

May 11, 1999

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Gordon Murchie, Virginia Wine Industry Person of the Year. I applaud the invaluable contributions he has made to the American wine industry. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Gordon Murchie many more years of success.

TRIBUTE TO STEVEN JAY FOGEL

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 1999

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Steven J. Fogel, for his contributions to the Jewish community.

The Talmud states, "He who does charity and justice is as if he had filled the whole world with kindness." Stephen S. Wise Temple has recognized Steven for his many accomplishments in the Jewish community. I commend Steven for selflessly devoting his time and his efforts. He helps enrich us with his zeal for life and his determination to better our community.

Aside from his achievements as president of Stephen S. Wise, Steven has made his mark in other aspects. He worked his way through college as a professional photographer, first at USC and then as a graduate student at the Anderson School of Business at UCLA.

In 1967, he co-founded Westwood Financial Corp., which owns and operates over 125 shopping centers. In addition to writing three published books, Steven is a self-taught artist, with over fifty portraits in private collections.

Along with his devoted service to the community, Steven and his wife, Darlene, have maintained an unwavering commitment to their family. They have raised their four children in a Jewish home which is compassionate, accepting, moral and intellectually alive.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, please join me in honoring Steven J. Fogel for his past, present, and future achievements for both the Jewish community and the community at large.

KOSOVO AND SOUTHWEST ASIA
EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. RONNIE SHOWS

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1664) making emergency supplemental appropriations for military operations, refugee relief, and humanitarian assistance relating to the conflict in Kosovo, and for military operations in Southwest Asia for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes:

Mr. SHOWS. Mr. Chairman, today I stand before my colleagues and the American people to discuss the American Farmer. I stand before you to urge quick and complete pas-

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

sage of the emergency supplemental bill for America's farm families.

My district, in Mississippi, is largely supported by agriculture. Family farmers, and might I add I was once a farmer, are our neighbors, friends, and community leaders. They provide a foundation of sound American values and a strong work ethic to communities all across our nation. When you get right down to it, they are good people who work real hard to make a living and raise their families.

There's more, much more, to say about our farmers, though. The American family farmer is the most successful and efficient farmer in the world. Our agricultural industry feeds and clothes more people than any other system of agriculture on the planet. The American farmer is one of America's greatest success stories. They have excelled through the best and worst of times.

Our farmers fed a hungry nation during the Great Depression, sustained our great army during World War II. And, when the soldiers came home, our farmers went to work with new and dynamic technologies and machinery. They have helped feed, clothe, fuel, and grow our economy without ever looking back.

We can not turn our backs on our farmers when they need our help. We can not afford to.

Our farmers and ranchers are feeling financial and emotional stress. Prices of commodities have been spiraling downward over the past year. Many of our farm families have seen prices for their hard work hit decade lows over the recent months. We must act now to support our American farm families. And, we can not allow nonfarm related issues cloud the language of the serious request.

It has been 2 months since the supplemental spending request was submitted to Congress seeking emergency assistance to our farmers. Two months . . . It is now time for farmers to plant their crops and no action has been taken to get this crucial money to the farm community. The money is sorely needed. USDA loan funds are running dry as the farm crisis has created four times the normal demand for farm loan programs.

I can not attempt to describe how important this money is to farm families across Mississippi and, indeed, across America.

Since this supplemental spending request was made, over 8,000 applications for loans from farmers have been received. The American people must understand how important . . . how crucial the need is out there for our farmers. This isn't play money. Farmers need money to farm.

Let's pass this legislation and support our farm families today. Let's support our farmers because they support us everyday.

9215

ADDRESS OF LENNY BEN-DAVID,
DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSION AT
THE EMBASSY OF ISRAEL, AT
THE NATIONAL CIVIC COMMEMORATION
OF THE DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 1999

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, April 13, Members of Congress joined with representatives of the diplomatic corps, executive and judicial branch officials, and Holocaust survivors and their families to commemorate the National Days of Remembrance in the Rotunda of the United States Capitol.

The ceremony coincided with the 60th anniversary of the voyage of the SS *St. Louis*, which set sail from Germany in April 1939, carrying more than 900 Jews away from Nazi terror. Denied entry to both Cuba and the United States, the *St. Louis* was forced to send its frightened passengers back to Europe just months before the onset of World War II. Many of them were eventually murdered in Auschwitz, Treblinka, and other death camps of Hitler's Holocaust.

While we cannot rectify the wrongs of generations ago, we can apply the lesson of the *St. Louis* to the crises of today. In the Europe of 1999, innocent civilians are once again being deported, abused, raped and murdered. While the scale of Serbian atrocities in Kosovo does not approach the enormity of the Holocaust, the precedent that would be set by ignoring this ethnic cleansing cannot be tolerated.

