

Poles to save one Jew, and the Poles who were saving Jews are the glory of mankind." Chaim Grade's works reflect this truth.

No doubt, it is Chaim Grade's absolute objectivity and utmost spiritual and intellectual honesty that inspired Czeslaw Milosz, the spiritual and literary heir of Mickiewicz, to devote to him a chapter of homage in Milosz's ABC's, where among other important comments, he reports what a Jewish authority should have reported a long time ago: The Nobel Prize for Isaac Bashevis Singer was cause for violent controversies among Yiddish-speaking New York Jews . . . Above all, . . . in the opinion of the majority of the disputants, Grade was a much better writer than Singer, but little translated into English, which is why members of the Swedish Academy had no access to his writings. Singer gained fame, according to this opinion, by dishonest means. Obsessively concerned with sex, he created his own world of Polish Jews which had nothing in common with reality—erotic, fantastic, filled with apparitions, spirits, and dybbuks, as if that had been the quotidian reality of Jewish towns. Grade was a real writer, faithful to the reality he described, and he deserved the Nobel Prize . . . Grade was attentive to the accuracy of the details he recorded and has been compared with Balzac or Dickens. . . .

This statement by an authority of Czeslaw Milosz's stature, himself a Nobel laureate, is a very serious matter. Czeslaw Milosz goes on to describe Jewish life in Poland as it was and Jewish-Polish relations as they were, all as reflected in the works of Chaim Grade. It is regrettable that he did not know what was very well known in Jewish literary circles, that Chaim Grade forbade all from nominating him for the Nobel prize, mostly because his pre-world war II prophetic and poetic visions of doom were recited like prayers both in the Vilna Ghetto and in Auschwitz, along with the poetry of the great Jewish poet Yitzhak Katzenelson, who, together with his wife and sons, perished in Auschwitz, and of whose works very little has been rescued. All this was reported by the surviving eyewitnesses in Yiddish and published in Argentina, then in English in America—check the Jewish Book Annual—the American Yearbook of Jewish Creativity 1990–1991, 5751. Many people regretted Chaim Grade's decision, for it was taken advantage of by the writer unequivocally rejected by the Jewish writers and readers for reasons well explained by Czeslaw Milosz, who, by whatever means, got the prize and paraded the foremost representative of Jewish literature, of the very Judaism. Thus, the issue is not that Chaim Grade does not have the Nobel Prize, but that, from the Jewish viewpoint, the least suitable, the worst possible writer, has it.

As Czeslaw Milosz rightly testifies, the Jewish people have the greatest appreciation for Chaim Grade, especially because of his volumes of lamentations in poetry and prose about the Holocaust, for which Encyclopedia Judaica reports, he is declared "the national Jewish poet, as Bialik was in his day." Chaim Grade's volumes resurrect the life of East European Jewry, such as it truly was, very much as stated by Czeslaw Milosz who, a Pole from Vilna, knew this life very well and is a most reliable witness.

Czeslaw Milosz's report about the Jewish attitude towards the Yiddish Nobel laureate may be corroborated by the following vignette: Professor Saul Lieberman, the Dean of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, heard the news from Sweden, and exclaimed in utter disbelief, "What?!!! But he

wrote only pornography!" When Bar Ilan University in Israel was approached about a prize for the Yiddish laureate, he was rejected so emphatically that the issue was never raised again.

Czeslaw Milosz's report is especially important in view of the general contempt for the Yiddish Nobel laureate. Thus, less than a month before the incomprehensible news from Sweden, John Simon wrote on September 12, 1978, in *The Esquire: International* understanding is a delightful thing. How nice it was at the recent Pula Film Festival, in Yugoslavia, between looking at films, to find a group of critics and scholars from various countries in agreement about the vast overratedness of that self-inflated, dully repetitious, barely second-rate fictionalist Isaac Bashevis Singer.

And Israel Shenker concluded the definitive literary obituary of the Yiddish laureate in August 1991, in the *Book Review* of the *New York Times*: He shied from chicken soup—and chickens—and became a devoted vegetarian . . . "So, in a very small way, I do a favor for the chickens," Singer said. "If I will ever get a monument, chickens will do it for me."

