

to take your lunch or if they decided to fight you, that you would break their neck, how many fights do you think you would be in under those circumstances? The answer is pretty easy. Probably none, because you are in shape, you are strong, and they know that if they dare come after you, there will be severe consequences to pay.

Thanks to the hundreds of thousands of dedicated men and women, and thanks to the hundreds of millions of American citizens who think the United States should be militarily strong, I think our military, relatively speaking, is in good shape. And I think we have got a lot to be proud of. I know that all of my colleagues in this room have constituents, many of whom may be serving in these bases, these overseas bases, and I know that many of them on both sides of the aisle join me in patting them on the back and saying thanks for what you do for our country. You are out there on the front lines and we are going to support you, and we need to support these people, and one way we can support them is to let them know that despite the efforts of some countries that want to see the demise, see the destruction of the United States of America, we will prevail.

Freedom will always come out on top. But freedom can never survive if you do not have freedom with strength. Freedom with strength. That is what our young men and women who serve in the military, all men and women who serve in our military throughout the world are doing for this country. You are doing a task of which I could not thank you enough for. I wanted to let you all know how proud I am of you.

Let me talk just for a couple of minutes, move on in my subject here of what I would like to talk to you about in our next night-side chat, and that is, let us talk about the Internet. I want to tell you a little more about my experience with the Internet and what we are seeing in this what I would say the second industrial revolution of the world. It is absolutely incredible, and most all of us on this House floor have experienced it. I want to spend the better part of an hour in the next few nights talking about this new second industrial revolution.

Mr. Speaker, let me conclude my remarks this evening by simply doing just a summary of what we discussed. Let us go in reverse order. First of all, the missile defense system. It is imperative that the United States of America prepare itself for a missile defense system. We must deploy, in the near future, a missile defense system to protect the citizens of the United States of America, and we should be prepared to share that technology with our friends around the world so that they do not face the threat of terrorists or rogue nations firing a missile into the United States. If you do not think this is serious, take a look at the headline in the Washington Times this morning which

discusses in detail the threat from China to launch a missile attack against the United States, a threat made in the last 48 hours.

We talked before the missile defense about taxes. I have urged my Democrat colleagues to come across the aisle in a nonpartisan fashion tomorrow and support the Republican bill to do away with the cap on Social Security earnings. I urge those Democrat colleagues of mine who voted against the marriage tax penalty, in other words, to go ahead and keep the marriage tax penalty, to drop your opposition, come across the aisle and join us in support of that bill, the Republican bill to eliminate the marriage tax penalty. It is unfair. It is not right for us under our tax code from the bureaucracy in Washington, D.C. to tax people simply because they are married. Help us get rid of that. We can do it this year. Let us do it this year.

We talked about the death tax. It is the most punitive, unfair tax in our system. There is no justification for the government to go to the estate of the deceased and take property over which the taxes have already been paid in several instances over and over again and taxing that property simply because there has been a death. It is ruining family farms, it is ruining ranches and small business in this country. It is transferring money from our small communities in all of our respective States, it is transferring that money to the bureaucracy in Washington, D.C.

Let us be a bureaucrat's worst nightmare. Let us cut out some of these taxes, the death tax. Let us get rid of the marriage penalty tax. It is not right. Let us get rid of that cap on Social Security earnings. It is time for us to reform some of these unfair elements of the tax code of this country. We can afford to do it. We have a surplus. Let us be fair to the taxpayers of this country. Let us be fair to every citizen in this country. Do not penalize them for being married. Do not penalize their estate because they died. Be fair to them on the Social Security earnings cap.

Mr. Speaker, I have enjoyed the evening with my colleagues and I look forward to further discussions.

#### ON BOB JONES UNIVERSITY AND HOUSE CHAPLAIN CONTROVERSIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TOOMEY). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. GANSKE) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. GANSKE. Mr. Speaker, as an Iowa Republican Congressman who is Catholic and has been supported by Christian conservatives as well as moderates, I feel compelled to comment on the Bob Jones University and the House Chaplain controversies.

Mr. Speaker, I went to Catholic grade school in the 1950s and early 1960s. I remember what a big deal it was when

JFK was elected President. In those days, there were still discriminations against Catholics and terrible stories told about my faith. To be fair, Mr. Speaker, Catholics were not always tolerant, either.

My mother came from an Irish-Catholic Democrat family. Older Catholics today still have vivid memories of anti-Catholicism. Our country's anti-Catholicism history goes way back before the virulent "Know-Nothings" just before the Civil War. In the early days of my party, the GOP did not do much to reassure Catholics that the Republican Party was a place where they could be comfortable.

But times change. Along came the Ecumenical Council, Christians of all creeds became more tolerant, and now even Garrison Keillor can make jokes about the foibles of Catholics and Lutherans in Lake Wobegone.

I certainly believe that my Lutheran mother-in-law and father-in-law have every bit as good a chance to go to heaven as my Catholic relatives do, maybe better in light of all their good works, but do not let us get into good works versus faith.

So when Governor Bush spoke at Bob Jones University and its anti-Catholicism was publicized, Catholics were reminded of past discrimination and were really disappointed that he did not immediately label these views bigoted in no uncertain terms when he found out about those views.

Bob Jones University President is Bob Jones, III, and this is how he describes the one billion-member Roman Catholic Church: "A cult which calls itself Christian."

