

throughout the world as simply the "The Bongo King," Rogelio brought smiles to all those within earshot with his rhythmic talents. Mr. Darias passed away on January 20, 2010, at the age of 93.

Born in Santa Clara, Cuba, Rogelio first began his storied career as a percussionist in a band with his siblings, Pedro and Diego, at the tender age of eight. Their musical group, known as the "Hermanos Darias" quickly garnered the attention of music producers throughout Cuba, and it was not long before young Rogelio was swept away to the big city of Havana, where he pursued further his musical career. He soon began working with Havana's most well-known musicians, such as Maestro Ernesto Lecuona and Chiquito Orefiche, and performing both on the radio station Cadena Azul Chain and at the National Theater.

Rogelio's mastery of the his craft became world famous, and before long he was traveling to Europe, Asia, and Africa, spreading his "bongo gospel" to people of all races, nationalities, and creeds. Notwithstanding his world-wide fame, Mr. Darias continually sought to better himself as a musician. He spent several months living in the Africa's Belgian Congo, where he studied the authentic African rhythms created by the local indigenous population. Years later he also worked alongside Polynesian musicians in Hawaii, as well as Japanese musicians in Tokyo. His love of any and all music, and insatiable appetite for knowledge undoubtedly contributed to Mr. Darias' seemingly endless musical talents and knowledge.

By the 1960s, the Bongo King had arrived in Las Vegas, one of the world's foremost performing arts centers. During his time in Las Vegas, Rogelio established himself as one of the most sought-after musical collaborators in the industry. His incredible beats were in high demand by stars such as Liberace and Charo, with both of whom he toured. Hollywood also came calling, and as a result Rogelio performed for both Johnny Carson and Merv Griffin and their respective hit shows.

In spite of his worldwide fame and incredible accomplishments, Rogelio Darias remained a loyal friend and family member to those who knew him best. His passing has come as a great tragedy to all those people who depended on him for a laugh and a smile. Las Vegas lost a monumental entertainer in the passing of Rogelio Darias. The Bongo King will be deeply missed by all of Las Vegas, and countless music-lovers throughout the world.

BUDGET DEFICITS

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I recommend to my colleagues a Robert Robb column, published in the Arizona Republic, February 3, 2010.

In it, Robb points to the massive deficits in President Obama's budget and argues that the administration has no grounds on which to pass the blame.

He explains that the deficits President Obama recommends from 2011 on are entirely his own, driven by vast new spending, and that they are far higher than historical deficits.

Robb writes that, even though President Obama's budget projects that the recession will be over by 2011, he proposes that Federal spending continue at nearly 24 percent of gross domestic product through 2020, far beyond the historical average of around 20.5 percent.

He also points out an enormous increase in the debt as a share of GDP:

After the World War II debt was reduced, accumulated federal debt never exceeded 50 percent of GDP until 2009, when it reached 53 percent. Under Obama's recommendations it would grow to 77 percent by 2020.

Robb recommends returning spending to its historical average as a means of getting the deficit under control.

I ask unanimous consent to have this article be printed in the RECORD and urge my colleagues to consider the facts and arguments contained in it.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Arizona Republic, Feb. 3, 2010]

OBAMA DEFICITS NOT BUSH'S FAULT

(By Robert Robb, Columnist)

The Obama administration undoubtedly wants the budget message to be all the good things it wants to do for the American people, except those who make the mistake of earning too much money.

There's a second stimulus, rechristened a jobs program. Health care reform, repositioned as an attack on the insurance industry's dirty deeds. New middle-class tax breaks. More spending on education. Lots more spending on infrastructure and clean energy.

The budget is intended to position the Democratic Party as the friend of the middle-class. But the message is blotted out by all the red ink.

Obama likes to depict himself as a deficit victim. He inherited a huge deficit and a deep recession. Not his fault.

Certainly the Republicans during the Bush years were fiscally irresponsible. But within historical bounds. The deficits in Obama's budget are beyond historical bounds and are his alone.

Even with Bush's tax cuts, federal revenues in 2007 were at the average as a percentage of GDP, 18.5 percent, going back to 1960. The deficit was just 1.2 percent of GDP, historically on the low side. Accumulated federal debt was 36 percent of GDP.

Then the recession hit. From 2008 to 2009, federal spending increased 18 percent. This was a budget year that straddled the Bush and Obama presidencies. But the spending increase was driven by anti-recession measures, predominately the Bush stimulus and bailouts.

Obama supported these measures. In fact, his complaint about the Bush stimulus was that it was too small.

This raises a question of political ontology: If Obama agreed with Bush, is it still just Bush's fault?

The Bush tax cuts expire this year. Except for the legacy costs of the Iraq war, Obama is free to recommend changing anything Bush did. The deficits he recommends from 2011 on are purely his own.

And they are massive, and driven by spending.

Obama purposes that the federal government spend over 25 percent of GDP in 2011, compared to a historical average of around 20.5 percent. He justifies this as necessary to continue to fight the recession.

Obama, however, projects that the recession will be fully over in 2011 and robust growth under way. Yet he proposes that federal spending continue to be nearly 24 percent of GDP through 2020.

In other words, rather than wind down the additional recession spending after recovery, Obama is proposing that it simply become a new, higher base.

After the World War II debt was reduced, accumulated federal debt never exceeded 50 percent of GDP until 2009, when it reached 53 percent. Under Obama's recommendations it would grow to 77 percent by 2020.

If Obama were to recommend a path to return spending to its historical share of economic output, in 2020 the deficit would be just \$255 billion, about what the federal government spends each year on large capital projects, and just 1 percent of GDP. In other words, not a problem. And federal spending would have still increased by more than 4 percent a year since 2008.

Instead, Obama recommends a 2020 deficit of over \$1 trillion and a troubling 4.2 percent of GDP.

Rather than recommend deficit reducing measures himself, Obama wants to turn the job over to a bipartisan commission. Republicans suspect a rat, an attempt to get them to support even larger tax increases than Obama is already proposing.

They are right. Under Obama's budget, revenues are already projected to be 19.6 percent of GDP, much higher than the historical average. Yet he still proposes trillion dollar deficits.

The problem is spending. Obama wants to do too much of it.

FREE GUN LOCKS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to commend the Wayne County Sheriff's Office on its newly announced initiative to provide gun trigger locks free of charge to firearm owners in the Metro Detroit area. Partnering with local religious leaders and Project Child Safe, an organization that provides gun locks to law enforcement agencies, the Sheriff's Office seeks to reduce the number of firearm-related accidents that occur in the home.

Every year, far too many children get access to guns in homes across the United States, often with fatal consequences. According to the Centers for Disease Control, in 2006, 154 children and teens died as a result of unintentional shootings, and in 2008, 3,997 children and teens were injured by a firearm unintentionally. It is imperative that gun owners across the country safely store their weapons out of the reach of children to prevent these tragic accidents. Safe storage includes keeping guns unloaded, using trigger locks, storing guns in a locked, safe place away from children, and storing ammunition in a separate, locked place.

Providing gun owners with trigger locks and educating them on gun safety and storage has become even more important with the recent increase in

the number of gun owners, specifically the number of concealed weapon permit holders. According to Wayne County Sheriff Benny Napoleon, there are currently 41,687 concealed weapon permit holders in Wayne County. There were 13,843 permit applications in 2009, up from 9,300 in 2008, and so far in 2010, the Sheriff's Office has seen an average of 61 requests per day. In light of this dramatic increase, we must do everything we can to reduce the risk guns pose to children.

Commonsense gun safety legislation, such as mandatory child safety locks, could help reduce the number of tragic accidents that kill and injure young Americans. Again, I applaud the efforts of the Wayne County Sheriff's Office on their distribution of free gun trigger locks to gun owners in the Metro Detroit community.

REMEMBERING FREYA VON MOLTKE

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I rise to speak in memory of Freya von Moltke, an extraordinary woman and long-time resident of Norwich, VT, who passed away this January 1 at the age of 98.

In 1929, at the age of 18, Freya met the young lawyer Helmuth von Moltke, and 2 years later she married him. Freya earned her own law degree in 1935 but never practiced; law had already begun to lose its meaning as Hitler and the Nazi party tightened their grip on power. It was for the same reason that Helmuth gave up his dreams of becoming a judge and of working closer to the family estate in Kreisau, in Silesia, now a part of Poland. Instead, he opened a small law office in Berlin, where he could remain independent of the regime without drawing attention to himself. He and Freya divided their time between the family estate and his apartment in Berlin.

In the last years before the war, they traveled to South Africa to visit Helmuth's mother's parents in South Africa. On those trips they spoke openly of what the Nazi regime was capable of, and were constantly urged not to return to Germany. But they felt responsible, for their broader family, the estate, and Germany's fate; they felt they had no choice but to return. Helmuth's work as an attorney came to an end at the outbreak of the war in 1939, when he was drafted into the German army's intelligence service. Freya settled into overseeing the farm in Kreisau in his absence, and the flood of letters between them began. Helmuth came home whenever he could. They welcomed their first son Helmuth Caspar, in 1937 and their second, Konrad, in 1941.

It was clear to the von Moltkes from the beginning that the Nazi regime was criminal, but moving from opposition to active resistance was a giant step. When Helmuth told Freya that he knew he had to do what he could to resist, she gave him her complete support. Slowly Helmuth gathered a loose

group of friends and friends of friends, people who could be trusted, people who represented almost every class and interest group outside the Nazi party. He spent his evenings in Berlin meeting with them in small groups, discussing what would eventually have to be done to undo the damage to Germany by the Nazis. Only on a few memorable occasions did they all dare to meet together; Freya and Helmuth invited the whole group to gather for seemingly innocent weekends in Kreisau. There they were able to hammer out together their plans for the longed-for day when the Nazi regime would finally fall—their plans for a new Germany, a democratic Germany embedded in a renewed and democratic Europe. Freya not only participated in the discussions; she also took care of everyone's room and board.

Early in 1944, Helmuth was imprisoned for warning an acquaintance of his imminent arrest. In July of that year, many of his friends participated in an attempt to assassinate Hitler. It failed, and many of them lost their lives immediately. In the aftermath, the Gestapo began to uncover the connections leading from one resistance group to another, including the one they called the "Kreisau Circle." Most of the surviving members of the group soon joined Helmuth in prison. Most were tried before the infamous People's Court, convicted, and sentenced to death. Helmuth himself was executed in January of 1945.

Between her trips to Berlin to make appeals for Helmuth's life, Freya took in a growing group of their friends' widows and children at Kreisau. In the face of the Soviet advance, she moved them all into nearby Czechoslovakia, only to find that it was safer to move them home again. Through the intervention of British friends, she and her children at last managed to leave Kreisau for Berlin, but they soon left Germany for South Africa, where Freya made her living as a social worker.

In 1956, unable to tolerate apartheid any longer, Freya returned to Germany. In Berlin she began her work to keep the memory of the German resistance to Hitler alive; she also began to transcribe Helmuth's letters, which, along with the minutes of the Kreisau Circle's meetings, she had hidden from the Gestapo in the beehives on the estate. She published Helmuth's final letters from prison very soon after the end of the war. In 1988, many of the thousands of letters he had written her between the summer of 1939 and his death appeared in English as "Letters to Freya."

It was in September of 1960 that Freya moved to Norwich, VT. She moved to Norwich to join her close friend—and her husband's—Eugen Rosenstock-Huussy, whose wife had died the year before. Freya lived with him until his death in 1973, and after his death she founded a nonprofit to keep his books in print; she was presi-

dent of that group until the 1990s, by which time they had over 60 titles in print. Freya served for years on the board of the Co-op supermarket in Hanover, NH, and with friends from the Co-op board she went on to found the Twin Pines Cooperative Housing Foundation, the first group to try to develop affordable housing in that part of Vermont and the first in the State to establish a tenant-owned housing cooperative.

At 75, after many years in Norwich, Freya became an American citizen and an active member of the League of Women Voters. At 93 she agreed to speak in Berlin on the 60th anniversary of the failed assassination attempt, but for many years she had spoken in Vermont high schools about what she and her husband and their friends had done and the need for courage in the face of injustice in any society. Students from one school she visited for years sent flowers to her funeral.

It is no simple feat for a foreigner to become accepted as a "natural" part of a small town in northern New England, but Freya did it. In 1985, the owner of Dan & Whit's general store in Norwich ran into her in the post office. He reacted to the flood of unfamiliar faces by telling her, "Let them come. We were here first." His gallant inclusion of her as a "native" after only 25 years in town moved Freya deeply. Her own hospitality is reflected in the sign she tacked to her unlocked kitchen door at the age of 90: "To Everybody! Please, walk in! Push hard. Find me upstairs if I don't respond."

Freya was firm in her belief that the territory Germany had lost, the land her family had lost, was the price Germany had to pay for the crimes of the Nazi regime. But she had hopes for what had been the family estate. In 1988, a group of young people in East Germany had the idea of making the former von Moltke estate a place where people from divided Europe could meet and get to know each other; they found friends in Poland, but also in West Germany, in Holland and the United States. Only a year later, a friend of their Polish friends became the prime minister of Poland and invited the chancellor of Germany to meet him for a mass of reconciliation in Kreisau. The two men agreed to fund the restoration of Kreisau, now called Kryzowa. The German chancellor had invited Freya to accompany him, but she said she would wait until the Poles invited her, which they soon did. In her final years, she lent her name and her blessing to a foundation to support the new Kreisau, which with support from the German and Polish governments has grown in 20 years from the dream of a few young people to an international meeting place that hosts about 100 events a year, attended by some 10,000 young people from all over Europe.

Freya von Moltke was an inspiration to all who knew her. She was a wonderful friend and neighbor, and she enriched the lives of countless citizens of