

Moreover, the recently enacted Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform law further enhanced the Federal Reserve's transparency by expanding the types of audits GAO must conduct and by mandating disclosure of transactions at the Federal Reserve's discount window.

In light of these facts, the issue in H.R. 459 is not whether the Fed should be audited. It already is. Instead, what is at issue in this legislation is whether the Fed's internal deliberations concerning the formation of monetary policy should be made public. This is the equivalent of asking whether Supreme Court justices' pre-decisional debate should be made public—and it is a bad idea for the same reason. It would have a predictably counterproductive and chilling effect on that debate and ultimately undermine the Fed's independence. Time and time again, history has shown that central banks whose decision-making falls under the influence of short-term political considerations quickly lose all credibility with the public and with the credit markets. This cannot be allowed to happen.

It's ironic that most, if not all, of the information proponents of this legislation cite to justify its enactment is in the public domain because of the transparency measures that are already in place. Indeed, many advocates of H.R. 459 are avowedly less interested in striking the right balance between independence and accountability at the Federal Reserve than they are in abolishing the Federal Reserve altogether—or in ending the Federal Reserve's dual mandate to achieve both stable prices and maximum employment.

I am in neither camp. I support an independent Federal Reserve pursuing its congressionally directed dual mandate, subject to strict oversight and accountability—and that is why I oppose this bill.

HONORING HARRIET TRUDELL ON HER 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life and achievements of Harriet Trudell of Las Vegas, Nevada on the occasion of her 80th birthday.

Harriet was born on August 22, 1932 in St. Petersburg, Florida, into a family passionate in their beliefs of the Democratic Party and its principles.

In 1948, 16-year-old Harriet had a life-changing experience when she accompanied her father to the Democratic National Convention where he was an alternate delegate. Hearing Hubert Humphrey's civil rights speech during the convention had a great impact on Harriet's life, and she returned home to Florida passionate for the cause of equality and began a lifelong quest for social change.

Throughout every decade since, Harriet has been a force to contend with, fighting for fairness and equality for all.

During the early 1950's, Harriet organized unions for the state AFL-CIO in Florida.

In 1962, Harriet moved to Las Vegas with her husband and two children where she continued her passion for equality.

In 1965, Harriet marched with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and other civil rights activists

from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, raising the awareness of voting rights of African-Americans.

Coming full circle from her attendance at the 1948 Democratic National Convention, Harriet served as the Southern Nevada Director of Hubert Humphrey's 1968 presidential campaign.

During the 1970's, Harriet was active in the League of Women Voters, National Organization for Women (NOW), and the Clark County Women's Democratic Club. She fought passionately against segregation in the Clark County School District, for welfare rights and for the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

In March 1971, Harriet marched down the Las Vegas Strip in support of opportunity for the disenfranchised.

Harriet served as Southern Nevada Aide for Governor Michael O'Callaghan from 1974 to 1978 and as the Foreign Affairs Aide for Congressman Harry Reid in Washington, D.C. from 1983 to 1986.

In addition, throughout her extraordinary career, Harriet has been an advocate for Operation Life, served on the board for NOW, and been a lobbyist for the Feminist Majority Foundation in Washington, D.C.

Fifty years after Harriet's initial foray into national and state politics, she was a driving force in NOW's "Elect Women 2000." While serving as Campaign Director in Louisiana, she traveled throughout the State, and was successful in tripling the number of women elected to the Louisiana State Legislature.

Presently, this remarkable woman serves as the Political Director for the Nevada State Democratic Party.

As the Representative for Nevada's First Congressional District, it gives me immense pride to honor Harriet Trudell of Las Vegas, Nevada, and I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the accomplishments of this incredible woman on the occasion of her 80th birthday.

CURRENT SITUATION IN THE REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, on March 26, 2012, I introduced H.R. 4258, the Republic of Georgia Democracy Act of 2012. I introduced this bill in response to the growing acts of repression by the Government of Georgia against the Democratic opposition there in the run-up to the October 2012 parliamentary election.

After reviewing reports from the region and meeting with members of the opposition, I became worried that the parliamentary election would be viewed as illegitimate if the situation did not change.

I offered H.R. 4258, which threatened termination of the tens of millions of dollars the United States gives Georgia each year in assistance—including millions for democracy promotion—in the event of illegitimate elections, in an attempt to demonstrate to the ruling regime the cost of stealing the election.

I regret to report that the situation is getting worse.

The United Nations, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and the European Union have all raised concern. Even Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has publicly called for free, fair, and competitive elections, but the Georgian government does not seem to be listening.

