

IN HONOR OF ALAN L. HOFFMAN  
IN RECOGNITION OF HIS OUT-  
STANDING PERFORMANCE AS  
SPECIAL COUNSEL TO THE AS-  
SISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL  
IN THE OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE  
AFFAIRS

HON. PORTER J. GOSS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 11, 1997*

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the attention of the House to the dedicated work of Alan Lawrence Hoffman as special counsel to the assistant attorney general in the Office of Legislative Affairs. During the last 18 months, Mr. Hoffman was of immeasurable help to the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence by expeditiously handling a range of matters of interest to the committee.

There were many difficult issues that came before the committee during the 104th Congress. Mr. Hoffman can take great pride in knowing that he approached every issue with a spirit of nonpartisanship that is a tribute to his professionalism. Mr. Hoffman should be particularly proud of his work on the Economic Espionage Act of 1996. This act will contribute substantially to the protection of U.S. trade secrets whose compromise could endanger the national security of the United States. Mr. Hoffman also helped to develop a proposal that assisted in the clarification of the mission of the National Drug Intelligence Center in Johnston, PA.

Mr. Hoffman will continue his public service as an assistant U.S. attorney in Philadelphia. He will be genuinely missed at the Department of Justice and by members and staff of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. It gives me great pleasure to recognize Mr. Hoffman's hard work and I want to wish him well in his new and exciting career. On behalf of the committee, I want to thank him for his continued service to our country and for the unstinting nonpartisan support he gave to the intelligence community.

CHARRO DAYS, INC., CELEBRATES  
60TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 11, 1997*

Mr. ORTIZ, I rise today to commend all those associated with Charro Days, Inc.—the organization which sponsors a 4-day February festival in south Texas—for their 60th anniversary.

Each year, the communities of Brownsville, TX, in the United States and Matamoros, Tamaulipas, in Mexico, join forces to commemorate the exceptional international relationship found on the United States-Mexico border. Charro Days, Inc. is composed of members from both communities and oversees the three parades and festivities of the celebration. This festival, which features many bands and theme floats during Charro Days, represents the legends, cultures, international spirit, and sometimes difficult history that leads us to where we are today.

Charro Days was originally a pre-Lenten holiday, along the lines of Mardi Gras in New

Orleans. It has grown from a very small festival to an extraordinary international holiday that offers a variety of music, from mariachis and conjunto to modern Tejano. It has drawn the attention of visitors and has become 1 of the top 100 events in North America as highlighted by several organizations which guide tourists to North American attractions.

In this southernmost U.S. city, our hands are joined during Charro Days with the hands of our international neighbors as we celebrate all that makes us unique. We participate in events that contribute to the preservation of our border history, heritage, and traditions of our two nations. There is song, dance, costumes, food, craftsmanship, and a celebration of our past as well as our future.

Celebrations like these ensure both nations will remain friends and compãneros for a very long time to come. I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Charro Days, Inc., for their 60th anniversary.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE  
PALESTINIAN CHARTER?

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 11, 1997*

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 15, 1997, Israel and the Palestinian authority reached an agreement on a protocol for the redeployment of Israeli forces in Hebron. Accompanying the protocol is a note for the record, prepared by the U.S. Special Middle East Coordinator, Ambassador Dennis Ross, which specifies reciprocal actions that must be taken by both Israel and the Palestinian Authority. U.S. officials have described this note for the RECORD as a road map for further progress in the peace process.

Among its various provisions, the Note stipulates that the Palestinian side must "complete the process of revising the Palestinian National Charter" to expunge from it all clauses inimicable to Israel. Previously, both the Clinton administration and the PLO claimed that the charter had been changed by a vote taken by the Palestinian National Council [PNC] in April 1996. That vote claimed to have canceled all clauses in the charter which contradict the letters exchanged between the PLO and the Israeli Government.

But at the same time, the PNC ordered the adoption of a new charter, which would demonstrate to the world the exact textual changes made with regard to Israel. It referred the matter to a legal committee that was charged with submitting a new draft charter by October 24. Nothing happened then, and Yasir Arafat failed to meet this obligation in violation of the PLO's stated commitment. Moreover, the fact that the charter revision is included in the note drafted by Ambassador Ross is evidence that the Clinton administration know acknowledges that the Palestinian side is not in compliance.

Several weeks ago, the PNC delegated to another special legal committee the authority to draft a new charter. However, many questions still remain unanswered. In delegating authority, the PNC once again did not specify which clauses in the charter require amendment, nor did it specify a deadline for the revised text.

More recently, Chairman Arafat reportedly told two French publications that the Palestinians have already fulfilled their commitments, and that he does not intend to adopt a new charter because the Israelis do not have a constitution. "When they will have one," Mr. Arafat said, "we will do the same."

Mr. Speaker, such utterances from Mr. Arafat are not helpful to progress in the peace process. Mr. Arafat knows what he had to do. There is no reason for further delay.

Mr. Speaker, the PLO's failure to amend the Palestinian Charter is a violation of the peace agreements with Israel. That failure, along with continued hostile rhetoric toward Israel, indicates a lack of sustained commitment by Yasir Arafat to the peace process. Accordingly, I call on Chairman Arafat to demonstrate his commitment to peace by leading the effort to amend the Palestinian National Charter at the earliest possible opportunity. That is his responsibility. We will be watching his actions closely. The time has come and gone for prompt compliance. Further delay is additional evidence that Chairman Arafat and the PLO are not willing to meet.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM J. PERRY

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 11, 1997*

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to William J. Perry, who retired on January 24, 1997 as our 19th Secretary of Defense of the United States.

Dr. Perry has a long and distinguished record of serving his country. In the 1970's and 1980's, Bill's work on stealth technology for the Defense Department earned him the title "father of stealth." We all know how important this technology has become to our military and to our Nation. Bill was at the forefront of many other technology breakthroughs as well that today give America's forces the ability to dominate any potential adversary on the field of battle.

But I think crowning achievement came in quite a different arena than the scientific laboratories and high technology factories of this country. Beginning on "day one" of his tenure as Secretary of Defense, Bill Perry became a tireless advocate for the people who are the heart and soul of America's military might. He has led the fight for better pay, better housing, better health care, decent retirement benefits, and maintaining the highest standard of training for our men and women in uniform. This is not cheap and it is certainly not easy to accomplish given the competition we have for limited funds in a declining defense budget.

But Bill Perry has been true to the principle he so often recites: "Take care of the troops, and they will take care of you." Bill understands the lesson history tries to teach us again and again, but some never learn. That is, you can have the best military equipment in the world, but if you don't have well trained and well motivated people to operate that equipment, you don't have much. During his tenure Bill Perry put the men and women in