

and who are leading the way for the women leaders of tomorrow.

WELCOMING MEMBERS TO THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I come to the floor this afternoon to welcome all Members, especially new Members, to the 106th Congress. Whether one is Republican or Democrat, I am your Congresswoman away from home, and I want to tell you a little bit about this city and a little bit about the assistance I can offer you while you are here, because you are going to spend more time in the District of Columbia than you will spend in your own district.

Some of you live here, all of you work here. Many of you will have your entertainment here. Matters arise in the city. If you need help, including help for your constituents, I hope you will call me. If you live in the city, there are inevitable problems that arise with your trash, with rodents. No tickets, please. We cannot take back tickets, for the most part, although there are a few instances where the District cannot write tickets for Members of Congress, and I suppose we will submit those to the District. What we really love are shortcuts to getting a marriage license. Since I have been in Congress, I have helped at least three Members get marriage licenses.

In any case, when one is wondering where to turn when anything arises in this city, whether it is city services or the city at large, please call my office.

On Monday, February 23, 1999, we are having a formal event called Ask Me About Washington. You and your staffs are invited, with a free lunch.

I want to tell you about hometown Washington. Forget what you have heard. A revolution has occurred in this city. It has a new mayor, a reinvented city council, and a control board that operates with a much reduced capacity. The city is in the hands of its new mayor, Tony Williams, the man who helped repair the city's finances and, as a result, got elected mayor. I work closely with him and have great hopes in what he can do for this city, because he has already done a great deal for the city when he was chief financial officer.

The city's problems came largely from the fact that since its establishment 200 years ago, it has been the only city in the United States that has carried State, county and municipal functions. It is a miracle that the District was up and standing so long carrying State functions, despite its big city urban problems that all of you have in your own States.

Congress has relieved the city of some of its State functions, much to the credit of the Congress and the

President. So the District has had three years of surpluses and is no longer even close to insolvent.

You should also know about the city that it is a city at the very top in so many ways. We are fifth per capita in the United States in the number of residents who have a bachelor's degree. The residents keep this city running for the 25 million people who come here to see the monuments and the city every year, and we keep it running out of our own pocket with \$5 billion raised from taxpayers in the District. We do this with no grant from the Federal Government, despite the fact that the Federal Government takes 40 percent of the land off of our tax rolls for Federal office space and monuments.

We are third per capita in Federal income taxes paid to the Federal Treasury, and yet my folks have no representation in the Senate, and only me, a delegate, in the House. This is a historic anomaly, along with the fact that you will be asked to vote on local matters, occasional local matters affecting the District, and even on our appropriation, none of which is raised by the Federal Government. This is an anomaly that is impossible to justify today. All that we ask is that you be respectful of local government, as you insist in your own district and State. Congress should never intrude on the Democratic prerogatives of a local people, and I ask for that respect in the name of the people I represent.

Please know that you are in one of the most livable and beautiful cities in the United States. New Members will shortly be receiving a letter from me about this city. Members who have been here before will be receiving an update. You do not need to go far to know what a beautiful city this is as a hometown community. Not only the Congresswoman, but all of the elected officials and the residents stand ready to help you enjoy the city.

I want to be clear that my office is here at the disposal of Members of the House and the Senate. If you have a problem in the District, you do not have to call the District straight away to try to find out where and who to go to to deal with it. Call your Congresswoman away from home, Congresswoman ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON, who proudly represents the more than one-half million people who have the good fortune to live in the Nation's Capital.

ILL-ADVISED U.S. INTERVENTIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I have always believed that national defense is one of the most and at times the most important and most legitimate function of our national government. I have strongly supported our military, although at times I have also supported some cost-saving measures in defense spending.

I voted for the Gulf War several years ago because Saddam Hussein had moved against another country, Kuwait, and was threatening others. He had what was considered to be the strongest military in the Middle East, although we now know that we vastly overestimated his strength. There were fears then that he might try to take over the entire region if he was not stopped.

A few months ago I voted for the \$100 million U.S. contribution to try to remove him. From what I have read, Saddam Hussein appears to be a horrible megalomaniac, a terrible dictator who has killed people to stay in power, and I would agree with anything bad that one could say about him.

But I believe that Robert Novak, the nationally syndicated columnist and TV commentator, is right when he calls our action against Iraq "a phony, political war."

Iraq's military strength was almost wiped out by the Gulf War eight years ago. Our sanctions since that time have ruined what was left of Iraq's economy. Our latest bombings have been against an extremely weak, almost defenseless nation, and in fact, against a military the size and strength of ours, Iraq is defenseless. We are doing this to a country that made no overt action against us, and in fact did not even threaten to.

There is no threat to our national security. There is no vital U.S. interest at stake or that is even threatened. Iraq is not even a paper tiger today.

Some of our leaders have tried their best to make Iraq sound threatening by repeatedly talking about weapons of mass destruction, yet in several years of inspections by U.N. inspectors, no weapons of mass destruction were found. Besides, many nations, including us and our leading allies, have weapons of mass destruction. We cannot go bomb every nation that has some weapon of mass destruction.

We have spent over \$2 billion on the Iraqi deployment over the last few months and are still spending huge amounts; many, many millions each day. This is a surrealistic war. Most Americans do not even feel like we are at war. The news from Iraq is not even making the front pages.

All we are doing is wasting billions of dollars and making enemies all over the world. We are repeatedly involving ourselves in ethnic, religious and historical conflicts, some of which have been going on for centuries and which will go on long after we pull out, if we ever do. All we are doing is wasting billions of dollars and making enemies all over the world.

We have turned our military into international social workers. A few years ago the front page of the Washington Post carried a story that said we had our troops in Haiti picking up garbage and settling domestic disputes. Last year on this floor I heard another Member say we had our troops in Bosnia giving rabies shots to dogs. Most