

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise for the record to express my deepest regard and sympathies to the new Nation of Ukraine at its 68th anniversary remembrance of the tragic great famine of 1932 and 1933.

Ukraine, always known as the bread-basket of Europe, lost nearly a quarter of its population as the Stalinist-led government, headquartered in Moscow then, forcibly exported Ukraine's wheat and spent the money earned on industrialization.

□ 2000

Only God knows the true count of the millions of Ukrainian peasants and village dwellers who were systematically starved to death as collectivization of the countryside made independent farming impossible.

Inside the borders of the Soviet Union, over 50 million people ultimately perished through the end of the Second World War, beginning with upwards of 8 million innocent people who died during forced famine of the early 1930s. The totalitarian regime of Joseph Stalin understood the power of food as the most fundamental weapon and used it cruelly.

For several centuries, Ukraine then fought for its freedom. When forced to join the U.S.S.R. in the 20th century, Ukrainians resisted with valor. The forests of Western Ukraine are filled with the bones of their sacrifice. Every family suffered permanent losses. Yet no threats or punishments could deter Ukraine from its constant attempts to leave the Soviet Union and restore its independence.

Fearing for the integrity of its empire, the Soviet regime then decided to simply eliminate Ukrainian culture by destroying the intellectual and military elite that pursued ideals of freedom and liberty. The regime falsified history and finally starved millions upon millions into submission.

Genocide of this magnitude is unparalleled in human history. It is almost impossible to comprehend a political system that would contemplate and plan the deaths of millions of its citizens. These deaths of men, women, children and elderly were executed in the most tortuous ways imaginable. Young men were forcibly inducted into the military, taken from their farms and villages. Families that did not cooperate were shot. The remaining millions were starved to death. Women and children scratched in the frozen earth to find even an onion to make soup in the winter. Mothers died to give their last shreds of food to their children.

History shows even in the face of such brutality, Ukrainians did not retreat. They continued to fight for freedom. Deep in their souls their spirits remained unbent and steadfast.

When Ukrainian independence finally was declared in 1991, Ukrainian patriots did not rest. They refused to forget their roots and live like tumbleweeds. Life without a homeland for them was

life not worth living. Finally, they prevailed; but the memory of the earlier horrors remained always and drives them in their sense of duty.

Many of my own ancestors died miserably inside what is now Ukraine during the 1930s. Our family well knows that this horror occurred.

We, history, must never forget that such profound events happened. We must remember. We must prevent such evil from happening again. We must also recognize that such hatred can be perpetrated only when freedom does not reign in a land. Therefore, we must maintain our dedication to freedom and representative government.

We must resist anyone who attempts to take it from us. We must help those in the world who have gained their democratic freedoms to keep them alive and nurture them into maturity. We must not rest until such seemingly simple gifts as a right to life and the right to pursue happiness are guaranteed for every person in the world.

Democratic freedoms must prevail more now than ever. Recent events make us more aware of precious endowments of our known Nationhood. Now we have an additional reason to continue our work for democratization and defense of human rights. The memory of those who died defenselessly in this struggle so long ago deserve to be honored.

For several centuries, Ukraine has fought for its freedom. When forced to join the U.S.S.R., Ukrainians resisted with valor. In furtherance of this remembrance, I would strongly encourage the United States Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad, and the U.S.-Ukraine Joint Cultural Heritage Commission, each funded annually by the Congress of the United States on behalf of the people of the United States, to accurately reflect the great famine in their historical documentations, including cemeteries, massacre sites and other hallowed grounds in Ukraine. Those commemorations should also give proper tribute and restore the lost heritage resulting from the mass immigration of writers and scholars to the West.

In closing, Madam Speaker, we will mourn the lives of these innocent people lost to history on November 17, 2001, when a commemorative service will be held in St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City. Let us never forget them. Let us work ever harder to build a world free of terror for our children.

