

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

(Mr. LEACH addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

RECOGNIZING THOSE WHO SACRIFICED OR RISKED THEIR LIVES ON D-DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDO) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to first of all recognize and memorialize those whose lives were either given and/or risked on this date in 1945.

We have heard many moving comments, many moving speeches in tribute to the D-Day heroes. I can add little to the beautiful oratory that has been exemplified here by a number of speakers with regard to D-Day and what we owe the folks who participated in that horrendous event.

I also think to myself about the America for which those men either died or sacrificed their lives, and the kind of America that existed then, and, to a certain extent, the kind of America that exists today, and the difference that may exist. For the most part, it is the same America, and that is a good thing. But there are things that I think are somewhat disconcerting when we look at the Nation today.

Not too long ago, I think it was about a week ago, actually, there was an article in my local paper, in the Denver Post. It talked about the difference in attitudes of people today who are 20 years old or younger, the difference in attitudes between them and people older than them with regard to patriotism or love of this country.

It found that people 20 years old or younger really, perhaps to put it this way, knew very little about America. They really had very little understanding of who we are as a nation, who we are as a people, and the principles upon which this Nation was founded. They did not understand, in fact, the significance of September 11.

Many of them stated that the event was not that significant, from their standpoint, and maybe we even deserved it. That was some of the discussion. I have heard, as a matter of fact, from many people who are in academia, many people in higher education, and one professor in particular, a professor of economics at the University of Colorado who came up to me at a dinner that I was at not too long ago, last week, I believe, and he talked about what happened in his classroom on September 11 and the day after.

He said he came into his classroom and there was a buzz. He did not know what had happened yet. He had not seen the television accounts, but the

kids had, the students had. This was at the University of Colorado, as I say. They asked him what he thought about that event. He, having just heard of it, said, I will think about it and talk to you about it tomorrow. What is your opinion?

He said that most of them felt that we deserved it; that it was something that America, because we are a country that takes advantage of so many other people around the world, that our support for Israel really set us up for this, and for a variety of other reasons that we actually deserved it. This was on September 11, when most of us were reeling from the impact of that event on our minds and on our hearts.

He said he went back the next day, and he said, I have thought about it. I thought to myself that perhaps the reason that you feel the way you do is because you do not believe in the rule of law. You do not believe that there is anything actually that you can describe as good or bad, evil or precious; that everything is the same, and that laws essentially, as a nation is created by law, is based on the concept of good and evil, and that once we destroy that concept in our own minds or that once we kind of buy into this idea that everything is essentially the same, that there are no actions that we can describe as bad, that there are in fact no countries that we can describe as evil, there are no cultures that are less deserving of our praise than others. Once we buy into that multiculturalism, cultural relativism, once we buy into that concept, then it is not hard to understand how they can come to believe that the United States probably deserved what happened to it.

Because, after all, we are no better than anybody else on the planet, in fact, as we tell our children in school day in and day out, in schools throughout the Nation, in classrooms throughout the Nation, that there is nothing unique about America.

We teach our children from the doctrine of relativism, cultural relativism. It permeates our schools and it permeates our lives. It permeates our philosophy of government, and has for far too long, and it has an effect.

When we do that, when children do not understand who we are or what we are as a Nation, it is not surprising, then, that they would respond as they did in this professor at the University of Colorado's classroom. Why would we expect them to be shocked and just abhor what had gone on? Nothing is unique about America, nothing is good. As I say, mostly we tell them that everything is bad; that America's history is rife with examples of slavery and a variety of other ills, what we did to the Native Americans, and all the things that we heap upon ourselves, all the problems that were undeniably problems.

They are nothing about which we should be proud, that is true. But if we only concentrate on that, if we think that is all America is is the maltreat-

ment of Indians and/or the institution of slavery, if they think that is all there is, then no one could be expected to be enthusiastic about the concept of America.

□ 1815

No one could be expected to be too upset when foreigners come to the country and drive airplanes into buildings, kill 3,000 people. It is illogical to assume that they would be anything else but what they are. There is a price that we pay in this country for that kind of education and for a lack on the part of many people in this country to actually even tell their own children about America. This fear that if you extol the virtues of America and explain that, yes, there was in fact slavery in the United States, but it was the United States, it was the West in general that has abolished slavery, Western European and American thought, Western European liberal democracy, actually brought this world far more good things than it ever did bring bad things. And that is something most people have to understand and do not now know or believe. Western civilization gave this world far more in terms of personal wealth, the rule of law, a philosophic basis for man to live in peace and harmony, and one in which, as I say, provided the most for the most, called democratic capitalism, free enterprise. These are all great parts of the Western civilization that we so often decry. And we do this at our peril.

It will eventually eat away at the fiber of this country so that it is not just those children or those people here 20 years or younger who take this cynical view of America and who refuse to be excited by the flag. In this article they talked about the fact that they were not patriotic at all. They did not even think about the country in patriotic ways. And the only way they described patriotism was, as one person said, patriotism does not mean following your country blindly. Well, that is true, of course. It is absolutely true. It does not mean following your country or your government blindly. But it does mean understanding what the government is all about, what our Nation is all about and what we owe those people who died for it or gave their limbs, as my father-in-law did on the U.S.S. *Hornet* in the World War II where he lost both of his legs.

The country for which those men gave their lives on D-Day is not the same country today in many ways. And it is, I think, discouraging. Now, that is not to say that there are not many millions of children, we had a lot of them here just a little bit ago, who exemplify the best in America, and who certainly are willing to talk about the United States in patriotic terms and certainly probably are willing to risk their life and limb to defend it; and we have hundreds of thousands of men and women presently in the Armed Forces of the United States doing exactly