

most selfish instincts imaginable; and his proposals are proving he is headed towards government of the rich, by the rich, and for the rich.

Contrast his base appeal with that of President John F. Kennedy who once summoned Americans to ask not what your country can do for you but what you can do for your country, and what we together can do for the freedom of humankind.

Mr. Speaker, I urge our colleagues in the other body to choose a wiser economic course than the House and the President, a prudent course, a responsible course for our Nation's future. We should not imperil our Nation's economic growth through reckless tax cuts. America should first pay its bills.

The facts are that the interest payments alone on America's \$5.5 trillion debt account for an ever-increasing percentage of the annual budget.

Look at this chart. This shows since 1975, interest payments on our national debt have grown every year. This is the year 2000 right here, highest ever, and projected this year, over \$434 billion of interest payments alone on the debt. So what is all this talk about this magic surplus? And think about how these interest payments crowd out other important national investments we could be making, in Social Security and Medicare, where we must pay those bills, in defense and education, in veterans benefits, in transportation, in the environment and certainly in agriculture.

In the 1990s, due to unparalleled economic growth and strong budget discipline by Members of this House, we began to turn our ship of state around in the proper direction by finally beginning to get our bills paid. But I urge anyone to go to the U.S. Department of Treasury Web site and see for yourselves what America still owes. Here is the Web site number right up here, <http://publicdebt.treas.gov>.

Let me point out also that the percentage of foreign holders of the Federal debt has tripled since I was a freshman on the Banking Committee, going from 12 percent of what is being bought by others today to a resounding 41 percent. The largest investor in the U.S. Federal debt is now Japan, holding over \$340 billion. Do you have any question in your mind why our products cannot gain fair access to Japan's markets when she is holding the purse strings?

Something has gone terribly, terribly wrong with our economic policies. In fact, interest on our debt now exceeds more than we pay in an annual year for the defense of this Nation. It is double what we spend annually on Medicaid and Medicare. And it dwarfs critical spending in other nondefense areas like education, transportation, veterans, agriculture, all put together into one.

I wanted to add to that our trade deficit. Every single year over the last 20 years, America's trade deficit with the world has deepened to historically all-time levels. Almost \$500 billion more

imports coming into this country on an annual basis than our exports going out. And you ask yourself who is now the largest holder of these private dollars related to goods trade with America? I can tell you it is the People's Republic of China, which is far from my definition of a republic, with over \$80 billion of holdings in U.S. dollar reserves.

So what is wrong with the Bush plan? Tomorrow night I am going to continue on that, but let me first say that the President's tax and budget plan ought to lead to paying down our debt and ushering in a new era of economic independence for our country.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. MORELLA addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

IN MEMORIAM: MRS. NOLA BRIGHT, IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT, WESTSIDE BRANCH NAACP

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, today is equal pay day for women. I take this time to stop and pay tribute to a woman who spent practically all of her adult life fighting in behalf of women, minorities and any others whom she felt may have been oppressed and at the bottom of the socioeconomic ladder, Mrs. Nola Bright, immediate past president of the Westside Branch NAACP.

Nola Bright was born and reared in the city of Chicago and spent the major portion of her life living in, defending and working to improve what is commonly and affectionately known as the West Side of Chicago, in the Lawndale community.

Nola Bright was a family-oriented person. She grew up in a warm family, married John Bright at an early age, and had four children. She was a fiercely dedicated mother and grandmother and was indeed a surrogate mother, mentor and role model for many younger men, women and children who looked to her for guidance and direction.

Nola Bright became a school and community activist at an early age. As she saw her children off to school, she started to work with the Chicago Youth Centers as a way of making sure that children had after-school recreation and leisure-time activities. Mrs. Bright came into her own during the mid-1960s which was a period of great civil unrest, social change and the establishment of new structures. She was intimately immersed in all of these activities and often rose to leadership status within the groups with whom she worked.

She worked most directly with the Chicago Youth Centers, Better Boys Foundation, District 8 Education Council, Greater Lawndale Conservation Commission, Sears, YMCA, Martin Luther King Neighborhood Health Center, Lawndale Urban Progress Center and the Model Cities Program.

Nola Bright was a champion of the underdog and spent much of her life working with and on behalf of individuals and causes often considered to be the least popular. Rarely did Nola Bright separate her compensated work from her causes. You generally could not distinguish between her job and her volunteer activity. Over the years, she held a variety of jobs, Chicago Youth Centers, Martin Luther King Neighborhood Health Center, Westside Association for Community Action's Sickle Cell Project. She even worked for me when I was a member of the Chicago City Council and president pro tem. Finally, she worked for Habilitative Systems Social Service Agency from which she retired.

