man who wants to confront. It is important that we try and minimize any loss of life of American men and women, that we do our very best to enforce the principles of democracy of this Nation, and that we recognize the leadership role that we have, both in foreign policy and creating an atmosphere of peace in this world.

I ask the President in his wisdom and his leadership that he continue to keep the Congress apprised of the leadership that is needed for us to go forward and do the right thing. Then I would ask those of us who gather in the U.S. Congress to be supportive where it is necessary, and as well to be questioning on behalf of our constituents. But this is

the right decision, and we must stand on behalf of democracy and fairness and the saving of lives.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the men and women who are part of our Armed Forces, who are always faithful, always strong, always committed.

DEVELOPMENTS IN HAITI

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. GOSS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, it has been a hectic August recess this year, Mr. Speaker, so as we return I want to take a moment to make my colleagues aware of some of the recent disturbing developments in Haiti.

It would be very easy indeed to miss these things because no one—neither the media nor the White House—seems interested in making a concerted effort to analyze what is going on in that small Caribbean nation. Although, behind the scenes we understand that Haiti is hosting a high level cast of characters from the administration—National Security Advisor Anthony Lake, Joe Sullivan from the Haiti Working Group, Janet Reno our Attorney General, General Sheehan of the Atlantic Command and even Strobe Talbot himself. With them, we understand, goes an additional \$10 million for the beleaguered Haitian National Police Force—we are certainly all anxious to know which account it came from.

Then there is another gift for the national police in the form of a contingent of Marines who went last week for yet another training mission—this time protecting the U.S. Embassy in Haiti. We can almost certainly expect to see more of these training exercises—muscle-flexing, if you will—for the next few months.

What specifically are my colleagues and I so concerned about? The few reports we have seen in recent weeks tell a tale of assassination plots, political killings, threats against the Haitian media community, and general civil unrest. On August 19, 20 men, suspected to be members of Haiti's disbanded military, attacked the National Palace and police headquarters in Port-au-Prince. One report in the Washington Times said that the attackers "nearly overran police headquarters."

There are strong suggestions that the right may be once again formalizing its structure and that the left may be involved in payback killings against those who ran Haiti during the Cedras era.

In fact, Evans Paul, once mayor of Port-au-Prince and respected head of the FNCD Party in Haiti, publicly issued an accusation on August 22 that the government of Rene Preval is responsible for the assassinations of right-leaning Minister Antoine Leroy and Paul Florival in Port-au-Prince August 20. He made the bold—and dangerous statement—that in practice

"There are no differences between the Lavalas group and the 'Macoutes'" Because both use the same methods. We only hope that Mr. Paul won't pay for exercising his freedom to speak with his life.

Finally, in recent days, we have seen allegations that members of the National Palace Security Force have been involved in criminal activities.

Mr. Speaker, clearly something is seriously wrong in Haiti. When, can we ask, will the White House come clean, stop glossing over the rough spots, stop calling this a success, and put some meat on the bones of this anemic effort. After spending \$3 billion in taxpayers' money, the American people and the American Congress expect and demand better.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. RIGGS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. RIGGS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. WELDON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

PRESERVING PROTECTING AND ENHANCING MEDICARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the house, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. FOX] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I come to the well of the House tonight to speak about a very important topic to all Americans, and that is the preservation, the protection and enhancement of Medicare.

Medicare is the important healthcare program for our senior citizens, and the President's trustees not long ago told us if we do nothing to improve Medicare's financial stability, by the year 2001 it will be out of business. So we in the House and Senate, as well as the President, need to work together to make sure we preserve and protect Medicare.

You may say to yourself, how did we get to this point? We have \$30 billion a year in fraud, waste and abuse by providers; not all providers, but some providers, whether it be doctors, hospitals, or insurance companies, have led us to a \$30 billion a year figure of fraud, waste and abuse.

So, Mr. Speaker, the majority party has introduced legislation which we hope will be eventually passed, which will in fact clue for the first time healthcare fraud as a crime, so that those who would systematically and regularly bilk the Federal Government through Medicare fraud, waste and