

I am deeply concerned about this call by the judge for extrajudicial violence against Mr. Hussein. I urge your government to take necessary measures to protect Mr. Hussein and request that your government reaffirm publicly the right of Mr. Hussein to practice the religion of his choice, according to articles 29 and 35 of Kuwait's Constitution.

Our two countries enjoy close relations, and I am proud that our soldiers served and fought together in the war to liberate Kuwait from Iraqi aggression. As a friend of Kuwait, I would urge you to address the personal safety of Mr. Hussein and take steps to uphold the principles of religious freedom embodied in your Constitution.

I appreciate your attention to this matter, and I look forward to your reply.

With best regards,
Sincerely,

LEE H. HAMILTON.

EMBASSY OF THE STATE OF KUWAIT,
Washington, DC., July 25, 1996.

The Honorable LEE HAMILTON,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN HAMILTON: Thank you very much for your inquiry concerning the Kuwaiti citizen, Mr. Robert Hussein, who has recently converted from Islam to Christianity.

The Government of the State of Kuwait has stated publicly that it will guarantee Mr. Hussein's safety. A public statement issued by the Ministry of Justice and dated 22nd of July 1996, affirms unequivocally Mr. Robert Hussein's right to practice the religion of his choice with all the freedoms that one commonly associates with religious practices; and further states that it is the duty of the Kuwaiti authorities to protect him against any threats, harassment or abuse, just like any other citizen or non-citizen of the State of Kuwait.

Here as follows are some of the significant facts that must be clarified:

1. Originally, Mr. Hussein's case was brought before the Family Courts system in Kuwait, which is governed by religious law in matters pertaining to marriage, divorce and inheritance, only. As well, this case is a civil case between Mr. Hussein and his wife, involving also child custody. While the courts have ruled in Mr. Hussein's favor in the child custody case, his former wife has appealed the verdict.

2. I wish to assure you that Mr. Hussein has neither been incarcerated nor sentenced to death by the State as has been reported erroneously. Furthermore, though he has been declared an apostate by the Family Court, the only penalty that was imposed on Mr. Hussein was to fine him the nominal court fees.

3. Mr. Hussein's constitutionally guaranteed civil rights remain intact and unaffected by the case. These include his right to own property, vote or receive government benefits. If Mr. Hussein feels that his constitutionally guaranteed rights are being compromised, he may choose to bring his appeal before the appropriate authorities at the Ministry of Justice and/or the Human Rights Committee in the Kuwaiti Parliament. In addition, Kuwait's independent and free press has shown unwavering commitment towards reporting human rights complaints by citizens and non-citizens alike. Kuwait's press remains a testament to our nation's desire for a more open and tolerant society.

In conclusion, let me say that justice, liberty and equality for all citizens are not only guaranteed by the constitution (article No. 35 states that "Freedom of religion is absolute"); but also, Kuwait has had and continues to have a very long-standing tradition of religious tolerance and acceptance. In Ku-

wait today there are at least six churches and no less than 200,000 practicing Christians allowed to worship publicly. As a matter of fact, Kuwait's first modern hospital was built by American missionaries during the first decade of our present century. This enduring gift of the evangelical church of America is a shining witness to the Kuwaiti national character that is based on tolerance and respect for the beliefs of others.

I hope that the above information has helped to clarify some of the issues in the aforementioned case, however, should you require additional information concerning this and any other matter, please feel free to contact the Embassy of Kuwait.

Best regards,

Sincerely,

MOHAMMED S. AL-SABAH, PH.D.,
Ambassador.

TRIBUTE TO CY WAGNER AND JACK BROWN

HON. LARRY COMBEST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 1996

Mr. COMBEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Permian Basin Petroleum Association's Top Hand Award recipients for 1996. I cannot think of two more deserving individuals of this prestigious award than Cy Wagner and Jack Brown. These two Midland oilmen are the founders of Wagner & Brown Ltd. They are well-known for their hard work and intelligence in the oil industry which made Wagner & Brown Ltd., a great American success story.

Cy Wagner graduated high school in Tulsa from Central High School and then went on to receive a degree in geology from Oklahoma University. He began his career with Amerada Petroleum in Midland in early 1957. In 1961, he began working for J.E. Jones Drilling in Midland.

