

Dr. Kelly died on July 18th in an apparent suicide. The day before, he appeared in front of the House of Commons' Foreign Affairs committee where he was questioned about the role in the controversy between the British Broadcasting Corporation and the government of the United Kingdom over a British intelligence dossier on Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

Dr. Kelly's professional integrity and dedication to finding the truth earned him great respect both at home in Great Britain as well as among his international colleagues. Between 1991 and 1998, Dr. Kelly played an essential role in the efforts of the United Nations Special Commission to dismantle Iraq's banned chemical, biological, and ballistic programs.

His professional integrity and dedication to finding the truth made the world safer for all of us.

[From *The Guardian*, July 24, 2003]

WHAT DAVID KELLY KNEW: THE KILLING OF SADDAM'S SONS WON'T DIVERT ATTENTION FOR LONG FROM THE SPECIOUS REASONS GIVEN FOR INVADING IRAQ

(By Richard Norton-Taylor)

Uday and Qusay are killed and the delighted British and American governments suggest that Iraq will be a safer place. Yes, Iraqis may well feel safer. And—with the dictator's brutal sons out of the way for ever—more confident about continuing the resistance against the American occupiers.

Shortly before their deaths were announced, Richard Gephardt, Democrat presidential hopeful, delivered a blistering attack on Bush's foreign policy which was driven, he said, by "machismo" and "arrogant unilateralism". Bush, he continued, had treated US allies "like so many flies on America's windshield". He added: "Foreign policy isn't a John Wayne movie."

The attack on the villa where Saddam's sons were hiding might be seen as driving home the point. Instead, the announcement that they had been killed by US troops in a shoot-out is welcomed by Tony Blair as "great news".

Jack Straw was more circumspect. He said the death of what he called "extremely unpleasant psychopaths" would bring relief for the Iraqi people. But he added: "I am not rejoicing. I mourn the death of anybody, but it has to be said that it is a very great relief for all Iraqis."

Both the prime minister and the foreign secretary seized the opportunity to remind us about the brutality of Saddam's regime. This was something many of us pointed out more than 15 years ago. But then, Straw says, there was a Conservative government and, anyway, Iraq was at war with Iran. It was as though they were mightily relieved that attention had been diverted away from the increasingly damaging controversy over what weapons of mass destruction, if any, Iraq possessed when Bush and Blair decided to invade the country, and from the death of David Kelly in particular.

And it was another welcome opportunity to remind us of the nature of the Saddam regime. Uday and Qusay, Blair told journalists yesterday, were responsible for the torture and killing of thousands of Iraqis. That is not, of course, what we were told we were going to war for and is not the legal justification the attorney general gave for it. Never mind; let's milk the deaths of Saddam's sons as much as possible and hope the dictator soon shares their fate.

But Dr Kelly's death will continue to haunt the government. The man described by Blair after his death as a "fine public servant" was dismissed, before it, by those in

Whitehall battling with the BBC as some kind of middle-ranking expert, pretty marginal in the general scheme of things.

In fact, he was a central figure in the government's continuing quest for evidence of banned weapons in Iraq. He had recently been to Iraq to advise the US-led Survey Group of scientists (including former UN inspectors damned so recently by Washington as incompetent), which Bush and Blair so desperately hopes will come up with credible evidence which could give them a post-hoc justification for war. It is a tragic irony that Kelly will not be able to continue the work. A fellow expert on biological and chemical weapons familiar with Iraq described Kelly yesterday as a "real loss—he knew the place so well, the individuals so well, he's not somebody you could easily replace".

Kelly was one of the toughest and most effective Unscop weapons inspectors in Iraq in the 1990s. He was convinced Saddam Hussein had possessed weapons of mass destruction. As a senior adviser to both the Ministry of Defence and Foreign Office on the threat posed by chemical and biological weapons he had to have access to up-to-date intelligence to do his job.

So when he told journalists he had misgivings about the government's now largely discredited September dossier it was extremely significant. If MPs on the Commons foreign affairs committee had bothered to listen to the substance of what he told them instead of scoring points in the battle between the government and the BBC—of which Kelly was a victim—they too would have heard important evidence.

Kelly told the committee there was only a 30 percent chance that Iraq had chemical or biological weapons. That Iraq could deploy them within 45 minutes of an order to do so—"ready" was the word Blair used in the dossier's foreword—was "highly unlikely", Kelly told the MPs. Between issuing orders and firing the weapons was a "long process", he said. He should know.

We are now told that what MI6's agent, an Iraqi brigadier-general, said when he was re-activated—conveniently, shortly before the September dossier was published—was that the Iraqis had a command, control and communications system (presumably bombed out of existence in the first days of the war, if not before) that would have enabled Saddam or his close military associates to contact commanders in the field within 45 minutes authorising the use of WMD. That does not mean deploying them, let alone having them "ready".

