

of the region, both Turks and Kurds. Such an outcome is not in anyone's interests, not that of Turkey, not the Kurdish people, not the neighboring countries, certainly not the United States.

Mr. Speaker, in order to encourage the U.S. Government to play a constructive role in heading off a crisis in Turkey, my colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER), and I will be circulating a letter this week asking our colleagues to sign a letter to President Clinton urging his intervention, to implore that the Turkish authorities show some basic fairness in trying Mr. Ocalan and to spare his life.

The government of Turkey's undeclared war on the Kurds has claimed close to 40,000 lives and caused more than 3 million people to become refugees. Before his arrest, Mr. Ocalan had announced that he was ready to renounce violence and negotiate, but Turkey did not even consider the request. Even worse, Mr. Speaker, the United States did not encourage such negotiations to begin.

Mr. Speaker, it is my belief that it would be more appropriate to have an International Tribunal prosecute Mr. Ocalan since Turkey is at war with the Kurds and cannot be expected to conduct a fair trial. Seeking a fair trial for Mr. Ocalan should be the first step in our efforts to press Turkey to enter into negotiations to achieve a political solution to this tragic struggle.

What is truly tragic about the conflict between the Turkish regime and the Kurdish people is that the Turkish and Kurdish people have not always lived in conflict. There is hope that reconciliation could occur but only if the Turkish authorities recognize the rights and distinct identity of the Kurds and finally halt their goal of controlling and conquering the Kurds.

TAX FREEDOM DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. UPTON). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I want to wish all Americans a happy Tax Freedom Day. Americans are now free from the Federal shackles on their income. And, this year, all American citizens worked for the government longer than in any previous year.

Today Americans start working for themselves and not the Federal Government. Starting today, the money all Americans earn goes to their families rather than the Washington bureaucracy.

This government is taking too much money out of our pockets. In fact, the average American will spend nearly 3 hours of each 8-hour working day just to pay taxes. Most of the time, almost 2 hours, will be spent working to pay Federal tax; and the remainder, 54 min-

utes, will be spent working to pay State and local taxes.

For too long the Federal Government has increased taxes on our businesses, our seniors, our families, our children. We need to take our money away from the Federal Government, away from the bureaucrats and give it back to the American people. After all, American workers have earned it.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle believe all working Americans' money belongs to the Federal Government. I disagree. It is the money of all those hard-working Americans; and Americans want, need and deserve a refund now.

Let us help America. Let us give the people what they deserve: tax relief that is long overdue.

SECURITY FAILURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, in a press conference in March of this year, the President was asked, "Can you assure the American people that under your watch no valuable nuclear secrets were lost?" The President answered, "Can I tell you that there has been no espionage at the lab since I have been President? I can tell you that no one has reported to me that they suspect such a thing has occurred."

Mr. Speaker, on May 3, The New York Times reported a secret report was given to top Clinton administration officials, including the National Security Adviser Samuel Berger, in November of 1998 that warned, "China posed an acute intelligence threat to our government's nuclear weapons laboratory and that computer systems at the labs were being constantly penetrated by outsiders."

If the President stated in a press conference not more than 2 months ago that, "no one has reported to me that they suspect such a thing", while the top national security adviser in the Clinton administration received a classified report about Chinese espionage just 6 months ago, are we to assume that the President was never briefed upon this report?

Energy Secretary Bill Richardson acknowledged on Meet the Press this past Sunday that, "There have been damaging security leaks." Obviously, National Security Adviser Samuel Berger was aware of the security leaks of the intelligence report warning the administration.

What is the truth, Mr. Speaker? The administration cannot have it both ways. Either Mr. Berger failed in his responsibility of notifying the President or the President in March misled our Nation about reports of espionage.

The Times further reported that, "In April of 1996, Energy Department officials briefed Mr. Berger on the case and how it related to China's nuclear strat-

egy. Mr. Berger took no action and did not inform the President of the matter, White House officials have said." That is what we believe.

