

case of murdered journalist Heorhiy Gongadze. Meanwhile, reports of government corruption and harassment of the media have raised concerns about the Ukrainian government's commitment to democratic principles. As a founding member and Co-chair of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus, I have spoken out for a more democratic Ukraine and expressed my continued concern about the lack of progress in the Gongadze case and recent political instability.

On March 31, 2002, Ukraine will hold its third parliamentary elections since becoming independent more than ten years ago. It is widely believed that the outcome of the parliamentary elections will determine whether Ukraine continues to pursue democratic reforms, or experiences further political turmoil. The intent of my resolution is to make the Government of Ukraine aware that the U.S. Congress is monitoring the conduct of the parliamentary election process closely, and will not just be focusing on Election Day results.

According to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODIHR) final report on Ukraine's most recent national election, the presidential election of 1999 was marred by violations of Ukrainian election law and failed to meet a significant number of OSCE election commitments. There is now concern that the 2002 parliamentary elections will be compromised by similar violations. Two recent reports on the 2002 parliamentary elections released by the Committee on Voters of Ukraine (CVU), a leading Ukrainian watchdog group on elections, have cited numerous violations in the campaign process.

My resolution urges the Government of Ukraine to enforce impartially the new election law signed by President Kuchma on October 30, 2001, which was cited in a OSCE/ODIHR report dated November 26, 2001 as making improvements in Ukraine's electoral code and providing safeguards to meet Ukraine's commitments on democratic elections. The resolution also urges the Government of Ukraine to meet its commitments on democratic elections and address issues identified by the OSCE in its final report on the 1999 elections, such as state interference in the campaign and pressure on the media. Finally, the resolution calls upon the Government of Ukraine to allow both domestic and international election monitors full access to the parliamentary election process.

It is my hope that this resolution will send a clear message to the Government of Ukraine that the U.S. Congress will not simply rubber stamp funding requests for Ukraine without also considering the serious issues involved in Ukraine's democratic development. In particular, the conduct of the 2002 parliamentary elections will have a major impact on funding considerations when Members of Congress are again confronted with the task of balancing their support of the U.S.-Ukrainian relationship with Ukraine's progress in making democratic reforms.

I urge my colleagues to support the Slaughter-Hoeffel-Smith resolution, and encourage the Government of Ukraine to conduct a democratic, transparent, and fair parliamentary election process.

CONGRESSMAN JOHN LEWIS ON
MARTIN LUTHER KING'S SPECIAL
BOND WITH ISRAEL

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2002

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, as a nation we have recently celebrated the contributions of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in the noble crusades of Civil Liberty and Equal Rights, and in a few days we will commence a celebration of the contributions of African-Americans to our nation's history in "Black History Month." Dr. King was an exemplar and a martyr for these causes. As an advocate for an oppressed people, he was in a unique position to offer insights into the suffering of the Jewish people.

My distinguished colleague from Georgia, Mr. JOHN LEWIS, recently summarized Dr. King's sentiments of empathy with the Jewish community in an article appearing on January 21, 2001 in the San Francisco Chronicle entitled "King's Special Bond With Israel." Mr. LEWIS was a contemporary of Dr. King in the Civil Rights movement of the sixties and has carried King's "Dream" of equality and justice into the twenty-first century. He has maintained an active role in politics and has been an outspoken champion of human rights and progressive social movements. His recent sponsorship of legislation discouraging racial profiling, and his dedicated support of the National Museum of African-American History and Culture, further illustrate his commitment to a society that is truly free of racial inequality.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask that Congressman LEWIS's article be placed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. I encourage my colleagues in the House to consider the position articulated by Dr. King, and in so doing, develop an appreciation for the parallel sufferings of the Jewish and African-American communities.

[From the San Francisco Chronicle, Jan. 21, 2002]

KING'S SPECIAL BOND WITH ISRAEL
(By John Lewis)

The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. understood the meaning of discrimination and oppression. He sought ways to achieve liberation and peace, and he thus understood that a special relationship exists between African-Americans and American Jews.

This message was true in his time and is true today.

He knew that both peoples were uprooted involuntarily from their homelands. He knew that both peoples were shaped by the tragic experience of slavery. He knew that both peoples were forced to live in ghettos, victims of segregation.

We knew that both peoples were subject to laws passed with the particular intent of oppressing them simply because they were Jewish or black. He knew that both peoples have been subjected to oppression and genocide on a level unprecedented in history.

King understood how important it is not to stand by in the face of injustice. He understood the cry, "Let my people go."

