June 13, 2000

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—SENATE

10453

efforts. For eighteen years, these families have been without their children. Answers are long overdue.

TIBET

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, last year I delivered a statement for the record commemorating the 40th anniversary of the 1959 Tibetan uprising, during which His Holiness the Dalai Lama and more than 100,000 Tibetans were forced to flee their homeland as a result of brutal suppression by the Chinese government. Unfortunately, the human rights situation in Tibet has not improved, and has if anything deteriorated over the past year.

U.S. Administration officials and Congressional supporters of Permanent Normal Trade Relations with China often claim that more open trade with the West will expose ordinary Chinese to new ideas, new ideals, and a new independence from the State. This will awaken their desire for more freedom, paving the way for democracy in China. I have often voiced skepticism about these claims.

We do not have to wait for the people of Tibet to express their yearning for freedom. They have continuously struggled for their rights for over forty years, and have paid dearly for their actions. Their efforts so far have failed, not because they do not yearn to be free, but rather because their efforts are brutally suppressed and we are apparently little able to help them. Even our efforts in March to introduce at the annual meeting of the UN Commission for Human Rights a resolution condemning PRC officials’ human rights practices in China and Tibet were blocked by the PRC and most of the industrialized nations.

If the Administration and Congress are serious about their efforts to promote human rights in China, surely Tibet should be the bellwether. We need to find concrete ways to demoralize the PRC and psychological warfare should be the means.

NECESSARILY ABSENT

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, last week I was necessarily absent from the Senate to attend my daughter’s graduation from college. As a result, I missed two votes Thursday and one Friday morning as I was returning to Washington.

For the record, had I been present, I would have voted nay on the motion to table the Daschle amendment related to a Patients’ Bills of Rights. I would have voted nay on the point of order raised with respect to the McCain amendment related to the so-called Section 527 loophole in our campaign finance laws. I would have voted aye on the Grassley amendment related to accounting practices at the Department of Defense. My vote would not have changed the outcome on any of these votes.

Also for the record, I am extraordinarily proud of my daughter, Jessamyn, who graduated magna cum laude with highest honors from Harvard University last Thursday, June 8.

WARTIME VIOLATION OF ITALIAN-AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I wish to speak about a little known, but very dark chapter in American history. While many are familiar with the deplorable treatment of Japanese-Americans and others of Japanese ancestry living in the United States during World War II, there is far less discussion of the reprehensible treatment of Italian-Americans who were forced to endure during that period.

Italian-Americans refer to what happened at this time as “Una Storia Segreta,” or “A Secret Story.” Beginning before the war and until after Italy’s surrender in 1943, Italian-Americans and those of Italian decent living in the United States were made suspects simply because of their country