A *New York Times* reporter in 1978, the year of the shocking choice of the Nobel prize for literature, Israel Shenker is known to have approached the late Eugene Rachlis, the Editor-in-Chief of *Bobbs-Merrill*, then Chaim Grade's English publisher (now it is Knopf); and asked, "what's going on? Everybody says that it is your man who should have gotten the prize." All this explains why Israel Shenker chose to end the definitive literary obituary of the Yiddish laureate with the laureate's own "chickens" words.

And all this proves the great truth of the words of the man who is America's conscience, Abraham Lincoln, "you can fool all of the people some of the time, you can fool some of the people all of the time, but you cannot fool all of the people all of the time." Most importantly about this case is, of course, not just that the Yiddish laureate is a "pornographic writer," as rightly denounced by Saul Lieberman, nor that he is merely a "self-inflated, dully-repetitious, barely second-rate fictionalist," as rightly stated by John Simon and colleagues, nor that—as he himself knew and said—he is a writer for "chickens,"—whatever this may mean. The most important is precisely as Czeslaw Milosz testifies, "he created his own world of Polish Jews which had nothing in common with reality," as the result of which he has misinformed and mislead people, preventing them from knowing the truth about Jewish life in Eastern Europe, especially about Jewish-Polish relations. It is to be hoped that responsible people like John Simon and Israel Shenker will appreciate Czeslaw Milosz's testimony, that they are aware that the Jewish people are no "chickens," that, prize or no prize, the Jewish people have rejected the so-called Yiddish laureate, that his prize remains an incomprehensible insult, if not an outrage. And we cannot be too grateful to Czeslaw Milosz, the Polish Nobel Laureate, for having made in his ABC's room also for Chaim Grade, the Jewish master, who describes Jewish life in Eastern Europe as it really was, and, above all, the Jewish spirit such as it is, always and everywhere, beyond time and space, the spirit of the Bible.

RABBI EMANUEL RACKMAN,
Chancellor, Bar Ilan University.
STEPHEN WAGNER, Esq.,
Counsel, Bar Ilan University.

TRIBUTE TO THE COLORADO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 11, 2001

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise today to express gratitude to the Colorado General Assembly. I respectfully submit the following Colorado Joint Resolution for the RECORD.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 01S2-1002

By Representative(s) Dean, Spradley, Grossman, Fritz, Cloer, Alexander, Bacon, Berry, Borodkin, Boyd, Cadman, Chavez, Clapp, Coleman, Crane, Daniel, Decker, Fairbank, Garcia, Groff, Hefley, Hodge, Hoppe, Jahn, Jameson, Johnson, Kester, King, Larson, Lawrence, Lee, Mace, Madden, Marshall, Miller, Mitchell, Nunez, Paschall, Plant, Ragsdale, Rhodes, Rippy, Romanoff, Saliman, Sanchez, Schultheis, Scott, Sinclair, Smith, Snook, Spence, Stafford, Stengel, Swenson, Tapia, Tochtrop, Veiga, Vigil, Webster, Weddig, White, William S., Williams T., Witwer, and Young; also Senators(s) Matsunaka, Thiebaut, Andrews, Perlmutter, Anderson, Arnold, Chlouber, Dyer, Epps, Evans, Fitz-Gerald, Gordon, Hagedorn, Hanna, Hernandez, Hillman, Isgar, Lamborn, Linkhart, May, McElhany, Musgrave, Nichol, Owen, Phillips, Reeves, Takis, Tate, Taylor, Teck, and Windels.

CONCERNING THE EXPRESSION OF THE SENTIMENTS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY REGARDING THE TERRORIST ATTACKS ON AMERICAN SOIL ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001.

Whereas, September 11, 2001, may live in infamy as the day on which more people lost their lives or were injured on American soil as the result of acts of terrorism than on any other single day in history; and

Whereas, On that day, terrorists forcibly commandeered four commercial jet airliners scheduled to fly routes from the east coast of the continental United States to the west coast; and

Whereas, Once in control of these aircraft, the terrorists implemented a dastardly, suicidal plan of unparalleled proportions never before carried out in this country or anywhere else in the world; and

Whereas, The terrorists, piloting aircraft fully laden with highly flammable jet fuel and with total disregard for the lives of the passengers and crews on board or persons on the ground, turned these jet airliners into flying weapons of mass destruction, each with tremendous explosive power, and aimed their weapons at targets in New York City and Washington, D.C., our nation's capital, two of the most densely populated areas in our country; and

Whereas, Two of these aircraft were intentionally flown directly into the World Trade Center Towers in New York City, resulting in the terrifying, total destruction of two of the tallest buildings in the world, home to some 50,000 workers and up to 100,000 visitors daily and causing untold loss of life and injury to innocent, unarmed civilians; and

Whereas, A third jetliner slammed into the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., headquarters of our country's national defense and the largest office building in the world, also causing extensive damage, loss of life, and injury to persons; and

Whereas, The fourth plane, presumably aimed at targets in Washington, D.C., or possibly the presidential retreat at Camp David,

Maryland, crashed in rural Pennsylvania, killing all on board, including the pilot, United Airlines Captain Jason M. Dahl from the Ken Caryl Valley area of Jefferson County, Colorado, and flight attendant Kathryn Laborie, originally from Colorado Springs, Colorado; and

Whereas, Although we may never know for sure, authorities believe, based on cell phone calls from at least two passengers on the fourth plane, Jeremy Glick and Mark Bingham, to relatives on the ground in New Jersey and California, that passengers heroically struggled with the hijackers and probably took actions that prevented this plane from reaching the terrorists' planned target; and

Whereas, Many firefighters, law enforcement personnel, military personnel, and others worked tirelessly to try to save as many lives as possible in these disasters, and it is possible that more than three hundred fifty police officers and firefighters in New York City lost their lives in the line of duty; and

Whereas, The total loss of life and injuries resulting from these cowardly acts will be in the many thousands of people, if not more, and, in the words of New York Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani, will be "more than any of us can bear"; and

Whereas, President George W. Bush and the United States Congress, acting in bipartisan agreement, have made available all of the resources of the federal government to hunt down those responsible for these vicious war crimes; and

Whereas, After these events President Bush declared, "The resolve of this great nation is being tested"; and

Whereas, President Bush said in punishing those responsible that "We will make no distinction between the terrorists who committed these acts and those who harbor them"; and

Whereas, President Bush also stated that in punishing the guilty we must guard against assigning guilt to the blameless and must treat all Americans with the respect that they deserve, and we must particularly guard against unjustified discrimination against Muslims, Arab Americans, and others from the Middle East; now, therefore,

Be it Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Sixty-third General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring herein:

(1) That the General Assembly expresses its complete and utter condemnation of and outrage at the terrorist attacks that occurred on our soil on September 11, 2001;

(2) That the General Assembly expresses its heartfelt sympathy for the victims of these tragedies and their families;

(3) That the General Assembly commends the heroism of the many emergency personnel and individual citizens who responded to the scenes of these disasters;

(4) That the General Assembly wants terrorists to know they have failed in their mission to break the American spirit, but rather, these heinous acts have served only to strengthen our resolve; and

(5) That the General Assembly expresses its full support to President George W. Bush and the United States government in its actions to hunt down the perpetrators of these crimes against humanity and to punish those responsible, including any person or government that aids, abets, protects, finances, or harbors the perpetrators, in an appropriate manner.

Be it Further Resolved, That copies of this Resolution be sent to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United States, Colorado's delegation in the United States

Congress, the Honorable George E. Pataki, Governor of the State of New York, the Honorable James Gilmore III, Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, the Honorable Rudolph W. Giuliani, Mayor of the City of New York, the Honorable Anthony A. Williams, Mayor of the District of Columbia, and the families of the late Captain Jason M. Dahl of Jefferson County, Colorado and the late Kathryn Laborie of Colorado Springs, Colorado.

