

what was happening, how terrible it was how the Turks persecuted the Armenians. She had so much milk after losing the babies that she used to feed other children.

Because of my experiences as a 5-year-old in Turkey it has been my ambition to take children at kindergarten age and teach them that human beings ought to be cherished and raised in the right way: to be proud of their heritage, believe in the sanctity of children and teach them peace—instead of when they get to high school creating their own heritage because they think they're "it," you know! And when they get to be 20, 21, they want to make all the money in the world. Proudness doesn't come from money. It comes in taking care of the young. The kindergarten program should be revamped so by the time children graduate kindergarten they are already good citizens of America—citizens of peace.

JOHN KASPARIAN

*John Kasparian was born in Van, Turkish Armenia, in 1907, and is 91. He immigrated to the United States in 1927. He married in 1932; his wife Virginia died recently. For 55 years, Kasparian owned and operated a shoe-repair shop in Worcester. He saw his 5-year-old brother die of starvation in Armenia.*

I lived in Van. I was 7 to 8 years old when I noticed the fighting—24 hours steady, for three months. The Armenians didn't have any army but everyone got together to fight because the Turks were trying to get our country at any cost. They were killing us right and left. But being killed was happier than having your arm or leg cut off and suffering for God knows how long. If you say anything against them, they cut your neck. It was nothing to them to kill humans left and right. It's the God's truth.

My father was trying to protect our house and got shot in his leg. They bandaged it up and he was still fighting, fighting. Finally one of our close friends came and said, "Dick, you better get out of the house and run for your life. They're going to kill your family, without any question."

So we got out, ran out with just what we had on us. No food, nothing. For four or five days, believe me, eating grass. We lived on grass. And thirsty! You couldn't get any water until the rain came. We had to drink the dirty water that animals were going through. We traveled 11 days to reach Yerevan. Left and right, oh my God, people were dying.

Of course, in Armenia they were just as poor as we were in those days. We had to go in back of restaurants and houses and go through garbage, we were so hungry. Who would think to take a bone and bite to try to get something from it? We were six of us, two sisters, my brother, my mother and my father and myself. On the way we lost my brother. In Armenia—we got there at night, it was cold weather—we stay outside, nothing on us, until the sun comes up. Someone told us all the people from Van were in a central park so we go over there and I see my brother who was lost, 5 years old. He was delirious. He didn't know what was going on. He was hungry, thirsty. After three of four days of suffering, he died of starvation.

I have to try to make some money for the family. My mother and father had no job yet so I go around selling water for money. So help me, 2 cents, anything, just to get us by. Then my mother started to make cigarettes, wrapping cigarettes. She hung a box on my neck and I said, "What the heck is this?" She said, "People smoke—you go out, you sell cigarettes." That's how I lived until my father got a job for the American consulate as an Armenian interpreter. From then on, I was relieved! (laughs). Hey, at that time I was 9 years old.

I came here in 1927. We landed in Providence. A friend of my father who was like a brother to him, they had an apartment already, a four-room apartment. We had been living six of us in one room in Armenia, in Van. I couldn't believe it. Four rooms?!—I never saw that in my life.

I have to ask: All the world knows this [genocide] happened. Why is the American government not taking it seriously? Why?

But the only enjoyment and pleasure I get out of my life is in living in the United States. There is no other country in the world would ever be happier than here. A lot of Americans don't appreciate this life. It's a heavenly country. It's heaven on earth.

#### CHINA CONNECTIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, over the weekend a lot of people have been calling for hearings on the emerging China scandal. I come to the well this afternoon to rise in support of the New York Times editorial on Sunday entitled, "The New China Connection", that calls for the appointment of a special prosecutor. I thought my colleagues should hear what the Times wrote:

All the disclosures about Johnny Chung, other contributors and their links to China make it clearer than ever that the Attorney General Reno needs to transfer the Justice Department's investigation to an independent counsel. The White House was intensely involved in fund-raising at the highest levels, and only an inquiry led by someone other than a political appointee of the President will satisfy the public.

Mr. Speaker, this is a major concession by The New York Times, and I thought I would call it to my colleagues' attention. These calls for an independent prosecutor come on the heels of groundbreaking and explosive reporting by the Times' investigative journalist, Jeff Gerth.

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Mr. Gerth reported on Friday, May 15, that Johnny Chung has admitted that a large portion of the money he raised for the Democrats originated with the People's Liberation Army, the PLA, of China. Mr. Speaker, this is a communist military party. Mr. Chung has identified the conduit of the illegal campaign funds as a Chinese aerospace executive and Chinese Lieutenant Colonel Liu Chaoing, who just happens to be the daughter of General Liu Huaqing, who just happened to be at that time China's most senior and top-ranked military commander in the PLA.

Mr. Speaker, General Liu was also a member of the top leadership of China's Communist Party as he served as a member of the Standing Committee, the very top circle of political leadership in China. General Liu was also vice-chairman of the powerful Central Military Commission and was in charge of China's drive to modernize the People's Liberation Army by selling weap-

ons to other countries and using the hard currency to acquire Western technology.

Newsweek goes on to point out that the latest scandal, in their May 25 issue entitled "A Strange Brew," is also very revealing. It appears on July 19, 1996, Colonel Liu, the daughter of General Liu, arrived at the Los Angeles home of financier Eli Broad, shook the President's hand, had her picture taken with him. Ms. Liu, accompanied by fund-raiser Johnny Chung, is known to have attended a military institute in China used for counterintelligence training.

What Liu did a week after meeting the President is even more interesting. She signed papers incorporating a company in California called Marswell Institute. She and Chung were the only listed directors. U.S. intelligence sources say Marswell is an affiliate of a similarly named firm in Hong Kong, which shares ownership with yet another company they describe as a "front" for the "general political department" of the PLA.

Mr. Speaker, what were China and the Chinese military leaders after? There is some evidence that what they were after was a change in U.S. satellite export policy that made it easier for China to use their missiles to launch American satellites, which also allowed China to further improve their missile capabilities. This same missile technology can be used for intercontinental ballistic missiles, which China now has fixed nuclear targets on.

So, Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor this afternoon to echo the comments from the Sunday editorial from The New York Times. It is time for Attorney General Reno to transfer the department's investigation out of their department into an independent counsel, and I ask her to do it promptly.

#### TRIBUTE TO SENATOR JENNINGS RANDOLPH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. WISE) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, today in Salem, West Virginia, in a quiet funeral service, former United States Senator Jennings Randolph comes home to his final rest, to where he grew up and lived. And indeed perhaps it is a fitting memorial to Senator Randolph that this week the Congress of the United States is working on another highway bill for another six years, because Senator Randolph, of course, was Chair of the Senate Public Works Committee. In 1937, as a Member of this body, the House of Representatives, he held hearings on creating a national highway system 20 years ahead of the interstate highway system.

With Senator Randolph's death, an era has truly passed. He was the last