

THE NATIONAL TRAGEDY IN
OKLAHOMA CITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, the gentlewoman from California [Ms. PELOSI] is recognized for 2 minutes.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join some of my colleagues this morning who have extended the sympathies of their constituents to our colleagues from Oklahoma, to their constituents and, most importantly, to the families of those who lost their lives in the Federal building there. We have a natural political governmental connection to those folks because they carry out the work of public policy whether it is helping a child get a Social Security number at birth or whether it is the senior citizen applying for Social Security benefits at the end of life, housing in between and the rest, and they indeed were great public servants and will be sorely missed.

At this time of national tragedy, Mr. Speaker, of course we must focus on the personal heartbreak, and I hope it is some source of consolation to the people of Oklahoma City that the world grieves with them, that more than anything in life we wish that would never have happened, that the innocent victims, that would be all people involved there, would not have had to pay the price that they are paying.

For as long as I can remember, Mr. Speaker, the word "Oklahoma" was fraught with a spirit of the greatest optimism whether it was on the musical stage or whether it was on the football field, and that spirit once again is very conspicuous in the activities in Oklahoma City as people unselfishly and tirelessly fight the battle of time to try to save lives and try to save dignity. I hope again, as this source of some consolation to those who lost their family members in Oklahoma City, that this should engender a spirit of national reconciliation. Many colleagues have talked about the tone of remarks and what was intended and what was not. Let us remove all doubt that in our public debate and in our rhetoric that we will take the high road, that we will not use words that hurt or can endanger, and that we know a better way, and that when we proceed to have our differences discussed, we will have absolutely no doubt in our mind that none of our words could have contributed to an act of violence.

Once again I want to extend the condolences of the people of San Francisco. We have suffered our share of natural disasters. It is impossible to fathom a criminal act that would take life, and we send our deepest, deepest sympathy.

THE GREAT TRAGEDY OF
OKLAHOMA CITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of Jan-

uary 4, 1995, the gentlewoman from Colorado [Mrs. SCHROEDER] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, I come to the well to join the gentlewoman from San Francisco in saying that the people I represent in Denver, CO, also send their very, very strongest sympathy and condolences to the tremendous tragedy that has been inflicted upon the people in Oklahoma City. As my colleagues know, I have many Federal employees in Denver, CO, and I think they have felt really under the gun literally of late. People have been so free with bashing bureaucrats 24 hours a day, like they were faceless, they were nameless, they are familyless, and maybe this will kind of calm us all down, and bring us to our senses, and point out that these are human beings, that they are trying very, very hard to do something that this country has done better than almost any other country on the planet, and that is provide very distinguished, high quality service through the Federal Government.

Now that is not a politically popular thing to say. That is not an applause line on today's talk show circuit. But let us talk a bit about the Federal Government and its long distinguished history.

When I was at Harvard Law School, if someone said, "You could work for the U.S. Justice Department," they would get goose bumps because the U.S. Justice Department was out on the front lines making sure that there were not huge trusts that prevented competition. It kept some competition alive so the consumers got a good deal and that some big fish did not eat all the little fish, and we were proud of that. They were also out there making sure this country kept its promise, that when we said America believed in liberty and justice for all, it was out there making sure that people were not putting up racial barriers, or religious barriers, or gender barriers, or any other kind of barriers, that, if one is an American citizen, they have a right to have their dream become reality, that if they had the talent and the will to do something this Justice Department made sure that they got that chance. It made sure that people were not putting barriers in their way to vote. It made sure that all sorts of environmental things were beginning to happen for the first time, that we started trying to take care of this planet.

I say to my colleagues, "Of late, when you go to law schools and say you can work for the Federal Government, people say, 'No, no, I don't want to do that.' Now what has happened in these last few years that our young people are hesitant to sign up for Federal service when it has had such a long distinguished period?"

I think that is something we, as Americans, have to ponder because Federal service will never be better than the people that run it, and we

have had a history of having the most nonpolitical Federal service in the world, that we have believed these people should take very rigorous exams, and that is what they do, and that these be competitive exams, and that they compete for these jobs and, their loyalty is to you, the taxpayer, not me, a Congresswoman, or not the President of the United States, or not the Supreme Court. Their loyalty is to the citizens of America to try and make this work.

Now things are never perfect. They never always work as well as we all hope they are, but they are continually trying to work and make it better, and I would put our public service up against any other public service of any other national government when we look at the high quality, the lack of scandal. I mean tell me the last time we saw a bribe or something like that occur where we really brought disgrace to the Federal service? It has not been the Federal servants that have been doing it, it has not been the civil servants that have been doing it. They have been exemplary in almost all cases. So to see this incredible reign of terror rain down on their head because they were such easy targets really seems very unfair.

So, as our hearts go out to the people who have suffered this great tragedy, let us hope that we learn from this, that we learn from this that we lower our voices, that we once again take pride in the fact that we have a phenomenal Park Service because of the Federal Government, that we have a strong Immigration Service because of the Federal Government, that we have a Social Security System that works very well because of the Federal Government, that we have many, many things we, as Americans are proud of. We have a justice system because we say we are a government of laws and not of men, that people are not to take their law in their own hand.

So let us be a little more thoughtful, and let us also continue to extend sympathy for people that have lost things that can never be replaced.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 11 a.m.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 5 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until 11 a.m.

□ 1100

After recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. COMBEST].

PRAYER

The Reverend Dr. Clyde H. Miller, Jr., conference minister, retired, United Church of Christ, Denver, CO, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray:

Everliving and everloving God, we come before You in the solemnity of this moment with gratitude for the wholeness of creation, born out of Your goodness and Your mercy.

