Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, there is a great sense of unity across the Nation as we begin to recover from the events of September 11. The President’s speech last week gave both comfort and strength to the American people and to people around the globe.

I have been heartened by the bipartisan unity demonstrated by Congress as it acts to respond to the human and economic devastation, and we will need to maintain that unity as we ask for the sacrifices necessary to end this business.

Given all that has happened and all that will happen, it is all the more inappropriate for Congress to accept a $4,900 backdoor pay raise.

Of course, I believe the automatic pay raise is never appropriate. As my colleagues are aware, it is an unusual thing to have the power to raise our own pay. Few people have that ability. Most of our constituents do not have that power. And that this power is so unusual is good reason for the Congress to exercise that power openly, and to exercise it subject to regular procedures that include debate, amendment, and a vote on the RECORD.

This process of pay raises without accountability must end. It is offensive. It is wrong. And it is unconstitutional.

In August of 1789, as part of the package of 12 amendments advocated by James Madison that included what has become our Bill of Rights, the House of Representatives passed an amendment to the Constitution providing that Congress could not raise its pay without an intervening election. Almost exactly 212 years ago, on September 9, 1789, the Senate passed that amendment. In late September of 1789, Congress submitted the amendments to the States.

Although the amendment on pay raises languished for two centuries, in the 1980s, a campaign began to ratify it. While I was a member of the Wisconsin State Senate, I was proud to help ratify the amendment. Its approval by the Michigan legislature on May 7, 1992, gave it the needed approval by three-fourths of the States.

The 27th amendment to the Constitution now states: “No law, varying the compensation for the services of the Senators and Representatives, shall take effect, until an election of Representatives shall have intervened.” I try to honor that limitation in my own practices. In my own case, throughout my 6-year term, I accept only the rate of pay that Senators receive on the date on which I was sworn in as a Senator. And I return to the Treasury any additional income Senators get, whether from a cost-of-living adjustment or a pay raise we vote for ourselves. I don’t take a raise until my bosses, the people of Wisconsin, give me one at the ballot box. That is the spirit of the 27th amendment.

This practice must end, and earlier this year I reintroduced legislation to end the automatic cost-of-living adjustment for congressional pay.

But we should not wait to enact that law to say “no” to the $4,900 pay raise that will go into effect beginning next year.

To that end, I call upon the leadership of both parties to work together, in the spirit of the bipartisan unity we have seen flourish in recent days, to stop the pay raise that is scheduled to go into effect in 2002.

I very much hope it will not be necessary to issue out on the floor of the Senate. I have an amendment prepared to stop this backdoor pay raise, and am willing to offer it if that becomes necessary, but I want to give our leadership the opportunity to respond to my proposal.

We are spending the hard-earned tax dollars of millions of Americans to recover from the horrific events of September 11 and to ensure that it does not happen again.

And right this minute, our Nation is sending the men and women of our Armed Services into harm’s way.

This is not the time for Congress to accept a pay raise, and I am confident that upon reflection, Members of the Senate and the other body will want to stop this automatic pay raise from taking effect.

Let’s stop this backdoor pay raise right now, and then, let’s enact legislation to end this practice once and for all.

THE WORLD SITUATION AFTER THE TERRORIST STRIKE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a speech delivered by a member of the U.S. Court of International Trade, Evan Wallach. A graduate of Cambridge and a Nevada, this expert international jurist and expert in the law of war, with clarity reviews the current situation and argues against the terrorist strike of September 11, 2001.

There being no objection, the speech was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

SPEECH, 21 SEPTEMBER, 2001 HUGHES HALL, NEW YORK.

It is good to be home. Whether it is because we as peoples share the same language and laws, value the same rights of humanity, and pray to the same God, or because I have developed so many long and deep friendships since I first set foot in these halls some twenty-one years ago, I cannot feel myself a stranger in this house and in this fair land. It is good to be home and to share with you our common hopes and our common tragedy.

When President Richards invited me to speak here some months past, I had in mind a speech about how England faced alone through those dark days of May and June, 1940, as the only bulwark between the free world and the dark night of unending barbarism. Long before we Americans were forced into the affair, even before her empire could effectively rally to the colors, this island held the line; and this small town, with its great university, was at the center of that resistance, providing many of its pilots, much of its intelligence apparatus, and a great deal of its military leadership.

My original thought was to come here to thank you yet again, and to speak about the links forged in that crucible of war which bind us still.

That was before Tuesday, September 11.

On that morning I was talking to my secretary Linda Sue as she prepared coffee. When we heard the first explosion I thought it might finally be the end. We watched the television said it was an airplane. It had to be an accident. We watched the second aircraft fly into the WTC. In one second it changed everything. We knew we were at war.

New Yorkers reacted very well. They re- minded me so much of the Blitz. Our court is exactly a half mile from the WTC. There was no panic. People helped someone when they stumbled, urged one another on, and were kind to strangers. It was as Dickens says, the best of times and the worst of times.

We are a much a family, we Americans, a very large, very extended and often dys- functional family. When our brothers and sisters come into harm’s way we react as does any family; we cry, we grieve, we pray, we hold each other close, and then we go on living.

Make no mistake about it, we will go on. The continental Europeans have a conception of America which has a strong kernel of truth. We are still, somewhat, the vaguely isolationist, happy-go-lucky plough boy who can be insulted by foreign waiters, eulogized by his favorite aunt, and chipping away at a long and lawless pay raise, and am willing to offer it if that becomes necessary, but I want to give our leadership the opportunity to respond to my proposal.

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