

high-level nuclear waste to Yucca Mountain proclaim that terrorists will have a more difficult time committing an act of terrorism at one singular site as opposed to 131 commercial nuclear reactors around the country.

Nonsense. What this view does not take into account is how many opportunities terrorists will now be provided if this nuclear waste is transported through 43 States, past the homes, hospitals, and schools of over 123 million Americans. Seventy-seven thousand tons of nuclear waste will require at least 96,000 truck shipments over 3 decades, giving terrorists over 96,000 opportunities to target these shipments as the next act of heinous terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, I implore my colleagues to consider the safety and welfare of the 123 million Americans whose communities could be destroyed by transporting deadly nuclear waste throughout our entire country. Protect Americans from the next possible terrorist act. Stop Yucca Mountain.

#### IRAQ

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for President Bush in extending our war on terrorism to the countries that make up the axis of evil: Iran, Iraq, and North Korea. These countries have all been designated as state sponsors of terrorism, and all three are engaged in the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Today, Iraq poses the most serious threat to America's national security. Iraq and Iran were engaged in a war from 1980 to 1988 which killed approximately 1 million people. Just 3 years after this war was over, in 1991, Iraq invaded Kuwait. Two years after the Gulf War in 1993, Iraq tried to assassinate President George H.W. Bush when he visited Kuwait.

Iraq has consistently destabilized the Middle East over the past 20 years and is trying to acquire weapons of mass destruction which can be used against America and our allies. We should work with our allies to finally bring peace, stability, and democracy to the people of Iraq.

We must also prevent other nations from undermining our efforts to bring about a stable, democratic government in Iraq. Mr. Speaker, I fully support President Bush's efforts to eradicate international terrorism, which threatens all free, democratic nations.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which

the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record votes on postponed questions will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules, but not before 6 p.m. today.

#### PERMITTING USE OF ROTUNDA OF CAPITOL FOR CEREMONY TO PRESENT A GOLD MEDAL ON BE- HALF OF CONGRESS TO FORMER PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN AND HIS WIFE NANCY REAGAN

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 305) permitting the use of the Rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony to present a gold medal on behalf of Congress to former President Ronald Reagan and his wife Nancy Reagan, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 305

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Rotunda of the Capitol is authorized to be used on May 16, 2002, for a ceremony to present a gold medal on behalf of Congress to former President Ronald Reagan and his wife Nancy Reagan. Physical preparations for the ceremony shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions as the Architect of the Capitol may prescribe.*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LINDER) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) will each control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LINDER).

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to stand up on behalf of awarding the Congressional Medal to former President Reagan and his wife, Nancy.

I had a long-standing personal relationship with President Reagan, having traveled in his campaign plane going back to the East in 1976. He was a remarkable human being who knew who he was and what he was about, and he left office exactly as he entered it. Uninflated by the trappings of power, he came to do some things, he did them, and then he left.

On the night before he announced his candidacy for President in October of 1975, he gave a speech at the 20th anniversary celebration of the National Review. It was a remarkably confident, uplifting, and humorous speech; but toward the end of that speech, he looked at the world as we see it, and it was not all pretty.

He quoted something written 40 years earlier, or so, by Whittaker Chambers, a former Communist and popular writer in the 1940s and '50s. He said, "It is idle to speak of saving western civilization because western civilization is already a wreck from within. That is why we can hope to do little more than snatch a fingernail from a saint on the rack, or a handful of ash from the fagots, and bury them secretly in the flower pot against that day ages hence

when a few men will dare to believe that there once was something else, that something else was thinkable; and that there are those who, at the dark moments, took loving care to preserve the tokens of hope and truth."

Reagan was looking at a very, very dark time in America. He went on to run for President, and he did not win. In some ways, it does not matter that he did not win in that race. The day after President Ford won the nomination in Kansas City, Ronald Reagan assembled the friendly troops that had followed him so ardently for the past year, and he told them that it was just the beginning, and that we would one day reach that shining city on the Hill.

Four years later, he ran for President again. It is valuable to remember what kind of circumstances the United States faced in 1980 as he ran for President. We have heard for the last 10 years that I have been here on this floor that the 1980s was a decade of greed and that he ran us into all kinds of debt. But let us lay some facts on the table. Facts, as it has been said, are stubborn things.

When Ronald Reagan ran for President, we had interest rates of 21 percent, we had home mortgages at 17 percent, inflation at 14 percent, and double-digit unemployment. He faced these challenges on that January day when he was sworn into office, and he listed them one after the other. Then he told the American people that we can conquer this, because, after all, we are Americans.

Over the next 10 years, not Ronald Reagan and not government policy, but the American people, changed the world with a cut in taxes to take the burden of paying for government off the backs of small businesses, the creators of jobs, with a significant reduction in regulations across the board. The American people, over the next 8 or 10 years, created 4 million businesses and nearly 20 million new jobs. The revenues to the Federal Government after reducing taxes doubled from \$519 billion in 1980 to \$1 trillion 54 billion in 1990.

The American people are a generous sort and also increased their contributions to strangers, people they have never met, through charities from \$48 billion in 1980 to around \$100 billion in 1990. It is now \$195 billion.

Ronald Reagan would be reluctant to take any credit for any of this. He set a tone. He set a tone for the United States, and they followed it. In the 4 years before he became President, from 1976 to 1980, communist influence had increased in 14 major areas around the world from Afghanistan to Zambia. When Ronald Reagan took office, he was facing probably the largest expansion of communist activity in the history of this past century.

As he left office, quietly, without bragging, without talking, communism was collapsing on its own. Shortly thereafter, the Berlin Wall fell, and the