We come to You to consider our calling to serve the common good and, in our understanding of that calling, hear our prayer for a new discernment as to what the common good shall be. Hear our cry as we brood over the emergent alienation in our Nation that for so long, for far too long, has had violence as its expression.

Allow Your spirit to hover over our deliberations in this place, to be sensitive to the harsh realities of all of us, and especially those who are marginalized, and do not allow any of us to objectify any other persons who are Your person. Unite us anew as a whole people under God.

We know that You are near in all of our collective deliberations and even in our solitude, and be with us this day.

As our prayers ascend into Your throne of mercy, answer them as You will. This we pray. Amen, and amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. BALLENGER] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BALLENGER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR GUEST CHAPLAIN

(Mrs. SCHROEDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, I take the well with great pride, because the visiting chaplain today, Dr. Clyde Miller, is from my church in Denver, CO. In fact, I am a member of his flock. For those of you who wondered if there was anyone who would claim me, yes, and I must say how very, very proud I am. I am going to put his résumé in the RECORD at this time, because he has a very, very long history of doing things, not only preaching but practicing. And I think what he said are all things he has practiced very hard and very diligently all his life and has been a great role model for how we do that. But basically one of the reasons that I have always enjoyed so much listening to Reverend Miller is the fact that he has

a Barbara Jordanesque voice, that through all the clutter and noise, and through all of the conflicting things that pull and tug at us, his voice is able to pierce right through that and touch the souls of people who really need to be touched.

I think that is truly a gift, and a gift that he has used and utilized well, and I thank him very, very much for being with us to launch this second session of the Congress.

I include for the RECORD Dr. Miller's résumé.

REV. CLYDE H. MILLER, JR.,
Denver, CO, March 30, 1995.

Rev. Clyde H. Miller, Jr. retired as Conference Minister of the Rocky Mountain Conference, United Church of Christ, in 1993 where he had served since 1980. During his service he was responsible for the mission, education, and outdoor ministries. Serving as a pastor to pastors and to the 90+ congregations in Colorado, Utah and Wyoming, he was responsible for helping pastors and congregations in the placement process, resolving conflicts, and planning mission and outreach strategies.

Prior to this position he was the Executive Director of the Boston City Missionary Society for eleven years. At CMS he was the executive for the century-old United Church of Christ institution organized to be an advocate for inner-city poor. In addition to supervising a staff of twenty persons, he was responsible for development.

Earlier he had worked for the National Catholic Conference for Interracial Justice in Chicago, Illinois. He also served as the Christian Education Executive for the Church Federation of Greater Chicago.

His first position following his graduation from the Chicago Theological Seminary and his ordination in 1958, was an Assistant Pastor of the Church of the Good Shepherd, Congregational for six years.

A graduate of Talladega College, he has served as adjunct faculty member at Wesleyan(CT) University, Boston College, and Colorado College.

A native of Middlesboro, KY, he is married, has two daughters and two grandchildren.

Mr. Miller is concluding this month a one-year stint as an interim pastor at the First Christian Church Disciples of Christ in Boulder, Colorado and is now interim pastor at Eastside Christian Church, Denver, Colorado.

Murrah Building and the grieving families will stay with us for a long time. But, we should also remember the heroes of the Oklahoma City. Remember the rescue workers and the volunteers. And, remember the indomitable spirit of the people of Oklahoma City. Our thoughts and prayers remain with them, today. And, we owe it to them, to both the victims and the heroes of Oklahoma City, to stand up to the forces that seek to divide us with words of hate.

THE PEOPLE WANT WASHINGTON TO CHANGE

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, last month I went back to my district and returned to a place far different from Washington. In my district, there are families who work hard and play by the rules. And, they are careful not to spend more than they take in. If they do not, they run afoul of the law.

In Washington, however, things are different.

In Washington, it's OK to waste other people's money.

In Washington, it's OK to spend lavishly on ineffective programs.

In Washington, it's OK to disrespect the values that ordinary Americans live by every day.

When I returned home over the recess, I listened to my constituents. I can tell you one thing, Mr. Speaker, they want Washington to change. They want a government that will respect simple virtues, not one that creates deficits and debts to be passed on to our children and grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, in the first 100 days, we Republicans proved that promises can be made and kept. In the next, we will show that Washington truly can be changed.

THE OKLAHOMA CITY BOMBING

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, when a terrorist's bomb tore a hole in the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, its impact was felt across the country. We all grieved with the families and we prayed that the rescue workers would find more survivors.

Their grief leads us to want to affirm our country as both free and tolerant. Here in Congress, we must call on people of good will from both parties to repudiate extremist, paramilitary forces and provocative rhetoric that pushes people to violence and terrorism. By doing so, we do not politicize a tragedy, we live up to our responsibilities to respond to this tragedy.

The images of bloodied babies being carried from the smoking rubble of the

SUPPORT FOR FEDERAL EMPLOYEES NEEDED

(Ms. RIVERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. RIVERS. Mr. Speaker, one cannot read a newspaper these days without understanding that there is a supposed war between the Government and the people. But who is the Government? These days we often hear attacks on Federal employees around their benefits, around their pay, as if they do not have mortgages to pay, as if they do not have to feed and clothe children, as if they do not pay taxes like other workers in this country.

It is suggested they are nameless, faceless bureaucrats, not the people who fight our drug wars, not the people who care for sick veterans, not the people who make sure our food and water is safe. These are real people, and the