

prison for violating the State Security Law. It was insinuated that he was paid by the U.S. Government to spy on behalf of the Dalai Lama. No evidence to support such a claim has ever been produced. The 16 hours of film Mr. Choephel sent to India during the first weeks of his project simply contain footage of the traditional music and dance he said he had gone to document.

Persistent inquiries to Chinese authorities regarding Mr. Choephel's whereabouts and the condition of his health have produced little information. I wrote to the head of the Chinese Communist Party soon after Mr. Choephel's detention and received no reply. I raised his case personally in meetings with President Jiang Zemin and other Chinese officials last November in Beijing and received no reply. I have written to President Jiang since then to urge his personal intervention in this case and received no reply. I am just one of many who have sought information about Mr. Choephel to no avail. As of today we have no information as to where Mr. Choephel is being held, or even if he is still alive.

This is an outrageous situation. A former Fulbright Scholar has been deprived of 18 years of his life as a result of spurious charges by a government that will not even reveal his whereabouts. I have urged the White House to raise Mr. Choephel's case with President Jiang. I plan to do the same. If President Jiang is interested in fostering closer ties with the United States, he could make no gesture more meaningful than ordering his release.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that excerpts from an article entitled "Who Is Invited to the Banquet?" by Jeff Kaufman of the Rutland Daily Herald be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Rutland Daily Herald, Oct. 23, 1997]

WHO IS INVITED TO THE BANQUET?—TIBETAN FROM VERMONT REMAINS IN CHINESE PRISON
(By Jeff Kaufman)

In a few weeks, the Clinton administration will welcome Chinese President Jiang Zemin on his first state visit to the United States. Champagne, smiles, encouraging words and a good dose of pomp and circumstance will be broadcast, not just to Americans, but around the world. Sidebar statements about human and workers' rights will be drowned out by televised images that will instantly convey the central message of such a historic meeting: The leaders of the world's most powerful countries are celebrating joint ventures and common purpose.

* * * * *

Anonymity for political prisoners is a tyrant's ally, so here is a name and a story to personalize the kind of cruelty imposed by China's prison archipelago. This individual case may be not be typical in that it involves a young man who left the safety of America to travel to his native Tibet, but it is all too typical in its show of intolerance, judicial abuse and lack of regard for basic standards of human rights.

Tibetan exile and Fulbright scholar Ngawang Choepal came to this country at the age of 27 to study ethnomusicology at Middlebury College in 1993. In the summer of 1995, he returned to Tibet to film a documen-

tary about traditional Tibetan music and dance. Sixteen hours of video were sent to friends in the West; they show beautiful images and sounds of a great culture, but no military installations, no political protests, not a critical word against China.

Nonetheless, Chinese authorities arrested Ngawang Choepal in Lhasa's Shigatse market in September 1995. He was incarcerated for 15 months without being allowed to meet his family, independent legal counsel, or American representatives. Sen. Patrick Leahy visited Beijing in November 1996 and appealed directly to President Jiang Zemin on behalf of Ngawang. That plea was at first followed by a vague promise to examine the case. A month later, Chinese authorities convicted Ngawang Choepal of espionage and providing information "to the Dalai Lama clique's government-in-exile and to an organization of a certain foreign country."

The sentence imposed was stunningly severe: 18 years in prison. Eighteen years in a Chinese jail for videotaping people dancing to old Tibetan songs.

The Chinese government has ignored assurances from the United States that Ngawang Choepal is just a non-political music student, several congressional resolutions in his support, pleas from his family and a number of worldwide letter-writing campaigns.

In fact, the international Campaign for Tibet reports that the American Embassy in Beijing is not even certain in what prison Ngawang is being held.

Ngawang Choepal's case is tragic on its own very personal terms and as a reflection of a much wider Chinese decision to wipe out all opposition no matter how benign and no matter how inadvertent.

Such an outrageous violation of human rights should be a serious obstacle to productive relations between the United States and China (it certainly would be if the offending country had less trade potential).

