

Zoo, Mr. Wei is the strongest voice in China's democracy movement. He has spent all but six months of the last 18 years in prison and in labor camps, mostly in solitary confinement in conditions that would have killed a less stubborn man a long time ago, and may soon kill Mr. Wei, who is 46 and very ill.

Now serving his second long sentence, he is watched around the clock by nonpolitical criminal prisoners who ensure that he does not put pen to paper.

But during his first imprisonment he was permitted to write letters on certain topics to his family, prison authorities and China's leaders. Most were never sent. But they now have been translated and published. They form a remarkable body of Chinese political writing.

The book, *The Courage to Stand Alone*, is published by Viking. It shows why the Chinese Government is so afraid of Mr. Wei. His weapon is simplicity. Unlike other Chinese activists, Mr. Wei does not worry about tailoring his argument to his audience and does not indulge in the Chinese intellectual tradition of flattering the powerful. He does not worry about being seen as pro-Western, or a traitor to China.

He writes as if what is obvious to him, that China needs democratic freedoms, should be clear to anyone.

He has also been uncompromising. In 1978, Mr. Deng was fighting for control of the leadership and encouraged reformist thinking. Mr. Wei wrote a bold poster and was arrested in March 1979, given a show trial, and sentenced to jail for 15 years for simply writing a statement.

□ 1330

He was released 6 months before completing that sentence as part of China's bid to win the Olympics in the year 2000. He refused to leave before getting back letters the prison authorities had stolen. But once free, he immediately resumed his work for democracy. He was rearrested, and after a 20-month incommunicado imprisonment, he was sentenced to another 14 years.

Today the New York Times writes that there is no visible dissent in China, that activists went into exile, many were arrested, and others just simply gave up politics and turned their talents to commerce. But the moral force of his writing recalls the prison letters from other famous dissidents such as Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Letters from the Birmingham Jail, Michnik's Letters From Prison, and Havel's Letters to Olga. He is not a man of many words, and he was probably not writing with an eye to publication. But the most important thing that these other political dissidents had that Mr. Wei does not have is widespread international support.

All over the world dissidents look out for others to see that governments that are oppressing them are getting pressure from outside forces. Unfortunately, such is not the case, for Mr. Wei and his political dissidents do not have the world support. Their names are not widely known, and while some Americans and other officials have brought them up during talks with Chinese leaders, in general the outside

world treats Beijing officials with deference due business partners.

Today Mr. Wei suffers from life-threatening heart disease. Because of a neck problem he cannot even lift his head. All indications are that he has not seen a doctor in more than a year. He is due to be released in the year 2009, if he lives that long.

Mr. Speaker, it is my belief that we in the West must stop allowing our insatiable desire for greater commerce and larger market shares to compromise any further our commitment to freedom of speech, freedom from religious persecution, and freedom from the dehumanizing repression that has brutalized Chinese dissidents for years now.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Florida). Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the House stands in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 32 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. SNOWBARGER] at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Reverend James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

We offer this prayer of Thanksgiving and praise to You, O God, for the gift of our lives and for the opportunities all about us. Our words of prayer are directed to You, gracious God, in response to Your mighty acts of love to us. The promises and the grace that You have given are more awesome than anything we could deserve or imagine. So strengthened by Your word and encouraged by Your spirit, we can meet each day with confidence and new resolve. This is our earnest prayer. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Nevada [Mr. GIBBONS] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GIBBONS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

TAXPAYERS SHOULD NOT PAY FOR CLEANUP OF NUCLEAR WASTE

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, who should be responsible for paying the \$2.3 billion price tag for transporting nuclear waste? Should it be the nuclear power industry, who created and profited from it, or the American taxpayer?

Legislation now pending before the House will force taxpayers to pick up the tab for moving this lethal garbage through their own communities and maybe even through their neighborhoods. On top of that, this legislation would also use American tax dollars to pay for the storage of nuclear waste.

I think most Americans would agree that the cost of transporting and storing these hazardous materials should not have to be paid by innocent American taxpayers, but rather by those responsible, the nuclear power industry.

Let us save America's hard earned tax dollars and return the responsibility of waste to the big power companies.

SUPPORT THE PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYER-EMPLOYEE COOPERATION ACT OF 1997

(Mr. KILDEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to join my good friend, the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. NEY], and myself in supporting H.R. 1173, the Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act of 1997. So far 70 Members of the House, both Republicans and Democrats, have added their names as cosponsors of this bill.

H.R. 1173 recognizes the fundamental right of police and firefighters to form and join unions and to bargain collectively with their employers over wages, hours, and working conditions.

H.R. 1173 does not create a Federal mandate. It does not affect existing State collective bargaining laws and it would prohibit strikes and lockouts.

This bill is supported by the International Association of Firefighters, the Fraternal Order of Police, the International Union of Police Associations and the National Association of Police Organizations.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join us in support of H.R. 1173.

IN APPRECIATION OF TEACHERS

(Mr. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support and in tribute to

Roger Kassebaum from Millard North High School in Omaha, NE. Roger is a high school teacher there and the lead curriculum design teacher for NASA's KidSat program. KidSat is a program in conjunction with Sally Ride, the former astronaut and current physics professor.

