

So back to the good news. The good news is there is more attention to it. I say hurrah to the President for the last two State of the Union speeches, saying let us put Social Security first and so the Republican leadership, the Democrats, all of us in Congress have said, good idea, let us put Social Security first but we have not done it yet. We have not come up with the kind of proposals that are going to keep Social Security solvent.

Next Wednesday at 11 a.m. in room 210, Mr. Speaker, I will be announcing my Social Security bill that does just that. It keeps Social Security solvent into the future. It is not easy. To pretend that somehow the Social Security trust fund and the promise that government has made that it will somehow pay that trust fund money back is going to save Social Security is not true. It is not right. It will not work. Somehow, we have got to increase benefits for widows and widowers that are asked to substantially reduce their money coming in from Social Security as they try to survive. I think we are challenged with a situation that Congress does not usually react and do something unless the people of this country demand that something be done. That has not happened yet. There needs to be better information. There needs to be more understanding that at risk are future generations and current retirees if we do not step up to the plate and solve Social Security now.

MARKING 100TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF H. HORWITZ CO., CHICAGO'S OLDEST FAMILY-OWNED JEWELER

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NEY). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of Chicago's finest and most longstanding family-owned businesses, the H. Horwitz Company, jewelers since 1899. 1999 marks the 100th year anniversary of H. Horwitz Company, Chicago's oldest family-owned jeweler. Founder Hyman Horwitz emigrated to the United States from Russia in 1895, equipped with a jeweler's training and desire to start his own business. At first, his one-room loop shop handled only jewelry repairs. But it soon blossomed into a thriving boutique that in addition to gems, provided gainful employment for a passel of Horwitz's Russian Jewish brothers and sisters. Scooping Service Merchandise by decades, he sold his diamonds alongside luggage, radios and cameras from the 1930s through the 1960s through his jewels values catalog. Horwitz and his son Donald, who ran the shop until 1998, experimented from the start with cutting edge jewelry designs. Theirs was one of the first companies to produce the pearl mystery clasp, a setting in which a necklace or bracelet clasp is drilled into two pearls, allowing them to screw

together. The all around channel setting, now a common setting for diamond rings, was another pioneering step forward in jewelry design for the company.

This spirit of innovation also characterized Hyman Horwitz's humanitarian interest. In addition to supporting several Chicago charitable organizations, such as the Shrine Foundation and Chicago's Scholarship Fund, Horwitz created a custom braille watch to give to the blind of Chicago. This watch was made to size with the bracelet band and engraved with the name on the back. Of the luminaries who have shopped at H. Horwitz, least surprising is the one famous for his diamond fetish, Liberace. Other patrons have included former Illinois Governor Otto Kerner, Henry Youngman, Archbishop Samuel Cardinal Stritch, Chicago's Goldblatt family and insurance magnate and philanthropist W. Clement Stone.

Now run by Donald's wife Phyllis and son Craig, H. Horwitz and Company continues to offer fine jewelry at a discount. The company also imports all of its diamonds and precious gems directly from diamond cutters.

Mr. Speaker, 100 years is a long time, especially is it a long time to own and operate a business in one of the Nation's finest cities, Chicago, the windy city, city of the big shoulders, the city of neighborhoods. Yes, Chicago, the home of Horwitz jewelers. Yes, Ms. Phyllis Horwitz, we salute you and your family for an outstanding century of providing services to Chicagoans and all of those who have come to know of your service, professionalism and contributions to humanity. We say congratulations. We wish you well as you continue down the road to success. You are makers of history and we are pleased that you are a part of our community and that you prepare and distribute some of the finest jewelry in the world.

"CUBA PROGRAM," TORTURING OF AMERICAN POWs BY CUBAN AGENTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, the Geneva Convention prohibits violence to life and person, in particular murders of all kinds, mutilation, cruel treatment and torture and outrages upon personal dignity, in particular humiliating and degrading treatment. That is an exact quote.

