

itself and its members, sanctioning those who were the targets of this abuse makes no sense. No one will be fooled by the League's effort to appear pro-active and even-handed while punishing the very people who were the victims of abuse.

The National Council for Combating Discrimination, a Romanian Government body, also sanctioned the offending team about \$1400 and fined the stadium announcer about \$600. The fact that a governmental body so quickly recognized the racist nature of these events was a positive signal. However, any time a state positions itself to regulate speech, there is the risk that free speech, which may include unpopular or controversial views, will be unduly limited. I believe there are other ways to combat racist, xenophobic, or anti-Semitic manifestations. In particular, it is critical that Romania's public leaders, including President Traian Basescu, speak out against such manifestations.

Unfortunately, the April 13 events were not an isolated phenomenon, but part of a pattern of racist abuse in Romania. In 2002, scores of fans at a Bucharest soccer match worked in concert to display a massive sign reading "Die, Gypsy." In 2003, like-minded fans displayed a sign reading "One million crows, one solution—Antonescu." "Crow" is a pejorative slang term in Romanian for a member of the Romani minority. General Ion Antonescu was Romania's World War II fascist dictator who spearheaded the selection of Roma for deportation to Transnistria.

These manifestations tell us two things. First, it is not enough for public leaders to leave it to the National Council for Combating Racism to speak out against these manifestations. Romania's highest leaders must stand up and confront such outrages. Those who would foment racism, and who potentially incite racist violence, must be given no safe harbor. Invoking praise for the World War II dictator who oversaw the persecution of Romania's Jews and Roma is despicable.

Second, these manifestations underscore the need for continued efforts to improve Holocaust education in Romania.

Following decades of denial, the Government of Romania has made great strides in the past year in recognizing Romania's role in the Holocaust and in the deportation and death of Jewish and Romani citizens. The government is to be commended for taking steps to examine this dark and painful chapter in the country's history. Last November, the International Commission for the Study of the Holocaust in Romania, led by Elie Wiesel, officially issued its findings in Bucharest. In addition to the establishment of a national Holocaust Remembrance Day, which Romania marks on October 9, the Commission recommended that Romania establish a national Holocaust memorial and museum in Bucharest, annual war criminal rehabilitations and de-

velop a Holocaust education curricula and courses in secondary schools and universities. I hope the Government of Romania will move quickly to implement the Wiesel Commission's recommendations.

With this in mind, I was heartened to learn that in April the U.S. Embassy in Bucharest hosted the premier of "Hidden Sorrows," a documentary about the tragic deportation of 25,000 Roma from Romania to Transnistria during the Holocaust; more than 11,000 men, women and children died from the horrific conditions of their internment. Several, nearly 100-year-old survivors attended the premier, adding a deeply personal element to the documentary's message.

From the Inquisition to the Holocaust, Roma have suffered some of humanity's worst abuses. They were enslaved in Romania until the formation of the modern Romanian state in 1864. They were persecuted and deported and murdered during the Holocaust. Even after the fall of Ceausescu, they were subjected to dozens of pogroms. And yet they have survived.

The Romani people, who have endured so much, should not be made to suffer at a time that otherwise holds so much promise and hope for so many. We must ensure that these people, their culture, and their heritage are not destroyed by hatred and violence. ●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:33 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1279. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to reduce violent gang crime and protect law-abiding citizens and communities from violent criminals, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 637(d)(I) of the Help Commission Act (22 U.S.C. 2394b) and the order of the House of January 4, 2005, the Speaker appoints the following members on the part of the House of Representatives to the Helping to Enhance the Livelihood of People (HELP) House Around the Globe Commission: Mr. Robert H. Michel of Washington, D.C., Mrs. Jennifer Dunn of Virginia, Mr. William C. Lane of Virginia, and Mr. Nicholas Eberstadt of Virginia.

The message further announced that pursuant to section 801 of Public Law 101-696 (40 U.S.C. 188a(c)), the Chairman (Mr. NEY) of the Joint Committee on the Library appoints the following Member of the House of Representatives as his designee to the Capitol Preservation Commission: Mr. MICA of Florida.

The message also announced that pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 2702, the Clerk of the House appoints the following individual on the part of the House of Representatives to the Advisory Com-

mittee on the Records of Congress: Susan Palmer of Aurora, Illinois.

At 6:19 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate: .

H.R. 1544. An act to provide faster and smarter funding for first responders, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 2004(b), and the order of the House of January 4, 2005, the Speaker appoints the following Members of the House of Representatives to the Board of Trustees of the Harry S Truman Scholarship Foundation: Mr. AKIN of Missouri and Mr. SKELTON of Missouri.

The message further announced that pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 6968(a), and the order of the House of January 4, 2005, the Speaker appoints the following Members of the House of Representatives to the Board of Visitors to the United States Naval Academy: Mr. CUNNINGHAM of California and Mr. WICKER of Mississippi.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1279. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to reduce violent gang crime and protect law-abiding citizens and communities from violent criminals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 1544. An act to provide faster and smarter funding for first responders, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-2099. A communication from the Principal Deputy, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a list of officers authorized to wear the insignia of brigadier general; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2100. A communication from the Principal Deputy, Personnel and Readiness, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of officers authorized to wear the insignia of the next higher grade to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2101. A communication from the Principal Deputy, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the authorization of the wearing of the insignia of the grade of vice admiral; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2102. A communication from the Principal Deputy, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the authorization of the wearing of the insignia of the grade of admiral; to the Committee on Armed Services.