For more than two decades, successive administrations and my colleagues in Congress have worked hard to expand democracy in the post-Soviet world. We did so believing that the former Soviet states would be more stable and more economically prosperous if governments were more responsive to the will of the people.

This is especially true in Georgia, where the United States has invested considerable financial resources and political capital in an attempt to create a model democracy in a complex region.

These investments are now at risk. The Georgian government is succeeding in creating an atmosphere of intimidation and fear, handicapping the opposition's ability to operate and access the media and voters, and taking steps to ensure victory before election day.

The United States can ill afford to stand aside and watch democracy in Georgia unravel.

If another round of illegitimate elections occurs, there will be more instability, including the possibility of peaceful protests and a violent government response, which has been the historic norm.

This would threaten key American interests, including democracy promotion, energy security, stability in the Caucasus, relations with Russia, and operations in Afghanistan.

I have included a recent article that highlights the Georgian government's efforts to repress the democratic opposition. The article from the Economist notes that only 38% of Georgians think their country is a democracy and that this election could be on course to a political crisis.

If things continue on their current track, there are few scenarios where this election will be seen as legitimate.

The United States should take steps now to prevent a potential political crisis that would arise just before the U.S. presidential election. I would encourage the Obama Administration and my colleagues to communicate clearly to the Georgian government the importance of free, fair, and competitive elections and that Georgia's relationship with the United States cannot survive a stolen election or subversion of democratic principles.

Like a canary in the coal mine, I will do my best to continue to warn my colleagues of this looming disaster and provide regular updates. I hope the United States acts before it is too late.

[From the Economist, Jul. 13, 2012]

GEORGIAN POLITICS—BLOOD FEUD

(by G.E. Tbilisi)

Georgian democracy in trouble? The government claims that the "Russian-influenced opposition" could subvert Georgia's parliamentary elections in October this year. In contrast, Bidzina Ivanishvili, the founder of Georgian Dream, an opposition party, complains of systematic discrimination at the hands of an increasingly authoritarian regime. New polling results show that only 38% of Georgians think that Georgia is now a democracy, compared with 49% in February.

Georgians may have too pessimistic a view of their own country. As a recent pre-electoral assessment from the National Democratic Institute (NDI) points out, Georgia has implemented several key democratic reforms in recent years. New institutions ensure the accuracy of the voters' list or regulate party financing. Amendments to the electoral code in late 2011 and early 2012 introduced a raft of positive changes although the failure to redraw electoral districts (which range from 6,000 to 158,000 voters) means some votes are worth less than others. Recent "must carry" provisions will improve opposition parties' access to the media by obliging cable providers to transmit all television channels with news programmes during the sixty-day campaign period. In all, the "2012 electoral process is more formalised and regulated compared to past elections", the NDI concludes.

Even so, the dark side of Georgian politics, which Thomas de Waal has likened to "a blood feud", has been all too evident since Mr. Ivanishvili entered politics in October last year. Georgia's richest man remains without Georgian citizenship, an absurd situation of which most of his compatriots disapprove; the sooner that is resolved, the better. The Chamber of Control stands accused of levying disproportionate fines on the Georgian Dream movement, which Mr. Ivanishvili has refused to pay. (It has responded by seizing some of his assets). And before Parliament adopted the must carry provisions, Channel 9, a new television station co-owned by Mr. Ivanishvili's wife, and Global TV, the only broadcaster that carried it, suffered from almost continuous harassment.

Both sides continue to vilify each other, complaining of harassment, improper campaign spending, attempted bribery of state officials and abuse of administrative resources. A debate in the European Parliament on 4th July about Georgian politics reached similar extremes. As punch-ups during Georgian Dream campaign meetings in the central Georgian villages of Mereti on 26th June and Kareleti on 12th July suggest, it could get nastier still.

Yet Mr. Ivanishvili's political awakening has also awoken Georgian voters. Huge, peaceful rallies have taken place across the country, far beyond anything seen in recent years. Many more Georgians (75%) now plan to vote in October's elections than intended to so in September last year (51%), polls show. And the political debate is increasingly focused on issues that matter to ordinary Georgians, not just personalities.

Georgian Dream unveiled some of their plans in May: cutting utility costs, investing in agriculture, free universal health insurance and increased pensions. Vano Merabishvili, the former interior minister who became prime minister in late June, announced the government's four-year post-election programme shortly after taking office. He too wants to boost pensions, provide universal health insurance, and invest in agriculture. Mr. Merabishvili has also set up a new ministry to tackle unemployment (roughly 34% of Georgians say they are unemployed, compared with an official rate unemployment rate of 16%), and promises to provide each family with vouchers worth \$600.

