demanding quid pro quo from our allies—and aid recipients—in this hemisphere.

Take Mexico, as an example. If we are going to bail them out, then we expect them to join us in squeezing Fidel Castro out of Havana. The same applies for our European allies, who have benefited greatly from American support against the tide of aggression in Europe. Even now, these allies are keeping Fidel Castro's corrupt regime—a mere 90 miles from our shores—afloat with trade and tourism. In this context, it is scandalous to think that the United States went out of its way to support a new Spanish pro-Castro leader for NATO.

Mr. Speaker, I hope the administration will finally take off the rose-colored glasses and take a close look at the man they have chosen to extend a helping hand to. Ultimately, I think any meaningful examination will produce an understanding that Fidel Castro isn't a man to trust or to bargain with. That reality should be the basis of any United States policy in Cuba.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Missouri asked me what I would recommend as a Member from Florida. I would recommend getting serious with the embargo. I would recommend that we remember that Fidel Castro is the problem, and, if you do not know that, you should not be dealing in Cuban foreign policy matters.

SOUL WILL LEAD US INTO THE 21ST CENTURY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentlewoman from Colorado [Mrs. SCHROEDER] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, I have always felt very strongly that if someone showed me their leader they had shown me a part of their soul. I think that is true of nations. When they show you their leader, they have shown you their soul, if that leader has been democratically designated, with a small D, obviously.

But knowing that, I have been very troubled watching what has been going on in this Presidential primary. If what I am saying is true, then what kind of a soul have we got in the United States and in this great Nation, this great Nation built on the premise that we may have all come here in different boats but now we are in the same boat and we bloody well better figure out how we work together. Is that over? Is that day gone? Are we going to try and emulate Bosnia?

On the one hand, I get very serious and very concerned about this. On the other hand, I must say as a Democrat, with a large D, I enjoy it. I kind of decided, now show me your shirt and I know who you are backing. If you wear a flannel shirt, we know who you are backing. You are obviously backing Mr. Alexander. If you wear a silk or custom-made shirt, you are obviously backing the gentleman from New York, Mr. Forbes. If you come in with a stuffed shirt, you are probably backing the majority leader. And if you come in with a brown shirt, I think we know who you are backing, too.

So it has become kind of the shirt war. We can watch these shirts, and we can kind of tell whose side they are on. As I say, if it were not our Government, it could be really funny. There are some days when I think our President is the luckiest guy in the world. How could he do better than have this all surface in the primary? There are other days when I absolutely panic and say, but wait a minute, wait a minute. This could come to fruition.

Over this break I had the great, great honor of addressing a pluralism conference in Belfast. I always wear my grandmother's wedding ring. My grandmother was married in Derry, Ireland. And as you know, Ireland has been cursed by a resurgence of the troubles, as they say euphemistically. And there we were with the University of Ulster and the Dublin City University cohosting this era of pluralism, trying to bring back the peace, thousands of people in the streets trying to bring back the peace, trying to recapture the momentum, to put this to an end.

Of course my colleagues can imagine, I was absolutely barraged by questions. What in the world is going on in your country? You want to stand there on solid ground and say, you know, we have gone through lots of pain, we have got all sorts of scars from trying to be a pluralistic nation, but, my goodness, we have got all sorts of benefits, too. And basically the bottom line is we know we cannot go around pitting one group against another group.

Yet, they are watching that happen in their newspaper, and they are all scratching their heads saying, wake up, America, what is the matter? First thing you know, you are going to transfer the troubles right back over to your country.

So I think it is a time that all of us have to realize we have been treating politics like consumers, that what really happened in 1994 is that many people did not vote at all. They felt, well, if I do not like them, if they are not 100 percent correct, then I am not going to encourage them. That may work for being a consumer, but it does not work in civics. If you do not vote for somebody because they are not perfect and, heaven forbid, none of us are, then you are still going to have to live under whoever does win.

So you may vote for your imperfect friend and end up with someone who takes the country right off the cliff or in the absolute wrong direction.

So I am hoping all of us start making these distinctions between consumerism and civics, we start getting a little more serious and stop looking just at their shirts and look at their souls. It is their soul that will be governing this country for the next 4 years, if any of them find themselves in that White House. It is their soul that is going to reflect upon us and on our future and lead this great country into the 21st century.

As we end this century, which was known as the American century, I get goose bumps thinking about it. What will the 21st century be known as? Will we no longer be a player? Will we all be pitted in fighting against each other? I certainly hope not. But I think those are the very, very serious thoughts all Americans must engage in as we watch this Presidential primary continue to unfold.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would inform our guests in the gallery that public displays of approval or disapproval are not permitted.

CREDIT CARD USE BY FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. GEKAS] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, as everyone in the world knows, the Congress of the United States has been living on a credit card for many, many years now, decades. As a result, we have a huge national debt, and annual deficits that impinge upon the standard of living of every American. Well, now there comes to light that part of the credit card problem is in the Government itself.

Starting sometime in 1993 or 1994, apparently Federal agencies have been allowed to issue credit cards to employees who have to do travel and other work for that particular agency. We have learned through a report by the inspector general in the U.S. Department of Commerce that these credit cards have been used not just for travel for governmental purposes but also for jewelry, for liquor, for online computer services, for a variety of things never contemplated for Federal employees to use, to be used in obtaining.

What does this mean? It means that we have a credit card system in play that is being abused and is costing taxpayers money. We did not make this up. This came from an investigation of the inspector general. We have learned that some 500 of these accounts, credit card accounts, had been used for these extraneous purposes, to get extra cash at an ATM facility, to purchase jewelry and liquor. Was that contemplated by the taxpayers of the United States, to give carte blanche, a credit card to Federal employees to spend as they wish?

Some would defend the system and say, well, we have a credit card system, that means faster service and less costly ticket buying, et cetera. But is it worth it when we have all these other abuses that we are discussing?