How is Mr. Berger still on the job, Mr. Speaker? There are many troubling issues involved in the suspected spy case emanating from the Los Alamos National Laboratory, and I think one of the most troubling is that the suspected Chinese American spy, Wen Ho Lee, was under investigation by the FBI back in 1997. They wanted to monitor Lee's telephone conversations and to access his computer, but the Justice Department denied this request. Why?

This case may be the worst espionage committed against our Nation, and the Justice Department quickly denied our chief policing and policy and domestic counterintelligence agency the tools to conduct a proper investigation. Why?

Intelligence officials privately state that a denial of such a request is extremely rare. It hardly ever happens. Why did it occur in this case, when the evidence indicated that efforts were under way to steal our most classified information about our most deadly nuclear weapons?

What is even more shocking is that the FBI told Energy Department officials in April of 1997 that they could transfer Mr. Lee to a less sensitive job. What did these officials do? They, instead, gave Mr. Lee the job of updating a computerized archives of nuclear secrets. Here we have a suspect possibly passing information about our most secure weapons and the Energy Department places him in charge of their computer upgrades.

In addition, the Energy Department allows Mr. Lee to hire his own personal assistant. The person he happened to hire was a Chinese graduate student who has, since this story has broke, disappeared.

The FBI has determined that in February of this year Lee tried to delete evidence that he had improperly transferred more than 1,000 computer files containing nuclear secrets.

Mr. Speaker, what is going on here? The Justice Department, the Energy Department, the administration all had this evidence. There have been no arrests, and the administration continues to drag its feet in the release of the Cox report.

Have we allowed our judgment of China's conduct to be clouded by our desire for trade with China? Have we allowed the White House to compromise the security of every man, woman and child in our Nation for the desire for more profits? I earnestly pray that this is not true.

Mr. Speaker, I submit for the RECORD the recent AP story from Sunday entitled Richardson Says China Stole Secrets on Clinton Watch.

[From Reuters, May 9, 1999]

RICHARDSON: CHINA STOLE SECRETS ON CLINTON WATCH

WASHINGTON—Energy Secretary Bill Richardson said Sunday the Chinese government had obtained nuclear secrets during the Clinton presidency—something the administration had previously denied.

Speaking on NBC television's "Meet the Press" show, Richardson admitted security breaches had occurred during the Clinton presidency, despite denials by the president.

"There have been damaging security leaks," Richardson said. "The Chinese have obtained damaging information . . . during past administrations and (the) present administration."

In a March news conference, President Clinton denied the Chinese had secured nuclear secrets during his presidency.

"To the best of my knowledge, no one has said anything to me about any espionage which occurred by the Chinese against the labs, during my presidency," Clinton said then, referring to allegations of security breaches at the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico.

But The New York Times reported a week ago that counter-intelligence officials had told the Clinton administration in November that China posed an "acute intelligence threat" to nuclear arms labs.

The Times disclosed in March that a scientist at Los Alamos, Wen Ho Lee, was suspected of helping China obtain arms secrets. China has repeatedly denied the charges and the scientist last week rejected the accusations against him.

The Senate intelligence committee said in a report last week that China gained technical information from U.S. companies during satellite launches which will improve its missiles and could threaten the United States.

The report capped a 10-month investigation by the committee into the impact on U.S. national security of advanced satellite technology exports to China.

Senator Richard Shelby, chairman of the intelligence committee, said Sunday, "This is probably the most serious espionage we have had in this country in modern times."

Shelby said his committee's investigation uncovered "very suspicious banking relationships" which would need further investigation. The Republican from Alabama said millions of dollars were funneled to a small bank in the United States from China, possible as political campaign donations.

Bob Kerrey, the ranking Democrat on the intelligence committee, agreed there had been leaks at the Los Alamos lab.

"I have no doubt there has been Chinese espionage at these nuclear labs," the Nebraska senator said. "I have no doubt the efforts to reduce the risk of that espionage was sloppy and not well coordinated and as a consequence has been damaging to the people of the United States."

Despite the breaches, Kerrey said, the threat to Americans was not on the scale suggested by Shelby.

"This is a very serious case of espionage, a very serious breach of security at the labs, but its very important for us not to overestimate the threat," he said.

COMMEMORATING ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Guam (Mr. UNDERWOOD) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor to announce that this month, May, is Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. This month is meant to celebrate the many contributions of Asian and Pacific Islander Americans to the fabric of American life.

