

meet for a hearing during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 13, 1996, at 9 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO THE TOWN OF HUDSON, NH ON ITS 250th ANNIVERSARY

• Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the people of Hudson, NH, on their town's 250th anniversary. The town's residents will begin celebrating this historic occasion on June 21 with a number of festivities including a grand ball, parade, and block party events. I was proud to participate in this meaningful celebration.

Hudson's history first dates back to the year 1672 when families first settled in the Hudson area. On July 5, 1746, then Governor and Command in Chief Benning Wentworth signed the town's first charter. As Hudson and the surrounding areas began to grow, the first bridge was built across the Merrimack River there in 1827.

Many descendants of the town's first settlers still live in Hudson. Near the end of the 18th century, Simon Robinson settled on the north side of the pond later named the Robinson Pond. Originally, the pond was called Little Massabesic meaning the place of much water. Some of Simon Robinson's descendants still reside there. In addition, James Hills was one of the three brothers credited with being the first settlers in the town and his great-grandson settled on Alvirne, the old 181 acre Derry Road homestead, and had several children.

Hudson opened their first library in 1797. The Nottingham West Social Library was founded during that year, and served the town residents for 50 years. In 1856, the Hudson Center Library opened its doors. Then, in 1891, Adoniram Greeley gave his private collection of 1,878 books to the town. The library was renamed the Greeley Public Library and in 1908, Alfred Hills donated money for the construction of a new library, the Hills Memorial Library.

Today, the 20,000 people of Hudson still exhibit the Yankee traditions and commonsense values of their forefathers. The first school houses were built in Hudson in 1806. Since then, the school system has grown steadily to include three elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school. Alvirne High School has 1,032 students in grades 9 through 12, including 349 students from Litchfield. The police department has 50 officers and staff, the fire department has 28 full-time firemen and 26 volunteer firemen. The town also has a board of selectmen form of government.

I congratulate the town of Hudson, and all of the dedicated and patriotic citizens there. I am proud to be their Senator.●

PLAYING IT CLOSE TO THE VEST

• Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, Richard Cohen, the thoughtful columnist at the Washington Post, recently had an op-ed piece on gambling in the United States titled, "Playing It Close to the Vest." It is a hard hitting, but factual presentation of the situation that we face today.

One of the things that I noted, was the reference to the lottery in Maryland. He writes:

Gambling has yet another dirty secret. It makes a lot of money from those who can least afford to lose it. For instance, residents of Baltimore, Maryland's poorest jurisdiction, wager \$316 per capita on the State lottery; for Montgomery County, the State's richest jurisdiction, the figure is \$115. Lest you think that phenomenon applies only in Maryland, look anywhere lottery tickets are sold.

The problem with the lottery is only a small tip of a much bigger iceberg.

I ask that the op-ed piece written by Richard Cohen be printed in the RECORD.

The op-ed follows:

[From the Washington Post, May 28, 1996]

PLAYING IT CLOSE TO THE VEST

(By Richard Cohen)

I am thinking now of one of the "God-father" movies in which the young Michael Corleone, having transplanted his family and operations to Nevada, bluntly tells a U.S. senator what to do and how to do it. That sort of thing, of course, could never happen today. Instead, the gambling industry merely makes political contributions and hosts fund-raisers. For most politicians, that's the offer they can't refuse.

By way of illustration let us look at the progress of a proposal to establish a national commission to study gambling. This is not the worst idea to come out of Washington, because not much is known about gambling's real impact. Twenty years ago, only two states had some form of gambling; now only two states do not. So it seemed to Rep. Frank Wolf (R-Va.) and Sen. Paul Simon (D-Ill.) that a study was in order.

That, though, was easier proposed than done. The resolution passed the House, but the Senate has been a different story. There, opposition of the gambling industry has slowed things down, and the post-Dole leadership reportedly is hostile to the study. The American Gaming Association ("Gaming?") has bought itself a trifecta of top lobbyists and has thrown oodles of money into, particularly, the Republican Party.

Steve Wynn, owner of Las Vegas' Mirage casino company, now has the sort of entry into GOP circles that was once reserved for captains of industry. Little wonder. Last June, he hosted a fund-raiser for Bob Dole. The take: \$478,000. In June 1994, he raised \$540,000 for the GOP. Just possibly for this reason, Newt Gingrich recently proposed that the gambling commission not even have subpoena power. Just by coincidence, he made this proposal in Las Vegas. Family values at work again.

The "gaming" industry insists that there is really nothing to study. Gambling—er, gaming—is heavily regulated and state controlled and so clean that you can see mommies with their kiddies at the slots in Vegas. But that, of course, is the problem. It would be interesting to know just how many mommies are gambling away their kids' milk money as they feed the slots or, worse, video poker machines. The poker machines, in particular, are known for their addictive charm.

Gambling is a huge business. It takes in more money than the movies, baseball, football, theme parks or just about anything else you can name. About 70 million people attend professional baseball games annually, but 125 million go to casinos, where there is never a rainout, but then the sun never shines, either.

Americans wagered nearly \$500 billion in 1994 and lost about \$40 billion of that total. Most of the losers could afford what they left on the table, but some, clearly, could not. These compulsive gamblers—maybe no more than 4 percent to 6 percent of all players—may well account for at least 25 percent of the gambling industry's profits. They are to gambling what pint buyers are to the liquor industry: a gold mine and a dirty shame.

Gambling has yet another dirty secret. It makes a lot of money from those who can least afford to lose it. For instance, residents of Baltimore, Maryland's poorest jurisdiction, wager \$316 per capita on the state lottery; for Montgomery County, the state's richest jurisdiction, the figure is \$115. Lest you think that phenomenon applies only in Maryland, look anywhere lottery tickets are sold.

Here and there in this country, in weird pockets of liberalism and in homes for the aged, some people can be found who still care about the poor. As for the rest, we mostly don't care if they spend more than they can afford or if the government, through the false hope of a lottery, imposes what amounts to a "dream tax" on those who can least afford it. No more government as nanny. If people want to gamble, let them gamble.

But let us not fool ourselves. Some of them will gamble the rent money, and some will become addicted to games like Keno and after a while, maybe the money that states collect from gambling in going out in social services. It's one thing for the mob to bleed the poor; it's quite another thing for the state to do the same thing.

Whatever the case, little is known about gambling's impact, and, it seems, the gambling industry likes it that way. It pretends that what was once an industry dominated by the mob is now the equivalent of a state fair. Not quite. Politicians still are on the take, and the poor are still being victimized. Little wonder the gaming industry is so reluctant to have the feds take a look. It sells fantasy, but often delivers misery.●

VIRGINIA GIRLS STATE

• Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I am pleased today to applaud the 50th anniversary of the Virginia Girls State. Sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary, the Virginia Girls State provides high school girls with leadership and citizenship training during a week-long program held on college campuses across the country. This program features learning by doing activities which teach young women the duties, privileges, and rights of American citizenship—the backbone of democracy.

This magnificent program reinforces to our young citizens the notion that they are an essential part of their government and responsible for its character and success. Through the program, the young women are taught the value of individual responsibility to the community, State, and Nation.

The United States of America was founded on, and will flourish because of, the principles of democracy. I

strongly believe in the lessons of democracy handed down from our forefathers. The more our young people know about the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, the stronger our great Nation becomes. Remember that knowledge is power. Through learning, the young women of Virginia Girls State add to the vitality and strength of America.

Mr. President, as you know, there is no stronger foundation for democracy anywhere in the world than the U.S. Constitution. I commend the participants, supporters and founders of Virginia Girls State for their dedication to American citizenship and democracy.

Again, I extend a happy 50th anniversary to the Virginia Girls State.●

AUNG SAN SUU KYI

● Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, one of the most impressive political leaders in our world today is the courageous Aung San Suu Kyi of Burma, who has quietly, consistently but firmly, stood for democracy for Burma, now called Myanmar by its present leaders, but still called Burma by Aung San Suu Kyi.

The military government there which still does not permit free assembly or a multiparty system, or other things that democracies take for granted, to its credit, has released Aung San Suu Kyi from house arrest.

Recently, the Los Angeles Times published an interview with her by Scott Kraft, which said something about her courage and her country.

I particularly like his question "How does it feel to be a free citizen?" She replied:

I'm a free citizen but the country is not free. So I feel like a free citizen in an unfree country. I appreciate the opportunity to be in touch with the people. That is what our work is all about.

You know, I always felt free. I felt free when I was under house arrest because it was my choice. I chose to do what I'm doing and because of that, I found peace within myself. And I suppose that is what freedom is all about.

I ask that the Los Angeles Times article be printed in the RECORD.

The article follows:

AUNG SAN SUU KYI—STRIVING TO BUILD A DEMOCRACY AMID THE HARSH REGIME OF MYANMAR

(By Scott Kraft)

Aung San Suu Kyi had a rigid routine during the six years she spent under arrest in her family's lakeside home. She would rise at 4:30 a.m. for exercise and meditation, then spend the day reading biographies or autobiographies and listening to the radio. The only human being she would see was the maid.

Though free for eight months now, she still spends most of her days in that two-story house. But the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize winner is hardly isolated. Two appointments secretaries, one for foreign dignitaries and the other for fellow party members, have guided thousands of visitors to meet her.

"I'm afraid I can no longer keep to a strict timetable," Suu Kyi says. "I can't get up at 4:30 anymore because there are times I don't

get to bed until 2 a.m. If I got up early, I wouldn't be able to operate full-steam for 12 hours."

Many here hoped her release was a first step toward democracy in Myanmar. But the military regime, which nullified her party's victory in the 1990 elections, still runs the country. It is stage-managing a constitutional convention while trying to attract foreign investment.

