

by The Associated Press, "the Indian scientists made clear they are on the front lines of such developments."

Last week, representatives of India's biotech sector spoke out, saying that their industry is in a state of "near paralysis" due to opposition from critics of genetically modified foods. One Indian biotech consultant lamented that the "protest industry" has "exploited a few—technical violations and has made the entire system rigid."

In Europe, anti-biotech activists enjoy particular clout, and last week talks between U.S. and E.U. officials over genetically modified foods broke down. The United States will now turn to the World Trade Organization to appoint a panel to rule on the case. The United States is said to have a good chance of gaining a ruling that would compel the E.U. to end its ban on American biotech crops.

Don Lipton, a spokesman for the American Farm Bureau Federation, was right when he said that "countries shouldn't be able to erect barriers for nonscientific reasons." In India, the government, to its credit, acknowledges that point. Regrettably, European governments are content to ignore it and continue their opportunistic stonewalling.

CONGRATULATING FRANK J. WSOL  
OF CHICAGO

**HON. RAHM EMANUEL**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 24, 2003*

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Frank J. Wsol, the Secretary Treasurer of Teamsters Local 710, on being presented the Distinguished Community Service Award by the Anti-Defamation League at their annual dinner.

Frank Wsol epitomizes the principles of organized labor and the role it plays in our community. He has served loyally as a Teamster since 1946, and has ascended the ranks first as an Organizer, and later as Chairman of the Union's Health, Welfare and Pension Fund.

In addition to proudly serving as a Teamster, Frank has been a leader for all of labor including service as Chairman of the Illinois Joint State Grievance Committee and on the Executive Committee of the Chicago Federation of Labor. He currently serves as a member of the Executive Board for Joint Council 25.

Many of the principles of the organization and community that Frank has embodied for the last half century have come from his service to our country as a member of the U.S. Air Force. Frank served in both Japan and Korea, and has stayed active as a member of the Neer-Goudie American Legion Post 846.

Frank's care for his community has always included his love for children and his dedication to providing them with a bright future. He has dedicated time and energy to the Children's Advocacy Center in both Chicago and Hoffman Estates, and the Little City Foundation in Palatine.

Mr. Speaker, I join the Anti-Defamation League in recognizing Frank Wsol. I also congratulate Frank and his wonderful family: Florence, his wife of over 50 years, his late daughter Maureen, his son Michael and his fiancée Marlene Demuzio, his son Frank Jr. and his wife Madeline, and his grandsons

Frank, Brian, Kevin and Steve. And I applaud the Anti-Defamation League for the work that they do to protect our liberty, and for honoring one of our most distinguished citizens.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MOSAIC

**HON. TOM OSBORNE**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 24, 2003*

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, On July 1, 2003, two organizations deeply rooted in Nebraska will join hands to form a new organization dedicated to caring for people with developmental disabilities. I rise today to recognize and commend the beginning of this new organization—Mosaic.

Bethphage, founded in 1913 in Axtell, Nebraska, which is located in my congressional district, and Martin Luther Home Society, founded in 1925 in Sterling, Nebraska, is my colleague from Nebraska's, Mr. Bereuter's congressional district, bring 168 years of experience to the field of developmental disabilities. The consolidation of the two organizations will give Mosaic secure financial strength, fiscally responsible stewardship and diverse professional choices as it works to make life better for people with disabilities.

Mosaic will serve approximately 3,700 people in 16 states and Great Britain, and will employ more than 5,100 direct support professional, regional management and home office staff. Mosaic will have two corporate offices, both of which will be located in Nebraska.

Finally, Mosaic will provide a full range of supports and advocacy for people with disabilities from early intervention through elderly care. Services will include residential group home, host home, in-home supports, behavioral skills, and spiritual development.

As Mosaic officially begins operations on July 1, 2003, I want to congratulate this exceptional organization for their visionary leadership in the field of developmental disabilities. I feel I can speak for many Nebraskans when I say that I am proud that Mosaic calls Nebraska home.

REPRESSION SPREADING IN  
BELARUS

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 24, 2003*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, Europe's last dictator, Belarus' Alyksandr Lukashenka, appears determined to ignore the voices of the people of Belarus calling for basic respect for human rights and democratic principles a decade after that country gained its independence and joined the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

As Chairman of the Helsinki Commission, I am disturbed by recent developments which demonstrate the growing repression in Belarus. There have been further restrictions imposed on the independent media, with the recent suspension of independent newspapers Navinki and Ekho. Just a few days ago, the publication *Predprinimatelskaya Gazeta* was

suspended for three months. The offices of the trade union paper *Solidarnost* have been sealed by the authorities. Still other publications have received warnings that could lead to their closure. These actions were preceded by the three-month suspension of two prominent independent newspapers—*Belaruskaya Delovaya Gazeta* and *BDG*—For Internal Use Only.

The Lukashenka regime is also targeting schools. The National Humanities Lyceum, a highly respected high school promoting study of the Belarusian language and culture, is under fire, with its acting head to be replaced by a reportedly non-Belarusian-speaking official. Why? Because professors at the school support democracy and the Belarusian language and culture which ironically is anathema to the Belarusian strongman. Mr. Speaker, what kind of leader actively suppresses his nation's language and culture?

Moreover, a new crackdown on Pentecostal home meetings in western Belarus is underway, with fines being handed down on church members who permit their homes to be used for prayer meetings—a result of last year's restrictive religion law.

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are also facing increasing scrutiny, often for truly spurious reasons such as minor mistakes in registration documents. Several, including *Ratusha*, *Varuta* and the *Youth Christian Social Union*, are under threat of liquidation. Just a few days ago, the Homel regional court ordered the closure of the area's largest NGO, *Civic Initiatives*. The intensified campaign against NGOs and the independent media are widely regarded among domestic and international observers as a concerted attack on active and independent civil society structures.

Repressive actions against individuals continue as well. Recently, 18-year-old ZUBR activist Tatiana Elovaya was sentenced to 10 days imprisonment for manifesting her support in an April 3 demonstration outside the U.S. Embassy for the campaign to liberate Iraq. Several others, including 19-year-old Lyubov Kuchinskaya had served 10-day sentences earlier. Unfortunately, these are just some recent examples of a longstanding pattern of the Lukashenka regime's flouting of its OSCE commitments and continued disregard for the four OSCE criteria set forth three years ago by the Parliamentary Troika for Belarus.

Despite steps by the OSCE community, including the re-opening of the OSCE Office in Minsk (albeit under a more limited mandate), the seating of the National Assembly and the lifting of a visa ban, not only have reciprocal steps not been taken by the Belarusian authorities but the situation has indeed deteriorated further.

Earlier this year, I introduced H.R. 854, the Belarus Democracy Act, designed to assist the people of Belarus in regaining their freedom and enable them to join the European community of democracies. Key provisions of this Act also have been incorporated into the Foreign Relations Reauthorization bill. Mr. Speaker, the Lukashenka regime's continuing suppression of the long-suffering Belarusian people underscores the need for the Belarus Democracy Act and other efforts—including within the OSCE—to restore respect for human rights and institutions of democratic governance.