As the Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus for the 106th Congress, I wish to draw attention to this month as a time to honor, remember and celebrate the Asian and Pacific Islander Americans who live in each one of our congressional districts. In fact, 65 congressional districts have a population of at least 5 percent APA and some 28 have over 10 percent APA in their districts.

This celebration dates back to the legislation introduced by former Representative Frank Horton in 1978, establishing Asian Pacific American Heritage Week to draw attention to this population. In 1990, the week was extended to a month, and it was not until 1992 that legislation was passed to make APA a permanent occasion during May of every year.

This is a particularly critical time to reflect upon the conditions and the contributions of Asian Pacific Americans. They are a growing part of our population, and they make major contributions to every facet of our life, from science to sports, from education to entertainment, from culture to commerce.

Asian Pacific Americans are major players and major movers in our American life. Yet, despite their success, they continue to experience various forms of discrimination; and some communities experience many difficulties in education and the economy. And they are, of course, subject to the ups and downs of our country's relationships with various countries in Asia and the Pacific.

We should all take the time to celebrate the success of individual APAs, like Junior Seau, the outstanding linebacker for the San Diego Chargers; David Ho, who was Time magazine's 1996 Man of the Year for his research on AIDS; Josie Natori, a highly acclaimed designer who recently received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor; Jerry Yang, the former Stanford Ph.D. student who cofounded Yahoo; and Seiji Ozawa, who is in his 24th season as music director for the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

But we must also take the time to acknowledge that there can be a thin line in American society between celebration and condemnation. Sometimes we are quick to praise individuals from various communities that make up the fabric of American life but we can be just as quick to stereotype and stigmatize the communities from which these individuals come from. Immigrant bashing, hate crimes, wholesale characterizations about this or that group are not only hurtful, they are disrespectful and harm our entire society.

We are in the midst of a series of charges and countercharges about espionage at the Department of Energy labs, alleged fundraising from foreign sources; and our relationship with the People's Republic of China is probably at its lowest point during this decade. We all have a serious responsibility to

make clear and understandable distinctions between the activities of foreign agents, criminal spies and the Asian Pacific American communities which help make this country strong and vibrant.

There is much media coverage today about Chinese spying and illegal Chinese fund-raising. It is all too easy to blur any distinction between those who are operating outside the law and at the behest of foreign governments and the Asian Americans who live next door, who work at Silicon Valley and who work tirelessly in defense and energy laboratories around the country. Asian Americans have contributed enormously to our technological lead in the world, and they contribute to our military and economic strength in ways that all of us should be proud of and grateful for.

Let us be clear. The overwhelming and vast majority of Asian Pacific Americans are not just industrious, they are as loyal to America as all their fellow Americans. The preponderance of stories about the espionage may lead to the same result that we had a few years ago when the stories about illegal fundraising first surfaced. Individual Asian American citizens around the country had additional questions asked of them, found it a little more difficult to get appointments with elected officials, were asked to verify the origins of their campaign donations in ways that others were not.

The illegal fund-raising stories had a chilling and direct effect on the lives and the political participation of Asian Americans around the country. Let us make sure that the current rash of stories and the current state of our relationship with China has no impact upon the lives or the economic or employment opportunities of individual Asian Americans around the country.

We in Congress have a special responsibility to make sure that our sentiments about these matters of espionage is clearly separate from any reflection upon the ethnic communities in our country.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Energy Secretary, Bill Richardson, for his sensitivity to APA concerns; and I encourage all Members to attend the numerous planned APA activities in their home district this month. And the APA caucus will also be organizing a special order commemorating Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

As we deal with the Cox Report, as we deal with the Department of Energy revelations, as we deal again with the charges about fund raising, let us remember that it is a thin line between celebration and condemnation, between singing praise and stereotyping.

On this note, I take this opportunity to thank Energy Secretary Bill Richardson for his sensitivity to APA concerns, and also on agreeing to speak at the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies Gala.

There are numerous activities planned by Asian Pacific American groups this month to celebrate our diverse heritage. I urge every member's participation in these activities.