

ADLER PLANETARIUM AND THE
MARS MILLENNIUM PROJECT**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to recognize one of Chicago's premier institutions, the Adler Planetarium and Astronomy Museum, as they kick-off their contribution to the Mars Millennium Project and celebrate the grand reopening of their landmark building on October 1st.

Located on Chicago's beautiful lakefront, the Adler was founded in 1930 by Max Adler "to be the foremost institution for the interpretation of the exploration of the Universe to the broadest possible audience." To help fulfill this mission, the Adler has become actively involved in the Mars Millennium Project using its StarRider™ Theater Mars Millennium Show as the centerpiece of their contribution.

The Mars Millennium Project is an official White House Millennium Council Youth Initiative, challenging students across the nation to design a community yet-to-be-imagined—for the planet Mars. This national arts, sciences and technology education initiative is guided by the U.S. Department of Education, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and its Jet Propulsion Lab, the National Endowment for the Arts, the J. Paul Getty and others.

The world's first StarRider™ Theater is a 3D interactive virtual reality experience, which will transport visitors on a voyage to Mars and allows the audience to participate in developing a viable Martian colony. The audience flies over Mars, picks a place for their colony and then designs the architecture, cultural icons and symbols that will make the colony unique.

The Adler is working with the Illinois State Board of Education and the Chicago Public Schools Teachers Academy for Professional Development to involve classrooms from across Illinois in the Mars Millennium Project. Throughout the project year, teachers will engage their students in project-based learning opportunities that will result in the development of student-created Mars colonies and Web pages.

Mr. Speaker, as we move into the Millennium it is important to engage the public in science and technology. The Adler's work with the Mars Millennium Program through the StarRider™ Theater and the reopening of their historic dome marks the advent of new era for the Adler Planetarium and Astronomy Museum.

CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
ADVOCACY**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, for the past decade, the Center for Human Rights Advocacy (CHRA), a public interest law firm

based in my congressional district, has been monitoring and analyzing social, economic, political, and ethnic problems and anti-Semitic activities in Russia and the former Soviet Union. The organization's President and Chief Counsel, Mr. William Cohen, is frequently called upon in the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom to provide expert information and testimony pertaining to human rights and anti-Semitism in Russia and the former Soviet Union. Mr. Cohen also serves on the board of the executive committee of the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews.

The primary focus of Mr. Cohen's advocacy "is to make sure the doors remain open for Jews and all persecuted minorities." His recent report, "The Escalation of Anti-Semitic Violence in Russia," demonstrates the level of danger facing Russian Jews in light of the increased frequency of anti-Semitic activity.

The report documents the chronology of the latest anti-Semitic events in Russia and the former Soviet Union. Much of this information has never been reported in the media. Mr. Cohen has gleaned most of this information from clients seeking asylum or refugee status.

Following is the summary of Mr. Cohen's report. I urge my colleagues to contact my office or the Center for Human Rights Advocacy in Boulder, Colorado, for a copy of the full report.

THE ESCALATION OF ANTI-SEMITIC VIOLENCE
IN RUSSIA

(By William M. Cohen)

I. SUMMARY: ANTI-SEMITISM AND PERSECUTION
OF JEWS IN RUSSIA HAS DRAMATICALLY AC-
CELERATED.

The Center for Human Rights Advocacy (CHRA) has been monitoring and analyzing social, economic, political, ethnic and anti-Semitism developments in Russia and the former Soviet Union (FSU) since its inception in early 1991. In addition, because of the persistent evidence and reports of anti-Semitism in Russia, the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews (UCSJ), on which the author serves as a member of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors, has steadily increased its monitoring and reporting on human rights and anti-Semitism in Russia. In cooperation with the Moscow Helsinki Group, and aided by a grant from the United States Agency for International Development, trained monitors located throughout Russia now regularly report to UCSJ and CHRA on this growing phenomenon.

The persistent pattern of anti-Semitism and the pernicious practice of persecution of Jews in Russia was identified and summarized by CHRA in March of 1996:

"This phenomenon [i.e., steadily growing anti-Semitism is an atmosphere of economic hardship following the breakup of the FSU] is exploited by politicians and elected officials for political gain. It is manifested by acts of discrimination, insults, threats, and violence against Jews, Jewish property, and Jewish institutions. It is aimed, in substantial part, at driving Jews out of Russia to make room for Russians in a time of scarcity, economic distress, and political instability arising out of the destruction of the Soviet Empire. Moreover, it is clear that there now exists no Russian governmental agency able or willing to protect Jews from persecution because of their nationality or religion. The absence of any meaningful deterrent to such conduct plus the permission given to anti-Semites by leading politicians and elected officials to engage in such con-

duct encourages those who would persecute Jews to do so with impunity.

