But I turn not away from their smiles nor their tears—Both parts of an infinite plan.

Let me live in my house by the side of the road, And be a friend to man.

I know there are brook-gladdenied meadows ahead, And mountains of weartsyme height,

That the road passes on through the long afternoon, And stretches away to the night.

But still I rejoice when the travelers rejoice, And week with the strangers that moan, Nor live by the side of the road, Like a man who dwells alone.

Let me live in my house by the side of the road, Where the race of men go by—

They are good, they are bad, they are weak, they are strong, they are Wise, foolish—so am I.

Then why should I sit in the scorner's seat, Or hurl the cynic's ban?

Let me live in my house by the side of the road, And be a friend to man.

Sam Walter Foss.

OSCAR CROSS BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF PADUCAH, Paducah, KY, May 17, 1999

DEAR CONGRESSMAN WHITFIELD, I am enclosing a letter of Oscar Cross, the founder of the Oscar Cross Boys & Girls Club of Paducah, who was killed in an automobile accident on Tuesday, April 30, 1999. The Paducah community and untold numbers of men and women across the nation owe a huge debt to Mr. Cross for the countless acts of unconditional love and service to mankind he performed while living.

For several years, Mr. Cross worked as a janitor at the courthouse in Paducah, and the courthouse became the initial meeting place for the newly organized Jr. Legion Boys Club formed by Mr. Cross and a few local young men in 1950. In 1953, the organization united with the Boys Clubs of America. It was the first African-American club and is the second oldest Boys & Girls Club in Kentucky. The dream of operating a safe, drug-free environment for kids became a reality for Mr. Cross after many days and nights of soul-searching, praying and rising above the obstacles of segregation and separatist attitudes.

When he was refused access to a larger building and better facilities for his “boys” he sought other creative ways to obtain his goals. He and several club members cleaned and sold used bricks in order to secure the necessary funds to purchase the current club location on Jackson Street. Each time a door was slammed in his face, he invented “windows” of opportunity until he was able to achieve his mission. His tenacity and perseverance enabled him to see his vision of a facility for the youth of Paducah become a reality and in 1987, the library named in honor of Delbert Shumpert, a talented athlete and former club member, was erected on the site of the current boys & girls address.

Throughout his lifetime, Mr. Cross received innumerable awards, certificates and letters of recognition, far too many to list in this letter. A few of his recognized achievements include: The Bronze Keystone Award from the Boys & Girls Club of America for 25 years of service (the first black to receive this), the Kentucky Colonel Award, a Duke of Paducah Award, certificate of merit from the Paducah Area Chamber of Commerce, certificate of appreciation from the 4-H Community Club, the Lucy Hart Smith-Atwood S. Wilson Award from the Human Relations Com

CALLEING FOR MILOSEVIC TO BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS ACTIONS

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 1999

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today I am joined by my friend and colleague, Representative BILL PASCRELL and 14 other cosponsors in introducing a resolution which declares the conviction of this Congress that Slobodan Milosevic is responsible for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide in the former Yugoslavia. His actions in that region cannot be excused by anything which Serbia’s neighbors or the international community has done. His victims demand justice. Unfortunately, the United States Government may not be doing all that it can to provide evidence to the International Criminal Tribunal in The Hague to have Milosevic publicly indicted.

In the 105th Congress, there was near unanimous support for H. Con. Res. 304 and its Senate companion, S. Con. Res. 105. But in the past year little has been done to advance the just cause of ascribing blame to this man. Instead, we have had to watch as more atrocities have been committed in Kosovo, but no evident attempts to hold Milosevic personally and fully responsible for his actions. This is the reason that this resolution, which updates those passed last Congress, must again be considered by this body.

During the Bosnian phase of the Yugoslav conflict, from 1992 to 1995, Slobodan Milosevic was able to incite extreme nationalist feelings among Serbs, and he used that as basis to commit acts of genocide against non-Serb civilians. From early 1998 to the present, the same thing has been happening in Kosovo. As the resolution points out, about 4 million people have been displaced during the Yugoslav conflicts, including 1.5 million Kosovar Albanians, most of the latter since late March. Hundreds of thousands have been killed, some by mass executions and others by reckless shelling of towns and villages. Tens of thousands of people have been raped and tortured, often in detention centers and concentration camps. Vestiges of a people’s daily lives, from their mosques to their local registration papers, are destroyed. Read the definition of genocide from the Genocide Convention itself, and read what happened in Bosnia and what is happening today in Kosovo.

Clearly, this is genocide.

The Helsinki Commission, which I Chair, has heard testimony from many witnesses—including lawyers, doctors, humanitarian relief workers, and diplomats who have extensive firsthand experience in the region—and they have testified to this fact. As a result, in addition to last year’s resolution, I recently wrote to President Clinton urging that prosecution of war criminals not be placed on the negotiating table as a bargaining chip to be thrown away, and urging that the U.S. Government use the resources at its disposal to help the Tribunal issue an indictment of Milosevic. Just two weeks ago, the Commission held a hearing on a variety of legal actions stemming from the genocide in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo.

Many of us in this body have witnessed firsthand stories from ethnic Albanians who escaped their homeland into Macedonia and Albania. These traumatized people now sit in refugee camps, their entire lives left behind, with an uncertain future.

Mr. Speaker, all those involved in war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide in the former Yugoslavia must be held accountable for their roles. The evidence is overwhelming. As the head of his country, Milosevic must be among them. We must ask ourselves why he has done nothing other than give medals to those who have engaged in terrible crimes in Kosovo if he himself is not responsible for those crimes. He is at minimum responsible as Head of State for stopping these crimes from occurring. He is at least responsible for giving soldiers the license to get away with raping, killing and cleansing the people of Kosovo. And he is likely respon-sible for directing his security forces and para-military associates to commit such acts.

Mr. Speaker, with this resolution we are putting the House on record as saying: The ethn-cising in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo was no accident but part of Belgrade’s policy. There can be no true peace in the Balkans that excludes justice. It is in U.S. national interest to assist those who can provide jus-tice, and that our government must therefore do more to help the Tribunal develop a case against Slobodan Milosevic.

As Mark Ellis of the American Bar Association’s Coalition for International Justice, who provided testimony at one of our hearings on Kosovo, recently stated, “Inevitably, lasting peace will be linked to justice, and justice will depend on accountability. Failing to indict Milosevic in the hope that he can deliver a nego-tiated settlement makes a mockery of the words ‘Never Again.’” Let’s affirm that we really do mean “Never Again.” By again passing a resolution which states our belief that they are strong, road, Where the race of men go by—

Like a man who dwells alone.

Clearly, this is genocide.

Please specify the congressional resolution that Mr. Smith is referring to and its significance.

Mr. Speaker, with this resolution we are putting the House on record as saying: The ethnic cleansing in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo was no accident but part of Belgrade’s policy. There can be no true peace in the Balkans that excludes justice. It is in U.S. national interest to assist those who can provide justice, and that our government must therefore do more to help the Tribunal develop a case against Slobodan Milosevic.

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Like a man who dwells alone.
COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE
Washington, DC, March 31, 1999

Hon. William Jefferson Clinton, President of the United States, The White House, Washington, DC.

DEAR Mr. President: I request that you direct the Attorney General to hold open any information that may hold evidence relevant to a possible indictment of Slobodan Milosevic, President of Serbia and Montenegro, to provide the evidence of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide to the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia in The Hague. The United States should make it a high priority to assemble this information, review and where necessary declassify it, and provide the documentation in the most expeditious manner possible to the prosecutor’s office at the Tribunal. I respectfully request that you include the following directive instructions to agency heads to reprogram funds and reassign personnel as necessary to permit immediate and effective implementation of this requested directive.

As the sponsor of H. Con. Res. 304, expressing the support of the Congress regarding the culpability of Slobodan Milosevic for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide in the former Yugoslavia, that was adopted by the House by a record vote of 369 to 1 on September 14, 1998, I was startled and surprised to learn that the United States has not made an effort to gather information on Milosevic as the House and Senate requested. The statement included “CONFLICT IN THE BALKANS: THE TRIBUNAL; Tackles Past Crimes.” By Raymond Bonner, appeared in The March 29, 1999, edition of The New York Times.

The Clinton administration could hardly have taken the initiative to build a case against Milosevic, one senior administration official who spoke on condition of anonymity said Sunday, after it adopted the policy in late 1994 of working with the Serbian leader to bring about an end to the war in Bosnia. “We, the United States government, have been the largest source of information for the tribunal, but we have never compiled dossiers with the aim of indicting Milosevic, or any specific individual,” said this official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The indictment of Milosevic, the official explained Sunday, after it adopted the policy in late 1994 of working with the Serbian leader to bring about an end to the war in Bosnia. Our administration might be to reach a political and diplomatic solution. The administration has “minimal involvement” as to what could happen, the official said. However, it has not made an effort to gather information on Milosevic as the House and Senate requested.

