

the visiting President of China, Jiang Zemin. In that meeting a number of very serious human rights concerns were raised with our Chinese guest by the participating Senators and Members of Congress. Mr. Speaker, it is important that President Jiang Zemin understand the seriousness of the concern, the strength of the interest of the American people in human rights.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, on the eve of President Jiang's arrival in Washington, DC, the Subcommittee on International Operations and Human Rights of the House International Relations Committee held a hearing on China's record on human rights under the leadership of Subcommittee Chairman CHRIS SMITH of New Jersey. That was a most appropriate and most important hearing at which a number of excellent witnesses discussed in some detail the appalling abuse of human rights by the Government of China.

I ask, Mr. Speaker, that my opening statement at that hearing be placed in the RECORD. As the President of China visits us here on Capitol Hill, it is important that he understand clearly and unequivocally the point of view of the elected representatives of the American people.

STATEMENT OF CONGRESSMAN TOM LANTOS OF CALIFORNIA—"U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS," OCTOBER 28, 1997

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. First, I want to commend you for holding this hearing. I deeply regret that, apparently, this is the only hearing held on this general subject during the visit of the President of China, because I think it's extremely important that the public relations campaign so carefully constructed and so effectively executed by the paid propagandists of Beijing not be successful and that the true story about China be relayed.

Since I so strongly agree with most of the statements that you just made, Mr. Chairman, allow me to begin with a general observation that puts this visit in its proper perspective. I disagree with this administration's China policy. Having said that, however, let me state for the record that I'm convinced that the commitment to human rights of this administration is far stronger than was the commitment to human rights of the previous administration.

And while we can discuss *ad nauseam* and *ad infinitum* the human rights policies of the Clinton administration vis-a-vis many countries on the face of this planet, and while I share your concern, Mr. Chairman, with respect to the Clinton administration's human rights policy with respect to China, the record must show that the Clinton-Gore Administration has a far greater commitment to human rights than did Bush-Quayle; that Secretary Albright has a far greater commitment to human rights than did former Secretary Jim Baker; and that on balance, this administration is far more sympathetic to human rights concerns across the globe than was the previous administration.

Let me state at the outset that I look forward to listening to our witnesses as one who has unbounded admiration for China as a civilization and a culture. Chinese civilization and culture is obviously one of the great civilizations and cultures on the face of this planet. And nothing would please me more than the opportunity for that culture and that civilization to blossom in freedom and in growing friendship with the United States.

Let me also at the outset, Mr. Chairman, put to rest perhaps the most preposterous notion that many who oppose our position

claim with respect to U.S.-China policy. There is an attempt on the part of many—and many in the administration—to juxtapose a policy of engagement with a policy of isolation.

That is a phony juxtaposition. No one is more committed to engagement with China than I am, and I believe you are, Mr. Chairman. What we are calling for is an engagement which is consonant with fundamental America principles and values. No one in his right mind is advocating isolating 1.2 billion human beings. All of us recognize the enormous importance China will play in Asia and in the Pacific. All of us are hoping for a prosperous, peaceful and democratic China. So, I reject categorically the juxtaposition of engagement versus isolation, however, high the authority may be who is pursuing that line.

Our problem with China, of course, is many fold. Today, we are dealing with human rights. But let me, for the record, state that I am—as I am sure you too, Mr. Chairman—profoundly concerned with China's role in the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. I am profoundly concerned with the profoundly unfair trade relations between the United States and China—a trade imbalance which this year will exceed \$40 billion. I am profoundly concerned with the subtle undermining of political democracy in Hong Kong. I am profoundly concerned with the onslaught on the free and democratic Taiwan. And of course, I am profoundly concerned about outrageous performance of this Chinese regime in Tibet.

Cynical photo opportunities by the President of China—seeking out the most sacred places of American democracy in Philadelphia or Williamsburg or elsewhere—will not suffice to cover up the shameful human rights record of the Chinese government. The record is clear. In addition to the litany of items you mentioned, Mr. Chairman, we will be hearing from my friend Harry Wu concerning the sordid traffic in organs of executed prisoners—one of the shabbiest aspects of China's policy anywhere on the face of this planet.

I have no doubt in my mind that the almost pathological opposition of this regime, to his holiness the Dalai Lama stems from the inherent fear of a sick and valueless system when it is confronted with ultimate moral authority. There is no rational explanation as to why this vast and powerful country of 1.2 billion people with a vast military apparatus should be afraid of a simple Buddhist monk in saffron robes—without a military, without economic power, without anything except his moral authority—which he juxtaposes to the powerful regime in Beijing.

Human rights have, in fact, deteriorated in China in recent years. Our decoupling of most-favored-nation treatment (MFN) issues from human rights—as you, Mr. Chairman, and I and our good friend, Congressman Wolf so ably stated at the time—was a mistake when it occurred. And it is my, perhaps naive, hope that at least in the House of Representatives this next time around we will have sufficient votes with a new coalition emerging—covering the broad spectrum from human rights through the American labor movement to the religious groups—that we might in fact eke out a narrow majority for a victory for the moral position on that issue.

