

equal opportunities in education, the work place, equal compensation for comparable work and, above all, equal participation in decision-making structures. No doubt after many false starts and strenuous efforts, progress has been made, albeit slowly, in all fields. The latest achievement that I can briefly mention is the incorporation of an equality clause of the Amsterdam Treaty entered upon by members of the European Union and which, I am proud to say, was ratified only days ago by the Greek parliament. This Treaty makes equality of genders in the European Union a legal, social and political reality. As the Treaty States (article 2) states, "equality between women and men is now part of the mission of the European Union." Yet, in spite of all progress, we are far from the final goal of complete equality between men and women. As far as laws, rules and regulations are concerned, we are fully equal! In practice, matters are quite different. It is hardly a "militant stance" to note that:

In almost every country the working woman continues to maintain two careers, home and the work place without compensation and often without moral recognition.

Women's unemployment, at least in Europe, is double that of men and concerns younger, female university graduates.

The presence of women in Cabinet level positions is poor and symbolic rather than substantive.

These facts suggest that equality between the sexes remains an elusive goal. And I do not believe this goal will be reached unless all human beings are given the opportunity to make their contributions through full participation at all levels of government and wherever economic, political and social issues are decided.

Conservative women know where inequality exists and have the solutions to the problem. It is to be found in the gross under representation of women in all public institutions. Thus, while the women make up 51% of the global population, the world average of women in parliaments, for example, is 12.3%. In the European Parliament itself, out of a total of 626 members only 173, or 27.6% are women, while the average of the national assemblies of member states of the EU is only 21.4%. The gap between countries is even greater. Under representation is higher in the southern countries, while the northern ones have made remarkable strides in the past three decades. In Sweden, for example, women make up 40.4% of the Parliament, in Denmark 30.3% and in Germany 25.7%. The picture changes dramatically as we look south. Greece, with an electorate of 52% women has only 6% women members in the current parliament.

The situation is similar for participation in high government positions: Sweden, again has a cabinet divided equally among men and women: 39% of cabinet posts in Finland and 35% in Denmark are held by women. In Greece, in a fifty member cabinet, only three posts are occupied by women.

These figures show that there is a deficit in the democratic game of politics and a surplus of explanations of its causes.

Some have argued that culture has been the culprit that discourages women from pursuing public office. There is some truth to this and similar arguments as well as to the argument that the system itself has something to do with it. It is a system built by men and its rules and regulations reflect its origins. As designed, the political system is more like a "hunting adventure" rather than a family game. Power, not sensibility or efficiency seem to be its main characteristic. Of course, all women that take part in the existing political game, must learn the man-made rules and how to use

them to their advantage. In short, they must learn to "hunt" or risk becoming spectators of someone else's game. We have come too far and have too much at stake to accept such a fate.

Finally, let me conclude with some tentative answers to the question what can be done? Well, as I stated at the beginning there is a general need to redefine the identity, the goals and methods of Center and Center-Right political parties. And there is a greater need to reassess women's roles in the cultural field so as to become full participants in the ongoing debate about values. I believe ultimately it will be the outcome of what some people call the "cultural wars" that will shape global political and by extension, economic agendas. Though I am not a proponent of a "women" made political system I, nevertheless, believe that women can restructure, sensitize and adapt the existing one with a view of making it fully democratic. This can be achieved, with emphasis on full participation in all levels of government and full use of women's imagination, sensitivity, efficiency and intellect to improve the human condition.

Unless women work for the day when they can place their own seal on the political system, the Margaret Thatchers and Madeleine Albrights, will be looked upon as an alibi for the maintenance of the status quo.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES ABBOTT

HON. STEVEN T. KUYKENDALL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 1999

Mr. KUYKENDALL. Mr. Speaker, my district recently lost one of its most committed residents, Charles H. Abbott, Jr. I rise today to honor his memory and to acknowledge the legacy that he leaves behind for Rancho Palos Verdes.

