

HOLOCAUST VICTIMS INSURANCE  
RELIEF ACT**HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, August 1, 2001*

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing H.R. 2693, the Holocaust Victims Insurance Relief Act, a bill to require all companies operating in the United States to disclose the names on Holocaust-era insurance policies. The legislation would also enable survivors to access to this information by establishing a Holocaust Insurance Registry at the National Archives.

At its core, this is a moral issue. Insurance companies holding Holocaust-era policies have a responsibility to disclose any information that will help survivors finally reclaim their policies with dignity and equity. In many cases, company archives contain the only existing files related to the countless policies that were stolen from victims of Nazi ghettos and death camps.

Just one year ago, on July 17, 2000, the United States and Germany signed an Executive Agreement establishing the German Foundation "Remembrance, Responsibility, and the Future," a \$5 billion fund to settle all Holocaust-era claims, including slave and forced labor, banking, and insurance. During the preceding ceremony, U.S. Holocaust Envoy Stuart Eizenstat said, "It is critically important that all German insurance companies cooperate with the process established by the International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims, or ICHEIC. This includes publishing lists of unpaid insurance policies and subjecting themselves to audit. Unless German insurance companies make these lists available through ICHEIC, potential claimants cannot know their eligibility, and the insurance companies will have failed to assume their moral responsibility."

Unfortunately, little progress has been made since then and the urgency of this issue grows as Holocaust survivors are dying every day. Although the ICHEIC was established in 1998 to expeditiously resolve unpaid Holocaust-era claims, more than 84% of the over 72,675 claims inquiries filed remain unresolved because the claimants cannot identify the company holding their assets.

Furthermore, it is outrageous that regardless of their level of compliance with ICHEIC rules insurance companies that contribute to the Foundation fund are given a minimal \$150 million cap on all liabilities, virtual legal immunity in U.S. courts, and an arbitrary January 31, 2002 expiration of their obligation to accept claims.

The insurance companies must be held accountable. H.R. 2693 will ensure that Congress will not stand by and allow them to shirk their obligation.

This bill also expresses congressional support for states seeking to adopt and enforce their own laws to address the issue of unpaid Holocaust-era policies, and recognizes the efforts of legislatures in California, New York, Florida, Washington, and Minnesota. I also understand that similar efforts are underway in the legislatures of Texas, Illinois, and Massachusetts.

California led the nation in enacting a Holocaust insurance reporting statute at the state

level, and it has provided the insurance companies with a powerful incentive to comply with the law. It is time for us to extend this relief to survivors across the country.

I would also like to thank my colleague Representative ENGEL, who is an original cosponsor of this bill and who was instrumental in introducing similar legislation in the 105th and 106th Congresses.

Less than six months from today, the ICHEIC deadline for accepting claims will expire. We must act swiftly to make sure that survivors have the necessary information to file their rightful claims. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and I hope we can bring it to the floor for a vote in the near future.

## TRIBUTE TO GITTA NAGEL

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, August 1, 2001*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to a dedicated champion of Jewish affairs and public service, Mrs. Gitta Nagel of California, who will soon be receiving an Honorary Doctorate degree from Bar-Ilan University in Israel. Mrs. Nagel has continually strived to ensure a brighter, more cohesive future for the Jewish community by encouraging stronger academic programs and an everlasting remembrance of the Holocaust.

As a young child living in Amsterdam during the Holocaust, Gitta saw first hand the destructive force and brutality of the Nazi regime, an experience that would continue to drive her throughout her life as a philanthropist. After the war, she emigrated to the United States where she attended UCLA and met her future husband, Jack Nagel.

Through her efforts to promote a stronger Jewish community, Gitta Nagel has held leadership roles in numerous organizations including the United Jewish Communities, the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations, and Israel Bonds. In addition, she was a founding member of the Golda Meir Club, an organization that supports the State of Israel through her annual purchase of \$5,000 worth of Israeli government bonds. Gitta also started a chapter of Bnei Akiva, a testament to her unwavering support for Zionism and the State of Israel.

She has also shown a perpetual commitment to a prosperous future through her support of education. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, it is no surprise that Gitta is an original founder of Yeshiva Yavneh of Los Angeles High Schools. She had lent her support to Bar-Ilan University through an endowment for immigrant students, doctoral fellowships, research grants, and numerous other academic programs.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to Gitta Nagel's unwavering support for Jewish organizations, I would like to both emphasize and commend her work to preserve the memory of the Holocaust. Gitta has selflessly worked to secure a special place in history for Holocaust victims. She has given incredible amounts of time, energy and resources to make sure that the atrocity of the Holocaust is never forgotten.

