

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

BELARUS FREEDOM FIGHTER DE-SERVES UNITED STATES SUPPORT

HON. TOM DELAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 1996

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the growing chorus of protest against the increasingly violent and chaotic situation in the former Soviet satellite nation of Belarus.

As many of my colleagues know, Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko last month signed an agreement that would reintegrate the political, economic, and social ties between the two nations. While I realize the importance of neighborly alliances, I am afraid that this new treaty has ominous implications for emerging democracies in the newly independent nations of Eastern Europe. In point of fact, the agreement has already produced frightening results.

Tens of thousands of Belarusians, realizing the very real threat to their new-found independence, have taken to the streets of Minsk to protest the agreement. In response, President Lukashenko has initiated a campaign of fear and terror meant to intimidate the Belarusian people into silence. Lukashenko has placed former members of the Soviet Armed Forces in top posts throughout the Belarusian secret police and military, sending them out into the streets to arrest thousands of his own people and to raid their homes and places of business. The Belarusian President's regard for his own countrymen, fighting home-spun terrorism at the hands of their longtime oppressors, is so low that he has referred to them as " * * * sick people who have placed themselves outside of the law."

Standing in stark contrast to President Lukashenko's repressive tactics is Yuri Khadyka, a longtime Belarusian freedom fighter. Mr. Khadyka fought the heavy yoke of communism when Belarus was a Soviet satellite and now that his homeland has tasted freedom, he has become a leading figure in the fight to preserve Belarusian independence. Distressingly, Mr. Khadyka has been imprisoned since April 27 for standing up to President Lukashenko's growing campaign of terror and intimidation.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, the saddest chapter in this sordid story is the complicity of the Clinton administration in Mr. Khadyka's imprisonment. To fulfill a political agenda, this administration has stood idly by while the fragile framework of a newly independent nation crumbles and innocent people like Mr. Khadyka are imprisoned at the hands of a present-day dictator.

In order to prop up Boris Yeltsin's reelection campaign, this administration has signaled its tacit approval of the reintegration of Russia and Belarus. In fact, President Lukashenko, a career Communist Party bureaucrat, has given every indication that he would prefer to see one of President Yeltsin's more hard-line rivals

prevail in the upcoming elections. If that happens, and if the Communist Party once again takes the reigns of power in Moscow, this agreement will signal the functional end of independence in Belarus. I support President Yeltsin's efforts to implement democratic and free-market reforms in Russia, but I would urge Mr. Yeltsin to recognize that Belarus has the right to pursue these same goals on its own terms.

As Thomas Jefferson wrote in the Declaration of Independence, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness." I do not quote this famous document lightly—the simple truth is that these words represent a plain, concise distillation of what we, as Americans, believe to be true for all people, everywhere. That is why I urge President Clinton to put political maneuvering aside and to support those ideals upon which the United States was founded. Now, as freedom takes root throughout Eastern Europe, the United States must support the standard-bearers of liberty on this democratic frontier. Yuri Khadyka is such an individual, and he deserves our support and assistance as he strives to preserve democracy in his beloved homeland.

HONORING THE RUTHERFORD COUNTY RESCUE SQUAD

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services provided by the Rutherford County Rescue Squad. These brave, civic-minded people give freely of their time so that should disaster strike, we know that our friends and neighbors are there to help.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a member of the rescue squad. Rescue squad members undergo a training series over a 4- to 6-month period which includes instruction in cardiopulmonary resuscitation [CPR], vehicle extrication, emergency driving, and rescue orientation. In addition to this training, rescue squad members also meet monthly to address business concerns as well as hear guest speakers.

Rescue squad members are volunteers. They receive no pay for what they do. What also makes their service especially outstanding is that the organizations themselves receive no funding. They receive no funding from the city, the county, or the Federal Government.

Rescue squads are funded in the same spirit of community volunteerism which moves them to serve. Family, friends, and neighbors pitch in at bake sales, road blocks, and fish

frys to help those who sacrifice their time for the benefit of the whole community.

Committing such an amount of spare time and energy to a job so emotionally and physically taxing requires a sense of devotion and duty for which we are all grateful.

WHITTIER CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT HONORS NEAL J. AVERY FOR 45 YEARS SERVICE

HON. ESTEBAN EDWARD TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 1996

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring Whittier City School District Superintendent Neal J. Avery as he retires after 45 years of service in public education. On Wednesday, June 12, district employees and friends will gather to celebrate and honor Neal for his commitment to the education of our students.

Born in Salt Lake City, UT, Neal moved to California to attend the University of Southern California, earning his bachelor's degree in education in 1951 and his master's degree in 1956. In September 1951, he began his teaching career in the Whittier City School District at Lydia Jackson School, teaching fifth and sixth grade students. In 1954, he transferred to Longfellow School as a teaching vice principal and received his tenure also that year. In 1956, he was appointed principal of George Washington School, and by 1959 was serving as principal of two schools, Lou Henry Hoover and Abraham Lincoln schools. In 1981, he was appointed superintendent of the district. His entire career has been spent dedicated to the students of the Whittier City School District.

In addition to his service to the school district, Neal has served on the Whittier YMCA board of directors for many years. He helped to establish the Whittier Youth Network Club in cooperation with the city of Whittier, which is held at several school sites. He received the PTA Honorary Service Award in 1993 from the Whittier/Pico Rivera Council PTA. He and his wife, Nedine, have two children.

Mr. Speaker, it is with pride that I congratulate my friend, Superintendent Neal Avery, on the occasion of his retirement from Whittier City School District after 45 years of dedicated service to our students and to our community.

A TRIBUTE TO EDWIN SCHNECK

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 1996

Mrs. MORELLA. I rise to salute a long-term educator in my district, Mr. Edwin Schneck. He has taught science for over 35 years; 32 of the years were spent in Bethesda, MD.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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