to intimidate the press, Mr. Putin has em- braced Mr. Putin, such as Britain’s Tony press and who chose to speak on Mr. urged Mr. Putin to respect freedom of the President Clinton, who recently in Moscow the assault itself. The arrest is a slap at ernment’s assault is almost as stunning as

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 Washing- ton 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 intimidation.”

Some Russian officials have presented the arrest as a normal, even commendable, sign of Mr. Putin’s determination to fight corrup- tion and establish a “rule of law.” Mr. Gusinsky, one of a band of Russian business- men who became wealthy after the Sovi- et 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 something of a joke. But if Mr. Putin’s government should choose as its first target the only businessman who has dared challenge Mr. Putin (and by far not the wealthiest oligarchs) shows that this affair is not about the rule of law. Mr. Putin’s KGB background is widely known, but when he ascended to power, many remembered him to go “on the lam” with some subtlety. The audacity of the gov- ernment’s assault is almost as stunning as the assault itself. The arrest is a slap at President Clinton, who recently in Moscow urged Mr. Putin to respect freedom of the press and who chose to speak on Mr. Gusinsky’s radio station. With how much spine will Mr. Clinton and other Western leaders who have been even more eager to embrace Mr. Putin, such as Britain’s Tony Blair, now respond? Many Russians will be watching.

(From the Wall Street Journal, June 15, 2000)

PUTIN V. GUSINSKY

The arrest Tuesday of mogul Vladimir Gusinsky was the first salvo in Rus- sin war against renting-soliciting oligarchs or a return to the Soviet-era practice of taking political prisoners. It was either carried out with the knowledge of the Russian Presi- dent, 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. Gusinsky is the stereotype of a Russian oligarch, but his arrest is significant because his Media-Most group includes Rus-
sia’s only independent national television station. It broadcasts in Russian and in 16 other languages and is available to 30 countries. Media-Most owns a radio station and a large 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 intimidation.”

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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 usurped much of its authority 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 questions.

He is neither one of the most powerful nor one of the most notorious of that group. His real claim to fame is that his Media-Most group owns NTV, the country’s largest television network not under Kremlin con- trol, and the Tamarack Arts Center in Beck- ley as it is at Bob’s Grocery in Lindsay. The state has an abundance of coal, steel, forests, rivers, and mountains, but her greatest resource has al- ways been her people. Though born

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 allegedly on suspicion of fraud and the illegal acquisition of state property worth $10m, the action fol- lows a particularly heavy-handed raid by se- crete, armed to the teeth and wearing balaclavas, on his headquarters— all suggesting a deliberate campaign of in- timidation. Other administration officials, ad- ministration indicate a similarly harsh attit- ude to any sign of media opposition. The TV station controlled by Yuri Luzhkov, Mos- cow’s mayor, is having to fight in the courts to renew its license. The registration system for new publications has been greatly tight- ened.

The president does not appear to be a be- liever in glasnost, the openness introduced by Mikhail Gorbachev into the Russian media. More than any other oligarch, that probably guaranteed the end of Communist rule and the Soviet Union. By allowing expo- sure of the iniquities, incompetence and cor- ruption of the previous elite, Mr. Putin en- sured there was no going back. By definition, however, glasnost was inimical to the old GB security service—Mr. Putin’s secretive former employer.

President Bill Clinton has already ex- pressed his concern about signs of restric- tions on press freedom in Russia. When Gerhard Schroeder, the German chancellor, meets Mr. Putin today, he should do so, in the same, strong terms. The Russian president has said he knew nothing of Mr. Gusinsky’s arrest. He should have done, particularly in view of the widespread protests that fol- lowed an unfettered press is an essential part of a market economy. He has a lot to learn.

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- ministered its admission to the Union 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- ginia in Lewisburg, the Appalachian Cultural Festival in Jenkins, and the Tamarack Arts Center in Beck- ley as it is at Bob’s Grocery in Lindside. The state has an abundance of coal, steel, forests, rivers, and mountains, but her greatest resource has al- ways been her people. Though born

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

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CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—SENATE

June 20, 2000
ALASKA RECIPIENTS OF PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE TEACHING

- Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I have come to the Senate floor today to congratulate three exceptional teachers in Alaska—Douglas Heetderks of Anchorage, Lura Hegg of Palmer, and Gretchen Murphy of Fairbanks. President Clinton named these Alaskans as recipients of the 1999 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. This is our Nation’s highest honor for mathematics and science teachers in grades K through 12.

Each year, a national panel of distinguished scientists, mathematicians, and educators recommends one elementary and one secondary math teacher and one elementary and one secondary science teacher from each state or territory to receive a presidential award. The 1999 recipients were selected from among 5,300 finalists.

The Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching Program is administered by the National Science Foundation (NSF) on behalf of the White House. The program was established in 1983 and is designed to recognize and reward outstanding teachers. In addition to a presidential citation and a trip to Washington, DC, each recipient’s school receives a NSF grant of $7,500 to be used under the direction of the teacher to supplement other resources for improving science or mathematics programs in their school system.

Douglas Heetderks, Lura Hegg and Gretchen Murphy are exceptional and highly dedicated teachers. Douglas Heetderks teaches Elementary Science at Susitna Elementary in Anchorage; Lura Hegg teaches Secondary Science at Colony Middle School in Palmer; and Gretchen Murphy teaches Elementary Math at University Park Elementary School in Fairbanks. In addition to having extensive knowledge of math and science, they have demonstrated an understanding of how students learn and have the ability to engage students, foster curiosity and generate excitement. Mr. Heetderks, Ms. Hegg, and Ms. Murphy have displayed an experimental and innovative approach in their teaching and are highly respected for their leadership.

Mr. President, our nation’s future depends on today’s teachers. Currently, 40 percent of America’s 4th graders read below the basic level on their reading tests. On international tests, the nation’s 12th graders rank last in Advanced Physics compared with students in 18 other countries. And one-third of all incoming college freshmen must enroll in a remedial reading, writing, or mathematics class before taking regular courses.

If we are to turn these dismal statistics around we are going to need more and talented teachers like Mr. Heetderks and Ms. Murphy. I applaud them for their hard work and dedication to our children. They are educating those who will lead this country in creating, developing, and putting to work new ideas and technology.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL RONALD B. BLANCK

- Mr. INOUYE. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to honor Lieutenant General Ronald B. Blanck as he retires from the United States Army after more than thirty-two years of active duty service. For the last four years, General Blanck has served as the United States Army Surgeon General and Commander, U.S. Army Medical Command General. During his tenure, he had significant oversight of eight Department of Defense activities as well as the management of the Army’s $6.6 billion, worldwide integrated health system.

Beginning his career as a general medical officer in Vietnam, General Blanck went on to hold a variety of executive positions that include: professor and teaching chief in graduate medical education at the Uniformed Services University; medical consultant to the Army Surgeon General; Commander of Walter Reed Army Medical Center and the North Atlantic Regional Medical Command; and finally as the U.S. Army’s 38th Surgeon General. General Blanck has met every challenge with enthusiasm and zeal. His team-building, compassion, and vision have resulted in greater cooperation among the Federal Health Services and improved delivery of medical care to our nation’s military, past and present.

General Blanck guided the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (AFIP) through a period of re-engineering and institutional collaborative missions with the Department of State, Department of Treasury, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Drug Enforcement Agency, National Aeronautic and Space Administration, National Transportation and Safety Board, and the Veterans Administration. These partnerships have fostered streamlined and improved delivery of medical care and facilitated the reputation of AFIP as being known as the “People’s Institute.”

He re-energized the Army Medical Department and instituted best business practices to ensure the provision of comprehensive, quality healthcare to service members, retired and active, and their family members. Faced with a military medical end-strength reduction of 94%, a reduction in Army medical treatment facilities of 45%, and medical force structure requirements reduction of 77%, General Blanck met the challenge. His brilliant leadership, compassionate vision and unprecedented achievements will guide the Army Medical Department and the entire federal health care system into the new millennium.

General Blanck’s contributions to Persian Gulf Illness and Anthrax programs, his interactions with Congress and the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs), and his commitment to the delivery of world-class medical care in support of contingency operations, national emergencies, and potential weapons of mass destruction scenarios are unsurpassed. Mr. President, while General Blanck’s many meritorious awards and decorations demonstrate his contributions in a tangible way, it is the legacy he leaves behind for the Army Medical Corps, the United States Army, and the Department of Defense for which we are most appreciative. It is with pride that I congratulate General Blanck on his outstanding career of exemplary service.

PACENTRO, ITALY, REUNION 2000

- Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, on July 2, 2000, a very special event will take place in Sterling Heights, Michigan: the first reunion of United States citizens who trace their roots back to the town of Pacentro, Italy. Over 800 people will attend the event, some of them with ancestors who immigrated to the United States over 150 years ago. In addition, the Mayor of Pacentro himself, Mr. Fernando Caparso, will be attending the event. I rise today to welcome Mr. Caparso to the State of Michigan.

Pacentro is a small town located east of Rome. It sits in the Abruzzo region in the province of L’Aquila. Born in medieval times, the town is famous for its three castle towers, the oldest of which was built by Count Boarmondo and dates back to the thirteenth century. Another dates from the fifteenth century and is reputed to be the most beautiful castle in the region. More recently, Pacentro has gained fame as the birthplace of the rock star Madonna’s grandparents.