The Nagel's are founders of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., and are members of the Board of Trustees of

the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles. In 1985, Gitta spoke before the Federation of Humanities in Stockholm, Sweden in a ceremony recognizing the 40th anniversary of the disappearance of Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat responsible for saving the lives of over 100,000 Jews during the end of World War II, including my wife Annette and me. She was also a featured speaker before the Austrian Parliament during the celebration of the 90th birthday of Simon Wisenthal.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in Congress to join me in recognizing Gitta Nagel's contributions and commitments to Jewish affairs and community service worldwide. She has had a major impact in strengthening the ties of the Jewish people and ensuring that the Holocaust will never be repeated. I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating Gitta Nagel for her very deserved honor.

## TRIBUTE TO KOREY STRINGER

**HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, August 1, 2001*

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I am deeply saddened to share the news of the passing of Korey Stringer.

Fans of football, the Minnesota Vikings, and the community of the greater St. Paul and Minneapolis area have suffered a great loss. All-Pro Offensive Tackle Korey Stringer was more than a great athlete; he was a great American.

This native of Warren, Ohio has his life cut short while training for the game he loved. However, in that short life Korey contributed much to the teams he played for and communities he lived in. While in high school at Warren Harding High School, in my district, Korey personally achieved status as an all-Ohio player twice and was a unanimous All-American his senior year. As a senior, Korey recorded an incredible 52 tackles as a defensive tackle and was named Ohio Division I Lineman of the Year. These accomplishments are impressive, but Korey was always more proud of Warren Harding's undefeated season that led to a state title his junior year. Korey was a player that was consistently concerned with those around him and made every effort possible to aid them.

Many players with impressive high school accolades never quite make it in college, but this was not the case for Korey Stringer. After doing a fine job representing his hometown, Korey did an excellent job representing the entire state while playing for Ohio State University. In his first year, Korey was selected as Big Ten Freshman of the Year. The awards continued for Korey as he was named Big Ten Offensive Lineman of the Year for both 1993 and 1994, Ohio State's Most Valuable Player in 1994, and two time All-American.

After being drafted as the 24th overall selection in the 1995 draft, Korey joined the Minnesota Vikings. He played with dedication to the game, the fans, and his teammates as he only missed three games in six seasons. Last season was a breakout year for Korey as he was named to the All-Pro team and helped Robert Smith set the team records for single-season and career rushing total. Playing as an offensive lineman, it is hard to assess the

achievements of the individual. With Korey, it is much easier because his achievements came both on and off the field. While on the field, the Vikings, Robert Smith, and every quarterback to play since 1995 have succeeded. Additionally, the Vikings have been one of the most successful teams in the NFL, reaching the NFC Championship game several times. Off the field, Stringer has contributed to the community with the "Super Viking Challenge" at local schools and libraries.

My heart and my prayers go out today to Korey's wife Kelci, his son Kodie Drew, and his extended family. My thoughts also go out to the players on the Minnesota Vikings with whom Korey played. Korey was a great American and superb football player. He will be deeply missed.

INTRODUCTION OF THE AMERICAN  
CITIZENS' PROTECTION AND WAR  
CRIMINAL PROSECUTION ACT OF  
2001

**HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, August 1, 2001*

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, this afternoon I joined with Senator CHRISTOPHER DODD of Connecticut in introducing the "American Citizens' Protection and War Criminal Prosecution Act of 2001."

This bicameral legislation seeks to reaffirm the U.S. commitment to bringing war criminals to justice, while ensuring that U.S. servicemembers and civilians are not put at risk of unwarranted prosecution before the International Criminal Court or other foreign tribunals.

I am pleased to be joined in introducing the House bill by the gentleman from New York, Mr. HOUGHTON, and the gentleman from California, the ranking member of the House International Relations Committee, Mr. LANTOS.

As my colleagues know, the United States initially withheld its support for the Rome Statute. President Clinton signed it last year only after securing numerous changes that ensure a fair trial for the accused and protect U.S. servicemembers and civilians from arbitrary assertions of jurisdiction by the ICC.

The American role was pivotal in negotiating these concessions, and it remains so today, as negotiators continue to work to improve the rules and procedures under which the ICC will operate.

But some have urged that the U.S., rather than seek improvements, withdraw from this process altogether. The measure introduced by the senator from North Carolina (Mr. HELMS) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), and recently passed by this body as an amendment to the Department of State Authorization bill, would effectively end U.S. participation in negotiations and forbid U.S. cooperation with the ICC.

I believe the concerns that caused this House to take that action should be fully addressed before the President and the Senate consider further steps to ratify the Rome Statute. But this can be accomplished only through engagement, not retreat. At a time when the United States is increasingly perceived as "going it alone," this is not the moment to abdicate our responsibilities by aban-

doning our historic commitment to the rule of law.

