

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THE DEVASTATING CRISIS IN EASTERN CONGO

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 2, 2013

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, last month the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, and Human Rights held a hearing which examined U.S. policy regarding the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). This conflict was exacerbated by Rwanda's interventions in neighboring eastern Congo, as documented by the release of three United Nations reports last year. These reports confirmed Rwanda's support of militia who have ravaged and continue to plague this region. The State Department was unavailable to testify at our September 19th hearing on this issue, and the subcommittee promised at that time to follow-up when State was available to testify.

In the aftermath of the 1994 genocide, successive U.S. administrations have turned a blind eye to reports of Rwandan plundering of resources from the DRC and support for rebels who have devastated eastern Congo and its people. It seems that guilt over the Clinton Administration's failure responding effectively to the genocide in Rwanda has led subsequent U.S. administrations to be reluctant to criticize the Government of Rwanda.

With these UN reports on that government's behavior in the DRC, we must overcome our regret over what happened 18 years ago. As an NGO letter to President Obama points out, the United States is now out of step with our European allies, who have cut aid to Rwanda because of their interference in the DRC, as recommended by the UN Group of Experts in their recent reports. The Group of Experts also recommends imposing sanctions on responsible Rwandan officials, such as Defense Minister General James Kabarebe.

Additionally, the Government of the DRC has failed to ensure that its military adequately provides security for its citizens. In fact, the National Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC) also is alleged to be a perpetrator of human rights violations in the East. Security sector reform is critical in the DRC, and the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) has not been able to completely train military containing elements that too often terrorize their own people instead of protecting them.

At this point, it is vital to understand what the administration intends to do about the UN reports on Rwanda's violation of the arms embargo on non-state groups in eastern DRC and how this impacts U.S. relations with Rwanda. Furthermore, we must know how the administration intends to deal with the DRC government in light of its deficiencies in security sector reform. The hearing also took a comprehensive look at who is responsible for the insecurity in eastern Congo beyond the two government and the militias.

Most attention is being paid to the M23 rebel movement in eastern Congo, and justifiably so in light of their recent seizure of territory and overall destructive impact on the people of eastern Congo. However, there are reportedly as many as two dozen armed groups terrorizing Congolese in this region. According to a November 2012 report from Oxfam, Commodities of War, nine of these militias are believed to be most prominent. They range from those with a focus on Rwanda or Uganda, those that were formed in response to the flight of perpetrators of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda to the DRC or those singularly focused on the DRC itself. Whatever the reason for their founding, these militias have terrorized the people of eastern Congo and the DRC as a whole. We must identify their support base and end the flow of arms and other aid that enables their ongoing reign of terror.

According to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), insecurity in eastern Congo has displaced approximately 2.4 million people nationwide, especially in the East. Despite longstanding conflict in eastern Congo, OCHA estimates that the majority of displaced persons typically returns to their areas of origin within six to 18 months of their initial displacement and require minimal return assistance. While that may be true, it does not account for the kind of life Congolese will have once they can return to their homes.

Women continue to be targeted for abuse in DRC. A study that recently appeared in the American Journal of Public Health in May 2011 concluded that an average of 48 women and girls are raped every hour in this country. So, as with our February 2nd and September 19th hearings on the DRC this year, more than 100 females in DRC were raped before our hearing last month ended. Their rejection by their families and communities casts a cloud over future efforts to recreate communities destroyed by militias in the DRC. This is an issue that must be addressed by Congolese themselves—sooner rather than later.

Since our hearing in September, M23 made significant gains in territorial control, occupying Goma for 10 days while moving southward, potentially toward the South Kivu town of Bukavu. However, international pressure played a major role in the group ending its advance southward and withdrawing from Goma town by early December. DRC President Joseph Kabila's government and the M23 rebels reportedly have agreed to peace talks in Kampala sponsored by the Government of Uganda. There have been peace talks and peace accords in the DRC before, and they didn't hold. Will this effort achieve lasting peace?

The DRC is home to abundant mineral wealth, including 70 percent of the world's coltan (used to make vital components of cell phones and other electronic equipment), 30 percent of the world's diamond reserves and vast deposits of cobalt, copper and bauxite. Unfortunately, these natural resources have attracted international looters and fuelled civil war. Now oil has been discovered in eastern

DRC. Can a way be found to prevent the DRC's blessings from being turned into curses?