Kelly was a serious and senior source highly respected by his peers. These did not include the armed forces minister, Adam Ingram, who—after Kelly took the conscientious decision to admit to a senior MoD official that he had talked to the BBC reporter, Andrew Gilligan—told the world that "action has been taken against him accordingly". Challenging the BBC to rule out the scientist as the source, Ingram said: "Hopefully, that would allow Dr Kelly to carry on with his career in the MoD."

With such threats hanging over him, it is scarcely surprising if he was under stress before he gave evidence to the committee—even more so after he told the MPs he was not Gilligan's main source. That, too, was not what the MoD wanted him to say.

The world, let alone Iraq, would really have been a safer place had David Kelly been allowed to do his job. Some people in Downing Street and the MoD have a lot to answer for.

HONORING THE CAREER OF
MTSU'S HAROLD SMITH

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding career of Harold C. Smith, the director of Student Unions and Programming at Middle Tennessee State University, my alma mater. After 35 years of service to the university and its students, Harold has decided to retire.

Harold first came to the MTSU campus in my hometown of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, in 1963 as a student. From that point on, Harold was a fixture on campus and in the community. During his remarkable tenure at MTSU, Harold brought thousands of special events to the campus. Concerts featuring everyone from Elvis Presley to Garth Brooks have provided entertainment for scores of students and Middle Tennessee residents. Countless movies, seminars, festivals and everything else entertaining have also come to the campus as a result of Harold's dedication to his work.

Not only did Harold provide the entire region with entertaining events, but he also taught thousands of MTSU graduates how to succeed as a professional in the entertainment industry. Harold's style and approach to the business were key to his ability to bring top-notch entertainment to Middle Tennessee. And those same attributes endeared Harold to all who worked with and learned from him.

Harold's commitment and dedication to the university are unsurpassed. The MTSU community will sorely miss his influence and enthusiasm. I congratulate Harold for his untiring devotion to MTSU and its students. And I wish him the very best in his well-deserved retirement.

TRIBUTE TO MR. RICK MERRI

HON. DOUG OSE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to note the upcoming celebration of the 60th birthday of Mr. Rick Merri of Sacramento.

I have known Mr. Merri for many years. I have had the pleasure of being involved with the Merri family since the early 1980s. I have had the honor of conducting the marriage ceremony of his eldest son Rick Jr. I have had the privilege of coaching and playing soccer with each of Mr. Merri's three sons. I say with some measure of pride that I was a contributor in making each of these three young men into contributing members of our American society.

Mr. Merri has been a quiet and effective participant in various youth activities in and around Sacramento for at least two decades. He has consistently lent his insights and initiative to making our community better for those that come behind him.

He has not been alone in this effort. Paulette Merri has stood alongside him at every step of the way and provided valuable course corrections at every step. These two Americans, as a team, without regard to recognition

or reward, have over the course of their lives strived to provide a safe and healthy and improving community for their three sons and many neighbors and friends. Truth be told, it is hard to distinguish where the efforts of one of these individuals ends and the other begins. They are emblematic of so many other Americans across this country.

August 9, 2003, will mark the occasion of the 60th birthday of Rick Merri. Rick and Paulette have done a remarkable job in successfully raising three sons, who now are each making their own way and mark on our country. It is fitting and appropriate that we wish Rick Merri the very best wishes on the occasion of his 60th birthday. Happy birthday, my friend.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PARISH OF ST. MARY MAGDALEN IN HAZEL PART, MICHIGAN

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 75th anniversary of the parish of St. Mary Magdalen in Hazel Park, Michigan. The history of St. Mary Magdalen is one that reflects a deep dedication of the community at large and its parishioners. Volunteers worked for decades to create not only a place of worship, but an institution.

In 1928, the Catholic Church established a new parish in the growing community of Hazel Park. The first Mass of St. Mary Magdalen Church was held in the Odd Fellows Hall on Christmas Day of that year. Less than one year later, on Easter in 1929, St. Mary Magdalen Parish occupied their first new building.

In 1932, the Sisters of Christian Charity arrived from Wilmette, Illinois. They worked hard to ready themselves for the first school classes to start in September of that year. Their first school buildings were purchased from the Clawson Board of Education, dismantled and reassembled in Hazel Park by men from the community donating their time.

The Parish continued to grow, the first hall was built in 1933 using second-hand and recycled lumber. In 1958 the present church was completed, followed three years later by the convent. The next decades saw the establishment of a number of important traditions in the church. The first Fall Festival, now an annual event, was held in September 1971.

