

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

BELARUS FREEDOM FIGHTER DE-SERVES UNITED STATES SUPPORT

HON. TOM DELAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 1996

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the growing chorus of protest against the increasingly violent and chaotic situation in the former Soviet satellite nation of Belarus.

As many of my colleagues know, Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko last month signed an agreement that would reintegrate the political, economic, and social ties between the two nations. While I realize the importance of neighborly alliances, I am afraid that this new treaty has ominous implications for emerging democracies in the newly independent nations of Eastern Europe. In point of fact, the agreement has already produced frightening results.

Tens of thousands of Belarusians, realizing the very real threat to their new-found independence, have taken to the streets of Minsk to protest the agreement. In response, President Lukashenko has initiated a campaign of fear and terror meant to intimidate the Belarusian people into silence. Lukashenko has placed former members of the Soviet Armed Forces in top posts throughout the Belarusian secret police and military, sending them out into the streets to arrest thousands of his own people and to raid their homes and places of business. The Belarusian President's regard for his own countrymen, fighting home-spun terrorism at the hands of their longtime oppressors, is so low that he has referred to them as " * * * sick people who have placed themselves outside of the law."

Standing in stark contrast to President Lukashenko's repressive tactics is Yuri Khadyka, a longtime Belarusian freedom fighter. Mr. Khadyka fought the heavy yoke of communism when Belarus was a Soviet satellite and now that his homeland has tasted freedom, he has become a leading figure in the fight to preserve Belarusian independence. Distressingly, Mr. Khadyka has been imprisoned since April 27 for standing up to President Lukashenko's growing campaign of terror and intimidation.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, the saddest chapter in this sordid story is the complicity of the Clinton administration in Mr. Khadyka's imprisonment. To fulfill a political agenda, this administration has stood idly by while the fragile framework of a newly independent nation crumbles and innocent people like Mr. Khadyka are imprisoned at the hands of a present-day dictator.

In order to prop up Boris Yeltsin's reelection campaign, this administration has signaled its tacit approval of the reintegration of Russia and Belarus. In fact, President Lukashenko, a career Communist Party bureaucrat, has given every indication that he would prefer to see one of President Yeltsin's more hard-line rivals

prevail in the upcoming elections. If that happens, and if the Communist Party once again takes the reigns of power in Moscow, this agreement will signal the functional end of independence in Belarus. I support President Yeltsin's efforts to implement democratic and free-market reforms in Russia, but I would urge Mr. Yeltsin to recognize that Belarus has the right to pursue these same goals on its own terms.

As Thomas Jefferson wrote in the Declaration of Independence, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness." I do not quote this famous document lightly—the simple truth is that these words represent a plain, concise distillation of what we, as Americans, believe to be true for all people, everywhere. That is why I urge President Clinton to put political maneuvering aside and to support those ideals upon which the United States was founded. Now, as freedom takes root throughout Eastern Europe, the United States must support the standard-bearers of liberty on this democratic frontier. Yuri Khadyka is such an individual, and he deserves our support and assistance as he strives to preserve democracy in his beloved homeland.

HONORING THE RUTHERFORD COUNTY RESCUE SQUAD

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services provided by the Rutherford County Rescue Squad. These brave, civic-minded people give freely of their time so that should disaster strike, we know that our friends and neighbors are there to help.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a member of the rescue squad. Rescue squad members undergo a training series over a 4- to 6-month period which includes instruction in cardiopulmonary resuscitation [CPR], vehicle extrication, emergency driving, and rescue orientation. In addition to this training, rescue squad members also meet monthly to address business concerns as well as hear guest speakers.

Rescue squad members are volunteers. They receive no pay for what they do. What also makes their service especially outstanding is that the organizations themselves receive no funding. They receive no funding from the city, the county, or the Federal Government.

Rescue squads are funded in the same spirit of community volunteerism which moves them to serve. Family, friends, and neighbors pitch in at bake sales, road blocks, and fish

frys to help those who sacrifice their time for the benefit of the whole community.

Committing such an amount of spare time and energy to a job so emotionally and physically taxing requires a sense of devotion and duty for which we are all grateful.

