

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

BORDER SECURITY—NOW

(Mr. PRICE of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, our brave men and women in the military are accompanied by other brave men and women who work hard to protect us. They are our border agents who guard our international boundaries, and they are now often serving in what amounts to a war zone.

In the fiscal year just ended, over 650 border agents reported being assaulted, the highest number since they began tracking these incidents in the 1990s. Compare that to last year's total of 354, and you have to wonder just how secure our borders are. Even with sensors and cameras and fences, that is not enough. Incidents have increased from San Diego to Nogales, Arizona to the banks of the Rio Grande in Texas. It is clear we are not getting the job done, and our efforts need to be strengthened.

If our agents have to dodge bullets, then who is controlling our borders? Homeland Security Secretary Chertoff said last week that when it comes to illegal immigration, time is not on our side. Mr. Speaker, Congress should take action now to secure our borders. Our Nation is not secure until our borders are secure. That is the necessary and first step to any immigration reform. H.R. 3693 is legislation that America needs now.

IMMIGRANT RIOTING IN FRANCE

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, failure to integrate immigrants into a country's society is evident in the 11 days of rioting, looting, destruction, and lawlessness in France. With the 5 million Muslims in France, many of the youth feel disenfranchised and discriminated against by the French government. Some of these third-generation immigrants have turned to violence to get the attention of French authorities. Government buildings, private businesses, homes and over 1,300 cars have been burned.

It has been reported that some Muslim extremists are taking advantage of the riots and calling for jihad, or holy war. A French police official reportedly said that civil war is unfolding in France. France must find a better way

to assimilate the Muslim population into its culture. USA Today states that French President Jacques Chirac must restore order to prevent a clash of civilizations that is one of the greatest threats of the 21st century.

The lesson for us to learn is that we must encourage immigrants to assimilate into America, or we too could face difficulties in the future. Immigrants have the responsibility to become Americans, and America has the responsibility to provide immigrants access to America and teach them to be Americans. That's just the way it is.

BUDGET RECONCILIATION

(Mr. OLVER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, the Budget Committee's reconciliation bill is a vicious example of misguided fiscal and social priorities. To pay for tax cuts that benefit almost exclusively those whose income is over \$200,000 a year, the bill cuts assistance to families struggling to get by and pushes them right into poverty.

The bill guarantees that more foster children will grow up in poverty. \$4.9 billion is slashed from child support services. As a result, single mothers and their children will not receive the support payments owed to them, and many of those children will grow up in poverty.

\$844 million cut from food stamps will push another 300,000 children and adults in low-income and immigrant families below the poverty threshold. One in five children in this country already grow up in poverty. It is unconscionable to deliberately increase that number. For what? So that the wealthiest 3 percent of Americans can have another huge tax cut.

AMERICANS APPRECIATE FRANCE

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Americans were saddened over the weekend to see rioters spread fire and violence across France with nearly 5,000 vehicles burned, stretching into the heart of Paris. As a person of French heritage, I am particularly shocked that 34 police officers are injured, including 10 wounded by gunshots. This outburst of violence is a chilling reminder that appeasement is a failed course which leads to greater violence.

I am particularly disappointed France did not show resolve in the Cold War as defenders of freedom actively defeated Communism, and I am disappointed France has not shown resolve in the global war on terrorism, as we resist terrorists from London to Baghdad to Bali. But our hearts and our heritage are with France, which we treasure as America's first ally. With

resolve we can stop extremism at its source; peace can be restored.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL'S DECLARATION ON THE RELATION OF THE CHURCH TO NON-CHRISTIAN RELIGIONS

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 260) recognizing the 40th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council's Declaration on the Relation of the Church to Non-Christian Religions, *Nostra Aetate*, and the continuing need for mutual inter-religious respect and dialogue, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 260

Whereas 2005 marks the 40th anniversary of the promulgation of *Nostra Aetate*, the declaration on the relation of the Roman Catholic Church to non-Christian religions;

Whereas on October 28, 1965, after the overwhelmingly affirmative vote of the Second Vatican Council of the Roman Catholic Church, Pope Paul VI issued *Nostra Aetate*, which means "in our time";

