

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

HITLER COMPARISON
INAPPROPRIATE

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

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, first, I want to take a moment to thank the American Cancer Society and all of the various people who have come from around the 50 States, and right outside this Capitol building are providing a loud chorus of voices, working to fight cancer, whether it be breast cancer, melanoma, prostate cancer, colon cancer, any of the number of maladies that strike mankind.

It is terrific to see people, particularly those from the 16th Congressional District of Florida, participate in this very important day of public awareness, both for prevention of cancer and to, hopefully, find a cure for cancer.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to take a moment to express my personal outrage at the comments recently provided by German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder's justice minister, Herta Daeubler-Gmelin, who said, "Bush wants to divert attention from his domestic problems. It's a classic tactic. It's one that Hitler used."

To compare our President in any way in a reference to the satanical Adolf Hitler to me not only demeans the friendship of Germany to the United States, but also indicates to me that politics in its raw form has found its way insidiously into the debate in the reelection of Mr. Schroeder as the Chancellor of Germany.

□ 1600

I was in Europe just the other day and happened to catch a few of his impassioned speeches where he was using the United States and our fight against terrorism as a means in which to exploit his election chances. A few weeks ago he was behind in the polls and he decided a good game was to play "them versus us," as if the United States and Germany were at war, as if the United States and Germany were not bound together by economic and other issues of importance to both our peoples. It seemed to me that there is a lot of thanks that should be given from Germany for the Marshall Plan. After the problems Europe faced in World War I and II, it was the United States economically that came together to aid that community and help dramatically restore economic opportunity to millions of Germans. It was Ronald Reagan in fact that spoke and urged Mikhail Gorbachev to tear down this wall. We helped, if you will, along with others in the U.N. and the United Nations communities to work on ending

the separation of East and West Germany. That to me is a human outreach of kindness from one people to another. If you look at the number of Mercedes-Benzes and Volkswagens and BMWs and German products that are purchased and consumed by the United States, I can say definitely we have been on the side of economic prosperity for millions of Germans. But to have the Chancellor and have one of his top ministers comparing anyone in the United States to Hitler, particularly pointing that reference to the President, is honestly unspeakable. It is demeaning, it is derogatory, it is plain sick.

When Mr. Schroeder or his opponent wins the election, I am certain the dialogue will shift to, You know, it's just politics. Just kidding. We really do oppose terrorism. We weren't necessarily saying we sided with Iraq and Saddam Hussein. We merely were using you at an opportune time for our political expedience. Mr. Schroeder, if the election or reelection of your government is that important that you can side with Iraq and Saddam Hussein, you do so at your own peril. This Nation has been a long and steadfast friend of Germany and its people. We have worked together on so many issues, too many to mention. But to sit here at an eleventh hour opportunity to regain power for the sake of power and demean our President and our commitment to working together for the international safety of every person on this globe is reprehensible.

I hope he will refute and rebut the words of his justice minister. I hope he will at least find them to be offensive. I hope they will work on strengthening their determination to continue our united efforts against terrorism, that they will in fact join with France and Britain and others who have long recognized the threat terrorism poses to a free people. The President's passionate deliverance of the speech to the United Nations woke up a lot of people to the real threat that is facing all people, not just the United States. This is not for self-protection. This is for global peace. The President embarked on a very, very difficult campaign and he did so alone, with few supporters and few allies. After his speech, I was overwhelmed by the outpouring of what I considered important support for going into weapons inspections and reopening U.N. peacekeepers and weapons inspectors into Iraq. That was a breakthrough and one I hope is taken seriously.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO
CONGRESSMAN JOE EARLY

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

Mr. FRANK. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week my colleague, the gentleman from Worcester, Massachusetts, spon-

sored and the House passed and I voted for a resolution naming a post office in Worcester for a former colleague of many of us in the House, my colleague from Worcester's predecessor, former Representative Joseph D. Early.

I first met Joe Early in 1972 when I, along with two of my current Massachusetts colleagues (Mr. MARKEY and Mr. DELAHUNT), was elected to the Massachusetts House. Joe Early was by then an established leader in the Massachusetts House. Two years later, he came here. I was proud to support him in his campaign to come here in 1974, and 6 years later I became a member of the House and so worked with him for the ensuing 12 years.

I was very pleased to have a chance to join in naming that post office for him. I regretted the fact that I was not able to participate in the debate. I was tied up at a committee meeting. I thought I was going to be notified in time but to my error I came too late to make the debate so I am taking this special opportunity now because of my enormous respect for Joe Early and in particular for his extraordinarily strong understanding of what the role of government ought to be in our society.

Joe Early, during his time in the Massachusetts legislature, during his time here, showed that you could be compassionate, that you should be concerned about the needs of people who would otherwise be left behind without in any way being soft on waste, without in any way being tolerant of sloppiness or unnecessary expenditure. Joe Early was a tough fiscal watchdog. On the Ways and Means Committee in the Massachusetts House and here on the Appropriations Committee, he was a man who paid a lot of attention to the specifics and was very, very tough on those who would waste public money. But he also understood that there were important values for the quality of our life that had to be met with public money. Time and again when it would be unpopular, when demagogic amendments would be offered on the floor of this House to make cuts of various sorts, Joe Early would be one of the few courageous enough to point out how damaging they would be, how irresponsible it was to take that easy approach as opposed to doing the kind of tough, ongoing work that he did of familiarizing himself with the programs for which he had legislative responsibility and fighting hard to make sure that they took effect.

Those of us who knew Joe Early also were stimulated by his company. He was not, as people will remember who served with him, an unfailing dispenser of good cheer. If something was bothering you and you were looking for a smiley face, Joe was probably the last person on the continent that you wanted to encounter. But if you wanted serious conversation about our responsibility as an elected official, if you wanted to talk about both the strengths and the limitations of government, if you wanted to talk about