Jack Brown was born in Brownsville but grew up in San Antonio. After graduating from Breckenridge High School, he went to Texas A&M for a year and then into the Army, stationed in Japan for 3 years. When his duties to his country were over with, Brown returned to Texas A&M and in 1950 graduated with degrees in petroleum engineering and mechanical engineering. After working as a roughneck in Alice, TX and then in Venezuela for 2 years with Texaco, Jack Brown returned to Texas to join J.E. Jones Drilling in Midland in 1957.

Wagner and Brown formed their own partnership in 1961 and later was joined by landman Deane Stoltz. Most of their activity was centered around the Permian Basin area. By 1967 the group drilled more than 60 wells in the Bagley Field in New Mexico which supplied needed cash flow for larger projects elsewhere.

In 1969 Stoltz, Wagner, and Brown exchanged most of their interest in the Bagley Field for a 25 percent equity position in Tipperary Corporation, to be run by Stoltz, and control of the partnership was turned to Wagner and Brown.

Wagner & Brown, Ltd. began their largest drilling program in 1975 on 30,000 acres of the Conger Field in Sterling and Glasscock counties, and today they run more than 600 wells in this area. The partnership now employs about 200 people and operated over half

of the 2,000 wells in which the two participated in.

Both Cy Wagner and Jack Brown are dedicated oilmen who have strengthened West Texas and this whole country. However, their contributions go much further than the oil industry. Both men have given generously in support of countless local organizations involved in education, culture and community development. They richly deserve the title of Top Hands.

TRIBUTE TO DR. WARREN
WETZEL, M.D.

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 1996

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, Wisconsin-native, Dr. Warren Wetzel, for 25 years an active member of the New York City medical community, died this year.

Dr. Wetzel, a noted authority on emergency trauma, served as director of trauma and surgical critical care at Kings County Hospital Center in Brooklyn. Prior to joining Kings County Hospital Center, Dr. Wetzel made his mark at the Bronx Municipal Hospital Center rapidly rising from assistant attending surgeon to director of trauma service. He was also an associate professor of clinical surgery at Albert Einstein College of Medicine extensively lecturing on topics such as: "Urban Trauma," "Changing Patterns of Gunshot and Stab Wounds," "Management of Liver Trauma," and "Management of Bites and Stings."

Through his zealous advocacy for the medical profession, Dr. Wetzel was a key member of various committees including, but not limited to: New York City Trauma Center Advisory Committee; oversight committee, New York State Department of Health Regional Trauma Quality Assurance Grant; residency review committee, State University of New York Health Science Center; and education committee, Bronx Chapter of the American College of Surgeons.

As a result of his dedication to helping others, Dr. Wetzel's legacy continues through Doctors Against Murder, a unique nonprofit organization he founded so that doctors, nurses, and other medical professional could educate youth on the trauma of violence. Doctors Against Murder was the first recipient of the National Association of Public Hospital's Jim Wright Vulnerable Population Award, June 29, 1996. The medical profession and the recipients of Dr. Wetzel's efforts will truly miss him. It is my honor to recognize his sterling service, and to introduce him to my colleagues.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3734, PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND WORK OPPORTUNITY RECONCILI- ATION ACT OF 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 31, 1996

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, today I join a bipartisan majority of the House to return our

Nation's welfare system to what it was meant to be: a hand-up, not a hand-out.

Almost everyone I talk with understands that our current welfare system is inefficient, unfair and damaging to those it is supposed to help. We all agree that helping those who by no fault of their own have fallen on hard times is the right thing to do. But the current system doesn't do that. It traps families in a cycle of hopelessness and despair—destroying initiative and responsibility.

The historic welfare reform bill we passed today is based upon the principle that welfare should not be a way of life and that we should promote work instead of welfare. It also recognizes that we in Illinois are better able to help the poor without the interference of huge, inflexible, Washington bureaucracies. We need a plan based upon Illinois values and Illinois needs, not on a Washington bureaucrat's regulations.

Can any serious person argue that the federalization of poverty by Washington has worked? The idea that just spending more and more money and handing people government checks is the answer to poverty is a cruel hoax on both the needs and the taxpayers who are trying to help them. We have spent \$5.4 trillion dollars since Lyndon Johnson began the 'War on Poverty.' Despite this enormous commitment by the American people, an amount greater than our entire national debt, the result has been more broken families, exploding illegitimacy, a drug epidemic that is destroying generations, rising crime rates and schools that are war zones. By creating a culture of poverty, we have destroyed the very people we have sought to help.

