

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE RESOLUTION 416

HON. JAY KIM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 1996

Mr. KIM. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of House Resolution 416, the resolution to establish a select subcommittee of the International Relations Committee to investigate the United States role in Iranian arms transfers to republics of the former Yugoslavia. As a member of International Relations Committee, I feel it is our duty to the American people to closely examine the Clinton administration's foreign policy decisions, especially those of such questionable intent.

As we all know, in September 1991, the United Nations imposed an international arms embargo on the area comprising the former state of Yugoslavia. The United States, under the leadership of President Bush, supported the passage of U.N. Security Council Resolution 713 as means to stem the flow of arms to the warring parties. When President Clinton took office in January 1993, his administration proposed lifting this multilateral embargo in order to help the besieged and poorly armed Bosnian military forces. After failing to gain international approval for lifting the arms embargo, the Clinton administration decided instead to abide by this resolution and even began helping enforce it.

Over the next 2 years, the Clinton administration consistently and repeatedly voiced its opposition to lifting the arms embargo by arguing that such a shift in policy would result in a pullout of European peacekeepers involved in the United Nations Protective Force (UNPROFOR) operation. In addition, the administration claimed that lifting the embargo would enrage our allies, endanger U.N. forces, necessitate further United States military deployments and weaken other international sanctions against Iraq, Libya, and Serbia.

During those 2 years, this Congress voted twice to unilaterally lift the embargo on Bosnia, in response to a growing sentiment among the American people. Unfortunately, the Clinton administration continued to resist these efforts through vetoes. The irony is, however, that while the Clinton administration publicly opposed a lifting of the embargo, it tacitly allowed arms into Bosnia from, of all countries, Iran.

The sad truth is this administration did not inform Congress of its decision to turn a blind eye, the news media did! According to the press, in April 1994, the Clinton administration was approached "with the idea of opening an Iranian arms pipeline through Croatia into neighboring Bosnia." National Security Advisor Anthony Lake and Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott then presented the proposal to President Clinton who, on April 27, 1994, formally signed off on the idea. If this is not the epitome of hypocrisy, I don't know what is.

According to Clinton administration's own Department of State, Iran remains atop the list

of countries that sponsor terrorism throughout the world. Iran is also considered one of the most egregious violators of human rights. Now I ask you, how can a President, who allegedly stands against terrorism and human rights violations allow one of the worst violators of basic United States foreign policy to obtain a foothold in Bosnia? In addition, if President Clinton was so worried about endangering U.N. forces when he opposed lifting the embargo, how can he explain allowing Muslim extremists to deliver arms into a country where U.S. forces are now stationed? Does he believe U.S. forces are less important than U.N. forces? I should hope not.

Once again, the Clinton administration has apparently mastered the art of flip-flopping on foreign policy. These questions that remain, however, are more serious than just U.S. credibility abroad. The most important of which is—did the administration violate U.S. law by allowing these transfers to occur? This, and many other questions, need to be answered to this Congress and the American people. That is why I strongly support House Resolution 416 which will establish a temporary select subcommittee to investigate this behind-the-door activity and determine what actions must be taken if U.S. laws were violated. It is unfortunate that it comes to this, but without congressional oversight into the actions of executive agencies and the President himself, every law is at risk of being broken. In that regard, I urge my colleagues to support the passage of House Resolution 416.

TRIBUTE TO DOREEN "PAM" STENEBERG

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 1996

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of myself and a number of my colleagues to recognize Doreen "Pam" Steneberg of El Cerrito, CA, on the occasion of her naturalization as a U.S. citizen on Tuesday, May 14, and in celebration of her 60th birthday on Wednesday, May 15, 1996.

Pam is an incredible woman and humanitarian. She is foremost a loving mother and wife, whose unswerving commitment to her family is only rivaled by her infinite dedication to our Nation's children with disabilities. Learning of her own daughter's developmental disabilities in the early 1970's, Pam was thrust into a movement which now credits her as one of its driving forces. Ever acquiring expertise in the morass of our special education and related services systems, Pam quickly found herself guiding other families through the bureaucracies which she herself had been forced to traverse on behalf of her daughter. This intimate understanding and insight uniquely positioned her to be an effective agent for change, and through this realization was born an advocate.

Pam is as driven by the disability movement as the movement is driven by her. Whether in her professional capacity as the parent advocate with the Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund, Inc., or in her numerous volunteer roles—president of the National Parent Network on Disabilities, chair of the California Developmental Disabilities Area Board V, to name just two—Pam's enthusiasm is ever present. I know that I am not the lone Member of this Chamber to have been overwhelmed and captivated by the fiery person passion which lies just beneath her diminutive stature and refined British accent.