COMMEMORATION OF THE 68TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UKRAINIAN FAMINE-GENOCIDE OF 1932-1933

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. HART). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. HORN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HORN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of millions of innocent Ukrainians who were systematically starved to death by the Soviet Government in 1932 and 1933.

A comprehensive campaign to kill Ukrainian citizens and to destroy all vestiges of Ukrainian nationalism was carried out by Joseph Stalin, the dictator of the Soviet Union; and his policies of forced collectivization of both agriculture and industry was part of the problem. Although almost a quarter of the Ukrainian population died in those 2 years, 1932 and 1933, their tragedy remained unknown to the rest of the world for almost 60 years.

Joseph Stalin's collectivization policy to finance Soviet industrialization had a disastrous effect on agricultural productivity. In fact, between the First World War and the Second World War productivity in agriculture doubled, but not with the industrialization and the collectivization. The Northern Caucasus and the Lower Volga River area were part of that famine that occurred.

Without regard for the negative consequences of this policy, Stalin raised Ukraine's grain quotas by 44 percent. Because Soviet law required that the government's grain quota be filled before no other food distribution, peasants were effectively starved to death. Stalin enforced this law absolutely mercilessly. Those who refused to give up their grain were executed or deported. The death toll from the famine is estimated to be 6 to 7 million people. That is quite a bit when Stalin, the dictator, had killed about 25 million in his own country.

Yet, despite this atrocity, Ukrainians still struggled to restore their independence and freedom. There is no doubt that when Ukraine declared its independence on August 24, 1991, it vindicated the deaths of so many Ukrainians during the famine.

Madam Speaker, during the difficult time in our own country, it is important to recognize the courage of other peoples and other generations in the long struggle for freedom. It is equally important that we build on this example by teaching compassion to our young people and reinforcing our resolve to prevail over evil.

We must never forget that many innocent lives have been taken to undermine our commitment to the ideals of freedom and democracy. With this commemoration, we honor the memory of Ukrainians whose lives were lost in the struggle to gain independence; and we renew our commitment to justice for all.

In this week, Ukrainian Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko will be here, and I hope many Members in the House would have an opportunity to meet the new Prime Minister and its former pro-market reform. We hope that never again on Russia at all or Ukraine should such brutal murders and such wrong groups take place.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

DEATH WITH DIGNITY ACT

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, we know that Attorney General Ashcroft is very busy. His Department is attempting to track down the perpetrators of the anthrax attacks on our citizenry. And there are more than 1,000 Federal detainees who need to be interrogated and investigated for possible links to terrorism. There are other possible terrorist cells he tells us that are at work in the United States to be exposed and uprooted. He has recently warned us of other potential impending attacks.

He is a very, very busy gentleman, obviously. But unfortunately not busy enough to keep him from making mischief. Today he took a day off from the war against terrorism in a detour to launch his own attack on the people of the State of Oregon.

Oregon twice passed a law to provide death with dignity, assisted suicide. We built in extraordinary protections. People had to have a terminal diagnosis within 6 months. It had to be confirmed by more than one physician. They had to undergo psychological evaluation. No one could administer the prescription to them, but a physician could provide it if they so chose.

He sees this as an assault on the American people and feels that it takes priority, I guess, even in these busy times for him, to undo. And unfortunately, the mischief of the work he is doing here goes far beyond the State of Oregon. Because what he is doing will chill the aggressive management of pain for people with terminal illnesses across the United States.

This is an area in which we have made a little bit of progress in the last quarter of a century. It is no longer considered that someone has to die in extraordinary pain. More and more physicians will treat that aggressively, even at the risk of potentially shortening someone's life by a tiny bit just to make them more comfortable.

But because of this decision and this action by Attorney General Ashcroft, that is not going to happen anymore. Because physicians across America and most assuredly in Oregon are going to have to worry that the Drug Enforcement Administration using the Controlled Substances Act, people totally unqualified in the practice of medicine, are going to be looking over their shoulder and wanting to know what was their intent in writing that prescription.

