

China the former Navy base at Long Beach, and the unseemly help by the Clinton administration in facilitating the deal.

[From the Washington Times]

SOLOMON: IS COSCO "STRATEGIC THREAT?"

LONG BEACH DEAL TRIGGERS CONCERN

(By Rowan Scarborough)

A senior House Republican yesterday asked Navy Secretary John H. Dalton to report whether the Chinese Ocean Shipping Co. (Cosco) represents a "global tactical or strategic threat" to the Navy.

The effort by Rep. Gerald B.H. Solomon, chairman of the House Rules Committee, to force the Navy to make an assessment is the latest development in a campaign to block Cosco from taking over the abandoned Long Beach Naval Station in California.

"In order to understand the magnitude of the growing threat of the PRC [People's Republic of China], I would like you to state the U.S. Navy's position on [Cosco]," Mr. Solomon, New York Republican, wrote in a one-page letter to Mr. Dalton.

"Considering their potential world-wide information gathering capabilities, a history as the delivery system of weapons of mass destruction to terrorist countries and the size of this fleet under direct control of the communist regime—does Cosco pose a potential global tactical or strategic threat against the U.S. Navy?"

The Solomon letter represents a more specific question for the Navy. Before, congressional inquiries have centered on whether Cosco at Long Beach would be a regional threat. The congressman wants to know if Cosco, and its 600-ship fleet, poses a danger to the Navy itself.

Mr. Solomon was one of the first in Congress to speak out against the Chinese-Long Beach connection.

"This is almost a caricature of Lenin's prediction that the West will hand the rope to its Communist executioners," he said March 10. "The Clinton administration seems to be going out of its way to help the most serious threat to American security, the so-called People's Republic of China."

Cosco plans to lease 144 acres to operate a large container terminal, giving Beijing an important beach-head in making Cosco one of the world's largest carriers.

Lawmakers in recent weeks have emerged from closed-door intelligence briefings with conflicting interpretations.

Conservatives who oppose the deal say the intelligence shows Cosco is a tool of the Chinese People's Liberation Army, trafficking in weapons of mass destruction to known terrorist states such as Iran.

But local Long Beach legislators say the briefings show Cosco is not a threat.

President Clinton personally backed the city of Long Beach's overture to Cosco, after a commission had targeted the station for closure as part of armed forces downsizing.

The negotiations occurred at a time China is suspected of funneling millions of dollars in illegal campaign contributions into the United States in a government-sponsored operation to influence the 1996 election.

Some Republicans wonder if there is a connection between Cosco's expansion plans and the Democratic fund-raising scandal.

Reps. Duncan Hunter and Randy "Duke" Cunningham, both California Republicans, want to stop the Cosco-Long Beach marriage through legislation attached to the 1998 defense authorization bill. The House National Security Committee is scheduled to write the bill next month.

However, the Cosco transaction may die before the Navy officially transfers the property to the city's Harbor Commission.

A coalition of conservationists and history buffs have filed suit to stop the project,

which calls for leveling every naval station building.

A judge in Los Angeles has ordered the city to terminate the Cosco lease and re-evaluate the plan's environmental impact.

The New York Times reported yesterday that Clinton appointee, Dorothy Robyn, in November urged the preservationists to abandon their effort to save any buildings.

Miss Robyn, who serves on the National Economic Council, told the paper she made the calls as a favor to Long Beach's mayor. She said she had no contacts with Cosco officials.

Meanwhile, Sen. John McCain, Arizona Republican, has asked the Federal Maritime Commission to report whether Cosco is guilty of predatory pricing.

NATIONAL PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY

HON. THOMAS W. EWING

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 1997

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, on May 15, 1997, hundreds of law enforcement officers from across the country came together at the U.S. Capitol to honor slain law enforcement officers on Peace Officers Memorial Day.

Last Thursday we paused to pay tribute to those who have lost their lives in service to the Nation as law enforcement officers. One hundred and fifteen officers were killed 1996. Among these fallen heroes was a 26-year-old officer from the 15th Congressional District of Illinois.

On October 17, 1996, Officer Anthony Samfay of the Kankakee Police Department was shot and killed while conducting a routine traffic stop on a vehicle at Fair and Greenwood Avenue in Kankakee.

Officer Samfay said the only job he ever wanted was to be a police officer. It is with much honor that I pay my respect to Officer Samfay, his mother, the other fallen heroes, and all law enforcement officers who put their lives on the line every day to help protect and serve America.

MEMORIAL DAY

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 1997

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute, to the millions of men and women who have served this Nation in its Armed Forces. Call it by any name you wish, Remembrance Day, Decoration Day, Memorial Day. It is a time when this country recounts the price for the liberty and freedom it enjoys today. That cost was paid for in the numerous lives and countless sacrifices given to it, by the servicemen and women of this country. The courage and devotion they expressed are the finest example by which all Americans must measure themselves. It is their sense of responsibility and duty that has tied them to all the generations of Americans, past and present, who have answered their country's call to service.