The tragic genocide in Rwanda in 1994 has had lasting repercussions in the DRC, but since the 1880s, resentment over the perceived influx of people considered foreigners in eastern DRC has contributed to conflict in this region, including two regional wars. Various leaders in the region have used this antipathy for political purposes, pitting their supporters against their perceived opponents. Can the inter-ethnic problems in the DRC and its neighbors be finally resolved so that a lasting peace among all the people in the DRC can be achieved?

Our witnesses last month were well-positioned to address questions regarding a path toward sustainable peace in the DRC and the obstacles that lie in that path. It is time now to find a way to bring to an end the suffering of the people of the DRC.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 9TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PI LAMBDA LAMBDA CHAPTER OF OMEGA PSI PHI, INC.

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 2, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 9th Anniversary of the Pi Lambda Lambda Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. The chapter includes the communities of Prince William County, the City of Manassas, the City of Manassas Park, and Stafford County.

Coinciding with the local chapter's 9th Anniversary is the national organization's 101st Anniversary. The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity was founded on Friday evening, November 17, 1911 by three Howard University undergraduate students, Edgar A. Love, Oscar J. Cooper, and Frank Coleman, and their faculty adviser, Professor Ernest E. Just. Together they laid the foundation of an organization based on the core principles of manhood, scholarship, perseverance and uplift. For ninety-eight years, the membership has upheld a strong tradition of friendship and civic engagement.

At this year's Annual Achievement Week Banquet, the Pi Lambda Lambda Chapter honors the 2012 Achievement Week Award recipients. These awards are given to the men and women who, through their character and actions, preserve Omega Psi Phi's four founding principles. I congratulate the following individuals on being awarded these honors:

The Citizen of the Year Award: Brother Conrado Morgan.

The Colonel Charles Young Military Leadership Award: Brother Lieutenant Colonel Leonard Newman III.

Omega Man of the Year: Brother Charles Mitchell.

• 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.

Basileus Special Act Awards: Brother Tony Bullock, Brother David Holliday, Brother Robert Reese, Jr., Brother Cozy Bailey, Sr., Brother Leonard Newman III, Brother Adrian Gore, Brother Jimmie Jacobs, Jr., Brother Harvey L. Woodson, Jr., Brother Trevor Hamilton, Brother Bernard Oliphant, Brother Anthony Burgess, Brother Byron Cherry, Sr., Brother Vernon Campbell, Brother Andrew McCall II, Brother Albert Woods, Brother Earl Clark, Brother Erik Noel, Brother Gregory Reid, Brother Lloyd Marshall, Brother Arthur Sobers, Jr., Brother David Ballard, Brother Joseph Boutte, Brother DeSean Davis, Brother Drefus Lane, Sr., Brother Vincent Gordon, Brother William Vaughn, Jr., Brother Joseph Boutte, Brother Derrick Harris, Sr., Brother Conrado Morgan, Brother Rowland Webb, Sr., Brother Stephen Blakely, Brother Crispin Abad, Brother Gregory Reid, Brother Johnny Ledbetter, Brother Matthew Mitchell, Brother Thomas Victor Montgomery III, Brother Jeffrey Allen, Brother Victor Hinton, Brother Robert Melvin, Brother Iven King, Jr., Brother Tyrone Simon, Brother Kenneth West, Brother Simon King, Brother Randall Webb, Brother Lewis Forrest I, Brother Byron Cherry, Sr., Brother Lee Bennett, Jr., Brother Elijah Jackson III.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in conveying our appreciation for eight years of civic service by the Pi Lambda Lambda Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. It is civic groups like the Pi Lambda Lambda Chapter that define the character of our communities and give measure to our generosity of spirit.

CORRECTING AND IMPROVING THE LEAHY-SMITH AMERICA INVENTS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 30, 2012

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act, or "AIA," which was signed into law on September 16, 2011, is the most substantial reform of U.S. patent law since the 1836 Patent Act. The AIA re-establishes the United States patent system as the global standard. The bill that we discuss today, H.R. 6621, makes necessary technical corrections to the AIA to ensure that the bill realizes its full potential to promote innovation and create jobs.

The AIA represented the culmination of nearly a decade of work by Members, key staff, and officials from both the Bush and Obama Administrations. The bill helps to bring our patent system into the 21st century and sets our nation's innovation infrastructure on the right path for decades to come.

At the center of our successful efforts to enact the AIA and this technical corrections measure over the last decade has been Blaine Merritt, the Chief Counsel of the Committee on the Judiciary's Subcommittee on Intellectual Property, Competition and the Internet.

Blaine has been a constant and tireless public servant, who has served the American people with quiet distinction and professionalism for nearly three decades. On the occasion of his retirement from the U.S. House of Representatives, I want to note a few of his

many contributions to our work and to the betterment of the American people.

