



Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 94th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 122

WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, JUNE 4, 1976

No. 85

House of Representatives

097/5/16/226

KING JUAN CARLOS I

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, I had intended to make these remarks earlier in the day. They have to do with the visit of King Juan Carlos I of Spain.

I was much impressed with the King's message to the joint meeting of Congress and continue to be impressed after several sessions with him since that time. I wish to express the hope that the reforms which the King has undertaken in his country will continue to go forward to the end that it will be possible in the not too distant future, and the sooner the better, for Spain to become a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. I have advocated such a policy since my days in the House of Representatives so, in that respect, I do not happen to be a Johnny-come-lately.

I think that the admission of Spain to NATO would strengthen that organization and give a degree of stability to Spain which I think has been lacking, to a certain degree, up to this time.

As far as the Spanish treaty is concerned, it is the intention of the leadership to call it up as soon as it possibly can. The reason it has not been called up to date is due to the fact that the Committee on the Budget has had to consider the financial implications contained therein, as is its duty and responsibility and as it must do in regard to every piece of legislation now being presented for consideration by Congress.

I just wanted to take this opportunity to reiterate my own position on Spain, on my reaction and, I am sure, Congress reaction generally, to his remarks, speeches, and conversations here; reactions which I think, on the whole, have been quite good and very warm. I again express the hope that it will not be too long before Spain will become a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization so that she can assume the kind of role which the President envisaged in his conversations and conferences with King Juan Carlos I, and, in that way, bring about a degree of solidity to Western Europe which, at the present time, is sadly lacking.

Mr. TOWER. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. MANSFIELD. I am delighted to yield.

Mr. TOWER. I commend the distinguished majority leader for a very statesmanlike remark and comment. I wish to associate myself with his remarks. I think it is important to Americans to understand that the democratization of political institutions in a society that has lived under authoritarian rule cannot be accomplished overnight, that they have to be accomplished in an orderly fashion. We would not want to precipitate the type of reaction domestically in Spain that could result in reassertions of simply another form of authoritarianism. I think the remarks made by the Senator from Montana are very helpful, and I hope the Senate will take heed.

Mr. CHILES. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. MANSFIELD. I am happy to yield.

Mr. CHILES. I want to associate myself with the majority leader's fine remarks. I was most impressed with the address by King Juan Carlos. I have also been very impressed by his conduct to date. I think many of us and many people in the world did not know what kind of authority, real or implied, King Juan Carlos would be able to exert. It seems to me that his leadership has been very progressive and that it has done much for developing democracy and freedom for the people of Spain.

I am delighted to associate myself with the majority leader's remarks.

Mr. MANSFIELD. I thank the distinguished Senator.

Both Senators are correct. The King evidently is moving as fast and as hard as he can in the right direction. What he needs is encouragement; what he needs is understanding. I think that the state visit of King Juan Carlos I and Queen Sofia has had the effect of bringing about a better degree of understanding, a recognition of the difficulties which confront the King and his nation, and an understanding, also, that the time is ripe for a changed situation, defensively speaking, insofar as Spain's entrance into NATO is concerned.

Mr. JAVITS. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. MANSFIELD. Yes, I yield.

Mr. JAVITS. I wish to make two points. One, that the New York Times has a very gifted article this morning on the subject and with the leader's permission, I should like to include it in these remarks.

Second, I state to the Senate that tonight the Spanish Institute is giving a very big and I think it should be a very significant and distinguished dinner for the King, especially to signify the support of that Institute. I think it represents the view of much of this country for backing this young king in what is a very risky effort for him but which is so important to the peace and freedom of the world.

I thank my colleague.

Mr. RANDOLPH. Mr. President, will the distinguished leader yield to me?

Mr. MANSFIELD. Yes.

Mr. RANDOLPH. Mr. President, with regard to the cogent comment of our leader and those colleagues who have joined in colloquy, all these remarks are timely and important. They deal with the very critical subjects that are before the American people as well as the peoples of the world, including Spain.

I wish to turn aside from this subject matter, however, to refer to a part of the message of His Majesty, Juan Carlos I, King of Spain, that especially appealed to me. I think when it is read and becomes known by many, many people, as I hope it will be, that the same reaction will be evidenced, as I now express.

He indicated that he, in his own power, or the people of any country in their own power, could not by themselves settle these vexing problems that weigh heavily on us. He spoke earnestly. I watched the expression on his face, as he affirmed his faith in a common Creator.

Let us recall his words:

Freedom is essential for man and for his individual fulfillment. It is an unequalled

stimulus for his economic and social progress and for his cultural development. Liberty, above all, is a spiritual good to be cherished and defended. All liberty like all power, comes from God. In affirming today, with humility and simplicity, as your own forefathers did, faith in God, I ask his blessing for your leaders, for your people, and for the noble Nation of the United States of America.

Mr. President, it is essential that in these times of trial and tribulation, we realize that within our own power, we are not sufficient, but that we must, in the final analysis, rely on our God.

Mr. MANSFIELD. I thank the distinguished Senator.