

Mr. Speaker, please join me and the New Lothrop community in congratulating these women on their excellent talents and leadership skills.

THE GAMING INDUSTRY

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2000

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, you hear many arguments surrounding the gaming industry in America. Some have merit, some do not. Some criticism is deserved, some is not. Mr. Speaker, before I make my statement today I want to make it abundantly clear that while I am not an ardent proponent of the gaming industry nor an ardent foe of the gaming industry, I am an ardent foe of illegal activity in the gaming industry. Furthermore, I am an ardent support of consumer rights and consumer rights is exactly what I intend to discuss today.

At the heart of my comments today is how certain gaming companies treat their patrons and how they conduct business. I believe that the vast majority of casino owners play by the rules, treat their patrons fairly, and provide quality entertainment for individuals and families. I have talked with many of these businessmen over the years who have conducted themselves in such a professional manner. However, there are a few bad apples out there who don't play by the rules and that is just plain wrong.

One such example is the case of Suncruz casino's based out of Florida. Florida authorities, particularly Attorney General Butterworth have repeatedly reprimanded Suncruz casinos and its owner Gus Boulis for taking illegal bets, not paying out their customers properly and has had to take steps to prevent Suncruz from conducting operations all together. In fact, a few years ago the Broward County Sheriffs Office, under the supervision of Mr Butterworth, raided Suncruz ships seizing their equipment.

Mr. Speaker, how Suncruz Casinos and Gus Boulis conduct themselves with regard to Florida laws is very unnerving. But the consumer rights issue is even more disheartening. On December 1, 1998 the Broward County Sheriffs department announced that they had uncovered evidence that dealers on SunCruz ships were "cheating passengers by using incomplete decks of cards." This type of conduct gives the gaming industry a black eye and should not be tolerated.

Mr. Speaker, I want to repeat myself again. The vast majority of casino owners and operators are good honest people, but when an owner or operator stoops to this level to make a buck it hurts the public and it hurts the industry as a whole. I believe we can strike a balance here and our first step is to ensure that the average citizen is not hoodwinked by a dishonest casino operator.

There should be clear codes of conduct that are adhered to by every casino owner and operator. On the Ohio River we have gaming interests that run clean operations and provide quality entertainment. I don't want to see the actions of one bad apple in Florida, or anywhere else to affect the business aspect of this industry or hurt any innocent casino patron in our country.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that steps will be taken by the industry, and in the case of lawbreakers- by the appropriate authorities to weed out the bad apples so that we can protect consumers across the country.

WELCOMING PROBATE JUDGES

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2000

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to welcome members and guests of the National College of Probate Judges to the Capitol today.

The National College of Probate Judges is comprised of judicial office holders across the country who adjudicate estates of decedents, who appoint guardians for individuals with incapacities and who hear mental health cases and cases involving persons with developmental disabilities.

Recently, the College promulgated standards and model legislation addressing interstate transfers of guardianships and conservatorships. The College is sponsoring an International Conference on Courts and the Aging to be held in London in July in conjunction with the American Bar Association.

I am particularly happy to welcome Judge Richard E. Burke, president of the College, who resides in New Canaan, Connecticut and is a constituent of mine. I am equally pleased to acknowledge the contributions of the following office holders and members: Judge Mary Sheffield—Rolla, Missouri; Judge Nikkie DeShazzo—Dallas, Texas; Judge John Maher—Kingston, New Hampshire; Judge Haywood Barry—Lebanon, Tennessee; Judge Patsy Stone—Florence, South Carolina; Judge Larry Belskis—Columbus, Ohio; Judge Larry Kay—San Francisco, California; Judge Ray Eubanks—Spartanburg, South Carolina; Judge Frank Riddick—Huntsville, Alabama; and Judge John N. Kirkendell—Ann Arbor, Michigan.

CHRISTIAN EMBASSY 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ZACH WAMP

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2000

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, this month marks the 25th anniversary of the founding of Christian Embassy, a spiritual resource to government and diplomatic leadership in Washington. I would like to congratulate its founders, Dr. and Mrs. William R. Bright, and honor them for their commitment to serving those of us who are public servants in our Nation's Capital.

Dr. Bright is also the founder and president of Campus Crusade for Christ, of which Christian Embassy is a part. He has authored numerous books and articles on the Christian life and has received a host of awards, among them the 1996 Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion.