Sadly, President Clinton and in essence our whole country will soon host the man who is responsible for locking up Ngawang Choepal and who could instantly set him free. When President Jiang Zemin visits America later this month, he'll be toasted, feasted, and courted by businesses and lobbyists. Ngawang Choepal's voice will not pass through the thick stone walls that he faces every day.

Who will speak out for him and thousands like him?

It should be our president and secretary of state using the impressive clout of the United States. Soon we will see what this country really stands for.

DEATH OF FORMER SENATE PRESS GALLERY SUPERINTENDENT DON C. WOMACK

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I was saddened to learn that Don C. Womack, who served as superintendent of the U.S. Senate Press Gallery from 1973 to 1981, died of cancer Thursday morning at his home in Arlington at the age of 87.

Don was born in Danville, Virginia August 22, 1910. He moved to the Washington Area in 1935, and attended the Corcoran School of Art and George Washington University. He managed a string of movie theaters in Northern Virginia before taking a job as staff assistant in the House of Representatives Periodical Press Gallery in 1948, beginning a 33-year career as a press liaison on Capitol Hill.

Don began working in the Senate Press Gallery in 1951. He briefly left to serve as superintendent of the House Periodical Gallery in 1954 and 1955,

then returned to the Senate to be deputy superintendent, and continued in that capacity until his promotion in 1973.

Don became superintendent of the Senate gallery during a tumultuous time—the beginning of the Watergate hearings. He weathered the storm, and received a commendation from the Standing Committee of Correspondents, the governing body of the Congressional press galleries, for his handling of the hearings.

During his tenure as superintendent, Don presided over press coverage of the Senate during such major events as the end of the Vietnam War, the Panama Canal Treaties debates, and the ABSCAM hearings. He assisted with media arrangements for the Republican and Democratic Conventions and the Presidential Inaugurals from 1948 to 1988. He was a tremendous help to Senators, staff members and the members of the press.

A Southern gentleman with a quick wit and warm sense of humor, Don was one of the true characters to roam the halls of Congress. He was beloved by reporters and Senators alike for his storytelling, his affable nature, and his seemingly endless repertoire of jokes. He will be greatly missed.

My deepest sympathy goes out to his wife, Mary Womack; his two daughters, Kay Duda of Alexandria and Patricia Fair of Eatontown, New Jersey; his five grandchildren; eleven great grandchildren, and his great-great grandson.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

REPORT OF ACHIEVEMENTS IN AERONAUTICS AND SPACE FOR FISCAL YEAR 1996—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 75

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit this report on the Nation's achievements in aeronautics and space during fiscal year (FY) 1996, as required under section 206 of the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2476). Aeronautics and space activities in FY 1996 involved 14 contributing departments and agencies of the Federal Government.

A wide variety of aeronautics and space developments took place during FY 1996. The Administration issued an integrated National Space Policy, consolidating a number of previous policy directives into a singular, coherent vision of the future for the civil, commercial, and national security space sectors. The Administration also issued a formal policy on the future management and use of the U.S. Global Positioning System.

During FY 1996, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) successfully completed eight Space Shuttle flights. NASA also launched 7 expendable launch vehicles, while the Department of Defense launched 9 and the commercial sector launched 13. In the reusable launch vehicle program, Vice President Gore announced NASA's selection of a private sector partner to design, fabricate, and flight test the X-33 vehicle.

Scientists made some dramatic new discoveries in various space-related fields such as space science, Earth science and remote sensing, and life and microgravity science. Most notably, NASA researchers cooperating with the National Science Foundation found possible evidence of ancient microbial life in a meteorite believed to be from Mars.

In aeronautics, activities included the development of technologies to improve performance, increase safety, reduce engine noise, and assist U.S. industry to be more competitive in the world market. Air traffic control activities focused on various automation systems to increase flight safety and enhance the efficient use of air space.

Close international cooperation with Russia occurred in the Shuttle-Mir docking missions and with Canada, Europe, Japan, and Russia in the International Space Station program. The United States also entered into new cooperative agreements with Japan and new partners in South America and Asia.