Let me just say in conclusion, Mr. Chairman, that long after the Jiang Zemin's of this world have been thrown on the dump heap of history, the heroes in China's prisons will continue to live in the minds of men and women across the globe who believe in human freedom and dignity, in religious freedom, in the right of people to select governments of their own choosing. This transi-

tory regime will not be here for long in its present form because the people of China are as entitled to live in a free and open and democratically elected society, as are the people Taiwan today and as are the people of Hungary or the Czech Republic or Poland.

It was not too many years ago when those of us who expressed hope that the communist regimes will collapse in the Soviet Union and in the Soviet empire were labeled naive. Naivete is on the other side—mostly on the side of the leaders of the multi-national giant corporations who, for the sake of a few contracts, are ready to swallow all of the principles taught to them in schools here in the United States.

And our great democratic allies are no better. In France, in the United Kingdom and elsewhere, the pursuit of contracts with China is no less vigorous and shameless as it is by multi-nationals headquartered in the United States. But naivete is not on our side. It is on the side of those who hope that making deals with the devil is a long-term proposition for national prosperity.

In the not-too-distant future, I look forward to welcoming to Washington some leaders of China who will view the American shrines of democracy not merely as photo opportunities, but as fountains where they can replenish their yearning for freedom.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

A TRIBUTE TO OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH ON ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 1997

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Our Savior Lutheran Church, of Centereach, Long Island, as its congregants come together this Saturday to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the founding of this blessed house of the Lord.

Since Our Savior Lutheran Church opened its doors in 1956, its congregants have sought to fulfill the mission that it so proudly declares: "Proclaiming Christ to the Heart of Long Island." I truly believe, as many of my colleagues in this hallowed Chamber do, that our churches, temples, and mosques are the cornerstones of our community, the bedrock on which our faith, values, and sense of purpose rest. For my neighbors in Centereach, a close-knit, family-oriented community in the center of Long Island, Our Savior Church and School has been the spiritual cornerstone that has nurtured and supported their faith and good work that makes this community so vital.

Under the leadership of Rev. Ronald Stelzer, Our Savior Church has flourished as a beacon of Christian faith and good work. Assuming the pastorate in 1984, Reverend Stelzer has helped Our Savior Church grow in size and numbers, to serve more of our Long Island neighbors. Since 1984, the number of parishioners has grown more than threefold, and Our Savior now welcomes an average of 500 congregants each Sunday.

Most impressive has been the creation and subsequent growth of Our Savior School. Founded in 1992 with just 9 students, today the School serves 200 students between kindergarten and the 12th grade. With a growth capacity up to 325 students, Our Savior School offers a superior academic curriculum, deeply rooted in Christian principles and teachings.

So Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in honoring Our Savior Lutheran Church, of Centereach, for its 40 years of devoted service to God and man. We are fortunate to count this wonderful church among the crucial cornerstones of our Long Island community. Through the grace of God, may Our Savior Church continue to grow and flourish, so that it may continue to proclaim Christ to the heart of Long Island and beyond.

INTEGRITY AT THE BALLOT-BOX

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 1997

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, over the last several days, this House has been asked to consider repeated motions to end the investigation into possible voter-fraud in California's 46th Congressional District during the 1996 election. Unfortunately, our Democratic colleagues have repeatedly tried to make this into a political dogfight. Nothing could be further from the truth.

This investigation has absolutely nothing to do with either candidate in the 46th district election. This investigation is about integrity at the ballot-box and ensuring that the electoral process in America remains genuine.

This is not a partisan issue, this is not a personality issue, and this is not a political issue. Most of all, this should never be made into an issue of race. The investigation into this election is a defense of free and fair elections.

It could happen in California, it could happen in Montana. No matter where it occurs, we have a responsibility to pursue the facts vigorously and ensure that future elections are fair. The Constitution demands it and the American people deserve it.

Mr. Speaker, are we that far removed from our history as a nation to forget the importance free and fair elections? there is no excuse for fraud at the ballot box and there is no excuse for those here in Congress who turn their backs to it.

IN HONOR OF MR. GUST SEVASTOS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 1997

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Gust Sevastos. On Saturday, November 8, 1997 the Chios Society-Chapter No. 7 will gather to celebrate the 84th anniversary of Chian liberation from the Ottoman Turks. During this celebration, the Chios Society will honor Gust Sevastos, a recent recipient of the Chian Achievement Award.

Mr. Sevastos immigrated to Cleveland, in 1958 to live out the American dream. He got married, started a family, and initiated his own business. Mr. Sevastos also began a legacy of distinguished service to the Greek community. Mr. Sevastos became very involved in the Annunciation Church, serving as the president of the church, helping found the Annunciation Greek Heritage Festival and advising a local

youth program. In 1987, Bishop Maximos honored Mr. Sevastos with a proclamation for his outstanding service to the church.