To do so, of course, flies in the face of last week’s much ballyhooed optimism about reaching a negotiated settlement with Milosevic. However, the Clinton administration might be to reach a political and diplomatic solution, we should remember that those who have recently suffered under Serbian attacks reject outright the notion that justice must sometimes be forfeited for the sake of diplomatic expediency. During the Bosnian conflict, the justice system was sacrificed on the dubious premise that negotiating with someone who is widely regarded as a war criminal is a legitimate exercise in public policy. The result has been that justice has been undermined and acts of genocide committed.

If Milosevic had been indicted for the mass killings and summary executions that the Bosnian Serbs—with backing from Serbia—were accused of carrying out, would he have acted so brazenly to “cleanse” Kosovo of its ethnic Albanians? Nobody knows. At the very least an indictment would probably have deterred him; and apprehension and a trial would have stopped him. But there should be no uncertainty about what occurs when war criminals are allowed to act unencumbered. The time has come for the international war crimes tribunal to help put an end to that.

Inaugurated by the United Nations on May 1992, and based in The Hague, the Yugo- slav war crimes tribunal has, to date, tried and convicted 16 individuals charged with more than 650 and an annual budget of more than $94 million, it has the resources—and the authority—to indict Milosevic. Indeed, failure to indict Milosevic would undermine the tribunal’s impotence in the face of political controversy, and prove that this institution of international law and justice is merely an expensive and ineffective dud.

How difficult would it be to indict Milosevic? Not difficult at all. Under the tribunal’s statute, the office of the prosecutor need not determine that a single crime exists.” that’s to say that the prosecutor must gather evidence sufficient to prove reasonable grounds that Milosevic committed a single crime under the tribunal’s extensive jurisdiction.

With this in mind, the chances of Milosevic being held accountable increase with the arrival of fresh new refugees driven from Kosovo. The report contains photographs and detailed information about the disappearance and death of over 10,000 people, the destruction of homes, the forced removal of people from their homes. The report finds that “there have been calls from members of Congress for international tribunals to be established.” The United States should make it a high priority to assemble this information, review and where necessary declassify it, and provide the documentation in the most expeditious manner possible to the prosecutor’s office at the Tribunal. I respectfully request that you include the following directive instructions to agency heads to reprogram funds and reassign personnel as necessary to permit immediate and effective implementation of this requested directive.

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The convention addresses intent, and stipulates that to eliminate people—in whole or in part—constitute genocide. Among other acts covered by the convention, crimes of genocide include “(a) killing members of the group; (b) causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group; (c) deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part.”

In the former Yugoslavia, acts of genocide have been perpetrated through the abhorrent policy of ethnic cleansing—that is, making areas ethnically homogenous by expelling entire segments of the Kosovar population and destroying the very fabric of a people.

Ethnic cleansing does not require the elimination of all ethnic Albanians: it may target specific elements of the community that make the group—as a group—sustainable. The abduction or committing genocide, also for conspiring to commit genocide, inciting the public to commit genocide, attempting to commit genocide or for complicity in genocide. The intent is that criminal responsibility extends far beyond those who actually perform the physical acts resulting in genocide. In short, the political architects such as Milosevic who are less responsible than the forces that carry out this butchery. There is no immunity from genocide.

Prosecuting Milosevic will require redefining a legal strategy based on the concept of “imputed command responsibility.” Under this theory, Milosevic could be held responsible for the actions of his subordinates if he knew or had reason to know that crimes were about to be committed and he failed to take preventive measures to punish those who had committed crimes.

Since it is unlikely that Milosevic has allowed documentary evidence to be preserved, we would like him to attend in Kosovo, the prosecutor’s office will have to rely heavily on circumstantial evidence to build its case. This means identifying a consistent “pattern of conduct” that links Milosevic to similar illegal acts, to the officers and staff involved, or to the logistics involved in carrying out atrocities. The very fact that atrocities have been so widespread, flagrant, grotesque and similar in nature makes it near certain that Milosevic knew of them; despite his recent protestations to the contrary, it defies logic to suggest that he could be unaware of what his forces are doing.

What will the consequences be if the Yugoslav president is indicted? First an indictment would send a clear message that the international community will not negotiate or have contact with a war criminal. It is current U.S. policy not to negotiate with indicted war criminals. And so it should be. Milosevic should be stripped of international status except as a fugitive from justice. This might, in turn, open an avenue for Serbians to once again distance themselves from war criminals. Second, an indictment would likely result in an ex parte hearing in which the prosecutor’s office can present its case in open court—without Milosevic being there. By establishing a public record of Milosevic’s role in the crimes committed, such a hearing would be cathartic for both victims and witnesses, and also for citizens who longed to see truth to the truth. Finally, the tribunal would issue an international arrest warrant making it unlikely that Milosevic would venture outside his country’s borders.