Now, Mr. Ashcroft rather innocently says in his memorandum here that they will just probably prosecute people by looking for the required paperwork in the State of Oregon, but he

does not limit the lengthy opinion here to that extent. There is lots more mischief to be done by this zealotry.

Thirty people last year in Oregon, 30 people chose to use the Death With Dignity Act by their own hand, humanely ending their lives just a bit early to avoid horrible suffering. Now, what is wrong with that? What is so dangerous about that that the Attorney General has to take a full day off from the war on terrorism and divert some of his staff from the war on terrorism to an attack on the initiative of the State of Oregon, of the people of Oregon, and the idea of death with dignity?

This is extraordinary to me. And doing it by manipulating the Controlled Substances Act and injecting the Drug Enforcement Administration into these extraordinarily sensitive end-of-life decisions which should involve an individual, their loved ones, their minister, pastor, priest, rabbi, a counselor, psychologist, friends. But why does the Drug Enforcement Administration have to be in that room? Why should they be involved and intervene in this sort of decision? They have no qualifications. They have no right. They have no place. Leave the people of Oregon alone.

In fact, I would suggest that perhaps Attorney General Ashcroft would want to focus his efforts on defending the people of Oregon and the people of the United States against all unwarranted attacks and also protect our civil liberties and our states right at the same time, which he is certainly not doing with this decision.

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

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

GREATER AIRLINE SECURITY

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

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, we must pass as soon as possible an aviation security bill. It has been over 6 weeks since we passed the bail-out bill for the airline industry. I said at the time that I could not vote for that bill, not because it was a bad bill, but because it did not do anything to protect laid-off workers in the aviation community. And it did nothing to upgrade security in this country.

Today we still have that problem. People are still not willing to get back into planes to any great degree.

□ 2015

Just this past Saturday at O'Hare, we had another incident that shows that we have to change security in this country. An individual carrying a stun

gun, a can of Mace, and several knives in his carry-on luggage bag passed through screening at the airport without anyone stopping him whatsoever. That was after he had actually shown them two knives that he was carrying on the plane. This did not alert them whatsoever. They let him proceed right through that security point.

He was stopped at the gate. He was stopped by a United Airlines employee who had been informed by some other United employees that he had purchased a one-way ticket with cash. That United person at the gate stopped him, went through his bag, did find the Mace, did find the stun gun, did find the other knives. He was taken into custody by the Chicago Police Department. He was turned over to the FBI. He was then released by the FBI. By that time, though, he missed his flight to Omaha, a flight that he had put checked luggage on that wound up going to Omaha. After all of this, no one thought to remove his bag from the plane that went to Omaha.

This shows that we have to get rid of the status quo. We have to start with something brand new as far as aviation security. That is why we have to pass a bill as quickly as we possibly can. Thanksgiving is the greatest travel day we have in this Nation. We must have a new security bill in place before that so the American flying public will feel secure.

There were eight screeners that the FBI said were fired at O'Hare Airport because of this incident. Argenbright, the security company, simply said that they were suspended. Of those eight individuals, three of them have criminal records. One of them is a known member of a gang. That is why we must change the status quo in aviation security as quickly as possible.

Since September 11, the aviation industry has contracted to a very, very significant degree. At Newark, Reagan National, and Houston, flights are down by 35 percent; at Kennedy, 34 percent; Seattle, Boston, LaGuardia, Portland, and San Francisco, they are all down by over 25 percent. The Nation's top 31 airports are all down a minimum of 18 percent. Since September 11, United Airlines and American Airlines have cut 22 percent of their flights; Northwest, 15 percent; U.S. Airways, 25 percent; Delta, 15 percent; Alaskan Airlines, 26 percent; and Continental, 44 percent.

We are never going to get this economy going until we pass an upgraded aviation security bill, and we must pass that as quickly as possible. The House has named their conferees, the House has made a motion to instruct those conferees to go to conference, and we are waiting for the Senate. The Senate must move as quickly as possible and join the House in conference so we can work out a bill to protect all the American flying public by the end of this week, so people will know the skies are safe when they are flying at Thanksgiving.