

While APHIS maintains that it does not have the authority to withhold licenses for failure to comply with AWA requirements once an original license is issued, the agency does in fact have the authority to suspend and revoke the license of any facility that violates the act. I am hopeful that this misunderstanding within the agency can be corrected. If APHIS does not have the authority, under current legislation, to enforce the requirements of the act, then it should seek the authority from Congress or initiate legislation, as the inspector general has recommended, amending the act to provide APHIS with the proper authority.

The report surely provides plenty of ammunition for concerned groups and citizens who have asserted for years that APHIS is not willing to enforce the AWA. I am hopeful that we can move forward from here and begin to provide a more meaningful level of protection for the thousands of animals under the current jurisdiction of APHIS. I look forward to seeing APHIS move forward with a progressive approach toward rectifying the egregious problems associated with the enforcement of the act and its concomitant regulations.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR
DEMOCRACY PROGRAMS

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 13, 1995

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to the attention of my colleagues a letter I have received from Mr. John Brademas, chairman of the board of directors of the National Endowment for Democracy. The letter is in response to an article in Harper's Magazine criticizing a meeting sponsored by NED in Zagreb.

I agree with Mr. Brandemas that the Harper's article was filled with distortions that do not accurately reflect the purpose or the results of the Zagreb meeting. Those distortions and inaccuracies need to be addressed.

The National Endowment for Democracy has been in the forefront of supporting and promoting democratic values and the democratic system around the world for many years. The contributions made by the work of the Endowment, particularly in the emerging democracies of Central and Eastern Europe and in the former Soviet Union, have gone a long way to consolidating the movement toward democracy in those countries.

NEW YORK, NY,
June 2, 1995.

Mr. LEWIS H. LAPHAM,
Editor, Harper's Magazine,
New York, NY.

DEAR MR. LAPHAM: Your reporter's cynical account of the meeting the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) recently sponsored in Zagreb, Croatia ("At Play in the Fields of Oppression," May, 1995) betrays an almost willful ignorance of the meeting, its results—which were considerable—and the larger work of NED.

As Chairman of the Endowment's Board of Directors, I would like to set the record straight.

The purpose of the Zagreb meeting was to bring together democratic activists from Southeastern Europe to meet with one another and with Western groups interested in supporting free government and human

rights, but seeking more knowledge of the region and its non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Since fighting began in the former Yugoslavia four years ago, like-minded activists living in different republics have found it nearly impossible to communicate with one another. Their respective societies have virtually no contact; for example, the telephone lines between Zagreb and Belgrade have been cut for over three years.

The Zagreb meeting, attended by representatives of 67 NGOs from the region and 34 Western aid organizations, was not the idle talk portrayed in the article, but a rare opportunity for friends of democracy in the war-torn Balkans to share ideas and establish contacts that will lead to practical assistance.

A few facts will give the lie to the charge that NED's programming is centered around meaningless conferences. The Endowment, which has been active in the former Yugoslavia since 1988, has provided computers, printing equipment, and vital supplies to independent newspapers and radio stations in Bosnia and Serbia-Montenegro. Without this timely aid, these free media outlets would have had to shut down. Acting through the Free Trade Union Institute, NED assists a multiethnic trade-union confederation in Serbia that openly challenges the anti-democratic policies of the Milosevic regime. Endowment funds also help underwrite the cost of the Balkan Media Network, an electronic bulletin board that links the region's media outlets through E-mail. These are but a few of the tangible forms of assistance that characterize NED-supported programs in every former Yugoslav republic.

Among the substantive results of the meeting in Zagreb are the many proposals the Endowment has received from participants inspired by the informal discussions and workshops they attended. Although the article identifies the director of an independent Bosnian radio station as a leading critic of Western donors, this same man felt the meeting of sufficient value to offer afterwards a project for the Endowment's consideration.

From the beginning, the Zagreb meeting was conceived as a way speedily to provide practical help to worthy groups that were poorly known (or completely unknown) to Western organizations, and to urge more Western groups to work in the region. Fortunately, Western groups never before active in the region have decided to get involved. A good example is NED's sister institution in Great Britain, the Westminster Foundation for Democracy, which will be working in Kosovo as a direct result of contacts made in Zagreb.

Your reporter falsely interprets the activists' general (and understandable) complaints about the larger Western failure in the Balkans as an attack on NED, and focuses attention on some stray inanities uttered by a handful of the Western participants. He seems to have missed hearing any of the dozens of serious exchanges that took place informally. Yet those exchanges represented the real work of the meeting as participants developed plans for building independent media organs, human rights groups and civic organizations throughout the region.

Nowhere in the article is there acknowledgement that the meeting in Zagreb was an indigenous effort organized by the Erasmus Guild, a well-respected Croatian NGO. The Endowment-supported guild has worked effectively to promote civil society and ethnic harmony in a region that desperately needs both. For example, the Guild has successfully convened roundtable sessions that have brought together Croat, Serb and Muslim democrats to discuss inter-ethnic relations

and the building of viable voluntary associations.

