

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

AUTISM

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

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, a few minutes ago, the majority and the minority leaders of the House, or the minority whip and the majority leader of the House, discussed the Amber Alert System and how important it was that we do everything we can to protect our American children. This lectern, or this stand, holds the faces of about 55 or 60 children who have been damaged, their parents believe, by vaccines that contain mercury and they have become autistic. One of those is my grandson.

It is very interesting, Madam Speaker, that today we found out that there is a just-published report in the "Journal of the American Association of Physicians and Surgeons" that involves a research study on autism. The research, conducted by Drs. Mark Geier and David Geier, analyzed mercury doses children received from thimerosal, which contains mercury in childhood vaccines in comparison to Federal safety guidelines. The doctors concluded that mercury from thimerosal did exceed Federal safety guidelines and that the study provides strong epidemiological evidence for a link between increasing mercury from thimerosal-containing childhood vaccines and neurodevelopmental disorders such as autism which has reached epidemic proportions. The authors stated, "A causal relationship between thimerosal-containing childhood vaccines and neurodevelopmental disorders appears to be confirmed."

The Geier research confirms the findings of an unreleased CDC study, Centers for Disease Control, obtained through the Freedom of Information Act, which found a relative risk of 2.48 between thimerosal exposures and autism. Courts of law have generally held that a relative risk of 2.0 or higher is sufficient to substantiate that a given exposure causes diseases.

So there is no doubt, no doubt, that the mercury that has been injected into our children is a cause, a contributing cause at the very least, but a cause, of the autism that these children are suffering. I have asked the parents of these children from across the country to write to me, to give me information on how their child became autistic and how close it was to when the child was vaccinated with vaccines containing mercury.

We had a big problem in the last session. Right at the end in the homeland security bill, there was an amendment

stuck in at the 11th hour which took away any liability that the pharmaceutical companies might incur because of mercury-related damage done to children. We were able to get that out early this session. But now in the other body they are trying to put that back in in a bill that was introduced today by the majority leader. That is something that is intolerable. It is something that cannot be tolerated by this body or the other body.

I want to tell you why real quickly. Here is one example, a letter from a lady named Sue McManus from Kenesaw, Georgia. She says:

"Eight years ago, in 1994, I adopted a lovely daughter, Jessica, from Paraguay at age 5 months. Jessica was not identified as a special needs child at the time of adoption and was in fact seen by pediatricians in Paraguay who were U.S. trained as well as in this country and given a clean bill of health. Being a responsible parent and following directions from my doctors, I had her vaccinated within a few weeks of bringing her home. On 11/15/94, she received OPV, DPT, HIB and hepatitis B. On January 17, 1995, she received her second series of shots. Within 4 hours of the second series of shots, she reacted with severe infantile spasm seizures and she became autistic. She had three seizures that week and had never had any form of seizure prior to the second shot. Per medical recommendation, she received several shots that day. I don't have any doubt that my daughter reacted severely and directly as a result of this DPT shot or combination of shots."

She goes on to say that "she has not developed normally, she has become autistic, she stares at the walls, she flaps her arms like my grandson does and she has chronic diarrhea or constipation and it is a problem that will not go away." If you saw the movie "Rain Man," you know how bad autism can be. If we do not deal with this problem now, we are going to deal with it in 15 to 20 years when these people all become dependent on society.

Let me just say to my colleagues, this is something this House is going to have to address. It is not a partisan issue. Both Democrats and Republicans have said they want to protect America's children. The President said he does not want to leave any children behind. These kids are being left behind and their parents are being saddled with \$50,000, \$100,000, \$200,000 bills. They are selling their homes, they are going bankrupt to take care of their children, and the people who are responsible for the damage to them, the pharmaceutical companies, are being left high and dry with no damage whatsoever being attributed to them. There is a responsibility here for this government to make sure these children are treated properly.

In the next few weeks I am going to be reading every night letters from these parents talking about how their child was damaged and in what prox-

imity it was to the shots they received containing mercury. We can no longer turn our backs on this. We went from one in 10,000 children who are autistic to one in 150 right now. It is an absolute epidemic. We cannot sweep it under the rug.

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

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

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take the time of the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

CYPRUS TALKS COME TO AN END

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

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, first let me tell the gentleman from Indiana that I would like to join in his remarks and I want to commend him for taking to the floor to talk about this issue. I agree with him wholeheartedly in what he has been saying tonight and previously.

Madam Speaker, I come to the floor this evening to express my supreme disappointment with Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash for his unwillingness to compromise, an action that led to the end of the Cyprus peace negotiations earlier this week.

Yesterday, after some 20 hours of continuous negotiations, U.N. Secretary-General Annan declared they had reached the end of the road.

Madam Speaker, let there be no doubt that Turkish Cypriot leader Denktash is to blame for this sorry conclusion. Yesterday, State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said he found it regrettable that, quote, "Mr. Denktash has denied Turkish Cypriots the opportunity to determine their own future and to vote on such a fundamental issue." Lord David Hannay, Britain's special envoy for Cyprus, also blamed Denktash when he stated, and I quote, "I am sad about it but I do not think that Mr. Denktash left him, Secretary Annan, any alternative."

Finally, in today's Washington Post, columnist Jim Hoagland writes, and I quote, "The defiance of one grumpy old man derailed peace plans put forward by diplomats from the United States and the European Union because this grumpster would not see multilateral

reason. The stubborn, self-defeating unilateralist I have in mind is Ralph Denktash."

