

"The environmental groups have picked their fight specifically with the farmers but its acts will likely mean the death of an entire community. The farming industry there will lose \$250 million this year. But the property tax revenues will also decrease under new property assessments. That will strangle road and municipal projects. Local business are dependent on the farmers and are now suffering financially. Should the farm acreage be cleared of people entirely meaning no tax and no shoppers, the community is likely to disappear."

"Environmentalists argue," this columnist continues, "that farmers should never have been in the dry Klamath Valley in the first place and that they put undue stress on the land. But the West is a primarily arid region. Its history is one of turning inhospitable areas into thriving communities through prudent and thoughtful relocation of water."

The columnist goes on, "But, of course, this is the goal. Environmentalist groups have spoken openly of their desire to concentrate people into the cities turning everything outside city limits into a giant park. Do the people who give money to environmental groups realize the end game is to evict people from their land? I doubt it."

Ms. Strassel says, "The American dream has always been to own a bit of property on which to pursue happiness. And we are very slowly doing away with that in this country."

GENOCIDE AGAINST TAMILS IN SRI LANKA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHUSTER). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, genocide is often described as the planned and systemic annihilation of a racial, political or cultural group. As we look at different situations around the world, we often see instances in which genocidal activities are being carried out. We examine the struggle for self-determination in Kosovo, the ethnic conflicts in Bosnia and Macedonia and every other place where we have gone to safeguard the rights of ethnic minorities.

We failed to do that in Rwanda, and I do not want us to ever sit by and allow this level of atrocity to occur again without our intervention.

Unfortunately, there is another serious ethnic conflict under way of an almost genocidal bent in another part of the world. Let me tell you where it is and why we, the American people, do not know much about it despite the fact that our government is involved. The conflict of which I speak is the ethnic conflict that is taking place in Sri Lanka where the Tamil minority is

systemically being destroyed by the Sinhalese-dominated Government and its military.

I have every reason to believe that the Tamil minority in Sri Lanka has been denied their legitimate rights and are being subjected to the most inhumane treatment by the Sinhalese-dominated Government since the nation became independent in 1948.

Since the Tamil people and the Sinhalese people are concentrated predominantly on different parts of the island since ancient times, Sinhalese politicians have virtually ignored the legitimate concerns of the Tamil minority because they are elected almost exclusively by Sinhalese electorates.

The Tamil minority, which yearned to share the benefits of their newly found freedom with the Sinhalese, were dumbfounded when the Sinhalese-dominated Government rejected Tamil demands for the use of their language for regional administration, seek administration to universities based on merit, to secure employment opportunities without discrimination, to prevent their traditional homeland from being settled by Sinhalese citizens under government-sponsored colonization schemes and to develop their districts.

Furthermore, Tamil demands for any measure of regional autonomy for Tamil areas receive rejection by the Sinhalese-Buddhist clergy on the grounds that it would threaten the spiritual and ethnic integrity of the Sinhalese-Buddhist nation.

Every peaceful demonstration staged by Tamils to show their displeasure with the government was broken by force, mostly with the tacit approval of Sinhalese politicians. Hundreds of Tamils have been killed; their property damaged. As a result, almost half a million Tamils have had to take refuge in foreign countries. Another half million have been displaced from their homes within Sri Lanka. Their most treasured library along with some of the rarest books describing their ancient history and culture were deliberately burned by the army also with the tacit approval of a government minister.

Under these circumstances, Tamils felt as if they had no choice but to encourage its youth to organize, and many of their young people have taken military action, fighting back as part of a self-determination and liberation front.

The LTTE, as in every civil war, has carried out some violent acts that targeted government establishments in Sinhalese areas to counter the brutal activities of the Sri Lanka Government and has succeeded in some instances. Now comes the time for the real intervention that is needed. We ought not stand by and allow this ethnic conflict to continue to the demise of a people, specially those who constitute the minority.

Therefore, I hope that our government, this government, will become more diplomatically involved, will try and bring about peaceful resolution of this conflict that is wrecking a nation.

ENERGY POLICIES FOR THE FUTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PETERSON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, tonight a group of us here would like to talk about energy. We have heard a lot of discussion about energy. In fact now that gasoline prices have kind of dropped off, home heating prices have declined and things have sort of settled down, electric shortages in the West have not been happening for a few weeks, people say there is no crisis, it is just a lot of hype, a lot of smoke.

I am not one who believes that, and I agree with President George Bush and Vice President DICK CHENEY. This country needs a comprehensive energy policy. Let us look at the record and see the trends happening.

Recent trends, everybody has concern that the dependency on oil was coming from parts of the world that do not care about us, OPEC nations. We are approaching the 60 percent factor. That is not a healthy thing for our country.

Coal, there has been a very flat use of coal and a resistance to the new clean coal-use technologies. Coal use has been flat in this country, and maybe slightly declining.

Then look at nuclear where the percentage is slowly dropping. There has been a moratorium on new nuclear uses ever since the problem that happened in Pennsylvania many years ago. There have been no new plants built or planned; and the interesting part is in a recent report from the Department of Energy, the problem with nuclear continuing is the resistance of relicensing of existing nuclear plants. If we do not relicense our current plants, we are going to lose a great deal of our electricity.

Then we have hydro. The Department of Energy had the same mark beside hydro: flat, slightly declining, difficult to relicense. That is the view of the Department of Energy.

Then we have renewables, and we would like to see them grow and expand and take up the marketplace. In renewables, we have had very slow growth in solar, wind, geothermal, and more recently fuel cells. I think fuel cells are the one with the huge promise, probably sooner than others. There are those who think solar and wind can solve our problems. Every graph I look at shows them slow, almost no growth.