Who are these extraordinary people who have made such a difference in our lives? they are not the sons and daughters of kings

or emperors but the hard working farm boys of the heartland, who sat in the muddy trenches of Europe in World War I. They are the former store clerks and factory workers who withstood the crushing siege of Bastogne in World War II. They are the courageous men and women who fought to stem the tide of communism along the 38th parallel in Korea. They are the devoted servicemen and women who fought in the steamy jungles and rice paddies of Vietnam. In our own decade they have been our own sons and daughters and in some circumstances our grandchildren who marched off to the desert to liberate the country of Kuwait.

How does one thank these men and women who have suffered so much that many could live in freedom? Mr. Speaker the debt of gratitude we owe is immeasurable. These men and women, whose deeds and stories are countless, are the reason why this country has been able to remain a shining example of freedom and democracy for the world. To merely say thank you is not enough. This country's continued support for its veterans must be a priority. The words of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Jesse Brown, ring strongly: "I believe a Nation is judged by the way it treats its Veterans." It is this thought that we must bear in mind when issues arise in the Congress that may impact the veterans of this country.

To ignore these issues is to do our veterans and their families a great disservice. Their sacrifice and commitment must be equally reflected in our effort to pay a debt that can never be monetarily repaid. Mr. Speaker, what price can you put on the life of a citizen who is willing to pay the ultimate sacrifice for his or her country in a time of war or national peril?

It is fitting that on this occasion we reaffirm our support and gratitude to this special group of Americans whose devotion to duty was expressed in the highest manner. By their willingness to lay down their life for this Nation, they have assured the security and future for generation of Americans to come.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure and honor to express my deep and heartfelt gratitude for the service of America's veterans. Call this day by what ever name you choose, it is a memorial to all the generations of men and women who have served this Nation and upheld its finest traditions of liberty and democracy. God bless our veterans.

HONORING THE BELLAIRE LIONS CLUB ON THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THEIR CHARTER

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 1997

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Bellaire Lions Club which will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of their charter on May 21, 1997.

The Bellaire Lions Club was chartered in district 13-G on May 21, 1947, with 24 original members. The district's motto is "Positive growth through teamwork," and the club is asked "to encourage service-minded men and women to serve their community." The Lions Club in Bellaire, OH, has exemplified this motto through 50 years of support and service

to the Bellaire community and Belmont County.

Over the past 50 years, the Bellaire Lions Club has had many dedicated members. These members adopted the motto "We Serve" and chose work associated with the prevention and awareness of vision related illnesses. To promote the well-being of the community and awareness of vision related illnesses, the Bellaire Lions Club has sponsored eye testing, glaucoma clinics, and street signs. The club has also been active in area schools by donating science awards for Bellaire High School and St. John's High School as well as trophies for area sports teams.

The Bellaire Lions Club has stood as an example of the importance of volunteerism and helping one's neighbors. Their commitment to the Ohio Valley and to service continues today as they celebrate the 50th anniversary of their charter. I am proud to represent the members of this organization who generously give their time to others and work to improve their community. I ask my colleagues to join me today in congratulating the Bellaire Lions Club members on the 50th anniversary of their charter, and to wish them continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SONNY BONO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 1997

Mr. BONO. Mr. Speaker, I am writing to explain that on Tuesday, May 20, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote No. 139. If I was present, I certainly would have voted "aye" in support of approving the journal. Thank you for recognizing my position regarding this vote.

DOES MONEY TALK?

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 1997

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, they say that money talks. If it doesn't, enough of it certainly seems to gain access to the White House. At least, that seemed to be the case for the Riady family of Indonesia. A recent Washington Times editorial reminds us that the Riady family has given various Democrat candidates and committees nearly \$2 million since 1991. It also seems to have been money well spent, because Riady managed to have one of their own, John Huang, strategically placed at the Commerce Committee.

Mr. Speaker, a White House or a foreign policy for sale is not a laughing matter. I submit the Washington Times editorial in today's RECORD.

WHAT MR. RIADY WANTS

The Pacific Leadership Council (PLC), a fund-raising and influence-seeking organization formed in the 1980s by Lippo Group magnate James Riady, Maria Hsia and John Huang, all of whom figure prominently in the Democratic Party's growing money scandal, was anything but indirect about its motives. One original PLC member acknowledged to the Los Angeles Times recently

that the group's political support "wasn't altruistic at all." The Riady family and its PLC colleagues "wanted to know what kinds of appointments and what kinds of contracts we could get out of all this," the member candidly admitted.

How much is "all this"? According to the Times, the now-disbanded PLC and its members donated about \$500,000 through 1990, \$250,000 of it to the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee (DSCC). Since 1991, Riady-controlled corporations, their executives and close associates have donated nearly \$2 million to various Democratic committees and candidates, including more than \$850,000 to the Democratic National Committee (DNC). Since the presidential election, the DNC has returned \$450,000 it received from the daughter and son-in-law of a Riady business partner.