Does Mr. Merabishvili's appointment indicate that Mikheil Saakashvili, the president, is unlikely to become prime minister once his term in office expires in early 2013? As one of the few big beasts of Georgian politics, Mr. Merabishvili would certainly be hard to shove aside. At any rate, slightly more Georgians would oppose such a job-swap à la Putin than would approve of it.

Reassuringly, 55% of Georgians surveyed think the elections will be well conducted,

and only 21% fear falsification. But there is little room for complacency. Mr. Ivanishvili has said that if he has any evidence of vote-rigging by the authorities, he will call for street protests. For most foreign observers, and many Georgians, that would be a step backwards. Yet 27% of those polled say he would be justified in doing so. Come October, that sentiment could matter.

While most Georgians are focused on who will win, Georgia's allies say the credibility of the electoral process is key. As the NDI states, "further development of democratic institutions and practices offer the best chance for western integration and for long-term prosperity and stability." With the political temperature likely to rise further in coming months, Georgia's politicians would do well to bear that in mind. Will they?

IN HONOR OF ALEXANDER COCKBURN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Alexander Cockburn, the bold Irish-American journalist who passed away after a courageous, private battle with cancer. He left this world on Saturday, July 21, 2012 at the youthful age of 71.

Alexander Cockburn was born in Scotland on June 6, 1941 and spent most of his childhood living in Ireland. He attended the University of Oxford and earned a degree in English literature and language in 1963. Alexander became a permanent resident of the United States in 1973, where he wrote for several noteworthy publications. He spent his first ten years in the U.S. writing for *The Village Voice*, an alternative weekly magazine based in New York City. He then became a writer for *The Nation* until the time of his death, in addition to a variety of publications including *The Wall Street Journal* and *New York Press*. Alexander was also the co-editor of *CounterPunch*, a newsletter in which he frequently expressed his controversial, unfiltered opinions for which he became renowned and deeply respected.

Friends and co-workers remember Alexander for his remarkable talents. He could quickly write dazzling columns that were full of passion and conviction. He was unafraid to speak his mind, often writing in opposition to his colleagues at the same publications. His bold style set him apart as a truly remarkable journalist.

Alexander died on July 21, two years after he was diagnosed with cancer. He kept his illness a secret and continued to write until the day of his death, refusing to let cancer get in the way of his passion. He will be missed by his family, friends, and many readers.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Alexander Cockburn, the talented journalist and audacious man who has left a lasting legacy on the world of literature and the world at large.

TRIBUTE TO CPL MARCUS W. DANDREA, UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of Florida's brightest sons, Corporal Marcus W. Dandrea, United States Marine Corps, from Jacksonville. On February 24th of this year, CPL Dandrea, a member of Charlie Company, stepped on a pressure plate while patrolling a mountain top in Sangin, Helmand Province. His recovery has been fast and furious, as he is already moving to start the next phase of his already inspiring life. However, his U.S. Marine Corps active duty service will continue through his wife, Lance Corporal Victoria Dandrea. They have three children, Naomi, DJ, and Micah. I ask that this poem, penned in their honor by Albert Caswell, be placed in the RECORD.

INTEL

Intel . . .
In every battle . . .
And in every fight . . .
And in every war,
there is but such need to so bring such insight!
Intel . . . Intelligence,
is what a war's life blood so ignites . . .
leading us all to victory by shedding such light!
To illuminate the darkness of war,
to burn bright!
For there are but only a few who so gather
such insights . . .
For there are The Ph.D's of the battlefield
who fight . . .
The men who are but armed with mind of
might,
and with heart's of steel in sight!
Top Secret!
The United States Marine!
One of our brightest of all shades of green!
Jar Heads,
who with such Intelligence so fight . . . and
so convene!
Where Technology So Meets Might!
Saving lives,
but with all of the knowledge that they so
provide . . .
As from all of this,
such battle plans are so devised!
As many times,
making the difference between death and
life!
Darkness or Light!
So that out across a Nation,
a mother will not have to so cry this night!
As warriors drop in from no where,
from out of sight!
For they are both beauty and the beast,
all at their height!
Fighting with their brains and bodies,
oh what an awesome sight!
Putting, The Stealth in Technology!
As how wars are won,
all in the cover of day and or night . . .
As when it all so depends on who lives or dies
As is the high cost so compromised!
As that's where you will find,
all of their most magnificent of all silent
battle cries!
As it was out on such a secret mission,
when this young Marine's life would almost
not reach its fruition!
As an IED went off,
as so close to death he'd lie!
As right there but on its very edge,
as when Marcus so reached so deep down
with something so left inside!