For the past 20 years or more of her life, Nola Bright was totally committed to keeping the Westside Branch of the NAACP alive and functioning. She served as president, secretary, treasurer, membership chairman and held every other office. She performed any and all tasks that she could not get someone else to do. Nola Bright was stubbornly principled and would much rather give out than give in. In actuality, she gave her life to the service of others.

She will be memorialized at the Carey Tercentenary AME Church on Saturday, April 6, 2001, 10 a.m., still looking for equal pay, for equal justice and equal opportunity.

REGARDING THE MIDDLE EAST

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, before I make my formal remarks, let me indicate that today I filed H.R. 1336, to give citizenship to the held Chinese citizen, legal resident of the United States, professor in the United States, mother of a 5-year-old and now husband to a United States citizen held in China for now almost 2 months.

I am very pleased that this private citizenship bill is cosponsored by myself, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD), the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE), the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY), the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE), the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. KENNEDY), and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF).

It is a tragedy when families are separated. If we can do anything to enhance the role of the United States of

America to promote peace and democracy and to ease the pain of a family that has now been separated, distressed and in great frustration, this House should move on this legislation immediately. I call on my colleagues to sign this legislation to create this citizenship for this imprisoned member of this country and as well to provide solace to her family, her husband and her child.

Mr. Speaker, however, I rise today to speak on the Mideast conflict. Peace is never easy to broker. Prime Minister Sharon of Israel has a formidable task ahead of him. We need to forge ahead as an international community to help bring further stability to the Middle East. As Winston Churchill once said, "We shall not escape our dangers by recoiling from them."

Since the Middle East conflict began anew last fall, 457 people have been killed, including 375 Palestinians, 63 Israeli Jews, and 19 others. With both sides accusing each other of unjustified attacks, there sometimes appears to be no end in sight for the terror affecting the children of the Middle East. It remains a fact, Mr. Speaker, that nongovernmental organizations like Save the Children have begun distribution of emergency medical supplies to five hospitals in the territories. Save the Children has worked to bring medical supplies to the Union of Palestinian Medical Relief Committees and the Medical Services, the operation of ambulance services with the Palestinian Red Crescent, the rehabilitation of schools and teacher training so that children have a creative, productive way to channel their energies. This is necessary to respond quickly to the special needs of children caught in the current uprising. And America must do more to assist such ongoing efforts and more to assist in the brokering of peace.

Whatever happens, there can be little doubt that relations between Israelis and Palestinians will have a profound impact on United States strategic interests in the Middle East. And because of that, the United States must remain an interested party in the region. It is absolutely imperative.

As the President of Egypt now visits America, the Bush administration must work to explore new opportunities for peace and reconciliation in the Middle East. We cannot recoil, we cannot be a turtle, we cannot stick our heads in the sand. America must become more engaged regarding negotiations between the Israelis and the Palestinians. Unfortunately, America has been silent since the departure of the former administration concerning a dangerous situation that cannot be resolved without its constructive participation.

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Am I suggesting that we engage in war, Mr. Speaker? No, I am not. I am simply asking us to help.

Too many children stand to lose their lives and stand to lose without

our help. I believe that it is critical that both parties need to make every effort to end the current cycle of provocation and reaction. Each side bears a special responsibility to seek an end for the riots, the terror, the bombings and the shootings. There must be a time-out on violence before the situation degenerates into war that we cannot stop.

We can all remember the images from last fall of the Palestinian child hiding behind his father caught in the crossfire shot to death; and then the images a few days later, the pictures of an Israeli soldier who was beaten while in custody and thrown out of a second floor window of a police station to be beaten to death by the mob below. We must stop this travesty.

It is easy to understand how passions can run high and frustration and fear can drive violence, but it is also easy to see how these feelings, even these feelings that are based in legitimate aspiration, can get out of control and lead to ever-deeper and never-ending cycles of violence. When will it end?

The children, Israeli and Palestinians, are the targets of increasing hatred that they simply do not understand. We must have respect, Mr. Speaker, for the peace and the necessity of moving forward.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, let me just say that it is important to follow the words of Robert F. Kennedy: "It is when expectations replace submission, when despair is touched with the awareness of possibility, that the forces of human desire and the passion for justice are unloosed."

We must unloose it in the Mideast. We must fight for peace.

Mr. Speaker, peace is never easy to broker. Prime Minister Sharon of Israel has a formidable task ahead of him, and we need to forge ahead as an international community to help bring further stability to the Middle East. As Winston Churchill once said, "We shall not escape our dangers by recoiling from them."

