

WHAT IS IT

Marijuana is a product of the hemp plant, a crop which has been harvested for thousands of years and whose fibers have been used to make rope, canvas and paper. Marijuana derives from the sticky resin of the flowering tops of the plant.

WHERE IS IT GROWN

Most marijuana consumed in this country is grown in Mexico, Colombia and Jamaica. The amount grown in this country, however, has increased in recent years, and now accounts for about 20% of the entire U.S. market. Marijuana is the largest cash crop in the U.S. Earnings from marijuana are estimated at \$32 billion per year, far outstripping corn (\$14 billion) and soybeans (\$11 billion). The highest quality marijuana is cultivated indoors on the West Coast, but the largest volume is grown in the Midwest, including Indiana. The Indiana National Guard, for example, eradicated almost 80 million marijuana plants in Indiana last year.

WHAT IS THE LAW

Under federal law, it is illegal to buy, sell, grow or possess any amount of marijuana anywhere in the United States. Penalties for a first offense range from probation to life imprisonment, with fines of up to \$4 million, depending on the quantity of marijuana involved. Under civil forfeiture laws, real estate, cars, cash and any other property connected with a marijuana offense are subject to immediate seizure. The federal government need not prove that the property was bought with the proceeds of illegal drug sales, only that it was involved in the commission of a crime—that marijuana was grown on certain land or transported in a particular vehicle. There are state marijuana laws as well. In 1993 more than 380,000 people were arrested nationwide for violating marijuana laws; marijuana convictions in that year outnumbered those for heroin, cocaine and LSD combined.

WHO USES IT

Close to 70 million Americans have tried marijuana at least once, according to a recent government survey. The number of regular users, however, is far smaller, perhaps around four million people, and overall marijuana use has declined from peak levels in the 1970s. Even so, marijuana consumption among American teenagers has been on the increase over the last three years. Thirteen percent of eighth-graders reported having tried marijuana at least once in 1994, up from 6.2% in 1991.

WHY THE INCREASE

During the 1980s, increasing concerns about the dangers of marijuana and other drugs contributed to a sharp decline in use. That attitude is changing. More and more young people today believe that marijuana is not a dangerous drug—that, unlike cocaine for example, the drug is not addictive, does not kill people and does not produce violent behavior. Furthermore, marijuana is said to have certain medicinal properties, whether it is used by cancer patients to ease the pain and nausea associated with chemotherapy or by a recreational user to relieve stress. In this view, marijuana should be treated like tobacco and made legal.

WHAT ARE THE HEALTH DANGERS

Numerous scientific studies have demonstrated that marijuana does in fact pose serious health dangers. It damages short-term memory, distorts perception, impairs judgment and complex motor skills, alters the heart rate, can lead to severe anxiety, and can cause paranoia and lethargy. It may not kill people by an overdose, but young marijuana users are more likely than nonusers to consume other illicit drugs, to

have car accidents, and to be arrested. In 1993, twice as many teenagers ended up in emergency rooms for marijuana use as for heroin and cocaine combined.

Contrary to popular belief, marijuana is also an addictive drug. More efficient agriculture—new methods of harvesting and processing marijuana plants—has made the drug about 20 times more potent than the marijuana on the street in the 60's and 70's. Marijuana is frequently mentioned by drug-control specialists as being a stepping stone or gateway to drugs such as crack cocaine and heroin. About 43% of young people who use marijuana before age 18 go on to use cocaine. Legalizing marijuana would almost certainly cause more young people to use—and become addicted to—marijuana and other drugs.

WHAT ARE THE SOCIAL COSTS

There are numerous social and economic costs associated with increased marijuana use. First, its use can impair academic performance among young people. Marijuana is associated with increased truancy, poor attention span and under-achievement in school. Second, and more broadly, its use causes damage in our workplace. Few Americans realize that three-fourths of regular drug users are employed. According to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, employed drug users are 33% less productive than their colleagues. They are likely to incur 300% higher medical costs and benefits. Third, marijuana use has been linked to other crimes.

WHAT CAN BE DONE ABOUT THE PROBLEM

A key step to reducing marijuana use, particularly among young people, is to educate them to its dangers. It is critical to reach kids early, before they have begun to use drugs, with clear information about marijuana and with positive alternatives for their time. Children typically have very strong anti-drug attitudes, and most young people today don't use drugs. It's essential to reinforce these views.

Our message must be clear and consistent. The message in the 1980's was, "Just say no to drugs," and the message for the 1990's must be the same. Marijuana use is illegal, dangerous and unhealthy. It is not cool. It is not respectful of your body. If you use drugs, stop, and if you can't stop, get help.

We know that young people need to hear antidrug messages where they live, study, work and play. This education effort must be a group effort, involving the public and private sector, but particularly parents, teachers and neighbors.

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH ALVARADO
AND LOU MARTINEZ

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 1995

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today and pay tribute to two celebrated community servants, Mr. Joseph Alvarado and Mr. Lou Martinez. On September 8, 1995, Joe and Lou will be honored for their contributions to northwest Indiana and the Hispanic community by the Northwest Indiana Hispanic Coordinating Council. This testimonial dinner will take place at the Casa Blanca Restaurant in East Chicago, IN.

We are all very fortunate to have dedicated people, like Joe and Lou, who are sincerely proud of their Hispanic heritage and have taken an active role in promoting the progress of the Hispanic community in Indiana's First Congressional District.

Joe Alvarado is a native of East Chicago, IN. He is also a fellow graduate of the University of Notre Dame, where he played varsity football for the Irish. He later received his masters degree in finance from Cornell University. Joe returned to East Chicago and started his career with Inland Steel Co. in 1976. Since that time, he has steadily risen through the ranks from the days when he was a finance trainee to his current position as president of Inland Steel Bar Co.

Lou Martinez, a classmate of mine at Andrean High School in Merrillville IN, has been with the United Way system since he joined the Lake Area United Way in Griffith, IN, in 1979. In my personal experience with Lou, I can say that he is one of the most dedicated and unselfish individuals I know. His desire to serve his community has allowed him to prosper in an organization like the United Way, whose focus is community service. As president of the Lake Area United Way, Lou has realized his leadership potential and he has played a big part in touching the lives of so many who are in need in northwest Indiana.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my heartfelt congratulations to these two very special men. Joe and Lou's large circle of family and friends, as well as the entire Hispanic community of northwest Indiana, can be proud of the contributions these prominent individuals have made. They have proven themselves to be distinguished advocates for the Hispanic community, and they have truly made northwest Indiana a better place in which to live.

A SPECIAL MEMBERS' PRAYER SERVICE ST. PETER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, 313 2ND STREET, SOUTHEAST ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4, 1995 AT 9:00 A.M.

HON. BILL EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 1995

Mr. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, the opening day of this Congress began, at the request of then Speaker-elect GINGRICH, with a Members' Prayer Service which was held at St. Peter's Church on Capitol Hill. It was a significant event in the history of this Congress and the House of Representatives. The many Members, Members-elect, and their families who attended, and the many Americans who viewed this Service on C-Span, found it inspiring and poignant.

As we return from our prolonged August recess it seems altogether appropriate that we pause and reflect again on the importance of keeping all our endeavors in perspective through our faith. It is in this spirit that I submit for the record the following transcript of this Members' Prayer Service.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN—"GUIDE ME O THOU GREAT JEHOVAH"

He will be our guide even to the end. Ps. 48:14
Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim
through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty; hold me
with thy pow'ful hand;
Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven, feed me
till I want no more, feed till I want no
more.
Open now the crystal fountain, whence the
healing stream doth flow; let the fire

and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through; strong Deliv'rer, strong Deliv'rer, be thou still my strength and shield, be thou still my strength and shield.

When I thread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside; Death of death and hell's Destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side; songs of praises, songs of praises.

