

The devastation of that industry I think is truly a matter of concern to all Americans and it would be foolish not to take the necessary legislative steps to repair the problems for which we have clearly identified that we have proper solutions.

TRAVELGATE

(Mr. MICA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I serve as a member of the House Committee on Government Reform and Oversight that has been looking into the Travelgate matter, the White House firings of the White House Travel Office. Each twist and turn of the White House Travel Office firings becomes more and more bizarre.

I have a report today in the Washington Times by a gentleman, Mark Levin, who reveals an incredible misuse of power by the White House in use of the FBI, our Nation's chief law enforcement agency, that I feel should be investigated.

I am calling today on our chairman to expand our investigation of this matter, of the misuse of the FBI, our chief law enforcement agency, and I also think that it is time that we look at Mr. Levin's call for the appointment of a special counsel, an independent counsel, to investigate this matter where the White House, in fact, has used this law enforcement agency in an inappropriate manner and now we find out that there is even more information to lead us to believe that, in fact, there was misconduct in these firings and the cover that the White House prepared for the public.

FRENCH NUCLEAR NIGHTMARE IN THE SOUTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from American Samoa [Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I offer my apologies to my colleagues and to the American people, for these somewhat rough sketches of limited artistic value in terms of what they represent.

On my immediate right is a picture of what an atomic nuclear explosion looks like as it was exploded by the French Government on Moruroa Atoll in the South Pacific in 1973. On my extreme right is a little chart, and this is not the Polynesian version of a Christmas tree, Mr. Speaker, but I just want to demonstrate to the American people that Moruroa Atoll looks like in the South Pacific. One of these little dots inside this volcanic formation on which the atoll sits constitutes one of 181 nuclear bomb explosions that have already taken place in this atoll in the South Pacific. Already the French Gov-

ernment has conducted five nuclear explosions since French President Chirac announced a change of testing policy in June of last year.

Mr. Speaker, the islands of French Polynesia were what Westerners would call colonized by France, after some 500 French soldiers with guns and cannons subdued the Tahitian chiefs and their warriors in the 1840's. I was in Tahiti recently. I joined with some 40 other Parliamentarians from the Pacific, Asia, South America, and Europe. Led by the mayor of the town of Fa'aa, Mr. Manutahi Temaru, we joined together for a demonstration in the streets of Papeete, Tahiti, to oppose the resumption of French nuclear testing in the South Pacific. Despite international pleadings, protests, and appeals, the Government of France resumed nuclear testing at Moruroa Atoll on September 5, 1995, exploding a nuclear bomb more powerful than the bomb dropped on Hiroshima. Sixty miles away on the island of Tureia, brown-skinned Polynesian children splashed and played in the ocean waves.

On August 30, 1995, Mayor Temaru, Vito Haamatua, and myself traveled to the island of Tureia. We were joined with the arrival of the *Rainbow Warrior II* and together we headed for Moruroa where France had already placed the nuclear bomb in a shaft about 3,000 feet under the atoll. We sailed in anticipation of the French Government's announcement that the first nuclear explosion would take place on September 1, 1995.

Believe it or not, Mr. Speaker, the only reason why the French Government did not explode the bomb on September 1, was because our President was in Hawaii. The Clinton administration told the French Government, "If you explode that bomb while the President is in Hawaii, he's going to condemn the nuclear explosion." So they extended it for a couple of days and the bomb was exploded on September 5.

As we neared Moruroa, the *Rainbow Warrior* launched six inflatable zodiacs under the nose of French naval warships. The zodiacs were manned by young men and women from New Zealand, Italy, Australia, the United States, France, and Portugal. These young men and women were not commandos or soldiers. They were just ordinary citizens committed to a nuclear-free world. As our vessels penetrated waters France claimed exclusive rights to, we were arrested by French commandos, held for 16 hours, then transferred to another vessel, fully enclosed, unaware of where we were being taken, and completely prevented from taping an account of the seizure. Our cameras and videos were confiscated. Our communications system was destroyed.

France's story is, of course, well-scripted. Its Eurocentric rationales for resuming nuclear testing in waters half a world away from where its own children play are presented through international wire services. France's freely

elected spokesperson, President Jacques Chirac, insists that the resumption of nuclear testing in South Pacific waters is absolutely necessary to improve France's nuclear weapons capabilities and that the matter of exploding more nuclear bombs at Moruroa Atoll is in the "highest interest" of France. The tests, he assures the public, are of "no environmental consequence."

Mr. Speaker, the Washington Post a couple of days ago revealed that the French Government has now acknowledged that radioactive leakage has come out of this atoll. Radioactive iodine 131 can only be created as a result of nuclear explosions and causes cancer in humans.

So goes the story of colonialism supported by American commentators like William Buckley who writes:

What is it the protesters fear? Are the French experiments, conducted 750 miles from Tahiti, endangering anybody in Tahiti? For that matter, are they endangering anybody or anything in Moruroa? Has anybody detected a rise in pollutants in the area where the first tests were undertaken? Has a whale been killed? Two whales? Has \$11 million in damage been done to the sea surrounding Moruroa? The answer has to be no, for the simple reason that if it were yes, we absolutely would have heard about it.

That a nationally syndicated columnist and president and editor-at-large of the National Review could be so unaware of the effects of nuclear testing in relation to the food chain, ocean currents, and a people only 750 miles away, is appalling enough. But that a Eurocentric commentator could be so naive about the workings of the world and the media, suggesting that all issues get equal airplay and if we haven't heard about it it must not be so, is almost unforgivable.

The people of the Pacific, who feel the brunt of colonial reign, have their own story to tell. From the island of Tureia, my Polynesian cousins tell of early French practices.

Mr. Speaker, as I was held hostage for 16 hours on the *Rainbow Warrior*, I reflected on a lot of things. Polynesians are not just famous navigators. We have a tremendous number of great poets who worshiped nature and loved to describe the meanings of life and death and love and hatred; all that can be felt and expressed by the human mind. During this time, I wrote this little poem dedicated to the children of the little atoll of Tureia, and I entitled it "Tureia Atoll."

TUREIA ATOLL

Our families own the island you never asked permission to take.
We fished, picked coconuts, swam freely along the reefs and shores
Until you, the colonial power in Paris, come to us and say,
"We take you to Papeete and give you free ride in the carnival."
While we play at your amusement you blow the wind of death from our island of Moruroa.

The people of Tureia were never consulted about the use of their island, Moruroa. They were never asked by the