

REPUDIATING ANTI-SEMITIC SENTIMENTS EXPRESSED BY DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD, OUTGOING PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA

SPEECH OF

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2003

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, today I rise in support of H. Res. 409—Repudiating the recent anti-Semitic sentiments expressed by Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, the outgoing prime minister of Malaysia, which makes peace in the Middle East and around the world more elusive, sponsored by my good friend Representative Roy Blunt.

Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad has repeatedly crossed the line voicing offensive and inappropriate criticism of Jews. Instead of speaking about fighting terrorism or furthering peaceful cooperation, he chooses to preach hate. Mahathir's verbal attacks on Jews lent credence and legitimacy to the hateful message of terrorists.

Today the Congress will do the right thing by condemning Mahathir's remarks and by making military aid to Malaysia conditional on religious freedom, including greater tolerance of Jews.

Malaysian Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar this afternoon complained that the religious freedom vote was an example of the United States trying to "discipline the world in their own mold."

To the Malaysian Foreign Minister, I respond, you are absolutely correct. In America a person is not judged because of who they worship and they are not persecuted by the government for believing in the wrong God. For over 200 years America has been a beacon of hope and freedom for the rest of the world. We have stood the test of time; defending the rights of the individual to pursue happiness as they choose. America has an obligation to aid nations that further peace through tolerance and freedom, Malaysia needs to understand that.

Europe and The Organization of the Islamic Conference needs to issue a strong and real renunciation of Prime Minister Mahathir's remarks. The renunciation of these hateful comments would do more to create a safe and secure world than all the hate-filled rhetoric ever will.

TRIBUTE TO DICK AND DORIS ALAIMO

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 29, 2003

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dick and Doris Alaimo, who have been chosen as this year's recipients of the Lloyd Ritter Community Service Award given by the Volunteer Center of Burlington County, NJ.

Dick and Doris are well-known throughout southern New Jersey for their outstanding history of community service and involvement in local organizations, and have been personal friends for many, many years, during which

time we have worked together on many projects for the benefit of our community.

The Alaimos work in tandem with Memorial Hospital of Burlington County's Foundation, the Burlington County Chapter of the Boy Scouts of America and the Rancocas Valley Education Foundation. They also serve on the committee for Mount Holly Pro Day, an event which brings illustrious sports figures such as Mount Holly native Franco Harris into the limelight in effort to raise funds for local children in need, a cornerstone of much of their work through the years.

Successful in careers, business, and in life, Dick and Doris Alaimo have generously shared their success, time, money, energy and most importantly, care and concern with the community, always striving to make our hometown a better place to live and work.

It is for these reasons they have been selected to receive this prestigious award, and for these reasons I pay tribute to them today. May their legacy of volunteerism continue through their children, grandchildren, and the community they so love.

A FAIR FIGHT IN THE PHILIPPINES

HON. TOM FEENEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 29, 2003

Mr. FEENEY. Mr. Speaker, this Member commends to his colleagues the October 18, 2003, New York Times op-ed by Brett Decker titled "A Fair Fight in the Philippines." I particularly note that American aid to the Philippine military has wound up on the black market or in the hands of Islamic radicals. America can't pursue its War on Terrorism by practicing the old ways of doing business.

[From the New York Times, Oct. 18, 2003]

A FAIR FIGHT IN THE PHILIPPINES

(By Brett M. Decker)

President Bush is in Manila today to visit his ally in the war against terror, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo of the Philippines. Mr. Bush has already announced some \$340 million in aid to the Philippines this year, and President Arroyo has said she plans to request additional military assistance to fight terrorism. There's only one problem with this alliance:

American aid hasn't improved the Philippine military so far, and in many ways it has benefited the Islamic militants it seeks to combat.

In August, Gen. Narciso Abaya, chief of the Philippine armed forces, made an alarming statement about the condition of his military: "I admit there is graft and corruption at all levels." A significant share of the military budget is lost to graft. Selling military hardware on the black market is another common practice. Recent raids of bases of the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front have turned up caches of arms with Philippine military markings.

Even American assistance is siphoned away. Testimony before the Philippine Congress in the past several months revealed that American M-16's provided to the Philippine armed forces have been recovered in camps belonging to Abu Sayyaf, a band of guerrillas and kidnapers. Assault rifles, grenade launchers and other American arms have been used by Muslim radicals against Philippine troops—the very troops United States funds are supposed to assist.

American aid to help fight Islamic radicals is often offset by bribes soldiers take from terrorists to let them get away. Operatives affiliated with Al Qaeda have escaped from maximum-security military prisons, once using a helicopter.

