to protect those things we hold dear. Quite often these volunteer departments are the only line of defense in these rural communities. It’s time we provide them with the needed funds for proper training and equipment to better protect their communities.

I offer my sincere gratitude to our Nation’s fire fighters who put their lives on the line every day to protect the property and safety of their neighbors. They too deserve a helping hand in their time of need.

I commend Senators DODD and DEWINE for introducing this important legislation, and urge all my colleagues who have not done so to sign onto this bill. I would like to encourage the Committee to hold hearings on S. 491 and suggest that we continue to move this bill forward toward ultimate passage.

Thank you Mr. President, I yield the floor.

### GUN VICTIMS OF TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 1999

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>City</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ed Barron</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>St. Louis, Missouri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wayne Burton</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>Baltimore, Maryland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. Cox</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>Houston, Texas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jermaine Davis</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>Philadelphia, Pennsylvania</td>
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<tr>
<td>Myron Frenney</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>Houston, Texas</td>
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<td>Fernando González-Cenkeros</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>Texas</td>
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<td>Edward Johnstone</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>Philadelphia, Pennsylvania</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robert Mirabeau</td>
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<td>Frederick Rathers</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Memphis, Tennessee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Courtenay Robinson</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Dallas, Texas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arnold Webb</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Detroit, Michigan</td>
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ARREST OF VLADIMIR GUSINSKY IN RUSSIA

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to express my deep concern about the recent arrest in Russia of Vladimir Gusinsky and its negative impact on press freedom and democracy under the leadership of President Putin.

Mr. Gusinsky runs Media Most, a major conglomerate of Russian media organizations, including NTV, Russia’s only television network not under state control. Media Most is a leading Russian news reporting, and its outlets have offered hard-hitting, often critical accounts of Russia’s brutal campaign in Chechnya, as well as reports on alleged Government corruption. Besides being an important media and business executive, Mr. Gusinsky is a leading figure in the Russian Jewish community, serving as President of the Russian Jewish Congress.

On May 11, just days after President Putin’s inauguration, Russian federal agents in a major show of force raided several of Media Most’s corporate offices, raising immediate concerns about the direction of press freedom in the new government. These concerns intensified on Tuesday June 13 when a Russian prosecutor called Mr. Gusinsky in for questioning, and then arrested him on suspicion of embezzling millions of dollars worth of federal property. On June 16, Mr. Gusinsky was released from prison after the prosecutor formally charged him with embezzlement.

It is very difficult for anyone to address fully the specifics of such charges, and the Russian government’s case against Mr. Gusinsky, when so little information has been made available by the Russian government. However, the circumstances of the case raise serious concerns about the initial direction of press freedom and democracy under President Putin. As one of the opening acts of the new administration, the government chose to carry out a heavy-handed, much publicized raid on an organization led by high profile Government critic. It chose to arrest the leader of an organization, Media Most, that is one of the few outlets of independent news about controversial Russian government policies. The fact that this arrest took place while President Putin was traveling abroad, and that he publicly speculated that the arrest might have been excessive, serves to make the situation and the Government’s policy even more confusing and unsettling. Moreover, this case in not occurring in a vacuum. After President Putin’s election, but before his inauguration, there were disturbing signs of government hostility toward Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, evidence that the government of RFE/RL correspondent Andrei Babitsky.

I am encouraged to see that prominent Russians have been speaking out against the arrest of Mr. Gusinsky and that our Government is signaling its concern too. I echo the New York Times editorial on June 15 that this is “A Chilling Prosecution in Moscow.” I would ask unanimous consent that this piece, as well as similar editorials from the June 15 editions of the Washington Post and the Wall Street Journal, be printed in full in the Record.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

From The New York Times, June 15, 2000

A CHILLING PROSECUTION IN MOSCOW

While President Vladimir Putin is traveling through Europe this week extolling the virtues of Russian democracy, his colleagues in the Kremlin have been detaining journalists. The arrest and detention of Vladimir Gusinsky, the owner of media properties that have carried critical coverage of the government, is an assault against the principle of a free press. Whatever the merits of the alleged embezzlement case against Mr. Gusinsky, there was no need to haul him off to prison, an action that cannot help but stir fear in a nation all too familiar with the arbitrary exercise of state power.

If the rule of law prevailed in Russia, and Mr. Gusinsky could count on a presumption of innocence, quick release on bail and a fair trial, his arrest might seem less ominous. But Russia lacks a fully independent judicial system, and the government still uses criminal prosecution as a political weapon. He is charged with embezzling at least $10 million in federal property, apparently involving his purchase of a state-owned television station in St. Petersburg. He says the accusations are false.

There is a stench of political retaliation about this case. Mr. Gusinsky’s company, Media-Most, owns numerous newspapers and magazines as well as Russia’s only independent television network. The coverage of the war in Chechnya has been aggressive and skeptical, and they have not been hesitant to investigate government corruption and other misconduct. Last month heavily armed federal agents raided the Media-Most office in Moscow, the first signal that the Kremlin might be trying to intimidate Mr. Gusinsky.

Mr. Putin seemed surprised by the arrest, calling it “a dubious present” when he arrived in Madrid on Tuesday. That offers little comfort to anyone concerned about Russia’s fragile freedoms. If the arrest was meant to embarrass Mr. Putin while he is visiting Western Europe, it is disturbing evidence of palace intrigue and political instability in the Kremlin. If Mr. Putin received advance notification about the arrest and failed to order the use of less draconian tactics, he has done a disservice to the press freedoms he says he supports.

