

victims that suffer at the hand of perpetrators, but it is to say that I believe Mr. Graham's life should indicate that we have a broken system. We need a National Federal Innocence Commission and a moratorium similar to that called for and enacted by Governor Ryan of Illinois.

The question of innocence is a question that Americans should all ask. And for our system to work, we must, in fact, make sure that the innocent have the chance to prove their innocence and the guilty are punished.

A tragedy happened today, not because Mr. Graham, who was prepared to lose his life, unfortunately; but because we did not stand on the side of justice allowing for a new trial and hearing for Mr. Graham so that we could determine his guilt or innocence.

Let us fix a broken system.

WESTERN SAHARA

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks, and include extraneous material.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening with concern over our administration's role in trampling the rights of the people of Western Sahara.

For several years, both Morocco and Western Sahara have participated in intense negotiations led by former Secretary of State James Baker. The negotiations ended in both parties agreeing to a referendum for self-determination.

Unfortunately, the recent May 30 meeting of the U.N. revealed that both France and the U.S. administration are now willing to abandon the settlement plan and the right of the Sahrawi people through self-determination.

Our taxpayers, through the U.N., have invested \$530 million in peacekeeping to end the conflict in Northwest Africa.

Why is our government supportive of East Timorese and now willing to allow the human rights of Sahrawis to be thoroughly violated?

I include for the RECORD a letter that expresses the dismay of Members of Congress on our administration's action.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, June 12, 2000.

Hon. WILLIAM J. CLINTON,
President, The White House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: We are writing to express our great concern over the continued delay in the United Nations holding a free, fair, and transparent referendum for the people of Western Sahara. The continued postponements reflect an apparent lack of willingness of the United Nations and the United States Administration to use their leadership to urge all parties involved to follow through with their commitments to uphold the fundamental human right of self-determination for the people of Western Sahara.

We are pleased that finally, after nine long years and the expenditure of approximately \$500 million on peacekeeping efforts, the United Nations was able to establish a public list of eligible voters on January 17, 2000. We

know that the identification process was difficult and we congratulate the United Nations for successfully accomplishing this difficult task. We are very concerned, however, about reports in the United Nations that the U.S. Administration and the French Government are contemplating abandoning the negotiated, signed settlement plans under the pretext that there allegedly is no mechanism to enforce the result of the referendum. The May 30, 2000 meeting of the United Nations Security Council revealed that these two governments are willing to completely disregard the negotiated Settlement Plan and the right of the people of Western Sahara to self-determination. Mr. President, the fact that our Administration is willing to disregard the right of the Sahrawi people to self-determination when the American Revolution was based upon that very right is shameful. We have supported the right of the people of East Timor to determine their future. The people of Western Sahara deserve no less.

It is vital that neither the United States nor any other nation or international body pre-judge the results of the referendum—a referendum which both Morocco and the Polisario have agreed to and which the United States taxpayers and others have invested over \$530 million. The failure of the United Nations to hold this referendum regarding the Western Sahara would lead to instability and insecurity in North Africa and the blame would fall squarely on the shoulders of the United Nations, the Administration of the United States, and the French Government.

Mr. President, it would be more unfortunate if the United States encouraged or was part of a movement to undermine the fundamental human right of self-determination and carefully negotiated agreements about the Western Sahara. We respectfully urge you to use your leadership position to remind the King of Morocco of his commitments to the Settlement Plan and allowing the referendum over Western Sahara to proceed without further delay.

Thank you for your attention to this serious matter. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,
Joseph R. Pitts; Donald M. Payne; Wayne T. Gilchrest; David M. McIntosh; William J. Jefferson; Charles T. Canady; Jim DeMint; James A. Traficant, Jr.; Eni F.H. Faleomavaega; Bob Clement; Steve Largent; Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.; Christopher H. Smith; Anna G. Eshoo; Tony P. Hall; Gene Green; Tom Tancredo; Richard H. Baker; Alcee L. Hastings; Ron Packard; Luis V. Guterrez; Robert A. Borski.

CONGRATULATING HON. PATRICK TOOMEY ON BIRTH OF DAUGHTER

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

Mr. DEMINT. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Republican freshmen class, I would like to express our most sincere congratulations to a Congressman who now enjoys a new and prestigious title, "Dad."

On June 12, at 2:55 a.m., our friend and colleague, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY), delightfully spoke three life-changing words, "It's a girl."

Full of energy, Bridget Kathleen Toomey entered the world with a

healthy weight of 9 pounds, 7 ounces. With great pleasure, we now call the gentleman from Pennsylvania a father, but also warn him that when Bridget reaches her teenage years, it may be more difficult to hold the line on spending at home than it is in Congress.

Congratulations to both the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) and his wonderful wife, Kris, in this time of joy. May God bless their new family.

EMPTY PROMISES FOR SECURITY AT LOS ALAMOS

(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, here we go again.

It seems that the more we learn about the security and disasters at the Los Alamos Nuclear Laboratory, the worse it gets.

The FBI now believes that the hard drives disappeared on March 28, more than a month before they were reported missing. Furthermore, the two nuclear emergency safety team members who discovered a security breach failed to tell their superiors that the hard drives were even missing and, knowing of the gravity of the situation, simply launched their own personal search.

Mr. Speaker, it seems clear that the pledges of increased security made a year ago by the Department of Energy Secretary were only empty promises.

So why should the American people believe Secretary Richardson now when he asserts that there is no evidence of espionage? I suggest, conversely, that there is also no evidence that there was not espionage involved.

0000

A change needs to occur and it needs to occur before all our national secrets are stolen, compromised or paraded out the door of our nuclear laboratories.

