

She was on her way home from London, where she had spent a semester studying drama. A plastic explosive, hidden in a portable radio in the cargo hold ripped the jet apart and all 259 people aboard, and 11 people on the ground, were killed.

"I feel such a rage of anger that you cannot imagine," Mrs. Cohen said, "Because Theo's murderers are out there. No one has been punished. I looked at Fred Goldman in that ghastly O.J. trial and knew what he was going through for his son."

When she talks, the words spill out in coherent sentences, as if she has thought them a million times.

The Cohens have spent countless hours since the death of their daughter in pursuit of answers, and justice. Two Libyan Government agents indicted for the bombing remain in Libya, free. Over the last several months, Mrs. Cohen has spent six or seven hours a day on the phone, lobbying Congress to pass sanctions against foreign oil companies doing business in Iran and Libya. Yesterday, it passed the House. "Because a plane blew up, not because of anything that I've done," she said, "Is that what has to happen for justice? A bombing?"

Even the prospect of tough sanctions does not make her happy. Getting the bill passed was just the first step, she said. Now, "the fight is to see it's enforced."

She has worked on fighting Congress with a few other people who lost relatives to the Pan Am 103 bombing, but not many. Over the years, Pan Am 103 families, who won a civil suit against Pan Am, have argued bitterly over how best to pursue justice. "There are now four groups of Pan Am families," Ms. Cohen said.

"We've all fought horribly. I look at the pictures today of families locked shoulder to shoulder on the beach. We started together, too. But the idea that everybody gets together as one big unhappy family is one of the myths of these tragedies."

Another great myth: "The Getting On with Your Life story," Mrs. Cohen said. "The idea that you can move beyond the tragedy makes me want to vomit. The year is circular. Theo's birthday is coming up Sept. 10."

When her daughter died, Mrs. Cohen, a writer like her husband, stopped writing. For months, years it seemed, she stopped doing much of anything. Days passed in bed, months in a blur. Four years ago, the Cohens moved from Port Jervis, N.Y., where they raised their daughter, to Cape May County in New Jersey. "I couldn't stand that house any more," Mrs. Cohen said. "I couldn't take the memories any more."

Though it doesn't really help, she knows she is not alone. One woman she knows who lost her 20-year-old son to Pan Am 103 visits his grave every day, sometimes twice a day. Another who lost her husband "has been just as devastated by his loss as I am by my daughter's," Ms. Cohen said. "It takes a great poet to describe this. It takes genius to be able to describe the depths of pain, and I'm not a great poet or a genius."

The Cohens live with a dog and three cats in a ranch house with bird feeders hanging in the backyard. Mrs. Cohen belongs to a P.G. Wodehouse society, a Sherlock Holmes reading group and goes birding near home. They happen to live in one of the world's best venues for bird-watching.

"It's not like I'm living here and can't get out of bed," Ms. Cohen said. "I'm living. But there's an enormous hole, a hole so huge it's the size of the Grand Canyon. It's never the same. It can never be the same."

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL RHODE, JR.

Mr. NUNN. Mr. President, I rise today to note the passing of and to pay

tribute to Michael Rhode, Jr., of South Carolina.

Mike Rhode died after a brave bout with cancer in May, only too briefly after he retired from his position as Secretary of the Panama Canal Commission. I only recently learned of Mike's death.

I first met Mike when he served as Chief of the Army's Senate Legislative Liaison Office in the early 1970's when I was a newly elected Member of the U.S. Senate. Mike, who had combat experience in Korea and Vietnam, literally took me under his wing and played a major role in my education about the capabilities of the U.S. Army and the other services. He accompanied me on my official travels, particularly to the territory of our NATO allies. Mike was extremely knowledgeable about NATO and my first-ever report to the Armed Services Committee on NATO specifically cited Mike's invaluable assistance and expertise on NATO matters.

I continued my association with Mike when, upon his retirement from the Army after 26 years of dedicated service to our Nation, he became the Secretary of the Panama Canal Commission in 1980. Mike was extraordinarily helpful to me and the other members of the Armed Services Committee as Secretary of the Commission. He had that unique ability to explain proposed legislation and to suggest ways in which the laws governing the operation and maintenance of the Panama Canal could be modified over the years to ease the transition to Panamanian control by the year 2000.

In looking back over my association—and my friendship—with Mike over the years, I am most struck by his dedication to duty and his warm and gregarious personality. He always had a warm smile and time to spare to answer any question. Shortly before he retired from the Panama Canal Commission, Mike came by my office for a purely social call. We reminisced about old times and talked about the future that awaited both of us in private life. Mike had been in poor health but was confident that he would lick this health problem as he had all other challenges in the past. My most vivid memory of our last meeting was his broad smile and his plans for retirement with his wife Lin and spending time with his daughter, Pamela Lister, and two sons, Michael and Randy.

Mr. President, Mike Rhode was a valued friend and a dedicated and talented public servant. He will be sorely missed.

FDA REFORM

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I rise today to once again commend the distinguished Senator from Kansas, Senator KASSEBAUM, on her remarkable leadership on the health insurance reform bill. In addition to completing action of this important legislation, it is my hope and intention to complete action

in the fall on another piece of legislation that Senator KASSEBAUM has worked on for some time—S. 1477, the Food and Drug Administration Performance and Accountability Act.

