

backgrounds that are a part of our collective heritage. Additionally, the spring heritage festivals will contribute proceeds from their programs to the Garden State Arts Center's cultural center fund which presents theater productions free of charge to New Jersey's school children, seniors, and other deserving residents. The heritage festival thus not only pays tribute to the cultural influences from our past, it also makes a significant contribution to our present day cultural activities.

On Sunday, June 25, 1995, the heritage festival series will celebrate the 25th annual Irish Heritage Festival. Twenty-five years ago, when John Gallagher chaired the very first Irish Heritage Festival, he initiated what has become a grand tradition. This year's celebration, chaired by Kathleen Hyland continues this tradition of highlighting Irish entertainers, food, and crafts. The day begins early in the morning with a piping competition and will feature traditional Irish sports like hurling and Gaelic football. Additionally, a concelebrated liturgy with Msgr. Kevin Flanagan of St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church, in Parsippany assisted by numerous Irish clergy from throughout New Jersey, will be offered for lasting peace and justice in Ireland. After the liturgy a noon mall show will feature many gifted Irish entertainers including: Daniel O'Donnell, Celtic Cross, Richie O'Shea, Willie Lynch, Barley Bree, Mary McGonigle, and Mike Byrne Band. Over 25,000 people are expected to turnout to eat good food, enjoy traditional music and dance, and to avail themselves of the opportunity to pay tribute to their Irish heritage.

On behalf of the almost 1 million New Jerseyans of Irish descent, who contribute so much energy and vitality to my great and diverse State, I offer my congratulations on the occasion of the 25th annual Irish Heritage Festival.●

CAMBODIA

● Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I would like to make a brief comment today about a recent development in Cambodia which I believe does not bode well for the emergent democracy in that country. Last Monday, June 19, the Cambodian National Assembly expelled the representative of northern Siem Reap Khet and an outspoken critic of corruption in his country's government, former Finance Minister Sam Rainsy. The move was to be officially announced today.

Cambodia held its first democratic elections in May 1993, under the guidance of the U.N. Transitional Authority. The fragile multiparty coalition that emerged, less a result of electoral processes than power politics and accommodations among the different factions, has depended for its survival mainly on the expedient relationship between the co-prime ministers: Prince Norodom Ranariddh of the Royalist

National United Front for an Independent Neutral Peaceful and Cooperative Cambodia [FUNCINPEC] and Hun Sen of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP]. Since 1993, outside observers have often characterized the growth of democracy there as two steps forward, one step back.

Mr. President, the expulsion of Rainsy is just one such step backward. Rainsy was a founding member of FUNCINPEC, and was appointed the party's second representative to the Supreme National Council—the pre-election transitional governing body. As the first Finance Minister in the newly established government, Sam Rainsy won praise for successfully balancing the country's first budget. Unfortunately for him, he was also a critic of the country's pervasive and entrenched political corruption which brought him into conflict with members of his own, as well as other parties. He complained publicly that Cambodia's banking system was riddled with corruption and that most private banks were simply fronts for money laundering. His decision to contract with a French company—Total—to promote efficiency in the country's kick-back-racked oil distribution system brought him into a jurisdictional dispute with the CPP-headed Commerce Ministry, and made enemies of some powerful and politically influential distributors. Similarly, his decision to take on Thai Boon Rong Co. over the latter's attempts to extract payments from vendors in the Olympic Marketplace made him few high placed friends.

Rainsy's continuing allegations became sufficiently embarrassing to the powers-that-be that he was fired from the Cabinet in October last year. Although fired from the Cabinet, Rainsy became even more vocal in his criticisms. For example, he led an attempt in the assembly to review a series of nontransparent contracts between the government and several influential private contractors, but was rebuffed. Still apparently uncomfortable with Rainsy's position, Prince Ranariddh—in a move that many analysts saw as a power play, a flexing of his political muscle as leader of FUNCINPEC—lobbied to have Rainsy ousted from the party as well. He was successful, and Rainsy was expelled in May.

Things did not stop there, though. Ranariddh then sought to have Rainsy expelled from Parliament on the grounds that he was elected as a member of a specific party and that, having decided to leave that party, should not be allowed to keep his seat. At one point, he even threatened to resign if Rainsy was not expelled. Rainsy waged an international campaign to retain his seat, arguing that he was elected by the voters of Siem Reap to represent them and not the party. He was not successful, however. Rainsy was expelled by a 9 to 3 vote by a permanent committee of the assembly headed by assembly Chairman Chea Sim, his dep-

uty, and several standing committee chairmen.

I view this move with great concern. Mr. President, this situation would be analogous to a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives deciding to vote against the party line or change her party affiliation—a move with which we are not unfamiliar—and consequently being unseated and replaced by the House leadership. The move was made without a vote of the assembly, or recourse to the Member's constituency; in fact, that the vote would be on the committee agenda was secret from its members until they had gathered to vote on unrelated legislation. Moreover, yesterday a report in the Hong Kong press indicated that at least two of the deputies whom purportedly signed the expulsion petition—Prince Norodom Sirivut and another MP who preferred to remain anonymous—have said they did no such thing. This is not how representative government works.

The point behind the expulsion is clear: internal discontent with the leader of the government will not be tolerated. The move is sure to have a chilling effect on other MP's who do not toe the exact party line such as Ieng Muli, the present Information Minister and member of the Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party. It also signals a severe blow to what many saw as the only opposition voice to the government outside the Khmer Rouge. I fear that it signals the transformation of the National Assembly from an open deliberative body into one that simply serves to rubber-stamp the decisions of the leadership. As one MP put it, if the No. 2 man in the country's largest party can be brought down, regardless of the wishes of his constituents, solely for the reason of expressing his personal and political opinions, then who is safe?

Mr. President, I realize that my disapproval will likely mean little to the forces allied against Sam Rainsy. But they should know that I and other Members are watching them closely, and with each increasing threat they pose to democracy there they make one less friend here, and make much less likely the coming forth of support—economic or otherwise—for their country.●

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session and immediately proceed to executive calendar nomination numbers 196 through 204, and all nominations be placed on the Secretary's desk in the Air Force, Army, Navy, en bloc; I further ask unanimous consent that the nominations be confirmed en bloc, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc, and any statements relating to