This is on the official Bob Jones University Web site: "The Roman church is not another Christian denomination. It is a satanic counterfeit, an ecclesiastic tyranny over the souls of men, not to bring them to salvation, but to hold them bound in sin and hurl them into eternal damnation. It is the old harlot in the Book of Revelation, the mother of harlots."

Calling Pope John Paul the "anti-christ," saying that the Eucharist is "cannibalism," calling my church a "harlot," is deeply hurtful and mean and insulting. I must say I find Bob Jones' racism equally offensive. Governor Bush has been rightly criticized for not calling a bigot a bigot. In the spirit of bipartisanship critique, I hasten to add that AL GORE and Bill Bradley should be roundly criticized for not condemning Al Sharpton for his anti-Jewish bigotry as well.

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All this brings us to the current "holy war" in this House of the people over the replacement of the House chaplain.

Reverend Ford, the well-liked Lutheran current House chaplain, is retiring. A bipartisan House committee, nine Republicans and nine Democrats, recommended three candidates for chaplain to Speaker HASTERT, Majority

Leader ARMEY and Minority Leader GEPHARDT.

It is well-known that a priest had received the most votes by the bipartisan committee, only three of which on the committee were Catholic. It should be noted that there has never been a Catholic House chaplain in the 211 years there has been a House chaplain, and, for that matter, there has never been a rabbi or a woman chaplain.

The Speaker and Majority Leader rejected the priest and went further down the list and chose Reverend Wright, who is a good man. Now, I want to be very clear about my thoughts on this. I know DENNY HASTERT and DICK ARMEY personally, and they are not anti-Catholic, but there is no question that this is a mess. Coupled with the Bob Jones University fiasco, Catholics in my district and around the country are shaking their heads in dismay.

So, Mr. Speaker, here is my unsolicited advice for ending this "holy war" that belongs in a long-ago past:

First, Reverend Wright should see that to become chaplain under these circumstances would impair his ministry. He should voluntarily remove himself from consideration.

Then, Mr. Speaker, we can do one of two things: We could abolish the position and simply have a rotating voluntary ministry, or we could keep the position but start over completely.

We should start over with an entirely new committee, look at an entirely new slate of candidates, and make the committee decision final. That way, if a Catholic is chosen, no one can say that the Speaker has pandered to the Catholics; if a Catholic is not chosen, no one can say that he is anti-Catholic. But the Speaker should not, I repeat, should not ask for a party line vote.

As for myself, if Reverend Wright comes up for a vote, I will vote "present," not against Reverend Wright per se, but in disgust with the whole way this has been handled on both sides of the aisle.

Before I close, I want to say this: It is not fair to paint evangelicals and Christian conservatives with the broad brush of Bob Jones. My wife and I and our children have worshipped many times at evangelical churches and have been made welcome. The evangelical ministers that I know, like Pastor John Palmer in Des Moines, do not have a racist or bigoted bone in their bodies. To the contrary, they have reached out to minority churches, reached out to Jews and to Catholics in Des Moines.

During the Iowa caucuses I got to know and respect Gary Bauer. What he wrote today in the New York Times is true. I quote Mr. Bauer. He says, "The so-called religious right is not a mindless mob that marches in lockstep at the command of this or that organizational leader. Though some may conjure up imaginary conservative conspiracies in order to frighten voters or divert attention from presidential scandals, social and culturally conservative voters, not all of whom happen to be evangelicals or necessarily even religious, are a diverse, independent-minded bunch."

Mr. Speaker, the Republican Party I belong to is tolerant, respecting all people and all religions. I am proud to be a Republican. We are the party of Ronald Reagan and Teddy Roosevelt. We are the party of Abraham Lincoln, and we are not the party of Bob Jones.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. KILPATRICK (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today and March 1 on account of a family emergency.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today and the balance of the week on account of illness.

Mr. GIBBONS (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today on account of personal reasons.

Mr. GARY MILLER of California (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today on account of personal reasons.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. BALDACC) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, for 5 minutes, today.

The following Members (at the request of Mrs. BONO) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today and March 1.

Mr. NORWOOD, for 5 minutes, today and March 1.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, March 1.

Mr. METCALF, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART, for 5 minutes, March 1.

Mr. DUNCAN, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Member (at his own request) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. LEWIS of California, for 5 minutes, today.

#### SENATE BILL AND CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REFERRED

A bill and concurrent resolution of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 400. An act to provide technical corrections to the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996, to improve the delivery of housing assistance to Indian tribes in a manner that recognizes the right of tribal self-governance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

S. Con. Res. 83. Concurrent resolution commending the people of Iran for their commitment to the democratic process and positive political reform on the occasion of Iran's parliamentary elections; to the Committee on International Relations.

#### ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Mr. THOMAS, from the Committee on House Administration, reported that the committee had examined and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 149. An act to make technical corrections to the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 and to other laws related to parks and public lands.

#### BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Mr. THOMAS, from the Committee on House Administration, reported that the committee did on this day present to the President, for his approval, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 764. To reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect, and for other purposes.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GANSKE. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 50 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, March 1, 2000, at 10 a.m.

#### EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for official foreign travel during the second quarter of 1995, first, second, third, and fourth quarters of 1998 and 1999, by Committees of the U.S. House of Representatives, as well as a consolidated report of foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for speaker-authorized official travel during first quarter of 2000, pursuant to Public Law 95-384, and for miscellaneous groups in connection with official foreign travel during the calendar year 1999 are as follows: