

United States is already joined by a multitude of others who share our commitment to disarm Saddam. No, it is the false comfort of unanimity to which they aspire. When everyone is responsible, no one is accountable.

My friends, the hour has arrived for democratically elected leaders to stand up and be counted. Will the free world tolerate Saddam Hussein's continued brutality, his possession of weapons of mass destruction, and his continued defiance of the international community, or will we act to stop it now?

To those who would suggest we are acting in isolation to confront Saddam's evil, I remind you we are not alone in the conviction. In the past month, the leaders of 18 European countries have publicly endorsed the U.S. call for final action, including force, if necessary, to disarm Saddam Hussein.

Over two dozen countries are providing basing for our troops, access for our aircraft, and material support in preparation for a possible conflict with Iraq. And if it comes to that, with allies such as the United Kingdom, Australia, Spain, Italy, Denmark, as well as many of the new democracies of Eastern Europe all on our side, we will not carry this burden alone.

America is at its strongest when it is standing in common cause with our friends and allies. The inverse, of course, is that America's allies are at their strongest when they are standing with the United States.

To those leaders who have spoken out with us against the threat posed by Saddam Hussein, I commend your courage. As America has risen to challenge the threats posed and supported by Saddam Hussein, you chose to stand by her side. And such loyalty and such leadership will not soon be forgotten.

Some of our erstwhile allies would be well advised to recall their own freedom was regained by such courage and conviction. I remind them their own liberation in World War II was a less popular undertaking than a possible war in Iraq.

What about popular opinion at the time? If one goes back and looks at surveys and polls from the time, in October 1939, when asked whether the U.S. should enter the war in Europe, only 16.8 percent of Americans responded yes. And 17.2 percent said yes in December 1939. In July 1940, 26.9 percent said yes.

After winning reelection in 1940, President Roosevelt tried to move public opinion toward greater U.S. involvement, while offering significant material support to the allied war effort. Yet asked again in January of 1941 whether they would support a declaration of war, only 14 percent of the American people responded yes.

And as late as October 1941, President Roosevelt commented that 70 percent of Americans wanted us to stay out of the war in Europe.

Sadly, at that time, many around the world recoiled at the thought of con-

fronting Nazi Germany head on. After all, it was Europe's war, not ours, and Hitler was killing foreign Jews, not Americans. Many leaders of the day demanded we look after America first. They called for our country to stay within its borders, protected by the false security of two oceans. But then, as now—on December 7, 1941, and September 11, 2001—we were reminded that America is most vulnerable to attack when it is in retreat.

President Roosevelt demonstrated then, as President Bush does today, that the essential measure of a world leader is not in his ability to chase public opinion—no—but, rather, his courage to make the country safer by leading public opinion.

President Bush deserves much credit for confronting the grave and growing threat posed by the mad pursuit of a ruthless tyrant for the world's most deadly weapons. The President is right when he says that neither more time nor more inspections will stop Saddam.

The consequences of war with Iraq cannot be certain and those feelings of uncertainty we felt as the issues surrounding Iraq and the future have been discussed on the floor today. But our goals and our motives must be understood for what they are. We seek to defend our own people. We seek the liberation of the Iraqi people. We seek the foundation of a democratic government in Baghdad, and we seek the spread of peace in the Middle East. These are worthy goals of a great nation, and they are goals worth fighting for.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

MR. HENRI LANDWIRTH

• Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge the accomplishments of Mr. Henri Landwirth, a great philanthropist from my home State of Florida. Mr. Landwirth, a Holocaust survivor born in Belgium in 1927, has beaten the odds to live the true American dream. In addition to his success in the hotel industry, Mr. Landwirth has founded several charitable organizations. His countless acts of charity continue to affect tens of thousands of lives. Mr. Landwirth has received numerous honors for his contributions to society, and today I rise to show my appreciation for all that he has done for the state of Florida and for people in need.

Henri Landwirth spend most of his teenage years during World War II in death camps and labor camps in Nazi Germany. He narrowly escaped with his life after a Nazi firing squad marched him into the woods to be shot and decided at the last minute to spare his life. After the war, Mr. Landwirth immigrated to the United States in 1950 with only \$20 to his name. He was drafted into the United States Army within three years. After serving in the military and learning English, he enrolled in a course in hotel management

and found entry-level employment in a New York hotel, quickly mastering his job and learning every job in the hotel.

Mr. Landwirth moved to Florida in 1954, and became Manager of the 100-room Starlite Motel in Cocoa Beach near Cape Canaveral, home of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, NASA, Kennedy Space Center. The original seven astronauts, referred to as the "Mercury Seven"—M. Scott Carpenter, L. Gordon Cooper, Jr., John Glenn, Jr.; Virgil "Gus" Grissom; Walter Schirra, Jr.; Alan Shepard, Jr.; and Donald "Deke" Slayton—chose the Starlite Motel as their temporary residence. During this period, Mr. Landwirth developed strong friendships with these astronauts, which still bind them together.

Mr. Landwirth is now a partner in a successful Central Florida hotel company, with John Glenn and others, and he has spearheaded several initiatives to help those in need. He and the Mercury Seven astronauts founded the Mercury Seven Foundation, now known as the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation, which provides scholarships to young science students. In the 1970's, Mr. Landwirth founded an organization in honor of his mother, the Fanny Landwirth Foundation, through which he built a school and a center for senior citizens in Orlando, Florida. He also created a scholarship program, which allowed underprivileged Israeli students to come to the United States as visiting scholars.

In 1986, Mr. Landwirth founded Give Kids the World, a non-profit resort in Kissimmee, Florida, that provides terminally ill children and their families an all-expenses paid week-long vacation to central Florida and its popular attractions. Give Kids the World has served over 55,000 children throughout the United States and worldwide. The organization has grown from serving 329 children in its first year to a 51-acre resort that can accommodate 7,000 families a year.

In 1999, Mr. Landwirth founded Dignity U Wear, a Jacksonville-based foundation that provides new clothing to children and families who are homeless, abused, abandoned, or neglected. The operation donates new clothing, shoes and personal hygiene items to 98 shelters in 16 states, and is currently working to expand into 30 states across the nation.

In 2001, Mr. Landwirth founded Building for Life based in Jacksonville, which works in collaboration with other organizations, Operation Hope and FreshMinisters, an interfaith organization, of which Mr. Landwirth serves on the Board of Trustees. This most recent charitable organization aims to refurbish neglected homes while providing an opportunity for the homeless to learn new job skills.

I am proud to have Henri Landwirth as a citizen of the great state of Florida. On behalf of all Floridians, I offer him thanks and appreciation for all that he has done to help those in need. •