Since the Mideast conflict began last fall, 457 people have been killed, including 375 Palestinians, 63 Israeli Jews and 19 others. With both sides accusing each other of unjustified attacks, there sometimes appears to be no end in sight for the terror affecting the children of the Middle East. It remains a fact, Mr. Speaker, that nongovernmental organizations like Save the Children have begun distribution of emergency medical supplies to five hospitals in the territories. Save the Children has worked to bring medical supplies for the Union of Palestinian Medical Relief Committees and the Medical Services, the operation of ambulance services with the Palestinian Red Crescent, the rehabilitation of schools and teacher training so children have creative, productive ways to channel their energies. This is necessary to respond quickly to the special needs of children caught in the current uprising, and America must do more to assist such ongoing efforts.

Whatever happens, there can be little doubt that relations between Israelis and Palestinians will have a profound impact on United States strategic interests in the Middle East. And because of that, the United States must remain an interested party in the region.

As President Hosni Mubarak now visits America from Egypt, the Bush administration must work to explore new opportunities for peace and reconciliation in the Middle East. America must become more engaged regarding negotiations between the Israelis and the Palestinians. Unfortunately, America has been silent since the departure of the former administration concerning a dangerous situation that cannot be resolved without its constructive participation. Too many children stand to lose without our help, Mr. Speaker.

I believe that it is critical that both parties need to make every effort to end the current cycle of provocation and reaction. Each side bears a special responsibility to seek an end to the riots, the terror, the bombings, and the shootings. There must be a "time out" on violence before the situation degenerates further into war. We can all remember the images, from last fall, of the Palestinian child hiding behind his father, caught in the cross-fire, shot to death, and then the images, a few days later, the pictures of the Israeli soldier who was beaten while in custody and thrown out of a second floor window of the police station, to be beaten to death by the mob below.

It is easy to understand how passions can run high, and frustration and fear can drive violence. But it is also easy to see how these feelings—even these feelings, that are based in legitimate aspiration—can get out of control and lead to ever deeper, and never-ending, cycles of violence. The children, especially the young, are targets of increasing hatred that they simply do not understand.

If both Israel and the Palestinians can make progress in curbing or ending the violence, the United States can play an important role in helping to shape intermediate confidence-building measures between Israel and the Palestinians. The current environment makes a comprehensive agreement very difficult indeed, but proximity gives the Israelis and the Palestinians no choice but to learn to live together. The alternative is clearly war.

The children of Israel and the Palestinian Authority are not expendable; they are the casualties of intolerable violence. The United States must continue to work together with both Israel and the Palestinian Authority to enhance security in the region.

America can play a decisive role in fostering peace and stability in the Middle East. The Bush administration must respond more effectively in the peace process. We should not take sides in this lengthy conflict. However, the United States bears an unquestionable obligation to maintain a constructive role in the Middle East peace process.

The larger question of a lasting peace in the region is, of course, predicated on facilitating continued negotiations with the Palestinians. I will always be a strong supporter of the Middle East peace process because we can never stop trying. We struggle for peace, Mr. Speaker, because the current wave of violence is unacceptable. It undermines the very basis for peace, the notion that Palestinians and Israelis can trust each other and live together.

Last year, we edged a little closer to establishing a permanent blueprint for peace between the Israelis and Palestinians at Wye River. While a peace agreement did not come to fruition, the Israelis and Palestinians conducted an unprecedented level of negotiations in the pursuit of a permanent peace. They discussed issues and exchanged viewpoints on

pivotal matters of dire meaning to the Israeli people and the Palestinian people.

Mr. Speaker, we don't really know when all parties to this ongoing conflict will find everlasting peace and reconciliation. We do know, however, that Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Liberation Organization and Prime Minister Sharon of Israel have an acute sense of the high stakes involved.

Mr. Speaker, let me close with an admonition by Robert F. Kennedy in a 1966 speech made at the University of California. "Men without hope, resigned to despair and oppression, do not have to make revolutions. It is when expectations replaces submission, when despair is touched with the awareness of possibility, that the forces of human desire and the passion for justice are unloosed." The recent violence in the Middle East only underscores the need to get the peace process back on track. We must do so expeditiously for the sake of the children.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TIBERI). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PALLONE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN) is recognized for 5 minutes. (Mr. LANGEVIN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Ms. MCKINNEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. MCKINNEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

REMEMBERING ROBERT B. GANLEY, CITY MANAGER OF PORTLAND, MAINE

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

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remember Robert B. Ganley, for 14 years the city manager of Portland, Maine, who died suddenly from a heart attack on Saturday, December 23, 2000. He was 51.

