

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

(Mr. SOUDER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. HINCHEY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. FRANKS of Arizona addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. MALONEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

DEFENDING FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of the Special Order that I am about to give.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, having listened to the words of my good friend, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR), I would like to say that the Special Order that I am going to be presenting this evening refers to exactly what she was talking about in the final remarks that she provided, very thoughtful remarks.

It has to do with the fact that this institution, this building, this entity is in fact the citadel of freedom. And I think and I believe it is very important for us to realize the great importance of that.

Mr. Speaker, it has been 3 years since the heinous attacks and the absolute horror that befell America on September 11 of 2001. And it was not just an attack on America. It was an attack on the free world. Citizens from many nations were murdered and maimed that day, as we all know. But perhaps

more important, this was an attack on the core values of freedom and democracy that are embodied in our Nation and in all of the free people of the world.

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While nations have cooperated in an unprecedented fashion in the fight against terrorism, unfortunately, much remains to be done.

We have just gotten the tragic news in the last 24 hours of the tragic beheadings of Messrs. Armstrong and Hensley. We saw the bombings in Spain and the recent tragedy in Russia; both underscore the need for all of us to remain vigilant in this global war on terror.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation has a special responsibility, a very special responsibility, to protect the core freedoms and liberties of democracy, for we continue, as I was saying at the outset, to be the beacon for democracy, and our Capitol, as the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) was just saying earlier, our Capitol perhaps is the single most recognized symbol of democracy all over the world.

In fact, I remember very vividly back in 1990, I had the opportunity to bring one of the Solidarity activists from Poland for President Bush's State of the Union address. I remember very well we were walking along, and the Capitol, of course, was particularly well-lit because we all know on the night of the State of the Union the television networks put added light on the Capitol. All of the sudden, tears were coming down the face of these people who had come from Poland, and I asked what it was. They were simply looking at the Capitol dome, and that, for me, underscored how clearly this is the most recognized symbol of democracy and freedom in the world.

I believe that our responsibilities as Representatives of this democracy are twofold. First, we must employ our full legislative power to make our Nation safer, our citizens more secure and to defend our democracy against all terrorists.

Second, we must do everything in our power to ensure that our institution, the Congress itself, can continue to operate in the face of any crisis, any terrorist attack, any disaster. Again, we need to be able to see that this institution can function in any crisis, any terrorist attack, any disaster that could possibly hit us.

Mr. Speaker, since the District of Columbia became the permanent seat of our government, the United States Congress has been unable to use the Capitol for an extended period only once. That occurrence, of course, was during the War of 1812 when the Capitol was burned, as we all know. Nonetheless, the enduring threat of the last century, the Cold War, forced the Federal Government to plan for its continuity in the event of a catastrophe.

Some people assumed, however, that after the Cold War this kind of plan-

ning could stop. We all know that 3 years ago this past September 11, not only did that tragic event put that notion to rest, but it changed our thinking and our planning for the continuation of representative government, representative democracy as we know it.

Indeed, we saw smoke rising from the Pentagon and later heard of the bravery of the passengers on Flight 93 as they cried, "Let's roll." Many of us shared a feeling of having just missed a bullet, a bullet that could have hit this Capitol itself.

We share the additional responsibility for our very institutions, for our individual Members, for our staff and for the thousands of people who visit the Capitol every single day.

Following September 11 and the subsequent anthrax and ricin attacks, our continuity learning curve has been very, very steep. However, the good news is that we have worked hard and have implemented a number of measures that improve the continuity of our Congress.

Indeed, we have taken the advice of one of our great Framers of the Constitution, Alexander Hamilton, who in *Federalist 59* said, "Every government ought to contain in itself the means of its own preservation." Let me say that again. "Every government ought to contain in itself the means of its own preservation." Those are Alexander Hamilton's words.

Toward that end, in the last 3 years, the Speaker has focused the United States House of Representatives on three core areas for our overall continuity: number one, upgrading the physical security of both our D.C. and our constituency offices; number two, preserving our continuity of operations here in Washington, D.C.; and number three, addressing the continuity of our form of government itself through debating how to deal with catastrophes that result in large numbers of Members being killed or incapacitated.

Mr. Speaker, let me now turn for a moment to discuss our efforts to preserve the continuity of our congressional operations.

The Speaker of the House has long recognized that if the Capitol, or if Washington itself, were to become unsuitable as a meeting place for the House, whether due to attack, contagion or other calamity, an alternative site for operations would be needed. Much thought has gone into the placement of sufficient resources, technology, staffing and accommodations for Members and key staff so that we could continue to fulfill our duties to the American people. Additionally, we have already adopted a number of very important rule changes to give the House the operational flexibility we believe it would need in a crisis.

Mr. Speaker, those include: first, authority for the Speaker to declare an emergency recess subject to the call of the Chair when notified of an imminent