Whereas *Nostra Aetate* affirmed the respect of the Roman Catholic Church for Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, and Judaism, and exhorted Catholics to engage in "dialogue and collaboration with the followers of other religions";

Whereas *Nostra Aetate* made possible a new relationship between Catholics and Jews worldwide and opened a chapter in Jewish-Christian relations that is unprecedented in its closeness and warmth;

Whereas *Nostra Aetate* states that the Roman Catholic Church "decries hatred, persecution, displays of anti-Semitism, directed against Jews at any time and by anyone"; and

Whereas *Nostra Aetate* clearly states that "No foundation therefore remains for any theory or practice that leads to discrimination between man and man or people and people, so far as their human dignity and the rights flowing from it are concerned." Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—

(1) recognizes the 40th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council's promulgation of *Nostra Aetate*, the declaration on the relation of the Roman Catholic Church to non-Christian religions;

(2) appreciates the role of the Holy See in combating religious intolerance and religious discrimination;

(3) encourages the United States to continue to serve in a leading role in combating anti-Semitism and other forms of religious

intolerance and religious discrimination worldwide;

(4) acknowledges the role of *Nostra Aetate* in fostering interreligious dialogue and mutual respect, including, in particular, new relationships of collaboration and dialogue between Jews and Catholics since the issuance of *Nostra Aetate*; and

(5) requests the President to issue a proclamation recognizing the 40th anniversary of *Nostra Aetate* and the historic role of *Nostra Aetate* in fostering mutual interreligious respect and dialogue.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) and the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the concurrent resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, in many respects, the past 40 years have been immensely troubling and difficult ones. Indeed, they have been filled with intolerance, hatred, and genocide. Think of Rwanda. Think of Cambodia. We spend entirely too much time on the floor decrying unspeakable crimes and preparing our concrete responses.

Our own shores have witnessed terrorism on a massive scale. And while we have avoided massive destruction on the scale of the Second World War, or another Holocaust, just last month we saw a new Holocaust called for, in essence, by the head of state of a member of the United Nations.

There are certainly countervailing forces of good in the world, forces that are prepared to deal one way or another with hate and the consequences. One way to deal with the forces of hate is to prepare to meet them on the battlefield or defeat them in shadowy wars carried out in the back alleys of far-off lands.

There is another path, the one we commemorate today: to foster understanding, indeed love, among diverse peoples and remove the roots of war from their hearts.

Forty years ago, Pope Pius VI issued a declaration entitled *Nostra Aetate*, "In Our Times." This constituted the Roman Catholic Church's statement expressing its respect for adherents of non-Christian religions and denouncing every form of bigotry directed against them. The groundbreaking statement contained extended discussions of Catholicism's relations with some of the major religions, especially Islam and Judaism, and most specifically concerning the charge of deicide leveled against Jews even in contemporary times. Further, it jump-started many

rounds of respectful discussion among religious leaders and laypersons.

A few moments ago, I alluded to some of the horrors the world has witnessed in the past 40 years. In order to judge the impact of *Nostra Aetate*, we must ask ourselves how much worse a world without the gracious spirit of *Nostra Aetate* would have been. It would clearly have been a more dismal place.

I ask that all my colleagues join in this very important concurrent resolution originated by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT).

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise with my friend from Texas to support this concurrent resolution. The document marked a historic milestone in the effort of the Roman Catholic Church to improve its relations with Jews and non-Christian religions and to launch a new, progressive, positive dialogue among them.

Mr. Speaker, in a world that is increasingly drawn together through economic, cultural and ties of all kinds, there simply is no place for bigotry, racism, religious hatred, intolerance, or prejudice. The document whose 40th anniversary we are recognizing makes that abundantly clear. And it is appropriate for us to reflect upon that at this time, recognizing also the important role of the Holy See in the fight against religious intolerance and discrimination, and I have appreciated the leadership that we have seen coming from the Vatican of late in this regard.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT), the author of today's resolution.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Oregon for yielding me this time.

I rise to urge support of H. Con. Res. 260. I want to thank first my colleagues and friends, Chairman HYDE and Representative LANTOS. Both have been tremendously helpful in bringing this resolution forward. This resolution has the support of 65 bipartisan cosponsors here in the House. As my friend pointed out, it commemorates the 40th anniversary of *Nostra Aetate*, a hallmark declaration by the Roman Catholic Church on religious respect and interfaith relations, and it celebrates the historic relationship between Jews and Catholics and among other religions worldwide.

My resolution also calls for this country and this Congress to continue to condemn and combat anti-Semitism and all forms of religious hatred and bigotry around the world.

First a little bit of history, Mr. Speaker. This was initiated by Pope John XXIII through the Second Vatican Council, and *Nostra Aetate* then was issued by, Pope Paul VI, in October, 1965, 40 years ago, after a vote of 2,221 to 88 by the Catholic bishops.

□ 1415

It is a historic declaration, and we should remember its essential message: the need for interreligious dialogue and religious respect, and that is a message that is still vitally important today.

Seen from this perspective, today, the affirmations of this document may not seem so impressive. But those of us who remember back to that time, on a bit of reflection, will understand how monumental this statement was, how far it reached throughout the world, beyond the Catholic Church, beyond Christians. It was a paradigm shift in how religious people think about each other.

As my friend, the gentleman from Oregon said, in this day we certainly need a refresher course in how religious people can think about each other in a positive way.

Over the past 40 years, there has been noticeable progress. *Nostra Aetate* was written by Catholics for Catholics, but its impact has been felt by almost all people of faith in the world. Less than three pages in length, this document, that goes by the Latin words that mean "in our time," was a rare moment of self-check for Catholics. We all know how hard it is to look inside ourselves and find things that need to be improved, things that are wrong and need to be changed.

Nostra Aetate was a controversial document at the time. I am not sure that anyone knows all the internal politics that went into writing it, but even in the press at the time, it was known to be controversial.

Why should we be talking about it here in the House of Representatives? Why should we be talking about religion? Why should we be talking about a Roman Catholic document? Is it even appropriate here? Well, certainly not in a worshipful or a theological or an ecclesiastical way, but this is an important document in world history that says a lot to us as Americans.

Remember, there is much that we honor in our country's history. There is much genius that we see in our founding documents, in our Constitution. One of the greatest accomplishments of this country was to establish freedom of religion, freedom for religious belief and religious practice, and freedom from religion. That is rare, even today. It truly was a stroke of genius by our Founders. And, as so much, in our constitutional heritage it is still a work in progress.

Freedom of religion, freedom for religion, freedom from religion are concepts that are hard to incorporate into our lives. We are not talking about simple tolerance, but a recognition that if we are a nation conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all are created equal, then it is not enough just to recognize the right of each other to exist, but as a nation we achieve positive social and political good that comes from learning from and drawing on and building up each other. So it is indeed appropriate that

we in this body, as we wrestle with the modern-day embodiment of the ideas of our Founders, that we recognize this historic document. It was a bold and courageous document.

Mr. Speaker, it is hard to face some obvious and unattractive blemishes that one might have. It is bold and courageous to say that another's fundamental faith and belief has validity, because that can only raise questions about the meaning of one's own belief. This was a courageous document.

Now, I speak as one who by affirmation, heritage, upbringing, and religious practice is neither Roman Catholic nor Jewish, but the change that this made in America certainly has improved my life and the life of every American. Anti-Semitism has been a poison that has from time to time surfaced in our country. Certainly, we see it on the rise in too many places around the world today. But this document put a check on the official sanction of religious intolerance, and it has led to a number of improvements.

Father John Pawlikowski, pointed out that this year *Nostra Aetate* has led to a cleansing of educational materials, and the removal of hateful and bigoted language that previously appeared. It has led to mutual recognition of the spiritual value of others' religious sacred writings of others; it has led to a fundamental rethinking of the relationship between the church and other religions, a process that is still under way.

It led to Pope John Paul's visit to the Auschwitz death camp when he spoke about the memory of the people whose sons and daughters were intended for total extermination. He said that it is not permissible for anyone to pass by the inscriptions there with indifference.

It led to his unprecedented visit to a synagogue in Rome in 1986, and to Pope John Paul's visit to the Holy Land, including Israel and Palestine. It led to a pivotal moment when he shook hands with Prime Minister Ehud Barak. It led to the moment when he walked across the plaza at the western wall and inserted his handwritten prayer expressing Christian regret for the wrongs done to the Jewish people.