Negotiations to bring all sides together on FDA reform have been ongoing throughout the 104th Congress and the Labor and Human Resources committee has reported out S. 1477 with overwhelming bipartisan support. Since that action, it is my understanding that some very serious discussions have been underway to resolve outstanding issues and that we are very close to reaching final agreement on compromise legislation. I am encouraged by these continued discussions so that this bill can be passed in a bipartisan manner when the Congress returns.

Mr. President, it is also my understanding that the leadership in the House of Representatives is also close to reaching agreement on its FDA legislation. Working together, I am confident the House and the Senate can agree on bipartisan legislation that the President can be enthusiastic about signing.

I urge my colleagues to work with Senator KASSEBAUM to complete this important legislation to modernize the FDA, to streamline the approval process, and to bring breakthrough medications to patients, all while maintaining the highest levels of safety for consumers.

Mr. President, a remarkable amount of business has been accomplished in the past few weeks in the Senate on a bipartisan manner. It is my hope we can add FDA reform to the list.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting two treaties and sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:32 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Goetz, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 782) to amend title 18 of the United States Code to allow members of employee associations to represent their views before the U.S. Government.

The message also announced that the House agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R.

3103) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve portability and continuity of health insurance coverage in the group and individual markets, to combat waste, fraud, and abuse in health insurance and health care delivery, to promote the use of medical savings accounts, to improve access to long-term care services and coverage to simplify the administration of health insurance, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3230) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1997 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3517) making appropriations for military construction, family housing, and based realignment and closure for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3845) making appropriations for the government of the District of Columbia and other activities chargeable in whole or in part against the revenues of said District for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes.

At noon, a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 123. An act to amend title 4, United States Code, to declare English as the official language of the Government of the United States.

H.R. 2670. An act to provide for the release of the reversionary interest held by the United States in certain property located in the County of Iosco, Michigan.

H.R. 3387. An act to designate the Southern Piedmont Conservation Research Center located at 1420 Experimental Station Road in Watkinsville, Georgia, as the "J. Phil Campbell, Senior Natural Resource Conservation Center."

H.R. 3464. An act to make a minor adjustment in the exterior boundary of the Devils Backbone Wilderness in the Mark Twain National Forest, Missouri, to exclude a small parcel of land containing improvements.

At 12:34 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Goetz, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agrees to the report of the committee of conference

on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3448) to provide tax relief for small businesses, to protect jobs, to create opportunities, to increase the take home pay of workers, to amend the Portal-to-Portal Act of 1947 relating to the payment of wages to employees who use employer owned vehicles, and to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to increase the minimum wage rate and to prevent job loss by providing flexibility to employers in complying with minimum wage and overtime requirements under that act.

At 2:28 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the House the bill (S. 1316) to reauthorize and amend title XIV of the Public Health Service Act (commonly known as the "Safe Drinking Water Act"), and for other purposes.

At 5:15 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Goetz, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agrees to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 268. Concurrent resolution to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve portability and continuity of health insurance coverage in the group and individual markets, to combat waste, fraud, and abuse in health insurance and health care delivery, to promote the use of medical savings accounts, to improve access to long-term care services and coverage, to simplify the administration of health insurance, and for other purposes.

At 6:50 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3953. An act to combat terrorism.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolutions, without amendment:

S. Con. Res. 47. Concurrent resolution to provide for a Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies.

S. Con. Res. 48. Concurrent resolution authorizing the rotunda of the United States Capitol to be used on January 20, 1997, in connection with the proceedings and ceremonies for the inauguration of the President-elect and the Vice-President-elect of the United States.

The message further announced that the House agrees to the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2739) to provide for a representational allowance for Members of the House of Representatives, to make technical and conforming changes to sundry provisions of law in consequence of administrative reforms in the House of Representatives, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The message also announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 3603. An act making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bill was signed subsequently by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

At 7:41 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 782 an act to amend title 18 of the United States Code to allow members of employee associations to represent their views before the United States Government.

S. 1316. An act to reauthorize and amend title XIV of the Public Health Service Act (commonly known as the "Safe Drinking Water Act"), and for other purposes.

The enrolled bills were signed subsequently by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3560. An act to designate the Federal building located at 290 Broadway in New York, New York, as the "Ronald H. Brown Federal Building."

H.R. 3710. An act to designate the United States courthouse under construction at 611 North Florida Avenue in Tampa, Florida, as the "Sam M. Gibbons United States Courthouse."

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution:

H. Con. Res. 207. Concurrent resolution approving certain regulations to implement provisions of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 relating to labor-management relations with respect to covered employees, other than employees of the House of Representatives and employees of the Senate, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and second times by unanimous consent and referred as indicated:

H.R. 123. An act to amend title 4, United States Code, to declare English as the official language of the Government of the United States; to Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 2670. An act to provide for the release of the reversionary interest held by the United States in certain property located in the County of Iosco, Michigan; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

H.R. 3387. An act to designate the Southern Piedmont Conservation Research Center located at 1420 Experimental Station Road in Watkinsville, Georgia, as the "J. Phil Campbell, Senior Natural Resource Conservation Center"; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition And Forestry.

H.R. 3464. An act to make a minor adjustment in the exterior boundary of the Devils Backbone Wilderness in the Mark Twain National Forest, Missouri, to exclude a small parcel of land containing improvements; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.