

There is no more important person in a child's life than the mother and father. But as this is Mother's Day weekend, I think it is important to point out that for children learning in schools, the most important factor in their success is their mother reading to them at home.

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As we think about education, which is on the minds of all the people in our country, because education is so important to the preservation and the advancement of our democratic way of life, having an enlightened republic, it is important to think about the role of women and education and the role of this Federal Government in helping our families educate their children.

We have heard a lot from this administration about compassionate conservatism. I have really tried to understand what that term means. But in speaking about education, maybe it is important to put on the record, it is important to have individuals going to schools and reading to children. I do it myself. It is important to have mothers reading to children. It is the most important act that they can perform for that child in the home other than feeding them.

But if you look at this Federal Government and this particular Bush administration, though the compassionate side comes out when we see pictures in the paper of the President coming to Michigan, which he just did this week just north of where I live in Ohio, or wherever he might go, and then you look at the bills that come on this floor such as the Elementary and Secondary Education Act this year, it provides no additional assistance for education of our children around the country. In fact, the bill that passed here authorized an expenditure of over \$24 billion for education at the elementary and secondary levels, but 2 weeks later when the President's budget arrived, it was \$4 billion short. In other words, they might be compassionate, but the conservative side actually does not allow them to fulfill their promises.

Broken promises, that is what compassionate conservatism is all about. Frankly, it is all about nothing. Ask any of our college students across this country. They graduate on average today with a debt of nearly \$17,000. Our physicians, when our medical school students graduate from college, on average we force them to have a debt load of over \$100,000. How can a young physician going into practice manage to have a practice that is profitable while he or she has to pay that debt at the same time as they have to buy all this medical liability insurance, pay for the building, pay for all of their instruments and the medicines, and so forth. Think about the burden that we continue to place on the future of this country, on our young people.

So as a woman of our country, as a Congresswoman, as someone who I think has some mothering instincts of

her own, let me just say probably the most important thing I can do is to support the future, and that is to support our young people at the elementary and secondary level and at the college level and to say to the Bush administration, compassion is not enough. Conservatism is not enough. You have to do something with the power you have to help nurture and grow the next generation. And burdening them with debt that they do not get out from under until they are 40 years old is not the way to build this country.

Frankly, we ought to have a program that allows any student, any young adult in this country that has that kind of debt to work it off through national service on the military side or the civilian side at a rate of \$20,000 a year. We ought to get them out from under that debt and take care of some of the needs of this country, whether it is in our nursing homes, whether it is in our forests, whether it is in our inner city schools, whether it is in our medical clinics, wherever it might be, that we take this burden off the next generation so that they can move into this 21st century and new millennium in a way that helps advance America's cause.

Happy Mother's Day.

NATIONAL CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES WEEK

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

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor correctional officers and employees of correctional facilities across this country. This past weekend, correctional officers came here to Washington to celebrate National Correctional Officers and Employees Week. Awards were presented to officers whose exceptional service merited special recognition and wreaths were laid in memory of fallen comrades who made the ultimate sacrifice while on duty.

Corrections facilities are a critical component of our criminal justice system. We rely on correctional facilities to do just that, correct the errant behavior of certain members of our society. But a facility comprises more than just a building. It is also made up of correctional officers and other correctional personnel who are all highly trained to work in a challenging and often dangerous environment. I worked for many years as a psychologist at a maximum security prison in Ohio, and the respect that I gained from my co-workers during that time is enormous.

Correctional officers are public servants. Most of the officers I know give back to their communities in countless ways. Most recently I was struck by the sense of community exhibited by correctional officers in New York City. While that city was undergoing untold

turmoil in those first 2 weeks following September 11, correctional officers worked 20-hour days lending their aid in the makeshift morgue and helping to coordinate the massive logistical effort of keeping the lines of communication open in Lower Manhattan. What we saw in New York is typical of all correctional officers, and I would urge all of my colleagues to recognize correctional officers and employees by joining me in cosponsoring H. Con. Res. 390, a bill that was introduced by the cochairmen of the Congressional Correctional Officers Caucus to urge the President to establish a National Correctional Officers and Employees Week so that all Americans can join us in honoring these very worthy individuals who contribute so much to our society.

RESULTS OF CODEL TO ISRAEL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTSCH) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, this weekend three of my colleagues and I traveled to the State of Israel. We had several purposes for the visit. One was a show of solidarity with the Israeli people in terms of what has been going on. We visited a number of victims of terrorist acts, including American citizens, spent time with some families who had lost loved ones, children, 5-year-olds, 12-year-olds, 15-year-olds, again a number of them American citizens. We met with the Prime Minister, the Foreign Minister, terrorism experts, the head of intelligence for the Israeli Army, but I think probably the most dramatic part of our visit was a review of a very small collection of arms that was captured during the recent Israeli incursion.

One thing that American television press has not given, I think, the American people any sense of is the amount and the type of weapons that the Israelis have seized over the last several weeks during their incursion. It is a staggering amount. It was an amount that if it were placed in this Chamber from floor to ceiling would more than fill this Chamber. The weapons are extensive, mortars, sniper rifles, night vision glasses, machine guns, weapons totally outlawed by the Oslo agreements.

But I have a picture here which in some ways is the most disturbing of any of the weapons, if they can be called weapons, that we saw and that have been captured in the incursion. This is a suicide or a murder belt, one of several that we saw and touched and examined. The belt itself is not a makeshift belt. It is a manufactured item. It is clearly manufactured with a certain degree of technology in the sense that it is well-sewn and PVC piping, as you can see, that is stuck inside of a vest. That was one version. There are other versions. But I think the