

reach out beyond party and beyond ideology and as Americans to say one of the highest values we are going to spend the next 2 years on is openly dealing with the challenge of meaning that, when we say in our Declaration that we are endowed by our Creator with certain unalienable rights including life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, that every child in every neighborhood of every background is endowed by God, and every time America fails to meet that, we are failing to meet God's test for the country we should be.

"Let me say second about drugs, I think we have to redefine and rethink our approach to drugs.

"One of my close friends had her 19-year-old sister overdose, and her 19-year-old sister today is in a coma and celebrated her 20th birthday in that coma.

"Drugs are not statistics. As CHARLIE RANGEL told me at breakfast just 2 years ago, drugs are real human beings being destroyed. Drugs are real violence. If we did not have drugs in this country, the amount of spouse abuse, the amount of child abuse, the amount of violence would drop dramatically. And so I want to suggest that we should take seriously reaching across all barriers in establishing an all-out effort.

"The Columbia University Center for Addiction and Substance Abuse has done a fascinating study. The Center found that one of the best predictors of whether a child will stay free of drugs is whether he or she practices a religion. Joe Califano, Lyndon Johnson's former advisor and Jimmy Carter's Secretary of Health and Human Services, says that religion is part of the solution to our drug problems and to drug treatment itself. Alcoholics Anonymous refers to a higher power.

"I do not know what all the answers are, but I do know that if we love these children, in addition to fighting racism and reaching out to every child, we need to decide that we are prepared to have the equivalent of an abolitionist movement against drugs and to do what it takes so that none of these children ends up in a coma celebrating their birthday or end up dead.

"Lastly, we need to pay closer attention to a word you do not hear much anymore: Ignorance. Traditionally ignorance ranked with pestilence, hunger, war as abominations upon humanity, but in recent years the word 'ignorance' has been cleaned up and refined into some aspect of educational failure.

"I mean by ignorance something deeper. It is not about geography in the third grade. It is about learning the work ethic, it is about learning to be a citizen, it is about learning to save, it is about all the things that make us functional. It is about the things that allow virtually everybody in this room to get up each morning and have a good life. There are too many places in America where people are born into dysfunction, educated into dysfunction and live in dysfunction, and we should

find a way to reach out in this modern era and use every tool at our fingertips, from computers to television to radio to personal volunteerism, so that every family that today happens to be dysfunctional has a chance within the next few years to learn to be functional, and I think we should take ignorance as serious a problem as drugs or race.

"We in the Congress have one place we have an obligation beyond any other, and that is this city, and I want to commend the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia, ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON, for the leadership she has shown and the courage she has shown day after day and week after week. She and the gentleman from Virginia, TOM DAVIS, and the gentleman from New York, JIM WALSH, worked their hearts out over the last 2 years, and I believe it is fair to say that in some ways we have begun to make progress.

"It is not easy, it has to be done carefully, it cannot violate the right of the citizens of this city. But let us be candid. First, this is our national capital. We have a unique obligation on both sides of the aisle to care about Washington because we are today to Washington what a State government would be back home to your town. We have an unusual obligation to Washington.

"Second, it is our national capital, and people looked at me as though I lost my mind 1½ years ago when I met with Mayor Barry and I said, 'You know, our vision ought to be the finest capital city in the world,' and that ought to be our vision.

"And furthermore, if we are going to talk honestly about race and we are going to talk honestly about drugs and we are going to talk honestly about ignorance, we owe it to every citizen of this District, every child in this District, to have a decent chance to grow up and to go to a school that succeeds in a neighborhood that is drug-free and safe, with an expectation of getting a job in a community that actually cares about them and provides a better future, and we should take on as a Congress all responsibilities to the District of Columbia, and we should do it proudly, and we should not be ashamed to go back home and say, 'You're darn right we're helping our national capital because we want you to visit it with pride, and we want you to know that you can say to anyone anywhere in the world come to America and visit Washington, it is a great city.'

"Let me close with this final thought, and I appreciate my friend, the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. DINGELL] standing there, and I apologize for having drawn him forward particularly since he is standing on one foot. But this has been a very difficult time, and to those who agonized and ended up voting for me, I thank them. Some of this difficulty frankly I brought on myself. We will deal with that in more detail later, and I apologize to the House and the country for having done so. Some of it is part of the natural process of partisan competition.

"This morning a very dear friend of mine said that he was going to pray to God that I would win today and I asked him not to and I asked him to pray to God that whatever happens is what God wants, and then we would try to understand it and learn from it. Let me put that forward in the same thing for all of us as we approach the next 2 years.

"I was really struck about a month ago when I walked down to the Lincoln Memorial and I read the Second Inaugural, which is short enough to be on the wall, and 12 times in that Inaugural Lincoln refers to God. I went back and read Washington's First Inaugural, which is replete with reference to America existing within God's framework. I read Jefferson's First Inaugural, since he is often described as a deist, which refers to the importance and the power of providence. All of my colleagues can visit the Jefferson Memorial where he says, around the top it is inscribed, 'I have sworn upon the altar of God Almighty eternal hostility against all forms of tyranny over the minds of man.'

"We have much to be proud of as Americans. This is a great and a wonderful system. We have much to be ashamed of as Americans, from drug addiction to spouse and child abuse, to children living in ignorance and poverty surrounded by the greatest wealthiest nation in the world, to a political system that clearly has to be overhauled from the ground up if it is going to be worthy of the respect we want and cherish.

"I would just suggest to all of my colleagues that until we learn in a nonsectarian way, not Baptist, not Catholic, not Jewish, in a nonsectarian way, until we learn to reestablish the authority that we are endowed by our Creator, that we owe it to our Creator and that we need to seek divine guidance in what we are doing, we are not going to solve this country's problems.

"In that spirit, with my colleagues' prayers and help, I will seek to be worthy of being Speaker of the House, and I will seek to work with every Member sent by their constituents to represent them in the U.S. Congress.

"And I now call on my dear friend, the senior Member of the House and wonderful person, the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. DINGELL]. I am ready to take the oath of office, and I ask the Dean of the House of Representatives, the honorable gentleman from Michigan [Mr. DINGELL] to administer the oath."

#### ¶1.9 OATH OF OFFICE—SPEAKER

At the request of the Speaker the oath of office was then administered to him by Mr. DINGELL, dean of the House.

#### ¶1.10 OATH OF OFFICE—MEMBERS-ELECT, DELEGATES-ELECT, RESIDENT COMMISSIONER

The SPEAKER said: "According to precedent, the Chair will swear in all Members of the House at this time. If