However, all of those barbaric acts are exactly what took place in a prison camp in North Vietnam known as the Zoo, seen here in a declassified photo. North Vietnamese POW prison called the Zoo, site of tortures of American POWs by Castro agent. During this period of August 1967 to August 1968, 19 of our courageous servicemen were physically and psychologically tortured by

Cuban agents working under orders from Hanoi and Havana.

Assessed to be a psychological experiment to test interrogation methods, the Cuba Program, as the torture project was labeled by our Defense Department and intelligence agencies, was aimed at obtaining absolute compliance and submission to captor demands. It was aimed at converting or turning the POWs and to be used as propaganda by the international Communist effort. It was inhumane. It was incessant. It was barbaric.

Air Force Major James Kasler, who is pictured here in one of the posters, 19 of the U.S. POWs in the Cuban program, Major Kasler said that during one period in June 1968 he was tortured incessantly by a man known as Fernando Vecino Alegret who had been identified as Fidel, the Cuban agent in charge of this exercise in brutality. In a Time magazine report entitled "At Last the Story Can Be Told," after one beating, Kasler's buttocks, lower back and legs hung in shreds. The skin had been entirely whipped away and the area was a bluish, purplish, greenish mass of bloody raw meat. The person he has identified as the possible torturer is this man who is the current Minister of Education in Cuba. He could be one of the agents identified by our POWs as Fidel.

Colonel Jack Bomar, another victim of the Cuba Program, pictured here, has described the beating of a fellow prisoner and Readers Digest printed this eyewitness account for an article they wrote on POWs. It says, The sight of the prisoner stunned Bomar. He stood transfixed trying to make himself believe that human beings could batter one another. The man could barely walk. He was bleeding everywhere. His body was ripped and torn. Fidel, Fernando Vecino Alegret perhaps, smashed a fist into the man's face, driving him against the wall. Then he was brought to the center of the room and made to go down on his knees. Screaming in rage, Fidel took a length of rubber hose from a guard and lashed it as hard as he could into the man's face. The prisoner did not react. He did not cry out or even blink an eye. Again and again a dozen times Fidel smashed the man's face with the hose. He was never released.

This man who stood firm in the face of such brutality, who would not surrender himself to the wishes of his torturer was Air Force pilot Earl Cobeil. Earl Cobeil died in captivity, and he is pictured here. As a result of being tortured by a Castro agent, Earl passed away.

These accounts are but a microcosm of the terrible acts committed against American POWs in Vietnam by Castro agents, acts which are in direct violation of the Geneva Convention on prisoners of war. To violate the provisions enshrined in this document run against the grain of civilized society and undermine the integrity of the international community as a whole. Humanity is one. When one suffers, we all

suffer. Thus, violations of this protocol are not just crimes against one individual but against all of humanity.

The Cuba Program was part of a difficult period in our Nation's history, one which many would like to forget. However, we cannot allow the suffering of those brave soldiers to have been in vain. Thus, the unconscionable acts which they were subjected to cannot and must not go unnoticed and they must not go unpunished.

Substantiated by declassified DOD and CIA documents, survivors have been eager to identify and trace the Cuban agents who systematically interrogated them and tortured their fellow Americans. Yet despite their best efforts, a successful resolution of this matter has still not been achieved.

For them and to ensure that the facts about the program are fully uncovered, the Committee on International Relations will be holding a hearing on this issue next week. We thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) for his leadership in order to get leads that could get us closer to identification of the Cuban torturers and have the Department of Defense continue their investigation into this new evidence. We hope that this hearing will serve to honor all of those POWs who sacrificed themselves for us.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Guam (Mr. UNDERWOOD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. UNDERWOOD addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. CAPUANO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. CAPUANO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

EXPORTATION OF TECHNOLOGY REGARDING SUPERCOMPUTERS AND ENCRYPTION SOFTWARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. SMITH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, rapid advances in technology have presented challenges to all of us on a number of levels but one of the most profound challenges that our Nation faces is in the area of national security. These rapid advances in technology place new challenges to our

folks who are trying to protect our Nation and protect our security interests as they try to figure out how to deal with this new technology. As technology changes basically the old rules do not apply but the challenge that faces us is figuring out what the new rules are. How do we deal with the changes in technology in a way that will protect our national security? The area that I want to talk about this afternoon is in the area of the exportation of certain technology, namely supercomputers or so-called supercomputers, today a lap top almost qualifies as a supercomputer by the old standards, in fact a few of them do, and also the exportation of encryption software, the software that helps encode messages and protect it from outside sources gaining access.