WHITTIER CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT HONORS NEAL J. AVERY FOR 45 YEARS SERVICE

HON. ESTEBAN EDWARD TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 1996

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring Whittier City School District Superintendent Neal J. Avery as he retires after 45 years of service in public education. On Wednesday, June 12, district employees and friends will gather to celebrate and honor Neal for his commitment to the education of our students.

Born in Salt Lake City, UT, Neal moved to California to attend the University of Southern California, earning his bachelor's degree in education in 1951 and his master's degree in 1956. In September 1951, he began his teaching career in the Whittier City School District at Lydia Jackson School, teaching fifth and sixth grade students. In 1954, he transferred to Longfellow School as a teaching vice principal and received his tenure also that year. In 1956, he was appointed principal of George Washington School, and by 1959 was serving as principal of two schools, Lou Henry Hoover and Abraham Lincoln schools. In 1981, he was appointed superintendent of the district. His entire career has been spent dedicated to the students of the Whittier City School District.

In addition to his service to the school district, Neal has served on the Whittier YMCA board of directors for many years. He helped to establish the Whittier Youth Network Club in cooperation with the city of Whittier, which is held at several school sites. He received the PTA Honorary Service Award in 1993 from the Whittier/Pico Rivera Council PTA. He and his wife, Nedine, have two children.

Mr. Speaker, it is with pride that I congratulate my friend, Superintendent Neal Avery, on the occasion of his retirement from Whittier City School District after 45 years of dedicated service to our students and to our community.

A TRIBUTE TO EDWIN SCHNECK

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 1996

Mrs. MORELLA. I rise to salute a long-term educator in my district, Mr. Edwin Schneck. He has taught science for over 35 years; 32 of the years were spent in Bethesda, MD.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Since 1964, Edwin Schneck has been a science teacher at Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School.

In order to further education in Montgomery County, Mr. Schneck focused on the rewriting of curriculum and also took a variety of leadership positions in the county. One of the founding members of Homework-Hotline, Edwin Schneck never tired of helping students learn, even if it was not in the classroom. He tirelessly took on a variety of roles so that the needs of the diverse student body of Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School could be met.

A coach as well as a teacher, Mr. Schneck coached basketball, baseball, and golf during his tenure at Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School. Whether on the playing field or in the classroom, Edwin Schneck gave of himself for the sake of his students.

Mr. Schneck's conscientiousness as an educator should be an example for all of us; he was a teacher whose community was a better place for his service.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to pay tribute to this devoted educator.

SUPPORT IMPROVEMENTS TO OUR NATION'S MEAT AND POULTRY INSPECTION SYSTEM

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 1996

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend Chairman SKEEN and members of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture for supporting full funding for the Food Safety and Inspection Service [FSIS]. Americans rely on FSIS to assure that meat and poultry products meet Federal quality, labeling, and packaging standards. I strongly support the \$574 million provided in the fiscal year 1997 Agriculture appropriations bill for FSIS, which will work to improve our 90-year-old meat and poultry inspection system. In the near future, FSIS will initiate the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point [HACCP] system, a new method of meat and poultry inspection. This new inspection system is needed to prevent harmful bacteria from ever entering the food supply, thus protecting the health of America citizens.

As many are aware, an outbreak of the E.coli bacteria hit the west coast over 3 years ago. This outbreak infected 700 people and killed 4 children. Some of the victims lived in my district. Following this tragedy, families and friends of victims joined together to establish "Safe Tables Our Priority," whose goal is to educate the public and legislators about the deadly E.coli bacteria. They are committed to improving the safety of the Nation's meat and poultry system. I am proud to have worked very closely with this organization over the last 3 years, and I am pleased that they join me in supporting full funding of FSIS.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 1996

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I was absent for rollcall votes 222, 223, and 224 on June 10, 1996. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on all three votes.

