

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

REGARDING THE PRESENTATION OF THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO POPE JOHN PAUL II INCLUDING REMARKS OF CONGRESSMAN JOE MOAKLEY AND REMARKS OF POPE JOHN PAUL II

HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, January 20, 2001

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to let my colleagues know that last week, on January 8, 2001, I had the opportunity to present the Congressional Gold Medal to Pope John Paul II. I was joined by my colleagues JOE MOAKLEY of Massachusetts, JIM LEACH of Iowa, CHRIS COX of California, SHERWOOD BOEHLERT of New York, CHRIS SMITH of New Jersey, BUD CRAMER of Alabama, CHRIS JOHN of Louisiana and DON SHERWOOD of Pennsylvania. Members of the other body, led by Senator SAM BROWBACK and Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI, also joined us.

Pope John Paul II still possesses great strength in spirit and he was quite generous with his time with the Congressional delegation. As he was leaving the end of the meeting, he waved good-bye to us and said, "God Bless America." It was a moment that touched the hearts of all who were in the room. John Paul II, the man who has done so much to spread good will across the world as he worked tirelessly to bring down communism in Eastern Europe, is a hero to millions of Americans, whether they are Catholic or non-Catholic.

Inserted below, you will find the remarks I made at the ceremony and the remarks the Pope made in response. Also included below are remarks made by my colleague, JOE MOAKLEY, who traveled with us on the trip. It was a magical day and I thank the House for allowing me to make this special presentation to Pope John Paul II.

"Today, I'm pleased that the Congress has bestowed this honor to you, John Paul II, and that you have agreed to accept it. This award celebrates your life not only as a spiritual leader of a billion Catholics, but also as a peacemaker, healer and beacon of light to the whole world.

"For your more than 20 years as Pope, you have tirelessly traveled this globe preaching a message of love and truth. You have delivered your message in different languages, to different cultures, to people of different ages, economic backgrounds and political persuasions.

"You are a pillar of morality, an advocate for the poor and the oppressed and a voice for the unborn and the aged. Your strong words inspire the 1 billion Catholics you lead and impress people of various faiths all over the world. You have helped to bring down barriers

that threaten our world's unity. You have played a pivotal role in the downfall of Communism in Eastern Europe and you have expanded dialogue with political and religious leaders in the Holy Land.

"In this past year—the Jubilee year—you worked harder than ever to make sure your reconciling message was heard. While the holy year is now over, the beauty of your Jubilee message continues to resonate in the hearts of the world's people."

VATICAN TRIP

HON. JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, January 20, 2001

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, last week I had the great honor of traveling to the Vatican with Speaker J. DENNIS HASTERT and several of our House colleagues to present the Congressional Gold Medal of Freedom to Pope John Paul II. To put it simply, being in the presence of the Pope was by far one of the most moving and important experiences of my career. The Holy Father was tremendously generous with the time he gave to our group, and his words to us were powerful and inspiring.

Pope John Paul II has done more for children, women and men, to eliminate poverty, to stimulate freedom and more for peace than anyone in our generation—and quite possibly in history. As I read through his biography I recalled the many trips the Holy Father has taken over the years to the greater ends of the Earth. They weren't easy trips, nor did he confront easy problems. His kindness, his words of wisdom, his humanitarian nature, and his willingness to live a life based on principle and faith has changed the world more than any of us can imagine.

Of particular note was his diplomatic effort to end authoritarian rule throughout Eastern Europe which originally was a task that many of us considered impossible. But who among us will ever forget the day that the Berlin Wall came down.

The Pope's trips have often taken him to the poorest parts of the world where he gave great comfort to the sick and downtrodden. I remember his trips to India and Mexico to name a few. These were areas and people that many of us knew little about, and the Holy Father shed light on them, humanized them.

This is a Pope that has been seen by more people around the world than any other. Often, just the fact that he chose to stop in a country and visit has produced lasting change. I'll always remember standing in the plaza in Havana, Cuba, listening to the Pope talk critically about freedom and human rights. These were words that many of those standing in the crowd had never heard spoken publicly. The

faces of the Cuban people and the joy they felt in seeing the Holy Father was a moment I'll never forget. Today, the Holy Father's visit has created a greater role for the Catholic Church in Cuban society, and made a better life for many Cubans.

I want to thank Speaker HASTERT for including me on this memorable trip to present the Congressional Gold Medal to the Pope. As a member of the House, I was proud that our institution has chosen to honor one of the great individuals in history.

Pope John Paul II

Saluto del Santo Padre in occasione della consegna della "Congressional Gold Medal"

Mr. Speaker, Members of Congress, Distinguished Guests, I am pleased to welcome you to the Vatican this morning, and I am honored by the gracious gesture which has brought you here. It is not for the Successor of the Apostle Peter to seek honors, but I gladly accept the Congressional Gold Medal as a recognition that in my ministry there has echoed a word that can touch every human heart. It has been my endeavor to proclaim the word of God, which on the very first page of the Bible tells us that man and woman have been created in his very image and likeness (cf. Gen 1:26).

From this great truth there flows all that the Church says and does to defend human dignity and to promote human life. This is a truth which we contemplate in the glory of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, crucified and risen from the dead. In the years of my ministry, but especially in the Jubilee Year just ended, I have invited all to turn to Jesus in order to discover in new and deeper ways the truth of man. For it is Christ alone who fully reveals man to himself and makes known his sublime destiny (cf. *Gaudium et Spes*, 22). To see the truth of Christ is to experience with deep amazement the worth and dignity of every human being, which is the Good News of the Gospel and the heart of Christianity (cf. *Redemptor Hominis*, 10).

I accept this award as a sign that you, as legislators, recognize the importance of defending human dignity without compromise, so that your nation may not fail to live up to its high responsibilities in a world where human rights are so often disregarded. Therefore, Ladies and Gentlemen, I thank you for this Congressional Gold Medal. In offering my good wishes for the New Year, I invoke upon you, your families and all whom you represent "the peace of God which is beyond understanding" (Phil 4:7). May God bless you all!

CONSUMER INTERNET PRIVACY ENHANCEMENT ACT

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, January 20, 2001

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, today as we inaugurate a new President, we inaugurate a

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.