

somebody who we can trust in negotiations. That was a very poor choice.

Aristide in Haiti, another poor choice; a man who is an authoritarian, no friend of the United States, and has receded Haiti from the democratic promise it showed in the early 1990s. By betting on Aristide, I think we have done that country no favor at all.

Foday Sankoh in Sierra-Leone. Probably, CNN has shown the most gruesome shots of butchery, of children going out and maiming children, drugged children going out and maiming children, being used as instruments of war. This is a person the Clinton-Gore administration chose to try and do business with. When CNN pulled the cord on that and they showed Foday Sankoh for the brutal dictator and terrorist that he is, the Clinton-Gore administration retreated from that, and so far we have nothing to replace it.

So when I talk about a hallmark of betting on the wrong guy, that has been one of the problems. Another has been appeasement. We have seen continuously wishful thinking that said, if we could just get these people to go along with us, we will be all right, and we will offer them carrots. Well, we have to remember that the wall came down in Berlin because we were dealing from strength. They had no place to go in the Soviet Union and the United States of America was on the side of right and we were on the side of strength and eventually we prevailed because of those things.

Now we are going to North Korea and we are seeing extraordinary, extraordinary and, I would say, amazing scenes of our Secretary of State basically recognizing a dictatorship that is has enslaved most of its people, including its children. This is not just enslaving them physically, this is mind control as well, because the indoctrination in North Korea is total. I have been there, and I have seen it. Here, for whatever reason, we are suddenly finding our new best friend, the smiling Kim Jong Il. He is still the same old Kim Jong Il, he is not our best friend, he is a dangerous dictator, and it is a thoroughly Communist country. I do not understand why we are trying to do him a favor.

As we go through and look beyond the appeasements that we could talk about in Russia and China, let me skip to some bad judgment, bad judgment such as we have seen in the Middle East by trying to do a good job, and I give the President credit for that, but by forcing the agenda so fast for whatever motivation that it broke the framework. That was not good judgment; and we are seeing tragically tonight, every night on television, scenes of what happens when one forces a situation beyond its evolutionary capability to deal with it.

We have seen in Iraq apparent, Desert Fox. We bombed the heck out of them, and what happens? We end up winning a very short-term gain and losing our window into Iraq. We do not

truly understand what is going on there now. We have lost our eyes and ears, Iraq is evermore dangerous and is now reasserting itself as a leader in the Arab world, as an evermore dangerous enemy of the United States with greater capabilities. We did not do what we needed to do there.

Mr. Speaker, this is a subject that will continue on, because this is a subject that matters to America; and I will be talking more about this in sessions to come.

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

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

ELIMINATION OF THE DEATH TAX WOULD BENEFIT ALL AMERICANS

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

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, for quite some time, we have been hearing from our friends on the other side of the aisle that Republican attempts to abolish the death tax is just a sop to the rich and that few "regular" folks would ever benefit from its elimination.

I would like to bring to the attention of the House an article that appeared in The Denver Post this weekend entitled "Death, Taxes end Rancher's Dream." The article describes the plight of the Laurence family who have for the last couple of generations been eking out a living from an 1,800 acre ranch in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado.

Merrill Laurence died 4 years ago and the family has been struggling ever since to keep the tax man at bay. They have run out of time and resources. Soon, the auctioneer's gavel will fall; and the ranch will be sold to developers. November 11 will be the date that ends a 180-year history of the Laurence family ranching heritage. This family will be moved off the land and homes will be built where the ranch now stands.

But the proceeds from the sale will not accrue to the heirs. They do not want the sale. They will not receive very much at all of what comes from that sale. The money raised by this forced sale will go to satisfy the demands of the IRS.

I can assure my friends on the other side of the aisle that there are real people out there who are affected by the death tax and who are far from "fat cats," that phrase that we so often hear them employ when attempting to foster class hatred in this country. These people and hundreds of thousands, millions others like them all over the United States are regular,

hard-working tax-paying families who, in fact, have made only a couple of mistakes in their lifetime. Like Mr. Laurence, many of them work too hard, accumulated too much, according to, again, people on the other side of the aisle who keep talking about the death tax as something that so few people would get and so few people deserve the elimination of the death tax.

Mr. Speaker, the fact is that there are lots of people who actually are, as I say, hard working, and they are not the top 1 percent, as we have often been told, of this Nation's income-earners who would benefit by the elimination of this death tax. They are people like Mr. Laurence who, as I say, he made a few mistakes. He worked too hard. He died before a new President could take office.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that we will soon be able to reintroduce this idea, the elimination of the death tax, and we will soon pass it; again, this will be the third time, and it will be signed by the next President of the United States, because it is a tax that needs to be eliminated, it is an unfair, unjust tax that people like the Laurences of Colorado are now being forced to pay and, as a result, being forced to sell their own heritage.

COMMUNICATION FROM STAFF ASSISTANT TO THE HONORABLE JAMES A. LEACH, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Ginny Burrus, staff assistant to the Honorable JAMES A. LEACH, Member of Congress:

OCTOBER 26, 2000.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to formally notify you, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a subpoena for testimony issued by the District Court for Iowa, Johnson County.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that it is consistent with the precedents and privileges of the House to comply with the subpoena.

Sincerely,

GINNY BURRUS,
Staff Assistant.

COMMUNICATION FROM DISTRICT SCHEDULER TO THE HONORABLE JAMES A. LEACH, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Jill Rohret, district scheduler to the Honorable JAMES A. LEACH, Member of Congress:

OCTOBER 26, 2000.

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issued by the District Court for Iowa, Johnson County.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that it is consistent with the precedents and privileges of the House to comply with the subpoena.

Sincerely,

JILL ROHRET,
District Scheduler.

