

John LeBoutillier, New York; Bill Lowery, California; Bill McCollum, Florida; Bob McEwen, Ohio; Ray McGrath, New York; David Martin, New York; Lynn Martin, Illinois; Guy Molinari, New York; Sid Morrison, Washington; John Napier, South Carolina; and Jim Nelligan, Pennsylvania.

Mike Oxley, Ohio; Stan Parris, Virginia; Clint Roberts, South Dakota; Pat Roberts, Kansas; Hal Rogers, Kentucky; Marge Roukema, New Jersey; Claudine Schneider, Rhode Island; Clay Shaw, Florida; Mark Siljander, Michigan; Joe Skeen, New Mexico; Albert Lee Smith, Alabama; Chris Smith, New Jersey; Denny Smith, Oregon; David (Mick) Staton, West Virginia; Ed Weber, Ohio; Vin Weber, Minnesota; Frank Wolf, Virginia; and George Wortley, New York.

[From the Jerusalem Post, June 6, 2004]

THE PRISONERS' CONSCIENCE

(By Natan Sharansky)

In 1983, I was confined to an eight-by-ten-foot prison cell on the border of Siberia. My Soviet jailers gave me the privilege of reading the latest copy of Pravda. Splashed across the front page was a condemnation of President Ronald Reagan for having the temerity to call the Soviet Union an "evil empire." Tapping on walls and talking through toilets, word of Reagan's "provocation" quickly spread throughout the prison. We dissidents were ecstatic. Finally, the leader of the free world had spoken the truth—a truth that burned inside the heart of each and every one of us.

At the time, I never imagined that three years later, I would be in the White House telling this story to the president. When he summoned some of his staff to hear what I had said, I understood that there had been much criticism of Reagan's decision to cast the struggle between the superpowers as a battle between good and evil.

Well, Reagan was right and his critics were wrong.

Those same critics used to love calling Reagan a simpleton who saw the world through a primitive ideological prism and who would convey his ideas through jokes and anecdotes. In our first meeting, he told me that Soviet premier Brezhnev and Kosygin, his second-in-command, were discussing whether they should allow freedom of emigration. "Look, America's really pressuring us," Brezhnev said, "maybe we should just open up the gates. The problem is, we might be the only two people who wouldn't leave." To which Kosygin replied, "Speak for yourself."

What his critics didn't seem to understand was that the jokes and anecdotes that so endeared Reagan to people were merely his way of expressing fundamental truths in a way that everyone could understand.

Reagan's tendency to confuse names and dates, something I, too, experienced firsthand, also made him the target of ridicule. In September 1987, a few months before a summit meeting with Gorbachev in Washington, I met with Reagan to ask him what he thought about the idea of holding a massive rally of hundreds of thousands of people on behalf of Soviet Jewry during the summit. Some Jewish leaders, concerned that if the rally were held Jews would be accused of undermining a renewed hope for peace between the superpowers, had expressed reservations about such a frontal challenge to the Soviet premier.

Seeing me together for the first time with my wife Avital, who had fought for many years for my release, Reagan greeted us like a proud grandparent, knowing he had played an important role in securing my freedom. He told us about his commitment to Soviet Jewry. "My dear Mr. and Mrs. Shevard-

nadze," he said, "I just spoke with Soviet Foreign Minister Sharansky, and I said you better let those Jews go."

Not wanting to embarrass the president over his mistake, I quickly asked him about the rally, outlining the concerns raised by some of my colleagues. His response was immediate: "Do you think I am interested in a friendship with the Soviets if they continue to keep their people in prison? You do what you believe is right."

Reagan may have confused names and dates, but his moral compass was always good. Today's leaders, in contrast, may know their facts and figures, but are often woefully confused about what should be the simplest distinctions between freedom and tyranny, democrats and terrorists.

The legacy of president Reagan will surely endure. Armed with moral clarity, a deep faith in freedom, and the courage to follow his convictions, he was instrumental in helping the West win the Cold War and hundreds of millions of people behind the Iron Curtain win their freedom.

As one of those people, I can only express my deepest gratitude to this great leader. Believe me, I will take moral clarity and Shevardnadze any day.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to former President Ronald Reagan who passed away on Saturday June 5, 2004. At this time, I extend my deepest condolences to his loving wife, Nancy, and his children, and I join with our Nation in mourning the loss of a great leader.

Ronald Wilson Reagan was born in Tampico, Illinois to Nelle Wilson and John Edward "Jack" Reagan. In 1928, Ronald Reagan graduated from Dixon High School where he served as student body president. From 1928–1932, Reagan attended Eureka College, a small liberal arts institution in Illinois. He majored in economics and sociology.

In 1937, Reagan enlisted in the Army Reserve as a Private and was soon promoted to 2nd Lieutenant in the Officers Reserve Corps of the Cavalry. While in the Army, an agent for Warner Brothers discovered Ronald Reagan. In 1940, Reagan wed Jane Wyman.

In 1942, the Army Air Force called Reagan to active duty. He was assigned to the 1st Motion Picture Unit in Culver City, California where he made over 400 training films. Reagan was discharged from the Army in 1945 at the rank of Captain.

After the war, Reagan resumed his acting career and in 1952 wed Nancy Davis. In 1956, Reagan campaigned as a Democrat for Eisenhower. In 1960, he campaigned for Richard Nixon. In 1962, he officially changed his party registration to Republican.

In 1966, Reagan was elected Governor of California and was re-elected in 1970. On November 4, 1980, Ronald Reagan Wilson became the 40th President of the United States.

Ronald Reagan wished to be remembered as the President who wanted Americans to believe in themselves. We will remember him for much more.

We will remember Ronald Reagan as a political leader who worked diligently to stimulate economic growth, increase employment and strengthen national defense. He was "The Great Communicator" whose words and actions spoke of honor and peace.

Through his convictions, we witnessed the fall of the Berlin Wall and the end of the Cold War. "Peace through strength" is what he sought and achieved.

In his own words taken from 1986 as he sought to comfort us after the *Challenger* Dis-

aster, "We will never forget [him], nor the last time we saw [him] . . . as he prepared for [his] journey, and waved good-bye, and 'slipped the surly bonds of earth' to 'touch the face of God.'"

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HON. EDWARD L. SCHROCK, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ROHRBACHER) laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable EDWARD L. SCHROCK, Member of Congress:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,

June 3, 2004.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,  
Speaker, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to formally notify you, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a criminal subpoena for documents, issued by the United States District Court for the Southern District of Illinois.

After consulting with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the privileges and rights of the House.

Sincerely,

EDWARD L. SCHROCK,  
Member of Congress.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. BECERRA (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of personal reasons.

Mr. CASE (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and the balance of the week on account of personal reasons.

Mr. FROST (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of personal reasons.

Ms. KILPATRICK (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of personal reasons.

Mr. LAMPSON (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and the balance of the week on account of a death in the family.

Mr. MENENDEZ (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of official business in the district.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of personal reasons.

Mr. REYES (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and the balance of the week on account of family medical reasons.

Ms. SOLIS (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and the balance of the week on account of official business in the district.

Mr. STUPAK (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of family reasons.

Mr. TURNER of Texas (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and June 9 on account of a funeral in the district.

Mr. KING of New York (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today on account of being detained on official business.