

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

(Mrs. BLACKBURN addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

SUPPORTING OUR PRESIDENT AND MAJORITY LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FEENEY) is recognized for 30 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. FEENEY. Mr. Speaker, I just sat through a fairly extraordinary hour with a lot of criticism of the majority leader of the United States. And first thing I want to make clear that I am not here to question anybody's patriotism. I think we have 435 patriotic Members of this wonderful body, and we have got some delegates in addition to that that are patriotic.

What I would say is that Lord Chamberlain, Prime Minister of Britain right before World War II, was a very patriotic Brit, but his policies were very foolish. And they took the free world into some very dangerous times, and we could have lost our freedom throughout the globe.

Lady Thatcher said, as early as 1986, that terrorism thrives on appeasement, much like the problem with Lord Chamberlain's policy, not that he was unpatriotic, but his foolish policies actually encouraged and empowered the Nazis. The same is true, according to Lady Thatcher. And I would submit that the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) and George W. Bush, our President, are the Churchills of our time when it comes to fighting the war on terror.

Churchill took a lot of criticism leading up to World War II. Our President and our majority leader are the ones that have the courage to lay out a policy to stick to it and make sure that we do what is necessary to win the war on terror just like we won the war against the Nazis in World War II, just as, as Lady Thatcher said, Ronald Reagan won the Cold War without firing a single shot.

The question here is not whether the Republicans or Democrats are patriotic. We are all patriots in this room. The question is who is better prepared to win the war on terror. Because if we lose this war, we will lose our way of life and probably our very lives themselves. The principle is that partisan

politics ought, when we have men and women overseas, ought to stop at the water's edge.

And that does not mean nobody is arguing that the debate has to stop about what is best in terms of prosecuting the war. It does not mean that one cannot ask questions, and it does not mean that one cannot vote your conscience. But when one exploits partisan politics while there are men and women fighting for our freedom and our survival and fighting for our way of life against this threat, the international terrorist threat, then there is something fundamentally wrong.

We ought to engage in civilized debate, but what we ought not to do is to let partisan politics dominate our judgment.

Mr. Speaker, I have got a number of Members that want to say a few words about some of the partisan aspects of this debate which are very disappointing. For those of us that are supporting the President, supporting our troops, are certainly supporting our majority leader who has done a wonderful job leading the House through these days, our big question is where the vision of the other party is.

Now, I recognize in parliamentary governments around the world you often have a minority party that stands up and lays out their vision. We actually are going through a conflict where the President has laid out a plan, the majority leader has laid out a plan, we are following that plan, we have won the first part of the war, and we are doing our level best to win the peace as rapidly as possible, secure freedom for the Iraqi people, and bring our men and women home. That is the game plan. And there are lots of details to it, but that is the general game plan.

But the problem we have is that there is nothing united about the Democratic side of this debate in terms of whether or not the war on terror is critical, in terms of whether or not we should have gone into Iraq, in terms of whether or not Saddam is an evil tyrant and dictator that we should have taken down. The only thing the Democrats seem united on is that the enemy is in the White House and majority leader's office of the United States House of Representatives.

That is not the kind of leadership that I think the American people expect from the minority party. Thank goodness it is not the type of leadership that the President and the majority leader are giving.

I want to tell my colleagues as we start the opportunity for some of the other Members to express their views about the partisan nature of a lot of attacks on our President and our majority leader, I want to tell you about a great speech that Ronald Reagan gave known as the Westminster Speech, when he went to the British Parliament June 8, 1982.

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He was referring back to World War II when he said that the island was

really struck with terror and the potential for being taken over. Ronald Reagan said Winston Churchill exclaimed about British adversaries, "What kind of a people do they think we are?"

That is a great question to ask about the international terrorists. What kind of people do they think we are? Well, Britain's adversaries found out what extraordinary people the British are, but all the democracies paid a terrible price for allowing the dictators to underestimate us. We dare not make that same mistake again.

So let us ask ourselves as Churchill, and then later Reagan said, What kind of people do we think we are? That is the message that we are trying to send international terrorists. What kind of people do the American people think we are? And are you more comfortable, ultimately, with the plans and the policies, the determination, the extraordinary courage of President Bush and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), or are you more comfortable turning it over to a disarrayed party that has no policy other than to attack the White House and the majority leader's office.

What kind of people do Americans think we are? That is what the international terrorists want to know.

Osama bin Laden said several years ago that as soon as the blood starts flowing, the Americans would pull out; and yet appeasement in the Lord Chamberlain style seems to be the policy of many of our Democratic colleagues and friends, not all but many. And I would state that we have got to stand up and we have got to insist that our majority leader not come under attack here on the House floor for the great things that he has done, for standing by our President, for standing by our troops, and for leading the effort to make sure that the wherewithal is there in Iraq to complete the war and to continue going after international terrorists elsewhere around the globe.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON).

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his comments. I want to thank him for really bringing to the attention of the American people that, indeed, at a time of war, at a time of conflict, we should be considering working together in a bipartisan manner.

It was distressing to me as I learned last week that there was going to be the presentation by the minority party here to attack the majority leader of the Republican Party, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY).

I am fairly new to Congress. A little bit more senior than the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FEENEY) but just a little bit; and it has just been an extraordinary opportunity for me to be able to serve with somebody of the great integrity, the competence, the dedication of the gentleman from Texas (TOM DELAY).