I will ever give to thee, I will ever give to thee.

CALL TO WORSHIP

(The Honorable G. V. (Sonny) Montgomery)

In the Call to Worship, I would like to read one verse from the Book of Psalms 95:6 followed with a brief prayer.

The Psalm, "O Come, let us worship and bow down. Let us kneel before the Lord, Our Maker! For He is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of His hand."

Now let us pray.

Our Father, You have given us this good land for our benefit and have blessed us with every good thing. We offer this Prayer of Thanksgiving for all Your good works to us and to all people.

We ask this day that You would bless our government with wisdom and that Your teachings be done with kindness and in the spirit of understanding and peace.

This is our prayer. Amen. Amen.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

(The Honorable Bill Emerson)

Welcome!

This is the day the Lord has made, let us be glad and rejoice in it.

The Speaker-elect of the House of Representatives requested that the events of this historic day, the convening of the 104th Congress, commence with a service of prayer for all Members and Members-elect. We are bi-partisan and ecumenical, gathering in body and spirit to invoke the blessings of Divine Providence upon our assemblage—upon our labors and the fruits of our labors.

It is appropriate that we do this.

Toward the close of the Constitutional Convention that created the body into which we will today be sworn as Members, Benjamin Franklin rose, addressed the chair, the illustrious father of our country, and to his colleagues said:

"I have lived . . . a long time, and the longer I live the more convincing proofs I see of this truth—that God governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can arise without His aid?"

At the time of our greatest national strife Abraham Lincoln said this:

"Being a humble instrument in the hands of our heavenly Father, I desire that *all* my words and acts may be according to His will; and that it may be so, I give thanks to the Almighty, and seek His aid."

It is with these attitudes we gather today, and pray this service may be a blessing to all participants and to our labors that lie ahead.

PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLE AND ALL OF THOSE IN AUTHORITY

(The Honorable Jim Hansen)

Our Father in Heaven, we are assembled here prior to the beginning of the 104th session of the United States Congress. Father, we are thankful to Thee to live in this great land of bounty.

We realize the great significance of this day, and pray for Thy blessings and guidance. As we take this sacred oath of office, and agree to uphold this inspired Constitution and the sacred freedoms which have been secured through the blood and sacrifices of valiant men and women who have

gone before us, may we realize that we are servants of the people and sent to this cradle of Democracy to do their bidding.

May we always remember that we are here to serve, and that we serve all the people, regardless of political affiliation, race, religion, or philosophy. Help us to work in harmony, with understanding, with patience, and with an eye single to honest values, correct principles, to upholding the Constitution.

We pray for our President, William Jefferson Clinton, and his family, that he may be blessed as he carries out his awesome responsibility. We pray for unity as we work together for the betterment of the United States of America. Bless us with a spirit of cooperation, that we may deal justly and fairly with one another regardless of our philosophical differences. Help us to treat each other as the brothers and sisters which we truly are.

We also ask that Thy spirit may be poured out upon the leaders of the world, that peace and tranquility will prevail. We ask a special blessing for those in war torn areas of the world, that peace may come to their lands and that people can live together without hate and strife.

We are very aware of the less fortunate among us, the poor, the sick, and the needy. We pray that, during our deliberations, we can provide for opportunities for people to progress and to better their station in life. Help us all to have compassion for the truly needy, and to remember that the worth of each soul is great in Thy sight.

We pray for the families of our nation and of the world. We recognize that families are the bedrock upon which our civilization is built, and that no earthly success or fame can compensate for failure in our homes or in raising our children to be moral and just. Help us, in all that we do, to strengthen the sacred institution of the family.

Now Father, we pray for our leadership in the Congress of both political parties, that we may be successful, that we may work together diligently for the benefit of all our citizens and for all people where ever they may be.

And this we ask in the worthy name of Thy Son, Jesus Christ, Amen.

READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

(The Honorable Benjamin A. Gilman)

"Zen haYom asah Adonai, Na-geelah v'Nees-m'cha Vo."

As David said in Psalm 118. "This is the day that the Lord has made, let us be glad and rejoice in it."

Mr. Speaker-elect, My Dear Colleagues, Father O'Sullivan, and Friends: What a wonderful day this is! Permit me to recite two passages from Hebrew scriptures. One recalls that leadership in this world comes with very special obligation to our Creator. The other sets out a prophetic teaching we should always bear in mind, even in the hour of our greatest triumph. In the first passage, as the Israelites prepare to cross the Jordan, God admonishes Joshua in these words from the First Chapter of the Book of Joshua:

"Be strong and resolute, for you shall apportion to this people the land that I swore to their fathers to give them.

"But you must be very strong and resolute to observe faithfully all the Teaching that My servant Moses enjoined upon you. Do not deviate from it to the left or to the right, that you may be successful wherever you go.

"Let not this Book of the Teaching cease from your lips, but recite it day and night, so that you may observe faithfully all that is written in it. Only then will you prosper in your undertakings and only then will you be successful.

"I charge you: Be strong and resolute; do not be terrified or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

And in the Sixth Chapter of the Book of Micah, the Prophet taught:

"Would the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,

With myriads of streams of oil? . . .

"He has told you, O man, what is good,

And what the Lord requires of you:

Only to do justice,

And to love mercy,

And to walk humbly with your God."

TANAKH

A New Translation of The Holy Scriptures, According to the Traditional Hebrew Text, The Jewish Publication Society 1985.

HYMM—HOW GREAT THOU ART

Great is the Lord, and most worthy of praise
Ps. 48:1

Patricia Barnes, Soloist

First Verse

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the worlds thy hands have made,

I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
they pow'r thro'-out the universe displayed.

Refrain

Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee:
how great thou art, how great thou art!

Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee:
how great thou art, how great thou art!

Fourth Verse

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!

Then I shall bow in humble adoration
and there proclaim, my God, how great thou art.

READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

(The Honorable Sue Myrick)

MATTHEW 5:2-16

Then He opened His mouth and taught them,
saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit,
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn,

For they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek,

For they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,

For they shall be filled.

Blessed are the merciful,

For they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart,

For they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,

For they shall be called sons of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,

For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.

Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men.

You are the light of the world, A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.

Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

PRAYER FOR PEACE IN THE WORLD

(The Honorable Tony P. Hall)

When Bill Emerson asked me to pray for world peace I went to my scriptures and looked up all the passages on world peace—

or at least peace—and there were hundreds of scriptures in both the Old and New Testaments. I thought about it for a while and I thought that a lot of people have prayed for peace—for world peace—for a number of years and often times it eludes us.

And in light of what is going on in the world today, as a matter of fact, I have been told that there are over 100 conflicts going on in the world right now, twenty-three or twenty-four major humanitarian crises, and I felt it may be better to pray for peace in the hearts of us, in the hearts of elected officials. Because, if we don't have peace, how are we going to have peace in the country and peace in the world?

A lot of verses deal with that. There are many verses mentioning peace. And the one verse I really like, that I think addresses the issues is in Philippians. "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds, through Christ Jesus.

Paul wrote this while he was in jail, in prison, and he wrote under great manipulation and pressure and stress. Paul was a wonderful man, and he didn't know from day to day of things and pressures that were going to happen to him. But he had a world view, and his world view was the view of the power of God in prayer, the peace of God in people's hearts. And that is briefly what I want to pray about this morning.

We'll bow our heads.

