

on the battlefield, on the seas, and in the air, throughout the world, so that we in America may continue to enjoy the full fruits of our liberties . . .

Memorial Day is a time for all Americans to honor our fallen heroes, our Veterans and our dedicated service men and women who are serving in peacekeeping missions in troubled areas throughout the world.

On Memorial Day, I will be participating in numerous Veterans observances throughout my 20th Congressional District, including the Castle Point VA Hospital, the American Legion Post #199 Memorial Day Parade; and the Memorial Day Parade at the Village of Florida by Post #1250.

Other events include the dedication of the Frederic Malek Tennis Courts at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Frederic Malek, a West Point graduate, 1959, served as an airborne ranger attached to the Special Forces in Vietnam. Mr. Malek continued to serve his country in key roles for three presidents as Deputy Under Secretary of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, as Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget and as Director of the 1990 Summit of Major Industrialization.

Historian Barbara Tuchman stated: "War is the unfolding of miscalculations . . ."

Remembering our heroes of the past, reminds us not to make any miscalculations that could lead to any future war:

Miscalculations . . . of our being perceived as being weak; of allowing our defenses to atrophy; of neglecting America's best interests; of ignoring the needs of our Veterans and those who continue to serve today.

Our 107th Congress, under the leadership of President Bush, is working to ensure that our Veterans will have the support they deserve . . .

In the FY 2002 budget there are significant increases in spending for Veterans programs, including a 16-percent increase in mandatory spending, and in new funds for the G.I. bill.

In March, the House passed H.R. 811, the Veterans Hospitals Emergency Repair Act, authorizing funds to repair the V.A.'s medical facilities, and, by a unanimous vote, the House passed the Veterans Survivor Benefits Improvements Act, expanding life insurance benefits for the spouses and children of our Veterans.

Along with our House Veterans Committee Chairman, Chris Smith, we are working to move forward with the 21st century Montgomery G.I. Bill Enhancement Act, increasing the education benefit for service members and Veterans.

Moreover, I've introduced the American Gold Star Parents Annuity Act, creating a new annuity for our gold star parents.

And finally, just this week, the House and Senate passed legislation, expediting the construction of the World War II Memorial in Washington, a fitting and long overdue tribute to our Nation's World War II Veterans.

In the words of President Teddy Roosevelt, "A man who is good enough to give his blood for his country, is good enough to be given a square deal afterwards" . . .

To our Nation's Veterans, I send my thanks and pledge to remain committed to their cause and general welfare.

In their spirit, on this Memorial Day, let us rededicate ourselves to the men and women, who worked and died together, so that our Nation may remain free and continue to stand as a beacon of liberty for the entire world.

To all our Veterans we say thank you and God bless.

THE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION: IS IT ANY LONGER WORTH SEEKING MEMBERSHIP?

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2001

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, the editorial following from the May 23, 2001 edition of the Omaha World-Herald raises very important and pertinent questions about the relevancy of the United Nations Human Rights Commission (UNHCR) upon which the United States recently lost its membership. As this member said to U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan yesterday during his meeting with the House Committee on International Relations, the UNHCR increasingly seems to have become a haven for some countries with the worst human rights records in order to ward off criticism and further manned by other countries which are all too willing to table the consideration of resolutions concerning countries with such human rights records because their less than courageous vote may avoid the loss of export markets.

Mr. Speaker, as this member said to the Secretary General and House colleagues perhaps the major emphasis of the Congress and the United States is to demand a fundamental re-orientation of the UNHCR and to find other ways to use American resources and clout in the advancement of human rights.

[From the Omaha World-Herald]

U.N. ENTITY COURTS IRRELEVANCE

It's been interesting to note the reactions of various groups of Americans to a U.N. committee's vote to remove the United States from the United Nations Human Rights Commission.

A writer for the liberal Nation magazine used the incident to go off on a riff about America the Arrogant. "A little more self-criticism and a lot less self-righteousness would go a long way," he wrote in a passage the irony of which is compounded by the fact that U.S. reelection hopes were aborted by such humble, self-effacing nations as France and China.

Another columnist suggested that maybe America was being punished for its Cold War practice of backing unsavory dictatorships that happened to be anti-communist. If so, that would be a double standard, too, considering what China was up to during some of those same Cold War years.

The New York Times editorial page said the Bush Administration was caught by surprise, apparently because it thought it had the votes locked up. The Times appropriately recommended that the administration find out who betrayed it. Knowing who broke promises of support may be useful later, the Times suggested.

The Washington Post, forthrightly torpedoing Sen. John Kerry's approving claim

that the action was related to U.S. rejection of the Kyoto Protocols, pointed out that China has been steamed because of American criticism of that country's abysmal human rights record. The Post said the United States was done in by China, Cuba and French diplomats who were trying to curry favor with African dictators. The Arab world also resents the United States for siding with Israel in a number of U.N. confrontations.

Additional action by the subcommittee a few days ago provided insight into the prevailing thought process. Having denied continued membership to the United States, some members of the voting panel have turned their attention to private organizations that maintain United Nations accreditation to promote human rights. The Washington Times reported that some of these groups are now in danger of losing their credentials.

They include Freedom House, founded by Eleanor Roosevelt to monitor freedom around the world, and the Simon Wiesenthal Center, which tracks down and exposes perpetrators of the Holocaust who have tried to hide their past.

The time is ripe, it seems to us, for the little boy to stand up and say that the emperor has no clothes. If the likes of Cuba and China, or haters of Israel, are setting the moral tone in the dealings of this commission, there can be no moral tone to speak of, and serious-minded diplomats lower themselves to take its yammerings seriously.

Generations of Americans have been raised with the notion that the United States, by failing to get on board the League of Nations in 1920, weakened an institution that might have prevented World War II. Accordingly, active participation in the United Nations, the League's successor, has been regarded a sort of sacred responsibility since 1945, as well it should continue to be.

And, indeed, the U.N. has done considerable good, with its peacekeeping and relief operations as well as its provision of a forum for talking about things—including human rights—that in earlier decades might have ignited conflict.

However, Americans shouldn't expect that their interests will always coincide with those of the global organization and all its various commissions, agencies and committees. We and our government should be prepared to accommodate divergences, using whatever means are consistent with our national interest and, secondarily, the interests of the world community.

What happened on the Civil Rights Commission, though, was not a divergence of interests, as that term is commonly used. It was more like a wholehearted plunge into irrelevance. This is not a situation that calls for American self-loathing. Until the people who are driving the commission regain their moral bearings, to heck with them.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J.D. HAYWORTH

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2001

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 126, I was detained due to flight delays. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."