

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

FOOD ALLERGY AWARENESS WEEK

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 15, 2020

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, this is a special week for the more than 32 million Americans living with potentially life-threatening food allergies. Food Allergy Awareness Week, May 10 through 16, is dedicated to raising awareness about the challenges our food allergy families and friends face each and every day.

Of course, this year's Food Allergy Awareness Week comes at a critical time. Our country is grappling with its greatest public health threat in over a century. The COVID-19 pandemic has made life even more challenging for most Americans, including our food allergy families. The New York Times recently reported on the lack of safe, healthy, and affordable food choices for allergic families. In addition, CNBC reported that the threat of contracting the corona virus is keeping people away from visiting emergency rooms. In ordinary times, a food allergy reaction sends one person in the U.S. to the emergency room every three minutes. During the pandemic, food allergy families have needed to change the way they prepare for emergency care related to anaphylaxis.

Individuals and families with food allergies are resilient, and I have long been inspired by their courage to navigate life's challenges. That's why I have been working for the past year with FARE (Food Allergy Research & Education), the world's leading food allergy advocacy organization, to improve the quality of life for the more than 1.5 million Americans allergic to sesame.

Sesame is a common ingredient and is found in food like bread, cookies, and pizza dough. But many people don't know that it is also found in other items such as candy corn, ice cream, and sushi.

Sesame's widespread use is why those allergic to it desperately need to know what foods it is found in so they can avoid this ingredient. Unfortunately, that information does not exist. Currently, sesame is often labeled as a "natural flavor" or as a "spice" on the ingredients label leaving millions of Americans unable to make smart and healthy food decisions to protect themselves or their family members.

Thankfully, there is hope. Last year, I wrote and introduced the Food Allergy Safety, Treatment, Education, and Research (FASTER) Act, H.R. 2117 that would require sesame be added to the list of allergens that must be labeled. It would join other common allergens like milk, eggs, and peanuts that are already labeled. The FASTER Act is the first meaningful food allergy legislation at the federal level in more than a decade and would change the lives for millions of Americans. The FASTER Act is a bipartisan solution that provides food

allergy families with the life-saving information they need.

I am proud to fight for food allergy families and during this year's Food Allergy Awareness Week, I urge my colleagues to join with me in support of the more than 32 million Americans affected by life-threatening food allergies.

HONORING THE CAREER OF CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE ANDREW HOWORTH

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 15, 2020

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the outstanding career of Judge Andrew Howorth. Mr. Howorth chose to create his first Facebook post to announce to friends and family his plans on retiring as of June this year. In his nearly two decades on the bench, Mr. Howorth has honorably served the state of Mississippi and the people of the Oxford-Lafayette County in his commitment to both his career and the well-being of North Mississippi.

Mr. Howorth best described his dedication to public service in this way: "This is an opportunity . . . to work to preserve the integrity of the judicial system as is the responsibility of every judge. The part I'm most looking forward to is meeting and working with new people." Mr. Howorth is not only an example of judicial leadership but embodies a commitment to his community that is nothing short of admirable. He has served on the Mississippi Drug Court Advisory committee and is a Mississippi Bar Foundation fellow. He is an active member of the Oxford Rotary Club, has served on the Oxford Housing Authority and the Oxford-Lafayette County United Way. Last year, he was honored as the county Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year, and I cannot think of an award that better suits Mr. Howorth.

In his retirement, Mr. Howorth plans to spend time on his farm in Abbeville with his wife, Elizabeth. They have an extensive bucket list they intend on checking off, and I wish them the best in this treasured season of life.

I commend Judge Howorth for his admirable service to the state of Mississippi and his commitment to advocating for justice. Whomever is to be appointed by the Governor has a substantial legacy to live up to.

THE WUHAN VIRUS WEB OF LIES

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 15, 2020

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, as a former journalist myself, it is sad the mainstream media is so biased due to Trump Derangement Syndrome of mindless

hatred. There is unlimited U.S. fake news, the Chinese Communist Party is relentless with propaganda, Russia blogs sow absurd discontent, Iranian zealots flat out lie, but in the midst of this madness it should be gratefully recognized there are rare beacons of truth as evidenced on March 19th with The Epoch Times editorial The Web of Lies Spun Around the CCP Virus.

It is especially noteworthy what was correctly opined months ago is still rarely true today. It is so important and correct it should be worthy of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for the American people to know today and historians in the future. I include in the RECORD a piece authored by Heng He, a commentator on Sound of Hope Radio, a China analyst for NTD and a writer for The Epoch Times newspaper.

"THE WEB OF LIES SPUN AROUND THE CCP VIRUS"

The world can learn much by paying attention to how the outbreak of the CCP virus—commonly known as the novel coronavirus—has been handled in China.

There were at least two well-known doctors at Wuhan Central Hospital during the outbreak, the whistleblower Dr. Li Wenliang and whistle-provider Dr. Ai Fen.

