

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RELIGIOUS GROUPS CHALLENGE GROWING INTOLERANCE IN BELGIUM

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 1998

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the Subcommittee on International Operations and Human Rights, and as Co-Chairman of the Helsinki Commission, I am alarmed at the growing religious intolerance toward religious minorities that we are observing in Western Europe. I am pleased that a coalition of religious groups is building in Europe to combat the rising intolerance, and in fact a legal challenge to these onerous actions is to be announced in Belgium on May 20.

In the last few years, we have witnessed disturbing government interference in the affairs of religious communities in Western Europe through new religion laws, parliamentary investigations into minority beliefs and religious groups, and new government bureaucracies created to disseminate government propaganda on religious organizations. These new laws, parliamentary investigations and government information centers stigmatize as "dangerous" groups such as the Jehovah Witnesses, Baha'i, Hindus, and charismatic Catholic and Protestant groups. These government actions violate the religious liberty principles found in numerous international documents, including the Helsinki Final Act, particularly the commitment to "foster a climate of mutual tolerance and respect between believers of different communities as well as between believers and non-believers" found in the Vienna Concluding Document of 1989 (Paragraph 16.2).

In January, I traveled to Moscow with my good friends and colleagues Representatives Frank Wolf and Tony Hall to raise our concerns with the 1997 Russian religion law. There, we met with minority religious groups concerned that the new law would limit their ability to freely practice their faith. While it remains to be seen how this law will be implemented, on its face, the law clearly violates numerous Helsinki human rights principles.

Also in January, another Helsinki Commission delegation led by fellow Commissioner Representative John Porter, raised concerns with the Austrian Government regarding their new law restricting religious freedom. The Austrian law, passed by the Austrian Parliament on December 10, 1997, requires that a religious group prove a 20-year existence in Austria, have a creed distinct from previously registered groups, and have a membership of at least 0.02% of the population or 16,000 members before they are granted full rights under law. The premise extended by the Austrian Government for such intense regulation of religious groups is that the government is responsible for the content of belief available for public consumption, just as the government

regulates the quality of food for public consumption. The Austrian Government's opinion that the government must "approve" religious belief before it is available for the public reveals a shocking retreat from democratic principles which encourage the free exchange of ideas and the freedom of the individual to choose his or her own religious belief.

Several western European parliaments have or are currently investigating the reporting on the activities of minority religious groups. These parliamentary investigations have also had a chilling effect on religious liberty and appear to cause a public backlash against groups being investigated or labeled "dangerous." For instance, the German Bundestag is currently conducting its investigation into "dangerous sects" and "psycho-groups" and issued an interim report in January 1998. At the Helsinki Commission's September 1997, hearing, independent evangelical church representatives reported a direct correlation between the harassment, vandalism and threats of violence they experience and the investigation by the German Bundestag's commission.

The French Parliament's 1996 report contained a list of "dangerous" groups in order to warn the public against them and the Belgian Parliament's 1997 report had an informal appendix, which was widely circulated, listing 189 groups and included various allegations against many Protestant and Catholic groups, Quakers, Hasidic Jews, Buddhists, and the YWCA.

Equally alarming has been the establishment of government information centers by Western European parliaments to alert the public to "dangerous" groups. The Austrian and Belgian Governments have set up hotlines for the public and, through government sponsored advisory centers, distributes information on groups deemed "dangerous." In Austrian Government literature, Jehovah's Witnesses are labeled "dangerous" and members of this group report that the stigma associated with this government label is difficult to overcome in Austrian society. These information centers directly violate the commitments that Austria and Belgium have made as participating States of the OSCE to "foster a climate of mutual tolerance and respect" and excessively entangle the government in the public discussion on religious beliefs.

On Wednesday (May 20), at the European Parliament, a coalition of religious groups, including Hasidic Jews, Baha'i, Seventh Day Adventist and other leaders from the evangelical Protestant community representing 90 per cent of Belgium's Protestant community, are holding a press conference. They are publishing a petition to the Belgian authorities, announcing the launch of a court challenge to the Belgian Parliamentary Report, and highlighting their concerns over the Belgian Government's Advice and Information Center. The premise of the legal challenge is that these actions by the Belgian Government violate Belgium's international commitments to religious liberty. I commend the work that these and other groups such as Human Rights With-

out Frontiers are doing to highlight and challenge the governmental actions that violate the Helsinki Accords and other international commitments to religious liberty.

