

The typical length of stay over a decade ago for a woman and her infant after delivery was 3 to 5 days for a vaginal delivery and 1 to 2 weeks for a caesarean delivery. Over the past few years the typical length of stay decreased to 24 hours or less for an uncomplicated vaginal delivery and 2 to 3 days for a caesarean. In some regions around the country, hospitals are now discharging women 6 to 12 hours following a vaginal birth.

Health care organizations such as the American Medical Association [AMA] have stated that early discharge of women and infants after delivery cannot be considered medically prudent. The AMA's policy on early discharge is that it is a decision which should be based on the clinical judgement of attending physicians and not on economic factors. Furthermore, national medical health care organizations such as the AMA and the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, all agree that shorter hospital stays are placing the health of many newborns and mothers at risk.

There is reason for concern for the trend toward shorter hospital stays. Health care officials agree that the shorter stay increases the incidence in newborns of jaundice, dehydration, phenylketonuria [PKU], and other neonatal complications. For an example, adequate PKU test requires a newborn to have had 24 hours of milk feeding and most babies are not fed until 4 hour after birth. If a newborn is discharged prior to the 24 hours of milk feeding, then the hospital readmissions for undetected jaundice, a common condition in newborns and the easiest to treat. PKU and severe jaundice are conditions that can cause mental retardation if not detected early. Clearly if newborns spend more time in the hospital, then these and other conditions can be easily detected and treated, saving lives and money.

A recent study by the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center found that within an infant's first 2 weeks of life, there is a 50-percent increased risk of readmission and a 70-percent increased risk of emergency room visits if the infant is discharged at less than 2 days of age. Other studies indicate that early release is just as harmful to mothers as to infants.

Mothers can develop serious health problems such as hemorrhaging, pelvic infections, and breast infections. There is also the concern that opportunities for educating new mothers in the care of their newborns are lost when inappropriate early discharge occurs. This, coupled with the fact that many mothers are simply too exhausted to care for their children 24 hours after delivery, often leads to newborns receiving inadequate care and nourishment during their crucial first few days of life.

A 48-hour minimum stay is consistent with steps being considered by some States. For example, my bill is very similar to one which recently passed the New York Assembly, and which is being considered in the Senate. New Jersey, Maryland, and North Carolina have also enacted laws on maternity hospital stays.

Prevention has always been a way to cut health care costs. However, discharging mothers and newborns early creates its own costs. When a child suffers brain damage or other permanent disabilities because they did not receive adequate early care, insurers are then forced to pay for treating patients for conditions which could have been prevented or lessened if caught earlier.

Mr. Speaker, this bill allows new mothers to focus on learning to care for their newborns and themselves instead of being concerned with when their insurance coverage will run out.

CONDEMNING RESTRICTIONS ON THE MEDIA AND THE CLOSING OF THE SOROS FOUNDATION IN SERBIA

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 1996

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, with my distinguished friend and colleague from Nebraska, Mr. BEREUTER, and the bipartisan support of a number of our colleagues, I have introduced a resolution deploring recent actions by the Government of Serbia that restrict freedom of the press and freedom of expression, deplores the decision of the Serbian Government to prevent the Soros Foundation from continuing its democracy-building and humanitarian activities in Serbia, and calling upon the Government of Serbia to remove immediately these restrictions against freedom of the press and the operation of the Soros Foundation.

Recently, the autocratic President of Serbia, Slobodan Milosevic, closed down the only independent television station in Belgrade. This follows the government closure just over 1 year ago of the leading independent daily newspaper in the country. Mr. Speaker, this is an outrage. As Slobodan Milosevic tries to work his way back into acceptance by the civilized world community—and we should encourage him to do that—he continues his autocratic and antidemocratic moves against the news media in Serbia.

But, Mr. Speaker, this is not all. The Milosevic government has also closed down the Soros Foundation, a humanitarian and charitable organization that has done an enormous amount of good for the people of Serbia and, indeed, for the peoples of countless other countries. It is an organization that has established an outstanding reputation for encouraging democratization and the development of open, pluralistic civil societies in the former Communist countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the republics of the former Soviet Union.

The decision of the Serbian Government to withdraw the registration of the internationally renowned Soros Foundation is most likely related to the activities of the foundation in encouraging freedom of the press and freedom of expression. The Soros Yugoslavia Foundation was established in Serbia in 1991. Its board was comprised of prominent scholars and intellectuals from different ethnic backgrounds and regions. Since its establishment, the foundation has dispersed millions of dollars in grants for a variety of programs.

The programs that most likely earned for the foundation the hostility of the Milosevic government were those which it sponsored supporting the free media and freedom of expression. Beginning in 1992, the foundation initiated a program to support independent media, including assisting the start-up of some 40 independent media outlets, restarting publications in Albanian, Hungarian, and Slovak languages and initiating a major research project on repression in the media.

