

My time is up already. I will talk about this tomorrow night.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE CONSUL GENERAL CHIUNE SUGIHARA

The SPEAKER *pro tempore*. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Hawaii [Mrs. MINK] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the late Chiune Sugihara of Japan, credited with saving the lives of thousands of Jewish refugees fleeing Poland in 1940. Chiune Sugihara died an unsung hero in 1986, but recently his story has been brought to international distinction as the "Japanese Schindler." This quiet man of courage is now being honored after 55 years in a series of events worldwide, including today's gala tribute in New York City by the Holocaust Oral History project.

Chiune Sugihara was assigned to Kaunas, Lithuania in 1939, as the Consul General where the Japanese Government assigned him to report on Soviet actions and German war intentions. The Nazi World War II slaughter of Jews had begun and scores of Jewish families sought to escape from Europe—mostly from Germany, Austria, and Poland. In September 1939, the German invasion of Poland caused Jews to seek refuge in Lithuania, many who desperately wanted to find passage to safer lands. First, they needed to find visas.

Japanese Consul General Sugihara and his Wife Yukiko received numerous reports of appealing Nazi crimes against Jews. Not long afterward in July 1940, a line of Jewish families formed on the Sugihara doorstep, pleading with the diplomat to issue them transit visas for passage through Siberia into Japan via the Trans-Siberian Railway. Without the assurance that they would only transit through the Soviet Union, it was virtually impossible that Soviets would allow Jewish families to enter. He had however persuaded them to allow passage through the Soviet Union provided he could gain transit through Japan as well.

Consul General Sugihara cabled Japan three times asking permission to issue transit visas. He was denied three times. His desire to help seemed doomed.

But gaining his family support, Consul General Chiune Sugihara then made a conscious decision to defy the Japanese Government. From July 9, 1940 to August 31, 1940, he wrote more than 2,139 transit visas by hand, saving nearly 10,000 Jews from the Holocaust. He carefully kept a list of all these documents which have been incredibly found in the archives of the Japanese Foreign Ministry.

In the same summer, Nazi Germany and allied Italy occupied most of Eastern and Western Europe. Japan had remained aligned, but not yet allied, with Germany through the Comintern Pact of 1935. In late summer of 1940, USSR annexed Lithuania and the two

other Baltic States. Diplomats were told to leave immediately. Consul General Chiune Sugihara moved his family to a dingy hotel and continued to write visas. The Sugiharas were ordered to leave. Even as he was boarding the train to leave, Consul General Chiune Sugihara continued to issue visas from his train carriage window. In September 1940, Japan signed a tripartite pact with Germany and Italy.

The Sugiharas spent their remaining war years at various diplomatic posts in Germany, Czechoslovakia, and Romania. They were eventually captured and held in a Soviet prisoner-of-war camp until 1947, when the Sugiharas were finally allowed to travel back to their home country.

Upon his return, the Japanese Foreign Ministry dismissed him from diplomatic service and struck his name from their records because he had disobeyed their instructions. Nonetheless, Japan had honored his handwritten visas and allowed these Jewish refugees into the country, helping them to find permanent locations.

Chiune Sugihara lived out the rest of his life without any acknowledgement of his heroic deeds. He worked as a door-to-door lightbulb salesman, the most menial job any person could take to support his family. Later leaving his family in Japan, he went to work for a Japan import company in Moscow where he stayed for 16 years. Shortly before his death at 86 in 1986, Israel awarded Sugihara the Righteous Among Nations Award, its highest honor, in recognition of his humanitarian actions, and later named a grove of cedars after him in Jerusalem. Yet this man who was second only to Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg in the number of Jews saved from the Holocaust did not receive an apology from his own Government, allowing him to die in disgrace, literally in exile.

Notable are the 6,000 Jews who sought passage from Consul General Chiune Sugihara through the Trans-Siberian Railway from Japan to the Dutch Indies, Australia, New Zealand, Palestine, and the Americas. Among visa-holders was Zerah Warhaftig who met with Sugihara to arrange visas for others as the head of the Committee to Save Jewish Refugees. Warhaftig later became a signatory to Israel's declaration of independence and the country's foreign affairs minister. Menahem Savidor, another saved by Sugihara, later became speaker of the Knesset. Sugihara issued visas for Mir Yeshiva, the only yeshiva to survive the Holocaust, which settled in Kobe, Japan.

In recent years, survivor upon survivor of the Holocaust have come forth, with the knowledge of whose signature brought them to safety. Sarah Gershowitz Levy of Fresno, CA; Jack Friedman of Orlando, FL; and Rita Wenig of Pikesville, MD are among those thankful for Sugihara's courageous actions.

