

said if it is so safe, Mr. Chirac, why do you not explode it in France?

We do not need this madness. We do not need this nightmare. I might also, Mr. Speaker, there are only 1.2 million American citizens living in the State of Hawaii. On the State of Hawaii, these are American citizens, Mr. Speaker, and I appeal again to the President, to the State Department, let us not be submissive. Let us not be passive to allow President Chirac to make these kinds of decisions that bring tension, that bring trouble and complete disregard for the concerns and the lives and the health and the welfare of the people who live in the Pacific.

Mr. Speaker, I was in Tahiti just 2 days ago. Never have I witnessed what colonialism really means in the eve of the 21st century. Tahitian people are the least educated. I learned that only a handful, this is after 150 years of French colonialism, I was told by the Tahitians there are less than 10 Tahitians that were ever educated in the field of law. What a shame. What a shame, Mr. Speaker.

I was joined by the Minister of Finance. The Minister of Finance, Mr. Takemura of Japan, quotes that France is losing respect from nations all over the world because of this stupid policy of exploding nuclear bombs in the Pacific. I might also note, Mr. Speaker, that there were parliamentarians from about 20 countries all over the world who were there to lend their support in strong opposition to this stupid policy that President Chirac has established to continue these stupid nuclear tests that we do not need in this world. And why are we reinventing the wheel? We have the technology. We offered it to President Chirac. But he does not want to accept it. What foolishness. And if it is so much to say that President Chirac can get away with this, then, Mr. Speaker, there is no justification for the United States and for France to tell India, to tell Pakistan, to tell Iraq, to tell Iran, you cannot experiment with nuclear bombs. That is nonsense and I urge my colleagues, I urge the American people to help, to help the 200,000 Polynesian Tahitians who are the victims.

I might also add, Mr. Speaker, the media has done a disservice to this whole issue of nuclear bomb testings seeking only the opinions of people living in Europe, seeking only the opinions of policymakers but never looking at the situation of the victims, the people, the indigenous people who live in these islands, never, never regarding their concerns and their needs to live. And that is all they want, Mr. Speaker.

They just want to simply live as a people whose lives depend on the ocean, whose lives depend on these atolls and these islands, and I just cannot believe this, Mr. Speaker. I cannot believe this is at the eve of the 21st century we have a country like France, supposedly a democracy, practicing the worst evils of colonialism against these 200,000 people that live there and all they

want in life is just to live in peace. Is that asking too much of President Chirac? Oh, no. President Chirac wants to so that he is a big man now.

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He is macho; he is De Gaulle the second. He wants to show that he has got muscle there.

I hope Chancellor Kohl will take notice of this fact. If I were a German citizen, I would be a little concerned about President Chirac's ability to press that nuclear button.

Why should Germany also not have nuclear deterrent force? I say, in every justification, Germany should have that same, but this is a farce that is going on as far as nuclear testing is concerned.

Why should France be the only one? And other democratic countries in Europe, they should also have the same technology. This is what France has done.

Chirac is the leading proponent of nuclear proliferation. What France has done yesterday, it has opened up the nuclear arms tests again, and I call upon President Clinton and Secretary Christopher, let us not be passive about this. This thing concerns the lives and the welfare of the American people just as much as the poor victims who are caught between this whole episode on how one man, not the goodness of the French people, one man and the terrible policy that his government has established since he has been in office for the first 100 days. I cannot believe this, Mr. Speaker; the worst example of colonialism on the eve of the 21st century that we find a democratic country like France totally disregarding world opinion, totally disregarding the wishes of the local people who are going to be most impacted. Yet this man still went ahead and exploded that nuclear bomb yesterday. I cannot believe this, Mr. Speaker.

I ask the American people, you know, there is one thing I have learned about American tradition. Mr. Speaker, they always like to support the underdog because we were the underdogs when we were colonies and happened to be going against the greatest power, that happened to be the British empire. Who would dare challenge the British empire for its form of colonialism? This exactly is the situation facing the Polynesians, 200,000 people who do not have guns, grenades. They are still paddling canoes to make a living, enjoying what nature has given them, enjoying what God has given them.

Is it asking so much that these people want to live as any others, Mr. Speaker? Mr. Speaker, what nonsense, what madness that the President of France has the gall, the mitigated gall, to press that nuclear button yesterday.

If the Tahitians get killed and wounded, if that place is burning, I say this should be on the head of President Chirac, that he should be taking full responsibility for this.

I call upon my colleagues and the goodness of the American people, do

not buy French products, do not buy French perfume, do not buy French wines. Send a strong message to President Chirac that the world community and the American people support the victims of this whole thing, and this is the only way that that man is going to listen to the wishes of the world community.

Mr. Speaker, 63 percent of the people of France do not support nuclear testing. The vast majority of the Tahitian Polynesians, 200,000 men, women, and children who live in this area of the world, do not support nuclear testing.

Yet because of the strong military lobby, the corporate lobby in France that probably supported President Chirac during his campaign, is getting a payoff. That is what this is about. The corporate lobby in France is getting a payoff because of its support of President Chirac in his election campaign this year. What a shame, Mr. Speaker. What a shame this is the kind of policy the President of France adheres to despite the wishes not only of the people, the victims who live in these islands; they are getting nothing but the worst example of colonialism in the middle of the 20th century.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I appeal to my colleagues and the American people, do not buy French foods, do not buy French products. This is the only way that President Chirac is going to listen to common sense, listen and be a little more sensitive to the wishes of the people who live there.

Mr. Speaker, again I thank my friend, the gentleman from New Jersey.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. RIGGS (at the request of Mr. ARMEY), for today, on account of personal reasons.

Mr. SISISKY (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT), for today, and the balance of the week, on account of medical reasons.

Mr. TUCKER (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT), for today, and the balance of the week, on account of official business.

Mr. MFUME (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT), for today, on account of district business.

Mr. PETE GEREN of Texas (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT), for today, on account of family medical emergency.

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. BRYANT of Texas) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. BRYANT of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. SCHROEDER, for 5 minutes, today.