Pam is a truly remarkable woman, and I am deeply honored and proud to call her my friend, and now the newest voter in my congressional district. Mr. Speaker, I invite all my colleagues to join me in saluting Pam Steneberg, welcoming her a citizen of the United States, and wishing her a very happy birthday.

THE IMPORTANCE OF STRONG UNITED STATES-INDIA RELATIONS

HON. JOHN LINDER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 1996

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I wish to bring to the attention of Members of the House the op-ed piece written by William Safire that appeared in the May 2, 1996, New York Times. In his essay, Mr. Safire points out the significance of the recent elections in India and the importance of strong United States-India relations. As a member of the Congressional Caucus on India and Indian-Americans, I gladly submit Mr. Safire's article for the RECORD.

WASHINGTON.—In 1975, when Indira Gandhi assumed dictatorial control of India and threw her opponents in jail, President Ford asked his U.N. delegate, Daniel P. Moynihan, what to make of that.

"Look at it this way, Mr. President," said Moynihan with a courtier's irony. "Under your Administration, the United States has become the world's largest democracy."

When Mrs. Gandhi later confidently stood for election, India's voters threw her out. Freedom was back, and the U.S. happily became the world's second-largest democracy.

This week, with dignity, honest balloting and relatively little violence, 400 million of India's citizens—65 percent of eligible voters, higher than here—go to the polls to select candidates from 500 political parties. It is the most breathtaking example of government by the people in the history of the world.

Americans don't hear a whole lot about it. President Clinton is busy being campaign manager for the Labor party in Israel's May 29 election, in effect telling Israelis to vote for Shimon Peres or else.

When he is not intervening shamelessly in Israel's political affairs, Mr. Clinton is barnstorming with Boris Yeltsin, trying to help him defeat Yavlinsky's reformers and Zyuganov's Communists in Russia's June 16 election. Washington is also headquarters for

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the Clinton campaign for the U.S. Presidency, where he beefs up beef price to consumers while pouring strategic oil on troubled motorists. But in all the campaigning, no mention is made of India, where voters outnumber those in Israel, Russia and the U.S. combined.

As a result of this uncharacteristic White House forbearance, television coverage here about the biggest election has been next to nil. Not only do Americans not know for which Indian candidate to root, but hundreds of millions of voters are forced to go to the polls ignorant of Mr. Clinton's preference.

Why? Do nearly 900 million Indians not matter? American lack of interest is not new; a former Foreign Minister of India, one of Nehru's acolytes, told a U.S. envoy: "We would far prefer your detestation in your indifference."

One reason is that India strikes a holier-than-thou diplomatic pose, remaining non-aligned when there is no longer one side to be nonaligned against. Year after year, India is near the top of the list of nations that consistently vote against the U.S. in the United Nations.

We're wrong to let that overly irritate us. China votes against us, too, and unbalances our trade and secretly ships missiles to rogue states and jails dissidents and oppresses Tibet and threatens Taiwan and (cover the children's eyes) pirates our CD's—but we care more about what happens in China than what happens in India.

That's a mistake. Contrary to what all the new Old China Hands and other Old Nixon Hands tell you, India will draw ahead of China as a superpower in the next century.

Yes, China's economic growth rate has doubled India's, and China's Draconian control of births will see India's population exceed China's soon enough, to India's disadvantage. But China does not know what an election is. Despite the enterprise and industriousness of its people, despite the example of free Chinese on Taiwan and the inspiration of the dissident Wei Jingsheng, jailed in Beijing, China is several upheavals and decades away from the democracy India already enjoys.

Without political freedom, capitalism cannot long thrive. Already the requirements of political repression are stultifying the flow of market information in China, driving wary Hong Kong executives to Sydney. The suppression of dangerous data undermined technology in Communist Russia; it will hurt China, too.

Though more Chinese are literate, many more Indians are English-literate (more English-speakers than in Britain), and English is the global language of the computer. American software companies are already locating in Bangalore, India's Silicon Valley. Bureaucratic corruption scandals abound; India's free press reports and helps cleanse them. China's does not.

I'm rooting for Rao, the secular Prime Minister, who is more likely to move toward free markets than Vajpayee, his leading opponent. But whoever wins, it's a glorious week for the world's largest democracy.

