

HONORING THE 50TH
ANNIVERSARY OF DAN'S PAPERS

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the publication Dan's Papers, celebrating its 50th anniversary as a purveyor of culture and a staple of community life on Eastern Long Island.

Dan's Papers was first published on July 1, 1960, by Dan Rattiner, who was at the time a junior at the University of Rochester. Dan's impetus for creating Dan's Papers stemmed from a desire to create a fun, light-hearted, and welcoming publication for tourists visiting Suffolk County, New York.

Gathering a devoted following, Dan's Papers was instrumental during a 1967 protest to prevent the U.S. Coast Guard from allowing the historic Montauk Point Lighthouse to fall victim to the eroding cliffs on which it is perched. Through the efforts organized by Dan's Papers, not only was the lighthouse saved, but the community was united in a common cause.

Dan worked individually for the first six summers of Dan's Papers, writing, editing, and crafting his newspaper to entertain residents and tourists alike. As populations grew and the demographics of the South Fork began to shift, so too did the scope of Dan's Papers, providing articles, editorials, and updates on the visitors and inhabitants of the East End.

Madam Speaker, Dan's Papers has played an important role in helping to promote the iconic culture of Long Island's South Fork and has personified the American spirit of creativity and community for five decades. I am proud to congratulate Dan's Papers on its 50th anniversary and join eastern Long Island in wishing the publication success in the future.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF JUDGE DAVID TOBIN

HON. CHARLES A. WILSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. WILSON of Ohio. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the judicial and civic contributions of Judge David Tobin. This month, Columbiana County is losing a great public servant. Judge Tobin devoted twenty-five years of his life to serving on Columbiana County Court of Common Pleas, the second longest tenure of any judge on the Court. His time spent on the bench and prior decade of service as a Columbiana County Prosecuting Attorney greatly benefited the citizens of Columbiana County.

During his service, he had the honor of serving on the Ohio State Bar Association's Board of Character and Fitness as a Commissioner. He also worked hard to bring the Supreme Court of Ohio to the Columbiana County Courthouse to host a court session. These are just a few of the examples that illustrate the professional respect for Judge Tobin exhibited from Lisbon to Columbus.

He was also greatly respected throughout the community. From community service through the Calcutta Rotary, to his work with the Calcutta Community Park Committee, to his various coaching positions, Judge Tobin exhibited a strong commitment to his community.

The people of Columbiana County have been blessed by the long service of Judge Tobin, and upon his retirement this July, he will be sorely missed. I ask my colleagues today to join with me in honoring Judge Tobin, a respected judge and public servant who has been and will always be dedicated to the people of Columbiana County.

UKRAINIAN GOVERNMENT SHOULD
MAINTAIN FREEDOM OF MEDIA

HON. ALAN B. MOLLOHAN

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to draw your attention to a troubling situation occurring in Ukraine. Less than 100 days ago, President Victor Yanukovich assumed leadership of the Ukrainian government. During this short period of time, there have been alarming reports that many of the democratic achievements of the 2004 Orange Revolution are being rolled back—including the freedoms of speech and media.

Some of the reported actions occurring include the Ukrainian Security Service's, SBU, agents approaching university deans to warn them against their students' participation in pro-opposition rallies, as well as instances of the new government intimidating journalists. Furthermore, two TV channels with a history of independent coverage—Channel 5 and TVi—are under threat of imminent closure due to reported pressure from executive bodies, including SBU.

These troubling instances of pressure against Ukraine's beleaguered opposition and independent media outlets are arguably part of a disturbing, coordinated effort by the executive to squelch a healthy political debate and assure an uncritical coverage of the government's policies. In fact, these reports are so widespread that the United States Ambassador to Ukraine, John Tefft, even recently expressed his concerns about the increasingly difficult climate for Ukraine's independent media and stressed that "it is essential to protect and even expand the media freedoms that emerged" after the country's 2004 Orange Revolution.

I understand that Secretary of State Hillary Clinton will visit Kiev, Ukraine on July 2, as part of her five-day, five-nation tour of Eastern Europe. I would encourage Secretary Clinton to raise these issues with President Yanukovich and reiterate the importance of not returning to Ukraine's old system of government pressure on journalists and media companies.

I am including a copy of an article titled, "Ukraine channels cry foul as frequencies pulled" that appeared in the June 8 issue of The Financial Times, Europe. As such, I urge my colleagues to follow and engage in this vitally important issue.

[From the Financial Times, June 8, 2010]

UKRAINE CHANNELS CRY FOUL AS
FREQUENCIES PULLED

(By Roman Olearchyk in Kiev)

Two Ukrainian television channels cried foul on Tuesday after a high court pulled crucial broadcasting frequencies away from them, sparking media freedom activists to reiterate concerns of an organized attempt to block objective news coverage.

The development follows weeks of growing complaints by journalists about the resurgence of censorship and heightens fears that a Kremlin-styled crackdown on media freedoms could be in the works five months into the presidency of the Moscow-friendly Viktor Yanukovich.

Management and journalists from channels 5 and TVi pledged to appeal against the controversial ruling and hope to remain on the air in the near term. But during a press conference held after Tuesday's regional administrative court ruling, they openly expressed fears that media freedoms and democratic gains made by Ukraine since 2004 could be at risk under Mr. Yanukovich. He is accused by oppositionists of setting up an authoritarian regime.

"We lived through 2004," said Channel 5 director Ivan Adamchuk, recalling attempts by authorities to muzzle the channel ahead of the pro-democracy Orange Revolution, which overturned a fraud-marred presidential vote for Mr. Yanukovich. "We could not imagine that those times would return, but they have," he added.

Oleh Rybachuk, a former presidential administration chief turned civic activist, said "censorship is re-emerging, and the opposition is not getting so much coverage. There are similarities to what [Vladimir] Putin did when he came to power. We are seeing Putin-style attempts to monopolise power."

With Mr. Yanukovich's coalition having swiftly consolidated control over the nation's legislative, executive and judicial branches of power, the channels could face an uphill battle if he opposes their survival.

Mr. Yanukovich's administration on Tuesday repeated denials of cracking down on free press. But media watchdogs warned that if stripped of the frequencies, the two channels—seen by media watchdogs as rare sources of reports critical of Mr. Yanukovich's coalition—would be blacked out from much of the country.

Such a scenario would preserve the strong grip over Ukraine's television airwaves held by Mr. Yanukovich's billionaire business backers.

One of them is Valery Khoroshkovsky, currently head of Kyiv's SBU spy agency and owner of UA Inter Media Group, the nation's largest television holding. The latter filed the court appeal asking for the frequencies to be pulled on grounds that they were wrongfully issued in January.

Both 5 and TVi have repeatedly accused Mr. Khoroshkovsky of abusing his power and influence to preserve his monopoly control over Ukraine's media airwaves and limit objective news reporting.

Mr. Khoroshkovsky denies wrongdoing and insists his wife manages his media empire as he dedicates his time to public service.

But on Tuesday, Mykola Knyazytsky, director of TVi, which was set up by exiled Russian businessmen, blamed Mr. Khoroshkovsky for the crack down on the two channels and described his simultaneous role as a presidential backer, intelligence chief and media mogul as a "huge and blatant conflict of interest."