Suu Kyi is biding her time and rebuilding her party network. Her weekdays are filled with appointments and on weekends, hundreds of supporters gather outside the gated compound to hear her speak and answer their questions. Soon, she says, the government will come to its senses.

Even as the government tries to ignore her, Suu Kyi, 50, remains the most-respected political figure in Myanmar. Her father, Aung San, is considered, even by her detractors, as the greatest hero of Burmese independence. He was assassinated in 1947, when she was 2.

Suu Kyi left Burma in 1960, at age 15, and later received a degree from Oxford University. She married a Briton, Michael Aris, who is now a professor and specialist in Tibetan studies at Oxford. In 1988, she returned to Burma to tend to her ailing mother and became a leader of the pro-democracy movement.

Aris and the couple's two sons, Kim, 18, and Alexander, 22, who are in school abroad, usually visit Suu Kyi at holidays, as they did during her years of house arrest, if the government grants them visas. Suu Kyi is prevented from leaving Myanmar only by the certainty that she would never be allowed to return.

In person, Suu Kyi is low-key and polite, though her determination is evident. She always refers to the country as Burma and the capital as Rangoon, purposefully ignoring the government decree that this nation be called Myanmar and the city, Yangon.

She meets visitors at home in a square room surrounded by 1940s-era photographs of her family and a wall-sized painting of her father. "The painting is a bit Andy Warhol, don't you think?" she says, "But it's really a very good likeness."

Q. How would you assess the eight months since you've been released? What are the positive developments and the disappointments?

A. Well, in politics, I don't think you ever get disappointed as such. It's an occupational hazard that things don't always turn out as you would wish them to. You hope for the best and prepare for the worst. That's politics.

The most positive aspect of things since my release is the fact that our party has become far more active. We've been reorganizing and reconsolidating. We've been subjected to a lot of restrictions. There continue to be intimidations and harassment.

But we still have the strong support of the people and we manage to get along with our party building.

Q. Many in the West thought that when you were released, everything would begin to improve.

A. I don't think it's as simple as that. There are some people who say I was released because the government thought the National League for Democracy was dead. But in fact, it is far from dead. There have been miscalculations like that in the past by this government.

In the 1990 elections, the government thought we might win a plurality but not an absolute majority. In fact, we got 82%, with the result that those elections have been totally ignored and our members persecuted.

Q. So you aren't disappointed in the slow pace of change?

A. I wouldn't say "disappointed" is the word. There is so much happening within our party that it does compensate for what is not happening on the other side.

Of course, we know that the best thing for the country is national reconciliation, which can only take place through dialogue. And we hope that it will take place sooner rather than later. But that doesn't mean we just sit and hope. We have other work to do and we carry on.

Q. So you aren't impatient with the pace of things?

A. If you are very busy, you have no time to be impatient. If you ask us when do we want democracy, well, we want it now, of course, I feel just as strongly about that as anybody else. But because we are so occupied with our numerous jobs, we are not that impatient.

Q. Do you think the current constitutional conference, in which your party is not participating, is a step in the right direction?

A. No. That constitution is not headed for democracy. In the first place, they are not allowing political parties to operate effectively, and without political parties operating effectively there can be no multiparty democracy.

The constitution they are writing really doesn't mean anything. A constitution is just a piece of paper unless it has the support of the people, and many a country has gone through many a constitution that is unacceptable to the people. Such constitutions do not last.

Q. So what can you do to get this government to change direction?

A. It is the will of the people that the country should become a democracy, and I'm sure the people will join me in guiding the country to its democracy. We will do what we can as a legally registered party. We will use political means of reaching our goal. This is our constant.

Q. So you are talking about passive resistance.

A. We don't really believe that the way to bring about democracy is by encouraging popular uprisings. We believe that democracy will come through the strength of the political will of the people, expressed through political parties.

Q. How does it feel to be a free citizen?

A. I'm a free citizen but the country is not free. So I feel like a free citizen in an unfree country. I appreciate the opportunity to be in touch with the people. That is what our work is all about.

You know, I always felt free. I felt free when I was under house arrest because it was my choice. I chose to do what I'm doing and because of that, I found peace within myself. And I suppose that is what freedom is all about.

Q. Do you think that it is possible the government thought it could make you a non-person by releasing you?

A. Sounds likely, doesn't it? Yes, it seems likely.

Q. The government often points out that you are married to a foreigner. How important is that criticism to the average Burmese?

A. I don't think it means very much. If I were married to a Burmese, they'd probably attack my husband's family for other reasons than that he was foreign. Don't forget that they are also attacking—very, very viciously—other party leaders who are not married to foreigners.

Q. Is your husband able to visit you?

A. He came for Christmas, but last year he was refused a visa for the Easter holidays. So he comes if he gets a visa.

Q. You have frequently called for dialogue with the government.

A. Yes, we believe in dialogue and we will always believe in dialogue because that's the way all political problems end up.