Surely, since its establishment 75 years ago, St. Mary Magdalen Parish has continued to grow, flourish and serve the community of Hazel Park. It is indeed my great honor today to recognize those who have made it all possible.

TRIBUTE TO THE MICHIGAN AGRIBUSINESS ASSOCIATION ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Michigan Agri-Business Asso-

ciation on the august occasion of its 100th year of service to agricultural producers in Michigan.

On June 25th, 1903, in the gymnasium of the Y.M.C.A. building in Battle Creek, Michigan, the Michigan grain dealers met to organize the Michigan Grain Dealers Association. This was the first step on the Association's journey to becoming the industry-wide Michigan Agri-Business Association which today is indispensable to Michigan agricultural businesses.

Along the way, as the Grain Dealers Association added to its membership, it changed its name to indicate that hay producers and dealers, animal feed manufacturers and dealers, and fertilizer, ammonia and seed businesses had all come on board. It became the Michigan Agri-Business Association on June 11, 1990.

Today, the Association provides educational programs and member services to its individual members. Its public relations and legislative efforts include a newsletter to all members, trade shows, educational programs and up-to-date information and advice on all state and federal legislation that affects agriculture in Michigan.

Agriculture is a multi-billion dollar business in Michigan. Agricultural producers and dealers in Michigan are some of the most advanced in the country, because they know that efficient and effective use of natural resources and technological tools are how to provide a better product and a better industry.

Mr. Speaker and my colleagues in the House of Representatives, I invite you all to join me in applauding the Michigan Agri-Business Association and all its members in commemoration of the Association's 100th anniversary.

GIVE PARENTS SECURITY AND CHILDREN SAFETY

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill that would help prevent needless death and injury of young children. My bill would require that infant and toddler products are tested before they reach the marketplace. This bill is long overdue.

Many consumers believe that, because a product is on a shelf, it is safe. This is not always true. In most cases, manufacturers are not even required to test the safety of children's products, including baby carriers and high chairs, before putting them on the market. As a consequence, according to the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), an average of 65 children under the age of five die each year in incidences associated with nursery products. Furthermore, an estimated 69,500 children under the age of five were treated in U.S. hospital rooms in 2001 for injuries associated with nursery products.

Unfortunately, issuing a voluntary recall once one or more children have been hurt often becomes the only way to know if a product is unsafe. This is unacceptable. Parents and caregivers must have assurance that when they buy a product, it will be safe. Therefore, this bill would not only require the

CPSC to issue mandatory safety standards for infant and toddler products, but it would require the testing and certification of these products by an independent third party.

Parents should not have to worry that the products they buy will threaten their children's health and safety. Nor should parents have to wait until they hear on the news that the carrier or crib or high chair that they use has been recalled before they become aware that their child could be in danger. Children's products were recalled, on average, nearly two times per week in 2002 and they accounted for over 11 million individual units. Instead of using recalls as the answer, we should require that the CPSC take steps to ensure that products do not present safety hazards to our children.

I would like to recognize and thank Kids In Danger, an organization in Chicago dedicated to protecting children, for their invaluable input and expertise on children's product safety. It is past due that we give parents the security they deserve and children the safety they need. This bill will accomplish those goals.

150TH CELEBRATION OF MITCHELL, INDIANA

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mitchell, Indiana, on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of its founding. On September 29, 2003, the City of Mitchell will celebrate the establishment and naming of the town of Mitchell after Ormsby McKnight Mitchel.

The origins of Mitchell, Indiana dates back to the beginnings of the Ohio and Mississippi Railroad. George Cochran, a merchant from Cincinnati, wanted a more direct route to ship his merchandise, having previously shipped goods via the Mississippi River. On September 29, 1853, Cochran purchased the land that would become Mitchell from local landowner, John Sheeks. Shortly thereafter, Cochran contracted Ormsby McKnight Mitchel to survey a new route for a railroad to run through the land. As a part of the deal, Mitchel requested the new town be named after him. The second "l" in Mitchell would be added later due to a typographical error.

Mitchell developed as a "railroad town." Mitchell remained mostly agricultural until the early 1900s. There were several small manufacturing enterprises in town, but in 1902 Lehigh Portland Cement Company opened its first plant, changing the town from agricultural to industrial. Lehigh Portland Cement Company remains one of the area's largest employers. Mitchell is also home to Dana Corporation as well as Regal Beloit who are major employers in the community today.

Mitchell is a place where a sense of small town charm can be felt through its historic buildings and shops in the downtown area. The town of Mitchell is known for its production of cement, which has been used to build the historic downtown buildings and sidewalks where residents gather to share persimmon pie and cobbler with family and friends at the annual Persimmon Festival. In the early 1990s, the downtown area of Mitchell was designated a Historic District.