

that the high crimes and misdemeanors does not necessarily have to be an offense that is written into the law. It is not to import the standards of good behavior into high crimes and misdemeanors, but to indicate that serious infractions of good behavior, though less than a great offense, may yet amount to high crimes and misdemeanors in common law.

What he is saying is that judges ought to act like judges and they ought to rule on the Constitution, as you and I both agree on, and that is all we are trying to say.

Mr. SKAGGS. Amen.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. I thank the gentleman from Colorado [Mr. SKAGGS], and I thank the gentleman from Florida [Mr. SCARBOROUGH].

HUMANITARIAN AID CORRIDOR ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ROGAN). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PALLONE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, today I received very disappointing news from the State Department. The President determined today to permit assistance under the Foreign Assistance Act and the Arms Export Control Act to the Republic of Turkey. This is in spite of the fact that Turkey is maintaining an illegal and downright cruel blockade of the Republic of Armenia.

Mr. Speaker, for the past 2 years, the Foreign Operations appropriations legislation has contained a provision known as the Humanitarian Aid Corridor Act which prohibits U.S. economic assistance to those countries blocking delivery of humanitarian aid to third countries. While this provision is not country-specific, it clearly applies to Turkey, which for more than 4 years has maintained a blockade of neighboring Armenia. While the people of Armenia are struggling to build democracy and reform their economy according to market principles, the blockade imposed along their border with Turkey disrupts the delivery of vitally needed humanitarian supplies.

The Humanitarian Aid Corridor Act, unfortunately, lacks enforcement teeth since it grants the President the power to waive the provisions on very vague national security grounds. In order to make the Corridor Act mean something, last year this body approved an amendment to the Foreign Ops bill, sponsored by the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. VISLOSKY], that would limit the Presidential waiver authority to provide U.S. economic assistance to countries that violate the Humanitarian Aid Corridor Act. More than 300 Members of the House voted for this amendment, which would have essentially given the Humanitarian Aid Corridor Act some teeth and not allowed the Presidential waiver in most cases. Unfortunately, the amendment was stripped in conference and the gen-

tleman from Illinois [Mr. PORTER] included language instead that required the President to provide a justification for determining that it is in the national security interests of the United States to provide the economic assistance despite the fact that the recipient country, in this case Turkey, is in violation of the Corridor Act.

I want to commend the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. PORTER] for putting that language in, because we did at least get a semblance of a justification from the State Department. But I have to say that the justification issue today was not very convincing.

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Mr. Speaker, this action by the administration comes at a particularly bad time. Next week marks the 82d anniversary of the beginning of the genocide against the Armenian people which was perpetrated by the Ottoman Turkish Empire. This genocide, which the Republic of Turkey has refused to acknowledge, ultimately claimed the lives of 1.5 million Armenians. Another 500,000 Armenians were deported.

Many Members of this House will take part with me in a special order next Wednesday to commemorate this solemn occasion. To have made this determination at this time I think is very inappropriate.

Mr. Speaker, I bear no ill will to the Turkish people. I am simply saying that maintaining good relations should not entail turning a blind eye to the outrageous actions committed by the Turkish Government. Given the generosity the United States has shown toward Turkey it is inappropriate, or I think I should say in this case it is appropriate for us to attach conditions, particularly such a basic condition as allowing the delivery of aid to a neighbor in need. I think most Americans would assume that a condition for U.S. aid should be that that country allows other U.S. aid to go through its country or its borders to another country that needs the aid. People, I think, in this country would be shocked to know that such a provision is not already a requirement on the recipients of U.S. assistance.

I want to say in conclusion that Armenia is a very small landlocked nation, dependent on land corridors from neighboring countries for many basic goods. Armenia has been one of the most exemplary of the former Soviet republics in terms of moving toward a Western-style political and economic system.

I traveled there earlier this year and can report that the blockade is having a devastating impact. The Armenian people respect and admire the United States. There are more than 1 million Americans of Armenian ancestry here. The bonds between our countries are strong and enduring, but the people of Armenia face a humanitarian crisis which is not the result of any natural disaster, but a deliberate policy of its neighbor to choke off access to needed

goods from the outside world. We believe the exertion of U.S. leadership can play a major role in these intentions in promoting greater cooperation among the nations of the Caucasus regions, but the Humanitarian Aid Corridor Act is an important part of this component. If we do not adhere to the Humanitarian Aid Corridor Act and if the administration and the State Department continue to allow it to be waived, I think in the long run it is going to be detrimental to peace and better cooperation between Armenia and the other nations of the Caucasus and the United States, and I think this is a mistake that the State Department continues to exercise this waiver.

REAL LIFE EFFECTS OF NAFTA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ROGAN). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. BONIOR] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PALLONE] for his remarks with respect to Armenia, and I thank my colleague, the gentleman from Oregon [Mr. DEFAZIO] for joining me this evening to talk about the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Four years ago in this Chamber and around the Nation, we had a major debate on NAFTA, the North American Free Trade Agreement, and it really was a debate about our economic future and the economic future of Canada and Mexico as well. In many ways it was based more on theory than on reality. We had all sorts of studies and projections and promises and claims, and now we have had nearly 40 months to see exactly where we are, how this has worked, how it has not worked. Today we know about the real-life effects of NAFTA. We have the trade data, we have the job data, we have the environmental data. But just as importantly we have personal real-life stories from thousands of people telling us how NAFTA has affected them, what it has done to their jobs and their wages and their environment and the communities that they live in. And it is a story, a cautionary tale, that we have to start telling America about today, because today this debate is moving into a new phase.

Now supporters of NAFTA want to expand it to new countries, and to do that they need a procedure that is known as fast track, and let me tell you what it is. Basically fast track allows the administration to negotiate trade agreements with other countries and then to submit them to Congress, and we are required here in the Congress to expedite the passage or rejection of that agreement without any opportunity to change the agreement. We are locked into either a "yes" or a "no" on what this negotiated.

So we need to think long and hard before we make and grant this authority. It is an awesome authority in its