His wife, Vonette, is co-founder of Campus Crusade. Her commitment to prayer for our nation and work in the Kingdom of God is a tribute to their family.

Dr. and Mrs. Bright have spent many hours with political leaders in Washington, offering

encouragement and spiritual counsel. They feel strongly that leaders of integrity are vital in the task of strengthening the fabric of America and ensuring its stability for future generations.

In commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the inception of Christian Embassy, I ask my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to the vision and faith of its founders, Dr. and Mrs. William R. Bright.

CONGRATULATING THE PEOPLE OF TAIWAN FOR SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS AND REAFFIRMING UNITED STATES POLICY TOWARD TAIWAN AND PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2000

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 292. On March 18th the people of Taiwan went to the polls for only the second time in their history to elect a national president. The U.S. has been stalwart in its support of democracies throughout the world and it is only fitting for Congress to congratulate Chen Shui-bian and the people of Taiwan for upholding democracy in the elections. In their first transfer of power, the voters have spoken and voiced their support for Mr. Chen.

Holding an olive branch on election night, Mr. Chen stated his desire to invigorate negotiations with mainland China. A peaceful resolution that will preserve democracy in Taiwan must be pursued. I urge the Chinese government to reconsider its rejection of Mr. Chen's proposed peace summit.

China and Taiwan have a unique opportunity to showcase their economic strength in the region. If negotiations are stifled, the economic future of both countries will remain uncertain but political stability will determine their success in the new economy.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Mr. Chen and his party for their historic victory and urge him to continue on the road to peace and ask my colleagues to join me.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING THE DEVELOPMENTS IN KAZAKHSTAN

HON. MARSHALL "MARK" SANFORD

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2000

Mr. SANFORD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to my colleagues attention the nation of Kazakhstan. This young nation has emerged, under the leadership of its President Nursultan Nazarbayev, as a bastion of democracy and free market economics in Central Asia. I am entering into the RECORD two articles written recently by R. Emmett Tyrell, Jr. of the Conservative New Service who just returned from Kazakhstan reporting on that nation's ethnic and cultural diversity, its free media, and its strategic importance to the United States.

I recommend these two articles to my colleagues and ask them to join me in saluting Kazakhstan's struggle to right itself after 70 years of Soviet repression.

THE FORGOTTEN REPUBLICS

ASTANA, KAZAKHSTAN.—This is the capital of Kazakhstan, once one of the feared republics of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and the proving ground for much of the USSR's nuclear weaponry. Now it is a vast region—in terms of territory, the ninth largest nation on earth—populated by anti-Communists, many trained in Moscow. It was my pleasure the other day to visit the President's office and interview one of the country's most ardent anti-Communists, the President himself, Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev, a co-conspirator with Mikhail Gorbachev in the decomposition of the Soviet Union. Somehow Nazarbayev landed on his feet.

Entering the President's newly constructed offices with two other American journalists for a televised interview, I am reminded of how earnest the Yank journalists traveling abroad are in displaying their high journalistic standards. Was it Dan Rather who, at the beginning of an interview with the President of a recently constituted African republic, asked—pen poised above his note pad—"Mr. President, how exactly do you spell your name?" Oh, maybe it was not the earnest Dan. But surely some American at large in the faraway has popped such a question.

The journalists with whom I travel are not quite so self-conscious. In fact, we did not even ask Mr. Nazarbayev for his card. We remembered him from the last days of the Soviet Union. Now he is trying to bring stable, capitalistic growth to his country, to develop its rich natural resources (especially oil), to maintain cordial relations with the United States, and to ensure the development of a democratic regime in a country that was recently Communist and before that a collection of unstable principalities—mostly Moslem—governing nomadic tribes. This last goal is somewhat controversial. The President's critics, here and abroad, doubt his seriousness about making Kazakhstan democratic. Yet some of his critics abroad are obviously ill-informed.

A representative of the Helsinki Commission recently alleged that Kazakhstan has only two cardboard parties. It has four, apparently quite vital, political parties contending in the parliament alone. I have interviewed representatives from three, the last being an affable Communist, Professor (what did you expect?) Serikbolsyn A. Abdildin, chairman of the Kazakhstan Communist Party. We exchanged banter about the greatness of Marx. He was speaking of Karl, I of Groucho—though I also have a very high opinion of Harpo—who was a manifestly superior thinker than Karl, and whose philosophical errors led to at least a couple of hundred million fewer deaths. Professor Abdildin still thinks nothing of the hundred million or so whom Moscow's Marxists put to death. Mistakes were made, but now on to his new "social agenda."