As Dr. Vesna Pusic, the Guild's Director has pointed out, "It is absolutely essential to avoid replicating in the NGO sector a monopoly similar to the one that has been created by the ruling parties in most of the countries on the territory of the former Yugoslavia. That can be secured only by providing multiple sources of financing for different non-government organizations." This sentiment has been echoed by the Open Society Fund in Serbia, financed by the philanthropist George Soros, which has appealed for other funders to become involved.

The article is too loaded with inaccuracies and distortions to point them all out. Let me cite only the most blatant ones:

(1) None of the Eastern European participants had to pay their way to the meeting. Conversely, Western groups did.

(2) The reference to criticism of the Endowment by government accountants is based on a 1991 General Accounting Office report. Its recommendations for managerial improvements have long since been implemented.

(3) The description of two grants (neither accurately described) made by NED in 1984, the very first year of operations, continue to be trotted out by Endowment critics as proof that it "meddles" in the internal affairs of other countries. Yet the issues raised by these grants were addressed long ago: the Endowment has strict internal prohibitions against involvement in political campaigns (distinguished from electoral processes), and NED has a policy against working in established democracies. To put these two grants into perspective, I note that NED has funded over two thousand projects during its existence.

(4) The allegation that the International Republican Institute (IRI) expended funds to help finance the 1990 Republican National Convention is false. Funds raised privately were used to bring democratic activists from abroad to experience a particular aspect of American democracy and to be briefed by experts on campaigns, polling and elections.

(5) The IRI did use business class travel for its pro bono participants in overseas programs at a time when doing so was well within government regulations. Since 1992 (before the change in government regulations), IRI has permitted its volunteers and staff to travel in coach class only.

Let me close with a personal observation: After 22 years in Congress and 11 as President of New York University, I agreed to serve as Chairman of the National Endowment for Democracy, an obligation I did not assume lightly. To me, democracy is serious business and, in my case, a matter of life-long commitment. I wish that Harper's would have been more discerning in publishing an article about a critical issue—encouraging free and democratic political institutions in countries that do not enjoy them—rather than accepting such a cynical, indeed arrogant, misrepresentation of fact.

Sincerely,

JOHN BRADEMAs.

APACHE LANGUAGE KEY TO
CULTURE'S SURVIVAL

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 13, 1995

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, there are fewer eloquent leaders in Arizona, or the Nation, than Chairman Ronnie Lupe of the White

Mountain Apache Tribe. Time and again Chairman Lupe has seized the attention of a large crowd in a busy meeting with his passion and spirit as he speaks of his Apache people and their heritage.

Mr. Speaker, Chairman Lupe's eloquence is not confined to the English language. He is as eloquent and as forceful in his sacred Apache language as well.

In a recent article published in the newspaper "Indian Country Today", Chairman Lupe writes of the threats posed by today's cultural influences on native America languages.

I would call the attention of all my colleagues to this excellent and forceful article:

[From the Indian Country Today]

APACHE LANGUAGE KEY TO CULTURE'S SURVIVAL

(By Ron Lupe)

A recent article in the Arizona Republic rekindled my deep concern about the preservation of our Apache language.

This article, which reported on a meeting of linguists, said that in the opinion of the experts, half of all spoken languages will become extinct in the next century. It further stated that there are currently 6,000 languages spoken in the world, but in the next 100 years half of them will become extinct.

The thought of the possibility that our sacred Apache language could be among those that become extinct was truly upsetting. To me, that is thinking the impossible. Not only would it mean an end to our spoken language, but it would be the demise of the cultural richness we reflect in our Apache language and express in our prayers.

Who would we be without our language?

Yet, as I go around our reservation, I hear fewer and fewer of our younger children speaking Apache. I see less emphasis on the speaking of our language in our homes. And while the recent efforts of the school district to incorporate the teaching of the Apache language in the lower grades is commendable, I'm afraid that alone will not be enough to reverse these trends.

According to the newspaper report, the culprits in the extinction of Native languages are no longer official government policies, as it was back in the boarding school and early reservation days.

Rather, it's the pervasive influence of the electronic media. The ever-present television, the videos, the music tapes and CDs and all of the other media influences that come to us in the dominant English language are having a destructive effect on the survival of Native languages.

The trend is true not only for the White Mountain Apache but for people all around the world. The influence of the modern electronic media is powerful and we see it operating on our own lives, as well as the lives of our children and our grandchildren.

It will take an extraordinary effort to counteract the dominating influences that are undermining the preservation of our Apache language.

It's interesting that the federal government will go to great lengths to protect endangered species like the loach minnow or small plants and insects, and yet it does very little to preserve the Native languages that exist within the United States.

It's a sad commentary on federal policies that plant and insect life have a higher priority with our government than the Native languages, which are capable of capturing and reflecting so much cultural beauty and diversity.

The same newspaper article reported on an 80-year-old Promo woman from California who recently died.

She was the last Native speaker of her tribe's language.

What a tragedy! We must work hard to see that similar tragedies never happen to our people and our Apache language, which reflects so much of the beauty and richness of our culture and traditions.