HONORING THE GRANVILLE CO-OP VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services provided by the Granville Co-Op Volunteer

Fire Department. These brave, civic-minded people give freely of their time so that we may all feel safer at night.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a volunteer firefighter. To quote one of my local volunteers, "These firemen must have an overwhelming desire to do for others while expecting nothing in return."

Preparation includes twice-monthly training programs in which they have live drills, study the latest videos featuring the latest in fire-fighting tactics, as well as attend seminars where they can obtain the knowledge they need to save lives. Within a year of becoming a volunteer firefighter, most attend the Tennessee Fire Training School in Murfreesboro where they undergo further, intensified training.

When the residents of my district go to bed at night, they know that should disaster strike and their home catch fire, well-trained and qualified volunteer fire departments are ready and willing to give so graciously and generously of themselves. This peace of mind should not be taken for granted.

By selflessly giving of themselves, they ensure a safer future for us all. We owe these volunteer fire departments a debt of gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

McGILL-TOOLEN HIGH SCHOOL CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

HON. SONNY CALLAHAN

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 1996

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to have this opportunity to rise before this body and bring to the attention of my colleagues the centennial celebration of McGill-Toolen High School in Mobile, AL.

In 1950, I had the privilege of obtaining my high school diploma from this distinguished institution and fondly remember the years I spent under the tutelage of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart.

McGill Institute was founded in 1896 through the generosity of two brothers, Arthur and Felix McGill, to offer "Catholic boys the advantages and facilities of acquiring with little or no expense, a literary, commercial, industrial, and technical education which would enable them to earn an honorable livelihood." Their charter was granted on February 15, 1896, and classes began November 29, 1897.

Bishop Toolen High School for girls opened in 1928 to offer young women an education that would develop "intelligent, cultured, healthy, and social-minded American Catholics devoted to their country's interests."

In 1973, McGill Institute and Bishop Toolen High School were merged to become McGill-Toolen High School. Combining the best from each school has produced an institution stronger than the two were separately.

From its inception as an institution of higher learning, McGill-Toolen has upheld the standards of Catholic education and fostered the intellectual and spiritual growth of thousands of young men and women in Alabama. This dedication to excellence and respect for the individual have been the cornerstone of McGill-Toolen and this single mindedness has not diminished over its 100-year history.

The mission of McGill-Toolen has always been comprehensive in terms of serving the educational and emotional needs of the secondary students in the archdiocese of Mobile. McGill-Toolen High School and its predecessors have, for 100 years, provided outstanding education grounded in the moral and spiritual precepts of the Catholic faith.

Today, McGill-Toolen High School is considered one of the finest institutions in the region in the areas of academics, technology, sports, and spiritual growth. Its students consistently rank in top percentiles nationally on achievement tests and are well prepared for both college and life. Over the years, more than 17,000 graduates have made outstanding contributions to the city of Mobile, the Catholic Church and our Nation.

On this 100th anniversary celebration of McGill-Toolen High School, let us fondly remember and justly congratulate the accomplishments of a fine institution and look forward to the next 100 years of academic and personal excellence to which the name of McGill-Toolen is so deservedly associated.

THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF GAINESVILLE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 1996

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on May 14, 1871, an earnest group of east Texas Christians established the First Baptist Church of Gainesville, TX. On Sunday, May 19, 1996, First Baptist Church will celebrate its 125th anniversary—a testament to the hard work and dedication of its congregations and its pastors and to the ministry that First Baptist Church has provided in Gainesville and in Cooke County for more than a century.

From its humble beginning amid frontier surroundings, First Baptist Church has flourished through both good times and bad. The church's 44 founding members—some of whose ancestors are part of the present congregation—would be proud to see their church grow to its current roster of approximately 2,000 members. The church has occupied three buildings throughout its history. The first was destroyed by fire, and the second was replaced by the current facility in 1952. Since that time, as the congregation has continued to grow, the church has expanded to encompass a full city block and portions of two others. There have been 32 pastors of First Baptist Church, including the present pastor, Dr. Bennie Slack.

First Baptist Church has always had an active ministry. The church was active in helping meet the needs of members of the armed services, during World War II. Its leaders were instrumental in organizing the current food collection program for Cooke County, and its congregation continues to support a strong missions program. First Baptist has a large and active youth group, a strong senior adult group, large choir, and strong music program—in addition to many other activities and programs for members of all ages.

Mr. Speaker, religious freedom was a principle upon which our Nation was established. Our Founding Fathers—and the founding