

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE 2005 CONGRESS-BUNDESTAG/BUNDESRAT EXCHANGE

HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, since 1983, the U.S. Congress and the German Bundestag and Bundesrat have conducted an annual exchange program for staff members from both countries. The program gives professional staff the opportunity to observe and learn about each other's political institutions and interact on issues of mutual interest.

A staff delegation from the U.S. Congress will be selected to visit Germany from May 22 to June 4 of this year. During this two-week exchange, the delegation will attend meetings with Bundestag/Bundesrat Members, Bundestag and Bundesrat party staff members, and representatives of numerous political, business, academic, and media agencies. Participants also will be hosted by a Bundestag Member during a district visit.

A comparable delegation of German staff members will visit the United States for two weeks in July. They will attend similar meetings here in Washington and visit the districts of Members of Congress. The U.S. delegation is expected to facilitate these meetings.

The Congress-Bundestag/Bundesrat Exchange is highly regarded in Germany and the United States, and is one of several exchange programs sponsored by public and private institutions in the United States and Germany to foster better understanding of the politics and policies of both countries. This exchange is funded by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

The U.S. delegation should consist of experienced and accomplished Hill staff who can contribute to the success of the exchange on both sides of the Atlantic. The Bundestag reciprocates by sending senior staff professionals to the United States.

Applicants should have a demonstrable interest in events in Europe. Applicants need not be working in the field of foreign affairs, although such a background can be helpful. The composite U.S. delegation should exhibit a range of expertise in issues of mutual concern to the United States and Germany such as, but not limited to, trade, security, the environment, economic development, health care, and other social policy issues. This year's delegation should be familiar with transatlantic relations within the context of recent world events.

In addition, U.S. participants are expected to help plan and implement the program for the Bundestag/Bundesrat staff members when they visit the United States. Participants are expected to assist in planning topical meetings in Washington, and are encouraged to host one or two staffers in their Member's district in July, or to arrange for such a visit to another Member's district.

Participants are selected by a committee composed of personnel from the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the Department of State and past participants of the exchange.

Senators and Representatives who would like a member of their staff to apply for participation in this year's program should direct them to submit a résumé and cover letter in which they state their qualifications, the contributions they can make to a successful program and some assurances of their ability to participate during the time stated.

Applications may be sent to the Office of Interparliamentary Affairs, HB-28, the Capitol, by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, March 16.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING SENATOR JOHN CAREY

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Ohio State Senator John Carey is an exceptional individual worthy of merit and recognition; and

Whereas, Senator Carey has been appointed to Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee by Senator Bill Harris; and

Whereas, Senator Carey should be commended for his excellence, professionalism, integrity, and for his ongoing efforts to work for the constituents of the 17th District in Ohio.

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in honoring and congratulating Senator John Carey for his appointment to the Finance Committee.

ADDRESS OF SECRETARY GENERAL KOFI ANNAN AT THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMEMORATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION OF NAZI DEATH CAMPS

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on January 24 of this year, the United Nations General Assembly commemorated the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Nazi death camps. January 27, 1945, was the date on which Russian troops liberated Auschwitz, the most notorious of the death camps, and the symbol of the Holocaust, in which over 6 million Jews and hundreds of thousands of other nationalities were brutally murdered during World War II.

The United Nations commemoration, which was held three days before the anniversary, began with a moment of silence for the victims. Those speaking included a number of

foreign ministers and other distinguished statesmen from many of the member states of the United Nations, as well as survivors of the Holocaust and liberators of the camps from the Allied military forces who defeated the Nazi regime.

Mr. Speaker, I welcome the General Assembly's most appropriate commemoration, and I want to acknowledge and commend Secretary General Kofi Annan for the key role that he played in the convening of this meeting. He personally fought to hold this meeting, and I am certain that without his leadership it would not have taken place.

The Secretary General has a special family link to the Holocaust that my wife Annette and I share. Kofi Annan's wife Nan is the niece of Raoul Wallenberg, Swedish diplomat and humanitarian who came to Budapest, Hungary, in the summer of 1944 at the request of the United States to save the lives of Jews who were being sent to Auschwitz to be sent to the gas chambers. Wallenberg saved the lives of tens of thousands of Hungarian Jews, and among those are my wife Annette and me.

One comment by the Secretary General is particularly significant and meaningful for all of us, Mr. Speaker. Kofi Annan told the General Assembly, "The United Nations must never forget that it was created as a response to the evil of Nazism, or that the horror of the Holocaust helped to shape its mission."

