

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

“SUPPORT FOR U.S. FROM AFGHAN COMMUNITY OF NEW ENGLAND”

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 11, 2001

Mr. FRANK. Mr. Speaker, as are all of us, I have been meeting regularly with people in my district about the terrible mass murders which were inflicted on us and how we should respond. One of the groups with which I was most interested in meeting consists of Afghans who are living in the U.S., and who are strongly supportive of our efforts not simply to repel terrorism against us, but to help their native country free itself from the tyranny now oppressing them under the rule of the Taliban. On Monday, October 8, I had a very useful informative meeting with a number of people from the Afghan community in New England. Given that these are people who believe in freedom, and also practice it, they were not all in complete agreement with everything the U.S. government has done since September 11, nor were they in complete agreement with each other on every point. But they were united on the basic points, embodied in the statement which they presented to me.

We should remember that the major victims of the alliance between the Taliban and Osama bin Laden on a continuing basis are the people of Afghanistan, women especially, but all in Afghanistan who are being subject to a brutal, terrorist regime. To remind us all of this, and to share with my colleagues the insights presented to me by Afghans who are committed to helping us resolve this issue, I ask that their very thoughtful statement be printed here.

October 8, 2001.

Congressman BARNEY FRANK,
Newton, Massachusetts.

CONGRESSMAN BARNEY FRANK: Thank you for the time and for the opportunity you have given us to meet with you in your office. We represent the few Afghan families who live in Massachusetts. There are roughly 100 Afghan families in Massachusetts. Most of us have come to United States in the 1980s when the Russians invaded Afghanistan. Around 20 families have come to United States in the past two years. Those who come in the 1980s are mostly US citizens now.

After the September 11th terrorist attacks in New York and in Washington we, the Afghan Community of New England in Massachusetts, issued a Statement and a Press Release the day after the attack. We strongly condemned these terrorist acts and expressed our solidarity and unity with our President and our Government. We also expressed our sadness, sorrow and condolences with those families who lost their loved ones.

Long before the September 11th attacks, all Afghans in the United States and abroad and the Afghans inside Afghanistan raised their voices loudly and warned the world about the existence and threats of these non-Afghan terrorist groups inside Afghanistan.

It is unfortunate to say that the government of Pakistan, its military forces, and the ISI helped, funded, and created these terrorist groups along with Taliban who rules Afghanistan right now. Taliban do not represent the Afghan society. We would like to see a broad based government, which includes all the people of Afghanistan regardless of their ethnic, linguistic, and religious differences. We wished this goal had been accomplished through a peaceful mean.

Today, we are deeply concerned about the fate of the civilians inside Afghanistan. We appreciate the aid package for the refugees inside and outside Afghanistan and the food dropping efforts. We would like to see this humanitarian assistance to continue throughout the wintertime. We would like to see that the United States and the free world not to abandon Afghanistan and to plan for the future of Afghanistan. We need to rebuild and re-construct Afghanistan.

Sincerely yours,
AFGHAN COMMUNITY OF NEW
ENGLAND IN MASSACHUSETTS.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. FRANK (CAROLINE) GUARINI

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 11, 2001

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in praise of the late Mrs. Frank (Caroline) Guarini, Senior, mother of former Congressman Frank J. Guarini, Jr. Mrs. Guarini's life spanned the entire 20th century; entering our world on March 25, 1900 in Niagara Falls, New York and departing it on September 9, 2001 at her home in Secaucus, New Jersey. On September 13th I was privileged to be in attendance with her loving son and family in a service celebrating her life.

After completing her education in Canada, then Caroline Critelli worked in her family's furniture business before marrying Frank J. Guarini, Sr. in 1923. Never forgetting her Italian immigrant background, she raised her two children Ms. Marie Mangin and Mr. Guarini, Jr. to be proud of their heritage and grateful for all of that life had blessed them with.

To this end, Mrs. Guarini remained devoted to the public throughout her life, contributing to the community through service and through the arts. In November of 1999, Mrs. Guarini was recognized by the Christopher Columbus Foundation for her continuous participation in its Columbus Day Parade where she was referred to as a “child's dream of a fairy Godmother”. And in celebration of her 100th birthday in 2000, she played the theme song from Dr. Zhivago on piano on an international television broadcast.

Whether in the capacity of work, family, service, church, or neighbor, everyone who met Mrs. Guarini was touched by her. Those that had the honor of knowing Mrs. Guarini, will forever remember her grace, charm, and beauty.

IN MEMORY OF LUCILLE PERK

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 11, 2001

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Lucille Perk of Cleveland.

Lucille Perk may always be best remembered as an avid bowler. She bowled with Vic's Floral team in the Southeast Ladies League for more than twenty years. When her husband, Ralph Perk, who was the mayor of Cleveland from 1972 through 1977, was invited to a White House dinner with president Nixon, she did not accompany him. Pressed for an explanation, the mayor explained that his wife could not attend because it was her bowling night. People across the country knew the story of the Ohio woman who preferred bowling to dinner at the White House.

