

yesterday's Washington Post highlighting Secretary of State Clinton's disappointing start on human rights. In referencing some of her recent comments, the editorial rightly notes, "Ms. Clinton is doing a disservice to her own department—and sending a message to rulers around the world that their abuses won't be taken seriously by this U.S. administration." Secretary Clinton is sending the wrong message on human rights.

[From the Washington Post, Mar. 10, 2009]
SOME FRIENDS

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton continues to devalue and undermine the U.S. diplomatic tradition of human rights advocacy. On her first foreign trip, to Asia, she was dismissive about raising human rights concerns with China's communist government, saying "those issues can't interfere" with economic, security or environmental matters. In last week's visit to the Middle East and Europe, she undercut the State Department's own reporting regarding two problematic American allies: Egypt and Turkey.

According to State's latest report on Egypt, issued Feb. 25, "the government's respect for human rights remained poor" during 2008 "and serious abuses continued in many areas." It cited torture by security forces and a decline in freedom of the press, association and religion. Ms. Clinton was asked about those conclusions during an interview she gave to the al-Arabiya satellite network in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt. Her reply contained no expression of concern about the deteriorating situation. "We issue these reports on every country," she said. "We hope that it will be taken in the spirit in which it is offered, that we all have room for improvement."

Ms. Clinton was then asked whether there would be any connection between the report and a prospective invitation to President Hosni Mubarak to visit Washington. "It is not in any way connected," she replied, adding: "I really consider President and Mrs. Mubarak to be friends of my family. So I hope to see him often here in Egypt and in the United States." Ms. Clinton's words will be treasured by al-Qaeda recruiters and anti-American propagandists throughout the Middle East. She appears oblivious to how offensive such statements are to the millions of Egyptians who loathe Mr. Mubarak's oppressive government and blame the United States for propping it up.

The new secretary of state delivered a similar shock in Turkey to liberal supporters of press freedom, now under siege by the government of Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan. According to the State Department report, "senior government officials, including Prime Minister Erdogan, made statements during the year strongly criticizing the press and media business figures, particularly following the publishing of reports on alleged corruption . . . connected to the ruling party." That was an understatement: In fact, Mr. Erdogan's government has mounted an ugly campaign against one of Turkey's largest media conglomerates, presenting it with a \$500 million tax bill in a maneuver that has been compared to Russia's treatment of independent media.

Ms. Clinton was asked by a Turkish journalist what she told Mr. Erdogan when he complained about the State Department report. She answered: "Well, my reaction was that we put out this report every year, and I fully understand . . . no politician ever likes the press criticizing them." "Overall," she concluded, "we think that Turkey has made tremendous progress in freedom of speech and freedom of religion and human rights, and we're proud of that."

In fact, as the State Department has documented, Turkey is retreating on freedom of speech. In Egypt, the human rights situation also is getting worse rather than better. By minimizing those facts, Ms. Clinton is doing a disservice to her own department—and sending a message to rulers around the world that their abuses won't be taken seriously by this U.S. administration.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. THOMAS J. ROONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Mr. ROONEY. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 115, I was on the floor and voting, but due to mechanical error, my vote was not recorded. I would have voted "yes."

MARY ELLEN ROZZELL

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mary Ellen Rozzell, former President of the National Association of Professional Surplus Lines Offices (NAPSLO), who passed away unexpectedly on March 3, 2009, while attending a NAPSLO conference in Palm Springs, California.

Mary Ellen was a respected, beloved leader. The President of Continental/Marmorstein & Malone Insurance Agency in Paramus, New Jersey, she began working in the insurance business with the Marmorstein Agency some forty years ago. Mary Ellen served as President of New Jersey Surplus Lines Association (NJSLA) from 1989–1990, and was named as NJSLA honoree of the year in 1992 due to her outstanding contribution to the New Jersey Surplus Lines Industry. She also served on the New Jersey Insurance Commissioner's Producer Advisory Council, and with the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation.

Her warmth, openness, honesty and good nature made everyone who met her feel immediately comfortable. These qualities served her very well in life, with family and friends, and in her remarkable career where she rose through the ranks with hard work and honesty. She was always prepared for the trials of life and business and the often difficult decisions required by both. She embraced responsibility, expected accountability and never failed those who depended on her.

All who knew her benefited by her example.

Her family has established the Mary Ellen Rozzell Foundation for AVM Research so that friends and colleagues might contribute to arteriovenous malformation research in Mary Ellen's name.

I extend my sympathy to her family and those close to her. She will be missed greatly by everyone she touched.

TRIBUTE TO LLOYD SMITH

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Mrs. EMERSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and thank my Chief of Staff, Lloyd Smith, for 28 years of service to the Emerson family and to the Eighth Congressional District. Since 1981, Lloyd has served the people of Southern Missouri and the institution of Congress. In the political landscape of our state, he is a fixture. His name is inseparable from the term of service first of my late husband Bill Emerson in Congress from 1981 to 1996 and then, from 1996 until now.

Lloyd has left the ranks of my staff from time to time in order to give others the benefit of his policy experience and political know-how. Those lucky to enlist him have never been the worse for it.

To my staff, Lloyd is their leader. He inspires them, rallies them, guides them and motivates them. He brings out the best in them, and though he shares in all of their successes he freely gives them all of the credit.

Though he is important to many people for many reasons, to me Lloyd is also a great and dear friend. I have long valued Lloyd's strategic mind, his intellect and his insight—which truly drive our congressional office. Lloyd thinks in terms of big ideas, but he never neglects the details. This combination of brave creativity and studious diligence is rare, and the easy smile and gentle charm of this man from East Prairie, Missouri, belies the depth of his dedication to the office.

And in thanking Lloyd for his years of service, I must also express my deepest gratitude to his wonderful wife, Marlys, and his three amazing children, Trista, Sam and Tiffany. They have made sacrifices, too, so their husband and father could work the long, stressful hours this job demands. They also share the credit for Lloyd's ability to stay positive and optimistic, week after week, year after year, decade after decade.

As he moves on to new challenges, I wish Lloyd the very best of luck. I cannot quantify the immense debt owed to him by Missouri's Eighth Congressional District, by this nation, and by me for his faithful service. I commend him to the U.S. House of Representatives today, and I thank him for his friendship always.

COMMENDING THE OUTSTANDING WOMEN OF SOMERSET COUNTY

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Mr. LANCE. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of National Women's History Month, and I would like to congratulate a number of outstanding women who will be recognized at the Somerset County's Commission on the Status of Women awards in New Jersey's Seventh Congressional District.

The Commission presents awards annually in celebration of National Women's History Month in March. This year there are 17