

(Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### MAY FREEDOM AND LIBERTY CONTINUE TO FLOURISH THROUGHOUT CENTRAL EUROPE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to commemorate the 10th anniversary this week of one of the most astounding events of the 20th century, the collapse of the Berlin Wall on November 9, 1989, and the collapse of Communism throughout central Europe.

What started as a ripple, solidarity's triumph in Poland in June of that summer, Hungary opening its border with Austria that summer, led to a deluge of East Germans streaming across the Berlin border and eventually tearing down the symbol of oppression in Europe, the Wall. A few short weeks later came the Velvet Revolution that changed Czechoslovakia.

One of my most cherished possessions that I keep on my desk here in Washington is a chunk of that Berlin Wall with some of the graffiti paint still on it, coincidentally, shaped like Wisconsin. I was able to knock out this piece with a sledgehammer while I was in Berlin on October 3, 1990, celebrating the reunification of both Germanys.

Today, the political map of Europe looks completely different. As this map depicts, Mr. Speaker, democracy has been flourishing and sweeping across Europe. The countries shaded in blue are those democratic nations that existed before 1989. The purple-shaded area are those countries that have evolved into democratic nations since the revolutions of 1989. Obviously, we still have some work to do in Belarus and down in the Balkans and Serbia, as represented by the red countries shown on the map.

Now, 10 years later, the events seem preordained. But at the time, no one could predict these events or know how to respond to them. Today, many want to claim credit. But the most important wall that fell was not even visible. It was the wall of fear inside people. It is difficult to describe the role that fear plays to maintain a totalitarian state.

Mikhail Gorbachev, however, changed the dynamics by sending out messages that his rule would not be sanctioned only by guns and tanks. His policies of Glasnost and Perestroika showed that not only would he not oppose reforms, but actually encourage them.

As a third-year law student, I watched with rapt attention, as the rest of the world did, to the unfolding of these events during 1989. It came at a critical point in my life. I was feeling

a little disillusioned, a little bit cynical about our own democratic process in this Nation. So I went to central Europe a few months after the resolutions, lived out of a backpack, and traveled throughout the capitals of central Europe to see these changes first hand.

While traveling there, I met the real heroes of the revolution. People who restored my hope for the institutions of democracy. They were students about my age who were on the front lines of the demonstrations, literally staring down the barrel of guns and Soviet-made tanks, not knowing if they were going to succeed or suffer another Prague Spring like in 1968 or Budapest in 1956.

History later showed that in the case of the Velvet Revolution in Czechoslovakia, velvet to symbolize the smooth and peaceful transition of power that took place, the Communist Politburo voted just five to four against ordering a massacre.

When I spoke to those students, they remembered two distinct things about the demonstrations: how cold they were during the candle light vigils that took place all night, and how scared they were knowing the history of previous reform attempts in their own country.

They did not have weapons to fight back with, only their courage. They knew they were risking it all, but they chose to do so for the sake of their own future. And they prevailed.

It is a magnificent irony of history today that one of the most oppressive Communist regimes throughout central Europe, Czechoslovakia, would later be led by former poets and playwrights in the country, one of whom was Vaclav Havel. He was one of the key leaders of the Velvet Revolution. He was the first democratically elected leader of Czechoslovakia since Mazaryek and Eduard Benes before the Second World War. He was also one of the founders of Charter 77, the moral blueprint for change in Czechoslovakia. He helped form the Civic Forum, the political alternative to the Communist regime, but not before he was in prison four times as a political dissident.

In fact, during one of his stays in prison, he became deathly ill. The Communist authorities, afraid they were going to have a martyr on their hands, went to him and told him that the people in New York who give out the Obey awards were willing to host him so he could direct his own play on Broadway as well as receive proper medical attention and care.

He asked them one question, if he went, would he be allowed to return to Czechoslovakia. They could not give that assurance. So he said I will stay instead. The rest, as we now know it, is history.

So, Mr. Speaker, I want to pay a special tribute and wish a special anniversary to a few students who inspired me. To Andreas of Dresden, Peter of Krakow, Jitka, Ladka, Ivana, and Pau-

lina of Prague, happy anniversary and thank you for showing with your courage that there are some causes and ideals greater than oneself worth risking everything for. May freedom and liberty continue to flourish throughout central Europe.

#### GOOD TIME FOR CONGRESS TO REASSESS ANTITRUST LAWS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, by now, the Microsoft antitrust case should have caught every Member's attention. This is a good time for Congress to reassess the antitrust laws.

Under current law, collusion, negotiations, or even discussions about markets may be enough to find someone guilty of breaking these laws. Prices in one industry that are too high, too low, or all the same are suspect and could be used as evidence of monopoly practices.

We must remember bigness in a free market is only achieved by the vote of consumers, supporting a company that gives them a good product at a low price.

It is an economic truism that the only true monopoly is government protected, such as the Post Office or a public utility. There is nothing more annoying than a government bureaucrat or Federal judge gleefully condemning a productive enterprising capitalist for doing a good job. These little men filled with envy are capable of producing nothing and are motivated by their own inadequacies and desires to wield authority against men of talent.

In a free market, the consumer is king, not the businessman. The regulators hate both and relish their role of making sure the market is fair according to their biased standards.

Antitrust suits are rarely, if ever, pursued by consumers. It is always a little disgruntled competitor, a bureaucrat who needs to justify his own existence.

Judge Jackson condemned Microsoft for being a "vigorous protector of its own self-interests." Now this is to be a crime in America. To care for oneself and do what corporations are supposed to do, that is, maximize profits for stockholders by making customers happy, is the great crime committed in the Microsoft case.

Blind to the fact that there is no conflict between the self-interest of a capitalist and the consumers' best interests, the trust busters go their merry way without a complaint from the Congress which could change these laws.

Only blind resentment drives the economic planners and condemns business success, good products, low prices, and consumer satisfaction while undermining the system that has provided so much for so many.

Many big companies have achieved success with government subsidies,