The Soros Foundation was also involved in establishing the Association of Independent Electronic Media in Serbia and in establishing a media center in Belgrade to promote cooperation between journalistic associations. Grants were provided to permit many journalists in Serbia to attend symposia and workshops abroad and to encourage communication between Serbian and foreign journalists. In 1994 the foundation began support for an independent daily newspaper in Belgrade—Nasa Borba—after Serbian Government authorities absorbed Borba, previously the most prominent independent newspaper published in Belgrade.

The problem of government control of the media in Serbia is an issue of major concern to the United States, Mr. Speaker. The latest issue of "County Reports on Human Rights Practices in 1995," which was released by the Department of State just last week, reflects both the conditions in Serbia and the problem this represents for the United States. The report on Serbia notes the following:

An important factor in Milosevic's rise to power and almost total domination of the political process is his control and manipulation of the state-run media. Freedom of the press is greatly circumscribed. The Government discourages independent media and resorts to surveillance, harassment, and even suppression to inhibit the media from reporting its repressive and violent acts.

Opposition politicians and minority ethnic groups are routinely denied access to the state-run mass media; they are vilified in the government-controlled media, and their positions misrepresented. This year the government-controlled press mounted a campaign against nongovernmental organizations [NGO's] and international humanitarian organizations. In some instances personnel of United Nations and religious organizations were not granted visas to continue their work; in at least one case, the Government revoked the registration of a major NGO.

Mr. Speaker, the government of Serbia and President Slobodan Milosevic need to understand how we in the United States feel about these serious issues. They need to understand our firm and unequivocal commitment to freedom of the press and to the vital necessity of freedom of expression. The resolution that I have introduced with Mr. BEREUTER is intended to make that clear and unequivocal. It is important that we in the Congress reaffirm our commitment to these vital democratic principles and that the Government of Serbia know of our commitment.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the text of our resolution be placed in the RECORD, and I invite my colleagues to join as cosponsors of this resolution to demonstrate our support for freedom of the press and to make clear to Serbian authorities our commitment.

H. RES. 378

A resolution deploring recent actions by the government of Serbia that restrict freedom of the press and freedom of expression and prevent the Soros Foundation from continuing its democracy-building and humanitarian activities on its territory and calling upon the government of Serbia to remove immediately restrictions against freedom of the press and the operation of the Soros Foundation.

Whereas free and independent news media and freedom of expression are fundamental tenets of democracy and are vital to assuring democratic government;

Whereas democracy can exist only in an environment that is free of any form of state

control or censorship or official coercion of any kind and where freedom of the press is protected by the rule of law;

Whereas independent radio and television stations and independent newspapers in Serbia have recently been subjected to restrictions, harassment, intimidation, and closure;

Whereas the internationally respected humanitarian and philanthropic organization, the Soros Foundation, has been denied the legal authorization to function in Serbia, and one of the principal activities of the Soros Foundation in Serbia has been to provide assistance for regular publication and distribution of independent daily, weekly, and local newspapers and to provide equipment and technical assistance to independent radio and television outlets; and

Whereas parliamentary elections will take place in Serbia in the near future and the existence of free and independent news media is essential to the proper functioning of democratic elections: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) deplores the recent actions of the government of Serbia that restrict freedom of the press and freedom of expression and hamper civic organizations and democratic opposition groups;

(2) deplores the actions of the government of Serbia in revoking the legal registration of the Soros Foundation, which therefore prevents the Foundation from further activity in Serbia, and commends the Soros Foundation for its past activities in Serbia and elsewhere in support of freedom of the press, freedom of expression, and the development of democratic institutions;

(3) calls upon the government of Serbia to remove immediately those restrictions against the independent press and against independent radio and television stations, to remove immediately restrictions that have hampered free activity by civic organizations and democratic opposition groups, and to restore immediately the right of the Soros Foundation to operate fully in Serbia;

(4) declares that United States economic and other assistance for Serbia and United States support for full participation of Serbia in international financial institutions should be conditioned on the full functioning of independent news media, civic organizations, and democratic opposition groups; and

(5) requests that the President and the Secretary of State convey to appropriate officials of the governments of Serbia, including President Slobodan Milosevic, the Prime Minister, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, this expression of the views of the Congress.

JOHN F. GRIMES HONORED

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 1996

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. John F. Grimes, a good friend of mine from Pittston, PA. This Sunday, Jack will be honored as the 1996 Man of the Year at the annual St. Patrick's Day Banquet of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick. I am pleased to have been asked to recognize Jack as he is awarded this honor.

Mr. Speaker, Jack Grimes is a man of great wisdom and is certainly worthy of being named the Friendly Sons' Man of the Year. He was born in Pittston and has lived there all of his life. In 1942, after graduating from St. John the Evangelist High School, Jack began a 21-

year career with the Lehigh Valley Railroad. Within just a few years of beginning his career with the railroad, Jack was appointed assistant division engineer and became the youngest person ever to be assigned to that position of responsibility. During his career, Jack earned two professional licenses: surveyor and civil engineer.