Since the economic crisis and the collapse of the ruble which struck Russian in August 1998, anti-Semitic expressions by leading politicians and elected officials, aimed at demonizing and scapegoating Jews, and, ultimately, at driving them out of Russia, have dramatically accelerated. This increase in anti-Semitic rhetoric has been accompanied by a concurrent increase in the number of violent acts targeting Jews, Jewish property, and Jewish institutions. Such violence is now frequent and widespread throughout the vast number of Russia's regions as well as in the major city centers of Moscow, St. Petersburg, and Nizhny Novgorod, the location of the three largest population of Jews in Russia.

The frequency and ferocity of the various anti-Semitic violent acts appears to be accelerating. At the same time, the governmental institutions upon which Jews and other targeted minorities must rely for protection against extremist violence are either unable or unwilling to effectively provide that protection.

In addition, during the political and economic crises which continue today in Russia following the August 1998 collapse, militantly anti-Semitic groups, such as Russian National Unity (RNU), have grown in size and popularity. Sensing both the impotence and indifference of law enforcement agencies, these groups have increased the openness of their anti-Semitic expressions with little or no effective action by government authorities to deter them. Under these circumstances, Jews in Russia continue to be vulnerable to anti-Semitic discrimination, violence, and persecution without any effective recourse to the Russian government at any level for protection against such prejudicial treatment.

Indeed, the risk to Jews in Russia today is greater than at any time since the breakup of the Soviet Union. The Russian government has so far demonstrated that it is both unwilling and unable to deter growing anti-Semitic violence against its steadily diminishing Jewish population. Hence, those aimed at driving Jews out of Russia, punishing them because of hatred of Jews, and scapegoating Jews for a variety of political ends can generally do so with impunity.

Faced with escalating anti-Semitic violence combined with indifference to these attacks by the general Russian populace, political exploitation of the phenomenon and government impotence to protect them, the Jewish community has resorted to funding its own security for Jewish institutions and turned to Western governments and non-governmental human rights organizations for help. Increasingly more Jews are also leaving Russia and the FSU permanently for Israel, the United States and other countries where they will be free from persecution because of their Jewish religion and nationality.

Absent a dramatic change in the economic, social and political climate in Russia, it is highly unlikely that the current atmosphere of openly and violently expressed anti-Semitism will diminish any time soon. To the contrary, the escalating incidents combined with government silence and ineffective law enforcement, indicate that Jews are at great risk in Russia today and for the foreseeable future.

This Report will first document the chronology of recent anti-Semitic events which demonstrate both the increased frequency and level of danger which accompanies them

as well as the Russian Jewish Community's reaction. Next it catalogues the Western governmental and non-governmental organizations (NGO)'s response to this growing problem. Finally, it outlines the less than adequate, largely rhetorical response by the Russian Government to this problem.

HONORING PEGGY BRAVERMAN

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, the Bronx is losing one of its most distinguished public servants and a woman who has done more for her borough and her community than we can ever thank her for. Peggy Braverman is retiring after more than 15 years as Deputy County Clerk for the Bronx where she oversaw a staff or more than 80 people as they helped residents secure business certificates, passports, and other significant documents while answering questions about jury duty and other matters.

She was always active in her community and the political arena. She was an administrative assistant in the Bronx Borough President's office from 1979 to 1985 and before that she served as an administrative assistant for then Councilman, now Assemblyman Stephen Kaufman. She was also Democratic District Leader for the 81st Assembly District.

At least as extensive was her work in the voluntary area. She was an active member of the Educational Jewish Center, the Morris Park Community Association, the Allerton Avenue Homeowners Association and the 49th Precinct Community Council. She also served as President of the PTA of Christopher Columbus High School and Vice President of JHS 135. She was also a scout leader.

Peggy Braverman is that rare person who serves her neighborhood and her fellow citizens in so many capacities, someone, who by their service, does so much to make government work and the community prosper. The people of the Bronx will miss her in government; let us hope we can keep her helping in the community. I want to join her legion of friends and admirers in wishing her in retirement what she has learned—the very best from life.

TRIBUTE TO DR. KENNETH MAURICE MATCHETT, JR.—A GREAT AMERICAN AND FRIEND

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to ask that we pause for a moment in honor of one of the finest people that I have ever had the pleasure of knowing. Dr. Kenneth Matchett, Jr. was a dedicated family man, a hard working physician and a model American. He gave selflessly to provide for his family and to help his community. Tragically, Ken died in a horse riding accident while competing in Phoenix, Arizona.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

After graduating from Stanford with a degree in Biochemistry in 1963, he attended Cornell Medical College. There he was elected to Alpha Omega Alpha, the medical honorary society. It was not long until he realized his true passion, Internal Medicine. During 1967–1972, he completed his residency in Internal Medicine and a fellowship in Hematology/Oncology at Duke University. Soon after that he returned to his hometown of Grand Junction, Colorado, where he set up his own practice.

