

A U.S. Central Intelligence Agency aircraft had detected the missionaries' plane and notified the Peruvian air force. American officials say the surveillance crew, however, had advised it appeared, from the way the plane was flying, that it was not a drug smuggling flight.

Bowers, 38, of Muskegon, Mich., was in Pensacola for the funeral and burial Sunday of his wife, Veronica "Roni" Bowers, 35, and their 7-month-old daughter, Charity. He stayed with family in Wake County, N.C., immediately after the shooting.

The couple's 6-year-old son, Cory, also survived uninjured, but the plane's pilot, Kevin Donaldson, 41, of Morgantown, Pa., was wounded.

Bowers spoke to reporters at Marcus Points Baptist Church where the funeral services was held. His wife's parents, John and Gloria Luttig, of nearby Pace, are members of the church, which had helped support the couple's missionary work.

Bowers expressed his forgiveness to all involved at the funeral and during a memorial service Friday at his home church in Michigan. He said Monday he also hopes to talk personally with the Peruvian pilot who fired on their plane.

"I'm looking forward to that some day, but right now, I'm praying for him," Bowers said.

Although insisting he wasn't placing blame, Bowers said the pilot failed to give the missionaries a chance to land before he started shooting.

"I was assuming, because I've watched movies just like you all have, that there would be some kind of communication, they would come up next to us and let us know what they wanted," Bowers told reporters.

The air force plane swooped by a half-dozen times and began firing only five or 10 minutes after the first pass, he said.

"Any decent air force pilot would give the other aircraft time to understand his intentions," Bowers said. "I just thought this is way too soon for them to be shooting already."

He said he saw a puff of smoke from the front of the warplane and told Donaldson he thought it was shooting at them just as the bullets began ripping through their aircraft. A single bullet instantly killed his wife and daughter.

Bowers said neither he nor anyone else from his family or church has been in contact with the baby's natural parents, but he said they knew she had been killed.

The couple's missionary work also has been supported by Calvary Church in Fruitport, Mich., and the Association of Baptists for World Evangelism, based in New Cumberland, Pa.

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina.

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 117

Whereas James and Veronica "Roni" Bowers of Muskegon, Michigan, served as missionaries affiliated with the Calvary Church of Fruitport, Michigan, and the Association of Baptists for World Evangelism;

Whereas the Bowerses conducted their Christian mission work with their children, Cory and Charity, serving the native tribes along the Amazon River in Peru since 1995;

Whereas on Friday, April 20, 2001, the Bowerses were flying in an Association of Baptists for World Evangelism plane piloted by Kevin Donaldson, traveling from the

Peru-Brazil border to the city of Iquitos, Peru, after attempting to secure necessary visa documents for their adopted daughter, Charity;

Whereas the plane was mistakenly attacked by a fighter jet of the Peruvian Air Force in an apparent attempted anti-drug interdiction effort that may have also involved personnel of the United States;

Whereas Roni and Charity Bowers were killed, and pilot Kevin Donaldson was severely injured in the attack;

Whereas Kevin Donaldson, despite his injuries, was able to safely land his plane on the Amazon River, saving the lives of his other passengers; and

Whereas the family, friends, and co-workers of Roni and Charity Bowers have displayed a shining example of their faith and grace in the face of this terrible tragedy: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) expresses and conveys its deepest and most heartfelt sympathies to Jim and Cory Bowers and to their extended families, friends, co-workers, and fellow missionaries at the Association of Baptists for World Evangelism, for the loss of Veronica "Roni" Bowers and Charity Bowers in an attack by a fighter jet of the Peruvian Air Force on the plane in which they were traveling;

(2) commends Kevin Donaldson for his heroic actions in safely landing the plane and wishes Mr. Donaldson a speedy and complete recovery from his injuries; and

(3) strongly encourages the Governments of the United States and Peru to work together as expeditiously as possible to determine all the circumstances that led to this unfortunate and regrettable incident and to ensure that an incident of this kind never occurs again.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on House Concurrent Resolution 117.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

ILO CHAMPIONS CAUSE OF WORKERS' RIGHTS AROUND THE WORLD

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

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, this is a quote:

The failure of any nation to adopt humane conditions of labor is an obstacle in the way of other nations which desire to improve the conditions of their own countries.

