

have to understand that these are critical bills that must be addressed. And the only way we can address them, as she correctly points out, is through the cooperative effort of both parties, and I would hope both leaders.

Mr. REID. Will the leader yield just for one more brief question?

Mr. DASCHLE. I would be happy to yield.

Mr. REID. There have been comments the last several days about what has happened in the last year. I want the RECORD to be spread with the fact—I want this confirmed by the leader—one of the assignments you gave me as assistant leader was that when difficult matters arose on the floor, one of my assignments directly from our leader—Tom DASCHLE to HARRY REID—was to do what you can, HARRY REID, to help move legislation. If it benefited the Republicans, I still had that responsibility. And there are many statements in the RECORD by Senator LOTT of how he appreciated the work we did—my name was mentioned on occasion—to move legislation.

I did that because you believed it was the right thing to do to move legislation. That is why we were able to move eight appropriations bills last year—does the Senator remember that—before the August recess?

Mr. DASCHLE. I remember that vividly. I remember how it was that we were able to work through these important matters, because we understood that October 1st is the deadline to complete all of our work on appropriations and that when you fall short of that deadline, you find yourself in a very precarious situation, making decisions without careful thought and, in some cases, making mistakes.

We want to complete our work on time. We want to be able to finish these bills. I appreciate so much the cooperation, the effort, and the leadership shown by the Senator from Nevada in reaching that goal.

Mr. REID. Does the Senator from South Dakota, our distinguished majority leader, agree that when you were the minority leader, one of your primary responsibilities was to move legislation, no matter whether it was sponsored by a Democrat or a Republican, but to move legislation off this floor?

Mr. DASCHLE. By and large, that was exactly what we attempted to do. Obviously, there were many times when there were disagreements, but we tried to work through those disagreements. I am hopeful we can do so again in the coming week.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. I will return the floor to the Senator in just one brief minute. I just want to say that I think no one knows more than I do how passionately this majority leader, the then-minority leader, worked with us to get legislation passed. That is why I repeat, eight appropriations bills were passed in this body last year before the August re-

cess. That was hard work. It only came as a result of the direction of the majority leader saying, we have to get this stuff done, that is the responsible thing for this country; and we did it.

I know there are people who come in and make little snippets about the fact that things have happened in the past. Look at our record. Look at our record of how we helped move legislation. Of course, there were disagreements on our side, but they passed quickly. Lots of amendments were filed on bills. We worked through those.

I just say, I hope people will look at what we did and work with us to try to move legislation. We want to do that. If we do something that is good, there is credit for everyone to go around. If we do not do things, there is blame to go around, as well it should. But the blame now should be with the minority because they simply have not allowed us to proceed on important legislation for this country.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mrs. CLINTON. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATIONS

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I have noted with interest the comments of Senators DASCHLE and REID regarding unfinished legislative work before the recess. What is also unfinished business before the recess is nominations. Over the past week, Senator REID and I have had a series of continued conversations regarding nominations, and we will continue to talk in good faith to make progress on nominations.

But our unfinished work here in the Senate is not just legislative in nature. It is necessary that we work hard to clear a sizable number of nominations before the recess, to give the President the public servants he needs to staff his administration, make it run, have it work, and see it accountable to the American people.

I look forward to seeing the Senate head towards the recess with work on both the legislative and executive calendars. I yield the floor.

PLIGHT OF DETAINED PERMANENT UNITED STATES RESIDENT LIU YAPING IN INNER MONGOLIA

Mr. DODD. Madam President, I rise today to bring to my colleague's attention a terribly distressing, and I am afraid, all too familiar situation; the arrest and detention of American citizens and permanent residents traveling in China. I specifically want to comment on the case of Mr. Liu Yaping.

Mr. Liu is a resident of my home State of Connecticut and is married to a United States citizen. He has an American son and has been granted permanent residency in this country. Nevertheless, on a trip to his home country of China this past spring, he was abruptly detained and arrested on charges of tax evasion. More than four months after his initial arrest, the evidence against him for this alleged crime has yet to be produced by the Chinese authorities, and he has not been officially charged with a crime. In the meantime, he is being detained indefinitely.

Liu Yaping has been held in near isolation in Inner Mongolia, and we suspect that he may have been mistreated during his time in prison. He has been unable to contact his family, and because he is a permanent resident of the U.S., and not a citizen, he has been denied the right to consult with United States diplomats while in detention. He has been granted only very limited access to his attorneys, and has been unable to answer the charges against him.