Long before the plight of the Jews in the Soviet Union was on the front pages, he raised his voice. "I cannot stand idly by, even though I happen to live in the United States and even though I happen to be an American Negro and not be concerned about what happens to the Jews in Soviet Russia. For what happens to them happens to me and you, and we must be concerned."

During his lifetime King witnessed the birth of Israel and the continuing struggle to build a nation. He consistently reiterated his stand on the Israel-Arab conflict, stating "Israel's right to exist as a state in security is uncontestable." It was no accident that King emphasized "security" in his statements on the Middle East.

On March 25, 1968, less than two weeks before his tragic death, he spoke out with clarity and directness stating, "peace for Israel means security, and we must stand with all our might to protect its right to exist, its territorial integrity. I see Israel as one of the great outposts of democracy in the world, and a marvelous example of what can be done, how desert land can be transformed into an oasis of brotherhood and democracy. Peace for Israel means security and that security must be a reality."

During the recent U.N. Conference on Racism held in Durban, South Africa, we were all shocked by the attacks on Jews, Israel and Zionism. The United States of America stood up against these vicious attacks.

Once again, the words of King ran through my memory. "I solemnly pledge to do my utmost to uphold the fair name of the Jews—because bigotry in any form is an affront to us all."

During an appearance at Harvard University shortly before his death, a student stood up and asked King to address himself to the issue of Zionism. The question was clearly hostile. King responded, "When people criticize Zionists they mean Jews, you are talking anti-Semitism."

King taught us many lessons. As turbulence continues to grip the Middle East, his words should continue to serve as our guide. I am convinced that were he alive today he would speak clearly calling for an end to the violence between Israelis and Arabs.

He would call upon his fellow Nobel Peace Prize winner, Yasser Arafat, to fulfill the dream of peace and do all that is within his power to stop the violence.

He would urge continuing negotiations to reduce tensions and bring about the first steps toward genuine peace.

King had a dream of an "oasis of brotherhood and democracy" in the Middle East.

As we celebrate his life and legacy, let us work for the day when Israelis and Palestinians, Jews and Muslims, will be able to sit in peace "under his vine and fig tree and none shall make him afraid."

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LAVELLE
CRAIG

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Lavelle Craig and thank him for his contributions to the community of Canon City, Colorado. Lavelle will always be remembered as a dedicated administrator and leader of the community, and as he celebrates his retirement, let it be known that this will be a great loss for a town that has relied on him for his knowledge and wisdom in times of hardship and prosperity.

Lavelle has been a tireless servant of the business and civic community for many years. As a member of the business community, he served as a bank executive with Fremont National Bank. Answering a call to public service in 1995, Lavelle entered into the field of politics. He was elected that year to the City

Council and served his district for the next two years. This position laid the groundwork for Lavelle to run for Mayor, a position he has held for the past four years. Following four successful and prosperous years as the town's chief executive, Lavelle now prepares to hand the office to his new successor.

In his service to his community, Lavelle played a crucial role in the maintenance of city values and infrastructure. He negotiated tough contracts with the Royal Gorge Bridge Co., which provide a large amount of revenue to Canon City, thereby allowing for record low real estate taxes in the region. He promoted public work programs such as road building, public recreation facilities, and was at the forefront of decreasing voter apathy and increasing civic involvement, a daunting and often difficult task. As for his future plans, Lavelle intends to remain active in his civic responsibilities as well as enjoy a well-deserved retirement.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor to recognize Lavelle Craig and thank him for his contributions to the community of Canon City, the State of Colorado, and this nation. His selfless service and dedication to improving citizen's lives has brought much credit to himself, his family, and the community. His actions and forbearance in preserving our western ideals and lifestyle deserve the recognition and thanks from this body of Congress. Congratulations on your retirement Lavelle, and good luck in your future endeavors.

THANK YOU ANN BROWN AND THE
STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS OF
SAFE

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2002

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, thank you Ann and all the fine staff and volunteers of SAFE. I am proud to be here today standing along side of this nation's foremost safety advocates.

Ann Brown has dedicated much of her life to our families safety. Her particular emphasis has been on children. Because our children naturally assume that anything, particularly a toy, that their parents give them couldn't possibly cause them harm.

But do you know that more than 1.7 million children under the age of 5 are injured each year by defective or hazardous products. For older children, the figure is almost 5.5 million.

So, as I was saying, Ann Brown is determined, she's tough, and she doesn't give up. And if I'm ever not on her side, I'll know I'm on the wrong side. Because through effective regulatory action, encouraging voluntary steps by companies, and creating unique public-private partnership with industry and other governmental agencies, she has made a major difference in the quality and the safety of our lives.

In fact, no one, before Ann, has been as consistently effective in making more people aware of dangerous and defective consumer products and getting them recalled—300 products were recalled during Ann's 7½ years

chairmanship of CPSC. Too many children have been injured, some have even died because people didn't learn about the recall of a dangerous product from television, radio or their daily paper.

Sometimes they don't hear about the recall. Oftentimes, it's not their fault. The way the system works today, it's surprising anyone knows about some of these recalls.

Most companies try to contact people directly about recalled products based on the limited records they've collected from the so-called warranty cards companies send out with products.

These records are grossly inadequate.

Over 90 percent of consumers toss the cards out because they contain marketing and personal questions people just don't want to answer. And they shouldn't have to.

I like Ann's idea that if you could create a simple safety card, like she has shown today, people would be much more likely to send them back.

We want to commend Mattel and BrandStamp for stepping up to the plate to help CPSC test this idea.

Ann Brown and SAFE are right that CPSC should move forward on a proposed rule to improve recall effectiveness.

So we are introducing legislation which would require CPSC, within 9 months to adopt a standard for companies to develop shorter, simpler consumer friendly Product Safety Cards, or online product registration beginning with juvenile products and small electrical appliances, and then other consumer products.

The legislation also encourages companies to look at other new technologies that will help them do the job.

This bill is designed to help the government do what it needs to do to protect American consumers.

I'm proud to be here today, standing alongside Ann Brown, my colleague from Massachusetts, JIM MCGOVERN, and the folks from these good companies who want to save lives and prevent injuries by developing a way to let more people know about dangerous products.

THE EMPLOYEE PENSION
FREEDOM ACT

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2002

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, the following is a summary of the Employee Pension Freedom Act.

I. IMPROVED DISCLOSURE

Annual Benefit Statements: pension plans would be required to provide annual pension benefit statements to participants and beneficiaries including notification of employee and employer contributions that consist of employer stock and the importance of a well balanced and diversified investment portfolio for long term retirement security.

Accurate Financial Information: in all pension plans where participants make investment decisions, the employer and plan administrator must provide all material investment information to participants as required under securities law to make invest-

ment decisions. Prohibits the employer or plan administrator from making any misleading statements to participants regarding the value of employer stock or other investments available under the plan or from omitting information relevant to the value of the stock or other investment options.

II. STRENGTHENED EMPLOYEE
DIVERSIFICATION RIGHTS

Unrestricted Employee Choice Over Employee Contributions: in pension plans where participants make investment decisions, participants will have the right to allocate employee contributions to any plan investment option (eliminate current law rule permitting employers to require 10% employer stock holdings).

Unrestricted Employee Choice Over Employer Contributions When Vested: the plan administrator must notify all participants upon vesting of the right to transfer employer stock matching contributions to other plan investment options; the plan administrator would have up to 30 days to effect any requested transfer; in an ESOP, employees may diversify employer matching contributions after 10 years of service.

III. IMPROVED EMPLOYEE ACCOUNT ACCESS

Faster Vesting for Employees: covered employees will be vested in their employer contributions after completion of one year of participation in the plan (many plans currently vest after five or more years and some, like Enron, do not permit employees to transfer employer contributions even following vesting).

30 Days Advance Notice of Plan "Lockdowns": the plan administrator must provide at least 30 days advance written notice of any plan change that would restrict a participant's access to his or her account.

No More Than 10 Business Days for Lockdowns: an employer or plan administrator may not limit participant access to his or her account for a period of more than 10 business days.

IV. ADEQUATE LEGAL PROTECTION FOR
EMPLOYEES

Fiduciaries Must Have Insurance or be Bonded: all defined contribution plan fiduciaries shall maintain sufficient fiduciary insurance or bonding to cover financial losses due to breach of fiduciary duty as determined by the Secretary of Labor.

Employee Pension Plan Representation: in pension plans that permit employees to direct control of their pension investments, the plan must include an equal number of employer and employee trustees to oversee the plan. Many plans today have no employee trustees overseeing employees' funds.

No Waivers of Legal Rights: Employers may not require participants to sign waivers of statutory pension rights as part of a termination or severance agreement.

Right to be Made Whole in Court: in cases of fiduciary breach of duty by a fiduciary or knowing participant in a breach, the plan or participants may be made whole by the court.

Improved Labor Department Assistance: the Department of Labor shall establish an office of the Participant Advocate which shall monitor potential abuses of employee pension plan rights and assist pension plan participants in preventing and resolving abuses.

Feasibility Study for Guaranty Insurance: the PBGC shall study and report to Congress no later than 3 years after enactment the options for and feasibility of developing an insurance guarantee system for defined contribution plans.