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INTRODUCTION OF THE GREAT LAKES PROTECTION AND RESTORATION COMMITTEE ACT

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce legislation that will move our Nation forward with increased environmental protection and restoration of the Great Lakes—the Great Lakes Protection and Restoration Committee Act.

The Great Lakes are a national treasure that we need to protect and restore. They contain 95 percent of our nation's surface freshwater, provide drinking water to millions of people and form the backbone for billions of dollars in shipping, trade, fishing and recreation. Progress has been made in improving environmental conditions in the Great Lakes Basin, but the lakes continue to face many threats, including pollution from contaminated sediments, stormwater and agricultural runoff, the introduction of invasive species, wetlands and coastal habitat loss, and pollutants washed into the lakes from the atmosphere.

While several federal, state, provincial and local programs have been developed to address these problems, these strategies are not well coordinated. According to an April 2003 GAO Report, "no one overarching strategy or plan unifies these strategies in the pursuit of a common goal. . . . An overarching strategy for the basin is needed to establish restoration goals, outline how restoration will occur, identify the resources needed to achieve restoration, assign accountability for restoration, and provide a mechanism for measuring progress for achieving goals."

This week, President Bush signed an Executive Order that establishes a task force to improve the coordination of federal agency efforts and to reach out to state, local, and private partners to develop consistent policies and strategies for Great Lakes restoration. I strongly support the action taken by President Bush, EPA Administrator Leavitt, and Council on Environmental Quality Chairman Connaughton because it will help bring collaboration among the broad collection of existing resources and programs in the region.

Next we need comprehensive legislation to continue to move us forward. The Great Lakes Protection and Restoration Committee Act will provide a path forward by bringing together all of the stakeholders in the basin, led by the Great Lakes State governors with the aid of relevant federal agency officials, tribal representatives, scientific experts and environmental and industry stakeholders. The Committee created by the legislation will develop a specific and comprehensive strategy for the purpose of protecting, preserving and restoring the Great Lakes.

Specifically, the task force will:

Assess accomplishments from current programs over the past 10 years;

Analyze the prospects for achieving restoration goals under current programs and authorities for the next 10 years;

Prioritize restoration goals identified by the Great Lakes governors;

Develop specific, measurable benchmarks for achieving those goals;

Recommend legislative options for obtaining such additional authority and funding as are necessary to achieve those goals;

Suggest methods to improve coordination among the existing federal, state, provincial, local, and non-governmental programs operating in the Great Lakes; and

Report to Congress and the President in one year on its findings and recommendations.

My goal is that the task force will develop a comprehensive, strategic protection and restoration program to bring together and coordinate the plethora of smaller programs that we have in place now.

This serious and measured approach mirrors the steps taken in other large ecosystem restoration projects such as the Everglades and Chesapeake Bay. Due to the complexity of those restoration initiatives, which cross over many jurisdictional lines, environmental challenges and scientific disciplines, it was essential to have an overall strategic plan in place to guide activities and funding decisions over long periods of time. The Great Lakes Basin is significantly larger and the environmental challenges substantially more complex than in those ecosystems. We need an overarching strategy in place to accomplish our vision to protect and restore the lakes.

A lack of adequate funding is certainly an impediment to successful cleanup efforts, but improved program coordination and operation under a comprehensive strategic plan is an essential first step. The Great Lakes Protection and Restoration Committee Act will move Great Lakes restoration forward to help protect and clean up this global treasure. I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation.

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL, MR. MOSHE KATSAV, AT THE PRESIDENT'S PALACE IN BERLIN, APRIL 28, 2004

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I recently attended the Conference on Anti-Semitism of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in Berlin from April 28–29, 2004. I was privileged to attend as part of the official U.S. delegation, in my capacity as the Ranking Member of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), commonly known as the Helsinki Commission. I was pleased to give a speech at the Berlin Conference, after visiting the concentration camps in Auschwitz, on the importance of fighting intolerance and speaking out against acts of anti-Semitism. Secretary of State Colin Powell attended the Conference and spoke forcefully about the need to combat anti-Semitism. Mr. LANTOS of California, the Ranking Member of the International Relations Committee, has already introduced Secretary Powell's statement into the RECORD. The 55 Participating States of the OSCE adopted a strong action plan, the Berlin Declaration,

which lays out specific steps for states to take regarding Holocaust education, data collection and monitoring of hate crimes against Jews, and improved coordination between non-governmental organizations and European law enforcement agencies.