The most troubling part of this story is that we have learned that Mr. Liu is ill and may die at any moment. It has been reported that he is suffering from a cerebral aneurysm, possibly caused by torture or beatings, for which he has gone largely untreated. Without immediate and appropriate medical attention, the aneurysm will continue to leak, and the danger is very real that he will die. His family has asked to review his medical records, but thus far this request has been denied. Instead, they receive only bills for medical services performed, without documentation or description. Mr. Liu's family has asked that he be transferred to a hospital in Beijing, but this request has been rejected by the Chinese government.

I cannot begin to imagine the toll that this ordeal has taken on Mr. Liu's wife, and 15 year-old son. Knowing their loved one is alone and in danger, they wait anxiously for any notice from the Chinese authorities indicating that his situation has improved. Mrs. Liu has been in steady contact with my office and grows increasingly distraught with each day that passes with no news of her husband. The U.S. embassy in China, despite their best efforts, has not been able to make inroads in this case, and due to Mr. Liu's grave medical condition, time has become an important factor when considering his case.

We cannot allow gross human rights violations to continue on our watch. It is the responsibility of all of us to ensure that our citizens and permanent residents receive just and equal treatment at home and abroad.

As my colleagues know, in the past year, several American citizens and permanent residents have been detained in China. Gao Zhan, an American University researcher, was sentenced to 10 years on July 24, after a

lengthy detention and a brief trial, during which not a single witness was called. She was arrested on espionage charges and linked to recently convicted business Professor Li Shaomin, who was recently ordered deported. Mrs. Gao was recently granted medical parole, due to a worsening heart condition and, as a precedent exists for this type of parole, it is my hope that Mr. Liu will be granted a similar clemency. Until such time, though, we must do all we can to fight for the safety, basic human rights, and release of Mr. Liu.

As you may know, the Senate has not stayed quiet on this matter. Along with several of my colleagues, I have signed on as a cosponsor to Senate Resolution 128, urging the release of Liu Yaping and other American permanent residents and U.S. citizens. However, despite the efforts of Congress, I believe that this is an issue best dealt with at higher diplomatic levels. As you know, this Saturday, Colin Powell will be arriving in China. Secretary Powell has expressed his frustration with the situation of Mr. Liu, and I hope that he will raise the issue of Liu Yaping's incarceration with the Chinese authorities. Although the Chinese government has indicated that it wishes to focus on the larger issues of trade and economic cooperation between our two countries, I feel that a frank discussion on human rights is an equal priority. I hope that such a discussion would lead to a better understanding of American concerns in this case specifically, and the eventual release of all prisoners wrongfully detained in China.

I feel strongly that the Chinese government must understand that detaining our citizens without due process will only exacerbate the diplomatic tensions between our two nations. By creating a climate of fear for those Chinese-American citizens who would otherwise seek to bring their expertise and knowledge back to their homeland, China is discouraging the flow of intellectual capital back into its countryside, and compromising any confidence on the part of the United States regarding pledged improvements in human rights.

I wish Secretary Powell well on his trip, and urge the Chinese government to release Mr. Liu. I have asked Secretary Powell to bring this case up specifically while in China. It is my sincere hope that this action will bear fruit, and this matter will soon be resolved. Hopefully, Mr. Liu will soon be at home again in Connecticut, safe, and in the company and care of his family.

MURDERS CANNOT GO UNPUNISHED

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, the murder of American citizens abroad is always a cause for concern, and I want to bring the attention of my colleagues to the killings of the Bytyqi brothers from New York City. Agron, Mehmet, and Yli were reportedly discovered in a mass grave in Petrovo

Selo, Serbia with their hands bound and gunshots wounds to their chests.

This heinous crime should be of particular concern to all of us. Not only were the Bytyqi brothers American citizens, but they were also of Albanian origin. We know well the brutal treatment of Albanians in Kosova and Serbia during the war. My heart goes out to all the victims and their families.

I recently wrote to Attorney General John Ashcroft asking for the Federal Bureau of Investigation to become involved in this case. Human rights workers and investigators, including from the United Nations, should assist in delivering justice to the Bytyqi family.

There are reports that the brothers were murdered by policemen. I know my colleagues will agree that the murder of Americans overseas cannot go unpunished. I will continue to closely follow developments in this case—as well as the continued detention of political prisoners in Serbian jails.

I ask that an article from the July 15th edition of the Washington Post detailing this crime appear in the RECORD following my remarks.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Washington Post, July 15, 2001]
THREE AMERICANS FOUND IN SERBIAN MASS
GRAVE SITE

(By R. Jeffrey Smith and Peter Fin)

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia, July 14—The three young American men had their hands tied with wire. Their heads were covered by black hoods, and they were dressed in civilian clothes. They were each shot at close range, and their bodies were dumped in a pit dug in the Yugoslav national forest near the Serbian town of Petrovo Selo.