Bob Ganley preached substance over style, and that is how he lived. As city manager first of South Portland and then of Portland, he revitalized our communities. A master of the budgetary process, he made local government more efficient, improved services, held down taxes, and made Portland a better place to live.

His sometimes blunt demeanor could not hide a passionate commitment to his city, his family, the Portland Sea Dogs and Boston sports teams.

Bob might have become a journalist, but as he told a friend who was one, "I loved government." Not many today

understand the depth of his kind of commitment to public service.

For 6 years, from 1989 to 1995, I served on the Portland City Council, including one year as mayor. I learned from Bob the importance of fighting for the long-term interests of a community against the negative passions of the moment.

Bob Ganley knew that his job was to strengthen the community he served. He wanted Portland to be a place where people cared about each other and could work effectively together toward goals that transcended their individual interests. Portland today is that kind of community.

When homeless people were sleeping in city parks in the late 1980s, Bob pushed the shelter program to meet his declared goal that no one would be without a bed in Portland. He succeeded.

When the local economy stalled in the early 1990s, Bob helped create a downtown improvement district, pushed through tax increment financing packages, and established a business advisory committee to connect city hall with downtown businesses. He worked closely with our employee unions to cope with unusual budgetary pressures.

Bob seized opportunities. When Portland was offered the chance to host the AA baseball team, Bob made it happen and became one of the biggest fans of the Portland Sea Dogs. He understood what the team would do to lift the spirit of the city, even though the economic impact could never be calculated.

Bob Ganley's management style was defined by his unwavering public support of the men and women who worked for the city. He had high expectations for his staff and they knew it. He nudged and pushed and challenged them; but in public he always defended them, even if he thought they were mistaken. Critiques were reserved for private meetings. Above all, Bob could make decisions. We can do this, he would say, about some difficult undertaking, and his staff and the council went out and did it.

When Bob died on December 23, he left behind three children. His pride in them was evident to all who knew him because if he was not talking about the city or sports, he was telling friends about his kids. He had reason to be proud of his children, Amy, Jillian, and Robert, Jr., all now young adults. Their mother, Susan, is helping them adjust to their loss.

At Bob's memorial service in the Merrill Auditorium at city hall, his son Bobby said, "Thank you, Dad, for teaching me that life is all about substance and not about style." He captured his father's character, as well as his passion for public service.

Bob's own life was about to change. He had proposed to Tracy Sullivan less than 24 hours before he died. Tracy's sadness after so much joy is profoundly felt by all who know her. Her young son, Dimitri, loved Bob, too. His

friends, family, and colleagues all miss Bob Ganley; but we take heart from his example, for he showed us how to brush aside cynics and lead the citizens of Portland to build together a better place to live.

Thank you, Bob, for all you taught us.

WOMEN DESERVE EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK

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

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, when President John Kennedy signed the Equal Pay Act into law on June 10, 1963, women on the average earned 61 cents for each dollar earned by a man.

Today, working women earn 73 cents for every dollar earned by a man, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

President Kennedy told his fellow citizens that he was taking the first step in addressing the unconscionable practice of paying female employees less wages than male employees for the same job.

While progress has been made, still more needs to be done. If Congress acts this year, more can be achieved; and I say more can be achieved and will be achieved if we come together.

In my State of California, families lose a staggering \$21 billion of income annually to the wage gap. If women in California received equal pay, poverty and single-mom households would go from 19.2 percent to 9.2 percent.

Women in the Inland Empire, for example, lose an average of \$4,000 every year because of unequal pay, and I state because of unequal pay they lose that much; that is \$4,000. This is money that cannot buy groceries, housing, child care, clothing for their families, and we must realize how important and critical it is when someone has to budget their dollars based on the amount of monies that they get paid.

I ask my colleagues to support H.R. 781, the Paycheck Fairness Act, and the Fair Pay Act legislation currently pending in Congress that is designed to help eliminate the wage gap that still exists between men and women.

Many working women lack the basic benefits they need in order to care for their families. They are our grandmothers, our mothers, our wives, our sisters, our daughters, and our colleagues. They are doctors, lawyers, teachers, caregivers, and leaders.

Women lawyers earn \$3,000 less than a male attorney, and a lot of people are surprised and they think that they earn an equal amount of pay and they do not.

Female doctors make \$5,000 less than male colleagues.

Wages for female nurses, where 95 percent are women, earn \$30 less each week than male nurses who make up 5 percent. Can one imagine, only 5 percent are male and the majority, which