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the outstanding address of the Secretary General be placed in the Congressional Record. As the Secretary General said so well, we must keep in mind that the United Nations was founded to fight the atrocities and evils that were brought about by the Nazi German regime. It is incumbent upon us to continue the fight against brutality, abuse of human rights and the violations of dignity and humanity that marked the Holocaust, but that tragically continue to be with us.

I urge my colleagues to read and ponder Secretary General Annan's serious and thoughtful remarks.

ADDRESS OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL KOFI ANNAN

The date for this session was chosen to mark the sixtieth anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. But, as you know, there were many other camps, which fell one by one to the allied forces in the winter and spring of 1945.

Only gradually did the world come to know the full dimensions of the evil that those camps contained. The discovery was fresh in the minds of the delegates at San Francisco, when this Organization was founded. The United Nations must never forget that it was created as a response to the evil of Nazism, or that the horror of the Holocaust helped to shape its mission. That response is enshrined in our Charter, and in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The camps, Mr. President, were not mere "concentration camps". Let us not use the euphemism of those who built them. Their purpose was not to "concentrate" a group in one place, so as to keep an eye on them. It was to exterminate an entire people.

There were other victims, too. The Roma, or Gypsies, were treated with the same utter

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

disregard for their humanity as the Jews. Nearly a quarter of the one million Roma living in Europe were killed.

Poles and other Slavs, Soviet prisoners of war, and mentally or physically handicapped people were likewise massacred in cold blood. Groups as disparate as Jehovah's Witnesses and homosexuals, as well as political opponents and many writers and artists, were treated with appalling brutality.

To all these we owe respect, which we can show by making special efforts to protect all communities that are similarly threatened and vulnerable, now and in the future.

But the tragedy of the Jewish people was unique. Two thirds of all Europe's Jews, including one and a half million children, were murdered. An entire civilization, which had contributed far beyond its numbers to the cultural and intellectual riches of Europe and the world, was uprooted; destroyed; laid waste.

In a moment, you will have the honour of hearing from one of the survivors, my dear friend Elie Wiesel. As Elie has written, "not all victims were Jews, but all Jews were victims". It is fitting, therefore, that the first State to speak today will be the State of Israel—which rose, like the United Nations itself, from the ashes of the Holocaust.

The Holocaust came as the climax of a long, disgraceful history of anti-Semitic persecution, pogroms, institutionalized discrimination and other degradation. The purveyors of hatred were not always, and may not be in the future, only marginalized extremists.

How could such evil happen in a cultured and highly sophisticated nation-State, in the heart of a Europe whose artists and thinkers had given the world so much? Truly it has been said: "all that is needed for evil to triumph is that good men do nothing".

There were good men—and women—who did do something: Germans like Gertrude Luckner and Oskar Schindler; foreigners like Meip Geis, Chiune Sugihara, Selahattin Ülkümen, and Raoul Wallenberg. But not enough. Not nearly enough.

Such an evil must never be allowed to happen again. We must be on the watch out for any revival of anti-Semitism, and ready to act against the new forms of it that are happening today.

That obligation binds us not only to the Jewish people, but to all others that have been, or may be, threatened with a similar fate. We must be vigilant against all ideologies based on hatred and exclusion, whenever and wherever they may appear.

On occasions such as this, rhetoric comes easily. We rightly say, "never again". But action is much harder. Since the Holocaust, the world has, to its shame, failed more than once to prevent or halt genocide—for instance in Cambodia, in Rwanda, and in the former Yugoslavia.

Even today we see many horrific examples of inhumanity around the world. To decide which deserves priority, or precisely what action will be effective in protecting victims and giving them a secure future, is not simple. It is easy to say that "something must be done". To say exactly what, and when, and how, and to do it, is much more difficult.

But what we must not do is deny what is happening, or remain indifferent, as so many did when the Nazi factories of death were doing their ghastly work.

Terrible things are happening today in Darfur, Sudan. Tomorrow I expect to receive the report of the international commission of inquiry, which I established at the request of the Security Council.

That report will determine whether or not acts of genocide have occurred in Darfur. But also, and no less important, it will identify the gross violations of international humani-

tarian law and human rights which undoubtedly have occurred.

The Security Council, once it has that report in its hands, will have to decide what action to take, with a view to ensuring that the perpetrators are held accountable. It is a very solemn responsibility.

Today is a day to honour the victims of the Holocaust—to whom, alas, no reparation can ever be made, at least in this world.

It is a day to honour our founders—the allied nations whose troops fought and died to defeat Nazism. Those troops are represented here today by veteran liberators of the camps, including my dear friend and colleague, Sir Brian Urquhart.

It is a day to honour the brave people who risked, and sometimes sacrificed, their own lives to save fellow human beings. Their examples redeem our humanity, and must inspire our conduct.

