

TWILIGHT OF THE THUGS

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 29, 1996

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, today's Washington Post has an excellent column by the Post's distinguished diplomatic correspondent, Jim Hoagland. He discusses the recent incidents involving a series of "rogue regimes," the international outlaw countries which are a threat to global peace and stability. He rightfully points out that we must keep the focus on the leaders of these regimes and their outrageous policies and not let minor differences over how to deal with these dictators distort the fundamental agreement that exists among most Americans.

Mr. Speaker, these rogue regimes represent the most serious threat to U.S. interests and policies in the world, and it is essential that we take strong action to deal with these countries. These states support and sponsor terrorism; they create instability in their regions through destabilizing policies toward their neighbors; they seek to acquire weapons of mass destruction and sell such weapons to other rogue regimes; they violate the human rights of their own citizens. The list of such countries is not long, but it includes Libya, Iran, Iraq, North Korea, Sudan, and Cuba.

As my colleagues know, with my distinguished colleague from New York, Mr. KING, I have introduced legislation that would put this House on record by condemning the visit of Louis Farrakhan to several of these rogue regimes, including Libya, Iran, and Iraq. It also calls on the President to direct executive agencies to determine if the Farrakhan visit and the actions that follow that visit—such as the reported gift from Libya's Qadhafi of \$1 billion for Farrakhan's use in the United States—violate United States laws and, if that is the case, to prosecute vigorously such violations.

Mr. Hoagland made this observation regarding Farrakhan's grand tour of terrorist states: "Keep the focus on the Friends of Farrakhan. Make it clear that any financial transactions between the rogues and any Americans, including Farrakhan, will be investigated and if warranted prosecuted. President Clinton should not remain silent on the minister's travels."

I could not agree more with Mr. Hoagland. And—I would also add—the Congress should not remain silent on Farrakhan's travels. I invite my colleagues to join us in cosponsoring our resolution to condemn the Farrakhan tour of the terrorist states.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that Jim Hoagland's column be placed in the RECORD, and I urge my colleagues to read his excellent analysis.

[From the Washington Post, Feb. 29, 1996]

TWILIGHT OF THE THUGS

(By Jim Hoagland)

Fidel Castro has demonstrated anew his zest for creating mischief for a U.S. president seeking reelection. But Cuba's cold-blooded shooting down of two unarmed U.S. civilian aircraft on Saturday also shows the insecurity and desperation that now envelops the Western Hemisphere's last dictator and his kind.

The two Cessnas piloted by Cuban exiles, out to help fleeing rafters and perhaps drop propaganda leaflets on their homeland were mosquitoes buzzing around El Jefe's beard.

Castro was not strong enough to laugh them off. Instead he turned them into martyrs. His savage response is the act of a wounded, cornered animal fighting off the end.

To be sure, there is a mountain of politics and diplomacy to be worked through in the days to come, with debates flowing here over whether President Clinton's classically incremental response to the shoot-down was overly mild.

But the focus should stay on Castro and his regime, revolutionary relics floating like debris in the wake of the Soviet collapse of 1991. Just as time ran out on the Soviet Union five years ago, it is now running out for the rogue regimes and rulers who have clung to power in the Third World after the demise of their superpower protector.

The same lurching, cornered quality of the Cuban shoot-down is apparent in the grisly spat between Saddam Hussein and the two defectors-in-law he accepted back to Iraq and then had executed, and in Moammar Gadhafi's desperate efforts to construct the most grandiose poison gas factor in history in the empty Libyan desert. Instead of fiddling as their regimes crumble, these modern Neros pass their time by expanding their repertoire of murder and mass destruction.

North Korea plays out its version of the communist endgame by blackmailing the United States and its allies for financial help to stave off a total, sudden collapse. Vietnam plays the game by opening up to foreign investment and trade, an approach Syria toys with, trying to winkle concessions out of Warren Christopher and Shimon Peres for doing so. China and Iran, which also practice Soviet-style tyranny at home and criminality abroad, do not—alas—appear to be as close to revolutionary burnout. But cheer up. I could be wrong, particularly about China.

Why get our hopes up now? Because the extinguishing of the Soviet sun has left this shrinking universe of thug-rulers without a center, without a system of political gravity. They have lost their international reason to exist. They have coasted for five years on the strength of brute force and in some cases on the political and financial glory of nationalized oil or other resources coveted by the West.

But the disgrace and isolation Castro, Gadhafi, Saddam, Syria's Hafez Assad, North Korea's Kims and the others have brought on their nations can no longer be justified in the name of international revolutionary glory or hidden from their citizens. The growing isolation of the world's outlaws is underscored by their willingness to serve as platforms for the pitch of an itinerant American snake oil salesman—that is, for the race-baiting of Louis Farrakhan, recently hosted by Gadhafi, Saddam, and ayatollahs and the criminals who run Nigeria, and others.

