

Section 306 of this penal code punishes individual Turkish citizens or groups that confirm the fact of the Armenian genocide in Ottoman Turkey or call for the end of the Turkish occupation of Northern Cyprus, with up to 10 years in prison. Far from coming to terms with the genocide or reaching out to Armenia, Turkey, in adopting Section 306 of its new penal code, hardened its anti-Armenian stance and undermined hopes for reduction of tension in the region. This sets the stage for possible legal action against conference planners and participants. The Turkish Government has refused to support rescinding this prohibition against free speech, despite international criticism.

Mr. Speaker, with the cancellation of this conference, we find that the Government of Turkey will go to any length to avoid facing its bloody past. In just 2 weeks, Turkey's prime minister will be in the United States for an official visit, proclaiming that his nation is a democracy ready for full membership in the European Community and asking for U.S. support. The sad reality, Mr. Speaker, is that when it comes to facing the judgment of history about the Armenian genocide, Turkey, rather than acknowledging the truth, has instead chosen to trample on the rights of its citizens and still maintain lies.

Hrant Dink, editor of the Armenian weekly *Agos* in Turkey stated, "This decision strengthens the hand of those outside Turkey who say Turkey has not changed, it is not democratic enough to discuss the Armenian issue, it shows there is a difference between what the government says and its intentions."

Numerous European countries, including Poland, France and Greece, have passed Armenian genocide resolutions and have continuously urged Turkey to admit its crime. Just this week, French President Jacques Chirac urged Turkey to recognize the genocide and said failure to do so could harm Ankara's drive to join the European Union.

We cannot sit by and allow any nation that we consider an ally and a nation that is desperately seeking admission into the European Union to behave in such a manner. To bring this development into perspective, consider that according to current law in Turkey, dozens of U.S. Senators and hundreds of Congressmen would be punished simply for having voted for Armenian genocide resolutions, spoken about the lessons of this crime against humanity or commemorated the victims of the atrocity. So, too, would the American academic establishment, human rights groups, the mainstream media and just about everyone else aside from the Turkish embassy and its paid lobbyists here in Washington, D.C.

Only by being prepared to admit mistakes and make amends can the Turkish Government truly be considered a nation governed by the values of democracy. This recent event reveals the

vulnerable side of Turkey, one that is still hiding from its history and is incapable of learning from its mistakes so as to ensure that they will not be repeated in the future.

Mr. Speaker, the United States prides itself on being the world's leader in spreading democracy and liberty. As an effective leader, it is our duty to recognize that Turkey is not yet a democratic state and it will take a sincere effort on the part of Turkey to make a transition from a government that currently advocates censorship and lack of freedom of speech to one that embraces the principles of democracy in its true meaning.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

MEMORIAL DAY—PAYING A DEBT TO THOSE WE CAN NEVER REPAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, with Memorial Day 2005 just around the corner, men and women in Congress are hurrying home for festivities like those that we will enjoy in Indiana. This Sunday, the Indianapolis 500 Mile Race will draw half a million people. But it will not be the most important occasion of this long family weekend, because Hoosiers will gather in places like New Castle and Muncie and Elwood, Indiana, to commemorate this Memorial Day.

I could not help but think about the obligations of this day as I toured the battlefield of Antietam, near Sharpsburg, Maryland, just last weekend. There, Mr. Speaker, I walked on the ground that saw 6,000 Americans fall in battle in a single day, the bloodiest day in American history. Six thousand Americans at Antietam would turn into 600,000 Americans on both sides of the battle that fell in the Civil War.

Just 3 years after the end of that conflict, Americans set aside the 30th day of May each year to remember their sacrifice, and for 130 years, Decoration Day became Memorial Day, and it is something that we take seriously in the Hoosier State, as it will be taken seriously in every State in this Union.

The Bible says, If you owe debts, pay debts; if honor, then honor; if respect, then respect. I rise humbly as the Congressman from the Sixth District of Indiana to pay a debt of respect and honor to those men who have fallen most recently in the service of this Nation in my congressional district.

These are men like Sergeant Jeremy Wright, who died January 3, 2005, when an improvised explosive device struck

his military vehicle. He was 31 and a part of the Special Forces group from Fort Lewis.

