

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### KAZAKHSTAN SHOULD RELEASE OPPOSITION POLITICAL PRISONERS

#### HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 22, 2001*

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, on March 7, I chaired a hearing of the International Relations Committee's Subcommittee on International Operations and Human Rights on the Department of State's annual report on human rights for the year 2000. In the section on Kazakhstan, the report states that "the Government's human rights record remained poor" and that "serious problems remain".

The report discusses one specific situation that concerns me greatly. In the section on "Arbitrary Arrest, Detention, or Exile", the report points out that two security agents who had served as bodyguards to Akezhan Kazhegeldin, the exiled leader of the main opposition party and a former Prime Minister, were sentenced a year ago to 3½ years in gulag-style prison where they are vulnerable to mistreatment by both prison officials and fellow inmates. Their names are Pyotr Afanasenko and Satzhan Ibrayev.

As stated in the Department of State's report—referring to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and to international and domestic observers, their arrest was politically motivated. As a member of the OSCE, Kazakhstan should reverse what the OSCE has said were convictions for political reasons and imprisonments under conditions that violate the Criminal Code of Kazakhstan.

If, as it claims, the Government of Kazakhstan is truly paying more attention to human rights, then these two political prisoners, whose very lives are in danger, should be released. In the meantime, they should be removed from the general prison population and placed in a separate facility as provided under the Criminal Corrections Code of Kazakhstan. I call upon the government of Kazakhstan to do just that.

### THE RETIREMENT OF SHELLY LIVINGSTON

#### HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 22, 2001*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take the opportunity to make note of the retirement of long-time House International Relations Committee staff member, Shelly Livingston.

Shelly started with the Committee in 1974 and in 1980 assumed the job of Budget/Financial Administrator, in which she developed the committee's budget requests and generally oversaw all aspects of the committee's fi-

nances. No matter how busy or pressured Shelly was, often working under tight deadlines, she always found the time to respond to the innumerable questions and requests of Members and staff with competence and good humor.

There is no question that Shelly will be greatly missed by her many friends on the committee staff and throughout the Hill. On their behalf I want to thank Shelly for her professionalism, discretion, and kindness throughout her years with us.

I hope Shelly will carry our affection with her as she begins her retirement. I have no doubt she will add to her many accomplishments as she pursues her interests in the years to come.

### TRIBUTE TO THE FORT WORTH AREA HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

#### HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 22, 2001*

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize and congratulate the remarkable Fort Worth Area Habitat for Humanity for its efforts in transforming a neglected neighborhood into an area people are proud to call home.

The Fort Worth Area Habitat for Humanity should be honored for building 27 modest wood-framed homes in the 45-block area last year and a total of 100 homes over the last nine years. This has provided the opportunity for renters to become first-time homebuyers who may not have the opportunity to do so otherwise. This group will also be recognized as a standout affiliate at the National Habitual Conference this April in Florida.

I would also like to acknowledge Rev. Howard Caver of the World Missionary Baptist Church. His 70-member congregation raised funding for the group and put forth manpower in building the first half-dozen houses. The partnership between the World Missionary Baptist Church and the Fort Worth Area Habitat for Humanity has been very successful and has provided the community a great service.

The Fort Worth Area Habitat for Humanity efforts and accomplishments does not stop at 100 houses. They plan to build 30 more houses this year. This is not an easy task, with finding available land and selecting families to live in the houses are among the group's toughest obstacles. However, the group expects this to be their best year yet and I have no doubt it will be.

Once again, I am very proud to see the honorable work being accomplished in my district. The Fort Worth Area Habitat for Humanity has made so much progress in such a short amount of time and is continuing to contribute countless charitable hours. Thank you for everything you've done for the district, your work is appreciated.

### SCRAPPING MINING RULES WOULD BE A SERIOUS MISTAKE

#### HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 22, 2001*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, there is an old saying that experience is what enables you to recognize a mistake when you make it again.

If that's true, then the Bush Administration may be demonstrating its experience by repeating—for at least the third time—the serious mistake of lessening the protection of the environment.

The first mistake was to break a promise that the Administration would work to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide. The second was to move to weaken the protection of drinking water from the risk of arsenic. And now it looks like there will be a third mistake, this time to weaken the regulation of mining on the public lands.

Yesterday, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announced that it will act to suspend recently-adopted regulations to limit adverse effects of mining on these lands, which are the property of all the American people. The announcement indicated that BLM would take public comments for 45 days, and then decide whether to replace these new regulations with prior regulations first adopted two decades ago.

I understand why the new administration might want to review these new rules—but I hope that it will not make the mistake of simply trying to turn back the clock.

I seriously doubt that there is a need for further delay in implementing rules that were years in the making and on which the mining industry and the public have had ample opportunity to be heard.

And, as an editorial in today's Denver Post noted, if the Bush Administration overturns these rules, it would be "committing the very mistake for which it eviscerated the Clinton regime: running roughshod over legitimate concerns of Western communities and putting the federal treasury at risk."

In Colorado, we understand the importance of mining—but we are also very aware of the damage that unregulated or careless mining can bring. From the 19th century's mineral rushes we have inherited a rich lore of history—and miles of poisoned streams and scarred slopes.

And the dangers remain, even though the modern mining industry is more regulated and much more responsible. So, the Bush Administration should proceed with caution, and avoid repeating the past mistakes of overly-lax safeguards against those dangers.

For the information of our colleagues, Mr. Speaker, I am attaching the Denver Post's editorial on this subject:

#### MINING MISTAKE REDUX

MAR. 22, 2001.—The Bush administration wants to toss out important rules about mining on public lands, thereby committing the

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