

to the Bellaire community and Belmont County.

Over the past 50 years, the Bellaire Lions Club has had many dedicated members. These members adopted the motto "We Serve" and chose work associated with the prevention and awareness of vision related illnesses. To promote the well-being of the community and awareness of vision related illnesses, the Bellaire Lions Club has sponsored eye testing, glaucoma clinics, and street signs. The club has also been active in area schools by donating science awards for Bellaire High School and St. John's High School as well as trophies for area sports teams.

The Bellaire Lions Club has stood as an example of the importance of volunteerism and helping one's neighbors. Their commitment to the Ohio Valley and to service continues today as they celebrate the 50th anniversary of their charter. I am proud to represent the members of this organization who generously give their time to others and work to improve their community. I ask my colleagues to join me today in congratulating the Bellaire Lions Club members on the 50th anniversary of their charter, and to wish them continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SONNY BONO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 1997

Mr. BONO. Mr. Speaker, I am writing to explain that on Tuesday, May 20, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote No. 139. If I was present, I certainly would have voted "aye" in support of approving the journal. Thank you for recognizing my position regarding this vote.

DOES MONEY TALK?

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 1997

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, they say that money talks. If it doesn't, enough of it certainly seems to gain access to the White House. At least, that seemed to be the case for the Riady family of Indonesia. A recent Washington Times editorial reminds us that the Riady family has given various Democrat candidates and committees nearly \$2 million since 1991. It also seems to have been money well spent, because Riady managed to have one of their own, John Huang, strategically placed at the Commerce Committee.

Mr. Speaker, a White House or a foreign policy for sale is not a laughing matter. I submit the Washington Times editorial in today's RECORD.

WHAT MR. RIADY WANTS

The Pacific Leadership Council (PLC), a fund-raising and influence-seeking organization formed in the 1980s by Lippo Group magnate James Riady, Maria Hsia and John Huang, all of whom figure prominently in the Democratic Party's growing money scandal, was anything but indirect about its motives. One original PLC member acknowledged to the Los Angeles Times recently

that the group's political support "wasn't altruistic at all." The Riady family and its PLC colleagues "wanted to know what kinds of appointments and what kinds of contracts we could get out of all this," the member candidly admitted.

How much is "all this"? According to the Times, the now-disbanded PLC and its members donated about \$500,000 through 1990, \$250,000 of it to the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee (DSCC). Since 1991, Riady-controlled corporations, their executives and close associates have donated nearly \$2 million to various Democratic committees and candidates, including more than \$850,000 to the Democratic National Committee (DNC). Since the presidential election, the DNC has returned \$450,000 it received from the daughter and son-in-law of a Riady business partner.

At one PLC fund-raiser held in his home in April 1988, Mr. Riady raised \$110,000 for the DSCC. Four days later, Mr. Riady wrote a highly detailed three-page memo to Ms. Hsia instructing her to "follow up and let me know of progress" in pursuing the numerous quid pro quos Mr. Riady meticulously outlined in a summary appropriately headlined, "DSCC Issues and Agenda." Indeed, so blatantly and crassly self-interested was Mr. Riady's modus operandi that the then-DSCC chairman, Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry, later described Mr. Riady's letter to Ms. Hsia as a "raw, graphic memo" reflecting the kind of special-interest agenda that is "usually communicated discreetly and verbally, not in writing." Mr. Riady was even more direct in a second memo that month, this one sent to DSCC Executive Director Robert Chlopak: "The issues and concerns that were discussed [at the Riady fund-raiser] need to be followed up and actions need to be delivered."

Among other things, Mr. Riady wanted the Democratic senators to "impress upon Taiwan to allow Asian-American banks (or at least the Bank of Trade [the former name of LippoBank] to be allowed to open a branch office in Taiwan." He also sought "appointments of Asian-Americans to policy-making positions in the federal government." As it later developed, thanks in part to a letter of recommendation overflowing with praise from Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle, Mr. Riady's former top U.S. executive, Mr. Huang, was appointed to an influential position in the Commerce Department, where he received more than 100 secret briefings, including CIA information about China, and routinely telephoned LippoBank from his office. The FBI is now investigating whether economic espionage occurred and whether the Riadys, Mr. Huang or anyone else may have laundered and then funneled illegal campaign contributions from the Chinese government. In March, the vice president of the Asian-American Business Roundtable charged Mr. Huang with attempting to funnel \$250,000 illegally to the DNC through the group's members. Meanwhile, Mr. Huang has asserted his Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination in refusing to cooperate with a congressional investigative committee.

And whaddya know? After Sen. Daschle could "personally attest to John's strong background" in a 1992 letter to the Clinton transition team, Sen. Daschle's aide recently told the Times that the senator "actually doesn't know John Huang well at all." Moreover, after receiving a telephone call from an irate President Clinton at one o'clock in the morning following Wisconsin Sen. Russell Feingold's call for an independent counsel to investigate Mr. Clinton's 1996 fund-raising, Sen. Daschle has managed to close the barn door, locking in all the other Democrats except Daniel Patrick Moynihan of New York.

As for Ms. Hsia, she later helped Mr. Huang arrange the illegal fund-raiser at the tax-exempt California Buddhist temple where Vice President Gore shook down impoverished monks, bagging nearly \$150,000, much of which the DNC has promised to return. More laundering problems. As a founding member of the PLC, Ms. Hsia enticed then-Sen. Gore to visit Taiwan in 1989, promising him in a letter that she "will persuade all my colleagues in the future to play a leader role in your [next] presidential race" if "you decide to join this trip." Although political contributions from foreign nationals who are not U.S. residents are expressly forbidden, the PLC had planned to use that trip "to recruit new members overseas and potentially to raise some money for PLC," according to a document obtained by the Los Angeles Times.

Whether it is bankrolling Webster Hubbell to the tune of \$100,000 during the period when he was supposed to be cooperating with the Whitewater prosecutor or whether it is orchestrating nearly \$2 million in political contributions from family and associates to Mr. Clinton and associates, one thing ought to be clear by now: James Riady does nothing for nobody that is not intended to benefit his interests, including White House access to lobby for expanding trade with China and to downplay Indonesia's notorious human-rights record on East Timor.

COMMENDING THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF PRESIDENT LEE TENG-HUI AS TAIWAN'S FIRST DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED PRESIDENT

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 1997

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to join me today in commending the Republic of China on the first anniversary of President Lee Teng-hui as Taiwan's first democratically elected President. I was part of the official delegation President Clinton sent to mark the occasion last year.

President Lee was directly elected by the people of Taiwan as their ninth President and inaugurated 1 year ago today. Despite an attempt at intimidation, democracy won. The United States has vital economic and military interests in this area of the world, and it is important for our country to commend the democratic efforts in this region.

One year after his inauguration, President Lee is considered a beacon of democracy in the Far East. Taiwan's democratization should be an inspiring model for governments around the world. The United States is a government that rewards democracy and capitalism, so Taiwan's free and fair elections are indeed cause to celebrate.

Both President Bill Clinton and House Speaker Newt Gingrich have made clear that Taiwan is our friend, so it is appropriate today that we pay tribute to this young democracy on the first anniversary of President Lee's inauguration.

I also ask my colleagues to join me in commending Foreign Minister John Chang as he begins his second year of promoting stronger relations between the United States and Taiwan.