PLEA TO RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT
FOR THE RELEASE OF EDMOND
POPE

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

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of the Russian government an irony that I believe perfectly illustrates why Edmond Pope, an American businessman, held captive for 211 days, should be released.

Since his arrest in April on charges of espionage, Ed Pope has been held in a Russian prison thousands of miles away from his family. He has been denied regular contact with his loved ones, including his ailing parents whose home is in the district I represent. He has been held in utterly uncivilized conditions, and, most distressing of all, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Pope has been denied access to the specialized medical treatment that is needed to detect a recurrence of the rare form of bone cancer that he once battled.

Last Friday, Mr. Speaker, while Ed Pope was sitting in his bare prison cell in Moscow, this House passed a bill granting U.S. residency to a Russian citizen named Marina Khalina and her son, Alec Miftakhov. Marina and Alec live in Portland, Oregon, a mere 250 miles from the parents of a man who is being unjustly held in their native country. Mr. Speaker, 250 miles from Roy Pope, who has terminal cancer, a condition that is made even more unbearable by the knowledge that he may not live to see his son, Ed, returned home.

My comments should not be taken as any criticism about the Russians who have become our latest citizens in Portland. They are not intended that way at all. You see, Marina came to this country in search of medical treatment for her son. The assistance she has received from Oregonians in retaining that treatment for Alec is one of the most transparently generous acts of humanity I have ever witnessed, and it is incredibly important that it be carried out.

Diagnosed with cerebral palsy at age 6 months, Alec's leg muscles and tendons were so contracted that he could not walk. Without the social services or rights that the disabled are afforded in this country, Alec could not go to school in Russia. His desperate mother could not even obtain a wheelchair for her son and carried him in her arms for 7 years.

Thirteen years ago, she met a visiting physician from Salem, Oregon

who contacted Shriners Hospitals for Children in Portland. In October of 1989, Marina and her son entered the United States as visitors for the first of 6 operations that Alec would undergo. As he underwent more surgery and rehabilitation, the Immigration and Naturalization Service in Portland granted extensions, allowing Marina and her son to remain in the U.S. Forcing Alec to return to Russia where Ed Pope spends his days peering through steel bars would have halted medical progress and consigned him to a life utterly devoid of hope. Thanks to the outpouring of assistance he received in this country, Alec has been spared that terrible fate. But while Alec receives medical attention in the United States courtesy of the goodwill of the American people and those of my State, the Russian government systematically refuses to grant Ed Pope access to the medical care that could save his life.

□ 1630

Since the bill granting Marina and Alec residency status was introduced, she has worked in Gresham, Oregon, where she coordinates care for elderly and disabled clients. Alec has earned his high school equivalency degree and hopes to study Web design. Needless to say, the future looks considerably brighter for them in this country thanks to the compassion we have shown in this Congress and that shown by the people of Oregon.

Following passage of the bill granting her a new life in this country, Marina said, "For us, this is freedom." And indeed it is, Mr. Speaker. It is freedom that is being denied to Ed Pope as he sits before a Russian judge awaiting a verdict that could lock him away in prison for more than 20 years.

I know I am not alone in welcoming Marina and Alec to Oregon, and I wish them well and the very best in the years ahead. We are a Nation of immigrants. And as the goodwill shown to Marina and Alec shows, we are a Nation of profoundly decent and compassionate people. But the generosity that has been shown to Alec and Marina stands in stark contrast to the inhumane, unjust imprisonment of Ed Pope. If only the Russian government, indeed, if only the Russian President could follow our example.

So I call upon President Putin not to just reinforce the worst images of Russia in the minds of the people of the West by prolonging Ed Pope's already lengthy imprisonment. Show Ed Pope the kindness that has been shown to Marina Khalina and Alec Miftakhov and release Ed Pope immediately.

WHY IS CONGRESS STILL IN
SESSION?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GIBBONS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, I would obviously rather be home in my home

State of South Dakota this evening. I have a couple of important meetings tonight. One was with the folks from Homestake Mine, a mine which has been in service in South Dakota for about 125 years and which has recently announced that it is closing.

I had a meeting scheduled there to talk about those issues. How do we deal with the issue of displaced workers? How do we deal with trying to help this small community transition and diversify its economy?

I also had a meeting this evening with a group of snowmobilers who were interested in the National Park Service proposal to ban snowmobile use in some of our National Parks, as well as with the President's roadless initiative and other things.

However, we are still here in Washington, D.C., and I believe that the people of this country and the people of South Dakota, my home State, need to know why we are here. We are here, I believe, because the President continues to insist on putting politics in this election year ahead of people.

The President, in this budget, has gotten literally everything he has asked for and more in terms of spending. But it is still not enough. And it begs the question, Mr. Speaker: How much is enough? We are still trying to figure that out. What else is the President insisting on?

Well, there are a number of issues unrelated to the budget process itself which he is also insisting that we move on, legislative provisions that would be added on to appropriation bills. One is blanket amnesty for 4 million people who have come to this country illegally since 1986.

We do not think that we ought to be about the business of rewarding people for breaking the law. Now, on the other hand, there are a lot of people in this country who have come here legally and want to be reunited with their families, and we propose that as an alternative to the President's plan. And yet the President is insisting upon blanket amnesty for 4 million people who have come to this country and are here illegally.

One of the other issues that he has insisted upon is that action be taken in the area of hate crimes legislation, legislation which to my understanding has yet to be debated, has yet to be considered in committee or anywhere else.

Another issue which separates us this year, and granted in this election year these issues become more politicized but, nevertheless, we ought to be able to reach a compromise to take the politics out of some of these issues and do what is right for the American people. The President insists upon federalizing education in this country. We happen to believe as a matter of principle that our children are much better served when it is school districts, administrators, and teachers and parents who are in control rather than the Federal bureaucracy from Washington, D.C.