[From the Washington Post, June 15, 2000]

MR. PUTIN SHOWS HIS KGB FACE

The most recent defining act of Russia’s new president, Vladimir Putin, is more Soviet than democratic. In an apparent effort...
to intimidate the press, Mr. Putin has en-
saged in police-state tactics so crude that even his severest critics seem stunned. For those who wonder whether Mr. Putin’s Rus-
sia will move toward joining civilized Eu-
rope, and whether it will nurture the legal protec-
tion of property, the political freedoms, and encourage prosperity, the latest news is ominous.

On Tuesday, Mr. Putin’s prosecutors sum-
mom Russian’s leading media tycoon, osten-
sibly simply to answer some questions about an ongoing case. When Vladimir Gusinsky appeared before the prosecutors, they promptly threw him into the Moscow hellhole known as Butyrka Prison. He remains there, though he has not yet been formally charged with any crime.

The case has significance beyond the rights of any one person. Mr. Gusinsky heads a media company that owns the only Russian television network not under Kremlin con-
trol. The company also owns a radio station and publishes a daily newspaper and a weekly magazine (the last in partnership with Newsweek, which is owned by The Wash-
ington Post Co.). All of these properties have challenged official orthodoxy by reporting an official corruption and on Mr. Putin’s sav-
age war in Chechnya. The arrest will be seen, and no doubt was intended, as an attempt to silence President Putin’s critics. “There is a pattern here, and we have seen it for some time,” U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott told The Post yesterday. “It has a look and feel to it that does not reso-
nate rule of law. It resonates muscle; it reso-
nates power; it resonates intimidation.”

Some Russian officials have presented the arrest as a normal, even commendable, sign of Mr. Putin’s determination to fight corrup-
tion and establishment of law and order. “Mr. Gusinsky is one of a band of Russian busi-
nessmen who became wealthy after the So-
viet Union’s dissolution in 1991 in part by ex-
ploiting close ties to those in power. Wheth-
er a plausible case can be made against Mr. Gusinsky or any of the other oligarchs is sometimes a question. But Mr. Putin’s government should choose as its first target the only businessman who has dared challenge Mr. Putin (and by far the wealthiest among them) to go on trial. Certainly, it is a test of whether any person who did business in Russia over the last 10 years broke the law, directly or indirectly in part because of the con-
duct of high officials. But Mr. Boris Berezovsky may be thinking, there but for the grace of the Kremlin go I, but he has a point.

The lack of precise laws and enforcement and the ease with which insiders’ contacts could be parlayed into millions has contrib-
uted to the moral turpitude and general dis-
regard for law and fair play in much of the Russian establishment. Now even Boris Yeltsin’s daughters are under investigation by Swiss authorities for allegedly running up large credit card bills at the expense of a Swiss company that was awarded lucrative Kremlin building contracts.

In Moscow yesterday, a prominent busi-
nessman, including Mr. Berezovsky, wrote an open letter to the prosecutor general, saying Mr. Gusinsky’s arrest threatens to destroy confidence in Russian as a place to do busi-
ness. “Until yesterday we believed we live in a democratic country,’” they wrote. “Today we have serious doubts about that.” In such ways that West Virginians have adapt-
ted to changing economics and culture. This is apparent in the transitions of the coal and steel industries as well as in the increasing cultivation of the tourism industry. However, through the continual change, West Virginians have held a heritage that remains rich in song, craft, and tradition. It is as visible at the State Fair of West Virginia in Lewisburg, the Appalachian Cultural Festival in Williamson, and the Tamarack Arts Center in Beck-
ley as it is at Bob’s Grocery in Lindsde. The state has an abundance of coal, steel, forests, rivers, and moun-
tains, but her greatest resource has al-
ways been her people.

This natural charm of West Vir-
ginians is reflected in the scenic trea-
ures that crown the state. Though born

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—SENATE
June 20, 2000

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

WEST VIRGINIA DAY

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, today we celebrate West Virginia’s 137th year as a state. West Virginia joined the Union in the midst of the Civil War when President Lincoln ad-
mited the state as the 35th state on June 20, 1863.

The spirit of pride and determination that gave the first West Virginians the courage to start anew can still be seen in the ever-innovative and evolving ways that West Virginians have adapt-
ed to changing economics and culture. This is apparent in the transitions of the coal and steel industries as well as in the increasing cultivation of the tourism industry. However, through the continual change, West Virginians have held a heritage that remains rich in song, craft, and tradition. It is as visible at the State Fair of West Vir-
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[From the Wall Street Journal, June 15, 2000]
V. Gitusovsky
The arrest Tuesday of mogul Vladimir Gusinsky, Russia’s first substantial victim in Mr. Putin’s war against rent-seeking oligarchs or a return to the Soviet-era practice of taking political prisoners. It was either carried out with the knowledge of the Kremlin, President Putin, and/or, (as he says) it was done behind his back while he is on a foreign trip. However you serve it, it doesn’t look good.

Mr. Putin, the stereotype of a Russian oligarch, but his arrest is significant because his Media-Most group includes Rus-

[From the Financial Times, June 15, 2000]
PUTIN’S PRESSURE

A move by Vladimir Putin, Russia’s new president, to clip the wings of his country’s formidable business barons was widely antici-
pated. If he is going to reassert the power of the state over the financial oligarchs who largely rule the country during the Kremlin rule of Boris Yeltsin, that is nec-
essary. But the decision to arrest Vladimir Gusinsky, the media tycoon, raises a number of qu-

[From the Financial Times, June 15, 2000]

In so doing, they have been helping ensure that the press acts as a critic of govern-
ment—an essential element in Russia’s slow progress towards democracy.

Mr. Gusinsky now appears to be paying the price. Although his arrest is probably on suspicion of fraud and the illegal acquisition of state property worth $10m, the action fol-
lows a particularly heavy-handed raid by se-

[From the Financial Times, June 15, 2000]

[From the Financial Times, June 15, 2000]

[From the Financial Times, June 15, 2000]