During our Conference, on the evening of April 28, President Johannes Rau of Germany hosted a dinner for the President of the State of Israel Moshe Katsav. President Katsav spoke powerfully about the need to combat the rising tide of anti-Semitism throughout the world. Let me just highlight one section of President Katsav's remarks:

The violence against the Jews in Europe is evidence that anti-Semitism, which we have not known since the Second World War, is on the rise. This trend of the new anti-Semitism is a result of the aggressive propaganda, made possible by modern technologies, globalization and abuse of democracy and which creates an infrastructure for developing and increasing anti-Semitism, of a kind we have not known before * * * Many times I have heard voices saying that anti-Semitism is not unique and that it is no different from other kinds of racism. Anti-Semitism should indeed receive special attention. Hatred against the Jews has existed for many generations and it is rooted in many cultures and continents through the world. However, now anti-Semitism has become an instrument for achieving political aims * * * The genocide of the Jews was the result of anti-Semitism and was not caused by a war between countries or a territorial conflict and, therefore, anti-Semitism is a special danger for world Jewry and the whole of Europe.

Let me draw my colleagues attention to a particularly important part of the Berlin Declaration, in which the OSCE participating States "declare[d] unambiguously that international development of political issues, including those in Israel or elsewhere in the Middle East, never justify anti-Semitism." Let me be clear that I am not seeking to suppress legitimate criticism of Israel, just as I would not seek to silence those who criticize the policies of the U.S. Government. However, when individuals criticize the very existence of the Jewish state, equate Zionism with racism, and compare the Israeli Government to the Nazi regime, then all of us must say together: this is anti-Semitism, and you have crossed the line.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the full text of the Israeli President's remarks at the President's Palace in Berlin be placed in the RECORD, and I urge my colleagues to read President Katsav's thoughtful remarks.

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL, MR. MOSHE KATSAV, AT THE PRESIDENT'S PALACE IN BERLIN

Mr. President, Ministers, Distinguished Guests, Heads of Delegations:

It is very difficult and sad for me to stand here today in Berlin, 60 years after the Holocaust and to speak about anti-Semitism and the ways of fighting against it.

We, world Jewry, believed that after the terrible events of the Holocaust, it would not be necessary to struggle against anti-Semitism.

We believed that the world would not allow anti-Semitism to raise its head.

We believed that anti-Semitism belonged to the old world and to distant history.

We very much appreciate this gathering in Berlin. This step to fight anti-Semitism sends a very important message that this issue has a significant place in the European

agenda, in the relations between Israel and Europe and between Europe and world Jewry. It is a sign that the security of Jews touches directly basic human values.

I am standing here as a representative of a nation which suffered a great deal during many generations of exiles, inquisition and the terrible Holocaust-Shoah.

I represent a nation which desires to live in peace without fear, without bloodshed, without incitement and without violence.

I am standing here as a citizen of a democratic and free world which is committed to the values of freedom, equality, to universal values which oppose anti-Semitism.

Anti-Semitism is a big tragedy for the Jewish people. It is a moral and historic failure for humanity. It is a failure of world leaders. It is a failure of the free world.

If humanity does not express determination and does not learn the historical lesson, the Holocaust will not remain an abstract issue for the next generation.

Among international leaders, no one in 1933 believed that the Holocaust would happen and, not even at the beginning of the war in 1939. It is very difficult to believe but the Holocaust happened in the heart of Europe, in one of the most sophisticated countries in the world, which had the best musicians, philosophers, scientists and researchers in the world.

Lately we are witnessing again the burning of synagogues and Jewish schools, the desecration of Jewish cemeteries and horrible writings.

Jews are again afraid to walk in the streets with a Star of David and a yarmulke. Jewish children are again a target of violence and the streets of Europe are again not safe for Jews, only because they are Jews.

Jews, as individuals and as a collective, are a target of physical and emotional violence.

Hostile letters, graffiti and the use of the Internet and the media are examples of instruments against the Jews.

For a long time Europe denied the rise in anti-Semitism.

The problem is not just the physical violence and damage caused to Jewish institutions. We are concerned about the hostility and incitement against the Jews and Israel in Europe.

There are some who blame the Jews for an international conspiracy and even blame them for the terrorist acts of September 11th. They accuse American Jews of cooperating with Israel in blaming Islam for these terrorist attacks.

