

dialogue similar to the one proposed by former Prime Minister Kazhegeldin. At the very least, the government of Kazakhstan should make one hour a week of state-controlled television available for use by the opposition. The U.S., for its part, should assist the democratic opposition by providing printing presses to replace those that have been confiscated by the government. It is time to stand up for democracy in Kazakhstan and to stop coddling dictators like Nazarbayev.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit an article into the RECORD from the Washington Times that speaks volumes about the situation in Kazakhstan today.

[From the Washington Times, Dec. 20; 1999]
DINING WITH DICTATORS—WHITE HOUSE FETES
KAZAKH PRESIDENT

(By Thomas B. Evans, Jr.)

For some inexplicable reason the president of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev, has been invited to visit Washington this month by the Clinton-Gore administration.

Mr. Nazarbayev is the same dictator who over the past eight years has created a monopoly of riches for himself, his family and carefully selected friends. He has also lured many investors to his country and then pillaged their assets for himself, his family and a few cronies. Knowledgeable sources say that he is the eighth richest man in the world. This, in a country where the per capita income is well below the poverty level.

Mr. Nazarbayev is the same person who promised Vice President Gore a year ago that he would permit a fair and free presidential election in January 1999 and then rigged the disqualification of his main opponent, thereby eliminating any chance of defeat and ensuring the perpetuation of his corrupt regime. Mr. Nazarbayev is also the same person who has had \$85 million in ill-gotten gains frozen by the judiciary in Switzerland. Mr. Nazarbayev is the same individual who ordered the destruction of printing presses used to print newspapers questioning his policies.

And Mr. Nazarbayev's record on human rights is anything but outstanding. There is, quite simply, no freedom of the press, no independent judiciary and no freedom of assembly that could threaten Mr. Nazarbayev's one-man one-family rule in Kazakhstan.

In spite of all the above, Kazakhstan still receives millions of dollars in foreign assistance from U.S. taxpayers and hundreds of millions more indirectly through the Export-Import Bank and international financial institutions in which the United States is a major contributor. Is it not just about time that we let dictators like Mr. Nazarbayev know that we are not going to accept this type of behavior? Is it not past time for us to be taken as fools who don't care about how a country's ruler treats his people and foreign investors? Is Kazakhstan's oil so important to us that we would sacrifice basic principles by inviting dictators to dine with our president and vice presidents? Don't we ever learn lessons from past mistakes? Doesn't anyone in the administration remember how in Indonesia President Suharto's greed, nepotism and general misrule led to his downfall and plunged the country into near chaos? Tolerance of corrupt rule does not contribute to stability. In fact, quite the opposite is true. Have we also learned nothing by cozying up to Victor Chernomyrdin in Russia? Certainly, none of these examples are ancient history.

Surely, this administration does not want to assist in the perpetuation of a regime in

Kazakhstan that is the antithesis of all that we stand for as Americans. Both the president and vice president should make it unmistakably clear that the status quo in Kazakhstan is unacceptable.

On Nov. 17, former Prime Minister Akhezan Kazhegeldin, who was prevented from running against Mr. Nazarbayev last January and now heads the leading opposition party (although living in exile in Western Europe), proposed that a national dialogue be launched with a view toward reforming the political and economic system in Kazakhstan and holding free and fair presidential and parliamentary elections. Similar national dialogues were successful in Poland and South Africa, and convening one for Kazakhstan could set the pattern for reform throughout the former Soviet republics of Central Asia. Mr. Clinton and Mr. Gore should emphasize to Mr. Nazarbayev that close cooperation between our two countries depends on his agreement to participate in a national dialogue. They should also insist that in order for a national dialogue to be credible, it must be held outside Kazakhstan and should be organized and monitored with the assistance of respected organizations such as the Council of Europe or the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. Mr. Clinton and Mr. Gore should make support for political and economic reform the centerpiece of their discussions with Mr. Nazarbayev. That is the very least this administration should do at this point, and that is not an unreasonable expectation on the part of the United States.

A PROCLAMATION COMMENDING
CHRISTOPHER J. BARRETT ON
HIS PROMOTION TO THE RANK
OF MAJOR IN THE UNITED
STATES ARMY

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 29, 2000

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I commend the following to my colleagues:

Whereas, Christopher J. Barrett was recently promoted to the rank of Major in the United States Army; and,

Whereas, Christopher J. Barrett has served as a Military Police Officer in the United States Army for eleven years and has demonstrated a steadfast commitment to the preservation of the United States of America; and,

Whereas, in 1991 Christopher J. Barrett served his country in Operation Desert Storm during the Gulf War and the citizens of the United States of America owe Major Barrett a great deal of gratitude for his undying loyalty and dedication to our country; and,

Whereas, the Members of Congress, with a real sense of gratitude and pride, join me in commending Major Christopher J. Barrett on his recent promotion to Major in the United States Army.

HONORING ROBERT M. EPPLEY

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 29, 2000

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert M. Eppley for his many years of service to Cumberland County, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Eppley is currently Chairman of the Board of Supervisors for Middlesex Township, Pennsylvania. He was first elected supervisor of Middlesex Township in 1963. Prior to that, he spent three years as supervisor in East Pennsboro Township. His service in both townships qualifies Mr. Eppley as one of the most senior municipal officials in Cumberland County.

Mr. Eppley has served through eight Presidential administrations and has never missed an opportunity to vote since being qualified to do so. While a Cumberland County committeeman, he served on the County Committee's Finance and Executive Committees and guided Middlesex Township from a farming community of 1,900 people to its present status as a transportation center for the eastern United States. As a committee member and a lifelong public servant, he has dedicated his life to serving our country by bettering our government and political process.

Mr. Eppley has been a Sergeant-at-Arms of the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors, a Deacon of St. Matthew's United Church of Christ, and a Deputy District Commander and County Commander for the American Legion. He is a member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles, the Mechanicsburg Men's Club, and a charter member of the Enola's Sportsman Club. Mr. Eppley is also a veteran of World War II, having served as a corporal in the Army.

If every precinct had a committeeman that is as involved and dedicated as Bob Eppley, rest assured more Americans would be involved in the electoral and political process. Mr. Speaker, I salute Robert M. Eppley for his lifetime of public service to Cumberland County and his many years of dedication to the betterment of our community.

THE CHANGING FACE OF
AMERICA'S FINANCIAL SUCCESS

HON. JENNIFER DUNN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 29, 2000

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, women are changing the face of America's financial success. Today, there are nearly 8.5 million women-owned businesses in the United States, and they are increasing in number, range, diversity, and earning power. As their companies expand, women business owners employ 18.5 million individuals and produces \$3.1 trillion in sales.

Since 1994, the Republican-led Congress has diligently worked on behalf of women business owners. We have instituted a variety of reforms from achieving a balanced budget