

and ask that his speech welcoming the new U.S. citizens on March 18, 1996, and his proclamation declaring the day to be Citizenship U.S.A. Day in Chicago be printed in the RECORD.

The material follows:

MAYOR RICHARD M. DALEY'S REMARKS, CHICAGO CITIZENSHIP ASSISTANCE COUNCIL—NATURALIZATION CEREMONY, MARCH 18, 1996

I want to begin by congratulating everyone here on becoming United States citizens.

As Mayor, I attend many events—but swearing-in ceremonies are always very special.

Two years ago, I formed Chicago's Citizenship Assistance Council to coordinate the efforts of community groups that help immigrants become citizens. Today's ceremony is made possible thanks to a strong partnership among the Citizenship Assistance Council, the federal government, and the private sector.

Together, we are working to help the INS relieve the backlog of over 50,000 citizenship applications in the Chicago area. People have been waiting for as long as 17 months to be sworn in as citizens.

Throughout the year, we will work with the INS to increase the number of swearing-in ceremonies to help speed up the process.

We will conduct several large-scale citizenship ceremonies in the summer and fall.

Our corporate leaders on the Council include Fannie Mae, United Airlines, and First Chicago.

They will provide assistance in finding the necessary facilities and help to cover associated costs.

This is a wonderful example of how local and federal government can work with the private sector to get the job done.

Immigrants built Chicago and our country. And the business community understands this better than anyone.

America has always been strong because we have been a beacon for people who want to work hard, make something of their lives, and become Americans. We lose part of our national character when we shut ourselves off to different cultures.

Some politicians are trying to use immigrants as scapegoats. They have gone beyond blaming illegal immigrants for our problems—now they are even calling for more restrictions on legal immigration.

Legislation now pending before Congress would keep U.S. citizens from bringing their parents or children to this country.

This is wrong and unfair because it tears families apart and it sends the wrong message.

Proposed restrictions on employment-related immigration will also damage our country.

A flexible legal immigration system is essential to our economic growth and well-being.

Until last week, these restrictions were found in one piece of legislation that dealt with all aspects of immigration.

I want to thank Senator Paul Simon for helping to restructure that legislation into two bills—so that they address legal and illegal immigration separately.

And, I want to encourage the members of the House to do the same thing when the issue comes up for debate.

Immigrants help build this country—and they are still making us strong. We can't turn our backs on them now.

I urge Congress to keep this in mind as they debate restrictions on immigration.

Now, I'd like to read a proclamation designating March 18th as "Citizenship U.S.A. Day" in Chicago.

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR,
CITY OF CHICAGO,
Chicago, IL, March 14, 1996.

PROCLAMATION

Whereas, thousands of people have left their homes in other lands to come and live in America; and

Whereas, these immigrants have contributed their dreams, labor, and talents to making America a great country filled with opportunity and freedom; and

Whereas, these same people wish to show their commitment to their new country by pledging allegiance as new citizens; and

Whereas, today, we acknowledge the dedication of Commissioner Doris Meissner and the Immigration and Naturalization Service in assisting immigrants through the naturalization process; and

Whereas, Commissioner Meissner has made citizenship a priority, and has charged the Immigration Service to make major improvements in the processing of applications, working side by side with local governments and community organizations:

Now, Therefore, I, Richard M. Daley, Mayor of the City of Chicago, do hereby proclaim March 18, 1996, to be Citizenship U.S.A. Day in Chicago, and extend the City of Chicago's appreciation to Commissioner Meissner for helping to make thousands of immigrants' dreams come true.

RICHARD M. DALEY,
Mayor.●

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN ICE HOCKEY TEAM ON WINNING THE 1995-96 MEN'S DIVISION I CHAMPIONSHIP

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate the University of Michigan ice hockey team on winning the 1995-96 NCAA Men's Division I Championship. With their 3-to-2 victory over Colorado College on March 30, the Wolverines captured the school's eighth NCAA National Championship, and first since the 1963-64 season.

The win was especially significant for head coach Gordon "Red" Berenson. After 12 seasons in Ann Arbor, Berenson, already the winningest coach in school history, celebrated his 300th career victory with the national championship. In the past 6 seasons, the Wolverines have won at least 30 games each year, the only team in college hockey to do so.

The Wolverine's accomplishments this season are certainly deserving of recognition. In addition to compiling an impressive 34 wins, tying a team record, the Wolverines were also the CCHA Playoff Champions, CCHA regular season co-champions, and Great Lakes Invitational champions. In the postseason, U-M's play was brilliant as well, managing three one-goal victories and one shutout in three different buildings in three different weekends on their road to the championship.

The 1995-96 University of Michigan men's hockey team has represented their school and themselves with distinction. Our State has every reason to be proud of these student-athletes, and we salute their dedication and excellence.●

(At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHINA

● Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, the U.N. Human Rights Commission is preparing to consider a resolution that expresses the concern of the international community over human rights abuses in the People's Republic of China. As has been well-documented over the last year by the State Department, U.N. officials, and numerous human rights organizations, the Government of China has been responsible for an alarming number of human rights violations. In particular, there have been reports of arbitrary arrests and detention, torture, persecution of religious and ethnic minorities—particularly in Tibet, and censorship of expression. The evidence clearly demonstrates a deterioration in the human rights situation in China.

Despite this overwhelming evidence, apparently some of the members of the Human Rights Commission are reluctant to support a resolution that criticizes China. Unfortunately, this seems to be a response to intensive diplomatic pressure from Beijing. In fact, the Chinese diplomatic pressure began even before a resolution was introduced at the U.N. Commission.

At the end of March, I learned from the State Department that some members of the European Union [EU] were reconsidering their commitment to introduce a resolution on China at the Commission meeting this spring. I strongly believe that multilateral efforts, in institutions such as the Human Rights Commission, are potentially the most effective tool for pressuring China to improve its human rights record. Therefore, I authored a letter, signed by 10 of my colleagues from the Foreign Relations Committee, urging the Europeans to maintain their commitment to introduce a resolution on China at the Human Rights Commission. I am pleased that the EU members ultimately decided to introduce this resolution, and I hope that our letter encouraged this decision.

The European initiative, however, will be in vain if the Commission does not act upon the resolution. This is an important and opportune moment for the members of the Commission to join together in a multilateral effort to persuade China to improve its human rights record. I urge all member states to support the resolution. Even more importantly, we must reaffirm the prerogative of the Commission to consider any country's human rights record and to hold a vote on any resolution that is offered. That prerogative is being challenged by China, which is attempting to prevent the Commission from even considering the European resolution.

On December 10, 1948, the U.N. General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. For the first time in history, the countries of