We are witnessing a new trend by radical Muslims who are recreating the classical blood libel and who are publishing again the "Protocols of the Elders of Zion" which claim that the Jews aim to control the world.

For others, the new anti-Semitism is a way of criticizing the Jews and Israel for their treatment of the Palestinian people.

In Europe the rise in classical anti-Semitism, represents the Jews and the Jewish state as brutal devils, the source of wars and responsible for global disasters.

It is difficult for us to believe, but recently the public opinion polls which were initiated by the European Commission show that a majority of Europeans believe Israel is a danger for the stability and peace in the world.

Not the non-democratic countries which are trying to develop and achieve mass destruction weapons, not the totalitarian countries which back terrorist organizations, not the brutal bloodshed in the name of God, not poverty but we, Israel, are a danger for world peace in the eyes of some European people.

The violence against the Jews in Europe is evidence that anti-Semitism, which we have

not known since the Second World War, is on the rise. This trend of the new anti-Semitism is a result of the aggressive propaganda, made possible by modern technologies, globalization and abuse of democracy and which creates an infrastructure for developing and increasing anti-Semitism, of a kind we have not known before.

Millions and millions of people are exposed to television programs and Internet sites full of blood libels.

The silence, the closing of eyes and the slow reactions in some countries permit this incitement to become deeper and stronger.

It is impossible to fight against anti-Semitism, while permitting the demonization of Israel and its leaders and denying its legitimate right to exist.

During the last decade we took historical steps towards the Palestinian people. I would like to mention the Oslo Agreement, the Camp David conference and the acceptance of the Roadmap but during the last ten years we have had not even one quiet day and we suffered from brutal and terrible bloodshed.

Sometimes we feel that Europeans are not ready to feel solidarity with us or to recognize the suffering of the Israeli people from the terrible terrorism, which has continued for many years.

The brutality of the terrorism in the Middle East is of a type that humanity has never seen before.

It is only by cooperation, with determination and with leadership that we can overcome this hatred.

We are astonished that there are still people who deny the Holocaust.

The Durban Conference in September 2001 shocked all of us. It was meant to be a conference against racism but became a meeting of racists against the Jews and the State of Israel.

The anti-Semitism in Europe is a result of the cooperation among elements who are against the West and western values, who are against globalization and against progress, as well as extremists from the left and right and from organizations of radical Muslims.

The world of Islam is very large. There are more than a billion people who are not of one mind and opinion. There are some Muslim countries which have diplomatic relations with Israel, such as Turkey, Egypt, the Hashemite Kingdom, the Muslim Republics in Central Asia, Persian Gulf countries and others. Not all Muslims are anti-Semitic and there is no conflict between Judaism and Islam. In Europe there are 20 million Muslims. Most of them are very good people who desire to live calm and normal lives. However, they are afraid to raise their voices against the extremists. I call on the moderate Muslims in Europe and on their leaders to cooperate with us in encouraging tolerance and understanding for a free and better world.

However, we must still remember that there are still Muslim countries and organizations which are calling for the destruction of the State of Israel.

Anti-Semitism is encouraged and is given inspiration by international terrorism.

Anti-Semitism is a great danger to democracy and freedom in the world.

Where synagogues are burnt, the day will come when stones will be thrown on parliament and democracy is in danger.

Fighting against anti-Semitism with determination will deliver a strong message to the international terrorist organizations and will be a message that the free world has determination to defend its values and is not prepared to tolerate anti-Semitism, hostility and racism.

Anti-Semitism has no justification, no legitimacy and should not be shown any un-

derstanding. Anti-Semitism is a great threat to freedom. It uses human morality, democracy and liberalism for its destructive aims.

Black people are not responsible for the racism against them just as the Jews are not responsible for anti-Semitism.

We had hoped that the creation of a Jewish State would help prevent anti-Semitism. We desired to be a free nation in our homeland, like all nations. The Jewish state is a national home for every Jew and we want to be sure that never again will Jews be unprotected.

We are shocked by the accusations, which compare Israel to Nazi Germany. There is a linkage between this incitement and the violence against Jews in the streets of Europe.

We do not want to prevent legitimate political criticism against Israeli government policy, but we will not tolerate incitement against world Jewry and the Jewish state.

Many times I have heard voices saying that anti-Semitism is not unique and that it is no different from other kinds of racism. Anti-Semitism should indeed receive special attention. Hatred against the Jews has existed for many generations and it is rooted in many cultures and continents throughout the world.

