

the President's visit in June, has taken actions that flagrantly violate the commitments it has made to respect internationally recognized human rights. Recently, it sentenced three of China's most prominent pro-democracy advocates, Xu Wenli, Wang Youcai, and Chin Yougmin, to a combined prison term of thirty-five years. These disgraceful arrests were part of a crackdown by the government on efforts to form the country's first opposition political party. Further, a businessman in Shanghai, Lin Hai, is now being tried for providing E-mail addresses to a prodemocracy internet magazine in the United States. Another democracy activist, Zhang Shanguang, was convicted and sentenced to ten years in prison for giving Radio Free Asia information about protests by farmers in Hunan province. These events are occurring against a backdrop of growing repression, such as the adoption of strict new regulations on the formation of non-governmental political and social organizations, and the imposition of tough new regulations on film directors, computer software developers, artists and the press if they "endanger social order" or attempt to "overthrow state power".

The arrested dissidents and their courageous supporters deserve our full backing, and the Administration's, in their historic struggle to bring democracy to China. At the June summit in Beijing, President Clinton engaged in a spirited debate on human rights with President Jiang Zemin. In light of this brutal, recent crackdown, I urge the Administration to bring a resolution at Geneva in March and to register its continuing deep concern on two issues President Clinton raised with President Jiang at the summit—the absence of freedom of expression and association, and the use of arbitrary detention in China. Past experience has demonstrated that, when the United States has applied sustained pressure, the Chinese authorities have responded in ways that signal their willingness to engage on the issue of human rights. This pressure needs to be exercised now. By sponsoring a resolution at the U.N. Human Rights Commission, the United States will demonstrate its commitment to securing China's adherence to international human rights standards.

On October 5, 1998, China signed the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, but it has yet to take the necessary steps to make it legally binding. The Administration agreed early in 1998 not to sponsor a resolution criticizing China at the U.N. Human Rights Commission in consideration of Chinese commitments on human rights, including the signing of this important covenant. Yet, the recent acts of intimidation and detention underscore that the Chinese government has not retreated from its longstanding pattern of serious human rights abuses.

It is time for the United States to provide the leadership which the people

of China depend on. We must take action to submit a resolution on China in Geneva and build international support for its passage. The U.N. Human Rights Commission is the only international body which oversees the human rights conditions of all states. Even though the resolution may not pass, simply the debate of human rights in China and Tibet at the Commission will make an important difference.

I have had the great honor of knowing and becoming friends with Wei Jingsheng this past year. Mr. Wei is a Chinese dissident who has spent most of his life in Chinese prisons for his pro-democratic political writings. In an article published shortly after his release, Mr. Wei stated, "Democracy and freedom are among the loftiest ideals of humanity, and they are the most sacred rights of mankind. Those who already enjoy democracy, liberty and human rights, in particular, should not allow their own personal happiness to numb them into forgetting that many others who are still struggling against tyranny, slavery, and poverty, and all of those who are suffering from unimaginable forms of oppression, exploitation and massacres."

Mr. President, the United States must not take its freedom for granted. As Americans, we must take action and sponsor and lead the international effort to condemn the human rights situation in China and Tibet. I hope that my colleagues will join me in passing this resolution.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the public that an oversight hearing has been scheduled before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

The hearing will take place on Wednesday, January 27, 1999 at 9:30 a.m. in room SH-216 of the Hart Senate Office Building in Washington, D.C.

The purpose of this hearing is to receive testimony on the impacts on coastal states communities of off-shore activity.

Those wishing to testify or who wish to submit written statements should write to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510. For further information, please call Kelly Johnson at (202) 224-4971.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I would like to announce that an oversight hearing has been scheduled before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The purpose of this hearing is to receive testimony on the state of the petroleum industry.

The hearing will take place on Thursday, January 28, 1999, at 9:00 a.m. in room 216 of the Hart Senate Office Building in Washington, D.C.

Those who wish to testify or submit a written statement should write to

the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510. For further information, please call Julia McCaul or Howard Useem at (202) 224-8115 or Daniel Kish at (202) 224-8276.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TAX CUTS FOR ALL AMERICANS ACT

• Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, I am pleased to sponsor the Tax Cuts for All Americans Act with Senator ROD GRAMS, Senator LOTT, the distinguished Majority Leader, and other Members.

Let me begin by saying that this Congress holds the promise of being the most productive in recent memory because we have the opportunity to build on some notable successes. In just the past few years we reformed the IRS, provided tax relief, voted to ratify NATO enlargement, expanded health care for children, and created new opportunities for Americans to save—all while balancing the budget and strengthening Medicare.

Our agenda for the next two years must be to build on these successes. Accomplishing this will include tax reform, shoring up Social Security, and promoting economic opportunity for individuals and families.

It is wrong that in an era of every-increasing budget surpluses Americans are being taxed more than ever before. It is wrong that 20.5% of our GDP is going into federal coffers—the highest since World War II—that our families are finding it increasingly difficult to send their children to school, and to become self-reliant in retirement.

This Congress can do something about that. We will do something about it. With this legislation we offer Americans a ten percent across-the-board tax cut—a broad-based tax cut—one that will put money where it belongs, in the hands of those who earn it. The budget surplus will allow this. It allows us to do this and to shore up Social Security at the same time. Washington demonstrated last year that unless the surplus is given back to the taxpayer the government will spend it.

The Tax Cuts for All Americans Act is the right and necessary thing to do. The broad-based tax cut in this package is the simplest, fairest, and—I believe—most productive way to give the money back to the taxpayer and to see that the economic growth our nation is enjoying continues well into the future. Broad-based tax cuts will also be the best way to return hard-earned money to the taxpayer without increasing IRS intrusion into the lives of Americans.

Beyond this legislation, in this Congress we will also address the Alternative Minimum Tax—a set of rules in the code that has grown out of control. The AMT was originally intended to ensure that wealthy taxpayers were