

the country with two presidential candidates on its board, Senator Richard Lugar and Malcolm S. Forbes, Jr., and I am also pleased to add that our eminent keynote speaker today, Zbigniew Brzezinski, is also a member of the NED board and that Congressman Hamilton is one of our strongest supporters on Capitol Hill.

NED grants are made to organizations dedicated to promoting the rule of law, free and fair elections, a free press, human rights and the other components of a genuinely democratic culture. The Endowment has a long-standing and successful program of grants in Central, Southern and Eastern Europe.

I also note that to expand its role as a center of ideas about democracy, the National Endowment for Democracy established in 1990 the quarterly *Journal of Democracy* and, in 1994, the International Forum for Democratic Studies. The Forum serves as a center for the study of democratic developments, a repository of published research and documents on democracy and an electronic communications network for democratic thinkers and activists. The Forum's staff conducts regular seminars and twice yearly holds a major conference on a central issue in democracy-building. Last August, for example, the International Forum co-hosted in Taiwan a very successful conference on "Consolidating the Third Wave Democracies."

Of course, we must acknowledge that those of us in the West who look to building democracy around the globe should not assume that it is we who have all the answers.

CULTURE OF DEMOCRACY

Because of my interest in issues of democracy building, you will not be surprised to hear that I believe we in the United States as well as our compatriots in Eastern Europe must do all we can to stimulate, in our own countries and abroad, a culture of open and accountable government.

This means, among other things, promoting the revival of civil society through the creation of "social capital." "Social capital," Professor Robert D. Putnam of Harvard University, writing by the way, in the *Journal of Democracy*, describes the bonds of trust and cooperation that develop among citizens actively involved in non-governmental organizations and associations. And Putnam asserts that activity in such voluntary associations generates involvement in the institutions of democratic government.

Building a culture of open and accountable government also means encouraging respect for diversity of views and tolerance of those of different racial, religious, ethnic and national backgrounds.

ORTHODOXY AND DEMOCRACY

Now, in this vein I want to close these introductory remarks by briefly raising one issue, not widely discussed or even acknowledged, concerning our topic—"Can U.S. Style Democracy Work in the CEE Republics?"

The issue is whether the countries of the Balkans, with an Eastern Orthodox heritage or "civilization," as Samuel Huntington would put it, are capable of building fundamentally democratic institutions. Can those countries—the inheritors of the Byzantine and Ottoman Empires—develop a thriving civil society after decades of communist rule and centuries of church-state interpenetration? Will the former communist countries north and west of the Balkans be uniquely successful in the transition to democracy because they have inherited a different legacy, that of Western Christendom?

It will not, I am sure, surprise you to hear that I believe that Eastern Orthodoxy and

"Western" democracy can be, indeed, are compatible and can co-exist in harmony.

First, as Richard Schifter has argued in his well-known article, "Is There a Democracy Gene?," we have no reason to assume that now that the ideas of the Enlightenment "have at long last been accepted by the West, they cannot spread any further." Indeed, "the onward march of the democratic ideal," says Schifter, need not halt at "the fault line of Western civilization."

Second, I must note the obvious: Greece, of course, is the birthplace of both Eastern Orthodoxy and democracy. Its very existence and success give the lie to the idea that these two traditions cannot be combined. If Greece can throw off the ill effects of the heritage of what some have described as "non-European" civilization, then it should not be impossible for Serbs, Bulgarians, Romanians, Ukrainians, even Russians, to overcome this "burden."

Finally, as I have said, I take issue with the notion that the Orthodox church, while often identified as a nationalist institution, cannot play a productive role in developing a lively civil society in the Balkan countries. Here I commend to you an article by Elizabeth H. Prodromou of Princeton University in *Mediterranean Quarterly*. Professor Prodromou writes of utilizing Orthodox custom in crafting modern democracy in East Central Europe and the Balkans. While acknowledging "a historical record that underscores the failure of the Orthodox churches in the Balkans to assume an activist stance in favor of democratic politics," Prodromou argues for the potential to engage Orthodoxy in remaking civil society and describes in detail "Orthodoxy's emphasis on freedom, community, and choice as values compatible with democratic culture."

In other words, it is not enough to say that the peoples on one side of an imagined dividing line have not heretofore experienced democracy and therefore cannot or will not. Particularly if one believes in a universality of Western values—democracy, individual liberty, human rights, to name a few—one must look not only to the potential but also to the opportunities to construct the institutions of self-government and the habits of freedom.

So against the background of these brief observations, I should like to ask our panelists for their comments on the question we've been assigned, "Can U.S. Style Work in the Central and Eastern European Republics?"

I'll ask each person to speak for five minutes and then we'll engage in discussion.

BRIDGEWATER WINS WASTE-WATER TREATMENT AWARD

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 1995

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, because we in Congress must often focus on legislation and issues which pose problems for communities in our districts, we too rarely note those cases where municipalities we represent have complied with Federal laws in an effective manner to the benefit of their residents. I would like to take a few moments to recognize one community which has done just that: the town of Bridgewater, MA, which was recently selected as a recipient of the Environmental Protection Agency's 1995 national first place award for outstanding operation and maintenance

program in the medium advanced category.

According to the letter announcing the award, "EPA based this selection on the facility's demonstrated innovative and cost-effective achievements." The town has a lengthy history of this type of accomplishment and recognition in water treatment, having already won the EPA regional award in the same category, an award which made the town eligible for the national award. The town became eligible for the regional award by virtue of having exceeded the EPA operating standards for the past 2 years. In fact, the town has been recognized for its innovative operation and maintenance procedures—particularly in the areas of septage and odor handling, which of course constantly present themselves to a facility of this kind—since the current wastewater treatment plant first went on line in 1989.

Mr. Speaker, while any award of this kind is inevitably the result of a team effort, a great deal of the credit for this exemplary work should go to Joseph Souto, the wastewater treatment plant superintendent. In addition, the following town officials also made important contributions to this success: Charles J. Kane, Allan S. Knight and Fawn L. Gifford (chairman, clerk and member, respectively of the board of water and sewer commissioners); Robert A. Correia, (assistant superintendent); Richard W. Boss, John E. Garabee, and Michael J. Studley (plant operators); and Katharine T. Dumas and Eileen J. Weinberg (water and sewer secretaries).

I offer my congratulations to the town of Bridgewater and the hard-working people involved in the operation of the wastewater treatment plant for their work in improving their community and for showing us the positive role government can play in our society.

WORLD POPULATION AWARENESS WEEK

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 1995

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit for the RECORD an official proclamation by His Excellency John G. Rowland, Governor of the State of Connecticut. I would like to join the Governor in stressing the importance of the World Population Awareness Week for 1995, focusing on general equality. Placing family planning on top of our priority list, through eradication of female illiteracy, full employment opportunities for women, and universal access to family planning information, is of utmost importance. This is the only way to control an overpopulated world, to reduce the spread of disease and poverty, and to bring progress to many struggling areas of the world.

OFFICIAL STATEMENT

Whereas, world population is currently 5.7 billion and increasing by nearly 100 million per year, with virtually all of this growth in the poorest countries and regions—those that can least afford to accommodate their current populations, much less such massive infusions of human numbers; and

Whereas, the annual increment to world population is projected to exceed 86 million