The men—all brothers of ethnic Albanian origin—had worked with their father as painters and made pizzas on Long Island before going to fight in the Kosovo war with the so-called Atlantic Brigade, a group of about 400 Albanian Americans who volunteered to join the rebel Kosovo Liberation Army. But they disappeared into a Serbian prison 17 days after the end of NATO's bombing campaign against Yugoslavia in 1999, when hostilities had ceased.

For nearly two years, neither their family nor the U.S. government was able to learn their whereabouts. Then, last week, their bodies were discovered in a mass grave by Serbian police investigators. Together with officials of a Belgrade-based human rights group, the police have begun to assemble a picture of how the men, born in Illinois, lost their lives during the violence that raged in and around the Serbian province of Kosovo in the spring and summer of 1999.

Serbian officials and others monitoring the probe say the three—Yli, Agron and Mehmet Bytyqi, ethnic Albanians ages 24, 23 and 21 at the time of their death—appear to have been murdered by policemen. Their bodies were placed in the grave with 13 ethnic Albanians from Kosovo, not far from a special police training center 120 miles east of the capital of Belgrade. A second grave nearby contains 59 bodies, and investigators suspect they will find many other sites as they begin to probe the forest more carefully.

The Bytyqis are the first Americans to turn up in a Serbian mass grave. "Believe me, this is going to be a very important case for us," the U.S. chief of mission in Yugo-

slavia, William Montgomery, said in a telephone interview. "We need to get real information from the Yugoslav authorities. We are going to insist they do a full investigation."

Montgomery said he and other U.S. officials had sought information about the Bytyqis from the Yugoslav Foreign Ministry several times since Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic was ousted in October, but the ministry acknowledged only that the brothers had been imprisoned after the war ended.

Circumstantial evidence unearthed so far raises the possibility of a revenge slaying by policemen, possibly motivated by anger over the leading role that the United States played in pressing for Western intervention in Kosovo to halt human rights abuses committed by Yugoslav security forces against Kosovo's ethnic Albanian majority.

"They were killed because they were American citizens," said Bajram Krasniqi, a lawyer in Pristina, Kosovo's provincial capital, retained by the Bytyqi family to press for information about the case. "There were people in that prison who were in [the rebel army] . . . and they were eventually released. This is the only case where someone was arrested, taken to court, tried, released out of the prison and then executed."

"This crime was planned, ordered and conducted without any judicial act and it was done by Serbian officials in cooperation with officials at the prison," Krasniqi said. "Hopefully, the Serb authorities will now arrest these people and they will be brought to justice."

The men's mother, Bahrije Bytyqi, and their father, Ahmet Bytyqi, had moved their family from Illinois to Kosovo in 1979 and later separated. Ahmet moved to New York and Yli, Agron and Mehmet joined him one at a time when each turned age 17.

Bahrije was expelled from Kosovo during the war by security forces but later returned to the southern Kosovo city of Prizren. She has been distraught and sedated since learning last week of the discovery of her sons' bodies in Serbia, and could not be interviewed today. When her 22-year old son, Fatos, a resident of Prizren, was interviewed today, he initially lied about his brothers' wartime activities, later explaining he had been "advised" not to discuss their membership in the Atlantic Brigade.

But members of the brigade interviewed in New York said that the brothers had been enthusiastic—if naive—volunteers in the unit. They had different personalities: Yli was quiet, Agron an outgoing partier, Mehmet a hard worker. But all three left New York on the brigade's charter flight in the spring of 1999 and tried to join the same rebel unit—only to be told by rebel leaders that they had to fight separately.

"They had that youthfulness that exploded in their faces," said fellow rebel Arber Muriqui in New York.

In mid-June 1999, when NATO forces deployed inside Kosovo to police a cease-fire, the brothers escorted their mother back into the province. Roughly two weeks later, the brothers told Fatos they were going to Pristina. Their mission, he said, was to visit some ethnic Albanian friends from New York who had fought with the Atlantic Brigade.

Amid the postwar chaos—and seething tensions between ethnic Serbs and Albanians—they headed north in a Volkswagen Golf on June 26. An ethnic Roma neighbor of Bahrije's, Miroslav Mitrovic, has told the Belgrade-based Humanitarian Law Center, an independent group, that the three brothers offered him and two other Romas a ride out of Prizren and into southern Serbia, but Fatos says the brothers never mentioned the plan and he cannot confirm the tale.