TRIBUTE TO LOU AND JUNE LORCH

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 1998

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lou and June Lorch for their efforts to improve the quality of life in our community.

Lou and June have exhibited exemplary leadership with their active participation in the Jewish communities of Congregation Beth Kodesh and Shomrei Torah Synagogue. Each has spent countless hours working for the benefit of others, and together they have contributed to the successful development of a growing Jewish community.

Lou's positions and accomplishments illustrate a zest for life and a vigorous dedication to the causes which he supports. At Temple Beth Kodesh, Lou served at various times as Religious Vice President, Ways and Means Vice President, Executive Vice President and as the Men's Club President. After Shomrei Torah Synagogue was formed by the merging of Temple Beth Kodesh and Temple Beth Ami, Lou served as the co-chairman of the High Holy Days seating committee. Currently, he holds a seat on the Jewish National Fund's Board of Directors and the Chatsworth Chamber of Commerce.

June's contributions to the Jewish community embody the spirit of enthusiasm and leadership as well. Having served most notably as Ways and Means Vice President on the Congregation Beth Kodesh Sisterhood Executive Board, she has also held positions including Party Shop Chairperson and Chanukah craft and needlepoint workshops instructor. As a result of her tireless efforts for the community, June was awarded the Chayem Olam award, the Sisterhood's highest honor. In addition, June was named an honorary member of the Men's Club and served as the National Governor of the CAIR Evolution Versus Society.

Besides Lou and June's individual achievements, they have joined forces to chair the Congregational Blood Bank Drive and together played an integral role in planning the synagogue's auction and annual dinner dance.

The Lorch's achievements in the Jewish community highlight a successful career in the insurance industry with the Lorch Insurance Agency. Lou has served as the President of the Independent Insurance Agents and Brokers Association and as the State Director of the California Insurance Agents and Brokers Association. A highlight of his career came in 1988, when he was awarded the prestigious Van Dawson Award. In the past, June has served as the Lorch Insurance Agency's Chief Financial Officer.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, please join me in paying tribute to two distinguished members of our community. Lou and June Lorch epitomize community leadership and awareness, and should be recognized for their contributions.

THE GLACIER BAY NATIONAL
PARK BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT
ACT OF 1998

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 1998

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Glacier Bay National Park Boundary Adjustment Act of 1998. The legislation is a manifestation of efforts to make the construction and operation of a small hydroelectric facility near the city of Gustavus, Alaska, possible through a land exchange. The hydro project would be constructed and operated by Gustavus Electric Company, and is intended to benefit the city's residents by providing a cheap source of electricity as an alternative to using diesel-powered generators. The project could also supply low-cost power to the National Park Service facilities in Glacier Bay National Park.

An Act of Congress is necessary to allow the development of this hydro project. The project location is within designated wilderness of Glacier Bay National Park. Current law governing wilderness areas does not permit such construction and operation of hydro power facilities. The legislation I am introducing will provide for a land exchange in which the appropriate lands where the project is located are transferred to the State of Alaska, and the Park Service acquires State lands of equal value to compensate. Once the state acquires its lands under the exchange, construction of the facility will be possible.

To reflect an understanding among the parties to this exchange, this legislation requires that the proper environmental and economic analyses and licensing procedures of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission be followed prior to any transfer of lands. This stipulation assures the integrity of the lands and wildlife will be maintained before construction of the project may begin. In addition, the bill requires an exchange that is of equal value to the State and the federal government, and a "no net loss" of wilderness acreage.

The major provisions of this bill were negotiated by people most directly affected by the land exchange. It is therefore a local solution to a local problem.

TRIBUTE TO JOSUE HOYOS

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 1998

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Josue Hoyos, Vice-President of Skyline College in San Mateo County, upon his retirement after 33 years of dedicated service to education.

Josue Hoyos has always taken pride in commitment to his country and to others, as

demonstrated by his service in the U.S. Army from 1958 to 1960 and his activity with the Civil Rights movement in the 60's and 70's, marching with Cesar Chavez and the Farm Workers Union.