Another article on the same page reported on recent research findings showing that languages are best learned when an individual is young. Research has shown that as we get older, we lose the ability to learn languages. Experts feel that the best time to learn languages is between the ages of two and 12.

It's clear that we must concentrate on instilling the Apache language in our very young. That means there has to be a concerted effort in the home, at Head Start and the lower grades. And, it is in the home where the greatest influence on the acquiring of the Apache language will take place.

If the ability to speak Apache is important to the parent, it is likely that it will be important to their children. Apache parents need to know that they have a responsibility to pass on our rich cultural heritage to their children, and that the future of the Apache language truly depends on them.

Likewise, it should be the role of our tribal government to try to reinforce and emphasize—to our youngsters and other tribal members—the importance of learning our Apache language.

Such efforts can only supplement what the child is exposed to at home and with his friends. Despite the formidable obstacles, we must continue our efforts to keep our Apache language as a vibrant and vital part of our everyday life. That's why the recently adopted constitution included provisions requiring tribal council members to be fluent in our language. This was done to insure that our special Apache way of looking at the world, as reflected in our Apache language, is maintained in our governmental decision-making processes.

There were times when we were discriminated against by government agencies and schools for speaking our own Apache language. We were considered second-class citizens if we chose to speak our Apache language, rather than English. To a great extent, this cruel psychological attack from the government and others was successful.

Even today, there is legislation in Arizona and other states designed to embarrass other nationalities who speak their own language and to establish English as the only "official" language of the United States. Such discrimination will undermine our bi-lingual education efforts.

While we still have a majority of our tribal members speaking our Apache language, we must do all that we can to insure that our language is preserved and transmitted to future generations of the White Mountain Apache.

TRIBUTE TO SAN ANTONIO POLICE OFFICERS

HON. FRANK TEJEDA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 13, 1995

Mr. TEJEDA. Mr. Speaker, we do not often enough have the opportunity to say "thanks" to the many hardworking men and women in our local police forces who risk their lives day in and day out to protect our towns and cities. I recently received a letter describing the successful efforts of San Antonio police officers to apprehend the perpetrators of a foiled assault and robbery. The crime victim eloquently describes the incident and her gratitude to the

assisting officers. I echo her sentiments and offer my thanks to the police officers for their professionalism and teamwork. The letter is set forth below:

APRIL 25, 1995.

Hon. FRANK TEJEDA,

Cannon House Office Bldg., Washington, DC.

DEAR FRANK TEJEDA: On February 21, 1995 at 4:00 p.m. I was at Ed's Car Wash on Military Drive. While washing my car I noticed six teenagers standing on the side of the stall I was occupying. I thought they were waiting for their after school bus.

As I was washing my car a teenager, who later turned out to be the perpetrator, asked me for the time. I replied that it was 4:00 p.m. I felt uneasy because something in the way he was acting did not seem right. At this time I noticed that two of the teens were watching me. At first I was going to just leave but I thought I was in a public place and there were plenty of people around, I felt I was safe.

As I was putting the wash wand up, I heard running behind me. Just as I turned around there were two more teens coming at me. At this time the first teen that asked for the time started attacking me. He grabbed me from behind the neck and started choking me. I could feel myself starting to black out. At this point, he started to hit me in the mouth with his fist, causing an open injury inside my mouth and I could feel myself start choking on my own blood. He placed a gun at the back of my head and then hit me on the side of my face with the gun. He kept ordering me to give him my car keys and telling me to get into the car. I could do neither as he was still choking me until I was nearly passing out and I could not talk at this time. He had my arms and legs pinned against the car. My keys were locked in the car. He finally loosened his grip on my throat and I was able to tell him my keys were locked in the car and I had a car code. Then I screamed "God help me." He look frightened and they all started running. I also started running in the other direction. I yelled for someone to help me and call the police that some teens had tried to kill me and one of them at least had a gun. Everyone got into their cars and left me standing there. But someone did call the police and they were there within minutes. The police had caught all of the teens within minutes.

The following officers from the West Side Sub-station were involved in the arrest of the teens:

1. Officer Sid McDonald—#282.
2. Officer Daniel Zamora—#1198.
3. Officer Kevin Wreser—#1022.

Officers assisting in the arrest were:

1. Officer Joe Esquibel—#129.
2. Officer Mavin Cannon—#966.
3. Officer Steven Martinez—#547.
4. Officer Randy Geary—#1141.
5. Officer Royce Basquez—#1194.
6. Officer Ruben Ramon—#775.
7. Officer Steven Howard—#932.
8. Officer Michael Kubena—#2002.
9. Officer William Biesenbach—#2381.

Investigating Officer—1. Sgt. Greg Young.

These fine officers showed concern for me and professional teamwork in the apprehension of these teenage juveniles. Within minutes the teens were caught. It was later learned that every one of them had prior arrest records.

Please thank these officers.

I have always stated and I will state again we have the finest police department in the United States. Please tell them to keep up the good work and God Bless All of the Police for making me feel safer because they are there.