The welfare reform package provides \$4.5 billion in increased child care funding which will enable parents to return to work, and attacks the unacceptable 50 percent illegitimacy rate for families on welfare by strengthening efforts to identify fathers and force them to pay child support.

This legislation is an important acknowledgment that the moral health of America is no less important than its military or economic strength. We cannot have a healthy moral environment to raise children in our communities when 12-year-olds are having babies, 15-year-olds are killing each other, 17-year-olds are dying of AIDS, and 18-year-olds are graduating without diplomas. Our accomplishment today helps restore the moral health of this great Nation.

Eighteen months ago, the new Republican Congress set out to reform the destructive welfare system. We asked ourselves whether we had the courage to tackle this difficult issue and give our children hope, rather than an endless cycle of dependency. We knew we would face a chorus of special interests who benefitted the status quo and would accuse us of being cruel and heartless. But we listened

to the common sense of the American people who see through the misinformation and distortion and we kept our promise. I am pleased that President Clinton finally joined our cause today and agreed to sign this long overdue reform.

INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 31, 1996

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2823) to amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 to support the International Dolphin Conservation Program in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean, and for other purposes:

Mr. STARK. Mr. Chairman, When Congress considered NAFTA, this Congress received the unqualified assurance from Ambassador Kantor that U.S. environmental laws and standards would not be lowered if Congress approved the agreement.

Well—here we are—about to do just that as we consider the Gilchrest bill and its changes to the "Dolphin Safe" label.

After an outcry from Americans, many of them school children, U.S. tuna companies announced in 1990 that they would not buy tuna caught while harming dolphins. The U.S. tuna fleets moved to the waters of the western Pacific nations where the tuna do not swim with the dolphins. The Dolphin Protection Consumer Information Act, 1990, codified that tuna harvested with large scale nets is not "Dolphin Safe."

H.R. 2823 lowers our labeling standards and misleads the American consumers. It would allow tuna to be labeled "dolphin safe" even though it was caught with encirclement techniques that we know killed and injured hundreds of thousands of dolphins before environmental laws and industry practices changed fishing techniques.

H.R. 2823 would allow tuna to be certified "dolphin safe" merely if an observer didn't see any dolphins die. However, nothing in this bill would preclude severely injured dolphins to be dumped back into the sea to die.

American children deserve "dolphin safe" labels that they can take at face value—one that means what it says. We have a labeling system that consumers requested and have come to rely on. Altering the meaning of the label is nothing short of fraud perpetrated on America's kids!

I urge you to support the Studds amendment which would protect the "dolphin safe" label.

H.R. 3924, THE STATISTICAL CONFIDENTIALITY ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 1996

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, yesterday Rep. HORN and I introduced the administration's bill on statistical confidentiality. This bill is the culmination of years of work by both Republican and Democratic administrations. The Statistical Confidentiality Act is the foundation for moving the Federal statistical system into the 21st century.

Two independent forces join to make this bill timely—balancing the budget and the National Performance Review. Federal spending on statistics has grown steadily over the last two decades. Over the next 5 years that trend is likely to be reversed. At the same time, there is a general belief that the Federal Government should be smaller and less intrusive. This idea was given life in the Clinton administration through the National Performance Review which has the goal to create a Government that works better and costs less. It is clear that our statistical system must develop new ways of providing the information we need that are less expensive and less intrusive.

At the same time the statistical system is being asked to do more with less, it is criticized as no longer providing an accurate reflection of our society or economy. Economic statistics are routinely criticized because they emphasize the manufacturing sector, and pay little attention to the service sector. The 1990 census was roundly criticized as a failure, and for some communities it was a disaster. In May the Wall Street Journal reported on a Kansas town that lost 84 percent of its population because of an error in the census. That error, acknowledged by the Census Bureau last year, will not be fixed until next year.

More objective indicators also point to increasing expense and declining quality. Survey response rates have declined steadily since the early 1980's making them more expensive and less accurate. Nowhere is this more evident than the decennial census, where every 1 percent of the public that does not mail back the form costs an additional \$25 million.

While the statistical system is being asked to do more with less, and criticized for declining accuracy, it is also subject to greater scrutiny than ever before. The 1990 census was