In the old days, the method for protecting national security was, if a new weapon was developed on a horizon that presented a threat to us, one of the things we tried to do was to make sure that nobody else had access to it. If it is a product that is developed in the U.S., we try to severely restrict the exportation of that product.

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That is, in fact, what we have done with encryption software and with supercomputers. We have placed severe restrictions for years on the ability of U.S. companies to export either something that is classified as a supercomputer or encryption software to any place outside the United States, and these restrictions were intended to prevent that technology from getting into the hands of other people.

This has not worked, and I rise today to offer a better solution and to offer a solution that will best protect our national security, and that is the critical point here. It is not my argument that we should export this stuff because it is good commercially and the national security losses are minimal. On the contrary, it is my argument that if we do not allow greater exportation of this technology, our national security will be threatened, and let me explain that.

It is threatened by two realities. One of them is ubiquity. What that means is that things become easily accessible anywhere in the world. It used to be that a supercomputer was a rather large cumbersome series of machines and boxes that were very difficult to put together and even more difficult to transport. That is no longer the case. You can put together a supercomputer now with the chip that is really basically about the size of the tip of my finger; put together that, pull together seven or eight of those chips, and you have a computer capable of something way beyond what any computer was capable of even a decade ago. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, controlling this becomes very, very difficult.

In addition to being small and easily transportable, the other thing that has happened is a lot of other countries have started to catch up in the area of

technology. If you want to buy the computer chips that will put together a supercomputer, you do not have to come to the U.S. You have literally hundreds of other options. So we in the U.S. are not able to restrict that. We can restrict our own exports, but that does not stop other countries from having companies develop that product.

It is even more true in the area of encryption software. Encryption software is now produced by over a hundred countries. If you want access to top-of-the-line encryption, you can get it from dozens of other places other than the United States of America. We are powerless to control it.

Now you may argue, well, so what? At least we can do our part. We can control what the U.S. exports and, therefore, protect national security, at least to the best that we are able. But the problem with that is the second key point I would like to make, and that is something that everybody acknowledges from the FBI to the NSA to the most ardent opponents of exporting technology. They all acknowledge that one of the keys to our national security is for the U.S. to maintain its leadership in technology, and the reason for this is obvious.

Technology is critical to our national security. If we are developing the best encryption software, the best computers here in the U.S., then our FBI, our NSA, our national security and Armed Forces units will have access to that information that they will not have if some other country develops it; and if we allow our countries to get ahead of us in the area of both supercomputers and encryption technology, pretty soon nobody will be buying from the U.S. because we will not have the best product. Our industries will die and we will not have access to the best technology.

Now recently, after years, the White House has stepped up and expanded our ability to export both supercomputers and encryption technology. I rise today to make the critical point that that is a good move not just for our industry, not just for jobs in the U.S., which is not an insignificant concern, but it is also a good move for our national security, and I want folks to understand that because I think for too long we have been stuck in thinking that has long since been passed by technology.

We cannot wrap our arms around technology and keep it here in the U.S.; those days are gone. If we want to protect our national security, we need to maintain our leadership in both the development of the best computers in the world and the development of the best encryption software in the world, and the only way to do that is give U.S. companies access to the foreign markets they so desperately need to maintain that leadership.

I am very pleased as a member of the new Democratic Network that the new Democratic Coalition and Caucus have so much to do with pushing this issue, making the White House aware of it,