If Washington and Manila are serious about eliminating Abu Sayyaf, the United States Special Forces should be given the assignment. The terrorist group consists of about 100 poorly trained amateurs. They would be no match for American soldiers already in the Philippines, but they are still eluding Filipino troops.

The Philippine Constitution does not allow foreign troops to wage combat missions on Filipino soil. It does, however, allow the United States to come to the defense of the Philippines if the islands are attacked. Such an action can be justified in the present case because the terrorist groups get foreign money.

The mission could win support on Capitol Hill because the situation in the Philippines is precisely what the one in Iraq is not: there is a known enemy of limited ability and numbers on a few small, isolated islands with scant local support. There is minimal risk of escalation because the country is only about 5 percent Muslim. Perhaps more important, fellow Filipino Muslims do not support Abu Sayyaf. Separatist Moros view them as a for-profit gang of thugs rather than a religious movement to defend Islam. The provincial governor of the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao ordered his security force to cooperate in the hunt for Abu Sayyaf.

Unless the integrity of arms transfers to the Philippine military can be guaranteed, which is not likely, the United States should consider cutting off military aid to the Philippines and replacing it with economic support to help develop the poor Muslim islands in the south.

There has been some success in winning local "hearts and minds" already.

After building a few roads, bridges, sewers and wells last year, American soldiers were cheered by appreciative Muslims as the troops pulled out of Mindanao. More aid for infrastructure could go a long way to soothing centuries of resentment derived from being shut out of the national economy.

A reorientation of American aid would have the added benefit of helping bolster Philippine democracy. The military has instigated coups in every administration except one since 1965. Withholding support from the Philippine brass sends the message that Washington—the nation's most important ally—expects the military to keep its hands off the civilian institutions of government.

The White House should carefully assess what course will best help stabilize one of its most reliable allies in Asia. Despite the inevitable complications, the Philippines is worthy of American assistance.

IN HONOR OF THE SILICON VALLEY MANUFACTURING GROUP'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 29, 2003

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues, Representative ESHOO and Representative HONDA and I rise to honor the Silicon Valley Manufacturing Group on its 25th anniversary, an organization that has effectively advocated on behalf of the residents and businesses of California's Silicon Valley.

The Silicon Valley Manufacturing Group was founded by David Packard, who during the summer of 1977, asked a number of his fellow Silicon Valley CEOs to join him in building an organization that would create a proactive voice for Silicon Valley businesses. The formation in 1978 of the Manufacturing Group was the result of those discussions. The 33 charter members believed that business should work with the community and government to find innovative solutions to the challenges that faced their employees, including energy, transportation, education, and housing.

Today, the Manufacturing Group represents a variety of Silicon Valley businesses from software and manufacturing companies, to health care and education organizations. The 190 member-companies of the Manufacturing Group represent over 200,000 employees in the Silicon Valley.

During the quarter century since it was first founded, the Manufacturing Group has had a tremendous impact on the quality of life in Silicon Valley. They've brought leaders together to discuss the critical issues of our time and create solutions to these challenges. They've been at the forefront of the creation of affordable housing, improving and increasing transportation options, and being key players in addressing California's energy concerns. Today, member-companies do their part by conserving through increased efficiency, and working with regulators and energy companies to find solutions to the State's energy problems.

The Manufacturing Group was a key force in the creation of the Housing Trust of Santa Clara County and played a major role in the Trust being able to raise over \$20 million in its first 2 years. This funding, raised during a time when corporate donations began to wane, is an extraordinary achievement, producing housing for first-time home buyers and stands as a model in our country. With the Manufacturing Group's leadership, the Housing Trust will return the investment ten-fold and assist families to realize their dream of homeownership.

The Manufacturing Group's track record on public transportation projects in the Valley has been extraordinary. Their first major initiative was in 1984 when they launched the effort to win the approval of improvements of Highways 85, 237 and 101. The project funded by the Measure A half-cent sales tax proposal was completed ahead of schedule and under budget, and most importantly it was accountable to the people who passed it. The Manufacturing Group went on to spearhead other critical transportation measures in 1992, 1996, 2000 and 2002, all of which were successful, even after the law required a two-thirds voter approval.

With the outstanding leadership of Carl Guardino, the Manufacturing Group's President and CEO, annual forums are held to predict economic and infrastructure trends and the examination of what inhibits producing and keeping jobs in Silicon Valley.

Mr. Speaker, we are exceedingly proud of the work and the achievements of the Silicon Valley Manufacturing Group. The organization has been a catalyst for important change and because of its leadership, the quality of life and the vitality of businesses have been enhanced.

