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## House of Representatives

The House met at 12 noon.

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

Let us pray using the words of Psalm 40:

*Blessed is man who makes the Lord his trust, who does not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after false gods. Thou hast multiplied O Lord my God, Thy wondrous deeds and Thy thoughts toward us; none can compare with Thee. Were I to proclaim and tell all of them, they would be more than can be numbered. But may all who seek Thee rejoice and be glad in Thee; may those who love Thy salvation say continually, "Great is the Lord." Amen.*

### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. 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. Will the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. SKELTON] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SKELTON 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.

### SPECIAL ORDERS

#### THE FUTURE OF THE U.S. MILITARY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YOUNG of Florida). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. SKELTON] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, Gen. George Patton, as vigorous a proponent of advanced military technology as ever served in the U.S. Armed Forces, once said, "Wars may be fought with weapons, but they are won by people."

Today, in the last of three speeches I am making on the future of the U.S. military, I want to talk about the most important resource that the Nation has in protecting its security: Our people, the men and women who serve in the Armed Forces and the civilians who support them.

As I have emphasized in each of my previous speeches, under the Constitution it is Congress' responsibility to ensure that U.S. forces are able to carry out their duties. Article 1, section 8 of the Constitution gives Congress the power to raise and support armies; to provide and maintain a Navy; and to make rules for the Government and regulation of the land and naval forces.

Unfortunately, Congress has not always fulfilled its responsibility to provide for the common defense. Too often in the past, indeed perhaps most often in this century, the United States has been unprepared for the military challenges it has faced. As George C. Marshall lamented in a 1923 speech that I quoted earlier, immediately following a war, Congress and the public remember the terrible price paid by young Americans at the start of a war for which we were unprepared. But very soon thereafter, under the weight of the public debt, the costs of war are forgotten and military strength is allowed to erode.

In earlier speeches, I discussed military strategy and defense budgets. In those statements, I said, first, that the strategy which appears to be emerging from the Quadrennial Defense Review or QDR that is now underway in the Pentagon appears to be correct and appropriately broad and demanding.

I said, second, however, that the resources that the QDR anticipates to be

available appear inadequate to support the strategy. I am concerned especially that the QDR will require reductions in active duty troop levels, and I do not feel that any reductions are warranted in view of the demands on the force. I am even more concerned that this round of force cuts will be followed by a perpetual cycle of budget shortfalls and additional cuts in the future, unless defense budgets grow modestly over time.

Those are critically important issues, in large part because of how they bear on the matters I will discuss today. An ambitious strategy accompanied by inadequate resources is a prescription for placing tremendous strain on the people who serve. As it has been said, all of the money for defense that Congress may provide, all of the weapons that the services may buy, all of the logistics infrastructure that may undergird the force, all of the military doctrine that strategists may pronounce, all of the campaign plans that commanders may devise, all of these things ultimately come down to a single soldier walking on point.

It is also true, as a corollary, that the men and women who serve in the Armed Forces deserve material and moral support sufficient to allow them to do what we ask of them. In peacetime, however, we most often forget the costs of war and neglect to pay the price of peace. Sometimes I worry that this tendency to forget those who wear the uniform is inherent in a democratic society.

The famous British poet Rudyard Kipling wrote a poem entitled "Tommy," about the treatment of soldiers in time of peace. It is written from the point of view of a British infantryman dressed in his red coat who was refused a pint of beer in a public house, and he complains:

"For It's Tommy this, an' Tommy that, an' 'Chuck him out, the brute!' But it's 'Savior of 'is country'

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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