

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 Hersh 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.

Singer gained fame, according to this opinion, by dishonest means. Obsessively concerned with sex, he created his own world of Polish Jews which had nothing in common with reality—erotic, fantastic, filled with apparitions, spirits, and dybbuks, as if that had been the quotidian reality of Jewish towns. Grade was a real writer, faithful to the reality he described, and he deserved the Nobel Prize . . . Grade was attentive to the accuracy of the details he recorded and has been compared with Balzac or Dickens. . . .

This statement by an authority of Czeslaw Milosz's stature, himself a Nobel laureate, is a very serious matter. Czeslaw Milosz goes on to describe Jewish life in Poland as it was and Jewish-Polish relations as they were, all as reflected in the works of Chaim Grade. It is regrettable that he did not know what was very well known in Jewish literary circles, that Chaim Grade forbade all from nominating him for the Nobel prize, mostly because his pre-world war II prophetic and poetic visions of doom were recited like prayers both in the Vilna Ghetto and in Auschwitz, along with the poetry of the great Jewish poet Yitzhak Katzenelson, who, together with his wife and sons, perished in Auschwitz, and of whose works very little has been rescued. All this was reported by the surviving eyewitnesses in Yiddish and published in Argentina, then in English in America—check the Jewish Book Annual—the American Yearbook of Jewish Creativity 1990–1991, 5751. Many people regretted Chaim Grade's decision, for it was taken advantage of by the writer unequivocally rejected by the Jewish writers and readers for reasons well explained by Czeslaw Milosz, who, by whatever means, got the prize and paraded the foremost representative of Jewish literature, of the very Judaism. Thus, the issue is not that Chaim Grade does not have the Nobel Prize, but that, from the Jewish viewpoint, the least suitable, the worst possible writer, has it.

As Czeslaw Milosz rightly testifies, the Jewish people have the greatest appreciation for Chaim Grade, especially because of his volumes of lamentations in poetry and prose about the Holocaust, for which Encyclopedia Judaica reports, he is declared "the national Jewish poet, as Bialik was in his day." Chaim Grade's volumes resurrect the life of East European Jewry, such as it truly was, very much as stated by Czeslaw Milosz who, a Pole from Vilna, knew this life very well and is a most reliable witness.

Czeslaw Milosz's report about the Jewish attitude towards the Yiddish Nobel laureate may be corroborated by the following vignette: Professor Saul Lieberman, the Dean of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, heard the news from Sweden, and exclaimed in utter disbelief, "What?!!! But he wrote only pornography!" When Bar-Ilan University in Israel was approached about a prize for the Yiddish laureate, he was rejected so emphatically that the issue was never raised again.

Czeslaw Milosz's report is especially important in view of the general contempt for the Yiddish Nobel laureate. Thus, less than a month before the incomprehensible news from Sweden, John Simon wrote on September 12, 1978, in *The Esquire*: International understanding is a delightful thing. How nice it was at the recent Pula Film Festival, in Yugoslavia, between looking at films, to find a group of critics and scholars from various countries in agreement about the vast overratedness of that self-inflated, dully repetitious, barely second-rate fictionalist Isaac Bashevis Singer.

And Israel Shenker concluded the definitive literary obituary of the Yiddish laureate in August 1991, in the Book Review of the *New York Times*: He shied from chicken

soup—and chickens—and became a devoted vegetarian . . . "So, in a very small way, I do a favor for the chickens," Singer said. "If I will ever get a monument, chickens will do it for me."

A New York Times reporter in 1978, the year of the shocking choice of the Nobel prize for literature, Israel Shenker is known to have approached the late Eugene Rachlis, the Editor-in-Chief of *Bobbs-Merryl*, then Chaim Grade's English publisher (now it is Knopf); and asked, "what's going on? Everybody says that it is your man who should have gotten the prize." All this explains why Israel Shenker chose to end the definitive literary obituary of the Yiddish laureate with the laureate's own "chickens" words.

And all this proves the great truth of the words of the man who is America's conscience, Abraham Lincoln, "you can fool all of the people some of the time, you can fool some of the people all of the time, but you cannot fool all of the people all of the time." Most importantly about this case is, of course, not just that the Yiddish laureate is a "pornographic writer," as rightly denounced by Saul Lieberman, nor that he is merely a "self-inflated, dully-repetitious, barely second-rate fictionalist," as rightly stated by John Simon and colleagues, nor that—as he himself knew and said—he is a writer for "chickens,"—whatever this may mean. The most important is precisely as Czeslaw Milosz testifies, "he created his own world of Polish Jews which had nothing in common with reality," as the result of which he has misinformed and mislead people, preventing them from knowing the truth about Jewish life in Eastern Europe, especially about Jewish-Polish relations. It is to be hoped that responsible people like John Simon and Israel Shenker will appreciate Czeslaw Milosz's testimony, that they are aware that the Jewish people are no "chickens," that, prize or no prize, the Jewish people have rejected the so-called Yiddish laureate, that his prize remains an incomprehensible insult, if not an outrage. And we cannot be too grateful to Czeslaw Milosz, the Polish Nobel Laureate, for having made in his ABC's room also for Chaim Grade, the Jewish master, who describes Jewish life in Eastern Europe as it really was, and, above all, the Jewish spirit such as it is, always and everywhere, beyond time and space, the spirit of the Bible.

