

(7) Rollcall No. 216, passage of the Pryce amendment to H. Res. 656.

(8) Rollcall No. 217, passage of H. Res. 656, the rule for H.R. 444.

On Rollcall No. 218, a motion to recommit H.J. Res. 83 with instructions, this Member would have voted "no" had he been present.

SPEECH BY HUNGARIAN PRESIDENT FERENC MADL AT OPENING OF HUNGARIAN HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL AND DOCUMENTATION CENTER

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 3, 2004

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on April 15, 2004, the Holocaust Memorial and Documentation Center in Budapest, Hungary, was opened at a solemn ceremony attended by the President of Hungary, the President of Israel, and a number of other distinguished official guests.

With the establishment of an official Holocaust Memorial, the government of Hungary has formally acknowledged the responsibility of Hungarian governments in the 1930s and 1940s and of Hungarian citizens for atrocities committed during the Holocaust in Hungary. In the past it has been fashionable for Hungarians to blame the German Nazis for the atrocities of that era. Unfortunately, many Hungarian citizens were complicit with the Nazis in committing atrocities, and the Hungarian Arrow Cross organization was as vicious and brutal as the German Nazis in their despicable deeds.

Mr. Speaker, the timing of the opening of the Hungarian Holocaust Memorial and Documentation Center is particularly appropriate, because this year marks the 60th Anniversary of the darkest days for Hungarians during WWII. It was on March 19, 1944, that the German army occupied Hungary, and German officials began the systematic effort to exterminate Hungary's Jewish population. Over half a million Hungarian Jews were deported and met their deaths in Nazi gas chambers, the largest portion of them at Auschwitz.

It is my sincere hope, Mr. Speaker, that the opening of this Memorial in Budapest will teach future generations of Hungarians that intolerance, racism, hatred and bigotry have no place in the free and open and democratic society that Hungary is becoming.

Mr. Speaker, perhaps the most moving statement at the Holocaust Memorial dedication was that given by the President of Hungary, Ferenc Madl, who headed the long list of dignitaries at the ceremony and presided at the opening of the Memorial. President Madl's speech was moving and eloquent. I ask that it be placed in the RECORD and I urge my colleagues to give it thoughtful attention.

Distinguished commemorating community: What we are remembering here should never have happened. The building we are standing in used to be a synagogue. It is a sacred place, not only because it was a place of worship, but also because over the time it has become a venue for remembrance. Human suffering—the suffering of people—the remembrance of unforgettable pain, the pain felt by millions of people makes this place sacred. Commemorations and writings

all discuss the genocide of the Jewish people as an event of historic tragedy. There is however something more important than history: man himself. Thus for this reason, the Holocaust is not simply "history" but the past of a whole generation. It is here with us in many different ways in the fate of Jews and non-Jews alike. Every life is a complete world in itself. Every deceased person has a unique face. This uniqueness tends to get lost in history. We cannot experience the extent of the tragedy in a thousand or one hundred thousand different ways. Individually however, we all have—direct or indirect—personal memories of those who perished. It is in these memories that the indescribable horror gains a face of its own.

This venue of remembrance is required to help preserve the personal touch in us, which tends to fade with time. If hundreds of thousands of people suffering is a mere piece of data for someone, then being faced with but a single real story of fate, will ensure that this person will never be ignorant of our common past. Remembrance shall elevate the Holocaust into a personal drama.

Distinguished remembering community, nowadays the depths of the tragedy, the numbers, are mentioned more frequently than its human-spirit content. Perhaps numbers with their abstract nature are not so painful for our conscience.

It is human nature to flee from pain. If numbers call up individual faces and fates then the burden of looking to the past becomes almost unbearable. We should not shun this burden away.

We do not only need to remember, because a parent, child, brother and sister sent to their deaths are there in our hearts and souls or for sinners to gain absolution from their sins, but to make sure that we are vigilant of the sins of past horrors haunting us again somewhere.

In 1938 Hungarian writer Milan Fust wrote that lifting inhumanity to the level of law is without precedent, just as the fact that the human kind "should approve its own sadism so much, that it should be proud of its animal like nature."

Nobel laureate Imre Kertesz in the blinding light of survival saw in Auschwitz the symbol of moral status of humanity in the 20th century. Is the moral state that made the Holocaust possible now a thing of the past? We can see that mad dictators still commit mass killings among their own people, even today. We can find contemporary examples of genocide too. How horrible, that humankind has not managed to this day, to reach the moral level, where the commandment "Thou shall not kill" binds the hands of every Cain. How many times do we see the strangling sorrow among us over the lack of love? How many times are we still obliged to extinguish the brushfires of racial, religious, political and ethnic hatred here and in many corners of the world?

This place of remembrance is not in a randomly selected spot of the world, but in Hungary, in Budapest, not far from where the ghetto was established in the dark period of 1944. This place of remembrance does not speak generally about inhumanity, brutality, about lowly instincts, the institutionalized system of murder somewhere else, but here, where we are, where all that we are discussing happened.

Although the final chapter of the tragedy may have taken place elsewhere, this does not change the fact that all this was made possible here. This is where the guilty accomplices lived; this is where the guilty ignorance of those not involved prevailed. It is no excuse to say that the world too remained silent. All this happened here. We lacked the will to resist here. We failed to extend a helping hand here. This is what makes the

tragedy our personal issue, a spiritual burden for all of us. It is here that we have to rely on the faith we have in conciliation, to remember all those who perished and to apologize to our surviving brothers and sisters.

Being present here today is not only to remember and show solidarity, but also to express our national and human repentance. When quoting Miklos Radnoti, we say that "we are guilty like all other nations", we use the words of a Hungarian poet, who in his poems adopted all of us as his dear brothers and sisters, only to be marched to his martyr's death because of his provenance. This is what makes this tragedy so universal, yet Hungarian. We, the ones living here, should know what happened and how something that should have never taken place actually did happen.

Distinguished remembering community, this is not a place of remembrance for only the martyred Jews. It is for all of us, the whole Hungarian society. Someone with feelings and thoughts will never have two kinds of dead. We feel the pain of every dead. In World War II, Hungary was one of the countries to suffer the largest loss of its population. Death was victorious in wars and dictatorial regimes. Every exterminated Jew is a loss for humanity; every Hungarian Jew murdered is a loss for all the Hungarian people.

Jewish martyrs perished amidst the horror of defenselessness and exclusion, deprived of the hope that their individual sacrifice can help the survival of the community. The incomparable horror of the Holocaust lies in this.

Today we remember them as the loss suffered by all of us Hungarians. We incessantly search for reparation for having them march to their deaths after being torn from the Hungarian society.

This memorial place reminds us that we need to assume the pain of remembrance again and again in our souls. The catharsis of honest remembrance will make us better, will lend meaning to the day after and will help to look for the integrity of mankind in our communities and in every individual. May the Lord Almighty give us strength for everyone!

FALLEN HEROES

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVE WELDON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the life and service of Dustin Schrage, a Corporal with the United States Marine Corps, who lost his life in Iraq while on a daring, classified mission on May 3, 2004.

A graduate of Satellite Beach High School in Florida, Schrage joined the Marines right after graduation in 2001. He served his country honorably and with distinction. At the time of his death, Corporal Schrage was a member of the 4th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division assigned to the 2nd Battalion. He was a rifleman and a squad leader much loved by his unit.

Corporal Schrage died in the line of duty while participating in Operation Iraqi Freedom II. He was found on May 6 after attempting to cross a body of water while conducting combat operations on May 3 in Al Anbar Province, Iraq. He had served in Iraq for one year prior to his death. He gave his life defending and