

"This of a person who although he is a Christian, he is very proud of that, grew up with an understanding of the Muslim faith," the president added. "Anyone who shares these experiences will understand us better, and will understand our challenges. We need that kind of person to lead the United States."

Although President Jagdeo was careful not to call a name and didn't pinpoint the elected position he had in mind, few persons, if any at all, had failed to identify U.S. Senator Barack whose quest for the White House in Washington has captivated Americans and has warmed the hearts of people around the world.

In his statement, PM King, who narrowly survived a recent political attempt and power struggle by leading members of his own ruling United Workers Party in St. Lucia to remove him from office, said that "it was important, vital was a better way of putting it, for Caribbean nations to dip into the vast human reservoir of talented human resources from the Caribbean that can be found in the United States". "We Caribbean leaders have recognized that the time has come for us to tap the resources available to us from the Diaspora," he said.

What a pity then that such an atmosphere of cordiality and interest wasn't reciprocated by a handful of immigrants, no more than five or six, mainly Guyanese, who turned up at the function to harass and condemn Dr. Jagdeo, and to do it in a disrespectful and shameless manner by shouting at him from their seats and before the microphones in an attempt to disrupt his presentation. Fortunately, the President was able to give even better than he got, responding to them in a clear an unemotional tone. But perhaps the most rousing welcome was reserved for the Belizean Prime Minister, the first person of truly African-heritage to lead CARICOM's lone country in Central America. Some of his enthusiastic political supporters who were seeing him for the first time since his election victory jumped for joy and waved their arms in delight and in turn were warmly acknowledged by a Prime Minister who seemingly enjoyed every second of the acclaim. PM Spencer, the Antiguan head of government, was upbeat as he soaked in the cheerful response from Antiguan in the audience and regularly took the opportunity to explain his government's and CARICOM's stance on domestic and regional issues.

The opportunity for an exchange of ideas wasn't lost on two members of Congress, Yvette Clarke of Brooklyn and Gregory Meeks of Queens, two lawmakers with large Caribbean constituents. When the time came for them to speak, they grasped the chance with both hands and used it to pledge continuing support for the region.

Interestingly, a public figure who wasn't there but was on most people's minds was U.S. Congressman Charles Rangel, Chairman of the powerful Ways and Means Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives.

It was Rangel who engineered the conference and opened the doors of Wall Street to the Prime Ministers and President Jagdeo. It was people's way of saying thanks to him. Of the leaders who came to New York, Jagdeo was the only one who had to face a few placard carrying hostile demonstrators. From all indications, he handled himself with aplomb, even breaking away from the protective shield of the Secret Service to have an exchange with some of his critics. "I was not afraid to talk to them," he said afterwards. In the event though, as

William Shakespeare's immortal line reminds us "All's well that Ends Well."

And the conference certainly ended on a high note when some of the leaders joined U.S. Congressman Charles Rangel, Chairman of the influential Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives, for breakfast at Sylvia's, a New York City landmark in Harlem.

The event at York College was chaired by Dr. Ivelaw Griffith, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs. He's an expert on Caribbean security and has written several books and scholarly papers on the subject. The College's President Dr. Marcia Keizs, a Jamaican, set the tone with a welcome that reminded many in the theater-style auditorium of their own experiences as immigrants: leaving home to go to better education abroad but with plans to return to the birthplace. Instead, they decide to stay on and in the process rise to the pinnacle of academic or professional success, or both.

Helen Marshall, the first Black person elected to serve as Borough President of Queens, also spoke and emphasized the value of maintaining links between the U.S. and the Caribbean. In her own Guyana, the homeland of her parents, it is a good example of bridging the geographic divide.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2008

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, on July 14, 2008, due to a delayed flight, I was unable to cast one recorded vote on Roll-call vote 486, concerning H. Res. 1067, recognizing the 50th anniversary of the crossing of the North Pole by the U.S.S. *Nautilus*. Had I cast my vote, I would have voted "aye". I was present and able to vote on the next two measures.

ON THE INTRODUCTION OF THE "UNITED STATES PAROLE COM- MISSION EXTENSION ACT OF 2008"

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2008

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the "United States Parole Commission Extension Act of 2008" with Ranking Member LAMAR SMITH and Representatives BOBBY SCOTT, LOUIE GOHMERT and ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON. This legislation will extend the Parole Commissions' authority for another three years. This will be the fifth time since the elimination of Federal parole in 1987 that the Parole Commission has been reauthorized.

In the more than 20 years since the elimination of Federal parole, Congress has debated whether or not to phase-out the Parole Commission. Currently, the Commission has jurisdiction over all decisions regarding parole release for D.C. prisoners and decisions on mandatory release supervision and revocation

for all persons serving D.C. felony sentences. The Commission also has jurisdiction over Federal and foreign transfer treaty offenders convicted before November 1987, some military code offenders and state defendants in the U.S. Marshals Service Witness Protection Program. According to the Parole Commission, at least 7500 people will fall into one of these categories by 2010. This is why in the 1996 extension of the Parole Commission, Congress finally recognized that there would be a need for the Commission through 2002 and beyond.

It is for these reasons that I am introducing this important legislation with my fellow Judiciary Committee Members and Representative HOLMES NORTON.

IN MEMORY OF TONY SNOW

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2008

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, on July 12th, former White House Press Secretary, writer, commentator, patriot and a true gentleman, Tony Snow, passed away from colon cancer. Throughout his life and his career, Mr. Snow earned a reputation for wit, thoughtfulness, and intellectual prowess that brought him admiration and acclaim from his political allies and opponents.

A graduate of Davidson College in North Carolina, Tony Snow had a diverse career beginning as an editorial writer for a local North Carolina paper. He grew in the field of journalism to become a syndicated columnist and commentator for several well respected news programs. He was a speechwriter for President George H.W. Bush. After leaving the White House for the first time, Mr. Snow took a post at the Fox News Channel—helping to build that network's news programming—before returning to the White House as press secretary for President George W. Bush.

I am personally grateful that a former member of the staff of South Carolina's Second District, Emily Lawrimore, had the distinct honor to work with Tony Snow in her post as assistant press secretary for President Bush. I know from her experience and the stories of generosity and decency from Mr. Snow's friends and colleagues that we have truly lost an honorable individual who believed in rising above the political rhetoric in this Nation. With his college background at Davidson, the people of the Carolinas especially appreciated his success. At this time of loss, our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Jill, and their three children.

CONGRATULATING CHARLIE DANIEL

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2008

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, one of the finest men I know, Charlie Daniel, has now