When I received the news about Charley's untimely passing, my immediate reaction was one of pure disbelief. Charley had been my friend for 15 years. As I entered the political arena, Charley became a trusted advisor; I sought out his judgment and wisdom because he knew, better than most, the problems and issues facing the community. Importantly, he had suggestions to improve all of our lives. His unexpected death hits close to home because he was one of the most active, vital people I knew. His death causes me to reflect on my own mortality.

I attach a memorial that appeared in one of the local papers about Charley. It eloquently summarizes Charley's life and contributions. Charley's legacy lives on through the dedicated service to the public demonstrated by his family, his sons in particular. He touched the lives of many children in the community, through his years of athletic coaching, leaving a little piece of himself with each one of his athletes. Charley had an active charity agenda, and like his athletes, each charity on which he served is a better, stronger organization for his dedicated service. As a civil engineer, Charley certainly left his enduring presence on the city of Rancho Palos Verdes where he served in numerous professional capacities.

I celebrate my friend Charley and will miss him. I offer my support and deepest sympathies to his family. To each and every one of my constituents, I challenge them to follow

Charley's practice of caring enough about the community to get involved.

REMEMBERING CHARLEY

By Mary Jane Schoenheider

I, like many of you, have lost a good friend. Charles Abbott, known to all of us as Charley, was called to his Maker on Monday evening, April 26 while he was working out on his treadmill before retiring for the night. He had spent a good part of that day doing what he most enjoyed; playing golf. This just happened to be the Rolling Hills Covenant Church Golf Tournament, but it could have been one of many he participated in throughout the years.

Charley loved his work as a civil engineer, he loved his family, he loved his community and he loved life. He gave back over and over again to countless causes with both his time and talents. Everyone always knew you could count on Charlie, be it as a coach for his two sons' baseball and soccer teams in their early years on the Peninsula, or for the past two years participating in his Rotary Club's service project as a volunteer tutor for the kids in Harbor Hills 4H after school program. His energy and involvement seemed to be endless.

My closest association with Charley and his wife Sue came in the past three years as we shared the experience as host parents for Rotary Exchange students.

With both of their boys away at college, Charley and Sue became Dad and Mom to three young women, Malina from Denmark, and Malen and Linda both from Sweden. All three of these girls touched Charley's heart and became his "adopted" daughters for life.

The Thursday evening prior to his passing, Charley presided as President at the Community Association of the Peninsula (CAP) Annual Meeting. Many of us were there listening to the light West Virginia drawl, and wit that was uniquely Charley's.

It is never fair when someone like Charley is taken in the prime of his life at 58. He and Sue were looking forward to a trip to Denmark and Sweden, his son Charlie's wedding this summer and to retirement in a couple of years to the home they recently built at La Quinta. We who are left to carry on will do so in memory of a man who gave so much of himself to his community, and loved doing it. You're a Good Man, Charley Abbott.

Funeral services were held at Peninsula Baptist Church on April 30 with interment at Green Hills Memorial Park. Charley is survived by his wife Susan, a teacher at Peninsula High School, his two sons, Charlie and Mark, his father Charles Abbott Sr. and two brothers. Donations in memory of Charley may be made to Harbor Hills 4H Community Center c/o Palos Verdes Peninsula Rotary Club, P.O. Box 296, Palos Verdes Estates, CA 90274 or to Hospice Foundation, 2601 Airport Drive, Suite 110B, Torrance, CA 90505.

INDIA IS USING CHEMICAL WEAPONS IN KASHMIR; U.S. SHOULD STOP ITS PRO-INDIA TILT

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 1999

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I was disturbed to find out that India has been using chemical weapons in its war against the freedom fighters of Kashmir. Reuters, CNN, the BBC, the Associated Press, and others have all reported that India fired chemical weapons

shells into Pakistan. Remember that India's nuclear tests last year started the nuclear arms race in South Asia, which is very destabilizing to our ally Pakistan, to India, the subcontinent, and the world.

