

ANTI-SEMITISM IN RUSSIA

• Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to voice my condemnation of anti-Semitic statements given by Communist Party members of the Russian Duma. I believe that this is an important issue that must be addressed.

The Russian Federation vowed to fight against such discrimination when joining the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). In order to maintain this commitment, the Russian Duma must censure those in its ranks failing to comply with the recognized OSCE resolution.

In the U.S., Congress has joined international organizations and the world community in denouncing the anti-Semitic statements. House Concurrent Resolution 37 asserts that Congress condemns the statements; commends President Boris Yeltsin and other members of the Russian Duma for rebuking the anti-Semitic statements; and reiterates our firm belief that such discrimination is counterproductive to efforts toward true peace and justice. Furthermore, in dialogue with Russian leaders the U.S. has the opportunity to combat this hate-filled rhetoric. I believe it is of the utmost priority that the anti-Semitic statements be given proper attention in discussions with Russian leaders.

I urge my colleagues to join me in not only supported House Concurrent Resolution 37, but also in signing onto the letter to Vice-President AL GORE raising the issue of anti-Semitism with Prime Minister Primakove.●

50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF BARBARA AND HAROLD HARRIS

• Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Barbara and Harold Harris on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary.

Barbara Harris has dedicated herself to educating young people in America in the principles of representative government, imparting to them the virtues of citizenship and democracy, developing in them the values of leadership and civic responsibility.

She has pursued this dedication throughout her career, first as an educator in public schools where her personal interest and commitment shaped the lives of thousands of students, and subsequently as a co-founder of the Congressional Youth Leadership Council and the National Youth Leadership Forum, bold initiatives to carry her message of achievement and citizenship to tens of thousands of the Nation's best and brightest young adults. This Congress and the Nation are indebted to her for these efforts and for her contribution to enhancing our two centuries old experiment in self-government. Throughout this distinguished career, Barbara has benefited from the dedication, strength, and devotion of her beloved husband Harold.

I ask my fellow colleagues to please join me in congratulating Barbara and

Harold on this most auspicious occasion.●

RECOGNITION OF THE OREGON PARTNERSHIP

• Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, I rise today in recognition of an extraordinary group of people in my state who are working each day to protect our children and teenagers from the dangers of alcohol and drug abuse.

The Oregon Partnership, led by Executive Director, Judy Cushing, is the only nonprofit statewide network of drug prevention services available to every community—rural and urban—throughout Oregon.

While we may talk about the importance of drug abuse prevention programs on the floor of the Senate, the staff at the Oregon Partnership are turning words into action with very limited federal resources. Their accomplishments and allegiance to the thousands whom they serve, deserves respect and additional federal support.

Formed in 1993, the Partnership is governed by a volunteer, 12-member Board of Directors and has a statewide volunteer base of 500 educators, parents, youth, health professionals, business and faith leaders. Together, they share a common goal—to help the young people of Oregon help themselves and their peers—to lead productive and drug-free lives.

Through these combined efforts, this group of dedicated volunteers is truly a partnership. With 73 coalitions that reach across the state of Oregon, the Partnership empowers communities at a grassroots level through a strong support network of resources including media relations assistance, event planning and training that targets the local needs of each community. In addition, the Partnership's resource center provides communities and families with materials that provide answers to questions about alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. The Partnership also maintains a website that provides details about other available resources, materials and programs.

Recognizing that information is only effective when it is available, the Oregon Partnership houses the only statewide 24-hour helpline with person-to-person contact every day. The HelpLine/YouthLine currently responds to 2,000 calls per month from substance abusers, family members and friends who are searching for referral assistance and information about treatment programs and services within their local area.

What is truly exemplary about the Oregon Partnership, is that it provides these services through its network of volunteers. More than fifty professionally trained volunteers provide confidential counseling, information and local treatment referral for chemical dependence and other addictions. Sixty percent of the volunteers are college and graduate students pursuing counseling careers.

Mr. President, I believe that the Oregon Partnership is an example of what Congress intended for the use of federal drug prevention dollars. Unlike any other program in our state, the Oregon Partnership is the resource that serves as the link that keeps the chain from prevention programs to treatment strong. The Oregon Partnership is our first line of defense and the kind voice at the end of the phone that says, "Yes, we can help."

