

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE BRAINERD SENIOR CENTER

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 29, 2016

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to and honor Chicago's Brainerd Senior Center, which celebrated its fifth Black History Month celebration on Friday.

This year, the Center highlighted African American inventors and their inventions. This event, Mr. Speaker, helped educate many and remind others of the contributions of important people such as Madame C.J. Walker, Robert F. Flemming, Jr., and Sarah Boone.

I applaud the Brainerd Center for keeping the legacies of these and other great Americans alive and ensuring that their contribution not only to our Nation, but the world, is not forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to the Brainerd Senior Center.

ESTABLISHING ACCOUNTABILITY AT THE WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION: IL-LICIT TECHNOLOGY TRANSFERS, WHISTLEBLOWING, AND REFORM

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 29, 2016

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, a hearing I held earlier this week put a spotlight on an organization that is a critical component of a global system of intellectual property and patent protection, the World Intellectual Property Organization, or WIPO. It is an organization that, unfortunately, appears to have lost its way under its current Director General, Francis Gurry, and is in need of major reform.

We heard from whistleblowers who related how they uncovered illicit transfers of technology to rogue nations such as North Korea and Iran, and how WIPO under Director General Gurry, unbeknownst to member States, cut deals with China and Russia to open offices in those countries, potentially putting our intellectual property at risk.

The hearing was about national security as much as the importance of sound governance and oversight. China, for example, has a notoriously bad record on protecting intellectual property rights—WIPO ought to be part of the solution.

You may know that I serve as Chairman of the Congressional-Executive Commission on China; Senator MARCO RUBIO is co-chair.

Ominously, the Commission's latest annual report released last October concluded that human rights violations had significantly worsened and were broader in scope than at any other time since the Commission was established in 2002.

Last week I travelled to China on a mission to promote human rights, the rule of law and democracy, which of course includes intellectual property rights.

In China I not only met and argued with government leaders, but I had the privilege of writing and delivering a keynote address to students and faculty at New York University-Shanghai.

Hopes in the 90's that China would eventually and inevitably matriculate from a dictatorship to democracy haven't even come close to materializing.

According to the Commission's report, U.S. companies faced significant difficulties related to intellectual property rights in China. And China is not the only place where these problems persist.

Two of our witnesses, Jim Pooley and Miranda Brown, recounted what they saw at WIPO, and what happened when they sought to bring to light what they saw. It is not a pretty story.

It is the personal aspect of governance and oversight that I want to emphasize, because at its heart the story we heard is a human drama, about brave individuals who at great personal cost to themselves and their comfort saw wrongdoing and decided to do something about it.

The hearing was timely as well as topical, as there has been an internal investigation of WIPO by the UN's Office of Internal Oversight Services into the allegations of wrongdoing. The results of this investigation are currently before the chairman of WIPO's General Assembly—this is a General Assembly of member states, including the United States, based in Geneva.

It is incumbent upon the General Assembly chairman—Gabriel Duque of Colombia—that he act upon this report, share it with the member states, and make it publically available. We also call upon our State Department to follow up on this, and to be persistent in pushing for reform, transparency and accountability of WIPO.

This week's hearing will have reverberations beyond WIPO, for there appears to be a culture of corruption at many international organizations, not only WIPO.

We hear revelations, for example, about FIFA and world soccer, and how the serpent of corruption wheedles its way even into the world of sport, undermining the nobility of athletic competition.

We hear of the sexual exploitation of minors occurring in UN peacekeeping missions—I chaired three hearings on that and traveled to DR Congo to investigate—transforming ostensible emissaries of mercy into envoys of exploitation, and supposed places of refuge maw pits of misery.

The hearing I held this week is the first in what we hope to be a series of hearings this Congress holds to focus on the need for reform at the United Nations and its institutions, with our next in the series being on UN Peacekeepers and the issue of sexual exploitation and abuse.

We believe by shining a light, we can help victims and help end corruption, bringing healing and true reform.

Organizations such as WIPO are too important to be abandoned. It is essential that we conduct vigorous oversight and demand accountability to help refocus this organization on fulfilling its vital mission.

Finally, I would like to thank my co-chairs from the co-sponsoring subcommittees, ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN and MATT SALMON, and our various ranking members, for joining me at the hearing earlier this week. Rep. ROS-LEHTINEN in particular has been dogged in pursuing this issue over many years now, and deserves praise for first addressing the issue of corruption at WIPO.

INDIAN CONSUL GENERAL IN HOUSTON, MR. PARVATHANENI HARISH

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 29, 2016

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I celebrate and congratulate my friend Mr. Parvathaneni Harish, Indian Consul General in Houston. I celebrate his efforts on behalf of the Indian community in Houston and congratulate him on his new assignment as Ambassador to Vietnam.

I have met with Mr. Harish on many occasions and he is a thoughtful and caring representative of India. We agree that the United States and India have a unique and special bond, both founded on the importance of democracy and that our two nations have the utmost mutual respect for one another. We are both strongly engaged with trade and intellectual property projects.

I recently attended the Republic Day in India, celebrating the adoption of the Indian Constitution. Both the US and India are proud to celebrate unity in diversity. We recognized our two countries' work for many years for peace and prosperity, true patriotism, and independence.

Mr. Harish's efforts have strengthened relationships on the city, state, and federal levels. He has promoted visits to India and ways to benefit the US and Indian economy. I wish him the very best on his new assignment. He will be greatly missed in Houston and all of Southeast Texas.

And that's just the way it is.

IN RECOGNITION OF GEORGE W. JETER

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 29, 2016

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great husband, father, philanthropist, entrepreneur, and friend of long

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