However, now anti-Semitism has become an instrument for achieving political aims. It is being used by Muslims as an instrument to achieve political gains.

The genocide of the Jews was the result of anti-Semitism and was not caused by a war between countries or a territorial conflict and, therefore, anti-Semitism is a special danger for world Jewry and the whole of Europe.

Can it be that the impact of the Holocaust is not strong enough to stop and prevent anti-Semitism? Can it be that the impact of the Holocaust has become weaker in the last decades?

We must focus all our efforts, energies and wisdom on educational activities and research on the Holocaust. We must transmit the lesson of the Holocaust to the young generations.

I call to continue researching and documenting all the events relating to the Holocaust.

We must teach the young generation human values.

I call on the European leaders to increase the awareness of anti-Semitic acts in their countries, to research the origin and background in each country and to evaluate anti-Semitism on a national level.

I call for a mechanism for monitoring and controlling anti-Semitic events and for ways to fight them.

I call for increased cooperation between the countries and law enforcement authorities, in fighting anti-Semitism in Europe.

I call for legislation to prevent anti-Semitism, especially in the Internet and via satellite programs.

I call for a meeting of professionals from all over the world to set up a program and take real steps against anti-Semitism.

I greatly appreciate European governments and leaders who are fighting against anti-Semitism and I very much appreciate this important gathering in Berlin.

Most European countries have close relations with the Arab countries which are responsible for producing incitement and anti-Semitic propaganda on television, in books and in newspapers which are distributed in Europe and around the world.

We must put pressure on such countries to stop the distribution of such terrible incitement against the Jews.

It is not enough to talk against anti-Semitism. We must act.

I believe that European countries wish to do as much as possible to stop anti-Semitism and give security to their Jewish citizens.

European leaders have done a lot lately but not enough. It is necessary to do more in the fields of education, public opinion, legislation and law enforcement.

At this time, we the Jews are not alone. I can see many good friends here who are standing with us. I am aware of many people, nations and leaders who are struggling against anti-Semitism, as they understand that anti-Semitism is a danger to the stability and peace in the world, to human values.

I am aware of European governments who are our partners in our efforts and concern to provide security for every Jew and they understand that Jews have the right to live without fear anywhere.

I appreciate the governments in Europe who have already appointed special ministerial committees for fighting anti-Semitism. I appreciate countries whose parliaments dedicated special sessions on the issue of anti-Semitism.

I appreciate those countries who have decided to strongly condemn anti-Semitism in international bodies.

Indeed, now at the beginning of the 21st century, the situation is very serious. There is an increase in violence and an escalation of anti-Semitism against the Jews but there is a big difference. We are not living in the thirties. We have a Jewish, sovereign and independent state and this makes a big difference.

We know what happened in the Second World War and what racism brought upon the world and, because of this I am very pleased that there is more awareness. Now leaders are more sensitive and they protect their citizens. There is legislation and law enforcement in many countries. The leaders speak out and there are many seminars and conferences against anti-Semitism. The strong position of the United States of America in this matter is remarkable. I also very much appreciate the position of the Vatican on this difficult and tragic issue.

I am very sorry that the Irish proposal to the United Nations General Assembly in December 2003, was not adopted, because of the objection of some Muslim countries. It is very sad that a special resolution which condemns anti-Semitism and attacks against Jews cannot be passed now in the United Nations.

The European Union should continue its efforts in this important initiative and in all multilateral organizations, in fighting against anti-Semitism.

We are very proud of our Jewish heritage and history. It is a source of pride for world Jewry. I hope that the Jewish people will also be a source of appreciation, understanding and respect and not a target for hatred.

I hope and pray for cooperation for development, prosperity and tolerance instead of destruction, bloodshed and hatred.

I would like to thank, you, President Rau and Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer for this important initiative. I believe that this meeting will be very constructive and that it will help us achieve our mutual goals.

I hope that the Berlin Conference will serve as a basis for continued efforts against anti-Semitism.

I wish to express my personal appreciation to President Rau for his wise and moral leadership, for his great friendship towards Israel and the Jewish people, and his personal dedication to the fight against anti-Semitism.

We have the strength and the will to create a better world, a just world for all humanity. Let us put all our efforts together to make it possible. Let us work together.

Thank you.

TRIBUTE TO GLEN DOUGLAS

HON. GEORGE R. NETHERCUTT, JR.