RABBI EMANUEL RACKMAN,
Chancellor, Bar Ilan University.
STEPHEN WAGNER, Esq.,
Counsel, Bar Ilan University.

TRIBUTE TO THE COLORADO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 11, 2001

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise today to express gratitude to the Colorado General Assembly. I respectfully submit the following Colorado Joint Resolution for the RECORD.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 01S2-1002

By Representative(s) Dean, Spradley, Grossman, Fritz, Cloer, Alexander, Bacon, Berry, Borodkin, Boyd, Cadman, Chavez, Clapp, Coleman, Crane, Daniel, Decker, Fairbank, Garcia, Groff, Hefley, Hodge, Hoppe, Jahn, Jameson, Johnson, Kester, King, Larson, Lawrence, Lee, Mace, Madden, Marshall, Miller, Mitchell, Nunez, Paschall, Plant, Ragsdale, Rhodes, Rippy, Romanoff,

Saliman, Sanchez, Schultheis, Scott, Sinclair, Smith, Snook, Spence, Stafford, Stengel, Swenson, Tapia, Tochtrop, Veiga, Vigil, Webster, Weddig, White, William S., Williams T., Witwer, and Young; also Senators(s) Matsunaka, Thiebaut, Andrews, Perlmutter, Anderson, Arnold, Chlouber, Dyer, Epps, Evans, Fitz-Gerald, Gordon, Hagedorn, Hanna, Hernandez, Hillman, Isgar, Lamborn, Linkhart, May, McElhany, Musgrave, Nichol, Owen, Phillips, Reeves, Takis, Tate, Taylor, Teck, and Windels.

CONCERNING THE EXPRESSION OF THE SENTIMENTS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY REGARDING THE TERRORIST ATTACKS ON AMERICAN SOIL ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001.

Whereas, September 11, 2001, may live in infamy as the day on which more people lost their lives or were injured on American soil as the result of acts of terrorism than on any other single day in history; and

Whereas, On that day, terrorists forcibly commandeered four commercial jet airliners scheduled to fly routes from the east coast of the continental United States to the west coast; and

Whereas, Once in control of these aircraft, the terrorists implemented a dastardly, suicidal plan of unparalleled proportions never before carried out in this country or anywhere else in the world; and

Whereas, The terrorists, piloting aircraft fully laden with highly flammable jet fuel and with total disregard for the lives of the passengers and crews on board or persons on the ground, turned these jet airliners into flying weapons of mass destruction, each with tremendous explosive power, and aimed their weapons at targets in New York City and Washington, D.C., our nation's capital, two of the most densely populated areas in our country; and

Whereas, Two of these aircraft were intentionally flown directly into the World Trade Center Towers in New York City, resulting in the terrifying, total destruction of two of the tallest buildings in the world, home to some 50,000 workers and up to 100,000 visitors daily and causing untold loss of life and injury to innocent, unarmed civilians; and

Whereas, A third jetliner slammed into the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., headquarters of our country's national defense and the largest office building in the world, also causing extensive damage, loss of life, and injury to persons; and

Whereas, The fourth plane, presumably aimed at targets in Washington, D.C., or possibly the presidential retreat at Camp David, Maryland, crashed in rural Pennsylvania, killing all on board, including the pilot, United Airlines Captain Jason M. Dahl from the Ken Caryl Valley area of Jefferson County, Colorado, and flight attendant Kathryn Laborie, originally from Colorado Springs, Colorado; and

Whereas, Although we may never know for sure, authorities believe, based on cell phone calls from at least two passengers on the fourth plane, Jeremy Glick and Mark Bingham, to relatives on the ground in New Jersey and California, that passengers heroically struggled with the hijackers and probably took actions that prevented this plane from reaching the terrorists' planned target; and

Whereas, Many firefighters, law enforcement personnel, military personnel, and others worked tirelessly to try to save as many lives as possible in these disasters, and it is possible that more than three hundred fifty police officers and firefighters in New York City lost their lives in the line of duty; and

Whereas, The total loss of life and injuries resulting from these cowardly acts will be in the many thousands of people, if not more, and, in the words of New York Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani, will be "more than any of us can bear"; and