

Of the 780,000 people currently living in Cyprus, there are about 65,000 to 80,000 Turkish Cypriots and about 100,000 Turks who have moved illegally to the island from Anatolia.

A solution to the Cyprus problem has been elusive for more than a quarter-of-century with President Clinton raising the Cyprus issue in his State of the Union Address this year, terming it one of his highest priorities. It was the first time in 20 years that a president had mentioned the Cyprus question in that annual speech.

Clinton, who has actively immersed himself in other international issues including Ireland and the Middle East, still has seven months remaining in office to push for a Cyprus settlement.

There are hopeful signs that the situation is improving.

Devastating earthquakes that hit both Greece and Turkey last year resulted in both countries coming to the aid of victims. In Cyprus itself, Turkish and Greek Cypriots worked together to solve common issues, such as in the divided city of Nicosia when officials resolved sewage problems and other municipal issues. And hundreds of Turkish Cypriots volunteered to have their blood tested to see if they could provide a bone marrow transplant for a six-year-old Greek Cypriot boy fighting for his life.

Another round of U.N.-sponsored talks aimed at reunifying the island will get underway July 5 in Geneva.

U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan hopes the pace of the talks will accelerate but stresses it is difficult to anticipate what progress will be made. He urges both parties to discuss key issues.

The European Union and the United States are pushing for a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation, the framework for a solution that has repeatedly been endorsed by the U.N. Security Council.

Cypriot President Glafcos Clerides fully supports the actions of the international community for a solution along the U.N. guidelines. Turkey, however, has remained intransigent in seeking an island with two separate states, which is a wholly unacceptable solution.

While Clerides is recognized internationally as the head of Cyprus, only Turkey has recognized the self-proclaimed "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus" in the occupied area of the island headed by Rauf Denktash, who to date has refused to budge from his hard line.

Compromise is needed. The U.N. plan is the framework to follow since it is a carefully constructed outline that both communities previously accepted, but the Turkish side keeps changing its position.

An eventual solution needs to include a complete demilitarization of the island, with the Turkish troops leaving and the illegal settlers returning to where they came from.

Reunification also will allow both communities to enjoy the benefits of EU membership since Cyprus is expected to join the organization within a few years.

Lellos Demetriades, the Greek Cypriot mayor of Nicosia, points out that "you can't live next to each other and not talk."

This is what is needed most at this time—constructive and substantive talks that will lead to a settlement of the Cyprus issue. As Defense Secretary Cohen points out, a resolution is needed sooner rather than later. Active leadership from the United States is needed now more than ever to solve this issue.

[From the Washington Times, June 6, 2000]

KOSOVO'S ONGOING AGONIES
(HARRY MOSKOS)

Nato Secretary-General Lord Robertson took a walking tour this week to see for

himself what it is like in Pristina after the allied war in Kosovo.

Where he didn't walk illustrates that nearly one year after NATO's 78-day bombing of the province that all is not well—or safe.

Lord Robertson's stroll took him down a central shopping street where he was met with cheers from ethnic Albanians. He also toured parts of Kosovska but bypassed the northern, predominantly Serbian, part of the city.

Tensions between Serbians and Albanians remain high. Lord Robertson stressed that the violence has to be reduced or there is danger that ethnic Albanians could lose the sympathy of the international community.

His comments came a few days after an attacker opened fire on a group of Serbs gathered in a store in Cernica, killing a 4-year-old boy, his 60-year-old grandfather and another man. Cernica, 28 miles southeast of Pristina, is patrolled by U.S. peacekeepers who were only 200 yards away when the gunman, an ethnic Albanian, opened fire and escaped.

In another unsolved case, a 25-year-old Serbian U.N. translator was found stabbed to death. The translator was murdered after a newspaper closely tied to Kosovar Albanian leader Hashim Thaci accused the translator of membership in a Serbian paramilitary unit—a rash accusation made without any formal charge or much less even an investigation.

As the Canonical Conference of Orthodox Christian Bishops in America rightly observed recently, the international community must not allow the cycle of violence, ethnic cleansing and retribution to continue in Kosovo.

NATO's troubles are not limited to continuing atrocities in Kosovo.

Three teachers at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point have raised the issue of whether NATO violated the rules of land warfare by using tactics that protected combatants by placing civilian bystanders at greater risk, resulting in a corrosion of the professional military ethic. And another military study has shown that NATO had overstated—roughly by a factor of 10—the effectiveness of its attacks against Serbian forces during last year's conflict.

The 78-day bombing campaign did accomplish its goal to end Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic's dictatorial grip on Kosovo, but this has not brought the promise of better times.

NATO entered this fray to help the ethnic Albanians, but unless they are now kept from taking the law into their own hands, the aftermath of Kosovo will only see more 4-year-old boys dying at the hands of assassins.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND DR. DAVID JEFFERSON, SR.