We ask our colleagues to join us in saluting the Silicon Valley Manufacturing Group on its

25th anniversary and the great achievements they have brought about, making Silicon Valley known and admired around the world and a source of pride to our entire nation.

HONORING JOHN CALVELLI

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 29, 2003

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure for me to announce that my former Administrative Assistant, John Calvelli, is turning 40. It is hard to believe that the lanky kid I met when 19 is now older than Jack Benny always claimed to be. I guess it makes me realize that I am that much older too, although I constantly remind John that he has more grey hair than me.

I won my first primary election for Congress on September 15, 1988, the day John turned 25. I told him that evening "John, we're going to Washington together" and indeed we did. During those first months in Washington, we would sometimes walk outside, gaze at the Capitol dome and say to each other, "Do you believe we're really here?" I think that at 25, John was the youngest AA on the hill, but he rapidly turned into one of the most effective and well-liked staffers in Washington. Everybody got to know John. Even as a young person, he had what we in New York call the best "gift of gab" I ever heard. He always had that little extra something. He served as my AA for more than 11 years, and our working relationship and friendship during that time could not have been better. In fact, I often refer to John as the kid brother I never had.

During the course of my Congressional terms, John and I would often develop strategy for legislation, committee assignments, and many other things essential to a successful congressional career. We traveled cross country and overseas many times. Our first trip was probably one of the most memorable. It came that first summer in 1989, when I visited the three "I's" of New York City politics, Israel, Italy and Ireland, as well as Egypt. We came back from that trip with a picture of the Pope, stories about Egyptian fruit, grape leaves and the "Kinjedom" down in Luxor. John's complete fluency in Italian made him a great person to travel with. In fact, whenever we met Italian-speaking tour groups, in the many different countries we visited, nobody would believe that John was from New York and not from Italy.

I want to tell John that now that he is 40, one of the age categories in my newsletter this year will read, age 40 to 56, and in honor of his birthday we will talk about "Quattro formaggi" in Italian, "Political Party" in English, and the 40-hour work week being sacrosanct. I know that John's family is as proud of him as I am. His wife Maria and son John Domenico, as well as his parents Rose and John, and brother and sister-in-law Louis and Angela all share in his happiness on this special day.

John continues to remain active with many Italian American organizations, including NIAF and FIERI, a group in which he was one of the founders. John and Maria were married ten years ago at Fordham University, John's alma mater. John is an attorney by trade but

since leaving my office he has been a Senior Vice President at the Wildlife Conservation Society also known as the Bronx Zoo. To this day in Washington I get many people asking me, how is John doing?

It is a pleasure to honor John as he turns 40, and whether his future lies in politics or elsewhere I am sure that the phrase "you ain't seen nothing yet" applies to my "kid brother" John Calvelli.

FULL FUNDING URGED FOR HELP AMERICA VOTE ACT

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 29, 2003

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize a tremendous turning point in our country's voting rights history. One year ago today, the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), which was overwhelmingly passed with bi-partisan support, became a federal law.

The 2000 elections proved to be frustrating for both candidates and voters alike. Sadly, it highlighted issues in our voting system that needed improvement. Thanks to the leadership of the bill's sponsor, my House Administration colleague, Chairman BOB NEY, and the support of former Ranking Member STENY HOYER, we now have the foundation for a much more efficient voting system.

During the past year, this foundation has indeed started to take shape. As a result of HAVA, a program has been established to pay states to replace their punch card and lever voting machines. Last month, my home state of Connecticut unveiled a pilot project with four different types of electronic voting machines that will be used in eight towns next week on Election Day. This is a remarkable advancement for Connecticut voters, who have been using lever voting machines almost exclusively for over 50 years.

What makes HAVA so notable is that it is not solely about financial support. It takes into account the entire voting experience before, during, and after citizens enter polling places. HAVA educates voters on voting procedures as well as on their rights; makes polling places more accessible to people with disabilities; creates statewide voter registration databases that can be more effectively managed and updated; improves ballot review procedures, allowing voters to ensure that the ballots they cast are accurate; and creates provisional balloting systems to guarantee that no eligible voter is ever turned away at the polls.

On Monday, the Senate Rules Committee held a hearing to confirm the four Election Assistance Commissioners nominated by President Bush, who are responsible for implementing HAVA. One of the four nominees, Garcia Hillman was recommended by Democratic Leader NANCY PELOSI, and I wholeheartedly support the Leader's selection. Garcia Hillman, has effectively handled both domestic and international issues. Her areas of expertise include nonprofit management, public policy and program development, political services, the interests and rights of women and minorities; citizen participation in the development of public policy and community affairs; and elections related issues, including voting rights.