

APPOINTMENT AS MEMBERS TO
TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY WORK-
FORCE COMMISSION

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to Section 334(b)(1) of Public Law 105-220 and Section 5 of House Resolution 594, 105th Congress, the Speaker on Friday, November 13, 1998, appointed the following members on the part of the House to the Twenty-First Century Workforce Commission:

Mr. Thomas J. Murrin, Pennsylvania;
Mr. Kenneth Saxe, Pennsylvania;
Mr. Frank Riggs, California; and
Mr. Frank Roberts, California.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE
CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE
ON TRANSPORTATION AND IN-
FRASTRUCTURE

The Speaker laid before the House the following communication from the chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; which was read and referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

WASHINGTON, DC,
October 13, 1998.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
The Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Enclosed please find copies of resolutions approved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on October 9, 1998, in accordance with 40 U.S.C. § 606.

With warm regards, I remain
Sincerely,

BUD SHUSTER,
Chairman.

EXPRESSING UNEQUIVOCAL SUP-
PORT FOR MEN AND WOMEN OF
OUR ARMED FORCES CUR-
RENTLY CARRYING OUT MIS-
SIONS IN AND AROUND PERSIAN
GULF REGION

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, I offer a resolution (H. Res. 612) expressing unequivocal support for the men and women of our Armed Forces who are currently carrying out missions in and around the Persian Gulf region, and ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration in the House, with the previous question ordered to its adoption without intervening motion or demand for division of the question except 2 hours of debate, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and the ranking minority member of the Committee on National Security or their designees.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 612

Whereas the President of the United States has ordered military action against Iraq in response to its refusal to comply with international obligations under United Nations Security Council resolutions;

Whereas up to 24,000 men and women of the United States Armed Forces are presently involved in operations in and around the Persian Gulf region with the active participation of British Armed Forces and the support of allies in the region;

Whereas additional United States Armed Forces are being deployed to the region;

Whereas Congress and the American people have the greatest pride in the men and women of the United States Armed Forces and strongly support them in their efforts. Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives That:

(a) the Congress unequivocally supports the men and women of our Armed Forces who are carrying out their missions with professionalism, dedication, patriotism, and courage;

(b) the Congress reaffirms that it should be the policy of the United States to support efforts to remove the regime headed by Saddam Hussein from power in Iraq and to promote the emergence of a democratic government to replace that regime.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from South Carolina?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPENCE) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON) each will control 1 hour.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPENCE).

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to inquire, is either gentleman opposed to the resolution?

The SPEAKER. The unanimous consent request did not allocate time on the basis of opposition.

The gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPENCE) is recognized.

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGRICH), the Speaker.

Mr. GINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, the gentleman from South Carolina, for yielding time to me.

Mr. Speaker, I rise because I think this resolution offers us a very important opportunity to talk with ourselves and to talk with the world.

The United States represents two enormous burdens that we have to live out: first, that we are the center of freedom, and that we are engaged in the process of self-government; and second, that we must carry the burden of leading the world, and that is an operational day-to-day which never suspends: It does not suspend for elections, it does not suspend for Christmas, it does not suspend under any circumstance. We have an obligation to prove to ourselves and to the world that we can simultaneously govern ourselves in freedom under the rule of law, and provide leadership wherever it is needed around the world.

Let me expand on that for just a moment, because it is a topic I have thought a great deal about since the fall of the Berlin Wall.

The United States has to lead. There is no alternative. There is no other country capable of organizing against an Iraqi dictator who wants to get weapons of mass destruction. There is no other country capable of sustaining freedom against a North Korean dictatorship actively seeking to get nuclear

weapons. There is no other country that can lead the world's financial system when it is under stress. There is no other country capable of bringing together on a global basis people trying to solve problems.

Yes, it would be nice to run and hide. Yes, it would be nice to find some grand isolation in which we could cower behind the walls of the Atlantic and Pacific Ocean if this were 150 years ago.

But today, in the age of the Internet, in the age of worldwide instantaneous financial communications, in the age of weapons of mass destruction delivered by missiles and by terrorists, for the United States to fail to lead is in fact to guarantee chaos and to guarantee pain across the planet, and ultimately, pain here in the United States.

So let me be very clear. I believe the United States has to lead, and I believe, as a practical matter, both under our Constitution and in the nature of how human beings function, the daily leadership has to be an executive function, and the President of the United States has to provide that leadership every day, 365 days a year.

Now, we have a second and in many ways even more important burden, because it is the heart of who we are as a people. We are a Nation under law. We are a Nation of systems. As Ronald Reagan said in 1981, this magic of the transfer of power as a Democratic president yielded to a Republican, and then in 1993, as a Republican, George Bush, yielded to a Democrat, President Clinton, there is a magic to the capacity of the American people to subordinate themselves to the rule of law, and that means we are going to have open debates. It means newspapers are going to have lurid headlines. It means we are going to have television shows that are confusing.

If you are a dictator, it is easy to look at the turmoil and chaos and confusion of a free people and say to yourself, this is the week to hit America, because now they must be divided. So we have a chance today to say to the world, no matter what our constitutional process, whether it is an election eve or it is the eve of a constitutional vote, no matter what our debates at home, we are, as a Nation, prepared to lead the world.

So I support what was done this week. I was briefed on it in advance. I can assure my colleagues that as Speaker of the House, I felt, and I think that the next speaker, Mr. LIVINGSTON, can also report that he felt we were being legitimately consulted. We were not just informed but we had conversations of substance, and this has been an ongoing process.

But let me say two things on the domestic side about my qualified support, because I believe the President has two obligations beyond this week's activities. First, we need to have a clear and decisive commitment to replacing the dictatorship in Iraq, because it has consistently now, from 1990 through