A native of Greensboro, North Carolina, Blaine's congressional career began in 1985 in our office where he began his public service as a Legislative Assistant. In 1988, he was promoted to Legislative Director, a position he served in until he was called to serve on the professional staff of the Committee on the Judiciary in 1997.

Once on the Committee, Blaine was appointed Chief Counsel to the subcommittee with oversight over our intellectual property laws and courts related issues in 2000. In that capacity, Blaine served three successive Republican Chairmen—Representatives Henry Hyde, JIM SENSENBRENNER and LAMAR SMITH.

During his service on the Judiciary Committee, Blaine established himself and became recognized as one of our nation's foremost authorities on the law of patents, copyrights and trademarks as well as an expert on all matters that relate to the Federal judiciary and congressional procedure.

Blaine's contributions to landmark legislation are innumerable. Counted among the bills he helped to steer to enactment are the American Inventor's Protection Act (AIPA), the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) and the aforementioned Leahy-Smith AIA of 2011.

Mr. Speaker, I've been blessed to represent the good citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, from where Blaine hails, since 1985. Throughout my tenure, I and countless other Members of the "People's House" have benefited from his sound counsel, seasoned judgment and quiet leadership.

As Blaine embarks upon the next phase of his career, I hope he takes a little time to relax and watch his beloved "Blue Devils" basketball team that is undefeated and ranked number one in the Nation. I thank my friend for his invaluable service and wish him "Fair Winds and Following Seas" always.

RECOGNIZING LYLE W. MINTER AND HIS 36 YEARS OF FEDERAL SERVICE

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 2, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and pay tribute to Lyle W. Minter, of Fairfax, Virginia, on the occasion of his retirement after 36 years of Federal service. Mr. Minter's professional achievements are numerous, and I know he would be the first to acknowledge that none of them would have been possible without the support of his wife, Nancy.

Lyle graduated in 1975 from the University of Virginia with a B.A. in History. While at the University of Virginia, Lyle was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. He received his Master of Library Science in 1976 from the University of Maryland. While at the University of Maryland, Lyle was elected to Beta Phi Mu.

Lyle began his distinguished Federal career as a civilian employee with the Department of the Army. He worked as the librarian at two Army posts in Virginia before being reassigned to the Pentagon Library as a reference librarian. He later was selected as head of the Reference Section and managed research sup-

port, general reference, and online database searching for the Pentagon Library's 50,000 patrons.

Lyle came to the Library of Congress in 1991 as Head of the Government Publications and Periodicals Section in the Serial and Government Publications Division. In that position he managed the automation of the serial binding preparation process and was instrumental in implementing a number of other enhancements and services, which enabled increased access to the Library of Congress collections for Members of Congress and the research community who utilize that institution and its vast collections. Lyle then was reassigned as Head of the Newspaper and Current Periodical Division, where he managed the Library's busiest public service point and implemented such innovations as virtual reference and online collection guides. Lyle came to the Congressional Research Service in 2005 as a Supervisory Information Research Specialist in the Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division where he manages a team of employees who respond to requests from the United States Congress. He has remained in that position until the time of his retirement.

Throughout his career, Lyle has been actively engaged in the professional librarian community as a member of the Special Libraries Association (SLA), and he has received several awards for his service. He was elected a Fellow of SLA in 2004 and received the Gale Cengage Learning Murray Wortzel Award in recognition of Excellence in Social Science Librarianship in 2011. Lyle particularly enjoys teaching and mentoring information professionals, and his dedication to mentoring librarians and others in the field of librarianship has been a benchmark of his career.

As Lyle begins the next chapter of his life, he intends to spend time with friends and family, teach, travel, and continue volunteering in his community and in his profession. Lyle Minter has excelled throughout his distinguished Federal career, and I am honored to pay tribute to this conscientious and dedicated public servant.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Lyle Minter for his many years of dedicated Federal service. I wish Lyle and his wife, Nancy, continued happiness as they enter this next phase of their lives.

AMERICAN TAXPAYER RELIEF ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 1, 2013

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, recently the Senate came together on a bipartisan basis to address our looming fiscal crisis. I appreciate the statesmanship of President Obama and Vice President Biden to make every effort to avoid the most harmful effects of the "fiscal cliff."

Last night's vote in the House was one of the hardest votes I have cast in my tenure in Congress. The agreement was not a perfect proposal, but it avoided serious damage to our national economy. One of my concerns about the measure is that it did not generate nearly enough revenue. I am afraid that the haste