

attempt to decapitate the legislative branch of the United States Government. But just as importantly, the vote this week will show our Nation and our enemies two things: our unity and our resolve. The Continuity in Representation Act has bipartisan support thanks to the long and tireless work of the distinguished gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER), chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary. And despite our policy differences, everyone on both sides of the aisle can plainly see the need that this bill meets; and everyone has come to this issue, even in an election year, with sincerity and patriotism.

Many believe that bipartisanship disappears whenever the calendar year ends with an even number, but this issue and this bill disprove that cynical assumption.

The vote this week will also affirm once again our national commitment to victory in the war on terror. Our prosecution of this war must be relentless and comprehensive. On the battlefield we have to continue to take the war to the terrorists. And here at home we have to maintain a united front and advance every policy we can to support our troops and discourage our enemies.

So with this legislation that we pass this week, the House will send a very clear message to those enemies that no amount of violence that they hope to visit upon us will interrupt the continuity of our national service.

CYPRUS

(Mr. BEREUTER. asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, last summer this House overwhelmingly adopted a resolution calling on the citizens of Cyprus to accept a U.N.-sponsored plan designed to end 29 years of separation and to unite the island. During the floor debate, this Member expressed the sincere hope that in 2004 we would be celebrating the first anniversary of a united Cyprus, not the 30th anniversary of a divided one.

Regrettably, this hope may not be realized. Although the U.N. plan is scheduled to be voted on in a referendum on April 24, the recent very disappointing decision by the president of Cyprus to recommend a "no" vote to Cypriots may have doomed the best chance to reunify that country in a very long time.

Turkish Cypriots today appear to be strongly in favor of the referendum, and Ankara has played a most positive role in moving the process forward. Both should be commended for their actions and resolve.

It is unfortunate that, in a reversal of positions, it may now be the Greek Cypriots who will block unification.

In Athens it is believed that both the current government and the opposition remain supportive of the U.N. plan. A strong public statement of support

from Athens would be very helpful in this critical time.

Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the Subcommittee on Europe, this Member believes there is still a chance that Cyprus may enter the EU on May 1 as a united country. The U.S. has pledged \$400 million to help implement the U.N. plan. To the Cypriots, I say do the right thing for their own sake.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO WILLIE VAUGHN

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 100th birthday of my uncle who lives in St. Louis, Missouri; and I guess on May 1 hundreds of my relatives are going to converge on that city to pay tribute to him. So I simply rise to wish a happy birthday to "Uncle Dude," as we finally called him. His name is Willie Vaughn. But he has lived a long and productive life. His mind is great. He is still active. Happy birthday to Uncle Dude.

FIGHTING THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, this month I served on a bipartisan delegation led by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. ROGERS) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ETHERIDGE) to visit Iraq. But I found every stop in Qatar, Iraq, Jordan, and Hungary to be a crucial part of the global war on terror. I saw first-hand courageous coalition forces of dozens of nations working with determination to stop terrorism from destroying modern civilization.

As evidenced by another bombing in Madrid, while terrorist cells with truckloads of explosives were arrested in England and Jordan, this is truly a worldwide conflict, not solely in Iraq.

Despite the renewed violence, we found troop morale high. Incredibly, the South Carolina troops who walk the streets said 90 percent of the Iraqis were grateful for liberation.

September 11 confirmed we are in a global war we did not seek. We must confront the terrorists overseas where they train, or we will fight them in America at our homes. From Qatar to Iraq to Jordan to Hungary, competent and dedicated patriots are making a difference.

In conclusion, may God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

A MESSAGE OF GRATITUDE FROM IRAQIS

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, it is said that a picture is worth a thousand words. And yesterday this photograph was taken by a UPI photographer, remarkably, on the streets of Fallujah in Iraq. It depicts the gratitude of an ordinary Iraqi to a United States Marine who, along with many Marines and constituents of mine from Indiana, are patrolling the streets of that war-torn city at this very hour.

I bring this photograph because in the midst of the heartbreak of the loss of American soldiers over the past several weeks, some say this means that the Iraqi people do not want us there, that they fail to appreciate the sacrifices that we have made in the blood of our countrymen.

But, Mr. Speaker, that is not what I saw when I was in Iraq a month ago, in Basra and in Baghdad. The Iraqis with whom I met spoke with passion and emotion the same message depicted in this picture: a message of gratitude to the American soldier, gratitude to the American people, not only for ending the reign of Saddam Hussein but for staying the course and seeing them through to freedom. And as the President said, in the interest of these good people, these soldiers and this country will not waver.

A CALL FOR HEARINGS ON THE WAR IN IRAQ

(Mr. MCDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, we now know the truth was the first casualty of the President's war in Iraq. Ironically, the truth was not shot down by a cruise missile but by the Commander in Chief.

Instead of openly telling Congress and the American people that he wanted to take out Saddam, the President secretly diverted \$700 million from the war in Afghanistan to prepare for the invasion in Iraq without telling the Congress, \$700 million meant to help find and deal with Osama bin Laden on behalf of the 9/11 victims, on behalf of America.

Another Republican in the White House the last time America faced this secrecy was Richard Nixon, whose legacy is a profound mistrust in government that lingers to this day.

Just as America did 3 decades ago, it is time to shine the bright light of an open and democratic society on what the administration did. I call on the Speaker and the Congress to hold hearings, just as America did during Watergate, to get to the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth about the President's war in Iraq.