

John R. Miller, acting law revision counsel, U.S. House of Representatives, H2-304 Ford House Office Building, Washington, DC, 20515-6711. The telephone number is (202) 226-2411.

Persons wishing to comment on the bill should submit those comments to the acting law revision counsel no later than May 31, 1997.

THE SERIOUS PROBLEM OF ANTI-SEMITISM IN EGYPT

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 17, 1997

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, last week Egyptian President Mohammed Hosni Mubarak, as well as Foreign Minister Amre Mahmoud Moussa and other leaders of the Egyptian Government, were here in Washington for meetings with the administration and with Members of Congress. I was one of the Members who welcomed President Mubarak and his delegation at a lunch hosted by the Committee on International Relations.

As always, President Mubarak and Foreign Minister Moussa were gracious and frank in their discussion on a whole range of issues involving the relationship between the United States and Egypt. One issue which deserves particular attention, however, is the issue of anti-Semitism in the Egyptian press.

Shortly before President Mubarak arrived in the United States, the Anti-Defamation League [ADL] issued an excellent report "Anti-Semitism in the Egyptian Media." This report was another outstanding example of the kind of work that the ADL does in fighting racism and anti-Semitism here in America and around the world. At our meeting with President Mubarak, I presented him with a copy of this report and indicated to him my serious concerns about its disturbing findings.

President Mubarak responded that the Egyptian press was a free press, and even the Government media were quite independent. I told both the President and Foreign Minister Moussa that the press in Egypt is far from being truly free and independent. The moral authority of the President and the political, economic, and ethical leverage which the Government can exercise could go a long way to discourage and diminish the anti-Semitism that appears so frequently throughout the Egyptian press.

President Mubarak gave me a copy of the Egyptian Government response to the ADL study, in which was included a collection of Israeli cartoons which were considered offensive to Egypt. There is, however, a significant difference. The Egyptian cartoons are patently anti-Semitic—vicious racial stereotypes of Jews appear and there are a number of cartoons in which the Star of David is transformed into the Nazi swastika. The Israeli cartoons are very much like the political cartoons we see here in the United States—Egyptian leaders are portrayed in caricatures and the cartoons satirize policies such as Herblock or Oliphant would do here. There are no racist stereotypes, there are no anti-Muslim overtones to the cartoons.

Mr. Speaker, as I told President Mubarak, peace must be won in the minds of the peo-

ple—the Egyptian people must accept the Israelis if there is to be real peace in the Middle East. People must come to accept the right of the Jews to live in the land of Israel. These anti-Semitic cartoons do not create the climate that is essential for a lasting peace. I strongly urged the President to use his enormous prestige and moral authority to bring an end to this kind of racism.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the column of Stephen S. Rosenfeld from the March 14 issue of the Washington Post be placed in the RECORD. Mr. Rosenfeld also met with the Egyptian President as I did and his reaction was much the same as mine. I urge my colleagues to read carefully this article.

[From the Washington Post, Mar. 14, 1997]

THE WAR OF THE CARTOONS

(By Stephen S. Rosenfeld)

At breakfast in Blair House I asked President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt about those terrible antisemitic cartoons that for years have adorned the government-controlled Cairo press. The Anti-Defamation League had greeted him on this visit with a booklet and a challenge in a New York Times ad, and it seemed to me a good time to hear how the government that has led the Arab world in reconciling with Israel deals with the seemingly contradictory policy of perpetuating those vicious images.

Mubarak is rough and affable in an officers' mess style, an old hand at engaging with the foreign press. He looks you right in the eye, and plainly he was ready for the question. He said in essence that Egypt has a press law and he does not control the press, that he is himself criticized in the press and that he had advised editors not to get personal in dealing with Israel but to stick to criticism of official Israeli policies. He battled away my attempt to induce him to say whether the Egyptian press meets that excellent standard.

At one point in the discussion, he signaled to an aide who left the room and quickly came back with an exhibit so similar in format to the ADL attack booklet that it was almost amusing. Mubarak had suggested that the Egyptian press was merely indulging a type of criticism familiar in the Israeli press. He now handed me a sheaf of cartoons from both English- and Hebrew-language papers in Israel.

The war of the cartoons may not seem very compelling at a moment when the whole structure of Arab-Israeli peace-seeking trembles on a knife's edge. Consider, however, that one important reason why the process is so precariously perched lies exactly in the fact that it is vulnerable to the popular sentiments evoked in those cartoons, especially the Egyptian ones.

The Egyptian cartoons have what is to a Western eye an unmistakably racist content. They rely on crude physical and cultural stereotypes of Jews, and they drape Israeli officials with Nazi swastikas. These images and accusations, says the ADL report on "Anti-Semitism in the Egyptian Media," are to be found in words but most flagrantly in political cartoons which, "often boldly displayed on newsstands, can inflame passions in a country where illiteracy is significant and where young people may not read the newspapers, but obtain a clear and distorted impression of Jews from the illustrations."

Mubarak cannot be taken literally when he claims that the Egyptian press is independent and that its independence absolves him of responsibility for its enthusiasms. There can be a discussion only over whether particular parts of the Cairo press are best described as "tame," "government-owned" or "controlled" or "semi-official." Egypt, for

all the sophistication of many in its elite, remains one of those countries where editors get to massage major media themes with the president over coffee. A shrewd Third World leader like Mubarak would hardly ignore the capability his press gives him to conduct a certain second line of public diplomacy based on the domestic mass media to complement the first line conducted at the foreign office.