□ 1845

Powerful words, and I wish I could claim that they are mine, but they are not. They are from the preamble of the Constitution of the International Labor Organization, which was created 82 years ago.

The United States, of course, was one of the nations which helped form the ILO. And, true to its mission, in the years since, the ILO has championed the cause of workers' rights around the world: the right to organize and bargain collectively; the right to refuse forced labor; the right to reject child labor; and the right to work free from discrimination.

In fact, right now the ILO is mounting a global effort to inform workers of their rights. Versions of this poster to my right, in a variety of languages, are being distributed around the world. You have rights to organize and bargain collectively, to refuse forced labor, to reject child labor, to work free from discrimination.

The ILO is living up to the challenge of fighting for workers' rights. The question is, are we?

Last week in Quebec, the President called for expanding NAFTA and creating a free trade zone stretching from the Arctic Circle to Tierra Del Fuego. We are told it is an opportunity to promote our values and democracy throughout the Americas. Imagine what a source of relief that must be to workers at Chentex, which is a clothing factory in Las Mercedes Free Trade Zone in Nicaragua. Or should I say the "former workers" of this factory, because after they organized a union in 1988, the workers at Chentex had the audacity to ask for a wage increase.

One day they staged a 15-minute work stoppage to protest the company's intransigence. What was the company's response? They fired the leaders of the union. At that point the workers went on strike. What was the company's answer, they forced more than 500 workers from their jobs and then they blacklisted them so they could not work in the free trade zone again.

If you follow the logic presented to us in Quebec, with a Free Trade Area of the Americas, that would not happen. As a result of dealing with American companies, employers like Chentex would see the error of their ways. They would respect workers' rights and bargain fairly. Their managers would stop forcing workers to labor as much as 12 hours a day, and they would not monitor their visits to the bathrooms or any of the other things that happen frequently.

There is only one problem with this theory: It is that the Chentex factory has been trading with the United States companies for years. In fact, they make clothing that is sold today by major U.S. retailers.

We do not practice what we preach. The theory that the President and the so-called free traders advocate has not worked. You do not have to go to Nicaragua, you can go to the free trade

zone along the Mexican-U.S. border. You can go to another 100 places like that around the globe. The reality is that too many corporations are treating people without human respect. And the ILO, I have a right, you have a right, to organize and bargain collectively, to refuse forced labor, to reject child labor, to work free from discrimination, is an important message to let people know around the world that we will not tolerate it, and they can stand up and be respected.

We have too many children, 8, 9, 10 years of age, working 12 hours in factories for less than a nickel an hour, a nickel a day in some instances, basically working for nothing. We have too many instances of people being discriminated against in the workplace. We have too many instances of forced labor, and this needs to stop. I only wish U.S. corporations were willing to cooperate with this movement.

It takes some leadership at the national level here in this country, not only from the government but from our corporate leaders. I wish someone would stand out and say we are going to set the pattern and treat workers abroad with respect and dignity. I think once that wave starts, it is pretty hard to stop. What we need to do is continue to press. We need to continue to support the ILO and their efforts to educate workers around the globe that they have these rights. We as a country, as people, as governments, and as corporations ought to stand up for those rights.

DECISION TO CHANGE HEADGEAR OF U.S. ARMY FROM FOLDING GREEN CAPS TO BLACK BERETS DISAGREED WITH BY MANY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ISAKSON). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last week I attended a briefing before the House Committee on Armed Services regarding the decision to change the headgear of the United States Army from the traditional green folding cap to a black beret. There have been many hearings and briefings since this decision was announced, and it seems to me, following each one, another bit of information not previously known has come to light.

The decision to disregard the history and proud tradition of the Rangers was the first bad decision. The decision to bypass the Berry amendment and purchase the berets from China and other foreign countries, rather than buy them from U.S. suppliers, was the second bad decision.

