

and racial groupings, relations which cannot be unchosen without destroying the human person shaped by them.

Christian faith gives us a vision of a person we call the Word of God, made flesh. Crucified and risen from the dead, Jesus sends us the Holy Spirit, who speaks every language and gives every good gift. This vision should set us free from any lesser picture of things; the language of faith should keep us from supposing that we adequately understand reality in its depths and heights. This is a vision that should humble and, in humbling us, open us to other worlds. Approaching a third Christian millennium (using what is now a common calendar), we gather to worship the God we believe to be the Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ and therefore, in Christ, our Father as well. It is good to do so, for if we do not worship God we will inevitably end up worshipping ourselves. Nations worshipping themselves have plagued this last century of the second millennium, and God's word prompts us now to examine anew ourselves and our history. Without warrant, we have associated ourselves with the biblical city on a hill, not Nazareth but Jerusalem itself. Without right, we too often judge other people and nations by our standards and interests, assuming that our interests must be universal. Without sense, we even seriously consider if this nation is the end of history, as if our present political and economic arrangements were surely the culmination of God's designs for the universe. Lincoln, who had the good grace to speak of us only as an "almost chosen people", would surely blush, and so should we.

Today, as yesterday and tomorrow, the Church speaks a language of respect for public office holders, whose vocation is shaped by the constraints of law; but the Church, today as yesterday and tomorrow, also speaks as best she can to judge the actions and decision of public officials, and the culture shaped by them, when these are inadequate to the vision given us by the truths of faith. "Faith must become culture," Pope John Paul II says. "What are you doing to change the culture?" he asks. But how can we speak of change in America today when the law itself blinds us to basic truths? One egregious blind spot is our very sense of liberation construed as personal autonomy. An autonomous person has no need of jubilee, of freedom as gift; he has set himself free. The fault line that runs through our culture, and it is sometimes exacerbated rather than corrected by law, is the sacrificing of the full truth about the human person in the name of freedom construed as personal autonomy. It is a blind spot as deep as that in Marxism's sacrifice of personal freedom in the name of justice construed as absolute economic equality. Such a profound error makes our future uncertain. Will the United States be here when the human race celebrates the end of the third millennium? Not without a very changed, a very converted culture.

The Church, however, must also listen first to God's word before she speaks, before she translates God's word into the words of our culture or any other. Hence the Church can speak only with deep humility a language which purports to give definitive access to God's designs in history. Even prophetic judgment, while certain in its proclamation, is tentative in its final outcome. The Spirit is always free, but never self-contradictory.

Tentatively, then, let us try the language of prayer and ask that God's judgment fall lightly on us and our nation. Gratefully, I pray that God reward your dedication to public service and your desire to create a common language adequate to the experience of all our people and open to all others. Joyfully, let us hope that the Jubilee introducing the coming millennium may restore

to the United States a sense of authentic freedom rooted in an evergrowing generosity of spirit. May God bless us all. Amen.

A TRAGIC LOSS

HON. TOM CAMPBELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. Speaker, my state and our nation recently suffered a grievous loss in the passing of California State Senator Milton Marks. I expressed my sorrow in a letter to his wife, the Honorable Carolene Marks, San Francisco Commissioner on the Status of Women, and I would like to put into the RECORD of the House of Representatives my letter to her, as a tribute to him.

DEAR CAROLENE: My heart sank with an empty feeling the moment I learned of Milton's passing. Both Susanne and I send our heartfelt condolences to let you know that we share your loss. It was my personal joy and honor to call Milton a colleague and dear friend. He will be missed by those who knew of his dedication and service to the citizens of San Francisco and the State of California.

Carolene, there are no words that can be spoken, no words that can be written, to relieve the pain and sorrow of losing Milton. He was the consummate statesman who worked hard at his profession using his drive, dedication and spirit to champion many causes. He lived life with compassion by creating laws that protected our youth from harm, by improving the quality of our environment, and by encouraging the development of economic policy that makes California the greatest state in the nation. His service to the public will be a lasting memory for the next generation. May God bless you and your loved ones in this time of grief.

THE SOAP BOX DERBY

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, for the last eight years, I have sponsored a resolution for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby to hold its race along Constitution Avenue. Yesterday, I proudly introduced H. Con. Res. 47 to permit the 58th running of the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby, which is to take place on the Capitol Grounds on July 10, 1999. This resolution authorizes the Architect of the Capitol, the Capitol Police Board, and the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby Association to negotiate the necessary arrangements for carrying out running of the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby in complete compliance with rules and regulations governing the use of the Capitol Grounds.

In the past, the full House has supported this resolution once reported favorably by the full Transportation Committee. I ask for my colleagues to join with me, and Representatives ALBERT WYNN, CONNIE MORELLA, and JIM MORAN in supporting this resolution.

From 1992 to 1998, the Greater Washington Soap Box derby welcomed over 40 contestants which made the Washington, DC race

one of the largest in the country. Participants range from ages 9 to 16 and hail from communities in Maryland, the District of Columbia and Virginia. The winners of this local event will represent the Washington Metropolitan Area in the National Race, which will be held in Akron, OH on July 31, 1999.

The Soap Box Derby provides our young people with an opportunity to gain valuable skills such as engineering and aerodynamics. Furthermore, the Derby promotes team work, a strong sense of accomplishment, sportsmanship, leadership, and responsibility. These are positive attributes that we should encourage children to carry into adulthood. The young people involved spend months preparing for this race, and the day that they complete it makes it all the more worthwhile.

IN HONOR OF GARY A. POLIAKOFF

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Gary A. Poliakoff, soon to be awarded the Learned Hand Human Relations award by the American Jewish Committee. This prestigious award is given annually to members of the legal profession, and there could be no better candidate that embodies the spirit of the award than Gary Poliakoff. Gary's work on co-ownership housing personifies the thoughtful and humane spirit of Judge Hand, one of the most distinguished scholars in American jurisprudence.

Recognized internationally as an expert in co-ownership housing, Gary's contributions to this important legal field epitomize the ideals on which this award is based. After receiving his law degree from the University of Miami in 1969, Gary established his strong roots in the South Florida community as founding principal of Becker and Poliakoff, P.A. Serving as President of the firm since its inception, Gary has dedicated much time and effort to become an authority on co-ownership housing. He has provided his expertise to State legislatures, Senate Committees, and the White House, helping to draft legislation and addressing concerns regarding the sale, development, and operation of condominiums. Additionally, he has lectured internationally, addressing the Parliament of the Czech Republic on issues relating to the conversion of State housing to private ownership, as well as the Russian Academy of Jurisprudence in Moscow on co-ownership issues.

Serving on the Board of Governors of the Shepard Broad Law Center of Nova Southeastern University, Gary shares his wealth of knowledge on co-ownership housing through his course on Condominium Law and Practice. He has served as chairman of the State Advisory Council on Condominiums and as a board member of the Board of Governors of the College of Community Association of Lawyers. Finally, Gary is an accomplished author, creating a national treatise, *The Law of Condominium Operations*, West Group 1998, and co-authoring *Florida Condominium Law and Practice* for the Florida Bar Association.

Aside from his wealth of knowledge and experience in the legal profession, Mr. Poliakoff