It is sobering to consider that no matter how often he is reminded that the cartoons measurably shrivel Israeli readiness for compromise and accommodation, Mubarak still lets them run. He does so apparently in order to appease hard-liners at home and in the Arab world. It is pale comfort to be told that many Arabs don't think those cartoons are all that abusive anyway and that Egypt is actually something of an island of tolerance in the larger Arab sea.

The Israeli cartoons have what is to a Western eye an unmistakably political content. The Egyptian information ministry's booklet describes them, in this instance fairly, as "Israeli Caricatures of Egyptian Policy." Caricatures they are, strong and abrasive but not racial attacks on Arabs. It is foolish to claim there is no trace of racism in Israeli attitudes toward Arabs. But if you are looking for it on these pages chosen by Arab officials, you will not find it.

An Egyptian cartoon from Ros al-Yusuf of last Sept. 9 depicts an Israeli soldier bedecked in Nazi flag. An Israeli cartoon in Maariv of Oct. 29 shows Mubarak unleashing a press attack on Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

An American journalist has to be sensitive to the booby traps that imperil any effort to distinguish objectionable "racist" cartoons in one place from acceptable "political" ones in another. Such an effort cannot be used either to spare Israeli criticism for its policies or to rationalize censorship practices in Egypt. But the fact is there is an antisemitic strain on public view in Egyptian society and in the media. It is appalling in its own right and it does harm to constructive public policies. Rather than allowing it to go on, responsible Egyptian authorities ought to be repudiating it without equivocation.

ANCHOR CONNECTION'S HEROISM ON THE FRONT LINES OF AMERICA'S DRUG WAR IS RIGHTFULLY HONORED

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 17, 1997

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, it is all too easy to get discouraged when reading the latest statistics showing that marijuana and heroin use among teenagers has skyrocketed over the last 5 years. Day after day, it seems that our media reports are filled with reports of violence; depression, and lost opportunities. Yet as a counter-balance against these reports, I am encouraged to share the experience and success of the Anchor Connection in Trenton, NJ.

Anchor Connection is a specialized program operated within the Anchor House, a nationally recognized basic service center for runaway and homeless youth, and has served the residents of central New Jersey since 1979. The Anchor House also operates a Transitional Living Program, which helps reduce drug abuse by teaching independent living skills to troubled teens.

I am proud that Anchor Connection is being honored today for its hard work by three of our

Nation's top drug prevention organizations at the Federal level: Gen. Barry McCaffrey, Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, Nelba Chavez, Ph.D., Administrator of the Department of Health and Human Services' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration [SAMHSA], and Stephanie O'Neill, Acting Director of the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention [CSAP].

Anchor Connection's outreach director, Heidi Camerlengo, and their drug prevention counselor, Ann Suabedissen, are doing marvelous and critical work in Mercer County and have earned our Nation's collective applause today. Anchor Connection, as the only comprehensive alcohol, tobacco, and other drug [ATOD] prevention program for runaway and homeless youth in central New Jersey, saw over 800 youth and families last year to help them resist the deadly allure of drugs and alcohol.

These children stayed in the custody of Anchor Connection for an average of 6 to 8 months, where they were introduced to Anchor House's enormously successful family of comprehensive programs that help troubled runaway youths. Anchor Connection's programs include resistance skills education and social skills training so that these teens can adapt and cope with life's day-to-day problems without having to resort to illicit substances of alcohol.

Their programs also provide transportation to needed services within the community, drug and alcohol screening, as well as life, edu-

cation, and job skills training. This is in keeping with the idea that people who lack these basic life skills are more likely to succumb to the temptation of drugs. Through these programs, Anchor Connection enables these teens to adapt more readily for a normal, drug-free life.

Anchor Connection also conducts community awareness and education seminars to get the facts out about drug and alcohol abuse, and conduct individual, group, and family counseling to help those whose lives are directly touched and affected by our Nation's drug epidemic.

This overall approach has paid big dividends to the troubled kids and teens of Mercer County. Anchor Connection boasts a drug-reduction rate of at least 25 percent for children who remain with the program for 12 months. Heidi Camerlengo has estimated that the program has an 80-percent success rate in reducing drug use and getting the youth participants interested in school and other activities.

Another important aspect of Anchor Connection's drug prevention program is its individual written service plan, which helps young persons understand and achieve set goals. Since the program has a focus on runaway youths, it actively gets involved in resolving family conflicts. Where possible, it encourages family reunification, and where this is not a viable option, Anchor Connection will place children into foster care or other families.

I have been a longtime supporter and advocate for the Anchor House and its family of runaway youth programs, including the Drug and Alcohol Prevention Program run by Anchor Connection, as well as the Transitional Living Program administered by the Anchorage. Over the years, I have been honored to author many letters of support and have followed-up with the key Federal officials who administer Federal grant programs. Given the solid record of accomplishment they have built for themselves, Anchor House and Anchor Connection have proven that every cent of Federal support they have earned has been well worth the investment in our children.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, let me say that the employees and volunteers at Anchor Connection have every right to be proud and gratified by this national award today. Today's award honors not only Mercer County's successes, but all the heroes across America who work in obscurity and anonymity on the front lines and in the trenches of America's war on drugs. These are the heroes who are out there on the streets of America day and night saving our children from the scourge of drugs one kid at a time. When the fanfare from today's ceremony ends, their quiet, patient task of rebuilding and repairing lives will go on. The hope and promise of a drug-free America that Anchor Connection has amply demonstrated in 1996, is and should be inspiration to teachers, parents, and students everywhere. It is right and fitting that we honor their arduous efforts and successes today.