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2000

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask my colleagues here in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring a very special person, Reverend Dr. David Jefferson, Sr., who has earned an outstanding reputation as a teacher, preacher, civic leader, community servant, attorney, and visionary. He has excelled spiritually, academically, and professionally and has made valuable contributions to his community.

Reverend Jefferson has provided vital leadership to his church in creating formidable

ministries, outreach evangelism to the surrounding communities, and leadership training seminars. He has orchestrated a Mens and Boys Breakfast with over three hundred people in attendance. The church has formed a Mass Choir, a Bible Study of over eight hundred people, and car pooling for college students who wish to attend services.

Reverend Jefferson has built a strong and diverse graduate level of education. Upon leaving Grambling State, Reverend Jefferson immediately enrolled in the University of Dayton in Dayton, Ohio. Here he earned a Master of Business Administration degree in Marketing and Finance. He then received a Juris Doctorate of Law from Capital University in Columbus, Ohio and a Master of Divinity from Drew University in Madison, New Jersey. In 1988 he was awarded a fellowship to the prestigious "Sloan Fellows Program" at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Here Dr. Jefferson completed his Master of Science in Management in 1989.

Reverend Jefferson is happily married to the former Linda Mouton of Jennings, LA. They are the proud parents of four beautiful children; Kimberly, David Jr., Lou Ella, and Jasmine. He is a member of the New Jersey Bar and American Bar Associations, and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

Mr. Speaker, I call upon my colleagues to join me on June 11th, in congratulating Reverend Dr. David Jefferson, Sr. on his outstanding accomplishments in expressing our appreciation for his dedicated community service. Let us extend our best wishes to Dr. Jefferson for continued success and fulfillment.

FURTHER EVIDENCE OF NEED TO CREATE INDEPENDENT FEDERAL AGENCY TO INVESTIGATE THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2000

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year I introduced legislation, H.R. 4105, to establish an independent federal agency to investigate allegations of wrongdoing on the part of Justice Department personnel. As part of my ongoing efforts to have this important legislation enacted into law, I have been investigating allegations of wrongdoing within the Justice Department that have not been appropriately and completed investigated and prosecuted.

One of the incidents I uncovered occurred in my own Congressional District, and it involves serious allegations of misconduct on the part of the Federal Bureau of Investigation agents in Youngstown, Ohio. The attached sworn affidavit makes serious allegations that should be aggressively investigated by the Justice Department and Congress.

STATE OF OHIO, COUNTY OF TRUMBULL— AFFIDAVIT OF JAMES A. KERCHUM

After having been duly sworn in accordance with law, I, James A. Kerchum, hereby depose and say:

(1) I, James A. Kerchum, was an active participant of the Mahoning Valley Corruption Task Force during the approximate period of February 1998 thru April 23, 1999.

(2) During the period of February 1998 thru April 23, 1999, I primarily planned and

worked with the following people: Louis Slay, Director Supervisor U.S. Dept. of Justice; Anthony Sporanza, Special Agent FBI; Mike Cizmar, Special Agent FBI; Pete Proach, Special Agent FBI; Wally Sines, Special Agent FBI; and Dennis Dierenzo, Agent BCI & I

(3) During the hereinabove written time period I was primarily a paid informant for the FBI and my FBI Code Name was Cheeze 1. My main FBI contact was Special Agent Mike Cizmar.

(4) During the hereinabove written time period, FBI Special Agent Mike Cizmar related the following to me:

(a) Congressman Jim Traficant was the FBI's number one target across the United States because he beat them in a Federal Court in Cleveland, Ohio in 1983 and that he was an embarrassment to the FBI.

(b) The FBI investigated Jim Traficant from the time he was the Mahoning County Sheriff and that the FBI was going to get him one way or another.

(c) When you go to Quantico, Virginia there is one special class you take and that's on getting Jim Traficant.

(d) If I got Jim Traficant, they would build a monument for me in Washington, D.C.

FBI Special Agent Anthony Sporanza also made statements in support of the hereinabove written.

(5) Within the hereinabove written time period FBI Special Agent Mike Cizmar asked me to kill Girard, Ohio Police Detective Anthony Zuppo.

Further Affiant Sayeth Naught.

TRIBUTE TO WESLEY RHODES

HON. SAXBY CHAMBLISS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2000

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, I want to honor Wesley Rhodes of Pineview, GA. Wesley, a student at Fullington Academy, was named a National Award Winner in Science. This special award recognizes fewer than ten percent of all American high school students. Wesley was recommended for the award by teachers and school staff for his outstanding academic performance in science, interest and aptitude, leadership qualities, responsibility, enthusiasm, motivation to learn and improve, citizenship, attitude and cooperative spirit, and dependability.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Wesley for his achievements in science and for his exemplary leadership at Fullington Academy. He is an exceptional student and has made the people of my district and myself proud.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4577) making ap-

propriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Service, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

Mr. STARK. Mr. Chairman, reducing fraud and abuse in Medicare has been identified by the Majority Leader as a major initiative. The Budget Committee has a Medicare Fraud Task Force to look into ways to reduce Medicare fraud. The Ways and Means and Commerce Committee has held hearings on reducing Medicare fraud.