As dedicated as she was to her teammates at the bowling alley, she was even more dedicated to her community, her church and her family. The mother of seven, she was named Italian Mother of the Year by the Italian-American Civic Club in 1965. For more than thirty-five years while her husband was in politics, Lucille answered telephone calls from constituents.

Lucille was a regular attendee of meetings of the Parent Teachers Union at Our Lady of Lourdes parochial school. She was a lifelong member of Our Lady of Lourdes parish. She was also a member of the Southeast Isabella Guild of the Knights of Columbus and the Knights of St. John's women's auxiliary. She was a founder of two mission circles supporting priests in El Salvador and South Africa.

Lucille Perk was a dedicated wife, mother, community volunteer, and bowler. She has become a part of the culture of Cleveland. My fellow colleagues, please join me in honoring the life of this remarkable woman.

FARM SECURITY ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 5, 2001

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I offer my thanks and congratulations to the Chairman of the Agriculture Committee, Mr. COMBEST, and the Ranking Members, Mr. STENHOLM, for crafting this bipartisan legislation, which I am pleased to support. The bill before us is the result of more than two years of hard work by the Agriculture Committee and I believe the efforts of the Committee are reflected in this Farm Bill.

This legislation comes at a time of historically low commodity prices and high costs for farmers and ranchers. This has resulted in drastically lower production. Last year in my state of Kansas, wheat production was only 80

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

percent of the previous year's crop. While this was still good enough to enable Kansas to lead the nation in wheat production, it resulted in a production value decrease of nearly \$30 million from the previous year. Corn production was down by 4 million bushels from 1999, and sorghum grain production was down 27 percent, though I am pleased to report to my colleagues that Kansas did retain its position as the number one sorghum grain production state in the nation.

The difficulties facing the farmers and ranchers of Kansas did not stop there. Soybean production was down nearly 40 percent and was at its lowest level in five years. And hay production was down 13 percent from 1999. Mr. Speaker, these facts strongly suggest the need for a farm policy which continues current successful agricultural programs and offers a balanced approach for addressing issues of important to those Americans who produce crops and livestock. It is time for Congress to step forward and demonstrate our commitment to the men and women who feed our Nation.

There are numerous reasons why I will vote for the Farm Security Act of 2001. I support this legislation because it offers essential income support to farmers and ranchers, thus guaranteeing a safe, affordable, and dependable food supply for the United States and many parts of the world. The American people are truly a blessed and fortunate people considering that we spend only 11 cents of every dollar we earn on food. In other nations that figure may be as high as fifty cents on the dollar.

It is not just the worker on the farm or ranch who will feel the benefits of this Farm Bill. This legislation provides much-needed resources to the agricultural economy, which will guarantee the continued viability of the food and fiber sector where nearly one-fifth of America's civilian workforce is employed. Mr. Speaker, by supporting production on our farms and ranches, we are ensuring that domestic agriculture remains robust and the job market in America's food and fiber industry is strong.

I heard from many of my constituents back in Kansas regarding the need for additional conservation in this year's Farm Bill. I am pleased to tell them that we have considerably increased funding for conservation programs. This legislation contains an average of \$1.285 billion per year for Environmental Quality Incentives Programs, plus an additional fund of \$60 million per year to address water issues. The bill added 5.7 million acres to the Conservation Reserve Program, which is 2.8 million acres above the currently authorized acreage. It adds 1.5 million new acres to the Wetlands Reserve Program. It authorizes \$25 million for the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program, an amount that increase to \$50 million by the year 2011. Finally, our conservation efforts are augmented by the implementation of the Grasslands Reserve Program which allows up to 2 million acres to be preserved as grasslands. Mr. Speaker, through the Farm Security Act, our commitment to conservation is stronger than ever.

This legislation also reflects America's commitment to the less fortunate in our society who need a helping hand. Through the efforts of the Ag Committee, we have simplified the federal food stamp program to guarantee that needy families throughout our nation have better access to America's food supply. The Farm

Security Act accomplished this through making needed improvements in food assistance programs by giving states greater flexibility, doing away with unnecessary barriers to participation, and increasing assistance to working families, or those individuals known as the "working poor." Under this plan, individual states will be able to provide six months of transitional food stamp benefits for families leaving the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program. It includes incentives for states to improve quality control systems and the Emergency Food Assistance Program will receive an additional \$40 million for commodity purchases.

Under this year's Farm Bill, our willingness to help others is not confined to our own borders. This legislation provides increased funds to transport U.S. producers' surplus commodities to the world's developing nations. It also increases the cap on funds used to provide food assistance on a grant basis or on credit terms to struggling countries. Additionally, funding for the Foreign Market Development Program is increased by \$7 million per year over its current level. This program is an effective approach to acquiring new foreign customers for American producers and new markets for American crops and livestock. Recent Department of Agriculture figures indicate that in 1980, the United States held a 24 percent share of world agricultural markets. Now, that figure has dropped to nearly 18 percent. I believe this bill improves the ability of our producers to compete.