Although Jack remained very committed to his job, he made community service a major part of his life. He served as the president of the Lions Club of Pittston, and has been a lector and usher at St. Mary's Church. He has also contributed to the city of Pittston by serving as both secretary and president of the planning commission. He has served the commission for over 30 years.

Knowing of Jack's commitment to his community, his colleagues called on him to be the executive director of the Pittston Chamber of Commerce. During his tenure, Jack reactivated the Pittston Area Industrial Development Authority as a subsidiary function of the chamber. He has aggressively campaigned to bring new industry to the region, and has helped publicize Pittston's strongest assets to companies seeking to relocate in the city. Jack Grimes has become a valuable partner with local, county, and State officials who diligently work to revitalize the Greater Pittston area.

Since he became involved with the chamber of commerce, Jack has helped to bring nearly three thousand jobs to the Greater Pittston area. Although many people would be satisfied with this accomplishment, Jack believes in going the extra mile. He wants to continue the campaign to revitalize the city, and plans to market the Pittston area on the World Wide Web. I am sure that Jack's involvement with this project will result in the continuation of Pittston's development.

Another distinguished leader will present the award to Jack. This individual is my good friend, His Excellency John McCarthy, Ambassador of Australia. When I learned Jack was being honored, I contacted Ambassador McCarthy to ask him if he would present the award. Always gracious, the Ambassador accepted my invitation and agreed to visit Pittston for this special event. The Ambassador's strong ties to the large Irish population that exists in Australia make him one of the most appropriate leaders to present this award to Jack.

Mr. Speaker, Jack Grimes embodies the leadership qualities that the Friendly Sons honor each year, I applaud their decision to choose Jack as the 1996 Man of the Year. On behalf of the people of Pittston, I extend my deepest appreciation to Jack Grimes for a lifetime of commitment to promoting industrial and business development throughout his community.

HONORING SCOTT O'GRADY

HON. GEORGE R. NETHERCUTT, JR.

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 1996

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Air Force Capt. Scott F. O'Grady, who today received the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star, and the Air Force Commendation Medal at a special ceremony at the Pentagon.

Scott's heroism and courage during his 6 days in hiding in hostile Bosnian territory after

his F-16 was shot down by a Serb missile made him an immediate celebrity upon his return to the United States. Americans were riveted by the story of his avoiding detection by armed patrols and using basic survival techniques to stay alive for 6 days without food and water before his ultimate rescue by a group of courageous Marines from the U.S.S. *Kearsage*.

On Friday, June 2, 1995, Scott was piloting his F-16 Falcon in a routine combat air patrol with another F-16 as part of the NATO operation to enforce a no-fly zone over Bosnia. Suddenly, he detected missiles aimed at him from the ground and took evasive maneuvers. One missile exploded between the two planes, but the second one scored a direct hit on Scott's plane, forcing him to eject. Dazed from the force of his abrupt separation from the aircraft and suffering burns from the explosion, Scott parachuted to the ground where Bosnian Serb troops were already searching for him.

Quickly gathering his wits, he pressed his body to the ground to avoid discovery. He then used his survival training to collect dew for drinking water and gather grasses and insects for food. He stayed alive with only these things for 6 long days and was able to move around only at night. When the rescue team arrived on Thursday, they found him exhausted yet unbowed by his ordeal.

I had the pleasure of meeting this young man when he returned to the United States for a hero's welcome that included a ceremony with President Clinton and Secretary Perry. He was exceedingly modest about his exploits and full of praise for his rescuers.

I believe that Scott embodies the qualities for which Americans are respected around the world, namely dedication to duty, belief in God, rugged individualism, and a never-say-die spirit that keeps us going even when we fear that all is lost.

I am proud of this native son of the State of Washington, who hails from my hometown of Spokane. I wish him congratulations and best wishes for the future.

FRIENDS OF IRELAND, ST.
PATRICK'S DAY, 1996

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 1996

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, though in the course of Irish history there have been many extraordinary years, surely the time since the Friends of Ireland's last St. Patrick's Day statement must be labeled one of significance.

With the exhilaration of hope, we participated on the heels of a year-long cease fire in the march toward peace. We joined the historic visit to Northern Ireland by President Bill Clinton, the first by a sitting U.S. President. Our bipartisan congressional delegation met with political leaders in Northern Ireland and in the Republic. We carried a message of peace from Speaker NEWT GINGRICH.

A month ago we were shocked by the interruption of that peace, and the resumption of violence by one group. We were shocked, because we had come to believe in the possibility of a permanent peace.

Now we are again heartened by a promise to convene all-party talks on June 10.