Lenny Ben-David, the Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of Israel, reminded us of our moral responsibility at the Days of Remembrance ceremony. He quoted the sage advice of the late Rabbi Yosef Dov Soloveitchik: "The function of the halachic (righteous) man is to redress the grievances of those who are abandoned and alone, to protect the dignity of the poor and to save the oppressed from his oppressor." Mr. Speaker, this is true now more than ever.

Lenny Ben-David was appointed Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of Israel by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in 1997. Prior to this appointment, Mr. Ben-David served as an independent consultant on public and political affairs. He held senior posts in the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) for 25 years, opening and directing AIPAC's office in Israel for almost 15 years. Mr. Ben-David is a graduate of Yeshiva University in New York. He received a Masters degree in Political Science from the American University in Washington, D.C. He and his wife, Rochelle Black, have six children.

Mr. Speaker, I submit the full text of Mr. Ben-David's address at the Days of Remembrance ceremony to be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE PROGRAM, U.S.

CAPITOL ROTUNDA, APRIL 13, 1999

(Remarks by Lenny Ben-David, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Israel)

Ever since I heard of today's theme (The S.S. *St. Louis*), I have been obsessed with the thoughts of ships.

First, the St. Louis, with more than 900 Jews, including children. We are told that little children on board played a game: they formed a barricade from the deck chairs. Two children served as guards and other children sought permission to pass.

"Are you a Jew?" asked the child guard.

"Yes," was the other child's reply.

"Jews are not allowed to pass," the guard responded.

"Oh please let me in. I am only a very little Jew."

Little or big, Jews on that ship never disembarked in Cuba or America.

A few years later, another ship was fitted up in the Baltimore harbor. Ultimately it became known as the Exodus. Loaded with 4,500 survivors, this boat could not deliver its human cargo to the shores of Eretz Yisrael in 1947. Like the passengers on the St. Louis, they too were forced to return to the countries from which they had fled. Thank God, for their sake, the Nazis had been defeated, but anti-Semitism was not. Jews could still not disembark from a sinking ghost ship called Europe. Pogroms were still taking place.

Finally in May 1948, safe haven was secured when Israel was founded.

I am reminded of another boat. Some 30 years later, another ship full of refugees was floundering in the China Sea. Vietnamese refugees, starving and thirsty, they were picked up by an Israeli ship. In his first official act in office, Prime Minister Menachem Begin ordered that they be given haven in Israel.

And other ships come to mind: Small boats smuggling the precious cargo of Jews from North Africa. Some never made it. Missile boats of the Israeli Navy quietly sailing up to the shores of Africa in the dead of night to take the Jews of Ethiopia home, a journey of hundreds of miles and hundreds of years of culture. Later, the air ships would fly the Ethiopians to Israel by the thousands as they did their Yemenite brothers and sisters 40 years earlier.

Today, the ships of the air continue to fly, loaded with Jews from Moscow and Minsk, Bucharest and Bukhara, Kiev and St. Petersburg. In recent weeks, they have been arriving from Belgrade and Kosovo, too. As Israel has been a haven to Jews, so it has also been, in its small way, a haven to Moslem refugees from Bosnia and Kosovo.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am reminded of one other boat. The ship's log is found in the Tanach, the Jewish Bible, "The Lord then hurled a furious wind upon the sea; there was a heavy storm at sea, and the ship was about to be broken up. The sailors were frightened, each cried to his own god and they threw overboard the cargo that was in the ship in order to lighten it; but Jonah had gone down below deck and was lying fast asleep." Later, when they cast lots, and the lot fell upon Jonah, the ship's crew turned to Jonah and asked, "What have you done? They knew that Jonah was running away from the Lord's presence."

Friends, Jonah could not run away from his duties, and he realized after experiencing the dark and dank belly of the great fish, that you could try to run from your responsibilities even to the depths of the ocean, but you cannot hide. That is why the book of Jonah is traditionally read in synagogues on Yom Kippur.

The late contemporary sage, Rabbi Yosef Dov Soloveitchik, would quote his grandfather, Rabbi Chaim of Brisk: "The function of the halachic (righteous) man is to redress the grievances of those who are abandoned

and alone, to protect the dignity of the poor and to save the oppressed from the hands of his oppressor."

Yes, that is how we can and must avoid the moral shipwreck caused by apathy and indifference, and bring humankind to safe port. Thank you.

