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Congratulations as the Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce celebrates its centennial anniversary and recognizes 1995 as a year of reflecting on Sacramento's past and being part of the future.

DEMOCRACY'S DICHOTOMY IN
SLOVAKIA

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 1995

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my concern over recent events in Slovakia.

Since coming to office last winter, members of the current ruling coalition in that country have repeatedly sought to limit public discourse, control public debate, and quash public criticism of the government. They have portrayed those who disapprove of the government's policies as enemies of an independent Slovakia, and those who disagree with Prime Minister Meciar are depicted as "anti-Slovak." The media and the right of free expression have been special targets of the current regime.

A few weeks ago, I, along with the co-chairman of the Helsinki Commission, Senator ALFONSE D'AMATO, and the ranking Members, Representative STENY HOYER and Senator FRANK LAUTENBERG, sent a letter to Slovak Ambassador Lichardus to express our profound concern regarding this trend. Unfortunately, events since then raise even more questions about the authorities in Bratislava. I would like to mention three specific incidents to illustrate my point:

In late August, the office of Bishop Rudolf Balaz was subjected to an unannounced police search, allegedly in connection with purported illegal antiquities trading. This intrusion came, not coincidentally, after the Bishops Conference described Prime Minister Meciar's efforts to oust President Michal Kovac as destabilizing.

Shortly after that, the President's son, Michal Kovac, Jr. was kidnaped and literally dumped in Austria. Moreover, the investigator charged with looking into this case was removed from this inquiry after announcing that witnesses had been intimidated and there were possible links to the security forces.

Last week, Frantisek Miklosko, the deputy chair of the Christian Democratic Party—who had been in Washington just a few months ago—was beaten up by three thugs in front of his home.

Ironically, Mr. Speaker, as the ruling coalition continues to delay or even reverse the establishment of democratic institutions and market reforms in Slovakia, average Slovak citizens have shown an unprecedented degree of activism: tens of thousands of people have demonstrated in Bratislava this year, 100,000

have signed a petition calling for freedom of speech, and, after Bishop Balaz's office was searched, 3,000 clerics demonstrated to protest government intimidation of Catholic Church officials.

Mr. Speaker, as parliamentarians reconvene in Bratislava for the fall session and once again take up legislation that will define the pace and parameters of Slovakia's democratic transformation, they might do well to look at a chapter from recent Polish history: when 100,000 people—in a country of only 5 million—take to the streets to protest you policies, you should pay attention.

NOTING THE PASSING OF ELMER
J. WHITING, JR., FIRST BLACK
CPA IN OHIO

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 1995

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I am saddened to report the recent death of Elmer J. Whiting, Jr., a respected member of the Cleveland community. Mr. Whiting passed away on September 15, 1995, at the age of 72. I join his colleagues, family, and friends in mourning the passing of this distinguished individual. I rise today to share with my colleagues some biographical information regarding Elmer J. Whiting.

Elmer Whiting, Jr., was a graduate of John Adams High School and Howard University. He received from Case Western University a masters degree in business administration, and later earned a law degree from Cleveland-Marshall School of Law. During his lifetime, Elmer Whiting, Jr., achieved a number of important firsts. He made history in 1950 when he became the first black certified public accountant in the State of Ohio.

In 1971, Elmer Whiting earned another first, by becoming the first African-American to be named a partner when he merged his practice with Ernst & Ernest. He was an individual who was admired by his colleagues throughout the Cleveland business community. During his career, he was elected to the presidency of the American Association of Attorneys-CPAS.

In addition to his professional career, Mr. Whiting maintained an outstanding record of service to civic organizations throughout the greater Cleveland area. He was the longest standing trustee and treasurer of the Eliza Bryant Center. Mr. Whiting also served on the boards of the Cleveland Playhouse, Karamu House, American Institute of Certified Public Accounts, and Blacks in Management, just to name a few.

Mr. Speaker, I first met Elmer J. Whiting, Jr., when we were both students at Cleveland Marshall Law School. He was 2 years behind me and attended classes with my brother, Carl. Elmer and I got to know one another and became good friends. He was an individual whom I greatly admired and respected. I recall that everyone was very proud of Elmer when he became the State's first black certified public accountant. I also recall that both Elmer and his wife, Carmel, were active in Carl's first campaign for mayor of Cleveland.

Shortly after coming to Congress, I had occasion to work with Elmer and the trustees at the Eliza Bryant Center. I supported their ef-

forts to obtain additional funding to expand the facility. This facility was a real work of love for Elmer, and he devoted many hours to its operation.

Mr. Speaker, the passing of Elmer J. Whiting, Jr., brings to a close a life committee to serving others. Those of us who had the privilege of knowing Elmer will always remember him as a pioneer and champion. I take this opportunity to extend my deepest sympathy to Carmel. I also extend my sympathy to Elmer's sons, Elmer J. III; David; Steven; and other members of the Whiting family. We hope that they will find comfort in knowing that our prayers are with them during this difficult period, and that others share their loss.

THE RCRA

HON. SAXBY CHAMBLISS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 1995

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, on September 14, I introduced a bill to correct a problem which has caused great difficulty for industry in general, and the wood preserving industry in particular. Wood preserving is an important industry in my home State of Georgia, as well as in the home States of many of the bill's co-sponsors.

Under current Federal regulations, many industries, including the wood preserving industry are required to report as generated hazardous wastes, large quantities of reused materials. These materials are never disposed, yet are considered wastes. This bill provides a balanced, reasonable, and fair solution by amending the statutory definition of solid waste—under the Resource, Conservation, and Recovery Act [RCRA]—to clearly exempt material that is maintained and reused within the manufacturing process.

RCRA was designed to encourage recycling and conservation. My bill would do this by reorganizing industry's extensive efforts to reuse materials. Any regulation promulgated under this act that discourages recycling should be eliminated.

Only materials that are discarded should be regulated as wastes. My bill exempts recycled material from the definition of solid waste. These materials would only be subject to the solid waste regulations, and thus the hazardous waste regulations, only if they are discarded. In the wood treating industry, materials not completely reused on site are either treated and discharged under stringent Clean Water Act standards, or are removed from the process and appropriately managed under RCRA. However, materials that are not intended for disposal, and do not become part of the waste disposal problem, should not be considered a hazardous waste.

The hazardous waste designation creates a two-fold problem. First, it presents an incorrect picture of the waste generation trend of manufacturers, such as wood preservers. In public documents, it appears as if small plants generate millions of gallons of hazardous waste when, in fact, the majority of the material is recycled and reused in the production process. Second, some States repeatedly tax the recycled preservative solution as hazardous waste each time it is reused, resulting in large tax liabilities that do not reflect the true generation of hazardous waste.