

of people in this world, there are a lot of countries in this world, that realize that this cancer must be addressed now; and we are attempting to do it.

I think we have an obligation to try and address it in the approach that has the least amount of impact; peaceful if we can do it, but do not let this game go on and on, because I am telling you that cancer spreads day by day, and that cancer does not discriminate on its victim. It will attack every man, woman and child alive. And it has no mercy. This cancer will show no mercy.

We can stop it today. And if these means of peaceful approach through the United Nations will not work, if the United Nations will not accept its responsibility and stand up to this madman, it is then inherent in the history of this country and the moral obligation of this country to stand forward and stop that cancer. That is our obligation.

It may not be what seems to be politically correct with some of the population with the French. And by the way, if you want to take a look at what is the incentive of the French and Germans to turn and invest against their long-term friend, the United States, take a look at their oil contracts with Iraq. I have heard people say this is all about oil. Well, with the French, it is. That is where they are getting their oil. Take a look at their long-term business contracts.

When I go to Europe this week, I am going to ask the French and my colleagues in Germany, Where is your investment? Where is your best, solid thought for an investment? Is it with the United States of America and the coalition of Spain and Italy and Bulgaria and Portugal and the British, or is your investment better with the country of Iraq and Saddam Hussein?

I know that we have an obligation to go in and do something about this cancer, but we also have an obligation, and we have accepted that obligation, to be there when we take the cancer off, the aftermath of what happens, after, for example, a military conflict.

This Nation will take into Iraq within hours, within hours of a military victory, we will supply that country of Iraq with medicine they have never seen under Saddam Hussein. We will supply them with food supplies and feed their hungry stomachs to the extent they have never experienced in their lifetime, many of them. We will offer that country, more than anything else we could give them, freedoms that they have never dreamed of under Saddam Hussein.

The United States of America will not rule Iraq. Iraq will rule Iraq. But it will rule it under a leader who cares about the people of that country, who does not place military weapons in school yards and missiles in hospitals. There are only good things that can happen to the country of Iraq if the United States of America and the world community stands up to its obligations.

There is a cost of leadership. Do not just stand up and say you are a leader. A leader is called upon when the challenges get tough. This is a tough challenge, and it is a long-term obligation to give these people what they deserve, and that is freedom, that is health care, that is food, that is the ability to do business.

It is our time. It is our time and our allies' time to stand up and get rid of this cancer. And if the French and the Germans and Luxemburg and Belgium do not have enough guts to do it, then get out of our way, because we are going to do what is right.

This Nation throughout its history, oh, sure, we hit a bump in the road here and there; sure, we made mistakes. This is not a mistake; this is an obligation. And I am confident that under the leadership of our fine President, this Nation will meet that obligation.

A year from now we will look back at many of these naysayers and I will say, now what do you have to say, because it will be our Nation that gave these people their freedom. It will be this Nation and people like the British and our good allies that had enough guts to do what is right.

And make no mistake, as that phrase is commonly used, this team down there in the White House and this Congress which has authorized that team in the White House, we will do what we need to do to give the Iraqi people exactly what they are entitled to.

I can tell you as a United States Congressman, I stand here with a great deal of pride, knowing that I am carrying out my fundamental responsibility to the people of this Nation and to the people of this world, and that is to provide security, to provide freedom, to share our wealth of food, to share our wealth of medicine. We will do the job. We are a can-do Congress. We have a President and an administration that is can-do. We will get the job done, and we hope that the world community will join us. The majority of them, I am confident will. Those allies like the French and Germans, who become weak-kneed now, at some point in time will look back and see it was probably one of the most serious mistakes they ever made.

So it is time for the people of this Nation to stand up in support of its leadership, and they have. We will not betray you. We will not let you down. We will do what we are charged to do, and that is to go out and protect not only our Nation and not only our friends, but the oppressed people of Iraq. And we will destroy those weapons of mass destruction. Iraq, for one, will never be a country, after we are finished, that will have the capability to once again make tens of thousands of casualties through the use of poison gas on innocent civilians.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEARCE) laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Science:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 12, 2003.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives
The Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Effective February 12, 2003, I will take a leave of absence from the Science Committee for the 108th Congress due to my appointment to the Select Committee on Homeland Security.

Sincerely,

BOB ETHERIDGE,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Small Business:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 12, 2003.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives,
The Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Effective February 12, 2003, I hereby resign my position on the Committee on Small Business due to my appointment to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

Sincerely,

DANNY K. DAVIS,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Small Business:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 12, 2003.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives,
The Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Effective February 12, 2003, I am hereby taking a leave of absence from the House Small Business Committee due to my appointment to the Select Committee on Homeland Security.

Sincerely,

JAMES R. LANGEVIN,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Science: