

Mr. Chairman, here are just a few of the suggestions to the commission that have already been reported to the press: the RUC must recruit more Catholics. The RUC must become a more representative police force of its community. And the RUC must protect all residents of Northern Ireland, both Nationalist and Unionists.

Mr. Chairman, I am not saying that we do not have problems with our own police forces here in the U.S. In fact, I encourage every police department, including those in my own city, New York, to take advantage of the FBI's resources and skills this fine law enforcement agency has to offer.

Mr. Chairman, what my amendment does say is that training programs with the FBI should be for legitimate police forces. The RUC is certainly, in my opinion, not a legitimate police force for Northern Ireland.

Mr. Chairman, I am looking forward to the publishing of the report from the Patten commission and ways to bring about a new police force in Northern Ireland, a force that represents the whole population and reflects the makeup of a diverse society.

Until that time, I do not believe that the RUC should be allowed to train with America's best and brightest in blue.

Let us move the peace process forward. Let us support fair representation of policing in the north of Ireland. Support an amendment endorsed by the Irish National Caucus and Irish-Americans from all around.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time in opposition to the amendment even though I support the amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, let me just say, first of all, I want to commend the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) and thank my good friend for offering this amendment. It is modeled after section 408 of my bill, which passed the House two weeks ago, the American Embassy Security Act and State Department bill, H.R. 2415.

Section 408 of my bill, which the gentleman from New York (Mr. KING) and I proposed as an amendment during the markup, seeks "to end the intimidation of defense attorneys in Northern Ireland and to secure impartial investigations of the murders of two heroic defense attorneys, Rosemary Nelson and Patrick Finnuccane."

To accomplish this, we proposed cutting off U.S.-sponsored exchange and training programs between the FBI and the RUC until the President certifies that the Northern Irish police force,

known as the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC), has cleaned up its act.

The gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) deserves credit for his efforts to raise this issue today in a way that hopefully will push the ball forward.

Let me just point out to my colleagues, Rosemary Nelson appeared before the Committee on International Operations and Human Resources on September 29, 1998 and gave riveting and chilling testimony as to how the RUC had intimidated her, had roughed her up, and then made death threats against her. She said that in open hearing. All those at the hearing listened to her with rapt attention—both the Members that were there and those interested citizens in attendance. She pointed out that while she feared for her life at the hands of the RUC, she was, nevertheless, totally committed to pursuing her human rights work in the north of Ireland. She was inspiring, courageous and smart.

Then, in an act of cowardly terrorism, she was assassinated by a car bomb. Astonishingly, the British Government had the audacity and insensitivity, to put the very people, the RUC, in charge of the investigation. And then they proceeded to use a minimal FBI presence as cover.

So we checked into it. It turned out the FBI had a very superficial role—a role used by the RUC for public relations purposes and, thankfully, none of us on either side of the aisle were deceived by it.

Secretary Mo Moland met with members of our Committee and immediately launched into how the FBI was on the job. I, for one was overwhelmed and unimpressed. So our amendment seeks to suspend a collaboration used to cover up possible complicity and collusion. And to get serious about honest policies. So until we get a transparent, honest investigation into both Pat Finnuccane and Rosemary Nelson and real tangible protections for defense attorneys, it would be unseemingly and unethical for us to continue that collaboration between the RUC and the FBI.

I yield back the balance of my time

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Chairman, I just want to associate myself with the proposal of the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH).

Our committee conducted extensive hearings on the RUC problems. We have submitted that report to the British Government. We are hoping that they are going to reform the RUC. But until such time as they do, I would join with the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) in asking that we stop assisting the RUC and training them by the FBI.

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I yield to the gentleman from Kentucky.

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the interest of the gentleman in this issue, obviously.

It is my understanding that the matter is being addressed in the State Department authorization bill, which recently passed the House. I hope that we can continue to allow the authorizers to address this issue and would hope that the gentleman, in that light, could withdraw his amendment at this time.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the comments of the chairman. And I recognize the considerable gains made in the State Department authorization bill.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw my amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

The CHAIRMAN. The amendment offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) is withdrawn.

The CHAIRMAN. The Committee will rise informally.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HANSEN) assumed the chair.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Sherman Williams, one of his secretaries.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Committee will resume its sitting.

DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE, JUSTICE, STATE, THE JUDICIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

The Committee resumed its sitting.

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAZIO).

Mr. LAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the distinguished gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I want to address to the chairman, as a father of two young daughters, on June 7 of this year, Mr. Chairman, the House overwhelmingly passed my bill, H.R. 1915, known as Jennifer's Law.

The bill was inspired by the disappearance in 1993 of a young Long Island woman named Jennifer Wilmer, who is still missing.

The bill would provide \$2 million for grants to States to collect and input information on unidentified victims in a national database to assist in the location of missing persons, providing law enforcement officials with the tools to identify missing persons reported as unidentified and so as to close many unsolved cases.