This program allows students on Earth to control, through the Internet, a still camera on the space shuttle. Photographs taken by the camera are downloaded to Earth via satellite, where students then learn to use them in class.

I have been in Roger's class and seen how much fun the kids have at learning and the way he teaches and enhances their learning. He is a tremendous teacher and one all should be proud of. I believe his innovative techniques could be duplicated by other teachers across this country. He makes learning fun. I can say from firsthand knowledge that Roger Kassebaum is the kind of teacher America can be proud of.

Thanks, Roger, for what you do for the future of our country.

FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT'S LEGACY

(Ms. SLAUGHTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind my colleagues that as we preserve the legacy of our great President, Franklin Delano Roosevelt with his memorial here in Washington, we must not forget the ideals that he upheld for the American people.

FDR once said, "The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little." Those words resonate true now more than ever.

As a Nation we must never forget our responsibility to the general welfare of all of our citizens. This means we have a duty to the mother who is without the resources to feed her infant, we have a duty to ensure that our poor children receive the same health care as their classmates, and, yes, we even have a duty to the immigrants who are struggling in a new country, for the words etched on the Statute of Liberty still read "Give us your tired, your poor, yearning to be free * * *."

Mr. Speaker, as we commemorate Franklin Roosevelt's legacy let us never forget that it was because of his dedication to those who had too little that many Americans now have so much.

IN APPRECIATION OF OUR TEACHERS

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, as we recognize National Teachers Appreciation Week, I want to thank one of the teachers who helped instill in me a hard work ethic and desire to be the best I could be. My seventh grade teacher, Mrs. Annie Yoder, made a real difference in my life, and I owe part of my success to her. Mrs. Yoder, thank you so much for all you did for me and for the many other students that you diligently taught.

Education is vitally important to the well-being of our country, and during my visits to classrooms in the 10th District it has become increasingly clear to me teachers are among the most important keys to the success of our educational system. Teachers help lessons come alive and cultivate within all of us the love of knowledge. If knowledge is power, then teachers are the purveyors of this power. For this, we owe them not only our gratitude but respect and support as well.

If we want to truly respect and support our Nation's teachers, we must take educational control away from Washington and place it back with teachers and parents and local officials. To all the Mrs. Annie Yoders who have helped make us a better and brighter future, thank you, and I hope we can honor their hard work and dedication by not hindering what they do best, educating America.

CONGRESS SHOULD FIRE CIA AND HIRE CNN

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, the Senate is about to confirm another director of the CIA, even though America found out about the collapse of the Soviet Union on CNN. America learned of the fall of the Berlin Wall on CNN. America found out about Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait on CNN.

After all this, Congress keeps pouring billions of dollars into that big sink-hole called the Central Intelligence Agency. I say, with a track record like that, Congress does not need a Committee on the Budget; Congress needs a proctologist.

I think the record is real clear. Congress should fire the CIA and hire CNN. Maybe we will learn what is happening in the world.

TEACHERS PLAY VITAL ROLE IN FUTURE OF OUR NATION

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, National Teacher Appreciation Week gives us an opportunity to recognize the hard work and dedication of teachers across the country. Teachers every day inspire young students and help prepare our children for the next century.

One especially outstanding teacher in my community is Sharon Draper, an English teacher at Walnut Hills High School, recently named the National Teacher of the Year. Now Mrs. Draper is helping train other teachers by serving as an instructor at the Mayerson Academy in Cincinnati.

There are other teachers, of course, who deserve recognition back home in my district in Cincinnati: Susan Staub, a government teacher at Mercy High School; Tim Taylor at Oak Hills; Gene Jesse, at LaSalle, my alma mater; Mike Odioso at St. X; Jim Pharo at Seton; Jim Fiehre at Mt. Healthy; Mary Helen Beimesche at St. Ursula; Shad Stigle at Diamond Oaks, and the list could go on and on.

I want to also commend all those teachers just beginning their careers, like Shannon Crim at Lakota, who right now is completing her very first day as a teacher.

As a former schoolteacher myself, and as a parent, I appreciate the vital role good teachers play in the future of this Nation. Today and every day we should thank the teachers.

PROTECT OUR SENIORS

(Mr. ETHERIDGE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to support a resolution to protect our seniors from politically motivated cuts in Social Security, veterans benefits, and pensions.

This Congress must balance the Federal budget and we must do so in a manner that is consistent with our Nation's values and honors our commitments to older Americans. These citizens have worked hard all their lives and now only want a dignified retirement.

My North Carolina citizens have told me that we should not turn their cost of living adjustments into a political football behind closed doors in a Washington deal.

Mr. Speaker, the professionals at the Bureau of Labor Statistics should be allowed to do the job for which they are hired: determine the Consumer Price Index free of political pressure and protect our seniors.

NATIONAL TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

(Mr. BLUNT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I am here today as we set aside this week as Teacher Appreciation Week. If every Member of this House, and if, in fact, the people who are gathered in the gallery today and the people who are watching on television would just take a minute to carefully reflect on the people that have affected their lives, they would determine, as they tried to