At one PLC fund-raiser held in his home in April 1988, Mr. Riady raised \$110,000 for the DSCC. Four days later, Mr. Riady wrote a highly detailed three-page memo to Ms. Hsia instructing her to "follow up and let me know of progress" in pursuing the numerous quid pro quos Mr. Riady meticulously outlined in a summary appropriately headlined, "DSCC Issues and Agenda." Indeed, so blatantly and crassly self-interested was Mr. Riady's modus operandi that the then-DSCC chairman, Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry, later described Mr. Riady's letter to Ms. Hsia as a "raw, graphic memo" reflecting the kind of special-interest agenda that is "usually communicated discreetly and verbally, not in writing." Mr. Riady was even more direct in a second memo that month, this one sent to DSCC Executive Director Robert Chlopak: "The issues and concerns that were discussed [at the Riady fund-raiser] need to be followed up and actions need to be delivered."

Among other things, Mr. Riady wanted the Democratic senators to "impress upon Taiwan to allow Asian-American banks (or at least the Bank of Trade [the former name of LippoBank] to be allowed to open a branch office in Taiwan." He also sought "appointments of Asian-Americans to policy-making positions in the federal government." As it later developed, thanks in part to a letter of recommendation overflowing with praise from Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle, Mr. Riady's former top U.S. executive, Mr. Huang, was appointed to an influential position in the Commerce Department, where he received more than 100 secret briefings, including CIA information about China, and routinely telephoned LippoBank from his office. The FBI is now investigating whether economic espionage occurred and whether the Riadys, Mr. Huang or anyone else may have laundered and then funneled illegal campaign contributions from the Chinese government. In March, the vice president of the Asian-American Business Roundtable charged Mr. Huang with attempting to funnel \$250,000 illegally to the DNC through the group's members. Meanwhile, Mr. Huang has asserted his Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination in refusing to cooperate with a congressional investigative committee.

And whaddya know? After Sen. Daschle could "personally attest to John's strong background" in a 1992 letter to the Clinton transition team, Sen. Daschle's aide recently told the Times that the senator "actually doesn't know John Huang well at all." Moreover, after receiving a telephone call from an irate President Clinton at one o'clock in the morning following Wisconsin Sen. Russell Feingold's call for an independent counsel to investigate Mr. Clinton's 1996 fund-raising, Sen. Daschle has managed to close the barn door, locking in all the other Democrats except Daniel Patrick Moynihan of New York.

As for Ms. Hsia, she later helped Mr. Huang arrange the illegal fund-raiser at the tax-exempt California Buddhist temple where Vice President Gore shook down impoverished monks, bagging nearly \$150,000, much of which the DNC has promised to return. More laundering problems. As a founding member of the PLC, Ms. Hsia enticed then-Sen. Gore to visit Taiwan in 1989, promising him in a letter that she "will persuade all my colleagues in the future to play a leader role in your [next] presidential race" if "you decide to join this trip." Although political contributions from foreign nationals who are not U.S. residents are expressly forbidden, the PLC had planned to use that trip "to recruit new members overseas and potentially to raise some money for PLC," according to a document obtained by the Los Angeles Times.

Whether it is bankrolling Webster Hubbell to the tune of \$100,000 during the period when he was supposed to be cooperating with the Whitewater prosecutor or whether it is orchestrating nearly \$2 million in political contributions from family and associates to Mr. Clinton and associates, one thing ought to be clear by now: James Riady does nothing for nobody that is not intended to benefit his interests, including White House access to lobby for expanding trade with China and to downplay Indonesia's notorious human-rights record on East Timor.

COMMENDING THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF PRESIDENT LEE TENG-HUI AS TAIWAN'S FIRST DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED PRESIDENT

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 1997

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to join me today in commending the Republic of China on the first anniversary of President Lee Teng-hui as Taiwan's first democratically elected President. I was part of the official delegation President Clinton sent to mark the occasion last year.

President Lee was directly elected by the people of Taiwan as their ninth President and inaugurated 1 year ago today. Despite an attempt at intimidation, democracy won. The United States has vital economic and military interests in this area of the world, and it is important for our country to commend the democratic efforts in this region.

One year after his inauguration, President Lee is considered a beacon of democracy in the Far East. Taiwan's democratization should be an inspiring model for governments around the world. The United States is a government that rewards democracy and capitalism, so Taiwan's free and fair elections are indeed cause to celebrate.

Both President Bill Clinton and House Speaker Newt Gingrich have made clear that Taiwan is our friend, so it is appropriate today that we pay tribute to this young democracy on the first anniversary of President Lee's inauguration.

I also ask my colleagues to join me in commending Foreign Minister John Chang as he begins his second year of promoting stronger relations between the United States and Taiwan.