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Master Sergeant Glen Douglas' sacrifice and service to our nation, which spanned twenty-two years and three wars, the first of which was World War II.

Glen Douglas is one of the most decorated veterans in our region, having received the Distinguished Service Medal and seven purple hearts among other honors.

The following excerpts from the May 4th, 2004 weekly edition of the Colville Statesman Examiner are a testament to the sacrifice, courage, commitment and leadership Mr. Douglas displayed throughout the course of his service.

Douglas's service to our country first began as an infantryman in Europe with the 101st Airborne (Screaming Eagles) in 1944 and then in the occupation army with the U.S. Constabulary. Douglas then served in the Korean War with the U.S. 2nd (Indianhead) Infantry Division from 1950-1953 before he was med-evacuated after being wounded for the eighth time. In the incidents prior when he had been wounded and evacuated, he would be taken as far as Japan before he would disappear from the hospital, get clothes and take a boat back to his Infantry Division. "I would get very angry having somebody else lead the men and lose them." Douglas said, "I hardly ever lost a man when I was leading. After being wounded for the eighth time, Douglas nearly lost his legs and spent four years, four months and twenty-six days in the Fitzsimmons Army Hospital in Denver before he was released. He was told he would never walk again. But Douglas had his own ideas. "I was released December 23, 1957" Douglas remembered. By 1959, "I was jumping out of airplanes again." Douglas served two tours in Vietnam with the Special Forces (Green Beret) and then again with the highly classified Studies and Operations Group before retiring after twenty-two years of service.

I was pleased to learn that Mr. Douglas was recently selected by fellow veterans from local chapters of the American Legion, VFW, and Marine Corps League to receive an all expense paid trip to Washington D.C. in order to represent them during the upcoming dedication of the National World War II Memorial later this month.

The Memorial is a fitting tribute to the great courage and selfless dedication of soldiers who fought in the Second World War and as we approach Memorial Day, I encourage my colleagues to reflect on the great sacrifices of men like Glen Douglas.

IN HONOR OF THE MILE SQUARE DAY CARE CENTER ON ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Mile Square Day Care Center in celebration of its 25th anniversary. The Mile Square Day Care Center will celebrate with a

25th Anniversary Celebration Reception on Thursday, May 20, 2004, at The Lighthouse in West New York, New Jersey.

In 1977, a group of dedicated community minded people, with the help and guidance of Mayor Steve Cappiello, established a not-for-profit corporation to develop and run programs for young children. And through the hard work of the original board of directors, Hugh Kilmer, James Monaco, Dr. Frank Colon, Dr. Gerard Costa; and Charles A. Tortorella, the Mile Square Day Care Center was established in 1979.

In order to maintain the balance of community and parent involvement, the board of directors, since its inception, has consisted of an equal number of community members and parents. The original board of directors developed an environment that was nurturing and loving to the children. With the wide range of social, economic, and cultural groups, the activities in the Mile Square Day Care Center represented and continue to represent the diversity of its children and the city.

For twenty-five years, the Mile Square Day Care Center has touched the lives of over 3,000 families, providing the first preschool program in the City of Hoboken. Established in 1982 by former Executive Director Rosemary Fuocco, the Mile Square Day Care Center also began providing infant and toddler care for children ages three months to three years, and continues to provide preschool service for children three to five years of age. With a curriculum established with a hands-on approach, each child is given the opportunity to reach his or her intellectual and social potential.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the community leaders and dedicated parents, past and present, of the Mile Square Day Care Center, in recognition of their outstanding contributions and dedication to our children over the last twenty-five years.

TRIBUTE TO A.W. PICKEL, III, UPON THE COMPLETION OF HIS TENURE AS PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MORTGAGE BROKERS

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, A.W. Pickel, III, of Lenexa, Kansas, will soon be completing a distinguished tenure as President of the National Association of Mortgage Brokers (NAMB) and the Kansas Association of Mortgage Brokers. NAMB provides invaluable services for the mortgage broker industry which originates two out of three home loans in the country. It is the voice of the mortgage broker industry, with more than 16,000 members in all 50 states.

As you know, home ownership is at an all time record rate largely due to the contributions of mortgage brokers; through his involvement in NAMB, A.W. Pickel has been instrumental in shaping housing policy in this country.

A.W. Pickel, III, was the founding president of the Kansas Association of Mortgage Brokers and still serves as an active ex-officio member of the Kansas Association of Mortgage Brokers' Board of Directors. In 1999, the