In addition to working tirelessly in his practice, he also maintained an active role in Saint Mary's Hospital. There Ken served as President of the Medical Staff and as a member of the Board of Directors. As if these accolades are not enough, he also went on to found the Oncology Unit for the care of cancer patients at Saint Mary's Hospital. The fine Doctor had a special reassuring warmth with his patients.

Ken is survived by his wife Sally, their three daughters, Nancy Jean, Sarah Mary and Emily Ruth, three sons-in-law and two grandchildren. His family was precious to him.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I pay tribute to the life of Ken Matchett. I wish that everyone could have had the pleasure of knowing this man. He was a great American and a friend of many.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE SURESH KWATRA

HON. JACK QUINN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, before the first session of the 106th Congress adjourns, I want to pay tribute to Mr. Suresh Kwatra, a dedicated 25-year career employee of the United States Department of Veterans' Affairs, who died unexpectedly on June 21, 1999.

Mr. Kwatra was indeed an inspiring individual. He was an accounting graduate of Delhi University. He immigrated to the United States from his native India in 1969 and served in the United States Army during the Vietnam conflict, shortly after gaining his American citizenship.

Mr. Kwatra began his career with the former Veterans Administration in 1974. He served as a veterans benefits counselor, strategic planner with VA's national cemetery system, and statistician and analyst in the Office of VA's Assistant Secretary for Policy and Planning. Because of his exceptional initiative and professionalism, the Congressional Veterans' Claims and Adjudication Commission selected Mr. Kwatra to be an analyst and project manager. In my role as chairman of the Subcommittee on Benefits, Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I have read his insightful analysis in the commission's report.

Mr. Speaker, Suresh Kwatra came to America, served proudly and honorably in our military, and then committed his life to serving fellow veterans for a quarter of a century. To Suresh's former co-workers, members of his church and community, his wife of 25 years Shoba, and sons Sameer and Naveen, I say that Suresh Kwatra was more than an inspiring individual, indeed he was an American hero.

November 19, 1999

HISTORIC ENCOUNTER BETWEEN
SAN JUAN PUEBLO AND SPAIN

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, on October 31, 1999, the headline of the Sunday Journal North edition of the Albuquerque Journal read: "Pueblos, Spain Forging Ties." That headline and the accompanying article recognized ground-breaking events whose importance extends beyond the Third Congressional District of New Mexico. Events that are living proof that centuries-old wounds to the dignity of our Native American communities, particularly our New Mexico Indian Pueblos, can be healed through good will on the parts of the leaders of those Pueblos and the government involved. In this case, that government is the government of Spain.

Students of American history know that four and a half centuries ago our American Southwest was explored by the government of Spain, which eventually led to Spanish settlement there four centuries ago. Those 1598 Spanish colonists led by Don Juan de Oñate did not find themselves alone: they settled in the midst of Indian Pueblos that had been thriving, vital established communities since time immemorial.

The relationship between the Spanish settlers and the original Pueblo Indian inhabitants were filled with conflict and occasional violence. Through it all, the Pueblo Indian communities, including the Pueblo of San Juan where Juan de Oñate established the first Spanish capitol of New Mexico, struggled endured and held on to their culture, their traditions and even their internal government.

On April 3, 1998, acting on behalf of the 19 Indian Pueblos that comprise the All Indian Pueblo Council of New Mexico, San Juan Pueblo Governor Earl N. Salazar became the first tribal official in the history of New Mexico and the United States to invite an official representative of the Government of Spain, its Vice President Francisco Alvarez-Cascos, to visit San Juan Pueblo in commemoration of the four-hundredth anniversary of the permanent meeting of the two cultures. That invitation was made because in the view of the San Juan Tribal Council after four hundred years, reconciliation and healing were important. In the words of one San Juan Pueblo spiritual leader, "It was not right to teach our children to hate." What an incredible and brave statement that was!

As a result of Governor Salazar's invitation, on April 26, 1998, the Governors of New Mexico's 19 Pueblos, led by this remarkable young man, Governor Salazar, met with Vice President Alvarez-Cascos and Antonio Oyarzabal, Spanish Ambassador to the United States. The meeting was also attended by many of New Mexico's state and local government dignitaries. At that meeting, Governor Salazar reflected: "Today is a historical day for all of us because for the first time since that contact at Oke Oweingeh four hundred years ago, we, the descendants of our respective peoples and nations, are meeting to reflect upon the past and present, and together chart a new