In 1991, the Foreign Ministry took its first steps to restore Sugihara's honor by meeting with Yukiko Sugihara, his

widow. Noticeably missing from this meeting was a clear apology from the Government for its treatment of Chiune Sugihara.

Immediately after Lithuania became an independent state in 1991, the country named a street in Kaunas after Sugihara. Lithuanian Prime Minister Adolfoas Slezevicius in 1993 arranged a pilgrimage to Sugihara's hometown Yaotsu in Gifu Prefecture, central Japan, to lay a wreath on Sugihara's memorial cenotaph.

In August, 1993, the Education Ministry, one of the most conservative branches of the Japanese Government, agreed to have Consul General Chiune Sugihara's story published in a textbook for Japanese senior high school students.

Consul General Chiune Sugihara is being recognized for his greatness by the Holocaust Oral History project through organized exhibits and tributes, and a newsletter helping to link survivors. His noble bearing on world history must be validated on a global scale and the Japanese Government must find the words to apologize to this humble servant who understood his action was necessary in those times of terror, no matter what his own personal punishment might be. He and his family have endured poverty and ignominy for over 50 years. Sugihara's decision to act in defiance of his Government, because he knew to do otherwise would mean certain death for these innocent people, is the highest calling of our humanity.

Chiune Sugihara embodied the spirit of love and the conscience of a saint. His heroic deed shines forth to enkindle and comfort all in this world who still search for hope.

The following are my personal remarks made in New York City at town hall on November 14, 1995, in the tribute for this great man.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY CONGRESSWOMAN PATSY T. MINK, AT TOWN HALL, NEW YORK CITY, NOVEMBER 14, 1995

Distinguished guests, Mrs. Yukiko Sugihara, Hiroki Sugihara:

I have the deep honor and privilege to introduce Mrs. Yukiko Sugihara, the widow of the late Chiune Sugihara, whom we have come to honor tonight.

It was Mrs. Sugihara and her family who paid the heavy price of banishment for their ultimate exercise of moral responsibility and for the love and compassion they felt for the Jewish refugees who flocked to them for help in those dark hours of death and despair.

Consul General Chiune Sugihara was born on January 1, 1900 of samurai class. He was well educated, schooled in the art and discipline of diplomacy, learned in the language of his assignments, fluent in the Russian language, destined for high posts, he was highly regarded by his associates. He adapted easily to his assignments. His nature is revealed by reports that he even joined the Russian Orthodox church. He was a rising star in his ministry. He knew that it was his job to carry out the wishes of his government.

From his desk in Lithuania in 1940 he became keenly aware of the violent scourge of hate that condemned the Jewish people to isolation and death.

In that fateful summer of 1940 shortly after he was assigned to Lithuania as Consul General, thousands of Jewish refugees were fleeing Poland and other places. His consulate

being the only one open, besides the Dutch, they climbed the fence in desperate search for a way out. Their cries for help burned his soul. He frantically sought permission three times from his ministry in Japan. Each time he was refused. Finally the fourth time he was ordered to close the consulate. Time had run out.

How could he turn his back on these people and their agony? If he did not help, we knew they would die. Talking to his wife and to his five year old son, together they decided they had but one course to take. They had to help. They knew the risks and personal dangers. But not to help was to condemn these families to certain death in the dreaded ovens of hate. For the next 29 days until the consulate was ordered closed this time by the Russians, he wrote out by hand 2138 visas at the rate of 300 a day, issuing them in the last day from his hotel room and at the train station as he was departing from Lithuania.

History tells us that his act of honor and personal sacrifice saved the lives of upwards of 10,000 Jews.

Acting against the explicit orders of his government, he did what his conscience cried out to do. Chiune Sugihara knew he had the paper, the pen and a noble purpose. Each parchment upon which he placed his seal was a license to live.

His disobedience is immortalized by the thousands of lives he saved. He took the rare and unexpected route of personalizing the curse of war and hatred and choosing to save lives. His story is a remarkable drama of courage.

We understand that a diplomat is required to follow unquestioningly all orders of his government. We understand there can be no exceptions or substitutions of personal judgment.

Consul General Sugihara acted with extraordinary clarity of personal responsibility. He served his government with great honor and tragically he was not accorded that recognition by his government during his lifetime. Stripped of his diplomatic badge, he struggled to provide for his family after the war ended. He sold light bulbs on the streets, worked in a US PX, and finally was hired to work in Moscow far away from his family. His village erected a statue for him, a garden of cedars bears his name in Jerusalem, and a street reads his name in Lithuania. But in the official records of his government there is yet to be placed that wreath of honor and tribute for Chiune Sugihara.

I turn my thoughts to Mrs. Yukiko Sugihara. And ask her to come to the podium to present her remarks. With my warmest personal Aloha and affection, may I present Mrs. Yukiko Sugihara.