This had reverberations all around the world and certainly here in the United States, the country built on the concept of liberty and religious freedom.

This morning on public radio, a young man presented his essay called "This I Believe." Eboo Patel is the founder and executive director of the Interfaith Youth Corps, a Chicago-based organization fostering the international interfaith youth movement. He pointed out that when he attended high school in the western suburbs of Chicago not many years ago, he, as a Hindu, ate lunch with a Jew, a Mormon, a Catholic, and a Lutheran. They were all devout to a degree, he said, but they never really talked about religion. They all knew that they had

some differences in their permitted diets and certain times that they could not eat certain things. He was comfortable in his tolerance for the others.

But then he went on to talk about the most painful recollection of his life, which occurred when he allowed anti-Semitic comments about his friend to go unchallenged. He quoted the great American poet Gwendolyn Brooks: "We are each other's business; we are each other's harvest; we are each other's magnitude and bond."

He said, "I cannot go back in time and take away the suffering of my Jewish friend, but through action, I can prevent it from happening to others."

Martin Luther King in a different, but related, matter said, "Through the laws that we pass," such as we pass in this body, "we cannot change a person's heart. But," he said, "we can restrain the heartless."

Like Mr. Patel, none of us can go back, but we can look back and we can see the progress that has been made in the last 40 years to fulfill the spirit of *Nostra Aetate*; and we can continue every day to take action to ensure that it does not happen in our schools, in our communities, in our cities and towns.

Nostra Aetate was not empty sentimentality; it was historic, important, and effective. It made a difference in the history of the world. As Rabbi David Rosen, the Director of the American Jewish Committee's Interreligious Department, wrote, "Even if the effect of this transformation has not fully reached the rank and file around the world, its ramifications cannot be overestimated, and there is much to give thanks for on this anniversary. The anniversary 40 years ago at the end of October is well worth recognizing."

Nostra Aetate was the first statement on interreligious respect that had been issued in the 2,000-year history of the church. Rabbi Gary Bretton Granatoor, Director of Interfaith Affairs at the Anti-Defamation League, reminded the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) and me that the pilgrimage out of the wilderness took 40 years from Egypt to Sinai to Canaan. He said that it is not surprising that in 40 years, we have not fully achieved the vision of Pope John XXIII around the world or here in this country, but we have made enormous progress. *Nostra Aetate* demanded that the church and all people of faith examine themselves anew in relation to other peoples of faith.

We need to ensure we carry this message of religious respect to all that we do here. We can learn the spirit of *Nostra Aetate* and take action to check religious bigotry, religious hatred and advance the American experiment—the American Dream—of a more perfect union, built not just on respect, but on an understanding that we are indeed a nation conceived in liberty, dedicated to the proposition that all are equal, and all have something to contribute to America's success.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers at this point. I would just conclude by welcoming also the resolution's expression of support for the United States to continue to lead the fight against anti-Semitism and other forms of religious and racial prejudice and discrimination, and that people of all faiths have a critical role to play in that matter.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEARNS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 260, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

SENATOR PAUL SIMON WATER FOR THE POOR ACT OF 2005

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1973) to make access to safe water and sanitation for developing countries a specific policy objective of the United States foreign assistance programs, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1973

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

- (1) Water-related diseases are a human tragedy, killing up to five million people annually, preventing millions of people from leading healthy lives, and undermining development efforts.
- (2) A child dies an average of every 15 seconds because of lack of access to safe water and adequate sanitation.
- (3) In the poorest countries in the world, one out of five children dies from a preventable, water-related disease.
- (4) Lack of access to safe drinking water, inadequate sanitation, and poor hygiene practices are directly responsible for the vast majority of diarrheal diseases which kill over two million children each year.
- (5) At any given time, half of all people in the developing world are suffering from one or more of the main diseases associated with inadequate provision of water supply and sanitation services.
- (6) Over 1.1 billion people, one in every six people in the world, lack access to safe drinking water.
- (7) Nearly 2.6 billion people, two in every five people in the world, lack access to basic sanitation services.