Farrakhan is no doubt right when he says he has a constitutional right to travel to these countries and meet with whomever he likes. But Americans who were willing to grant him the benefit of the doubt based on his Million Man March, and promises of reconciliation and tolerance he voiced there, would be fools to continue that openness after his Grand Tour of Murder Inc. International.

Congress should not give Farrakhan a new platform by bringing him to town to hearings that, as a master showman, he can manipulate. Farrakhan has said everything Americans need to know by kissing the bloodstained rings of the killers with whom he has cavorted on this trip.

But this does not mean that America should passively wait for the world's second-tier thugs and their would-be acolytes to disappear into the sunset created by the col-

lapse of communism. Keep the focus on the Friends of Farrakhan. Make it clear that any financial transactions between the rogues and any Americans, including Farrakhan, will be investigated and if warranted prosecuted. President Clinton should not remain silent on the minister's travels.

On Cuba, keep the focus on Castro. Clinton's Republican rivals lack a sense of history and proportionality in concentrating their fire not on Castro but on the president's low-key, still evolving response to the shoot-down. We fall into Castro trap if we let these murders become an American political football. You can almost hear Castro laughing and saying, "There they go again."

J. MICHAEL McLEOD, CIVIC
LEADER AND ATTORNEY

HON. DAVID FUNDERBURK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 29, 1996

Mr. FUNDERBURK. Mr. Speaker, it is a special pleasure for me to pay tribute to one of Harnett County's finest citizens, J. Michael McLeod. McLeod, Hardison & Harrop is one of the leading attorney firms in Harnett County. And no one—Republican or Democrat—is more respected for his fairness and legal expertise than Mike McLeod, senior partner in his law firm founded by his father Max McLeod. Most notable about Mike is the fact that he is not pretentious but down-to-earth. And he is never too busy to stop to chat with friends or strangers in Dunn, NC. One admirer told me that what you see is what you get with Mike and that he is always up-front with you.

Mr. J. Michael McLeod has an outstanding background of education, sacrifice for his country and community involvement. McLeod graduated in 1962 from Dunn High School where he was vice president of the student body, president of the Hi-Y Club and football standout. He got a B.A. degree in 1966 from Wake Forest University where he was a member of the honor council, Kappa Sigma Fraternity, Scabbard & Blade Honorary Military Society, and Distinguished Military Graduate, and he earned a juris doctor degree in 1969 at Wake Forest University Law School, where he was a member of the Phi Delta Phi Legal Fraternity.

McLeod served in the U.S. Army Infantry at the rank of captain. He served at Ft. Benning and Ft. Bragg and for 1 year in Vietnam. For his meritorious service in Vietnam he was awarded a Vietnam Campaign Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, and Bronze Star Medal. He showed great courage under fire in Vietnam.

In civic, community and political affairs, Mike McLeod has been quite active. He is a member of the Palmyra Masonic Lodge, the Dunn Shrine Club, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, the Harnett County Bar Association, the North Carolina Bar Association, and the United Carolina Bank Advisory Board. He served two terms as chairman of the Harnett County Republican Party and has been active in political affairs in the county and State for more than two decades. Mike lives with his wife, Karen—who teaches at Western Harnett High School and two children, Susan and Bruce Walls, in Dunn, NC.

He is the father of two children, Karen and Clay McLeod.

As one who was a college classmate of Mike McLeod and one who has worked with him in many activities, it give me great personal pleasure to pay tribute to my trusted friend for his outstanding contributions to his community and Nation.

TRIBUTE TO JACQUELINE
BERGMAN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 29, 1996

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, Ms. Jacqueline Bergman has distinguished herself as the first female member president of the International Association of Lions Clubs, and I think it is important to recognize this landmark achievement. In 1987 she was installed as the first woman member of the Brooklyn Downtown Lions Club. This is indeed significant because it demonstrates that barriers to advancement for women are being overcome.

Ms. Bergman has served the Lions organization well. She has chaired major fundraisers, been the recipient of the organization's highest award by being designated as a Melvin Jones Fellow, and edited the club's newsletter. Jacqueline has also served as a delegate to numerous district, State and international conventions. Jacqueline lives in Brooklyn Heights, has two children, Andrew and Mona, and adores her grandson Andre. Her commitment to service is only exceeded by her desire to do the best job possible. I am honored to recognize her dedicated efforts.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MT.
ZION SEVENTH GRADE BOYS
BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. GLENN POSHARD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 29, 1996

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and celebrate the Mt. Zion, IL, seventh grade boys basketball team and their coach, Jeff Sams, for winning the Illinois Elementary School Association 7AA State championships. Their tremendous team effort brought them back from a four point half-time deficit against the favored Lincoln Trojans. I join their families and the rest of Mt. Zion in honoring their achievement.