BALANCED BUDGET PLAN IS REAL ISSUE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee [Mr. DUNCAN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to briefly make a couple of points, and I do not think I will take all the 5 minutes, but I wanted to read just the first part of an amazing story that was in the Washington Post just this morning. The Washington Post is certainly no conservative publication, it is no Republican newspaper. In fact, its political policies are considered to be very liberal, and yet this morning they had a news analysis by two of

their staff writers, and the headlines said this: Balanced Budget Plan is Real Issue.

Let me repeat that, that the Washington Post said this morning, "Balanced Budget Plan is Real Issue," and then the story says this for the news analysis:

For all the vitriol, all the finger-pointing and all the carefully staged, photogenic events, the current bickering between the White House and Capitol Hill has very little to do with the actual bills in question. The real issue is not Medicare premiums, temporary approval to spend government money or even the government debt limit—it is the coming confrontation over the Republicans' plan to balance the budget by 2002.

For congressional Republican leaders—especially those in the House—the goal is getting the president to the table to negotiate a deal on their terms to wipe out the deficit in seven years.

Now this is from the Washington Post, and they say the real issue is the balanced budget. Our Republican leaders went to the White House last night with no preconditions. The only thing they have said, they said they will be willing to negotiate anything except they want the budget to be balanced within 7 years. Most of the people around this country think that we really should be able to do it much faster than that, and I can tell you that I think almost anyone with ordinary common sense and average intelligence probably could come here and balance the budget much faster than 7 years, but with all the competing interests involved, that seems to be the best that we can do. But I am sure there are many people across the country tonight who are sitting there thinking, "Well, yes, the balanced budget would be good, but would it really make a difference to me?" and I say to them that, yes, it would because almost every leading economist in this country tells us that this \$5 trillion national debt we have is like a gigantic chain hanging around the neck of our economy. It is holding us back.

Mr. Speaker, times are good now for some people, but they could and should be good for everyone if we had handled our fiscal affairs in a better way and we were not so deeply, deeply in debt. People making \$5 and \$6 an hour could and should be making \$10 or \$12 an hour. In addition to that, while we do not have much of an unemployment problem, Mr. Speaker, we have a tremendous underemployment problem. We have many college graduates who cannot find jobs except in fast-food restaurants and jobs like that, and that should not be, Mr. Speaker, and things could be so much better if we would get our fiscal house in order and try to balance our budget, and the downside of it is, if we do not, we are headed for some major economic problems in the years ahead.

Mr. Speaker, we frequently say that what we are talking about doing, that it is for our children and grandchildren, and, yes, it certainly is. But it is also for the people who are in the

prime of their life right at this time because we are headed for very serious problems, not in the distant future, but in the near future. The President's own trustees over Medicare have said, they said in their report issued in April, that the Medicare system was going to be broke in 6 or 7 years if we do not do something. A few months ago the Office of Management and Budget, the President's own Office of Management and Budget, put out a memo that said that by the year 2010, if we do not change things, we will have annual yearly deficit losses each year of over a trillion dollars a year, and by the year 2030, Mr. Speaker, have over \$5 trillion a year.

Mr. Speaker, if we have losses, yearly losses, of \$5 trillion, we would absolutely destroy the standard of living of our children and grandchildren. They could not buy a tenth of what we buy today.

In 1994, last year, Paul Tsongas, the former Senator from Massachusetts who was a liberal Democrat when he was in the House and Senate, he wrote an article for the Christian Science Monitor, and he said that the young people of today will pay average lifetime tax rates of an incredible 82 percent if we do not make some changes. Is this what we want to do to our children and grandchildren, make them become, as he put it, indentured servants for the Government? I do not think there is anybody out there who wants us to do that.

James K. Glassman wrote a few days ago in the Washington Post a column entitled "The No-Cut Budget." He pointed out that under our budget that we passed in both the House and Senate, the so-called Republican budgets, there are no cuts, that each year Federal spending goes up about 3 percent. It increases about \$50 or \$60 billion every year.

Medicare, we have gotten into that, and that is the second big point I want to make. We did not cut Medicare. We have not cut Medicare. In fact what we have passed is to give huge increases in Medicare spending. In my own State of Tennessee Medicare spending goes up from a little over \$5,000 a year to over \$7,000 a year at the end of this time.

We need to get this message out, Mr. Speaker, because the American people are being fooled by lies, distortions, and propaganda at this time, and I certainly hope they do not fall for it.

AMERICANS HURT BY GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. GEPHARDT] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, I want to rise to speak tonight about the shutdown of the Government and what it means in human terms to thousands and thousands of people around the country and to say to Members that this is a very serious action that we