It is a day to honour the survivors, who heroically thwarted the designs of their oppressors, bringing to the world and to the Jewish people a message of hope. As time passes, their numbers dwindle. It falls to us, the successor generations, to lift high the torch of remembrance, and to live our own lives by its light.

It is, above all, a day to remember not only the victims of past horrors, whom the world abandoned, but also the potential victims of present and future ones. A day to look them in the eye, and say: "you, at least, we must not fail".

COMMENDING DANIELLE M. DEJOY
FOR HER EXEMPLARY CIVIC INVOLVEMENT

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to enter into the record an article published in the Post Journal of Jamestown, NY, on January 22, 2005 and a brief explanation of its origin.

On January 4, 2005, I was blessed and honored by the presence of hundreds—that's correct, hundreds—of friends, family and supporters who traveled to this great capital city of Washington, DC, to attend ceremonies associated with the administration of my oath of Office as a member of the 109th Congress.

One very special attendee that day, Danielle DeJoy, an 11th grade student at Falconer High School in "South County"—the southern portion of Chautauqua County, was kind enough to commit the events of her trip to Washington to paper, and her account of that trip was published in the Post Journal on January 22, 2005. A transcript of that article is included herein.

I enter this material to serve as an example to young people throughout the nation of the importance of civic involvement in our everyday lives. Danielle's interest and participation in civic events undoubtedly was learned at the family dinner table—her father Vince is an exemplary civic leader in Jamestown, serving in many important capacities, including with the city's Rotary club and as Chair of the city's Democratic Committee—her commitment to paper of the events of this day is inspirational. It reminds us all that those of us blessed to be chosen by the people as their Representatives in "the people's house" must never forget from whence we came, and that Jessica

DeJoy and the millions like her in these United States look to us as leaders—leaders who must strive hard to inspire young people and involve them in government.

A DAY NEVER TO BE FORGOTTEN

I had the opportunity to travel to Washington, D.C., Tuesday, Jan. 4, to represent Chautauqua County for the swearing-in of newly elected Congressman Brian Higgins. It was an experience that I will never forget, and it has given me a new perspective on how lucky we are to be Americans.

My Dad, Vince DeJoy, is the chairman of the Jamestown Democratic committee, and he felt that this would be an educational experience. I was so excited to see our nation's capital for the first time in person and not just seeing it on television or through pictures in the paper.

In addition to my father, Chautauqua County Election Commissioner Norm Green, Assistant Majority Leader of the Chautauqua County Legislature Ron Szot of Dunkirk and Janet Jankowski George made the trip to Washington. I had never met any of these people, but after a day of traveling by planes, trains and buses, I felt as if I have known them all of my life. We had a great day together.

We left Buffalo early Tuesday morning by plane at around 8:30. It was an overcast, gray day in Western New York, but once our plane climbed above the clouds, the sky was that pretty color blue that we long to see in January. The second leg of the journey would involve an Amtrak train from BWI Airport to Union Station in Washington, D.C. This would be another first for me. The coach that we rode on was very comfortable, clean and offered a very smooth ride. We arrived at Union Station around 10:30 a.m., and the first thing that caught me eye was the grandeur of this magnificent train station. I tried to imagine the Erie Rail Road Station in Jamestown, and how cool that it would be if it could be restored to have the same feel that Union Station offered.

Once outside the doors of Union Station, the view of the capital dome was very impressive. Of course we had to pose for pictures with the capital in the background exchanging cameras within our group. We then made the four block walk to the Cannon Office Building to the office of Congressman Higgins. As soon as we walked into his new office, we were greeted by Jonathan Weston of Panama. Jonathan found out that he was fortunate enough to be chosen as a staff member to the Congressman on Dec. 31. He was excited to see familiar faces from Chautauqua County make the trip, and promptly introduced us to the rest of Congressman Higgins staff.

There were over 150 people that squeezed into Mr. Higgins' office. There we enjoyed bagels, muffins and juice, while we watched the actual ceremony on closed circuit television. The well wishers became very quiet when the Clerk of the House announced his name to vote for the House Leader. Than a huge cheer was heard throughout the third floor of the building with other congressional offices down the hall.

We had some time to do sight-seeing before the next reception, so we walked next door to the capital. Security was very tight, but the Secret Service allowed us to get close enough for some great pictures in front of the capital.

The next reception started at 1:30 p.m. at the Rayburn Building, and we decided to go there early. That was a very wise choice because as we walked down the corridors past rooms where House Committee meetings take place, we approached the room which would host the reception and found Senator Hillary Clinton just standing alone in the