Ai is the emergency room director who saw a SARS coronavirus-positive test report for a patient on Dec. 30, 2019, and sent the report to a friend. The report immediately circulated in a circle of eight doctors that included Li.

The reaction was almost instantaneous. At 10:20 p.m., the hospital sent a message conveying a Wuhan Health Commission notice that anything about the "unknown pneumonia" shouldn't be made public. One hour later, the hospital sent another, similar notice. Then, on Jan. 2, Ai was called to the hospital office and was rebuked by a hospital official, who also conveyed orders from higher authorities. Ai didn't talk about the virus afterward, not even to her husband, until Jan. 20.

Li and seven other doctors who were considered whistleblowers got more serious punishment. They also were censured, and not by hospital officials, but by police on Jan. 3. The censorship effort turned out to be very successful; all of the doctors who knew about the outbreak kept silent.

Meanwhile, the rest of China and the world were kept in the dark for at least another 20 days.

The coverup and censorship had begun before Ai shared the test report. Wuhan Central Hospital sent out the first "unknown pneumonia" patient sample on Dec. 24, 2019. The report, which the hospital received Dec. 27, indicated that a coronavirus was found in the sample, with 70 percent similarity to SARS coronavirus. A report from a second test facility stated simply, "SARS." Both facilities were private companies.

The hospital reported the results to the Wuhan Health Commission the same day, which means that Wuhan officials knew of the disease three days earlier than Ai. While the Wuhan Health Commission can directly order the hospital to silence doctors, only administrative officials can order the police to punish whistleblowers.

The coverup was already at the city government level as early as Jan. 3.

• 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.

Other organizations also covered up the outbreak. On Jan. 1, the Hubei Provincial Health Commission notified gene-sequencing companies not to take the Wuhan pneumonia samples, not to test the samples, not to submit scientific papers, and not to reveal the results to the public. It also was ordered that all samples must be destroyed.

On Jan. 3, the National Health Commission formally banned all non-governmental facilities from testing samples related to the Wuhan pneumonia case, which the Beijing financial magazine *Caixin* recounted, in the report "Tracing the Novel Coronavirus Gene Sequencing: When Did the Alarm Sound." The *Caixin* article was taken down several hours after being published.

HUMAN-TO-HUMAN TRANSMISSION

An esteemed, senior doctor named Zhong Nanshan was used to manage part of another coverup. Zhong went to Wuhan on Jan. 19. Before he left Wuhan to go to Beijing the next day, he announced that the virus was capable of human-to-human transmission, which authorities at different levels had denied.

Before Zhong, two groups of experts had been sent to Wuhan by the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention (China CDC). Why is it that Zhong would find something within one day while so many experts visiting Wuhan couldn't? Caijing, another Beijing-based financial magazine, interviewed an expert from the second group, and asked those in the group whether hospital staff had been infected—the key evidence for human-to-human transmission. The experts never got an answer.

Zhong had earned a good reputation for fighting SARS and is the leading Chinese official for fighting respiratory infectious diseases. An outsider to Wuhan, he hadn't been involved in the previous coverup. He had the authority to change the status of the epidemic disease, and could change the tone without exposing government wrongdoing.

Zhong, then, was just another tool of the Party. During this outbreak, even partial "truth" from the CCP becomes part of the lies.

From day one, every Party and government organization—and the hospitals and individuals inside the system—has been involved in weaving a web of lies. Anyone who intentionally or unintentionally exposed the lies was immediately silenced, by different organizations, at different levels, and by different authorities.

'DISASTERS MAKE THE NATION STRONG'

The CCP's institutions are designed for keeping its power, not for preventing and handling natural disasters, especially not for something like the novel coronavirus.

The pattern is usually like this. When a large-scale natural disaster such as an earthquake or flood occurs, the CCP doesn't need to do much for the victims and survivors. Digging up survivors is for taking photos or videos—saving lives is the least concern.

During the Sichuan earthquake in 2008, classrooms collapsed, killing schoolchildren, while government buildings remained standing. But officials were never held accountable for the corruption that caused the shoddy school construction. The CCP's "solution" was to jail parents and activists who sought the truth and justice.

In fighting disasters, the most important work is to brag about how great the CCP is. The people can only see the gratitude of the survivors to the Party, the red-flag-waving rescue teams, the award and victory celebration ceremonies, and other similar actions. As time goes by, people who have no direct experience of the suffering can only remember—the propaganda, while totally forgetting the victims and the officials responsible for the disaster.

This pattern is captured in the CCP slogan, "disasters make the nation strong." It might be difficult to understand that natural or even man-made disasters can be transformed into a "good thing" to enhance the CCP's power. After the victims, the survivors, and the activists are silenced, CCP can easily generate the support of those who haven't suffered personally.

The disasters don't make the nation strong. They make the CCP strong.

SCAPEGUATS

During this virus outbreak, the CCP has gone even further. "Disasters make the nation strong" has become "CCP saves the world." The CCP has claimed that China bought time for the world, a boast that has been echoed by some Western media.

