

I have great admiration for the professionalism of the crew of the U.S.S. *Cole*, tending to the wounded and taking care of their ship.

We deplore the loss of American lives and my deepest sympathies and prayers go to the families and friends of the victims of this cowardly attack. Serving in the military is a dangerous profession. I want to recognize the selfless dedication of the American military personnel who risk personal safety in the service of our country.

I want to be clear. The U.S. Government should seek retribution against those who are responsible for this attack against U.S. military personnel. We should do all that we can to ensure that our service members and citizens are protected in the future.

It is impossible to predict with certainty where or when terrorists will strike. Today's events, however, are a terrible reminder that we must take the threat of terrorism seriously.

THE VICE PRESIDENT'S MISSTATEMENTS

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, our prayers and condolences go out to our military personnel as well.

Mr. Speaker, the Vice President promised us last night that he was going to try to do better at telling the truth from now on. But his performance said otherwise.

He told the moderator that he never called George Bush a bumbler, but he is running commercials right now that say exactly that. He said he was not in favor of big tax hikes on gas and oil but he was Washington's number one supporter of a Btu tax on fuel. He even wrote a book calling for hiking the price of gas to \$2.50 a gallon.

But here is the real whopper. He criticized former President Bush for not removing Saddam Hussein from power during the Gulf War. But on January 30, 1991, Senator GORE said he opposed invading Iraq to take out Saddam Hussein. He said the war should stop as soon as Iraq was out of Kuwait.

He said that he wants more effective gun prosecutions, but Justice Department gun prosecutions have dropped 46 percent during the Clinton-Gore administration.

Vice President GORE promised he was going to try to do better. Well, he is going to have to try a lot harder than last night.

INTERNATIONAL CHILD ABDUCTION

(Mr. LAMPSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, on April 30, 2000, Maya and Omar Murad,

ages 3 and 5, were forcibly abducted by their father, Ruwayn Murad, who had resided in the United States for nearly 20 years but retained dual citizenship in Lebanon. The children, who had spent only 2 weeks of their lives on Lebanese soil, were spirited to Lebanon where they have now been held for nearly 6 months. Their exact whereabouts are presently unknown.

Prior to the abduction, the children's mother, Elizabeth Henry Murad, had been informed by a colleague of her husband that Mr. Murad was planning the abduction. After a judge in New York family court failed to take emergency action, a divorce action had been commenced by Mr. Murad, who ultimately abducted the children after having been granted an adjournment in the case. In advance of his flight, Mr. Murad also wired all the family's liquid assets from their accounts in the U.S. to Lebanon.

Elizabeth Henry Murad, the custodial parent of Maya and Omar, is now waging a desperate battle for the return of her children to New York, the only home they have ever known.

Mr. Speaker, it is time now to assist Mrs. Murad and others like her to bring our children home.

FRANKLIN ON EDUCATION

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

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, the key to the American dream is a quality education. As Benjamin Franklin told us, "Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn."

The hands-on education Franklin was talking about can only be found in our Nation's classrooms. This underscores the necessity of putting decision-making power in the hands of those closest to the children. Those are the local school teachers, the administrators, and, most importantly, the parents. The Republican education vision does just that, returning control to these local jurisdictions which are uniquely equipped to make the decisions on how to best involve our students.

Since 1995 under the steady hand of the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING), the Republican majority has repeatedly passed legislation to shift power and resources from the Washington bureaucracy into the hands of those closest to our students.

Mr. Speaker, while education is at the forefront of public debate over the next few weeks, Republicans have a vision and a record that America can be proud of.

NAVY CONCENTRATES ON GENDER NEUTRALITY IN WAKE OF CHINA NUCLEAR THREAT

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. The CIA said China is buying nuclear attack submarines with missiles that experts say can destroy our entire Navy fleet. Knowing this, the Navy has decided to, and I quote, replace all aircraft carrier urinals with gender-neutral water closets, end quote.

Unbelievable. We have a dragon breathing down our necks and the Navy is constipating over urinals. What is next, bidets in powder rooms? How about some ballroom dancing lessons, folks?

Beam me up. I yield back the fact that this gender-neutral business is getting ridiculous.

GILMAN CONDEMNS ONGOING PALESTINIAN VIOLENCE

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

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, the past 2 weeks, tension in the Middle East has spiraled out of control as PLO Chairman Mr. Arafat attempts to dictate Israeli concessions at the negotiating table through the unbridled use of violence and, most appallingly, through the manipulation of young children as "martyrs in training."

This massive, fundamental violation of the Oslo Accords is intentional, as underscored when the leader of the Tanzim paramilitary forces in the West Bank said yesterday that his organization would escalate the confrontations with Israel and not try to calm the situation. Marwan Barghuti said, and I quote, "This blessed Intifada is looking ahead and mass activity is moving forward."

Mr. Speaker, in today's latest outrage, a Palestinian mob killed two Israeli soldiers and dumped their bloody bodies in the streets after the pair were captured with two other servicemen earlier today in the Palestinian city of Ramallah. That is why I am appalled that the administration abstained during the recent U.N. Security Council condemnation of Israel. The administration must understand, as must the Palestinians, that you cannot have it both ways.

Today, I will be introducing a resolution along with the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. GEJDENSON) of the Committee on International Relations condemning the Palestinian violence. I invite our colleagues to join us in co-sponsorship.

OIL PIPELINE SAFETY

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

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I would urge the House to see the failure of