I did not believe that this decision could become any worse, but the longer the situation drags on, the worse it seems to become. The bottom line is that we have troops without adequate ammunition and pilots who cannot fly

because of a lack of funds, so why would the Army spend \$23 million to change the color of a hat on the whim of one general? It just does not add up. Just like a dead fish, this seems to be rotting from the head down.

Mr. Speaker, I have heard from many of our retired and active duty Rangers, among them Sgt. Bill Round from my district and Sgt. David Nielsen, who are both veterans. Believe me when I say, contrary to what has been reported, they are not pleased with the decision to change the beret designation to tan.

Mr. Speaker, tomorrow I will testify before the House Committee on Small Business regarding the matter in which the Berry amendment was arbitrarily dismissed. The gentleman from Illinois (Mr. MANZULLO) and the Committee on Small Business are to be commended for calling the hearing so that the Committee on Small Business can flesh out how the decision to bypass the Berry amendment was reached.

During my testimony, I will be discussing a bill that I have introduced that will prevent an error like this from ever happening again in the future. However, the immediate need needs to be addressed right now. The decision regarding the change from folding green hats to black beret appears to be dying a slow death. Murmurings are circulating about shoddy workmanship, and I am sure that other problems will come to light following the hearing tomorrow.

The time to bring an end to this ill-fated decision has come. It is my hope that the Congress and the administration can stop this outrage once and for all and restore the emblem which for so long has been a symbol of excellence in the United States Army, the Rangers wearing the black beret.

INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED WORKERS' RIGHTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR), for organizing this evening's discussion on so critical an issue as international workers' rights. The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR) has been a champion for workers' rights at home and abroad, and I am proud to join him in this discussion.

Work is fundamental to our existence. It gives our life meaning, and it is necessary so workers can provide for even the most basic human needs, like food, shelter and clothing. We say that women and men share the same fundamental rights when they are at work. We say that the new global economy is creating unprecedented opportunities and new-found rights for workers, especially women, including the right to work free from gender discrimination, yet clearly we are not doing enough to make this a reality.

Gender wage discrimination is a national and international atrocity which continues to hold our global community captive and hinders further progress.

From the United States to Japan, from South Africa to the Netherlands, women are paid less than men. What is worse is that there is no indication that this will soon change for women worldwide. Across the globe, the United States Congress has the ability to protect workers' rights, including the right to work free from gender discrimination. As the most powerful nation in the world, we have the responsibility to influence other governments to defend workers' rights, to ensure that women workers are paid a fair wage so they can support their families. It is time that we live up to these responsibilities.

For decades women have been fighting for their right to enter the labor force, and progress has been made in terms of women in the workforce. With the globalization of the economy, women have assumed extraordinary responsibilities and have adapted to the duties of providing for the security of their families. They have taken on roles in the workplace and in their communities, oftentimes to lessen the harm from local and national crises, for example, the women that enter the agriculture sector in Africa in order to alleviate their families from the burdens of famine that have plagued Africa.

For the past 2 decades, the level of women's participation in the labor force has been increasing. In fact, in 1994, approximately 45 percent of the world's women from the ages of 15 to 64 were economically active. The rate at which women are becoming economically active is almost twice the rate for men. In the United States, Canada and the Scandinavian countries, women now make up nearly half the active population, with activity rates of over 70 percent in core age groups. Unfortunately, this is only half the story.

It is simply unacceptable that not all women have been able to choose to enter the workforce and those that do encounter additional barriers and violations of their rights. Although women have benefited a great deal from the changing global economy and newly created jobs, unequal pay remains a problem and job equality has declined.

I cannot believe that the majority of women worldwide continue to earn on the average only 50 to 80 percent of what men earn. In Japan, the Republic of Korea, women's salaries are roughly half of men's salaries. In developed countries, including the United States, the pay gap varies between 30 percent to slightly less than 10 percent. Worldwide, women earn an average of 75 percent of men's pay in nonagricultural work. These are outright violations of workers' rights, and the injustices persist despite undeniable success which women have achieved in accessing education and vocational and professional