Thank you Father for the passage and for the privilege of coming together today to ask for peace in the hearts of the Members of Congress, not only those taking office for the first time, but for the other Members and for the leadership especially. We pray for them and we just ask you to be with them, and most especially their spouses and children and families, for whatever is going on in their family, let there be comfort and love and peace. And, then peace among us as politicians and elected officials of this country. We pray that there be peace among the parties, O Lord, that as we go through the days and weeks that are coming, that we walk in a manner that is worthy of You, that we please You, that we increase in knowledge of You and Your will. We just thank You for all the things You do. We ask O God, as we deliberate and as we go through this year, that we ask the question of ourselves individually, "God, what is it You ask of us to do God? What is it You want us to do? Have we been those kind of servants?" If we can, and if we do that O Lord, I believe we can have peace in our hearts and peace in our country and will be helping with the peace in the world.

RESPONSIVE READING

(The Honorable Blanche Lambert)

PSALM 18:1-6 AND 31-36

Leader: I will love thee, O Lord my strength.

All: The Lord is my rock, and my fortress and my believer; my God, my strength, in whom will I trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.

Leader: I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised; so shall I be saved from all mine enemies.

All: The sorrows of death encompassed me, and the floods of ungodly men made me afraid.

Leader: In my distress I called upon the Lord, and cried unto my God; He heard my voice out of His temple, and my cry came before Him, even into His ears.

Leader: For who is God save the Lord? Or who is a rock save our God?

All: It is God that giveth me with strength, and maketh my way perfect.

Leader: He maketh my feet like hinds' feet, and setteth me upon my high places.

All: He teacheth my hands to war, so that a bow of steel is broken by mine arms.

Leader: Thou hast also given me the shield of Thy salvation; and Thy gentleness hath made me great.

All: Thou has enlarged my steps under me, that my feet did not slip.

PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE

(The Honorable Henry Bonilla)

Let us please bow our heads.

Dear Lord, We are gathered here on this historic day to ask your guidance as we take the reins of government in a new direction.

As we toil in the effort to make the right decisions for our nation we will be counseled and advised by many people . . . many interests . . . many inner feelings . . .

In the end help us all to remember that Your divine guidance is what we should turn to as the greatest authority . . . the greatest special interest . . . because Your interest is the best interest of the United States of America.

As representatives of every neighborhood in America we come from different backgrounds . . . different ethnic groups . . . different economies . . . different cultures . . . different religious backgrounds.

Lord help us to remember that above all we are alike because we are Americans first . . . Americans first with a common interest of preserving the American dream for our children and their children as our country grows and prospers in the next century.

Lord, help us have the wisdom to appreciate what we have and not to be wanting for what we don't have. Help us appreciate that because our country was built on moral principles of freedom and liberty we continue living in the greatest country on earth. Help us appreciate that we live in a country that encourages self-responsibility, self-reliance and selflessness . . .

Lord, help us understand that You give us our health, our intelligence and our talents to strive for these principles. Finally Lord, help us understand every day that what we do now can have a profound affect on what happens to our great nation for future generations . . .

Help us have the vision . . . the foresight . . . the wisdom . . . the humility to pursue an agenda that helps the worker, the parent, the teacher, the child, the volunteer, the student and those less fortunate who need a helping hand. Help us understand, Dear Lord, that They are what America is all about.

In Your Name we pray, Amen.

HYMN—AMAZING GRACE!

TRADITIONAL AMERICAN MELODY, WORDS BY JOHN NEWTON, 1779, ARRANGED BY WINTLEY PHIPPS, JOHN STODDART AND ANDRIAN WESTNEY

(Wintley Phipps, Soloist)

Amazing grace! how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,

We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we've first begun.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Amen

THE HOMILY

(The Honorable Frank R. Wolf)

When I was asked to give this talk, I was initially very reluctant for several reasons. Not only is it sometimes difficult to speak before your colleagues but I have stuttered since I was a small boy and have always found speaking in public a challenge.

As someone who stutters, I have drawn inspiration from Chapter 4 of Exodus in the

Bible where God tells Moses to ask Pharaoh to let His people go, Moses answers, "I have never been eloquent . . . I am slow of speech and slow of tongue." God assures Moses that He will send him help—and I'm sure I'll get some help here.

