

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM RYUN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2003

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, regretably, yesterday my flight was delayed and I was unable to return to the House in time to vote on H. Res. 25, and H. Res. 26. I ask unanimous consent that the RECORD reflect that had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 13, H. Res. 26, and "yea" on rollcall No. 14, H. Res. 25.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS**HON. RAHM EMANUEL**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2003

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 26, a resolution honoring the contributions of Catholic schools. I am pleased to have voted for this bipartisan resolution when it was passed unanimously by the House of Representatives last night.

The tremendous success of Catholic schools is evident around the country and particularly in the Fifth Congressional District of Illinois where outstanding scholastic progress has been achieved in schools like St. Ferdinand Catholic Elementary, St. Patrick High School, and Notre Dame High School for Girls. These schools provide strong academic curriculum and engender significant parental involvement. They not only teach students the importance of academic achievement, but also provide a balanced perspective on life that promotes responsibility, justice and social service.

Catholic schools also promote ethnic and racial diversity. Increasing numbers of children in Catholic schools in my district come from our minority communities. We must also recognize that students in Catholic schools are achieving exceptionally high graduation rates with increasing numbers advancing to higher education and giving back to the community through volunteer service.

It is also important to recognize that the Catholic school experience fosters more than just scholastic excellence. It provides spiritual guidance to students by encouraging fundamental ideals and an appreciation for family values, community service, and faith in their own lives. This, in turn, shapes Catholic school students into leaders of tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, I support this important resolution and encourage Catholic schools in my district and across the United States to continue contributing to the development of strong moral, intellectual and social values in America's young people.

EXPLANATION

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2003

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, on January 27, 2003, I was in my Congres-

sional District in Rhode Island and consequently I missed two votes.

Had I been here I would of voted: "yes" on H. Res. 25 and "yes" on H. Res. 26.

PRE-BUTTAL TO PRESIDENT
BUSH'S STATE OF THE UNION
ADDRESS**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2003

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit for inclusion into the RECORD a copy of a letter sent to President Bush on Monday, January 27, 2003. In the letter, I express my views as a "pre-buttal" to President Bush's State of the Union Address on Tuesday, January 28, 2003.

JANUARY 27, 2003.

Hon. GEORGE W. BUSH,
The White House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: For the past few weeks, I have been away from my Washington office recovering from a surgical procedure. This time away has allowed me to live as a normal American outside of Capitol Hill. I have been an ear and a shoulder for my constituents and many normal/working, people who are concerned and worried about the economy, civil rights, education, war and other legitimate fears. These conversations have compelled me to share the thoughts and sentiments of numerous citizens who have telephoned, faxed and e-mailed me about the dismal state of our Union.

Mr. President, have you not noticed that there are others, actually the majority, in this country that do not subscribe to your very Republican morals, issues, and policies? On Tuesday when you speak to the nation, please tell us the real state of our Union and what you plan to do about it! The current situation under your leadership can be better labeled as a state of DISUNION . . . especially as it refers to your party's policies and positions on war, civil rights and the overall domestic agenda.

In these times of domestic disarray and homeland alarm, you are acting as a playground bully picking fights on a global scale when there are more pressings issues in your own front yard. There is little doubt that world issues are very serious and unsettling today. But, the United States of America can not serve as world police, especially now when we are faced with a continuing battle for basic civil rights, the education of our children and the safety of our families right here at home. President Bush, you are taking a hard position and standing your ground on the wrong issues . . . and you're standing nearly alone. Major United Nations member countries have expressed their displeasure with your insistence upon a personal vendetta against Saddam Hussein. It is estimated that a new Bush war with Iraq will cost this country \$6 billion to \$9 billion per month! Wouldn't that money be better spent securing prescription drug coverage for our seniors, keeping hospitals open and operational or funding programs like No Child Left Behind and the Vote America Act that have cleared the legislative process but stand stagnant due to frozen resources.

Wouldn't this country's most important resource, our young people, be better utilized as productive, college-educated members of society rather than soldiers in a war that nobody wants? Your insensitive, detached administration recently demonstrated its mis-

guided position on civil rights in higher education for minorities and women. President Bush, your own educational career was aided by preferential treatment. The only difference between the University of Michigan's admissions policy and your educational career is that the Bush special treatment was based on affirmative influence rather than affirmative action. The Michigan policy is not far removed for other points systems that award advantages to the children of board members, graduates of the institution and major donors to the university. Your hypocritical stance on the Michigan guidelines totally ignored the fact that policies of this sort are more than necessary and only start to alleviate the social and economic shortfalls of the citizens they are designed to assist. Millions of people are concerned that with the recent attack on affirmative action will come an overall evaporation of all civil rights for minorities and women. Mr. President, would you please tell the American people how you plan to promote the attainment of diverse student bodies at institutions of higher education? We must equal the educational opportunities for less fortunate citizens so that those without the affirmative influence of a U.S. President and a grandfather who sits on the board of trustees at Yale can earn a quality/marketable education as well.

Armed with such an education and life training, less affluent citizens will go on to have better paying jobs that will allow them to spend more on the necessities and spoils of life. What better way to stimulate the economy than to put more money in the hands of the largest section of the population of this country . . . the middle class American? Your new proposed tax plan would do nothing for the working American. Tax cuts will only put money in the pockets of those who already have it. Didn't you learn anything from your 2001 tax cuts which reversed the positive progression of the economy that was cultivated by the last administration and managed to bankrupt the country in record time? The Federal budget under your management has gone from a \$236 billion surplus to a \$159 billion deficit in merely 2 years . . . a \$395 billion swing of our economic prosperity. Have you learned nothing from the \$10 billion shortfall facing the state of Texas caused by your tax cuts as its governor? If we always do the same things we've always done, we will always get the same results we've always gotten! Mr. President, please tell us, the American people what you plan to do to regain the confirmed economic success of the Clinton administration that promoted the lowest unemployment numbers in decades, garnered higher wages and home purchases for the middle class, and saw industry and the stock markets flourish. Please address the fact that millions of Americans have lost their jobs, with their children being forced to leave college to come home to foreclosed homes and bankrupt parents.

What "is" the true state of the Union? Mr. President, knowing your heart and compassion as I know it, would you please address the very real issues I've put forth for and with the American people. We all would like to hear a plan that will benefit the masses and put us back on the path to financial stability, civil and social equality, and PEACE at home and abroad.

Sincerely,

EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON,
Member of Congress.