

On June 25, 1998, George Tenet, the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, will present the Director's Medal to Dick Fecteau and Jack Downey for reasons that, to some extent, I am able to describe in this forum today.

Except for their kind indulgence in allowing me to commemorate this event on the floor of the House, Dick Fecteau and Jack Downey will receive their awards as privately and as quietly as they served, and sacrificed for, our country.

In 1951, fresh from college, Dick Fecteau and Jack Downey joined the clandestine service of the Central Intelligence Agency. After a period of training, they were sent to east Asia to conduct agent re-supply and pick-up operations over China as part of our war effort in Korea.

In such operations, Mr. Fecteau and Mr. Downey were to drop supplies and to retrieve agents for debriefing by flying in low, among the trees, and literally snatching agents from the ground. These operations are extremely difficult and demanding in peacetime. Needless to say, in war zones, they are outright perilous.

In November 1952, Mr. Fecteau and Mr. Downey were part of a crew that was to fly into China, swoop to tree level, and snatch an agent from the ground. As their plane descended and approached the snatch site, it was hit by machine gun and small arms fire. The plane crashed and burned, killing the two pilots. Mr. Fecteau and Mr. Downey survived, but they were captured by the forces of the People's Republic of China.

In 1954, 2 years later, China sentenced Mr. Fecteau and Mr. Downey to life in prison. Their sentencing was, I understand, the first time that the families of the two learned that they were still alive. Over the next 20 years, Mr. Fecteau and Mr. Downey were subjected to extensive and aggressive interrogations and to long periods of solitary confinement. Year after year the two endured this suffering and deprivation and they did so with dignity and courage and an abiding faith in our country.

This Nation ultimately did not fail them. In December of 1971, nearly 20 years later, our government finally obtained the release of Dick Fecteau. And in March of 1973, we obtained the release of Jack Downey.

Dick Fecteau returned to the agency and continued his career. In 1976 he retired and joined the staff of Boston University, his alma mater, as assistant director of athletics. He retired from BU in 1989. Today Dick Fecteau lives with his wife, Peg, outside of Boston.

Jack Downey retired from the agency in 1973. Some of us feel that a baccalaureate from Yale is perfectly serviceable; but Jack, however, went on from there to Harvard Law School, and in 1976 he entered legal practice. In 1990 he was appointed to the bench in Con-

necticut and became a senior judge in the State system. Today Judge Downey lives with his wife, Audrey, in New Haven.

These, Mr. Speaker, are the extraordinary stories of two extraordinary people. Their awards, it seems to me, are most properly for the totality of their lives; for answering their country's call; for engaging in perilous operations under fire; for enduring unimaginable hardship in Chinese prisons; and, perhaps most of all, for returning to their families, to their communities and to their country and continuing to contribute and give and make a difference in their communities.

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These awards, Mr. Speaker, are for the extraordinary lives of Dick Fecteau and Jack Downey. I am honored to commemorate their lives before this body.

Dick and Jack, thank you and Godspeed. May this Nation always have citizens such as you to count on.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. ABERCROMBIE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. ABERCROMBIE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

STOP CODDLING YELTSIN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert for the record an excellent article on Russia policy by our colleague BEN GILMAN, the Chairman of the International Relations Committee.

Unlike the Clinton administration, Chairman GILMAN cuts to the heart of the matter concerning Russia's economic problems. Instead of the simple-minded, knee-jerk reaction of giving the Russian government more money, as President Clinton has proposed, Chairman GILMAN correctly places the blame, and responsibility, for Russia's woes where it belongs: squarely on the shoulders of the Russian government.

This massively corrupt regime, composed almost entirely of former Communist party bureaucrats, has engaged in wholesale theft of money and wealth that properly belongs to Russian, American, and international taxpayers.

It is a scandal of worldwide proportions and it has been not just neglected, but in fact contributed to, by the Clinton administration's policy of maintaining a wide open spigot of tax-

payer money to the Russian government, unlinked in any way to Russian government behavior or policy.

Chairman GILMAN has done us a favor by enlightening us with this article, Mr. Speaker. Let us hope that the Administration, and this Congress, heed his advice to at least temporarily stanch the money flow to the Russian regime and begin demanding real economic reform and better foreign policy behavior from Boris Yeltsin.

STOP CODDLING YELTSIN

President Clinton has announced his support for a possible new IMF loan to Russia, potentially totaling \$10 billion. Instead of rushing to provide that assistance to President Boris Yeltsin's government, we ought to stop, ask some questions and seek changes in Russian policies.

Russian foreign policy today appears to have one unfortunate objective. With his oft-repeated mantra of seeking a "multipolar world," Yeltsin's foreign minister and foreign director of Russia's intelligence service, Yevgeny Primakov, appears intent on creating challenges to America's global leadership, challenges we must assume the United States will overcome only after providing concessions to Russia.

Thus, just as the United States seeks to persuade Russia to participate in the larger effort by the community of nations to fight proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, enforce United Nations mandates in places such as Iraq and pursue solutions to other global problems, Primakov appears more interested in pursuing a price for Russia's cooperation.

Despite American concerns, the Yeltsin government has extensive relations with Iran, a supporter of international terrorism intent on becoming a regional military power in the Persian Gulf. Russia provides advanced weapons and military technology to China, likely to contribute to future challenges to the ability of American forces to defend our friends in the Pacific, as Chinese missile firings off Taiwan have portended, Communist Cuba, with Russian encouragement, continues to seek Soviet-design reactors, despite American concerns.

As America seeks to stabilize the former Soviet states, Russia has involved itself in ethnic conflicts on its periphery through covert arms supplies and other means, and has cut its neighbors' access to energy pipelines. Moscow has failed to ratify the START II arms reduction treaty and demands questionable revisions in other arms treaties. Oddly, despite its financial constraints, the Yeltsin government has found the means to help finance the Soviet-style dictatorship of President Alexander Lukashenko in Belarus.

Yeltsin's government is characterized as "reform-minded" but suffering from massive tax evasion. The reality is a bit different. Yeltsin's personal support for reforms has in fact been inconsistent. At key points since 1991, he has simply withdrawn to his dacha, leaving lower officials to fend for themselves. At other times he has reversed steps needed to move forward.

But this unwillingness to pursue reforms vigorously has now caught up with Yeltsin. Despite massive debt rescheduling, private loans, considerable foreign aid and large loans from the IMF and World Bank, Russia is now approaching a fiscal train wreck. The pain of planned budget cuts might indeed be alleviated by an additional IMF loan, but another worrisome reality in Russia—corruption and related flight of capital—underlines how temporary that relief would be.

Veniyamin Sokolov, a director of the Russian equivalent of the U.S. General Accounting Office, recently visited the United