But the greatest source of motivation for speaking today is the passage in Matthew Chapter 10 verse 32, where Jesus says,

Whoever acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in Heaven; but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.

And because of this, I felt compelled to speak today.

We are about to open the 104th Congress with great hope and expectation. This is not very different from the opening of previous Congresses. This is my eighth start of a new Congress and I still feel a sense of anticipation and excitement.

So today, as we begin this new Congress, I want to focus on what kind of leaders we should strive to be. I have considered this question often for my self. There are several principles I have learned from my observations and experience as a Member of Congress, as a father and husband, from reading the Scriptures and from listening to individuals I respect. Four of these I want to share with you today. They are ones that I believe are important to acknowledge as we begin this new Congress.

1. The problems in our country have a moral base, and the solutions are not purely political.

2. As leaders, we need to be men and women of character.

3. We must foster reconciliation within our country.

4. While we serve in this 104th Congress, we must not forget those that matter most to us—our spouses and our children.

MORAL ROOT OF PROBLEMS

We all know that we face many serious problems in this country and we as leaders need to diagnose and manage them realistically.

I want to suggest a simple proposition to keep in mind as we lead: The problems we face in America have one thing in common—they are at their core moral. In our culture today, many believe there is no difference between vice and virtue. However, we must recognize that there are transcendent standards of right and wrong.

Samuel Johnson once said many years ago when his butler told him a guest was coming to dinner who believed morality was a sham. He said, "If he really believes that there is no difference between vice and virtue, let us count the spoons before he leaves."

So, if we believe that transcendent truths exist, what is our role as members of Congress? Government is not the source of right and wrong, nor is it the ultimate answer regarding questions of right and wrong. The thing that I fear most is that we will believe that we can solve all of our problems politically. If we do believe this, we will fail as we always have. That's not to say we cannot improve things greatly, because we can. But in our political activity what we should focus on is creating a climate where conscience is cultivated and character can be built. It is to that end that public policy, political and social, must be directed.

CHARACTER IN LEADERSHIP

My second point today concerns character. As I enter the 104th Congress, I need to examine my heart—what kind of member do I want to be. The name of Moses is carved in the wall across from the Speaker's rostrum in the House. When Moses was choosing helpers to lead Israel, his father-in-law Jethro gave him this advice in Exodus chapter 18,

verse 21: "Select capable men from all the people, men who fear God, trustworthy men who hate dishonest gain."

Isaiah chapter 1, verse 17 says, "learn to do right, seek justice, encourage the oppressed. Defend the cause of the fatherless. Plead the case of the widow."

And Micah chapter 6, verse 8 says, "And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to have mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

I challenge myself to follow these guidelines—to be a person who fears God, to be trustworthy, to be a person of integrity and character. I must ask myself do I want to be a man of excellence or a man of expedience, a man of principle or one who seeks to be popular, a man who looks for the right thing to do and does it, or a man who finds the easy way around whatever I'm facing.

I'm reminded of what William Penn said, "Government, like clocks, go from the motion men give them, and as governments are made and moved by men, so by them they are ruined too . . . Let men be good, and the government cannot be bad; if it be ill, they will cure it. But if men be bad, let the government be never so good, they will endeavor to warp and spoil it."

RECONCILIATION

My third point concerns reconciliation, a sometimes difficult task in Washington. As we govern, it is important to work in a spirit of cooperation. What we need in the country and world, as well as in the Congress, is reconciliation—between races, countries, spouses, between children and their parents.

Today regardless of your religious views, consider the teaching of Jesus who is one of

the greatest authorities on reconciliation. He stressed the importance of forgiveness and of loving one's enemies. In Matthew Chapter 18, verses 21 and 22, Peter asks Jesus, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times? Jesus answered, I tell you, not seven times, but seventy times seven."

When I think of reconciliation in the political arena I think of one person who did it well. His name was William Wilberforce, who got together a group of members of the British parliament from across the political spectrum to abolish the slave trade in England at a time when the country's economy was dependent on it.