

for violating six different sets of secret decrees.

Most recently on May 8, Russia's General Prosecutor charged Nikitin with treason, for the first time, and for releasing state secrets for the seventh time, but is no longer basing the charges on secret decrees. Rather than a victory for the rule of law, however, this new development is an even more egregious abuse because the charges are now based on exactly nothing. There were no public decrees defining secrets at time Nikitin allegedly revealed them, so the prosecutor has now violated the most fundamental principle of the rule of law: that one cannot be charged for a crime that was not defined at the time it happened.

□ 1245

These charges represent a very disturbing return to the old Soviet ways of prosecuting someone to repress and intimidate them.

One might ask, why should we care about this? There are many reasons. The world's environment belongs to all of us and a Chernobyl in slow motion should be of grave concern to the whole world. More specifically, for the U.S. Congress, we should be concerned because the United States is assisting Russia in building a facility in Murmansk for processing nuclear waste.

But it is what this case says about Russia today that should be of equal concern. Will Russian citizens really have the right to free speech? Will they be able to publish reports critical of the government without being arrested and prosecuted? Can Russia possibly face up to its massive environmental problems if it does not even want to hear about them? Will the rule of law emerge in Russia?

I ask my colleagues to join me in speaking out about this case, as many already have, sending letters to President Yeltsin as well as to Vice President GORE and Secretary of State Albright. I will be seeking an appointment with Russia's Ambassador to the United States to discuss the case, and I hope some colleagues will join me there as well.

There is too much at stake here—Russia's continuing progress as a free market, democratic country with the rule of law as its basis—too much at stake to ignore this critical case.

NATIONAL DEFENSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, over the last recess, while attending several Memorial Day services, I spent time focusing on the state of our dwindling national defense. By failing to maintain a strong military, we are dishonoring those who have served and died for our freedom. Unfortunately, the

next century will not be as peaceful as once envisioned.

Surprising the U.S. intelligence community, India and Pakistan have conducted nuclear weapons tests. It has been reported that Iraq has enough deadly biological weapons to kill every human being on earth. Just last week North Korea threatened the United States that they would not cease the production of nuclear weapons unless they were compensated. Despite administration claims that no nuclear missiles are aimed at American children, a CIA report reveals that 13 of China's 18 long-range strategic missiles have nuclear warheads aimed at U.S. cities.

Mr. Speaker, we do not live in a safe world. America faces new threats and dangers each and every day, and yet we continue to take risks with our military capabilities that would have been unthinkable a generation ago.

Our forces today are 32 percent smaller than they were just 10 years ago. In 1992 we had 18 Army divisions; we now have 10. In 1992 we had 24 fighter wings; we now have 13. In 1992 we had 546 Navy ships; we now have less than 300. In the last year the Navy has cut the Arsenal Ship, delayed the development of the next generation aircraft carrier, and cut its near term purchase of tactical aircraft by 45 percent.

This month the Army announced that it would downsize 6 divisions, cutting troop level 13 percent. Today I just read that the Marine Corps' entire procurement budget is now less than 1 week's worth of sales at Wal-Mart.

Mr. Speaker, I want to repeat that. The Marine Corps' entire procurement budget is now less than 1 week's worth of sales at Wal-Mart.

Our forces are dwindling and yet new threats to our freedoms are ever increasing. Quite frankly, we are taking our freedom for granted. The American family feels protected and safe. Mom and dad tell their children that they live in a peaceful world. They rest easy, hoping their government is adequately defending America.

But what they do not know is that right now, while nuclear missiles are aimed at U.S. cities, our troops do not even have the basic ammunition they need. The Army is \$1.7 billion short of basic ammunition, and the Marine Corps has a shortfall in ammunition of over \$193 million.

Mr. Speaker, I want to repeat that also. The Army is \$1.7 billion short of basic ammunition, and the Marine Corps has a shortfall in ammunition of over \$193 million. What they do not know is that in May, a Navy fighter squadron commander informed his superiors that only two of his squadron's 14 Tomcat fighter jets are mission capable because of a lack of spare parts.

He said in his official report, and I quote, I strongly believe that it is my duty to protect my aircrews. Living at the end of the parts food chain can present difficult challenges and obstacles that may be unmanageable. We no longer have the tools to do our job. We

must provide aircrews with the necessary flights to get them combat ready for the safety of this Nation.

We are not telling the American people about the state of our military, Mr. Speaker. I and many of my colleagues in Congress have called upon the administration, senior military and the press to tell the hard truth to the American people.

While the President has cut defense nearly in half, he has deployed our troops 25 times during his tenure. In fact, the President has deployed U.S. troops more often than any other President in peacetime since World War II. These peacekeeping deployments have cost the taxpayers over \$13 billion and have bled our forces. The reality is our troops are learning peacekeeping and forgetting war fighting.

These peacekeeping deployments have also kept our men and women in uniform away from their homes and families for lengthy periods of time and have thereby decreased their morale.

We cannot continue to ask our military to do more with less. In the name of those who have fought and who have died for this country, we must continue to maintain our military readiness. I urge my colleagues to help preserve our freedom and security. We must support our armed forces.