The Farm Security Act of 2001 is a fair and balanced bill which enjoys the support of agriculture and conservation groups. It addresses critical farm program needs and also makes significant improvements to America's conservation, rural development, export promotion, nutrition and research programs. It fully complies with the budget approved by Congress earlier this year and meets our WTO obligations. I commend the Chairman and the Committee for their work on this Farm Bill and I strongly encourage my colleagues to vote for it.

ESSAY BY RABBI EMANUEL
RACKMAN AND STEPHEN WAGNER

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 11, 2001

MR. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call attention to a powerful essay by Rabbi Emanuel Rackman of Bar Ilan University and Stephen Wagner of Bar Ilan University entitled, "Philo-Semitism in the Work of the Polish Nobel Laureate Czeslaw Milosz: He Pays Tribute to Jewish Literature." According to the article, while there has been anti-Semitism among the Polish masses, the Polish aristocracy and intelligencia "were overwhelmingly philo-Semitic." According to the essay, Milosz's opinion "corroborates the views of the great Jewish writer, the poet and novelist Chaim Grade, originally, like Milosz, from Vilna . . ."

For several years, I have been striving to protect the works of Chaim Grade, many of whose writings were lost due to the complexities Grade faced by the copyright laws after he came to the United States following World War II. I urge my colleagues to support my

legislation to fully protect Grade's works, H.R. 2971.

I ask unanimous consent that the full text of the Rackman/Wagner essay be printed at this point.

PHILO-SEMITISM IN THE WORK OF THE POLISH NOBEL LAUREATE CZESLAW MILOSZ: HE PAYS TRIBUTE TO JEWISH LITERATURE

Numerous very interested reviews of Czeslaw Milosz's newly published book, *Milosz's ABC's* inspired us to read it. The various, truly unexpected, unpredictable subjects, alphabetically arranged as if encyclopedia entries, may well require a volume of comments. So we comment here on only one subject, conspicuously absent from this work both as a subject and in spirit—anti-Semitism.

Czeslaw Milosz, a Polish nobleman, gives as much attention and loving devotion to his Jewish friends and acquaintances, subjects and issues, as Polish ones. The absence of the least trace of anti-Semitism in Milosz's book is to us, as American Jews, a revelation, for it corroborates the views of the great Jewish writer, the poet and novelist Chaim Grade, originally, like Milosz, from Vilna, who said that in Poland anti-Semitism was mainly among the masses—evidently under the influence of the Church of pre-Vatican II—whereas the Polish aristocracy and intelligentsia, with rare exceptions, were overwhelmingly philo-Semitic. Indeed, Chaim Grade wrote a poem of homage to the greatest poet of Poland, Adam Mickiewicz, famous as a philo-Semite, calling him "the conscience of Poland."

Chaim Grade is a master of utmost objectivity, well aware of the horrors of anti-Semitism, for which reason in his *Lamentations* about the program in Kielce, July 1946—not yet translated—he describes the Polish doctor who at the funeral of the victims denounces the murderous mob with the fiery pathos of a Hebrew prophet. It is the very same doctor, a devout Catholic, who rescued more than twenty Jews from the Nazis, hiding them in his house, again as described by Chaim Grade in his acclaimed philosophical Dialogue, *My War With Hersch Rassayner*, the complete text of which, edited and revised by Chaim Grade himself, has just been translated into English. Scholar agree—and among them Professor Emeritus Millon R. Konvitz of Cornell University—that the Philosophical Dialogue of Chaim Grade is indeed the Book of Job on the Holocaust and that, like the Book of Job, it belongs "among Jewish writings that are considered sacred . . . which in the Hebrew Scriptures are wisely placed in the part known simply as writings." Chaim Grade attended the funeral of the victims of the pogrom of Kielce with Antek Yitzhak Zuckerman, one of the foremost leaders of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, who said that "while it took one Pole to betray one hundred Jews, it took one hundred Poles to save one Jew, and the Poles who were saving Jews are the glory of mankind." Chaim Grade's works reflect this truth.

No doubt, it is Chaim Grade's absolute objectivity and utmost spiritual and intellectual honesty that inspired Czeslaw Milosz, the spiritual and literary heir of Mickiewicz, to devote to him a chapter of homage in *Milosz's ABC's*, where among other important comments, he reports what a Jewish authority should have reported a long time ago: The Nobel Prize for Isaac Bashevis Singer was cause for violent controversies among Yiddish-speaking New York Jews . . . Above all, . . . in the opinion of the majority of the disputants, Grade was a much better writer than Singer, but little translated into English, which is why members of the Swedish Academy had no access to his writings.