In recent days, there have been news reports of a mass exodus from border villages in Punjab, the homeland of the Sikhs. According to at least one report, 70 percent of the population of these villages has fled. These Sikhs are apparently afraid that India's war on the freedom fighters will spread to Punjab. There are good reasons to believe this. India sent a new deployment of troops to Punjab, Khalistan. These troops are on top of the half-million troops who were already stationed in Punjab to suppress the Sikh freedom movement.

Mr. Speaker, this situation is entirely India's responsibility. India that started the conflict in Kargil to wipe out the freedom movement in Kashmir and scare the other freedom movements into submitting to Indian rule. India introduced nuclear weapons to South Asia last year and introduced chemical weapons into this conflict. These are weapons of mass destruction, Mr. Speaker. India has brought these weapons of mass destruction to South Asia. Why do we still give aid from American tax dollars to India?

Recently an Indian colonel admitted that Indian soldiers are "dying like dogs." India is losing this war in Kargil, while it loudly proclaims victory. As India's desperation increases, the situations gets more dangerous. It is feared that India will use its new deployment in Punjab, Khalistan to invade Pakistan in an attempt to cut off the Kashmiris' supply lines.

Mr. Speaker, we all salute the President for his attempt to keep the fighting from escalating, but there seems to be a pro-India tilt to our effort and to our policy in the region. Yet India denies self-determination and other basic human rights to the Kashmiris, the Sikhs of Khalistan, the Christians of Nagaland, and the other occupied nations of South Asia. When basic human rights are denied, we have an obligation to help people reclaim their rights. We should be working for peace, freedom, and self-determination. We should not be aligned with India, which remains one of the world's worst human-rights violators.

Let this Congress do whatever we can to support democracy, self-determination, peace, and stability in the subcontinent. We should impose sanctions on India, cut off American aid to India, and pass a resolution stating our support for a free and fair plebiscite under international supervision in Punjab, Khalistan, in Kashmir, in Nagaland, and everywhere else that the people seek their freedom. I am proud to have co-sponsored such a resolution in the last Congress. This is the right time to take these measures when they will have the greatest effect. Let us take these measures to support freedom.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert the Council of Khalistan's press release on India's chemical weapons use into the RECORD.

INDIA USING CHEMICAL WEAPONS IN ITS WAR AGAINST KASHMIRI FREEDOM FIGHTERS; NOW IS THE TIME TO FREE KHALISTAN

WASHINGTON, DC, June 14—Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, today condemned India for using chemical weapons in its war against the Kashmiri freedom fighters at Kargil. Reu-

ters, BBC, CNN, Associated Press, and other news sources have reported that India fired chemical weapons shells into Pakistan. The Pakistani Foreign Minister said that his country had found Indian chemical shells that were fired across the border.

Dr. Aulakh condemned "this irresponsible and dangerous action. India is using these weapons despite being a signatory to the Chemical Weapons Convention," he noted. "So far these weapons have only caused skin irritations, shortness of breath, and other minor health problems," he said, "but the potential dangers are frightening."

"Remember that India started this war to suppress the Kashmiri freedom movement," Dr. Aulakh said. He took note of an India Today report that the war is costing India 15 core (150 million) rupees each day. "Apparently, no amount of blood or money is too great for the Indian government," he said.

"America took action against Iraq for using chemical weapons in its war against Kuwait," he pointed out. "Why does America continue to support India with aid and trade?" he asked. "The United Nations should impose strong sanctions on India for this brutal act," he added.

"The news that India is using chemical weapons is very disturbing, not only to the people of Kashmir but to the people of Punjab, Khalistan," he said. "India, the country which started the nuclear arms race in South Asia, is now using weapons of mass destruction," he said. According to Kashmiri leaders, India also used chemical weapons against them in 1994.