For these reasons and many more, I would like to take this opportunity to formally thank the directors, members and volunteers of the Oregon Partnership for their dedication and gracious, generous service to the people of Oregon as they work to eliminate drug abuse throughout our state: Judy Cushing, Joyce Adams-Malin, Lloyd Duncan, Jennifer Fogelman, Jill Showalter, Kileen Deatherage, Penny Labberton, Elizabeth Buskirk, Mary Ellen Apostol, Michelle Kromm, Ericka Ziettlow, Jennie Donnelly, Karla Bate- man.●

DEMINING IN NICARAGUA AND HONDURAS

• Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, last night, the Senate passed the Supplemental Appropriations bill, which, among other things, contains funding for hurricane relief for Central America. I am very pleased that the Supplemental also specifies that up to \$2,000,000 should be made available for humanitarian demining activities in Nicaragua and Honduras. Hurricane Mitch has greatly exacerbated the problem of anti-personnel landmines in both countries. An estimated 100,000 mines were placed in the Nicaraguan-Honduran border area in the 1980's by Sandanista and Contra soldiers. Demining activities to date have been diligent, but painstakingly slow, as over 70,000 mines continue to threaten the population.

While the problem has certainly been very serious, at least the areas which contained these mines in both countries were reasonably well known. Until Hurricane Mitch, that is. Mudslides and the tremendous volume of water that accompanied the hurricane have carried mines into areas not previously contaminated. Two Nicaraguan civilians were killed last fall by a mine in an area never thought to hold them previously. A U.S. Army study confirmed the new threat in many areas of Nicaragua.

Imagine, Mr. President, the impact on reconstruction efforts in these devastated countries if an American or other foreign national working to rebuild the infrastructure should be injured or killed by a mine.

Other Senators may be surprised to hear that one of the most effective ways to demine these areas is the use of man-dog teams. The explosive material in mines emit a gas, which dogs can be trained to detect. Once a mine is detected, the dog is trained to immediately stop and sit, and conventional

demining can begin. Conventional demining amounts to metal detection, a painstakingly slow process which may detect thousands of discarded metal items for every mine found. Most surface area scanned for mines never had any to begin with. But the fear of mines keeps native populations from utilizing the land. Dogs can radically speed the process, and focus the efforts of human deminers into areas which actually contain mines.

The Marshall Legacy Institute, responding to a request from the Inter-American Defense Board, has proposed putting additional man-dog teams into Central America to speed the reconstruction process. The proposal has the support of the Humane Society, and I hope the Administration will give serious consideration to supporting this proposal with these supplemental funds.●

TRIBUTE TO A UTAH NATIVE

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I rise today to note a significant event in the life of a native son of Utah and for those of us here in Washington. After working for over thirty years in government and private service, Anthony T. Cluff is leaving the leadership role he has held at one of the preeminent trade groups in Washington, The Bankers Roundtable.

Few individuals have contributed so much to this city.

Tony worked as an economist at the Treasury Department and later with the American Bankers Association and the Securities Industry Association. Then he spent 8 years on Capitol Hill as a member of the Senate Banking Committee staff and served several years as Minority Staff Director under Senator John Tower of Texas. He also served as a staff member to my father here in the Senate.

For nearly two decades he has steered the association that represents the nation's leading banks—The Bankers Roundtable and its predecessor, the Association of Reserve City Bankers. During his tenure, he has elevated the prominence of the group, enhanced its message and provided his members with important professional guidance. Under his leadership, the Roundtable expanded its range of activities and took leadership roles in interstate banking legislation, payments system regulation, environmental liability reforms and addressing the challenges of new technology for the banking industry. Most of all, Tony imparted to the association and its staff his values of hard work, doing what is right and speaking the truth; these values are reflected in the approaches that the association takes in working with government.

Tony Cluff was born in Logan, Utah, and has maintained his ties to Utah despite spending most of his time in Washington. For though he has many responsibilities here, many of his family and friends remain in Utah and the West.

With long service to his country and to the industry he has represented, Tony is leaving The Bankers Roundtable to pursue other interests that will afford him more time to write, to be with his children and grandchildren and to enjoy life a bit more. He leaves his work "on top," with an unblemished record and with the knowledge that there are many in this city and throughout the country indebted to him.