□ 1600

Madam Speaker, despite yesterday's giant setback, the President of the Republic of Cyprus, Tassos Papadopoulos, stressed that the Greek Cypriot side "will continue the efforts for reaching a solution to the Cyprus question both before and after Cyprus joins the EU."

Furthermore, President Papadopoulos pledged one more time to continue the efforts for a Cyprus settlement that would properly serve the interests of both Cyprus communities.

On the other hand, after the peace talks ended yesterday, Turkish-Cypriot leader Denktash continued his obstructionist actions threatening that if Cyprus accedes to the European Union on May 1, 2004, that there will be a disaster. He went on to say that talks would be suspended until Turkey joins the European Union.

Madam Speaker, Turkey's accession to the European Union was seriously undermined yesterday with the failure of a peace agreement. The Turkish government also bears blame for yesterday's developments after giving its full support to Denktash. New Turkish Prime Minister Erdogan said on Monday that it was impossible for Turkey to accept the U.N. plan in its current form.

Both the Turkish government and Denktash refused to listen to the thousands who have taken to the streets over the last couple of months in the occupied section of Cyprus and voiced support for a solution based on the U.N. plan.

The leader of the Republican Turkish Party in Turkey accused both the Turkish government and Denktash of bringing the talks to a deadlock, and he stated, "Mr. Denktash persuaded Turkey as well. Having the support of the powerful circles in Turkey he influenced the decision-making mechanism and foiled them. He used the indecisiveness for not making a serious decision. Not being able to decide, Turkey decided to preserve the status quo."

Madam Speaker, I continue to believe that the Bush administration did not put enough pressure on the Turkish government to force Denktash to negotiate in good faith. Turkey must finally realize that by supporting Denktash's intransigence, it is causing harm to its own long-term interest as a potential full member of the European Union.

After the setback of the U.N. efforts, the Bush administration must redouble its efforts to persuade Turkey and the Turkish-Cypriot leader to work constructively within the U.N. process to achieve a negotiated settlement to end the division of Cyprus.

Madam Speaker, Turkey's 28 year illegal occupation of 37 percent of Cyprus has to come to an end. It is time for all the citizens of Cyprus to be reunited so they may all reap the eco-

nomical rewards available with the nation's accession to the European Union. It is very unfortunate this occurred, but I continue to believe that we can somehow achieve a situation where the Turkish Cypriots will join with the Greek Cypriots in a unified Cyprus that would join the European Union at the time that is scheduled next year. I am still optimistic that can be achieved.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BLACKBURN). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

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

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

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

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

ONE NATION UNDER GOD

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

Mr. RENZI. Madam Speaker, on March 10, our children who attend public schools in the jurisdiction of the Ninth Circuit Court, including my home State of Arizona, were told not to start their day with the real Pledge of Allegiance. An absurd ruling made by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals last June held that the 1954 Federal act that added the words "under God" to the Pledge of Allegiance violated the Establishment Clause of the first amendment.

Madam Speaker, our great Nation rests upon the wisdom of our Founding Fathers. Our Founding Fathers created a Nation based upon spiritual beliefs, and yet judges continually misinterpret this founding principle by citing the Establishment Clause.

So what really is the Establishment Clause? Within our Constitution, the Establishment Clause was created to protect American citizens against religious persecution, so that the government would not impose one religion, the government religion, so that a government or king would not impose his own spiritual or personal beliefs.

The Establishment Clause was not created by our Founding Fathers to sterilize this Nation, to not allow this

Nation to utter the name of God. Just the opposite. The Constitution of the United States of America, written by our Founding Fathers, states this clearly in Article VII, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-seven.

So how ridiculous is it that the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals can prohibit our teachers and children from reciting the Pledge of Allegiance in the public schools of nine western states, when the Constitution itself speaks of God?

Using this perverted logic, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals must now find our Constitution unconstitutional. This holding is a new low for our Nation, a low that will harm our children.

A good teacher, Mr. Byron Bolen, who teaches American government in Round Valley, Arizona, is concerned that we are undermining our national traditions and taking focus away from our Founding Fathers by not allowing the real Pledge in our classrooms. He believes this issue has become more an issue not of separation of church and state, but an issue that directly negates the patriotism that our children need to learn towards their country.

As a teacher in the First District of Arizona, Mr. Bolen asked me how far our courts will go to sterilize and remove God from our classroom and public places.

Our Founding Fathers created a Nation based on truth and morality and a love for democracy based upon a person's desire to conform to laws which they revere. Our good natural tendencies as human beings is to repel from evil and to be drawn towards goodness.

When hippie generation judges impose their own sterile secular beliefs on the American people, they are establishing their agnostic beliefs on Americans.

To go one step further, on February 28 the Court of Appeals in the Ninth Circuit refused numerous requests by our President, the Congress and local school districts to overturn their prior decision.

Twice now this court has ruled that reciting the real Pledge of Allegiance is unconstitutional. Yet in the House of Representatives we start our day with the real Pledge of Allegiance. Our institution writes and debates our laws only after we recite the real Pledge of Allegiance. We must act to allow our children to start their day the way we start our day here in the House.

Therefore, I call upon the Supreme Court to review this case, to review it expeditiously, and allow our children to honor our Nation by reciting the real Pledge, and let them start their school day the way we start our day.

MAKE WAR A LAST-CASE SCENARIO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.