As all of us sports fans know, February and March are the height of the high school and college basketball seasons. The Super Bowl is over, the first sounds of spring training are just being heard, and playoffs in pro basketball and hockey are still weeks away. Moreover, in small towns across America, local sports are the only game that matters, and a community's pulse can be measured by how the local teams fare. This is the case in Mt. Zion, where 2,500 turned out to watch the championship game. They were not disappointed, as the Braves shot 58 percent en route to the victory. The excitement of playing before such a crowd is truly an exhilarating experience that those players won't soon forget, and the thrill

that the team gave to the community is equally special. As coach Sams said, "I found the whole experience to be an unforgettable memory for everyone involved."

Mr. Speaker, sports also serve to develop qualities in our children that will help them throughout their lives. Leadership, team play, and the value of physical fitness are all integrally linked to success, and I am confident that all of Mt. Zion's players will achieve even greater heights in their future endeavors. I would like to congratulate them again, and mention their names: Aaron Barger, Stephen Barger, Sean Brewer, Justin Cox, Jonathan Ellis, Ryan Kistenfeger, Matt McCollom, Neil Plank, Jake Sams, Josh Stonecipher, Matthew Trusner, and Chad Watson.

RIGHTS OF VICTIMS

HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 29, 1996

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, I am submitting into the RECORD a letter that was sent to me which deserves immediate attention from every Member of Congress.

Nashotah, WI, February 26, 1996.

Congressman CHARLES SCHUMER,
Committee On The Judiciary,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN SCHUMER: On July 19, 1994, my wife Karin testified before this committee on the subject of health care abuse. She was only 28 years old when she appeared before you, yet she was dying as a direct result of medical malpractice. Karin told you about our HMO, Family Health Plan in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and how for over three years her doctors misdiagnosed the classic physical symptoms of advanced cervical cancer while their lab chronically misread her pap smears and her biopsies.

Karin told you about Dr. Lipo who owned the lab while he also served on the board of directors at Family Health Plan, and how in that capacity he would see the bids from competing labs and adjust his contract to keep the HMO's business. Karin also testified about June Fricano, the lab technician, who was paid on a per slide basis, reading 5 times the federally recommended number of slides and working at as many as four other labs simultaneously.

Although our HMO repeatedly told us everything was okay, our fears drew us to look elsewhere. Within one week of going to a gynecologist outside of Family Health Plan, we received the devastating news. Had Karin been properly diagnosed in 1988, after her first positive pap smear was misread, she would have had a 95-97 percent chance of survival, but due to the gross incompetence of Family Health Plan, my wife died at 29. Next Friday marks the one year anniversary of Karin's death.

Karin fought 2 battles when she became sick and she fought them as hard as she could. She fought the cancer with chemotherapy, radiation, surgery and prayer. The other battle she fought was to protect the rights of all patients and victims of medical malpractice and she fought that battle with her words and her experiences.

Every chance she got, Karin would write letters to regulatory agencies, legislators, or go to Washington to tell her story to Congress. She spoke to the Clintons', she testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee and she spoke to you. All so that no other American would fall prey to the horrible nightmare we were forced to endure.

Karin and I experienced first hand, the overwhelming lack of continuity of care, lack of communication, lack of responsibility, lack of accountability and lack of humanity which are the hallmarks of profit driven managed care facilities in this country today.

When Karin testified before you she asked that you let her experience be your guide. She asked you for a health care system that allows choice, while providing accountability and incorporating strict mandatory medical negligence prevention. As a victim of those offenses, Karin implored you . . . "Please don't let Congress strip away the rights of victims like me." It would be her wish that we'd continue the fight in her name. Please don't let her death be in vain.

Sincerely,

PETER SMITH.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
SANDRA SCHULTZ NEWMAN

HON. JON D. FOX

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 29, 1996

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a resident of the 13th Congressional District who has a long record of service to the people of Montgomery County, PA and who now serves the entire Commonwealth with honor and distinction.

The Honorable Sandra Schultz Newman is the newest member of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. Justice Newman was elected to the highest court in 1995 and became the first woman elected to serve in that distinguished office in the history of the State. Previously, she served the residents of the Keystone State as an outstanding Judge of the Commonwealth Court.

The daughter of Oscar Newman and Mirena Kaminsky Schultz, Judge Newman earned her bachelor's degree from Drexel University in Philadelphia. After receiving a master's degree from Temple University in Philadelphia, Justice Newman graduated with honors from Villanova University Law School where she received her Juris Doctor degree.

Justice Newman served in private law practice from 1972-79 where she rose to become the senior partner in the firm of Astor, Weiss & Newman in 1979. Justice Newman served with great distinction as an Assistant District Attorney in Montgomery County, PA. She is the past president of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers. She is also a contributing member of the American Bar Association, the Pennsylvania Bar Association, the Montgomery County Bar Association, the Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association and the American Trial Lawyers Association.

Additionally, she is a member of the National Association of Women Judges and past board manager of the family law section of the Pennsylvania Bar Association. Justice Newman serves as chairman of the board of consultants of the Villanova University Law School and a member of the advisory board for the University of Pennsylvania Biddle Law Library.

Justice Newman has been honored by Best Lawyers in America and has received the Drexel 100 Award, 1992, Medallion of Achievement Award of the Villanova Law