When I watched the bus loads of new arrivals enter the Stenkovec camp, I saw a small girl’s face pressed against the window. Her hollow eyes seemed to stare at no one. History was being repeated. In his opening statement at the Nuremberg trials in 1945, chief prosecutor Robert H. Jackson said, “The wrongs which we seek to condemn and punish have been so calculated, so maligant, and so devastating that civilization cannot tolerate their being ignored, because it cannot survive their being repeated.”

Jackson was expressing the hope that law would somehow redeem the next generation and that such crimes would never again be allowed. Today, we must hold personally liable those individuals who commit atrocities in the former Yugoslavia. To negotiate with the perpetrators of these crimes is not only to reward the suffering of countless civilian victims, it sends a clear message that justice is expendable, that war crimes can go unpunished. Inevitably, lasting peace will be linked to justice, and justice will depend on accountability. Failing to indict Milosevic in the hope that he can deliver a negotiated settlement makes a mockery of the words “Never Again.”

THE HEALTH INFORMATION PRIVACY ACT OF 1999

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 1999

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join Reps. GARY CONDIT, ED MARKEY, JOHN LEWIS, PETE VISCOCKY, MARK SOUDER, ANNE NORTHUP and my other colleagues in introducing the Health Information Privacy Act of 1999. There is an urgent need for Congress to enact legislation to protect the privacy of medical records. We have worked hard to develop a consensus approach to achieve this goal.

Health records contain some of our most personal information. Unfortunately, there is no comprehensive federal law that protects the privacy of medical records. As a result, we face a constant threat of serious privacy intrusions. Our records can be bought and sold for commercial gain, disclosed to employers, and used to deny us insurance. There have been numerous disturbing reports of such inappropriate use and disclosure of health information.

When individual have inadequate control over their health information, our health care system as a whole suffers. For example, a recent survey by the California HealthCare Foundation found that one out of every seven adults has done something “out of the ordinary” to keep health information confidential, including steps such as giving inaccurate information to their providers or avoiding care altogether. The Health Information Privacy Act would protect the privacy of health information and ensure that individuals have appropriate control over their health records. It is based on three fundamental principles. First, health information should not be released or disclosed without the authorization or knowledge of the individual, except in narrow circumstances where there is an overriding public interest. Second, individuals should have fundamental rights regarding their health records, such as the right to access, copy, and amend their records, and the opportunity to seek protection for especially sensitive information. Third, federal legislation should provide a “floor,” not a “ceiling,” so that states and the Secretary of Health and Human Services can establish additional protections as appropriate.

Congress faces an August 21 deadline for passing comprehensive legislation to protect the privacy of health information. I am very pleased to have come together with Mr. CONDIT, Mr. MARKY, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. BROWN, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. KING, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. VISCOCKY, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. NORTHUP and Mr. TURNER in developing this commonsense legislation. These members have been leaders in health care and privacy issues for years. As a result of their expertise and insight, I believe we have produced a consensus bill that colleagues with a wide spectrum of perspective can support.

A recent editorial in the Los Angeles Times exhorted Congress to “fulfill its promise to pass the nation’s first medical privacy bill.” It called for legislators in both houses to “embrace [this] compromise language” that my colleagues and I have drafted.

I hope that my colleagues will join me in co-sponsoring this legislation, and I look forward to working with them to ensure that Congress meets its responsibility to address this important issue.

INTRODUCING LEGISLATION TO AWARD A CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO REV. THEODORE HESBURGH, C.S.C.

HON. TIM ROEMER
OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 1999

Mr. ROEMER, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Rev. Theodore Hesburgh, C.S.C. I introduce this bill with Representatives PETER KING, JOHN LEWIS, PETE VISCOCKY, MARK SOUDER, ANNE NORTHUP and 85 original cosponsors in the U.S. House of Representatives. It is my understanding that a companion bill will be introduced in the U.S. Senate later today.

This bipartisan legislation recognizes Father Hesburgh for his many outstanding contributions to the United States and the global community. The bill authorizes the President to award a gold medal to Father Hesburgh on behalf of the United States Congress. It also authorizes the U.S. Mint to strike and sell duplicates to the public.

The public service career of Father Hesburgh, president emeritus of the University of Notre Dame, is as distinguished as his many educational contributions. Over the years, he has held 15 Presidential appointments and he has remained a national leader...