On the outskirts of Astana there is a sobering monument that has been raised to the Kazakhstani victims of the Soviet concentration camps. Nazarbayev's government threw it up immediately following Kazakhstan's independence—there are not many Kazakhs in doubt as to the barbarism of "Soviet times," a barbarism that many Westerners missed.

Though Nazarbayev is coy as to precisely why he came to disrelish the Soviet system and what brought about its fall, he has

pushed pretty hard to eliminate it. He does say—as do most sophisticated Kazakhs—that by the 1980s he could see that, in economic terms, Marxism was a disaster. There can be no doubt he favors the market. "The planned economy," he tells us, did not respond to market conditions, which reminds me of all the progressive American economists who told us "the market" was a fiction of Milton Friedman's imagination. Let them consult the President of Kazakhstan and his Moscow-trained allies who are welcoming American corporations along with what he calls "small and middle-sized" businesses.

Nazarbayev returns to the theme of democracy. He complains that a State Department human rights report critical of his government is fraught with errors, errors that he insists our Ambassador has acknowledged. He wants his country to be "a strategic partner" with the United States. And the expresses concern over terrorists at his border who claim to be Islamic fundamentalists. Nazarbayev sees them less as pietists than as terrorists and brigands. He worries that they are a potential threat to Kazakhstan's economic development.

I cannot say with utter confidence that Kazakhstan is a completed democracy. It has a multiplicity of political parties competing among the electorate and in parliament. It has religious tolerance. Islam and Christianity are practiced in public. There is a free press gaining strength, though how free it is remains a question to me. It does seem that Kazakhstan is well on its way under Nazarbayev to economic development along market lines and to some sort of democracy that is a long way from its recent Soviet past. Many of Nazarbayev's critics in the West were not nearly so vocal in their denunciations of the Soviet Union's democratic failures as they are of Nazarbayev's alleged failures.

What can he do to escape their complaints? My advice is for him to announce that he is returning to the Communist fold. Furthermore, he is re-arming his nuclear weapons. Under him, Kazakhstan, once the fourth largest nuclear arsenal on earth, became the first nation in history to disarm its nuclear force. Now he is the target of the West's perfectionists. They never treated his Soviet predecessors so rudely. And the only people I have met in Kazakhstan who share their critique are an Islamic Kazakh nationalist and the amusing Professor Abdildin.

And allow me one final report. As Vladimir Putin makes his way to the Presidency of Russia, I have been asking prominent Kazakhs, many of whom visit Moscow frequently, as Kazakhstan remains part of the Commonwealth of Independent States, if his election might prefigure a return to Russian bellicosity. The Kazakhs, having suffered two centuries of Russian aggression, have more reason to fear such a turn of events than most peoples. Economic conditions in Russia will not allow renewed Soviet expansion, they tell me, and the Russians know it. Maybe the Russians do not even yearn for such grim days. Mr. Putin, however, strikes me as an unusual world leader. He is tight-lipped in public. The roll of his shoulders when he walks should remind us that he is a conditioned athlete, a practitioner of the martial arts. One hopes he gets sufficient exercise in the gym.

[From the Washington Times, March 24, 2000]

AMERICAN MODEL FOR KAZAKHS

R. Emmett Tyrrell Jr.

ASTANA, Kazakhstan.—I am freezing here in the snow-covered capital of what was until 1991 one of the fearsome republics of the now-defunct U.S.S.R.

Kazakhstan had a large army, the fourth largest nuclear arsenal in the world, and a

loyal Communist Party, propagating the word that the West was corrupt, overrun with gangsters and a constant threat to Kazakhstan's benevolent socialist society.

Today I am traveling along the potholed streets of that advanced society. Here, in the new Kazakh capital not far from the Russian border, and a few days ago in Almaty, an older and even bleaker city, I see the grim dilapidation of the banks of government housing, the aged infrastructure, and the sad victims of Soviet communism trudging the streets, and I remember.

Was it not John Kenneth Galbraith and like-minded progressive economists who told us as recently as 1985 that the Soviet economy was a robust competitor to the West? It was, and when a few months later Mikhail Gorbachev pronounced the Soviet economy a disaster, his remarks, you can be sure, made no dent in Mr. Galbraith's arrogance.