Josue Hoyos began his teaching career in 1965 at Ridgeview Junior High School in Napa where he was appointed to a faculty group to develop a team teaching approach to World History, a major innovation in the teaching of history at that time. He was appointed Director of Adult Basic Education at Napa College in 1969 and devoted himself to teaching ESL in the fields to farm workers, serving as a liaison to the Mexican American Community and strengthening the ABE program. Josue Hoyos developed the first EOPS program for Napa College in 1970, began the development of a Chicano Studies Curriculum and taught U.S. and Chicano History.

In 1972 Josue Hoyos was appointed to head the Open Education Program (EOPS) at Skyline College. He was instrumental in forming a Traveling Seminar to visit community colleges in California to learn about Learning Centers for Developmental Education. The result of the Traveling Seminar and the proposals which were written followed the plan for the Learning Center developed at Skyline College. Josue Hoyos was also the first Special Program and Services Dean at Skyline.

Josue Hoyos was appointed Dean of Students at Cañada College in 1977, where he developed a School Relations Program and continued to work closely with the community and legislative bodies in the interest of the College.

While Dean of Special Programs and Services at College of San Mateo in 1980, Josue Hoyos was the operations administrator of the first child care center in the San Mateo Community College District and established the successful Parent's Night Program and Services.

Josue Hoyos served in the first U.C. Berkeley Community College Council in the early 1980's which developed processes to ease the tension between the University of California system and Community Colleges, and to increase the number of transfers to U.C. As a result of the Council, several community colleges implemented the U.C. Guaranteed Enrollment Program or U.C. Scholars program for graduating high school seniors who were eligible to be admitted to U.C., but because of space limitation were not accepted. The University guaranteed their admission as juniors if they went to selected community college that had agreements with U.C.

In 1989 Josue Hoyos was appointed Vice President for Student Services at Skyline College. He developed and implemented the College's first Security Department, chaired the committee that developed the Student Equity Plan, one out of eleven Community College Plans that were approved out of 107 colleges, developed the Incident Command System for disaster preparedness, initiated the planning process for the Student Services Center and led the development of Skyline College's first Children's Center.

Josue Hoyos has served on numerous Community College Committees developing school policies. In addition, he has been an active participant in community organizations including the Napa City Planning Commission where he was instrumental in pushing through the first low income housing plans in 1970,

Co-founder of the Chicano Educators Association in Marin, Napa, and Sonoma Counties and a member of the Mexican American Educators Association, Planned Parenthood, Hispanic Concilio of San Mateo County, the Child Care Coordinating Council, the Daly City/Colma Chamber of Commerce, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and the Latino Leadership Council of San Mateo County.

Throughout his distinguished career, Josue Hoyos has earned the respect and admiration of his colleagues and peers and has done the utmost to improve the educational system. He has touched the lives of countless students and has served as an inspiration to many. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Josue Hoyos on his retirement, commending him for his tireless efforts and dedication, and wishing him all the best in the years ahead.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE
DENNISON RAILROAD DEPOT MU-
SEUM AND EAST OHIO GAS

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 1998

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I commend the following article to my colleagues:

The Dennison Railroad Depot Museum and East Ohio Gas will celebrate on May 21, 1998, the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Preview Opening in celebration of the East Ohio Gas Centennial Exhibit titled "A century of Service Built on Trust."

This exhibit is a traveling exhibit prepared by the Ohio Historical Society and will be making its debut in the museum's new Keystone Exhibition Hall. This is an honor for both the Dennison Railroad Depot Museum and East Ohio Gas. I am extremely proud to represent both companies and wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors. I know this will prove to be very successful.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the Dennison Railroad Depot Museum and East Ohio Gas. The growth and economic opportunity they have brought to the Ohio Valley is to be commended. I wish both companies continued success and prosperity.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
SPRECKELS SUGAR CO.

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 1998

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Spreckels Sugar Company as they celebrate their centennial anniversary. The Spreckels family has created an important sugar company with the kind of hard work and determination it takes to succeed in the business world. This family-owned business has made a tremendous impact on both the business and agricultural community. Their efforts in the sugar industry, combined with years of exceptional service, make the Spreckels Sugar Company deserving of this recognition.

Sugar and sugar beet history run deep in the annals of California. The first successful