

Now, think about it. No matter how we think that quarterback got his arm broken, and I happen to think it was self-inflicted, I happen to think he brought it upon himself, but there are those of us who think that it was not brought on by his own actions, or that he did not deserve a broken arm, but the fact is, the President has a broken arm. He cannot quarterback the team.

Now, our team is the most powerful team in the world. There are a lot of people that are gunning for us. We cannot afford to have a quarterback who cannot carry out the responsibilities of the team on the field.

But we had the foresight to think about this. We have in this country a backup plan. We have a backup quarterback. We have a backup quarterback on the sidelines ready to go. It is important for this team, it is important for the United States of America, to have somebody who can carry out the responsibilities that are placed upon this job.

I also want to speak about standards. Coming on the airplane today back to Washington, D.C., I heard people say, well, let us just take a wink at this thing. Let us put it aside. I said, wait a second. What would happen to a school teacher? How many teachers in any district in this country, if they got that kind of report on them, on Friday, would be in a classroom today, on Monday?

Let us go back to sports. Look at Marv Albert. He had some kind of a sexual problem. He had a public job, he was in the public. It is the same thing here. People say, well, it is one's private life. Folks, this is a public job. It is public business. The same thing with Kelly Flynn. She was flying a nuclear bomber. They relieved her of command of that bomber because that position involves so much responsibility, is so important to the team, we could not afford to have her on this with the lies about her affair.

What about the Commander in Chief? We have standards. We have standards for a Boy Scout or a Girl Scout to get a good citizenship award. How can we explain to them that, well, the standards are applicable unless one is in elected office in this government, and then we kind of wink about it?

I heard somebody on the airplane say, well, you know, everybody lies. Everybody does not lie. Everybody does not lie to a spouse or a grand jury.

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Everybody does not deal in that way. Everybody does not lie to a civil jury. Everybody does not do this kind of behavior. I am one of those people that is pretty optimistic to think in fact everybody or most everybody in this country has a sense of responsibility.

Most people in this country want high standards for their schoolteacher. They want high standards for the principal. They want high standards for their Congressman, and they certainly want high standards for the President of the United States.

Whether we agree or not that the President got himself into his own problems, the question is can he now, with the situation as it exists, meet those high standards? Has he met those high standards?

Is this the example that any one of us would go into a classroom tomorrow and say I am proud of the President of the United States; this is what the Presidency should reflect?

How many of our young people at our schools when we ask them the four or five most admired people in the world, how many of them are going to list the President of the United States as one of them?

Since the President's speech on August 17, I have not been to one group, not one group of three or more people, where I have not heard a joke degrading the Presidency of the United States.

Folks, put our arguments aside about whether the President should or should not be there. The question is: Can he effectively quarterback our team with a broken arm? And the answer is very, very simple. He cannot. The President of the United States should resign. It is his responsibility. It is his duty. It is his country which comes first.

CURRENT CHAOS AND CRISIS IN RUSSIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, early this morning I announced that, between now and the end of this legislative session, I shall take some time at the end of each legislative day's business to discuss the foreign policy issue. I am one of those who is overdosed on topic number one, which seems to mesmerize the media and some of the public.

I am of the opinion that the rest of the world has not come to a stop, that things are going on in Russia and Indonesia and the Balkans and in Brazil. We as elected Representatives have to deal with these issues.

Today I would like to begin a dialogue on Russia, the current chaos and crisis in Russia. I am inviting all of my colleagues across the political spectrum to join me in this dialogue. I wish we had spent 10 percent as much on the ramifications of the Russian crisis for American security in the years ahead as we spent on topic number one during the course of this past weekend.

Russia, Mr. Speaker, is in deep trouble. Gone are the great hopes of the early 1990s when the collapse of the Soviet Union gave all of us the dream that we will be able to cooperate with a democratic, increasingly prosperous Russia becoming a part of the family of nations and the partner and ally of the United States.

There is a great deal of blame that goes around. My purpose here is not to find fault with leaders here and abroad

who make mistakes. My purpose is to deal with the Russia as we find her in mid September 1998 and ask some policy questions as to how we might be able to assist them to turn around the very dangerous course on which they have embarked.

Let me begin with the new Prime Minister of Russia, Mr. Primakov. From our point of view, no worse choice could have been possible. Primakov served loyally every Communist leader from Brezhnev on. He was head of the Russian International Spy Service. He is a close personal friend of Saddam Hussein and a close personal friend of Slobodan Milosevic who on this very floor a few minutes ago we declared a war criminal.

He is strongly anti-American. His appeal to the Russian Duma to a very large extent stems from his anti-American policies which he has pursued faithfully and with perseverance since becoming Foreign Minister of Russia. So I do not have very high hopes for Mr. Primakov.

But let me say, compared to the chaos, compared to the confusion, compared to the disintegration in Russia that we have seen in recent weeks, he may be the best momentary alternative. The Duma has voted him in. He is likely to enjoy the support of the Duma for some time to come.

The question for us to ask is how can we work with Primakov and this new Russian government in the very difficult days and weeks that lie ahead.

Let me say first a word about the economic crisis. Every week, millions of additional Russians are falling below the poverty level of Russia. The Russian poverty level is a very low level. Just in the first week of September, Mr. Speaker, prices in Russia increased by 36 percent. Russia has defaulted on its foreign debt obligations.

The hope that Russia can be transformed into a democratic market economy in the short run is gone. It is self-evident that, under this new government, there will be retrograde policies introduced. The printing presses will begin. Wages will be paid to people who have not been paid for months and months, but the following inflation will bring about further social dislocation and deterioration.

The regions of Russia are beginning to feel their new found power. There is a distinct possibility that Russia will break up into its constituent regions.

Tomorrow evening, with the Speaker's permission, I would like to continue with this discussion by focusing upon the regions of Russia, many of whom are determined to strike out for independence and to reject the central authority of Moscow.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT PARITY NEEDED NOW

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