But if the CCP didn't cover things up, there was not need to "buy time." The CCP is very good at allowing a small problem to grow, then using all resources to fight the "big problem." People see the CCP fighting the big problem so efficiently that they tend to forget the problem was originally created by the CCP. This is part of the Party's information war.

From the beginning, Chinese authorities have sought to pass the blame for the outbreak. The first scapegoat was Huanan Seafood Market (HSM). HSM was formally mentioned as the source by Chinese authorities on Dec. 30, 2019, on Jan. 11 by the Wuhan Health Commission, and on Jan. 22 by Gao Fu, the director of China CDC.

However, three papers, including two from *Lancet* and one from the *New England Journal of Medicine*, and all by Chinese doctors and scientists, published between Jan. 24 and 30, tell a different story.

In the first 41 cases, 13 of them had no HSM contact history, and the first case, and two of three subsequent cases, had no HSM history. Since those cases were all confirmed before Jan. 11, the Wuhan Health Commission was aware that HSM could only be the first cluster, and not the original source. Denial of human-to-human transmission is one thing, while intentionally misleading about the origin of the disease is a totally different issue. What did they want to hide?

The second scapegoat is the pangolin, the odd mammal with scales whose meat is considered a delicacy. On Feb. 7, a research group at South China Agriculture University announced that they had found a virus in the pangolin that has a 99 percent similarity to the coronavirus causing the Wuhan pneumonia.

However, one of the researchers, Shen Yongyi, pointed out in an interview with *Nanfeng Daily* that the pangolin sample wasn't from the university's collection but from a certain specific government unit. Shen said that under heavy pressure, results were revealed to the public, rather than publishing them in a scientific journal first.

Since these two scapegoats didn't work well, the United States has become the new target.

Zhao Lijian, the spokesperson for the Foreign Ministry Department, has claimed that a U.S. military team brought the coronavirus to Wuhan. This was not Zhao's personal mistake. Before Zhao's accusation, the SARS-fighting Dr. Zhong said that because the coronavirus outbreak appeared in China doesn't mean it originated in China. Since then, Zhao's accusation and similar finger-pointing have flooded China's social media.

If the HSM and pangolin were put forward to find someone, anyone, to blame, out of a spontaneous response, the decision to point at the United States is an equally well-orchestrated strategy from the top circle of the leadership. Why does the CCP want to do

something so obviously wrong that nobody around the world would believe? The CCP is trying to turn the coronavirus controversy to its advantage, especially in China.

What else could be more effective and convenient than blaming the United States? The United States has been the No. 1 scapegoat for all the CCP's own problems for the past 70 years.

Did the CCP lie about the Wuhan outbreak at the early stage? Yes. Is the CCP still lying now? No doubt. Will the CCP lie in the future? Definitely. What should we do? Don't trust anything from the CCP. That's what Taiwan has been doing, and doing so well.

During the SARS outbreak in 2003, Taiwan was abandoned by the World Health Organization (WHO), which favors the CCP. Facing the coronavirus, Taiwan can only rely on itself. The most important lesson the rest of the world can learn from Taiwan is not to trust the CCP or WHO.

While some countries believe that Taiwan should be accepted by WHO, it turns out that it's not Taiwan that needs WHO, but the whole world needs Taiwan.

The *Epoch Times* refers to the novel coronavirus, which causes the disease COVID-19, as the CCP virus because the Chinese Communist Party's coverup and mismanagement allowed the virus to spread throughout China and create a global pandemic.

IN HONOR OF BOBBY DUKE RORER

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 15, 2020

Mr. BARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Bobby Duke Rorer. Mr. Rorer was born in Cynthiana, Kentucky, lived for many years in Lawrenceburg, and currently resides at the Thomson-Hood Veterans Center in Wilmore, Kentucky. He celebrates his 96th birthday on May 29th.

Mr. Rorer volunteered to serve his country during World War II. He enlisted in the United States Army on July 3, 1942, soon after turning 17. He served as a Technician Fifth Grade with the 871st Airborne Engineers Company C. His company was shipped to the South Pacific, where they moved through the islands building airstrips. They were under constant attack by the Japanese. Mr. Rorer suffered twice from malaria.

During a time that his company was a Tsili Tsili, a Japanese bomber crashed and exploded. The explosion was massive and Rorer was buried alive. Fortunately, he was dug out but lost his hearing. He encountered heavy fighting, illness, a typhoon, and many other difficulties as his company continued building airstrips throughout the islands.

After serving for more than 3 years. Mr. Rorer was honorably discharged on January 3rd, 1946. For his service, he was awarded the Asiatic Pacific Theatre Ribbon with 2 Bronze Service Stars, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with 1 Bronze Service Star, the American Theater Ribbon, Meritorious Unit Award, and the World War II Victory Medal. He returned home and became a heavy equipment operator. In his own words, "I am proud to have served my country in its greatest time of need."

It is my honor to recognize Mr. Rorer, celebrate his 96th birthday and thank him for his service and sacrifice to our nation during