I want to wish Tony and his family the very best and express my thanks for all that he has done.●

KOSOVO RESOLUTION

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, on Tuesday morning, the President made it clear that efforts to achieve a negotiated political solution to the Kosovo crisis had failed and that military action in the form of NATO conducted air strikes employing US military equipment and personnel was imminent. Although I am very disappointed that the President did not include congressional leaders much earlier in this important debate, the fact remains that the President has begun the process, under his authority as Commander-in-Chief, which will lead to air strikes and will put the men and women of our armed forces in harm's way. My vote supporting S. Con. Res. 21 was, therefore cast, for the express purpose of conveying support for our troops who, at this moment, are ready to risk their lives on this very dangerous mission. My vote should not be interpreted as an endorsement of or authorization for any escalation to more extensive involvement, such as the introduction of ground troops in this conflict. Indeed, before any such escalation of our military commitment in this crisis is contemplated, I believe the President should give Congress a more significant role in the debate than we have thus far and address many critical questions regarding US military involvement. Specifically, the President must clearly explain what US national security interests are at stake, the mission objectives of our military action, the cost and duration of the deployment, and overall exit strategy. Failure to consult with Congress on these important issues in a timely fashion would significantly affect the extent of my support for any subsequent, broader US involvement.●

SEVERE DROP IN PORK PRICES

● Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, I ask that two letters be printed in the RECORD. Senator BOND and I worked on an amendment to the supplemental appropriations bill that would help the plight of the hog farmers in the state of Missouri and across the nation.

The Missouri Farm Bureau, the Missouri Pork Producers, the American Farm Bureau, and National Pork Producers Council requested our assistance, and we have responded by work-

ing with the Appropriations Committee to get an amendment included in the supplemental appropriations bill that makes \$250 million available for farmers struggling to survive the severe drop in pork prices. Under the amendment, the U.S. Department of Agriculture would be provided with \$150 million new funds and would be given the authority to use another \$100 million, that the USDA already has, to help hog farmers.

It is the understanding of those of us that have offered this amendment today that the majority of the funds available to the Secretary of Agriculture will be used on behalf of our nation's pork farmers. Last year, all of the major commodity groups received disaster assistance, but the hog farmers received nothing.

The letters from the Missouri Farm Bureau, the American Farm Bureau, and the National Pork Producers Council define further the farmers' interest in our amendment.

The letters follow:

MISSOURI FARM BUREAU FEDERATION,
Jefferson City, MO, March 18, 1999.

Hon. JOHN ASHCROFT,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. CHRISTOPHER BOND,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATORS ASHCROFT AND BOND: On behalf of Missouri Farm Bureau, the state's largest general farm organization, I am writing to express our strong support of your efforts to make additional funding available to the U.S. Department of Agriculture for economic disaster payments to pork producers. We believe that waiving the existing cap on USDA Section 32 funds and appropriating an additional \$150 million to Section 32 will pave the way for the Secretary of Agriculture to provide much-needed relief to pork producers.

According to the University of Missouri, cash receipts for the U.S. pork industry are expected to average less than \$9 billion in 1998, a reduction of over \$4 billion from the 1997 level of \$13.2 billion. Although hog prices have recovered from the historic lows experienced over the October 1998–January 1999 period, they remain far below the average cost of production. Economists have now estimated the market failed to reflect normal supply and demand conditions last Fall when hog prices plummeted to 8 cents per pound. Studies indicate that under normal supply and demand conditions prices would have fallen to between \$25.87 a hundredweight and \$29.41 a hundredweight.

Funds that will be available for direct payments under Section 32 will not compensate pork producers for all the staggering losses experienced in recent months. However, these funds will enable producers to relieve some financial pressure making it easier to survive until profitability returns.

It is critical the Secretary of Agriculture understand the purpose of the pending amendment is to supplement existing Section 32 funds and provide emergency assistance to pork producers. We encourage the Secretary to work with Members of Congress and the agricultural community to develop the guidelines under which the funds will be administered. We do not support using the same parameters used for the recent Small Hog Operator Program.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

CHARLES E. KRUSE,
President.