

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.