TAIWAN STUDENTS AND FREE EXPRESSION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, in our Nation we take for granted the ability to speak freely and express what we please with no governmental interference. There are a number of celebrated legal cases that delineate the standard of time and manner regulation in America and other select limitations. Moreover, here in America we don’t believe that expression is allowed for one group and not for comparable organizations. Such designated permission is paramount to censorship of the party denied their speech.

In this regard, I voice my concern today about an incident that has been reported about an incident that occurred at the Olympic Games in Atlanta during a table tennis championship between Taiwan and the People’s Republic of China. During the game, two Taiwanese students waving the national flags of Taiwan were arrested under the premise that they could not wave large flags, yet all around them—large flags from other countries were in fact being waved by a multitude of those present at the event.

Mr. President, to understand the deep significance of this event is to know that the contentions over flags and other items of national emblems and insignia is one of the issues that has long obstructed an amiable relationship between the People’s Republic of China and Taiwan. This history is extensive and, frankly, humiliating to Taiwan, which has not always been afforded the full privileges of national pride at events where both the Peoples’ Republic of China and Taiwan have been represented.

Again, at these Olympic Games in Atlanta, Taiwan was subject to not displaying their recognized flag and subjecting their representatives to wearing other colors and design. While the Taiwan Government recognized the need for its official representatives to abide by an arrangement with the Olympic Committee, Taiwanese fans were not subject to such agreements. Nor should they have been. I believe the United States would have been furious if its citizens were asked to not display the Stars and Stripes or substitute the flag for another emblem under which to cheer their teams. Yet, in Atlanta, the Taiwanese citizens were arrested for “disruption of public order by waving the flag of the National Republic of China (Taiwan),” Mr. Hsu, a citizen of the Peoples’ Republic of China and chairman of the International Table Tennis Association, admits to calling on the police to arrest the students.

I am concerned that the Atlanta Police Department was answering to a citizen of the Peoples’ Republic of China in conducting arrests of individuals in America. Additionally, the question of subjecting citizens from countries to all of the agreements that the formal representatives may agree to is also a disturbing precedent. I believe the International Olympic Committee should carefully examine these circumstances, particularly since we in the United States fundamentally believe in freedom of expression rather than less freedom. We have pronounced a need for great protection of the “marketplace of ideas.” We should do no less for the expression of national pride. We should not be party to restricting some individuals for waving flags when the premise of the Olympic Games is the competition of athletes representing their nations. I urge an examination of the facts of this situation by the proper authorities.

RETIREMENT OF COL. JOHN R. BOURGEOIS, USMC

Mr. NUNN. Mr. President, I would like to take a few moments to acknowledge the “passing of a baton” both in the literal and figurative sense.

On July 11, 1996, Col. John R. Bourgeois, the 25th director of the U.S. Marine Band and Music Fellow to the White House, retired. He led the band, known as the President’s Own, for 17 years.

A native of Louisiana, Colonel Bourgeois joined the Marine Corps in 1956 and joined the band just 2 years later as a clarinet player. When he was appointed to his present grade, he became the first musician in the Marine Corps to serve in every rank from private to colonel.

As director of the Marine Band and Music Advisor to the White House, Colonel Bourgeois has selected the music for each Presidential inauguration since 1981 and has appeared at the White House more frequently than any other musician.

I assure that those of my colleagues who have enjoyed the band’s incredible performances at the evening parades or in other venues are not surprised that Colonel Bourgeois and the Marine Band remain the favorite of Presidents year after year.

When he retired, Colonel Bourgeois literally passed the baton—a baton that had been given to another director of the Marine Band, John Philip Sousa, over a century ago—to Maj. Timothy W. Foley, who has been nominated to become the next director.

The particular connection between the military profession and its rousing music has transcended the years and national borders. It is as much a part of history as military service itself.

As Bourgeois retires from active duty after a distinguished career of service to the Marine Corps and his country, I know all of my colleagues join me in expressing our deepest appreciation for his contributions during his long and exemplary military service. He has served with dignity and honor.

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THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Thursday, August 1, the Federal debt stood at $3,183,636,383,503.29.

Five years ago, August 1, 1991, the Federal debt stood at $3,577,200,446,910.06, hence an increase of more than $1 trillion dollars—$1,606,635,936,593.23 to be exact—in the past 5 years.

SUSAN COHEN—THE TIRELESS PURSUIT OF JUSTICE

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, on Monday, August 5, a distinguished American named Susan Cohen will be present in the White House when President Clinton signs H.R. 3107, the Iran and Libya Sanctions Act of 1996. Susan Cohen eminently deserves this honor. She was a dedicated and tireless leader in the effort to enact this legislation.

Susan Cohen, of Cape May Court House, N.J., is the mother of Theodora Cohen—a victim of Pan Am Flight 103. Since the bombing of that flight over Lockerbie, Scotland in December 1988, Susan and her husband, Dan, have dedicated their lives to bringing to justice those responsible for their daughter’s death. In recent months, Susan has been extremely effective in her efforts to educate Members of Congress about the importance of applying this legislation to Libya, which continues to harbor the two suspects indicted in the bombing.

All of us who know Susan Cohen admire her inspiring devotion to justice. Her efforts have brought us closer to the goal. I commend her for her leadership, and I ask unanimous consent that a recent New York Times article may be printed in the Record.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

[From the New York Times, July 24, 1996]

TIME PASSES, BUT THE PAIN NEVER FADES

(By Evelyn Nieves)

Susan Cohen watched the mourners toss single roses into the sea, heard a reporter talk about “a sense of closure,” and turned off her television, shuddering with sadness and disgust.

Of all the hard times in the week since T.W.A. Flight 800 blew up, seeing Monday’s seashore memorial to the 230 victims had to be one of the worst. “I couldn’t stand to watch those people,” she said. “It was just too much. And to hear the talk about closure just made me want to throw up.”

The next day, her emotions were still raw. “All these homilies about loved ones going to a better place. I just hate that,” she said. “The politician said death took million meaning- less things. As if that could help. As if any of that could help.”

It is going on eight years since Mrs. Cohen and her husband, Daniel, lost their only child, Theodora, 20, to the terrorist bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, which killed 270 people. “The pain will not go away,” Mrs. Cohen said. “It will never go away.”

Theodora—Theo to all she knew—was a single, aspiring actress. “She had a beautiful soprano voice,” Mrs. Cohen said. “She was vibrant and artistic.”