Were Professor Galbraith with me today what would his retort be to the dozen or so bright, optimistic government officials rattling off their programs for using the market economy to extract from Kazakh territory the valuable minerals and oil their communist predecessors wasted or ignored? Today's government officials, mostly the products of Moscow's universities during what they call "Soviet times," all say that by the 1980s they recognized the futility of the communists' "command economy."

When in the early 1990s they had an opportunity to break with the Soviet Union, they did. They set off on the present program of economic development with free and global markets. They became the only nation ever to give up its nuclear arms. Western democracy became their model, and they opted for the American social system.

The American model of the melting pot that allows ethnic and religious pluralism is important to Kazakhstan. In "Soviet times," its vast unpopulated territory, covering 4 times as much land as Texas, was used by Moscow to dump millions of peoples the Soviets deemed undesirable. Along with the indigenous Kazakhs, there are Germans, Koreans, Poles, Crimean Tartars, Ukrainians and others. But the second-most populous of Kazakhstan's people are Russians.

Josef Stalin encouraged millions of idealistic Russian communists to come here after World War II to fortify the U.S.S.R.'s southern border against China and against Muslim fundamentalists who have lived in Central Asia for 1,000 years.

In the 1960s, millions more Russians came as part of Moscow's Virgin Lands policy to make Kazakhstan more profitable.

The consequence was environmental catastrophe. Nuclear experiments that included Moscow's first hydrogen bomb and other military experiments have rendered many areas of the country health hazards. The agricultural and industrial programs of the Virgin Lands imbecility left 20 million tons of industrial waste polluting the countryside and the Aral Sea drying up. Denied its water from rivers that were diverted to irrigate futile cotton plantings, the seabed has become a scab on the Earth.

Cleaning up from "Soviet times," is a major burden on the government made all the more difficult by Russia's refusal to explain the nature of its military experiments. So, too, is maintaining a socially cohesive society, through that challenge seems easier. Everywhere one looks, one sees a society divided, essentially into two ethnic groups; the Russians, who look like Western Europeans and compose 38 percent of the population, and the Kazakhs, who look Asiatic and compose 51 percent of the population. Yet there seems to be little friction between these populations. Both seem bound together in contempt for the old Soviet system and hope for their country's future.

The Russian zealots who came here as colonists after World War II, and in the Virgin Land program have now mostly returned to Russia, 2 million tired and aged idealists looking, looking for retirement back home and graves in Russian soil—another of communism's sad chapters.

The elected president of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev, an erstwhile collaborator of Mr. Gorbachev's in perestroika, shares the hopes of other government officials. In interviewing him, I note he repeatedly speaks of his faith in free markets, democracy and a "strategic partnership" with the United States. Kazakhstan with its long borders beside Russia and China is strategically important to the West and has been since the 19th century when the British tangled with Russia politically in what history remembers as "the Great Game."

Equally important are the oil and other resources that Kazakhstan has in abundance and that American companies are developing. Some observers back in the States are critical of Mr. Nazarbayev's claims to democracy and perhaps even to friendship with the West. Their suspicions are understandable. Many in this government were trained by Moscow's totalitarians.

Yet from my observations, this developing country now has at least four highly competitive political parties, nearly 1,000 media organs mostly privately owned, the freedoms of our Bill of Rights, and commendable tolerance.

Moreover, Kazakhstan has something its critics in the West lack, the zeal of converts. In asking scores of Kazakhs how they came to their free-market and democratic values, the interviewer learns the Kazakhs were amazed by what they saw in the West as

their closed society developed cracks in the 1980's. President Nazarbayev says he saw the Soviet system "could not compete" with the West economically. He and his younger political aides developed the convert's zeal to move their country to the model that was so manifestly superior to the Soviet model.

And, I ask my Kazakh hosts, how did those cracks develop in the closed society? They answer that the arms race launched by President Reagan bankrupted the Soviet Union. Meanwhile the Reagan administration's public information agencies got word of democracy and freedom through the cracks. Mr. Reagan's boasts about America being a "shining city on a hill" resonated with those who today are leading Kazakhstan to Western prosperity.

Yet Mr. Reagan's eloquence had its limits. It never impressed John Kenneth Galbraith.