

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

REMARKS OF FATHER ROBERT J. DRINAN, S.J.

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I request that the remarks of a former Member of this body, Father Robert Drinan, at a Mass at Trinity University prior to my swearing-in as Speaker, be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

REMARKS OF ROBERT F. DRINAN, S.J., PROFESSOR, GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY LAW CENTER, AT A MASS HONORING SPEAKER-ELECT NANCY PELOSI AT THE CHAPEL OF TRINITY UNIVERSITY IN WASHINGTON, DC—WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2007

Today is a new epiphany for all us, for our country and for the world.

Epiphany brought the three Magi to worship the new born child. We are here to venerate that child and to pledge that the message of this infant Jesus will be followed in our country and throughout the universe.

This is a new and wonderful moment for all of us.

The new Congress has 16 percent women and for the first time the Speaker is a mother.

We re-pledge our lives to the love of children. In this regard the Holy See has shown us the way. In 1981 the Vatican was the fifth nation of the Earth to ratify the United Nations Covenant on the Rights of the Child. That magnificent treaty has now been ratified by all of the 192 nations in the world—except Somalia and, we say it with shame, the United States.

The children protected by the U.N. Covenant now number some three billion—almost one-half of the 6.4 billion in the world. Today we re-pledge ourselves to pray and work for those children. We must continue to be shocked that 31,000 of those children will die today and every day—from diseases and malnutrition that are clearly preventable.

Imagine what the world would think of the United States if the health and welfare of children everywhere became the top objective of America's foreign policy! It could happen—and it could happen soon—if enough people cared.

Today at this moving and unforgettable Mass we gather to pray, to reflect and once again to commit our lives to carrying out the faith we have that the needs of every child are the needs of Jesus Christ himself. The tragedies of the children of Darfur and the victims of Katrina have made us feel guilty for the neglect of the young people in these nations. That guilt has to be developed so that the United States and other developed countries will use their resources to help the 800 million people in the world who are chronically malnourished. We must also remember the 100 million children who are not enrolled in any school—and that 70 percent of these children are girls. In addition, children are still being injured by land mines placed by the United States in Nicaragua, El Salvador, Vietnam, Kuwait and elsewhere.

We have come to this beautiful place to pray for our new leaders and for ourselves.

We are ashamed that we have been so careless and thoughtless about the rights of children. We cannot forget Christ's personal love of children and his affirmation that "whatever you do for the least of my brethren you do for me"

We are increasingly aware that the world—especially the 48 Islamic nations—have the deepest doubts about the intentions and activities of the United States. They know that the United States has less than five percent of the world's total population but consumes 40 percent of its resources.

We pledge again before the Blessed Sacrament that we will deepen our love for all children. It is depressing to realize that only 18 percent of America's children are registered in Head Start and that an appalling number do not graduate from high school. We are aware at this holy place of the weakness of our faith and the fragility of our love.

Let us reexamine our convictions, our commitments and our courage. Our convictions and our commitments are clear and certain to us. But do we have the courage to carry them out?

God has great hopes for what this nation will do in the near future. We are here to ask for the courage to carry out God's hopes and aspirations.

Let us not disappoint our Redeemer.

We learn things in prayer that we otherwise would never know. Let us pray now and always.

If a plane crashed this afternoon at Dulles with 310 children aboard the whole world would cry and cry and cry. But a tragedy like that happens 100 times each day—31,000 children every day—needlessly—die because the heedlessness of all of us. President Kennedy once said that those who "make peaceful revolution impossible make violent revolution inevitable." We pray here today and ask God's help in our ardent desires to "make peaceful revolution possible."

HONORING COACH DONNA WISE

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay public tribute to a remarkable individual from my home district. Donna Wise, head coach of the women's basketball team at Campbellsville University, is retiring at the end of this season, drawing her legendary 32-year coaching career to a close.

Most people know about Kentucky's love of basketball and the commitment many make every season to win. Coach Wise's athletic achievements epitomize a work ethic and competitive spirit that makes Kentucky proud. But it's the lessons Donna Wise instills in her players about life's priorities, impressions countless young women continue to take far off the court and apply many years after college, that mark the true measure of her legacy.

A master of the sport, Coach Wise has always conducted herself in the highest standard, expecting both athletic and personal ex-

cellence from those she led. Her consistent focus on team work, sportsmanship, and persistence has been the foundation of the Lady Tigers' remarkable success.

To date, Coach Wise has won an impressive 653 games, ranking 1st in the NAIA Division 1 and 12th nationally among all NCAA and NAIA women's coaches in total wins. Throughout three decades of coaching, she has led 16 teams to NAIA Conference titles, 4 to Kentucky Intercollegiate Conference titles, and numerous others to national tournament and title game appearances. She has been recipient to dozens of coaching awards including induction into the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Hall of Fame in 2000.

In addition to her athletic accomplishments, Donna Wise has remained actively involved in numerous community and charitable organizations. She has been recognized as Woman of the Year by the Business and Professional Women's Foundation in 1994; Campbellsville Citizen of the Year in 1995; and Educator of the Year by the Campbellsville Chamber of Congress in 2000.

I would like to recognize Donna Wise today for her many achievements as a coach, teacher, and citizen. Her unique dedication to the development and well-being of student-athletes and the communities they now serve make her an outstanding American worthy of our collective honor and appreciation.

STRENGTHENING AMERICA'S
MIDDLE CLASS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, during a hearing today in the Committee on Education and Labor entitled "Strengthening America's Middle Class: Evaluating the Economic Squeeze on America's Families," I offered the following statement on the economic issues facing workers and families in America.

As we will hear from today's witnesses, families across the Nation are experiencing increased financial pressures and too often failing to reap the rewards of their own productivity. Many middle class workers who have labored tirelessly to support their family are now faced with job insecurity and financial concerns. Too often, the overriding themes of many workers' lives have become themes of increasing debts and diminishing protections. The pressure they now face largely stems from circumstances beyond their control, circumstances that we as Members of Congress must work to rectify.

Many families of middle class workers now teeter on the edge of economic stability. Every American can attest to the growing costs of necessities such as home heating oil, child care, and healthcare. As wages have failed to keep pace, many workers are placed in a precarious financial situation. Forced increasingly

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