DECLARATION OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO RUSSIAN FEDERATION—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 106-259)

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE) laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to section 204(b) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), 50 U.S.C. 1703(b) and section 301 of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1631, I hereby report that I have exercised my authority to declare a national emergency to

deal with the threat posed to the United States by the risk of nuclear proliferation created by the accumulation in the Russian Federation of a large volume of weapons-usable fissile material. The United States and the Russian Federation have entered into a series of agreements that provide for the conversion of highly enriched uranium (HEU) extracted from Russian nuclear weapons into low enriched uranium (LEU) for use in commercial nuclear reactors. The Russian Federation recently suspended its performance under these agreements because of concerns that payments due to it under these agreements may be subject to attachment, garnishment, or other judicial process, in the United States. Accordingly, I have issued an Executive Order to address the unusual and extraordinary risk of nuclear proliferation created by this situation.

A major national security goal of the United States is to ensure that fissile material removed from Russian nuclear weapons pursuant to various arms control and disarmament agreements is dedicated to peaceful uses, subject to transparency measures, and protected from diversion to activities of proliferation concern. The United States and the Russian Federation entered into an international agreement in February 1993 to deal with these issues as they relate to the disposition of HEU extracted from Russian nuclear weapons (the "HEU Agreement"). Under the HEU Agreement, 500 metric tons of HEU will be converted to LEU over a 20-year period. This is the equivalent of 20,000 nuclear warheads.

Additional agreements were put in place to effectuate the HEU Agreement, including agreements and contracts on transparency, on the appointment of executive agents to assist in implementing the agreements, and on the disposition of LEU delivered to the United States (collectively, the "HEU Agreements"). Under the HEU Agreements, the Russian Federation extracts HEU metal from nuclear weapons. That HEU is oxidized and blended down to LEU in the Russian Federation. The resulting LEU is shipped to the United States for fabrication into fuel for commercial reactors. The United States monitors this conversion process through the Department of Energy's Warhead and Fissile Material Transparency Program.

The HEU Agreements provide for the Russian Federation to receive money and uranium hexafluoride in payment for each shipment of LEU converted from the Russian nuclear weapons. The money and uranium hexafluoride are transferred to the Russian Federation executive agent in the United States.

The Russian Federation recently suspended its performance under the HEU Agreements because of concerns over possible attachment, garnishment, or other judicial process with respect to the payments due to it as a result of litigation currently pending against the Russian Federation. In response to

this concern, the Minister of Atomic Energy of the Russian Federation, Minister Adamov, notified Secretary Richardson on May 5, 2000, of the decision of the Russian Federation to halt shipment of LEU pending resolution of this problem. This suspension presents an unusual and extraordinary threat to U.S. national security goals due to the risk of nuclear proliferation caused by the accumulation of weapons-usable fissile material in the Russian Federation.

The executive branch and the Congress have previously recognized and continue to recognize the threat posed to the United States national security from the risk of nuclear proliferation created by the accumulation of weapons-usable fissile material in the Russian Federation. This threat is the basis for significant programs aimed at Cooperative Threat Reduction and at controlling excess fissile material. The HEU Agreements are essential tools to accomplish these overall national security goals. Congress demonstrated support for these agreements when it authorized the purchase of Russian uranium in 1998, Public Law 105-277, and also enacted legislation to enable Russian uranium to be sold in this country pursuant to the USEC Privatization Act, 42 U.S.C. 229h-10.

Payments made to the Russian Federation pursuant to the HEU Agreements are integral to the operation of this key national security program. Uncertainty surrounding litigation involving these payments could lead to a long-term suspension of the HEU Agreements, which creates the risk of nuclear proliferation. This is an unacceptable threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States.

Accordingly, I have concluded that all property and interests in property of the government of the Russian Federation directly related to the implementation of the HEU Agreements should be protected from the threat of attachment, garnishment, or other judicial process. I have, therefore, exercised my authority and issued an Executive Order that provides:

—except to the extent provided in regulations, orders, directives, or licenses that may be issued pursuant to the order, all property and interests in property of the Government of the Russian Federation directly related to the implementation of the HEU Agreements that are in the United States, that hereafter come within the United States, or hereafter come within the possession or control of United States persons, including their overseas branches, are blocked and may not be transferred, paid, exported, withdrawn, or otherwise dealt in;

—unless licensed or authorized pursuant to the order, any attachment, judgment, decree, lien, execution, garnishment, or other judicial process is null and void with re-

spect to any property or interest in property blocked pursuant to the order; and

—that all heads of departments and agencies of the United States Government shall continue to take all appropriate measure within their authority to further the full implementation of the HEU Agreements.

The effect of this Executive Order is limited to property that is directly related to the implementation of the HEU Agreements. Such property will be clearly defined by the regulations, orders, directives, or licenses that will be issued pursuant to this Executive Order.

I am enclosing a copy of the Executive Order I have issued. The order is effective at 12:01 a.m. eastern daylight time on June 22, 2000.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON,
THE WHITE HOUSE, June 21, 2000.

PERIODIC REPORT ON NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO IRAN—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 106-260)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared in Executive Order 12170 of November 14, 1979.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON,
THE WHITE HOUSE, June 21, 2000.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. DIXON (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today and the balance of the week on account of official business.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today after 7:30 p.m. on account of family matters.

Mr. RANGEL (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today through June 26 on account of official business.

Ms. SLAUGHTER (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today after 6:00 p.m. on account of illness.

Mr. HYDE (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today until 8:00 p.m. on account of attending a funeral.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to: