

interdiction efforts along the Southwest border, we do not want you to do that. We want you to provide a massive deployment of Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, and Customs ships, planes, radar, night vision surveillance equipment and the personnel to man them for an around-the-clock operation designed to totally disrupt the drug trafficking through the eastern Caribbean.

Do whatever it takes now, and we will support you, Mr. President, in seeking whatever funding from Congress that may be necessary.

Mr. President, the current situation, our letter goes on to say, is totally unacceptable. If we can send our troops halfway around the world to protect our interests in Bosnia and the Middle East, surely we can send what forces are necessary to protect our shores from the deadly assault of drug trafficking.

Now, frankly, this is the minimum that should be done now. This is an unfortunate time of year when elections are in progress and people are out there playing politics with all kinds of issues. This is serious. This is a letter that should be written no matter what the political climate. The reality is, drug trafficking from the eastern Caribbean is up substantially, 40 percent, under the new figures, never before released until today, of the Drug Enforcement Administration. Their estimates are 40 percent is coming through the eastern Caribbean.

Mr. President, do something about it. Take the actions that are necessary. Let us stop the drugs from coming in through Puerto Rico.

BIPARTISAN RETREAT IN FEBRUARY WILL BE HELPFUL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina [Mrs. CLAYTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, the Washington Post has termed the efforts of our bipartisan retreat task force as a "politics of politeness." I prefer to term our efforts as "indispensable decency." There is no doubt in my mind that the rancor, the hostility, the belligerence and the general lack of good will we have witnessed in this Congress has interfered with the business of the House and has undermined our ability to serve the American people well.

□ 2000

THE BIPARTISAN RETREAT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOLEY). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from North Carolina [Mrs. CLAYTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, our goal is a simple one: to fan the flames of cordiality and congeniality, with the hope of producing harmony. Does that mean that everyone in this House will

be identical, the same, or will agree with each other? Harmony does not mean we must all speak the same language or sing the same tune. Indeed, an orchestra achieves harmony with many different instruments and a range of sounds. One does not have to surrender one's philosophy or one's independence to appreciate that, in the end, we are all dependent on each other. We are, in fact, interdependent. We can disagree, however, without being disagreeable.

We propose to gather over several days, early next year, Democrats and Republicans, conservatives and liberals, women and men. With our families and staff we will take a short train ride to a place of assembly. Once there we will talk, talk to each other, and we will listen and, I hope, be heard. We will learn from each other and teach; hopefully, we will communicate with each other.

But more importantly, Mr. Speaker, we will have fun; fun getting to know each other as human beings first before we learn what the philosophical differences are. We will learn our commonality as human beings.

We expect to discuss such terms as conflict management, coalition building, sources of information and, most of all, courtesy, respect and civility.

There will be lots of time for social interaction. Plans are being made for quality entertainment. Most importantly, this will not come at the expense of the taxpayers. This retreat is a chance to give us in the Congress a chance to act in a more deliberate and civil way.

Now, there are doubters and naysayers and detractors. There always are. There are always those who say this will be of no value and no one will come. But since we have begun meeting to plan this retreat, I have been encouraged by the firm determination of those who conceived this idea and those who are organizing it, despite the resistance. Some of them have spoken tonight, those who are planning.

Mr. Speaker, I believe the House owes a great debt of gratitude to our colleagues, the gentleman from Colorado, Democrat DAVID SKAGGS, and the gentleman from Illinois, Republican RAY LAHOOD. They have dared to be different, to make a difference in a community of hostility.

We, therefore, must ask each of us as Members tonight to make a commitment to civility. We ask that each Member promise to be faithful to true standards of statesmanship, dignity, decorum, geniality and protocol. That commitment and promise can begin by each Member completing the survey that has been circulated by the task force. If there are Members who have not completed that survey, we ask that you indeed do that.

We want to make sure our colleagues are involved every step of the way, and they can certainly have an involvement in that. Complete the survey and join the harmony, not necessarily ren-

dering your thoughts or position, but rendering your rancor, your incivility and your indecency to the hope of making this place more decent.

Come plan to have fun and to make sure we start off on the right foot for next season.

OPPOSING THE PRESIDENT'S SHAMEFUL VETO OF THE PAR- TIAL BIRTH ABORTION PLAN

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

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor tonight on behalf of the thousands of Oklahomans and millions of Americans who have swamped our offices with letters, phone calls, postcards and many, many petitions in opposition to the President's shameful veto of the partial birth abortion ban.

I have here a stack of petitions with thousands of names that concerned Oklahomans gathered throughout the State. The citizens were practicing their constitutional right and constitutional responsibility to petition their government with their grievances. I was proud to have these names with me on the floor of the House and to share them with my colleagues last Thursday when this body voted to override the President's veto.

Today I bring them to the floor once again on the day of the vote in the other Chamber. Regrettably the Senate did not garner the necessary vote total to complete the task of overriding the President's veto that allows this brutal procedure to continue.

I believe it is critical that we continue working in the 105th Congress to bring to an end this brutal late-term abortion procedure.

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

[Mr. STENHOLM 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 Florida [Mr. GOSS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. GOSS 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 Michigan [Mr. SMITH] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. SMITH 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 Washington [Mr.

MCDERMOTT] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. MCDERMOTT 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 Florida [Mr. MICA] is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

TRIBUTE TO HAROLD FORD, SR.

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

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, U.S. Representative HAROLD FORD is serving his 11th consecutive term as Tennessee's Ninth District Congressman. He is the first and only African-American Tennessean elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. Prior to his election to Congress, he served two terms in the Tennessee Legislature and represented the same geographic area of Memphis in which his great grandfather served as a squire during the Reconstruction era.

Congressman FORD has achieved an unparalleled reputation of service to his constituents. FORD takes seriously the constitutional Framers' intent of making the House of Representatives "the People's Body." He holds hundreds of townhall meetings throughout the year and his responsiveness to the needs and views of his constituents is legendary. Keeping the Government close to the people is Congressman FORD's top priority.

In Washington, Congressman FORD effectively represents his urban district through his assignment on the powerful Committee on Ways and Means. He is fifth in seniority on the committee and has played pivotal roles in the committee's major legislation including health care reform, taxation, and welfare reform.

During the budget debate in the 103d Congress, Congressman FORD advanced the empowerment zones and enterprise communities provisions of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993. He has helped craft this landmark legislation, which is the most significant antipoverty initiative since the 1960's.

Congressman FORD is recognized as a national leader and expert on child welfare because of his service as chairman and now ranking Democrat of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Resources. In 1988, Congressman FORD worked with then Gov. Bill Clinton to write the most important welfare reform bill to date.

The election of Bill Clinton to the Presidency and the change in power in the Congress, once again placed welfare reform in the forefront. Congressman FORD brought years of legislative experience and an effective working rela-

tionship with the President to the welfare debate. Congressman FORD's consistent support of work, education and training, and child care programs in welfare reform were further bolstered by a recent report by the Bureau of Business and Economic Research at the University of Memphis.

Congressman FORD is active in social and community activities in Memphis and throughout the country. He is a member of the National Advisory Board of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and the Metropolitan YMCA Board. He is also a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.

Congressman FORD is the recipient of a bachelor of science degree in business administration from Tennessee State University in Nashville, and a masters in business administration from Howard University in Washington, DC. He also received an honorary doctorate from Meharry Medical College in Nashville, TN, and an associate of arts degree in mortuary science from John Gupton College in Nashville.

Congressman FORD was born on May 20, 1945, in Memphis, and is the 8th of 15 children of N.J. and Vera Ford. Congressman FORD is married to the former Dorothy Boles of Memphis. They are the proud parents of three sons: Harold Jr., Jake, and Sir Isaac. He and his family are members of the Mt. Moriah East Baptist Church of Memphis.

