

must remember that the world was not created in a day. We shall find strength and courage at this Christmastime because so brave a beginning has been made. So, with faith and courage, we shall work to hasten the day when the sword is replaced by the plowshare and nations do not learn war anymore."

He went on and said, "He whose birth we celebrate tonight was the world's greatest teacher." He said, "Therefore, all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them, for this is the law and the prophets. Through all the centuries since he spoke, history has vindicated his teaching. In this great country of ours has been demonstrated the fundamental unity of Christianity and democracy. Under our heritage of freedom for everyone on equal terms, we also share the responsibilities of government."

He went on and said, "We have this glorious land not because of a particular religious faith, not because our ancestors sailed from a particular foreign port. We have our unique national heritage because of a common aspiration to be free and because of our purpose to achieve for ourselves and for our children the good things of life which the Christ declared he came to give all mankind. We have made a good start toward peace in the world. Ahead of us lies the larger task of making the peace secure.

"The progress," Truman said, "we have made, gives hope that in the coming year we shall reach our goal. May 1947 entitled us to the benediction of the master, 'blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God.' Because of what we have achieved for peace, because of all the promise our future holds, I say to my fellow countrymen, Merry Christmas." He didn't say "happy holidays," but Truman said "Merry Christmas." "Merry Christmas, and may God bless you all."

There are so many wonderful Christmas messages over the generations from different presidents. I love Truman's comment in '48 when he said, "The God that made the world and all things herein hath made of one blood all nations of man for to dwell on the face of the Earth." Truman said, "In the spirit of that message from the Acts of the Apostles, I wish you all a Merry Christmas."

In 1953, Dwight Eisenhower had these words for us. On December 24th, 1953, he said, "This evening's ceremony here at the White House is one of many thousands in American traditional celebration of the birth almost 2,000 years ago of the Prince of Peace. For us this Christmas is truly a season of good will and our first peaceful one since 1949. Our national and individual blessings are manifold. Our hopes are bright, even though the world still stands divided in two antagonistic parts.

"More precisely than in any other way, prayer places freedom and com-

munism in opposition, one to the other." Eisenhower said, "The communist can find no reserve of strength in prayer because his doctrine of materialism and stateism denies the dignity of man and consequently the existence of the God. But in America," Eisenhower says, "George Washington long ago rejected exclusive dependence upon mere materialistic values. In the bitter and critical winter at Valley Forge, when the cause of liberty was so near defeat, his recourse was sincere and earnest prayer. From it he received new hope and new strength of purpose, out of which grew the freedom in which we celebrate this Christmas season.

"As religious faith is the foundation of free government, so is prayer an indispensable part of that faith." Eisenhower said, "Would it not be fitting for each of us to speak in prayer to the father of all men and women on this Earth of whatever nation, of whatever race and creed, to ask that he help us and teach us and strengthen us and receive our thanks? Should we not pray that he help us; help us to remember that the founders of this, our country, came first to these shores in search of freedom, freedom of man to walk in dignity, to live without fear beyond the yoke of tyranny, ever to progress; help us to cherish freedom for each of us and for all nations. Might we not pray that he teach us, teach us the security of faith. And may we pray that he strengthen us. Should we not pray that he receive our thanks, for certainly we are grateful for the opportunity given us to use our strength and our faith to meet the problems of this hour. And on this Christmas Eve, all hearts in America are filled with special thanks to God that the blood of those we love no longer spills on battlefields abroad. May he receive the thanks of each of us for this, his greatest bounty, and our supplication that peace on Earth may live with us always."

Now, at that time we were at peace, when Eisenhower spoke those words. But, of course, we have men and women losing their lives in uniform for our benefit and our freedom and we should, as Eisenhower said, remember them in prayer both for their safety and thanks giving.

President Kennedy had wonderful, wonderful Christmas messages, as did other Presidents.

□ 1900

But let me make sure people understand who don't understand Christianity and don't understand that it is possible to love someone and not agree with their lifestyle; that it's possible to even lay down one's life for people they love even though they disagree completely with their lifestyle.

I serve with colleagues here, as the gentleman from Massachusetts pointed out, who serve here and are openly avowed homosexuals. And I understand that. I have friends who practice homosexuality—people I love, care about. There are people who practice adultery

as heterosexuals. And in all those cases, as a member of the military, I would gladly lay down my life for them and their freedom because, as Jesus taught, you don't have to embrace or love somebody's lifestyle to love them with all your heart.

But as we approach this Christmas season, I hope that we will re-engage a love for those yet to take a breath in this world, who are in utero; that we will have a love and affection for those who are being overwhelmed with taxes before they even get their first job; and we will act responsibly to show that love and to cease the damage we're doing to this country. Those are adequate matters of prayer.

And in this, the last hour of this week before we approach the week of Christmas, I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for December 16 and the balance of the week.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of official business in district.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. CARNAHAN) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. CARNAHAN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CONYERS, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. LEE of California, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. RANGEL, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. LANGEVIN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. YARMUTH, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. CLARKE, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FATAH, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. BURTON of Indiana) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, December 20 and 21.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows: