CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE

June 14, 2000

TACTICS OF KGB ARE UNACCEPTABLE

(Mr. LANTOS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, the KGB is back. Yesterday, the head of Russia’s only free media was arrested; and as we meet here this morning, he is still in prison.

President Putin of Russia is in Madrid claiming not to know anything about this. He is either a puppet or he is a perpetrator.

I call on the Russian Government to release, without any further delay, the head of the only free media network in Russia. This is the network which reported accurately on the war in Chechnya. This is the network that can provide us with the hope of building a democratic society in Russia.

The tactics of the KGB are unacceptable in the 21st century.

HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN RUSSIA

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I also rise out of concern for the human rights situation in Russia.

Yesterday, the Government of Russia took a giant step backwards in human rights as Vladimir Goussinsky, the CEO of Media Most, was arrested, imprisoned and is at present being interrogated.

So much for freedom of speech and freedom of the press in Russia.

Mr. Goussinsky has been the most pro-Western and independent of Russia’s media entrepreneurs and has rallied strong support for democratic reforms in Russia.

This arrest comes on the heels of the raid of Media Most offices several weeks ago and demonstrates how human rights, particularly freedom of the press, is deteriorated under the administration of President Putin.

The Putin administration has taken extreme measures to control information. Government officials report about the “problem” of the media giving airtime and print space to views of “terrorists.”

Mr. Speaker, expressing political and religious views, even if it is in opposition to the government, is not terrorism. It is freedom.

I urge the Russian people to speak out against the latest abuse of freedom by the Putin administration and call on President Clinton to pressure the administration to release Mr. Goussinsky.

FACES OF GUN VIOLENCE VIGIL

(Mrs. McCARTHY of New York asked and was given permission to address

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SHUSTER. I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, let me add my welcome to Father Christian. My colleague and I share Father Christian. He is right on the border at one of the finest schools in Pennsylvania, and it is just marvelous to have him here.

His prayer was so good. He said the only problem is that they limited him to 125 words, and he can not say much in 125 words.

WELCOMING FATHER CHRISTIAN R. ORAVEC

(Mr. SHUSTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with my good friend and colleague, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. Murtha), in welcoming Father Christian Oravec. Father Christian is the President of St. Francis College, one of the oldest Catholic colleges in America, which sits atop the Allegheny Mountains in Central Pennsylvania. He is the longest serving president of that college in its history, since 1977.

In addition to doing a superb job in serving our region of the country, Father Christian is a leader in the community. In fact, he is deeply involved in 16 different civic organizations. Beyond that, he is a beloved parish priest. It is my great pleasure to help welcome him here today.

CALLING ATTENTION TO SERIOUSNESS OF MISSING NUCLEAR SECRETS

(Mr. FOLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I call my colleagues’ attention to an editorial in The Washington Post entitled Nuclear Nightmare: “Guarding the nation’s nuclear secrets is about the most basic duty of an administration. The danger of nuclear proliferation is so serious that the United States bombs Iraq, sanctions India and Pakistan and kowtows to North Korea, all in an attempt to prevent weapons of mass destruction from falling into the wrong hands.”

That unidentified hands could have quietly removed, at Los Alamos, two computer drives with information on dismantling nuclear bombs is shocking. That it should happen so soon after the investigation of other security labs makes it even more credible.

That is from the Washington Post.

Now, today we are witnessing the other side of the aisle having everybody sign up because they are worried about political attack ads. Is anybody demanding the information on potential nuclear attacks?

Now, over the last couple months, the Vice President has condemned every one of our nominees for running ads that are reckless and risky. Where is his voice on this particular issue affecting America’s safety and security?

Yes, I agree we have to reform politics. Yes, I agree a Buddhist temple is not the right place to have a fund-raiser. But let us look at our nuclear secrets and find out and demand answers from Secretary Richardson, President Clinton, and the Vice President of the United States.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed bills A joint resolution of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1507. An act to authorize the integration of alcohol and substance abuse programs and services provided by Indian tribal governments, and for other purposes.

S. 2722. An act to authorize the award of the Medal of Honor to Ed W. Freeman, James K. Okubo, and Andrew J. Smith. S.J. Res. 46. Joint resolution recognizing the 225th birthday of the United States Army.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 106-181, the Chair, on behalf of the Democratic Leader, appoints Ted R. Lawson of West Virginia to serve as a member of the National Commission to Ensure Consumer Information and Choice in the Airline Industry.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GIBBONS). Will the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. LANTOS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ADD MY WELCOME TO FATHER CHRISTIAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain 15 1-minute requests on each side.

Mr. SHUSTER. I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. Murtha).

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SHUSTER. I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

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