It has truly been an honor to serve with HAROLD. Congratulations on your upcoming retirement from the U.S. Congress and congratulations to Harold Ford Jr. who, as many of you know, recently received the Democratic nomination to represent the Ninth District of Tennessee in the U.S. House of Representatives. We will miss HAROLD SR. dearly, but I want to wish Harold Jr. the best of luck in this November's election, and I look forward to serving with him in the 105th Congress. He has some very large shoes to fill.

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the dedication and hard work of U.S. Representative HAROLD FORD. HAROLD FORD is the first and only African-American Tennessean elected to the House of Representatives. Prior to his election to Congress, Mr. FORD, served two terms in the Tennessee State legislature.

Representative FORD is noted for his work on behalf of his constituency. Partly, as a result of his efforts, Tennessee's Ninth District receives more than its fair share of Federal contracts. Mr. FORD has also held hundreds of town meetings to ascertain the views of his constituents.

Representative FORD is a proven champion of the poor. In Mr. Ford's pivotal role on the Committee on Ways and Means, he advanced the empowerment zones and enterprise communities provisions of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993. The measure created six urban and three rural empowerment zones. He has sponsored and cosponsored major legislation on healthcare reform, taxation and welfare reform. Congressman FORD's work on welfare reform, in particular is widely known. During the 103d Congress, Mr.

FORD held 20 hearings on President Bill Clinton's welfare reform measure. As ranking Democrat, Congressman FORD fought Republican efforts to pass a welfare reform bill that would weaken provisions that hurt children.

Mr. FORD has been relentless in his efforts to improve the quality of life for Americans. A recent report by the Bureau of Business and Economic Research at the University of Memphis stated that the Tennessee JOBSWORK program initiated by Representative FORD has been successful at moving welfare recipients into the workforce. In addition, the bureau reported an average increase in earnings of 163 percent compared with earnings before participation in the program.

Mr. FORD is also active in social and community activities in Memphis and throughout the country.

Mr. Speaker, Representative FORD's bold leadership will be missed. I wish Mr. FORD success in his future endeavors.

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague, the distinguished gentleman from Tennessee, BOB CLEMENT, for allowing us this time to salute our departing colleague, HAROLD FORD. For 22 years, HAROLD has served with distinction as a Member of this legislative body. We will miss him in the days to come and we are proud to recognize him this evening for a job well done.

HAROLD FORD was elected to the U.S. Congress in 1974 to represent the Ninth District of Tennessee. He came to Congress armed with political skill and expertise. HAROLD began his political career at the age of 25 when he was elected to the State house of representatives. During his tenure, HAROLD served as majority whip and chaired a committee that investigated the rates and practices of utilities in the State.

In 1974 HAROLD FORD became the first African-American to represent the State of Tennessee in the Halls of Congress. Throughout his tenure, HAROLD has articulated the needs of those who have no voice in the political deliberations. He has brought compassion to the debate over the reform of our Nation's welfare system. He has advocated the needs of those who live in America's public housing. Further, HAROLD has championed efforts to shape programs that provide education, training, and job skills for our youth. As a member of the powerful Congressional Black Caucus, HAROLD FORD has also been a strong voice in the struggle for justice, civil rights, and equality.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to note that when he was a junior Member of Congress, I had the honor of serving with HAROLD FORD on the House Select Committee on Assassinations. I chaired the panel, which was charged with conducting a 2-year investigation into the deaths of President Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. I recall during the course of our investigations, traveling with HAROLD to the Lorraine Motel—the scene of Dr. King's assassination—which was located in his congressional district. I also recall HAROLD as a hard-working and dedicated member of the panel. The hearings and final report were a real credit to this institution and the tireless efforts of members such as HAROLD FORD.

Mr. Speaker, for many years my wife, Jay, and I have enjoyed a close friendship with HAROLD, his lovely wife, Dorothy, and members of the Ford family. As he departs from the Congress, we pause to salute him for his significant contributions to the U.S. Congress