DOUG DEAN,
*Speaker of the House
of Representatives.*

JUDITH RODRIGUE,
*Chief Clerk of the
House of Represent-
atives.*

STAN MATSUNAKA,
*President of the Sen-
ate.*

KAREN GOLDMAN,
*Secretary of the Sen-
ate.*

CONGRATULATIONS TO BILL PUTNAM ON BEING INDUCTED INTO THE BROADCASTERS HALL OF FAME

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 11, 2001

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a few moments today to pay tribute to Bill Putnam, a friend and constituent of mine, and a pioneer in the broadcasting arena.

On November 12, 2001, in New York City, Bill Putnam will be inducted into the Broadcasting Hall of Fame for his long and distinguished career in television. It is my privilege to share with you his many accomplishments and to recognize his great work in the Springfield, Massachusetts area. I am pleased to share these remarks and his accomplishments in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and to congratulate him on his well-deserved honor.

Bill Putnam started WWLP in Springfield, the first licensed UHF station in the United States. WWLP has a long history of "firsts" in Springfield for a small market station. The station ran editorials, used longer news formats, ran an "As Schools Match Wits" high school quiz show, and aired a considerable amount of local programming. For more than 30 years, Bill Putnam himself did the editorials for the station, making WWLP the example of what local television is supposed to be.

Bill Putnam concentrated not only on the local market, but was a visionary into what broadcasting should become. He lobbied extensively for changes that would treat UHF signals on televisions the same as VHF signals. In the 1950's, many television sets either did not have UHF tuners or had tuners that were simply not as good as their VHF counterparts. The "All Channel Act" and subsequent FCC regulations, of which Bill Putnam was an outspoken advocate, made UHF stations able to get the market share that made them viable in mixed markets. In turn, this created the platform that gave us independent television, and is today the backbone of FOX and the UPN and WB networks.

Bill Putnam later served on the MSTV Board, a reversal that some found ironic since it was a group started by VHF owners trying to keep UHF people out of their market. He was the Secretary of the NBC Affiliates Board and was the head of the All-Industry committee on Teletext in the late 1970s. His contributions were integral as to why Fin-Syn regulations were redone in the early 1980s. Bill Putnam was an outspoken advocate on this issue.

Bill Putnam's interests are greater than broadcasting alone. Bill is a past President and Treasurer of the American Alpine Club and continues to serve as a U.S. delegate to the UIAA, the international standards club for climbing. He is the longest serving member of that group.

In addition, he was written and had published 11 books, with more than two currently underway.

Bill Putnam is also a decorated and distinguished patriot. He is a World War II veteran with two Purple Hearts, a Combat Infantry Badge, and a Silver Star, and he has the scars to prove it. He enlisted as a private in the military and came out as a first lieutenant.

Bill Putnam is currently the Sole Trustee of the Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, Arizona where he resides with his wife, Kitty Broman, who is also well known in broadcasting circles.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to honor Bill Putnam on being recognized and honored by the Broadcasters Hall of Fame for a long and distinguished career that has benefited the lives of so many in the Western Massachusetts area. Congratulations on the good work.

IN MEMORY OF MONSIGNOR
CASIMIR CIOLEK

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 11, 2001

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a wonderful man who has served his community selflessly his entire life, Monsignor Casimir Ciolek.

Monsignor Casimir Ciolek has served the spiritual community of Cleveland in countless capacities, but most recently served as chaplain at Cleveland Hopkins International Airport, where he held daily mass. Past assignments include the director of the St. Vincent de Paul Society in the Cleveland Diocese and also spiritual director for the national St. Vincent de Paul Society's Midwest region.

Monsignor Ciolek attended Cathedral Latin School and John Carroll University before entering the St. Mary seminar to become a priest. After ordination in 1946, Ciolek was appointed chaplain of Parmadale, the first Catholic children's residence of its kind. After a brief period of service, he went to the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. to study social work.

After moving back to Cleveland in 1957, he was assigned assistant director of Catholic Charities, and ten years later was promoted director. In 1977 he decided to become pastor of S.S. Peter and Paul Church in Garfield Heights, retiring from his post in 1992.