May God bless America.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 51 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. NETHERCUTT) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Reverend James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

We pray with the Psalmist who said, "We give thanks to Thee, O God; we give thanks. We call on Thy name and recount Thy wondrous deeds."

We remember Your marvelous deeds, O God, and we celebrate the wonders of Your creation, for You have created this place where we live and learn, where there is work and play, where there is laughter and there are tears. You have given us a free will to choose the right over the wrong, the good over evil, and the honorable over the shameful.

While we praise Your name, O God, for the majesty of what You have given us, so we pray that we will be good stewards of the opportunities we have

to "do justice, love mercy, and ever walk humbly with You." Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Chair's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5, rule I, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TRAFICANT led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

BUILDING A NATIONAL MISSILE DEFENSE SYSTEM

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, there are a few issues which separate liberals and conservatives in dramatic fashion. Taxes, of course, is one, and crime is another. But defense and national security issues also illustrate two sharply different visions, different world views, which distinguish conservatives from liberals.

Liberals just love arms control agreements. They put almost boundless faith in a piece of paper between America and countries which are hostile to everything we hold dear, and they take great comfort in the ability of these agreements to keep America safe. Conservatives, on the other hand, look at all human history and are skeptical of such agreements, instead placing greater faith in a strong and secure defense.

Given these two world views, it is time to reexamine our current vulnerability to ballistic missile attack.

There is a piece of paper that exists to assure us that America is safe from

ballistic attack. But this deliberate policy of vulnerability to ballistic missile attack is foolish, and dangerous. It is time that conservatives act with prudence and demand that Americans be protected by building a national missile defense system.

GOING FROM "SPEAK SOFTLY AND CARRY A BIG STICK" TO "TAKE THE FIFTH AND CARRY A TOOTHPICK"

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, China blocks access to our products, sells missiles to our enemies, and, if that is not enough to tax your migraine, the President now wants to reward them with permanent most-favored-nation trade status.

I think it is time to tell it like it is. When it comes to China, we have gone from "speak softly and carry a big stick" to "take the Fifth and carry a toothpick."

Beam me up.

I yield back now all of the new trucks that General Motors will be building in China.

Unbelievable.

ESTABLISH PROGRAM TO REDUCE VIOLENCE AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE AMONG YOUTH

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, as a Nation we can no longer sit idly by and watch while the violence in our schools continues to rise. That is why I will be holding a town forum on school violence in my district on July 7th, 1998.

Recently, acts of school violence have taken place all across this country, such as the nationally publicized incidents in Arkansas, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Oregon. Our children's lives and their promising future are at stake.

It is important to realize that this battle will not be won from Washington, but from the streets, neighborhoods and schools in the communities where our children live.

I encourage all Members to hold a town forum on school violence in their districts, and establish a program that supports and encourages local communities to create a comprehensive, long-term plan that will reduce violence and substance abuse among our youth.

This is the only way we are going to get to save our children from a growing deadly cycle of drugs and violence in our schools and communities.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 5 of rule

I, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered or on which the vote is objected to under clause 4 of rule XV.

Such rollcall votes, if postponed, will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules, but not before 5 p.m. today.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE APPROPRIATION AUTHORIZATION ACT, FISCAL YEAR 1999, 2000, AND 2001

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3303) to authorize appropriations for the Department of Justice for fiscal years 1999, 2000 and 2001; to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 1999 and 2000 to carry out certain programs administered by the Department of Justice, to amend title 28 of the United States Code with respect to the use of funds available to the Department of Justice; and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3303

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Department of Justice Appropriation Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 1999, 2000, and 2001".

TITLE I—AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEARS 1999, 2000, AND 2001

Subtitle A—Specific Provisions

SEC. 101. SUMS AUTHORIZED TO BE APPROPRIATED.

There are authorized to be appropriated for fiscal years 1999, 2000, and 2001, to carry out the activities of the Department of Justice (including any bureau, office, board, division, commission, or subdivision thereof), the following sums:

(1) For General Administration, salaries and expenses: \$238,085,000 for fiscal year 1999, \$249,989,000 for fiscal year 2000, and \$262,489,000 for fiscal year 2001.

(2) For Administrative Review and Appeals: \$144,863,000 for fiscal year 1999, \$152,106,000 for fiscal year 2000, and \$159,712,000 for fiscal year 2001, for administration of pardon and clemency petitions and for immigration related activities.

(3) For the Office of Inspector General: \$34,610,000 for fiscal year 1999, \$36,341,000 for fiscal year 2000, and \$38,158,000 for fiscal year 2001, which shall include—

(A) not to exceed \$10,000 to meet unforeseen emergencies of a confidential character, to be expended under the direction of the Attorney General, and to be accounted for solely on the certificate of the Attorney General; and

(B) funds for the purchase, lease, maintenance, and operation of motor vehicles without regard to the general purchase price limitation.

(4) For General Legal Activities: \$485,506,000 for fiscal year 1999, \$509,781,000 for fiscal year 2000, and \$535,270,000 for fiscal year 2001, which shall include—

(A) not less than \$4,000,000 for each fiscal year for the investigation and prosecution of denaturalization and deportation cases involving alleged Nazi war criminals; and

(B) not to exceed \$20,000 for each fiscal year to meet unforeseen emergencies of a