

into an era of major growth. He was known for his vision and devotion to duty.

Cowan had served on the city council during the administration of mayor Wallace Earp. Earp resigned on April 18, 1977, and Cowan was elected mayor in a special election on June 7, 1977. He was re-elected to office in 1980, 1984, 1988 and 1992.

He was born in Richland, Missouri where he graduated from high school. He attended Southwest Missouri State University in Springfield and served in the U.S. Air Force during World War II.

Cowan entered into public service in Richland in 1948 when he was elected to the city council. He served in that capacity 10 years. He moved to Lebanon in 1958 and bought Burley's Department Store, which he operated until he was elected mayor.

During his years in office, he received the support of Lebanon voters on key issues including a sales tax, transportation sales tax, and a capital improvements sales tax.

Mayor Cowan set a high standard for public service. His ability to lead and to get things done for his community should inspire those who follow. The people of Lebanon have lost an exceptional leader, and I have lost a friend.

DEVELOPMENTS IN LEBANON

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 1995

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues a recent exchange of letters I had with the Department of State regarding the situation in Lebanon.

I wrote the State Department October 27 to express concerns about the extra-Constitutional means used to extend the term of the President of Lebanon and the role of Syria in this matter. The State Department replied December 5 indicating that our concerns over interference in Lebanon's Democratic processes have been expressed directly to the Syrians.

The correspondence follows:

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, DC, December 5, 1995.

Hon. LEE HAMILTON,
House of Representatives.

DEAR MR. HAMILTON: On behalf of Secretary Christopher, I am writing in response to your letter of October 27, concerning the extension of Lebanese President Harawi's term and other developments in Lebanon.

We share entirely your view that our interests are served by a free and independent Lebanon, and we have firmly maintained that no peace in the Middle East will be lasting or comprehensive without an agreement between Israel and an independent Lebanon. In an effort to support this objective, we continue to do much to further Lebanese political reconciliation and lend support to the reconstruction of Lebanon's economy and institutions. Last year, we provided Lebanon approximately six million dollars in development assistance and half million dollars to support military training.

We agree that the growth of Lebanon's democratic political institutions requires free elections which the Lebanese people believe to be credible, and the results of which

can be accepted as credible. We have made this point very clear in public positions, and directly to the Governments of Lebanon and Syria. Indeed, Secretary Christopher's concern over interference in Lebanon's democratic process led him to make this point personally at senior levels of the Syrian government, as did other senior U.S. officials in the period leading up to President Harawi's extension. Despite our interest in maintaining Syrian engagement in peace negotiations with Israel, we are not conditioning our policy toward Lebanon on Syrian reaction.

Prime Minister Rabin's recent, tragic death only underscores the fragility of the process we wish to advance in the Middle East. But, as important as we hold the freedom and independence of Lebanon, this is not a goal we can pursue in a vacuum. Lebanon's future, its stability and independence, can only be assured through broader progress toward extending the circle of peace in the region.

We look forward to working with you and other members of Congress to ensure such progress, in Lebanon and the region, during the important year ahead.

Sincerely,

WENDY R. SHERMAN,
Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, October 27, 1995.

Hon. WARREN CHRISTOPHER,
Secretary of State, Department of State, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SECRETARY, I write to express deep concerns about recent developments in Lebanon and to urge you and the President to speak out publicly in opposition to recent political developments in that country.

The Syrian decision to push for extra-Constitutional means to extend the term of President Harawi for three years undercuts Lebanon's independence. In addition, such a term extension will not be viewed as credible by a majority of the Lebanese people of all faiths who want to preserve Lebanon's independence and who wanted free elections this fall.

There are steps which the Lebanese can and must take to insure their future as a free and independent state. The national interest of the United States is served by a strong, free, and independent Lebanon. Conversely, our national interest is not helped when Lebanon is weak and its independence compromised. Therefore, I believe that it is incumbent upon us to disassociate ourselves from, and express opposition to, such manipulation of the political process in Lebanon. Millions of Lebanese inside the country, and around the world, are looking to the United States for leadership. Silence will send the wrong message to the entire region and only further undermine Lebanon's position.

Lebanon's independence will be eroded if the United States is silent when that very independence is threatened. The Taif Accords became dead letter in part because the United States did not speak out for implementation of the Accords when Syria moved to undercut them. We now risk further undermining that independence again.

United States policy toward, and statements on, Lebanon should not be conditioned by what we think might be the reaction in Syria. We should be acting on the basis of our own interests and what is best for Lebanon and the Lebanese people. On the face of it, this action to extend the President's term does not promote democracy in Lebanon, and

it goes against the wishes of the people. It should be condemned for what it is.

I appreciate your consideration of this letter and hope the United States will speak out on this matter.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

LEE H. HAMILTON,
Ranking Democratic Member.

IN HONOR OF MARIE BOLLINGER
VOGT FOR HER PRODUCTION OF
"NUTCRACKER" BALLET

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 1995

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, for 55 years in Toledo, hundreds of young boys and girls have danced and scampered across area stages and dozens of principal dancers have graced the stage with their artistry in a yearly production of "The Nutcracker" ballet. Thousands of northwest Ohioans have delighted in the Christmastime event. A production of enormous proportion has been given to us through the vision and talent of one woman, Marie Bollinger Vogt, who I rise today to honor. This year's production will be her last. Marie is retiring as the artistic director of the Toledo Ballet Association, which she founded.

Intent on imbuing her own love of dance into youngsters, Marie founded the Toledo Ballet School over 50 years ago. Under her direction, the company has performed hundreds of productions throughout our region, "The Nutcracker" being its premiere performance. During her tenure, Marie brought to the school not only her own creative choreography but also that of internationally famous artists. She also brought to northwest Ohio world renowned dance companies and performers.

Altruistic as well as artistic, under Marie's direction, the Toledo Ballet Association is involved in community service. The company stages free performances in the schools and local public housing authority. One performance of "The Nutcracker" is presented at no cost for children. Scholarships are provided by the school for children who could not otherwise afford lessons. These acts are surely fueled by Marie's passionate desire to inspire dance in young people.

Although retiring as artistic director of the Toledo Ballet Association, Marie intends to continue in her first love, that of teaching, and will remain the Toledo Ballet School's director. She also begins the ambitious project of bringing to fruition her lifelong dream of building a professional ballet company in Toledo.

In this, its 55th year, many of Marie's former students are returning to dance under her tutelage one last time. The 1995 "Nutcracker" performance will be a reunion for all who studied dance under her direction. Such a tribute gives testament to her teaching and quiet inspiration.

We thank Marie Bollinger Vogt for her yearly Christmas gift to all of us in northwest Ohio; a family evening lost in the enchantment of "The Nutcracker," her legacy.