And yet, this bill would actually reduce already appropriated funds for fighting fraud and abuse in Medicare by \$50 million. These funds were appropriated in advance when the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) was enacted in 1996 and intended to fight Medicare fraud. This program has returned \$17 for every dollar invested in it. Because of our fraud-fighting efforts, we have experienced the lowest growth in Medicare spending ever.

Obviously, the Appropriations Committee disagrees with the Majority Leader and other Committee Chairmen who want to reduce Medicare fraud. Instead, the Committee would reduce our anti-fraud efforts. Evidently, the Committee feels that there is not enough fraud in Medicare, so we should let it grow.

Second, Mr. Chairman, the General Accounting Office and others have issued numerous reports recently about the alarming abuses and poor quality of care of senior citizens in nursing homes—the care of our mothers and fathers and our constituents. GAO said that one in four nursing homes actually harm our senior citizens or place them in danger of being harmed. The GAO recommended stronger enforcement of quality standards.

In Northern California, only 6 percent of nursing homes were found by State inspectors to be in full or substantial compliance with requirements.

The President proposed additional funding to support a Nursing Home Initiative for enforcing nursing home standards more strictly.

Yet this bill would eliminate the funding for this Nursing Home Initiative.

Obviously, the Appropriations Committee simply does not care what happens to our senior citizens in nursing homes.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support the DeLauro amendment to restore funds for fighting Medicare fraud and for the Nursing Home Initiative.

Mr. Chairman, I submit into the RECORD a letter sent to me by the National Citizens' Coalition for Nursing Home Reform.

NATIONAL CITIZENS' COALITION
FOR NURSING HOME REFORM,
Washington, DC, June 1, 2000.

Hon. FORTNEY "PETE" STARK,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE STARK: The National Citizens' Coalition for Nursing Home Reform (NCCNHR) urges you to vote no on the Labor/HHS/Education bill because it fails to provide funding for the Nursing Home Initiative.

The Nursing Home Initiative was established to increase funding for improvement in nursing home quality nationwide. As part of the Nursing Home Initiative, new survey protocols were put in place such as improved federal oversight over state survey efforts, staggered inspections, and expedited investigation of resident complaints.

For FY 2001, the Administration proposed a major funding increase that would invest \$70.1 million in improving oversight of nursing homes. It would include (1) training surveyors in effective inspection of nursing homes; (2) surveying nursing homes during evenings and weekends; and (3) surveying substandard facilities more frequently than other facilities. However, in Subcommittee, the discretionary funding was virtually eliminated for the Initiative.

By passing an appropriations bill without funding for the Nursing Home Initiative, the House would be ignoring overwhelming evidence of harm to residents that is occurring because of lack of adequate enforcement. The 1998 GAO report on California nursing homes showed that one in three facilities has violations that cause either actual harm to residents or place them at risk for serious injury or death. This report launched the Nursing Home Initiative to address the poor care in nursing homes. We cannot abandon these efforts, which are now beginning to have an effect. Otherwise, we are abandoning the most vulnerable and frail population in this country who need protection from a strengthened enforcement system.

Sincerely,

SARAH GREENE BURGER,
Executive Director.

STATEMENT ON A BILL TO AMEND TITLE II OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT TO IMPROVE THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION'S PAYMENT SYSTEM FOR REPRESENTATION OF CLAIMANTS

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2000

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to join with Congressman CLAY SHAW, the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Social Security, to introduce legislation regarding fees owed to attorneys who represent Social Security disability claimants. This bill would require the Social Security Administration to pay the attorney fees it owes in a timely fashion or else grant those attorneys an exemption from the administrative assessment that SSA charges in exchange for handling such fees.

Under current law, when an attorney successfully represents a Social Security disability claimant and that claimant is entitled to past-due benefits, SSA retains a portion of those past-due benefits in order to pay the attorney for the services he or she provided. Specifically, SSA withholds and certifies for direct payment to the claimant's attorney an amount equal to the lesser of 25 percent of the past-due benefits or the fee that SSA had previously authorized the attorney to charge his or her client. (Fees authorized by SSA may not exceed 25 percent of past-due benefits or \$4,000, whichever is lower).

As a result of the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Act of 1999 (P.L. 106-170), SSA is now required to impose an administrative assessment of 6.3 percent on all such fee payments to attorneys. Some maintain that this 6.3 percent assessment is necessary to cover the costs that SSA incurs in withholding and processing fee payments to attorneys. If this is indeed the case and the 6.3 percent assessment is simply compensation for services rendered, then it is not unreasonable to expect