In conclusion, FY 1996 was a very active and successful year for U.S. aeronautics and space programs. Efforts in these areas have contributed significantly to the Nation's scientific and technical knowledge, international cooperation, environmental health, and economic competitiveness.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, October 29, 1997.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:02 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1119) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1998 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

At 2:08 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Goetz, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the following resolution:

H. Res. 286. Resolving that the House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of the Honorable Walter H. Capps, a Representative from the State of California.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-279. A resolution adopted by the Council of the City of Monterey Park, California relative to the Federal Aviation Administration; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

POM-280. A resolution adopted by the Council of the City of West Sacramento, California relative to spent nuclear fuel; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

POM-281. A resolution adopted by the Upper Mississippi River Basin Association relative to the Missouri River; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

POM-282. A resolution adopted by the Lenawee County Board of Commissioners (Michigan) relative to the Environmental Protection Agency; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

POM-283. A resolution adopted by the Macedonian Patriotic Organization of the United States and Canada relative to the former Federal Republic of Yugoslavia; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

POM-284. A resolution adopted by the Macedonian Patriotic Organization of the United States and Canada relative to the Republic of Macedonia; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

POM-285. A resolution adopted by the Macedonian Patriotic Organization of the United States and Canada relative to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the Republic of Macedonia; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

POM-286. A resolution adopted by the Macedonian Patriotic Organization of the United States and Canada relative to the government of Greece; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

POM-287. A resolution adopted by the Macedonian Patriotic Organization of the United States and Canada relative to the European Union; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

POM-288. A resolution adopted by the Macedonian Patriotic Organization of the United States and Canada relative to capital investment for the Republic of Macedonia; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

POM-289. A resolution adopted by the Council of the City of Plantation, Florida relative to the proposed "Private Property Rights Implementation Act"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

POM-290. A resolution adopted by the Board of Supervisors, County of Los Angeles, California relative to the proposed "Immigration Reform Transition Act of 1997"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. CAMPBELL, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, without amendment:

H.R. 79. A bill to provide for the conveyance of certain land in the Six Rivers National Forest in the State of California for the benefit of the Hoopa Valley Tribe (Rept. No. 105-117).

By Mr. HATCH, from the Committee on the Judiciary, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 53. A bill to require the general application of the antitrust laws to major league baseball, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 105-118).

By Mr. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 967. A bill to amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act and the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act to benefit Alaska natives and rural residents, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 105-119).

By Mr. MCCAIN, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, without amendment:

S. 661. A bill to provide an administrative process for obtaining a waiver of the coastwise trade laws for certain vessels (Rept. No. 105-121).

By Mr. JEFFORDS, from the Committee on Labor and Human Resources, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1294. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to allow the consolidation of student loans under the Federal Family Loan Program and the Direct Loan Program (Rept. No. 105-122).

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. CHAFEE, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works: Kenneth R. Wykle, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration.

(The above nomination was reported with the recommendation that he be confirmed, subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.)

By Mr. ROTH, from the Committee on Finance:

Mary Ann Cohen, of California, to be a judge of the U.S. Tax Court for a term of 15 years after she takes office (Reappointment).

Margaret Ann Hamburg, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services.

Stanford G. Ross, of the District of Columbia, to be a member of the Social Security Advisory Board for a term expiring September 30, 2002.

David W. Wilcox, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury.

Rita D. Hayes, of South Carolina, to be Deputy U.S. Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador.

Charles Rossotti, of the District of Columbia, to be Commissioner of Internal Revenue.

David L. Aaron, of New York, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade.

(The above nominations were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed, subject to the nominees' commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.)

By Mr. THURMOND, from the Committee on Armed Services:

Jacques Gansler, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology.

John E. Mansfield, of Virginia, to be a member of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board for a term expiring October 18, 2001.

The following-named officer for appointment in the U.S. Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, United States Code, section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Steward E. Cranston, 0000.

The following-named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the