

he continued writing visas on the train platform. His wife remembers: "Even as the train started going, he continued writing, leaning out of the window. Finally, he said 'Forgive me. I cannot write any more. I pray for your good luck.' People started to run alongside the train, and one of them shouted, 'Sugihara, we will not forget about you. We are going to see you again.'"

It was not until 1968, however, before this would happen. After the war, he was fired from his post with the Foreign Ministry, and worked at odd jobs before working in Moscow for a Japanese trading company. Finally, he was tracked down by one of the refugees whose life he had saved. Finally, nearly 30 years later, he was honored in Israel as a righteous gentile, an honor bestowed upon those who had worked to save Jews from the Holocaust. Though Sugihara died in 1986, his wife, Yukiko, has been honored in Japan by Jewish-Americans who benefitted from his visas, as well as by surviving members of the famed Japanese-American combat battalions who liberated Dachau and, finally, by the Japanese Government. On Sunday, January 22, Yukiko Sugihara will be honored in San Francisco for the bravery, compassion, and humanity exhibited by her and her husband.

Mr. Speaker, it is difficult to truly express the legacy of the Sugiharas. But the best legacy cannot be expressed in words, but seen in their good works: the lives of the people they saved. Their continued presence, and their families' presence, gives inspiration and hope to future generations of humanity.

#### AMENDING HOUSE RULES TO PERMIT CHAIRMEN TO SCHEDULE COMMITTEE HEARINGS

### HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 23, 1995

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a change in House rules designed to restore what has been the practice in this House for as long as I have been here, and that is to allow committee, and by implication, subcommittee, chairmen to schedule hearings of their committees and subcommittees.

Clause 2(g)(3) of House rule XI requires each committee to announce hearings a week in advance unless the committee determines there is good cause to schedule a hearing sooner. While it has been the standing practice of committees to defer to the discretion of their chairmen to make this decision in setting hearings, according to the Parliamentarian's Office, committee should mean committee. Under clause 2(g)(5) of rule XI, if a point of order is made against any improper hearing procedure in a timely manner in committee, and is improperly overruled or not considered, then it may be renewed on the floor against consideration of the bill that was the subject of the improper hearing.

Such an instance has arisen already in this Congress, and, as far as we can determine, is the first time that a chairman's authority to schedule hearings has been challenged. As a result, we will have to waive that point of order to consider the bill in question.

Mr. Speaker, in checking on the legislative history behind this rule, there is no explanation as to why the word "committee" is used re-

garding the announcement of hearings as opposed to "chairman." The fact is that clause 2(c)(1) of rule XI already authorizes committee chairmen to call committee meetings without any prescribed advance notice. Certainly committee meetings, at which bills are marked-up and reported, are far more important than hearings.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would think that Members would want to encourage chairmen to hold hearings as opposed to not doing so for fear of inviting points of order; or, in the alternative, of having to convene a committee meeting with a quorum present to first authorize any hearing.

It would be my expectation that committee chairmen would not abuse this new rule by calling spur of the moment hearings under their authority to give less than a week's notice, and that this will only be done in the most urgent of circumstances.

But I do think it is important that we allow committees to proceed with hearings on measures whenever possible, and that we not put obstacles in the way of chairmen who want to hold hearings prior to marking-up and reporting legislation.

I intend to hold a markup on this rule change later this week so that we can proceed in an orderly fashion with hearings in this Congress.

The text of the resolution follows:

H. RES. 43

That, in rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, clause 2(g)(3) is amended clause to read as follows:

"(3) The chairman of each committee of the House (except the Committee on Rules) shall make public announcement of the date, place and subject matter of any committee hearing at least one week before the commencement of the hearing. If the chairman of the committee determines that there is good cause to begin the hearing sooner, the chairman shall make the announcement at the earliest possible date. Any announcement made under this subparagraph shall be promptly published in the Daily Digest and promptly entered into the committee scheduling service of the House Information Systems."

#### THE STAFF PROTECTION ACT OF 1995

### HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 23, 1995

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, today I have introduced, on behalf of myself and 18 of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle, the Staff Protection Act of 1995, H.R. 628.

This title speaks directly to the nature of this legislation. Currently, under the United States Criminal Code, our staff members are not protected from assault, threats, or violence caused to them while performing their official duties.

I learned of this breach in the law through personal experience. In 1993, I and members of my District office staff, were threatened repeatedly by a person with a record of violence. Several staff members were forced to endure this harassment on a daily basis and became fearful of their physical safety. After making direct threats on the lives of staff members, this person was indicted by the U.S.

attorney and arrested. I was subpoenaed to testify in Federal court in Los Angeles about the threats made against me and members of the staff. Due to my appearance in court, I missed five important votes.

Unfortunately, the only attainable evidence was of this person physically threatening my district director and not me personally. Since the United States Code does not protect members of one's official staff, the judge dismissed the case. As a result, this individual was released, and the staff's safety and peace of mind have continued to be placed in jeopardy.

My staff is not the only one to suffer from this kind of harassment. Many of us know of other offices where violence to the staff has been threatened and/or acted upon. This measure will ensure that congressional staff and their families have the same legal protection afforded to Members of Congress and their families. There is no reason why Federal law should not protect members of our staffs while they are serving in an official capacity.

Mr. Speaker, this proposal has received broad, bipartisan support. It costs nothing to change the law. The benefit is the safety of those who serve this institution and our constituents with immeasurable dedication and loyalty.

I enclose the text of H.R. 628:

H.R. 628

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Staff Protection Act of 1995".

#### SEC. 2. PROTECTIONS FOR STAFF OF CERTAIN OFFICIALS.

Section 115 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1)(A), by inserting "a member of the staff or" before "a member of the immediate family";

(2) in subsection (a)(1)(B), by inserting "or a member of the staff of such an official, judge, or law enforcement officer;" after "under such section,";

(3) in the matter following subparagraph (B) in subsection (a)(1), by striking "or law enforcement officer" each place it appears and inserting "law enforcement officer, or member of the staff"; and

(4) in subsection (c)—

(A) by striking "and" at the end of paragraph (3);

(B) by striking the period at the end of paragraph (4) and inserting "; and"; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

"(5) 'member of the staff' includes any person acting in a staff capacity, whether on a paid or unpaid basis."

#### SAUDI ARABIA'S UNFAIR TREATMENT OF GIBBS & HILL, INC.

### HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 23, 1995

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my continued disappointment and frustration with the Government of Saudi Arabia and its ongoing unfair treatment of the American company Gibbs & Hill, Inc. [GHI]. In the late 1970's and 1980's GHI was decimated by financial losses incurred on the design of a desalination project in Saudi Arabia