Master Sergeant Mike Hiester died March 26, 2005, when his military vehicle also struck a land mine 30 miles west of Kabul, Afghanistan. He was 33, from Bluffton, Indiana, survived by his brave wife, Dawn, and two small children. He was with the 76th Infantry Brigade, Army National Guard, Indianapolis. Both men fell in Operation Enduring Freedom.

In Operation Iraqi Freedom we remember Lance Corporal Matthew Smith, who died May 10, 2003, in a vehicle accident in Kuwait, age 20, from Anderson, Indiana. He was a Reservist assigned to Detachment 1, Communications Company, 4th Force Service Support Group, Peru, Indiana.

Private Shawn Pahnke was killed June 16, 2003, by a sniper while on patrol. He was 25, of Shelbyville, Indiana. He was with the 1st Battalion, 37th Armored Regiment, 1st Armored Division, Friedberg, Germany.

Specialist Chad Keith who was killed July 7, 2003, in Iraq, when a roadside bomb exploded as his unit patrolled the streets of Baghdad. He was 21, from Batesville, Indiana. He was with Company D, Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Staff Sergeant Frederick Miller, Jr. Fred was killed September 20, 2003, when an IED hit his vehicle. He was 27, from Hagerstown, Indiana, and was with the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, Fort Carson, Colorado.

Sergeant Robert Colvill, Jr., was among five soldiers killed 8 July 2004 in Baghdad. All were in the Iraqi National Guard headquarters when it came under mortar attack. He was 31 and from Anderson, Indiana, part of the 1st Infantry Division in Schweinfurt, Germany.

And Specialist Raymond White. Ray died 12 November 2004, in Baghdad, when his patrol was attacked with small arms fire. Ray was 22 and from Elwood, Indiana.

It is an honor to serve such men, Mr. Speaker, and it is an honor to rise and to pay some debt of honor and recognition to these brave men and their families.

As we approach this Memorial Day, we do it with humility and no small amount of emotion, knowing that as we read these names, they are more than names. They are sons, they are husbands, they are brothers, they are uncles, they are friends and they are neighbors; and they are gone. Gone perhaps to this world, but I am confident not to the next. Their duty was to serve. Our duty is to remember.

So I rise with a deep spirit of humility simply before this Memorial Day arrives to remember these men; to assure them and all of the tens of thousands who went before them that this Nation will never fail to feel the gratitude for their sacrifice, and on this Memorial Day never fail to pray for them, for the salvation of their immortal souls, and for the comfort of those they left behind.

Happy Memorial Day.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

DEMOCRATS NOT REVEALING THEIR HAND ON SOCIAL SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I was stunned today when I picked up a copy of *The Hill* magazine and saw an article written by Hans Nichols, and the headline was "Rubin Urges Democrats Not to Reveal Their Hand, Clinton Aide Tells Party to Hold Firm on Social Security."

They go on to describe, "The steward of President Clinton's economic policy told the House Democratic Caucus yesterday that it needs to continue to hold firm in opposition to the President's plan and advised Democrats not to introduce their own plan, according to aides and lawmakers in the meeting."

It goes on to say, "The aide said that Rubin told his party that his party's colleagues would be hard-pressed to win a battle of specifics."

Hard-pressed to win a battle of specifics, this from the former Treasury Secretary, a man largely credited with building the international reputation of Goldman Sachs, which is all about specifics, tells the party, the Democrats, not to offer specifics.

And they say, "Democratic lawmakers said that the encouragement from a Clinton administration figure would steel the Caucus in its resolve to defeat the President's plan." Steel the caucus to defeat a plan. Of course, they do not have one of their own.

Since they are using President Clinton as an example, his experts say, "Do not offer a plan," let me read to you Morton Kondracke's editorial, "Democrats Need Their Own Social Security Plan."

"It is time for Democrats to declare what kind of Social Security reform they favor. Even former President Clinton thinks so. Yet the Democrats persist in attacking President Bush's ideas, often misleadingly.

President Clinton told ABC's "Good Morning, America" in an exchange curiously not broadcast, curiously not broadcast, "I think Democrats should

say what they are for on Social Security in the next couple weeks. Democrats should have a plan and they should talk to the President and congressional Republicans about it."

"According to ABC's political blog, The Note, Clinton said he didn't think Democrats deserved criticism for not producing a plan yet, but they still had time to produce one. He added, 'I think they need to come up with a plan of their own.'

"One Member," the gentleman from Florida, ROBERT WEXLER, whom I respect and admire, "came up with a plan and he was largely booed by his colleagues." Largely booed. "According to numerous aides, minority leader PELOSI's strategy is to wait until we see the whites of their eyes before offering a Democratic alternative. Democratic leadership aides were critical of Wexler's timing, saying it clashed with PELOSI's strategy of waiting until they see the whites of their eyes before offering a Democratic alternative."

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Wait until they see the whites of their eyes. Like this is a battle, like this is a combat mission. It is, after all, about saving Social Security for future generations, not about fighting an enemy force. Seeing the whites of their eyes has largely been equated to battle, to taking down the enemy. They are using those same kinds of conversations about American citizens trying to build a safety net in Social Security.

Lo and behold: "Teamsters President Praises Bush's Social Security Work. Teamsters President James P. Hoffa, breaking his estrangement from the White House, praised President Bush on Tuesday for attempting to fix Social Security and said Democrats were wrong to oppose any discussion until Mr. Bush drops his personal retirement account plan." That is Jimmy Hoffa representing 1.4 million members of a union. And he said he was willing to work with the administration and the Republican majority in Congress to come up with a bipartisan solution.

I quote Mr. Hoffa: "Social Security is a major problem in this country. We have to make sure that it is preserved for those that come after us," Mr. Hoffa said in an interview with Gannett News Service. "I think President Bush should be given credit for the fact that he has initiated a debate regarding what we should do."

Now let me read some quotes from Democrats who, when President Clinton had a plan, oh, they were enthusiastic. This refers to President Clinton: "This fiscal crisis in Social Security affects every generation."

Let us read HARRY REID, the minority leader of the Senate: "Most of us have no problem with taking a small amount of the Social Security proceeds and putting it into the private sector."

When asked by Tony Snow on Fox News, "Are you opposed to letting people make the investment decisions? In

other words, having some component where they say, I will save the money rather than letting Uncle Sam doing it for me?" Senator REID in 1999: "I think it is important that we look, and I am totally in favor to do this. And, in fact, there are a couple of programs now that we are taking a look at to see if it works for Social Security."

Now, I agree in my heart that there is opportunity for negotiations, but simply saying "no" by the Democrats is unacceptable to every senior and every future generation to follow.

EDUCATION FUNDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KUHL of New York). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WU) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, May 23, I read a disturbing story in *The Oregonian* newspaper. It was not about the war in Iraq, the rise of unemployment in Oregon, or even the growing problem with methamphetamine abuse. Instead, this story focused on a school fundraiser.

What was so disturbing about this fundraiser is that the students and their parents at Redland Elementary School in Oregon City were hosting a jog-a-thon to raise money to hire a physical education teacher. It was not for band uniforms, not for supplies, or even for a field trip; it was to hire a teacher. The parents and students have hosted this fundraiser every year since 1994 when the school district no longer had enough money to pay for a PE teacher.

Sadly, this is not the first tale of such fundraisers in Oregon. In 2003, the *Eugene Register-Guard* reported on similar efforts of parents who were hosting fundraisers to pay for a math teacher. Math classes were jeopardized because the then current math teacher was retiring and there was not enough money to hire a new math teacher. The parents and teachers decided to give their blood to fund the position. That is right, blood. After realizing that bake sales would not raise enough money, parents and teachers decided to sell their blood plasma to raise money to fund a teacher.

When it comes to education funding, it is increasingly parents and teachers who are scrambling to cover budget shortfalls; and, unfortunately, Oregon has been one of the States hit hardest by budget shortfalls. Across our State, schools are closing, increasing class sizes, or eliminating or cutting music, art, athletics, marching band, and other important so-called "extra-curricular" activities.

Oregon's school districts have carved a total of almost 500 days or 12 million instructional hours off the 2003 school year, and at least 1,100 teacher positions have been lost so far. Oregon has abolished State tests for writing, math, and science in middle schools; and some schools have received no new textbooks since 1988.