EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE TO THE FAMILIES OF THE CREW OF THE SPACE SHUTTLE ''COLUMBIA''

SPEECH OF

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, our Nation mourns the loss of the seven astronauts of Shuttle *Columbia.* We honor the lives of some of our finest men and women from America's space program and their desire and sacrifice to make this world a better place.

We in Virginia take a moment to remember one of those astronauts, Captain David M. Brown, Mission Specialist aboard Shuttle *Columbia.* I extend special condolences to the family of Capt. Brown, son of Dorothy and Paul Brown of Massies Corner, from the Seventh District of Virginia. Capt. Brown was a graduate of the College of William and Mary and also graduated from Eastern Virginia Medical School in Norfolk, VA. Virginians will long remember and honor the accomplishments and the life of Captain David Brown.

We recognize the crew of Shuttle *Columbia's* courage and devotion to the expansion not only of our Nation's scientific knowledge, but our national security as well. Although this tragedy strikes a terrible blow, it is important to remember the words of our fellow Virginian, Capt. David Brown: ''This program must go on.''

I would like to express my deepest sympathy to the grieving families. My prayers are with the entire Shuttle *Columbia* crew's families and loved ones during this tragic time.

''LIBERATION'' OF FRANCE IN VIOLATION OF COVENANT OF LEAGUE OF NATIONS

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2003

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, among the many letters I have received on the subject of Iraq, one of the most provocative is the following, signed ''Publius Secundus.''

DEAR CONGRESSMAN HYDE: I am not an international lawyer, but as part of an effort to be helpful, I must note that I have come across disturbing and, I believe, persuasive evidence that D-Day and the subsequent ''liberation'' of France were in direct violation of the solemn obligations undertaken by Great Britain and France under the Covenant of the League of Nations. As Article 11 states: ''Any war, whether immediately affecting any of the Members of the League or not, is hereby declared a matter of concern to the whole League, and the League shall take any action that may be deemed wise and effectual to safeguard the peace of nations.''

Whether one regards this easily avoided conflict as a dispute (1) between one League member, Britain, and another, France (then represented by the government of so-called ''Vichy'' France, which is believed to have never withdrawn from the League), or (2) between one League member and a non-member state (the United States vs. France, Britain vs. Germany), the League Covenant makes clear the course of action to be taken, in letter and certainly in spirit.

Under the first scenario, the conflict must be submitted to the League Council under Articles 12–16. The waiting period of at least three months after the award by the arbitrators, sadly, was not honored.

As for the second scenario, as addressed in Article 17, I do not recall Germany—an ex-member since 1933—being invited to accept the obligations of League membership, and certainly the leading role of the Council was never respected. In fact, I am forced to conclude that the Council was bypassed altogether. Certainly, no vote of the Council authorizing the attack was ever recorded.

I believe we can all agree that Chancellor Hitler was a brutal dictator whose replacement should be welcomed by all civilized people, but we must also admit that he was never given an opportunity to disarm.

Certainly no League Commission was ever allowed to perform its tasks, as set forth in the Covenant. I need hardly remind anyone that Britain's declaration of war against Germany in 1939—Germany had made no attack upon Britain—violated virtually all of the Articles of the League Covenant.

I find all of this very troubling.

I believe we have no option but to judge the June 6, 1944 Allied attack—jointly planned and conducted by the U.S. and Britain in a deliberate effort to impose their will by force on other countries without authorization by the League—upon Germany/France as an avoidable or easily postponed act of aggression that demonstrates a complete disregard for international law and the obligations of membership in the League. The international community cannot allow this violation to stand.

Sincerely,

PUBLIUS SECUNDUS.

For your convenience, I have attached the relevant sections of the Covenant. (The entire document can be obtained at http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/leagcov.htm).

THE COVENANT OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

ARTICLE 5

Except where otherwise expressly provided in this Covenant or by the terms of the present Treaty, decisions at any meeting of the Assembly or of the Council shall require the agreement of all the Members of the League represented at the meeting . . .

ARTICLE 11

Any war or threat of war, whether immediately affecting any of the Members of the League or not, is hereby declared a matter of concern to the whole League, and the League shall take any action that may be deemed wise and effectual to safeguard the peace of nations. In case any such emergency should arise the Secretary General shall on the request of any Member of the League forthwith summon a meeting of the Council.

ARTICLE 12

The Members of the League agree that, if there should arise between them any dispute likely to lead to a rupture they will submit the matter either to arbitration or judicial settlement or to enquiry by the Council, and they agree in no case to resort to war until three months after the award by the arbitrators or the judicial decision, or the report by the Council. In any case under this Article the award of the arbitrators or the judicial decision shall be made within a reasonable time, and the report of the Council shall be made within six months after the submission of the dispute.

ARTICLE 13

The Members of the League agree that whenever any dispute shall arise between them which they recognize to be suitable for submission to arbitration or judicial settlement and which cannot be satisfactorily settled by diplomacy, they will submit the whole subject-matter to arbitration or judicial settlement.

ARTICLE 16

Should any Member of the League resort to war in disregard of its covenants under Articles 12, 13 or 15, it shall ipso facto be deemed to have committed an act of war against all other Members of the League. . . .

ARTICLE 17

In the event of a dispute between a Member of the League and a State which is not a Member of the League, or between States not Members of the League, the State or States not Members of the League shall be invited to accept the obligations of membership in the League for the purposes of such dispute, upon such conditions as the Council may deem just. If such invitation is accepted, the provisions of Articles 12 to 16 inclusive shall be applied with such modifications as may be deemed necessary by the Council.

Upon such invitation being given the Council shall immediately institute an inquiry into the circumstances of the dispute and recommend such action as may seem best and most effectual in the circumstances. . . .

(The entire Covenant can be obtained at http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/leagcov.htm)

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 4, THE PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY, WORK AND FAMILY PROMOTION ACT OF 2003

HON. HOWARD P. ''BUCK'' McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2003

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, today, I am pleased to join with several of my colleagues in sponsoring H.R. 4, the Personal Responsibility, Work and Family Promotion Act of 2003, which would reauthorize the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant and the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG).

Last year, the House Education and the Workforce Committee considered and passed H.R. 4092, the Working Toward Independence Act, to reauthorize the work-related provisions of TANF. The legislation built upon the historic welfare reform law passed in 1996—a law that made a fundamental shift in policy by encouraging personal responsibility and promoting work. For the first time in the history of social welfare policy, benefits were tied to work. Because of the principle of ''work first'' and a purpose to help people better themselves, a whole new culture of personal responsibility was created within the program.

After merging the remaining sections of TANF into a comprehensive package, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 4737, the Personal Responsibility, Work and Family Promotion Act of 2002, which was substantially the same as the bill that has been introduced today. Unfortunately, the Senate did not act on a welfare reauthorization bill.

As such, Congress must again pass a reauthorization bill that builds on the success of the 1996 law that has been nothing short of remarkable.

For example, there has been an historic decline in the welfare rolls; increases in employment for low-income single mothers, who comprise the population most likely to need assistance; and a sustained decline in child poverty. Six years ago, the nation's welfare rolls bulged with more than 5.1 million individuals and families. Today, the rolls have decreased tremendously. Since 1996, over 3 million families have left welfare for work. Over 3 million former welfare recipients know the satisfaction of earning a day's pay.

Even with the robust economy of the late 1990s, recent studies confirm that welfare reform is largely responsible for the declining caseload and increase in work. The law's promotion of work made the crucial difference in maximizing opportunities for welfare recipients.

But there is still work for us to do. Too many families receiving assistance are not engaged in activities that will lead to self-sufficiency. This year, Congress must build upon the success of the 1996 law by providing additional options for families on welfare to move into productive jobs, become self-reliant and obtain independence.

As the debate goes forward on the best way to increase personal responsibility, it is important to remember that the true benefactors of welfare reform are young Americans. Because of welfare reform, young Americans are able to see their parents get up each morning and earn a day's pay. Without this very basic ethic, those young people are at a great disadvantage and it becomes difficult for them to escape the cycle of poverty in which their families have lived for generations.

The legislation that is being introduced today, H.R. 4, is based on the Administration's proposal and strengthens work rules to ensure that all families are engaged in a full week of work and other activities that will lead to self-sufficiency. Families will be permitted to combine real work with education and training to help recipients advance in their jobs. In addition, states will need to have plans achieving the work-related goals of TANF. States will be encouraged to coordinate their TANF work programs with the One-Stop Career Center system created through the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, so that former recipients will continue to have access to additional training resources.

Furthermore, we know that families cannot maintain employment without reliable, safe child care for their children. In my home state of California, according to Fight Crime: Invest in Kids California, ''Fewer than one out of every five child care centers in California is rated as good quality.'' That is why this bill will also maintain the unprecedented commitment of federal support for child care by adding $1 billion in discretionary funding to the Child Care and Development Block Grant, which provides support to state child care programs. In addition, the bill improves the program by helping to target funds set-aside for quality activities and encouraging states to address the cognitive needs of young children so that they are developmentally prepared to enter school. The bill also provides states maximum flexibility in developing child care programs and policies that best meet the needs of children and parents.

Finally, H.R. 4 will provide significant new waiver authority for states to better coordinate a variety of federal programs, including TANF, food stamps, housing assistance and workforce investment programs that improve services to needy families. This provision will encourage states to continue the experimentation at the state and local level that preceded the federal welfare reform action in 1996. At the same time, it remains important that the local areas created under the Workforce Investment Act be heavily involved in the process. That is why I am pleased that the bill includes provisions ensuring that the local administering entities join in the flexibility applications submitted to the Secretaries. This will, in effect, give the locals veto authority over provisions that they believe will not improve the quality or effectiveness of the programs involved.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation that enhances opportunities for families to move up the economic ladder and access quality child care for their children.

TRIBUTE TO ALLEN E. JOHNSON

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2003

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to express warm thanks, congratulations, wishes to Allen E. Johnson, upon his retirement as the city manager of the city of Roseville. His vision and managerial skills have helped develop one of the most pleasant, balanced, well-run communities in California.

After achieving a bachelor of science degree from California State University, Sacramento in 1976, Al began a career in public administration as a personnel analyst for the County of Yuba. Within a few short years, he became director of personnel for Yuba City, where he served from 1979 to 1983. Then, in September 1983, he began a nearly 20–year tenure with the city of Roseville. Rising from director of personnel to administrative services director to city manager, Al has had a significant and lasting impact on the direction in which Roseville has developed.

Most recently, he managed the city's day-to-day operations, its $300 million budget, and 1,000 employees. He has overseen the city-owned electric operation which weathered California's energy crisis better than most utilities in the state. Additionally, he has guided the proactive expansion of regional wastewater treatment facilities and improvements to local flood control capabilities. Perhaps most importantly, he negotiated agreements for and led the implementation of nine specific plan developments ranging from 500 to 3,000 acres in scope. It is fair to say that he has left lasting fingerprints on the shape and character of the city of Roseville.

Roseville has experienced dynamic growth during Al's tenure. Under his steady leadership, the city has developed several outstanding public amenities, including the recently-dedicated Roseville Civic Center, the new Police Department headquarters, the Roseville Aquatics Center, the Roseville Sports Center, the Woodcreek Oaks Golf Course, and numerous parks and transportation improvements. In addition to the fine city projects which he oversaw, Al has also helped to create an environment in Roseville that fosters high levels of private investment. Perhaps the most recognizable example of this pro-business attitude he helped foster is the 1. 12 million square foot regional mall, known as the Roseville Galleria, which opened in the year 2000. Due to this aggressive economic development and contrary to previous history, the city is now regarded as one of the Sacramento region's premier retail centers and dining destinations.

Noted for his leadership in regional public policy discussions, such as the recent local debate over sales tax revenue distribution, Al has shared his expertise and experience through numerous presentations to public forums, training sessions, and professional conferences. He is also an active member of several professional organizations.

Beyond his professional capacity, Al Johnson has also contributed much to the community through his involvement in various civic and charitable organizations. Among these are the Roseville Chamber of Commerce, Roseville Host Lions Club, the United Way Leadership Council, and the Association for Retarded Citizens.

Roseville, which was once a sleepy railroad town, is now a vibrant, well-planned community with award-winning parks, law enforcement, and city management. It is home to nationally-recognized, high-performing public schools. Its railroad past blends with its newer high-tech industry and thriving commercial centers. Its residential areas include dynamic new developments as well as historic neighborhoods. Despite its increasing affluence, the community has also met its affordable housing needs. In short, Roseville is a model community with a high quality of life and a bright horizon. The clear vision, tough negotiation, and consistent leadership of Al Johnson are a large part of the reason why.

I thank him for his service and wish him well in his future endeavors.

OFFICER EUGENIO SOLIS

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2003

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a retiring lawman, Agent Eugenio Solis, a unique patriot who has enforced our laws and chased the bad guys his whole career. I am enormously grateful to him for his life's work.

Eugenio Solis has served South Texas with 32 years of law enforcement altogether, both as a patrol officer and as a narcotics agent. He has over 27 years with the Texas Department of Public Safety.

His superiors say he is one of the best undercover agents we have. Undercover work is dangerous, dirty work, and doing it well takes a special talent and untold bravery. Agent Solis can make a deal on the street happen quickly; he has a nose for nasty business. He can expertly hook a bad guy, buy drugs * * * and either get out of there fast, or arrest the bad guys.

Over the years he has established relationships and made contacts with all manner of federal and local officials, offering him sundry resources and contacts that make him effective on the streets.

His legendary exploits are so well known around South Texas that he has even been