During the late 1970's, Gust Sevastos joined the Ohio-West Virginia Chapter of the Chios Society. As a member of the Chios Society, Mr. Sevastos held positions of leadership on both a local and national level. He served six terms as president of his local chapter. On a national level, Mr. Sevastos served as supreme vice president and supreme president. As a member of the Chios Society, Mr. Sevastos helped raise more than \$250,000 for the eye clinic and Skilitsio hospital in his homeland; he also helped raise money for the underprivileged in Chios.

Over the years, the Greek Orthodox Church, the Secretary General of the Greek Government, Senator Howard Metzenbaum, the Cleveland Plain Dealer, and the Chios Omogenon Society in Greece have all honored Mr. Sevastos for his distinguished service to the Greek community.

I am proud to know Gust Sevastos and to consider him a friend. He is a remarkable individual, and his contributions to his community—and to the Nation—are noteworthy.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in congratulating Gust Sevastos. Through many years of hard work, Mr. Sevastos has made immeasurable contributions to the people of Cleveland and the Greek community as a whole.

HONORING JOHN N. STURDIVANT

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 1997

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I rise today to announce the passing of John N. Sturdivant, whose contributions to our Federal Government and its workers are beyond measure. John died on October 28, 1997 after fighting a valiant battle against leukemia. It is hard for me to believe that such a vibrant and dynamic citizen is gone.

John served as the president of the American Federation of Government Employees [AFGE] since 1988. Since that time, he strengthened this union and ensured that our Federal employees had a much stronger voice in government. John fought to make sure that our civil service received the respect it deserved. When he took over the helm of the AFGE, it was a floundering union without a distinct mission or an activist style. John quickly changed that; it was not long before he was lobbying for amending the Hatch Act to give Federal employees a greater level of participation in the political process.

I often worked closely with John throughout the years and particularly during the two Government shutdowns in 1995 and 1996. I will miss the strong spirit and single-minded devotion that John brought to his mission. John recognized that it is easy for politicians to make Federal employees a faceless symbol of a large bureaucracy and he knew that this was simply unacceptable. Instead, he reminded elected officials at every level that civil servants often work for less compensation than the private sector. In fact, John was the leader who won locality pay for Federal work-

ers to bring their salaries more in line with the private sector.

I know that John will be missed by those he served who were lucky to have his tireless energy working for them. My deepest condolences go to John's family. John will be a friend and advocate that I will never forget. A recent article in the Washington Post clearly illustrates Mr. Sturdivant's contributions to our region and the Federal Government.

[From the Washington Post]

John N. Sturdivant, 59, who as president since 1988 of the American Federation of Government Employees helped lobby Congress to ease a 57-year ban on political activities for federal workers and rallied public support to end two government shutdowns, died Oct. 28 at Inova Fairfax Hospital. He had leukemia.

AFGE, one of the largest federal unions, has about 178,000 active members in 1,100 locals and represents about 600,000 workers in 68 federal agencies. Many have jobs in the Defense Department, Veterans Affairs Department and Social Security Administration. They add up to more than one-third of the federal work force.

Mr. Sturdivant was a primary labor spokesman on Capitol Hill and with the Office of Management Budget, pushing for pay raises and improved conditions and retirement benefits. He worked with legislators to create "locality pay," a salary system that attempts to bring federal compensation into line with the private sector.

Downsizing of government and budget pressures constantly dogged Mr. Sturdivant's effort to preserve federal jobs. After Congress failed to agree on a budget in 1995, and many government operations were suspended, Mr. Sturdivant accused House Republicans of trying to destroy government and denigrate federal workers.

The changes he and other federal labor leaders helped bring about in the Hatch Act three years ago came as unions were launching a multimillion-dollar counterattack on the congressional Republicans. Off-duty federal employees had been barred from political activity that included holding office in a party, distributing campaign literature and soliciting votes.

The Hatch reforms permitted employees to contribute money, attend fund-raisers and volunteer for work such as staffing phone banks.

Mr. Sturdivant, of Vienna, had long been active in Democratic politics, serving on the party's national committee and the Virginia and Fairfax County central committees, and he encouraged his members to get involved.

He also directed AFGE to contribute \$300,000 last year to organized labor's blitz against the GOP and assigned 22 of his organizers to get-out-the-vote effort.

This month he received the Spirit of Democracy award of the National Coalition on Black Voter Participation.

AFGE is a major affiliate of the AFL-CIO, and Mr. Sturdivant, who was one of the highest ranking African Americans in the labor movement, was vice president of the federation's executive council. He also was a trustee of its George Meany Center for Labor Studies.

ALF-CIO President John Sweeney said this year that Mr. Sturdivant had been at the forefront of helping the federation "focus more on diversity in the labor movement and in leadership development."

Mr. Sturdivant also was a member of the National Partnership Council, a Clinton administration initiative to improve labor-management relations in the executive branch. He came in for criticism after the 1996 election when he asked his staff to compile a list of career officials who could be