A TRIBUTE TO SENATOR BOB DOLE

HON. TILLIE K. FOWLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 1996

Mrs. FOWLER. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, as I stood on the floor of the other body watching my friend Bob Dole say farewell, I was impressed, as always, by his remarks—which were delivered with his trademark sincerity and self-deprecating humor. But I was just as impressed with the response he got from the crowd, which ran the gamut from Senators and House Members to capitol tour guides, pages, and Senate staff.

It was clear to me that everyone present, regardless of party affiliation, age or importance, held this man in high regard. There was a palpable sense of affection and respect in that room—the kind of affection and respect that is only given to someone who has earned it over the years.

I would venture to say that although most Americans know about Bob Dole's leadership; his record of service; his keen intellect, and his commitment to making a difference for America, many of them do not know what the crowd in the Senate Chamber knew—that Bob Dole is a man with tremendous heart, and that he has served the American people, and the institution of the Senate for many years with everything he had to give.

Bob is known around here as one of the kindest, most generous people in Washington—the man who knows everyone in the Capitol, from the plumbers and the carpenters to the Senators and the reporters—and treats everyone the same. He is known as a leader of great skill, vision, and rock-solid integrity, and he is known as a man with heart.

It was Bob's heart that led him to serve our Nation during war, and that gave him the strength to recover from injuries that would have killed many men.

It is his heart that makes him someone who is consistently rated as a favorite by Capitol employees, and who has gone out of his way time and again to help me since I came to Washington. It is his heartfelt belief in the American ideals of hard work, individual responsibility and helping others that has led him to work night and day to make a difference for this Nation.

Bob Dole is a proven leader and a true American hero. He has the character, the courage, the compassion—and the heart—to lead this Nation into the next century, and I join with all his other friends, and colleagues in wishing him well as he departs Capitol Hill to move on to his next challenge.

STATEMENT OF LECH WALESA

HON. MARTIN R. HOKE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 1996

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, the great twilight struggle against the incredible evil of communism produced some of history's most extraordinary people. But if you had to choose the three people who played the biggest role in relegating communism to the dustbin of history it would have to be Ronald Reagan, Pope John Paul II, and a shipyard worker from Gdansk named Lech Walesa—the three men Time Magazine dubbed "The Holy Alliance."

The centerpiece of the operation to free Eastern Europe from the chains of communism was Solidarity, the workers' union founded by Lech Walesa. Everything else flowed from that. Solidarity was the weapon that the Pope and President Reagan nurtured and protected and eventually used to help bring about communism's collapse, first in Poland, then in the rest of Eastern Europe.

None of what was accomplished, however, could have happened without Lech Walesa. It was his bravery, his skill, his dedication, and his love for his country and its people that showed the way. The world owes an debt of gratitude to this common man with uncommon valor.

Last week a ceremony was held in Washington both to honor this hero, as well as to celebrate the introduction of the NATO Expansion Act, a bill that will bring Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic into NATO. In many ways this bill is the culmination of all the Mr. Walesa has worked for and I am proud not only to be an original cosponsor of this bill, but also that I had a hand in drafting some of the language. I urge the Congress to pass this important bill and the President to sign it.

I would like to submit a copy of Mr. Walesa's inspiring remarks for the RECORD.

STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE LECH WALESA,
WASHINGTON, JUNE 4, 1996

Mr. Speaker, Members of Congress, Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Friends.

First and above all, I would like to say how very grateful I am for being invited here today. Being here again brings back cherished memories of that day six years ago, when, as we were all witnessing the end of the communist empire and of the Cold War, I had the honor of addressing the joint session of the United States Congress. It was one of those rare moments when we all felt that history was being made. There are indeed very few such great landmarks to one's lifetime.

But this was not the first time Poles and Americans shared such moments. It was two centuries ago when, by a historical coincidence, our ancestors both in America and in Poland were simultaneously experiencing momentous changes in the lives of their nations. America had just won her independence and in 1790 ratified a democratic constitution. A year later and an ocean away on May 3rd, the Polish Parliament also passed its own constitution, a grand design for modern political reform.

There were striking similarities between them. The basic concept of the American constitution, that the source of governmental power stems from the will of the people, was also embodied in the Polish one. Both stated the same basic objective: liberty and general welfare of the people. The Polish