Our legislation seeks to reaffirm that commitment while ensuring in no uncertain terms that U.S. servicemembers and civilians are not placed at risk. The bill would protect Americans from prosecution before the ICC in two ways. First, it would require that whenever a U.S. citizen is accused by a crime under the Rome Statute, the U.S. government must investigate or prosecute the case itself—unless the President determines that it is not in the national interest to do so.

Second, the bill would prohibit the extradition of any American citizen if the U.S. is investigating or prosecuting the crime under U.S. law. It would also bar extradition if the individual has been tried and acquitted of the crime or, after an investigation, no reasonable basis has been found to proceed with a prosecution.

If, notwithstanding these protections, a U.S. citizen were ever to come before the ICC, the bill would require the President to take steps to ensure that the defendant receives legal representation and every benefit of due process.

The bill would also encourage active diplomatic efforts to address continuing U.S. concerns with provisions of the Rome Statute. And, whether or not we eventually become a party to the Statute, the bill would authorize the President to provide support and assistance to the ICC in the prosecution of accused war criminals—particularly those accused of committing atrocities against U.S. servicemembers or civilians, or citizens of friendly nations.

The President must have this authority to defend our citizens and protect our national interests. And through our cooperation, to demonstrate our unfailing commitment to the cause of justice throughout the world.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in both chambers and with the Administration to ensure that the United States continues to play its proper role in fostering a more just and peaceful world.

TRIBUTE TO CAMP CHEN-A-WANDA

**HON. STEVE ISRAEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, August 1, 2001*

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Camp Chen-A-Wanda on their annual visit to Washington. Every year, many youngster from Long Island, specifically from my district (NY-2) attend this summer camp located in Pennsylvania.

Camp Chen-A-Wanda prepares our young adults to become leaders in tomorrow's society. It encourages campers to express themselves as individuals by offering a wide variety of athletic, artistic, and other recreational activities.

This prestigious institution has provided hundreds of children in the New York area with the opportunity to explore their creative, academic, athletic and spiritual nature in a nurturing and motivating atmosphere.

Although one may leave Camp Chen-A-Wanda just after a few weeks, the camp experience never leaves the camper. By the end of the summer, campers have forged new friend-

ships, achieved new goals, and are confidently prepared to start the upcoming school year.

I would like to congratulate Camp Directors Caryl and Morey Baldwin of Dix Hills, Long Island; and Marcy and Craig Neyer of Montville, NJ, on their good work. I wish them the best of luck in the future.

And most important, I would like to see many of the campers of Camp Chen-A-Wanda, return to Washington, D.C. as interns, legislative staff, and future Legislators.

CRAZY FOR KAZAKHSTAN

**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, August 1, 2001*

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of my colleagues to the Op Ed article "Crazy for Kazakhstan—Asian nation of vital interest" by former Secretary of Energy Bill Richardson published in "The Washington Times" on July 30, 2001. Mr. Richardson has been working with countries of Central Asia, particularly with oil rich Kazakhstan, for a long time and has an extensive expertise in the region. I think we can rely on his assessments. In the article he outlines achievements of Kazakhstan and defines this country one of the promising "of all the countries rising from the ashes of the Soviet Union".

Indeed, Kazakhstan, despite the difficulties of its transition period, has carried out large scale economic and political reforms, especially when compared to the rest of the newly independent states.

Kazakhstan is a young country located in a critically strategic region with "rough" neighbors and it is crucial for the U.S. to work with this country both politically and economically to ensure their security, independence and progressive development.

This year is the 10th anniversary of Kazakhstan's independence and during this period Kazakhstan has shown its commitment to work with the U.S. in many areas, including sensitive ones, and has proven to be our reliable partner.

Mr. Speaker, I agree with Mr. Richardson that this key Central Asian country is of great importance to U.S. interests. Kazakhstan in many ways should be seen as our natural ally in the region. The time has come for the U.S. to pay closer attention to this country and be more engaged with it. For this reason I co-sponsored the legislation (H.R. 1318) that would grant permanent trade relations to Kazakhstan.

I submit the full text of this article from "The Washington Times" to be placed in the RECORD.

[From the Washington Times, July 30, 2001]

CRAZY FOR KAZAKHSTAN

(By Bill Richardson)

As secretary of energy and ambassador to the United Nations during the Clinton administration, I traveled three times to Kazakhstan to underscore the importance of this key Central Asian country to U.S. interests. Of all the countries rising from the ashes of the Soviet Union, few offer the promise of Kazakhstan. In terms of both economic potential and political stability, Kazakhstan is critical to the long-term success of the Central Asian nations. The Bush