

Stewart Greenebaum has made tremendous contributions to the Baltimore Zionist District. He is currently serving as chairman for Israel Bonds of Maryland, as well as chairman of the Board of the University of Maryland Medical System. In addition, Stewart Greenebaum is the founder and chairman of a scholarship fund for financially disadvantaged medical students and he is the founder and chairman of the Children's House at Johns Hopkins which provides shelter and comfort to families of sick children.

Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to call Stewart Greenebaum's achievements to the attention of my colleagues. By having individuals like Stewart Greenebaum in our communities, our work as public servants in Congress is made that much easier and that much more pleasurable.

ONE COMMON LANGUAGE WILL
KEEP AMERICA ONE NATION

HON. TOBY ROTH

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 1995

Mr. ROTH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the attention of my colleagues to the excellent essay that appeared in *Time* magazine in November, "Quebec and the Death of Diversity." The author, Charles Krauthammer, makes the powerful observation that nations can perish by the sword of cultural diversity. Mr. Krauthammer points to Canada's near divorce with its province of Quebec a month ago as a dire warning for what could happen here in America. Mr. Krauthammer is absolutely right.

Canada's experience is a cautionary tale for our country, the most diverse nation in the history of the world. Their narrow brush with breakup should sound a clarion call to all Americans who dismiss the importance of a common language and culture to a nation.

I do not want to watch the United States unravel the way Canada almost did. I have introduced legislation that seeks to reinforce the common bond that holds our country together: the English language. I hope you will heed Canada's silent warning and join me today in the effort to keep America one nation, one people. Cosponsor H.R. 739, the Declaration of Official Language Act. I ask that the full text of Charles Krauthammer's essay appear in the RECORD at this point.

[From *Time* magazine, Nov. 13, 1995]

QUEBEC AND THE DEATH OF DIVERSITY

(By Charles Krauthammer)

Just hours after the Quebec referendum on separation that came within a whisker of breaking up Canada—and may yet do so—President Clinton pronounced, "Ethnic diversity can be the hallmark of a strong and prosperous society," said his spokesman. "The President has often said that our ethnic diversity here in America is one source of our greatest strength . . . and hopefully it will be for the people of Canada as well."

Now, when commenting on an explosive marital spat occurring next door, it is incumbent on a neighbor to be diplomatic and sympathetic. But must one be fatuous too? Here is Canada, a great neighboring country, choking on cultural diversity, very nearly dying of cultural diversity—and the spokesman for the President of the U.S. offers a mindless, mantra-like homily in praise of the very source of Canada's ongoing agony.

Yes, diversity can contribute to a country's strength by producing a kind of hearty, hybrid culture and provoking new ways of thought and new avenues to genius. But for every such cultural synergy there are 10 cases—from the Balkans to the former Soviet Union, from Africa to Asia and now to North America—of cultural explosion, where the clash of ethnicities yields weakness, conflict, division, even war. Indeed, the bitterness of French Canada's drive to amputate its century-old confederation with English Canada tells us much about the unexamined belief in the strength and beauty of the multicultural mosaic.

In their Oct. 30 referendum, half of Quebecers—and a solid 60% of French speakers—said they want out of their partnership in a culturally diverse Canada. Why? For the answer, Americans might look no farther than Louisiana.

"Cajun" is a corruption of "Acadian," a region of Nova Scotia that was home to many French Canadians until they were expelled by the British in the 1750s and '60s. Many emigrated to Louisiana, then a French possession, where their language and culture withered, evolving into a kind of folk curiosity. Quebecers do not want to go the way of the Cajun. They do not want to end up as some colorful ethnic subculture known for its music or cooking or the odd linguistic twist. Quebecers are driven by a terror of being crushed by an English-speaking continent of 300 million into a mere cultural curiosity. Hence their hunger for political independence.

Oddly, and sadly, the solution does not answer the fear. Politics is no cure for cultural assimilation. A flag and an anthem do not assure cultural vitality. The faith that they will is as desperate as it is sentimental.

The real problem of Quebec is the problem of all small peoples in a world of irresistibly globalized commerce and culture. That separatism may not solve the problem is beside the point. Separatism is a fact, the single greatest political fact of the post-cold war world. With external enemies removed, with hybrid states no longer held together by hegemonic superpowers, the petty annoyances and existential difficulties of living in mixed-ethnic marriages within nation-states has become increasingly intolerable. From the former Yugoslavia to the former Czechoslovakia to the former Soviet Union, from Sri Lanka to Quebec, the tendency to separatism is inexorable.

Nor is the U.S. immune to the attraction of separatism. Look, for example, at the rise of Louis Farrakhan, the leading black separatist in America. Look at the ethnic social policies, the school curriculums, the racially gerrymandered electoral districts that give an official imprimatur to the notion of the primacy of group over nation.

Which is why Quebec's referendum is not the provincial story it seems. The 60% of French-speaking Quebecers who voted to sever their political union with bicultural Canada are a herald of the death of diversity. They are a living refutation of the warm and cozy notion, based more on hope than on history, of multicultural harmony and strength. They are a warning.

After all, as former Toronto Sun editor Barbara Amiel points out, if multiculturalism cannot work in Canada, where can it work? If it cannot work in a country as civil, decent and tolerant as Canada—a country where the majority English speakers have been extraordinarily generous in granting all kinds of cultural protections, subsidies, special rights and privileges to the linguistic minority of French Canada—then where?

And if it cannot work in Canada, where the issue is the co-existence of just two (quite

similar, one might note) cultures, how will it work in, say, Bosnia, where three, or India or America, with dozens? One looks at Canada and wonders whether the current naive and confident American celebration of cultural diversity—with its insistence on group rights over individual rights, sectarian history over American history, ethnic culture over a common culture—is leading us down a path from which there is no escape.

Canada has an escape. By accident of geography, separation is a real option because the different culture inhabit different territories. For a country like America, where the different cultures are thoroughly intermixed, there is no such answer. Canada can break up cleanly; the U.S. cannot.

America is proceeding blithely down the path of diversity and ethnic separatism. America's destination, however, is not Canada, which will find some civil way out of its dilemma. America's destination is the Balkans.

HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN EAST
TIMOR

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 1995

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 20th anniversary of Indonesia's occupation of East Timor. The people of East Timor have lived for two decades under a cruel and repressive regime that has killed and starved almost one-third of their population.

Violent crackdowns on peaceful demonstrations in East Timor have continued throughout this occupation. First, innocent protestors are massacred and then the military rounds up and jails the witnesses so that the world will never know what happens.

Indonesia's policy in East Timor is about the oppression of those who oppose Indonesia's right to torture, kill, and repress the people of East Timor. It is about genocide.

Today, Congressman PATRICK KENNEDY and I are introducing the East Timor Human Rights Accountability Act, which will prohibit United States aid to Indonesia from being used to further the occupation of East Timor or to violate the human rights of the East Timorese people.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for this repression and violence to end.

TRIBUTE TO WALTER H.
DETTINGER

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 1995

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a truly dedicated American, Mr. Walter H. Dettinger, who passed away on November 21, 1995.

In 1936 at the age of 17, Walt embarked upon several years of selfless service to our country when he enlisted in the Ohio National Guard. Upon his discharge in 1939, he joined the Naval Communications Reserve and was called to active duty the following year. His area of expertise, radio communications, led him to service aboard the USS *Worden* in Pearl Harbor, HI. Walt was among the thousands of servicemen there on the morning of