"This terrorist act shows India's desperation to keep its artificial borders intact," Dr. Aulakh said. "India is losing this war," he said. "One Indian Army colonel admitted that Indian troops are 'dying like dogs.' I call on Sikh soldiers not to fire on Kashmiri freedom fighters," he said. "I urge Sikh soldiers to join the Sikh freedom movement and liberate Khalistan."

"I cannot help but think that these attacks are related to the massive evacuations of 37 villages along the border in Punjab," he said. "It is not the Pakistanis the villagers are afraid of," he said, "it is expansion of India's terrorist war into Punjab, Khalistan."

"In war, people get killed, and that is unfortunate," Dr. Aulakh said. "Countries that are moral and democratic do not deliberately kill civilians," he said. The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984. India has also murdered over 200,000 Christians in Nagaland since 1947, more than 60,000 Muslims in Kashmir since 1988, and tens of thousands of Assamese, Manipuris, Dalits ("black untouchables"), Tamils, and others.

"Freedom struggles don't go away," he said. "Just as India cannot suppress Kashmir's freedom struggle with weapons of mass destruction, the freedom struggle in Khalistan will go on until Khalistan is free," he said. "Now is the moment for the Sikh Nation to liberate Khalistan with the help of the Sikh soldiers. It is time to rebel. Khalsa Bagi Yan Badshah."

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS OF GEORGE SOROS AT THE PAUL H. NITZE SCHOOL OF ADVANCED INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 1999

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, this is the season of commencement speeches. Many of

them deserve the oblivion that most of them receive. There are a few, however, that are particularly worthy of note. One outstanding exception was the commencement address given by my friend George Soros at the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies of Johns Hopkins University on May 27th of this year.

Mr. Soros has used this commencement address as an opportunity to give us his thoughtful and incisive reflections on the current conflict in Kosova and the broader significance of that conflict for the international system as the world enters the 21st century. It is ironic that the end of the Cold War has brought about a significant reduction in the threat of major confrontation involving the United States directly, but at the same time we have seen an increase in the violence of regional ethnic and religious conflicts, such as that in Kosova. George Soros has given considerable critical thought to the role of the United States in the post-Cold War era, and his thoughts are useful for all of us here in the Congress who must grapple with the question of the appropriate international role for the United States.

A successful international financier and investment advisor, George Soros is a major philanthropist with a focus on encouraging the development of the infrastructure and culture necessary for democratic societies. He established the Open Society Foundation which operates a number of foundations throughout Central and Eastern Europe, South Africa, and the United States. These foundations are helping to build the infrastructure and institutions of a free and open and democratic society through supporting a variety of educational, cultural and economic restructuring activities. A native of Budapest, Hungary, and a current citizen of the United States, Mr. Soros brings a personal insight to the problems of South-eastern Europe and the world.

Mr. Speaker, I submit George Soros' commencement address to be placed in the RECORD, and I invite my colleagues to give it thoughtful attention.

PAUL H. NITZE SCHOOL OF ADVANCED INTERNATIONAL STUDIES, JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

COMMENCEMENT SPEECH DELIVERED BY GEORGE SOROS, MAY 27, 1999

A commencement speech is meant to be inspirational and I am not sure whether I can deliver such a speech because I am stunned and devastated by what is happening in Kosova. I am deeply involved in that part of the world and what is happening there has raised in my mind a lot of questions to which, frankly speaking, I don't have the answers. I feel obliged to reconsider some of my own most cherished preconceptions.

I am a believer in what I call an open society which is basically a broader and more universal concept of democracy. Open society is based on the recognition that nobody has access to the ultimate truth; perfection is unattainable and therefore we must be satisfied with the next best thing; a society that holds itself open to improvement. An open society allows people with different views, identities and interests to live together in peace. An open society transcends boundaries; it allows intervention in the internal affairs of sovereign states because people living in an oppressive regime often cannot defend themselves against oppression without outside intervention but the intervention must be confined to supporting the people living in a country to attain their legitimate aspirations, not to impose a particular ideology or to subjugate one state to