BENJAMIN MEED SPEECH ON THE DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 1999

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I would like to share with my colleagues the remarks of Mr. Benjamin Meed who recently gave an exceptionally moving speech about Yom Hashoah, The Days of Remembrance, at Congregation Emanu-El in my district in New York City. Mr. Meed is Chairman of both The Warsaw Ghetto Resistance Organization (WAGRO) and The Days of Remembrance Committee, United States Holocaust Memorial Council. He is also the President of the American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors. Mr. Meed is a champion of humanitarian causes around the world.

TRIBUTE TO THE SIX MILLION JEWISH MARTYRS—56TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WARSAW GHETTO UPRISING

Today, Jews gather to pay tribute to the memory of our Six Million brothers and sisters murdered only because they were Jewish; We gather to honor the fighters of the Warsaw Ghetto; to grieve; and to continue asking the questions: Why did it happen? How could the civilized world allow it to happen? Why were we so abandoned? Six million times, why?

This year's national Days of Remembrance theme is dedicated to the voyage of the SS St. Louis. It is a story of refuge denied; it is a tale of international abandonment and betrayal. Why were they refused entry into this country? How can we ever understand why this was allowed to happen? Today, it is inconceivable to us just how that ship in those days was turned away.

Today 54 years ago the American soldiers came across Nazi Germany slave labor camps and liberated Buchenwald and saved many of us who are here present today. Our gratitude will remain with us forever. We will always remain grateful to these soldiers for their kindness and generosity, and we will always remember those young soldiers who sacrificed their lives to bring us liberty.

Today, wherever Jews live—from Antwerp to Melbourne, from Jerusalem to Buenos Aires, from New York to Budapest—we come together to remember to say Kadish collectively.

Remembering the Holocaust is now a part of the Jewish calendar. We are together in our dedication to Memory and our aspiration for peace and brotherhood. Yom Hashoah, the Days of Remembrance, time to collectively bear witness as a community.

And what lessons did we derive from these horrible experiences? The most important lesson is obvious—it can happen again the impossible is possible again. Ethnic cleansing, genocide, is happening as I speak. It can happen to any one or any group of people. The slaughter in Kosovo and in other places must be brought to an end.

Should there be another Holocaust, it may be on a cosmic scale. How can we prevent it? All of us must remain vigilant—always aware, always on guard against those who are determined to destroy innocent human life for no other reason than birthright.

It is vital that we remember; it is our commitment to those who perished, and to each other; a commitment taken up by our children and, hopefully, by the generations to come. What we remember is gruesome and painful. But remember we must. Over the years, we have tried to make certain that what happened to us was communicated and continues to be told, and retold, until it becomes an inseparable part of the world's conscience.

And yet, some fifty years after the Holocaust, we continue to be repulsed by revelations about the enormity of the crimes against our people. And we are shocked to learn of the behavior of those who could have helped us, or at least, not hurt us, but who, instead, actually helped those whose goal was to wipe us out. Sadly, many of those who claimed they were neutral were actually involved with the German Nazis. They were anything but not neutral.

The world has now learned that the Holocaust was not only the greatest murder of humanity, the greatest crime against humanity, but also the greatest robbery in the history of mankind. Driven from our homes, stripped of family heirlooms—indeed of all our possessions—the German Nazis and their collaborators took anything that was or could be of value for recycling. They stole from the living and even defiled the Jewish dead, tearing out gold fillings and cutting off fingers to recover wedding bands from our loved ones who they had murdered.

But the German Nazis did not—could not—do it alone. The same people who now offer reasonable sounding justifications for their conduct during the Holocaust were, in those darkest of times, more than eager to profit from the German war against the Jews.

None of the so-called "neutral" nations has fully assumed responsibility for its conduct during the Holocaust. The bankers, brokers, and business people who helped Nazi Germany now offer some money to survivors, but they say little about their collaboration. They utter not a word about how they sent fleeing Jews back to the German Nazi's machinery of destruction, nor about how they supported the Nazis in other ways—no admission of guilt; no regret; no expression of moral responsibility.

We must guard against dangerous, unintended consequences arising from all that is going on now. Hopefully, family properties and other valuables will be returned to their rightful owners. But the blinding glitter of gold—the unrealistic expectations created by all the international publicity—has diverted attention from the evil which was the Holocaust.

For five decades, we survivors vowed that what happened to our loved ones would be remembered and that our experiences would serve as a warning to future generations. We must continue to make sure that the images of gold bars wrapped in yellow Stars of David do not overshadow the impressions of a mother protecting her daughter with her coat, upon which a Star of David is sewn, or of a young boy desperately clutching his father's hand at Auschwitz/Birkenau before entering the gas chambers.

The search for lost and stolen Jewish-owned assets has generated enormous publicity and excitement, but it also has created serious concerns. Gold, bank accounts, insurance policies and other assets have become