

do their duty in the darkness of freezing winter nights and in the heat of suffocating summer days without hesitation. The officers and members of Kittatinny Hose & Ladder Co. #1 and Steam Co. #1—along with all members of the Newton Fire Department—deserve our gratitude and thanks.

Kittatinny Hose & Ladder Co. #1 and Steam Co. #1 were both incorporated in September 1873 and throughout their long and distinguished histories have protected both lives and property through the dedication and skill of their many volunteer members. Both have grown vastly in personnel, equipment and other resources over the years. Today, they are among the finest firefighting organizations in the State of New Jersey.

Both fire companies keep their heritage alive with lovingly maintained pieces of antique fire apparatus that show how far firefighting has come since the last century. Kittatinny Hose is the proud owner of an impressive 1849, four-wheel Hose Carriage, while Steamer Co. #1 owns a distinctive 1873 Clapp and Jones Steamer. Both will be on display in Saturday's parade.

Kittatinny Hose & Ladder Co. #1 and Steam Co. #1 have come a long way from the hand-pulled fire wagons of the 19th century. Today's state-of-the-art engines and high-tech equipment put Newton on par with any other fire department in the region. But it takes more than equipment and buildings to run a fire department. It takes dedicated, hard-working individuals willing to put the safety and property of their neighbors first. Kittatinny Hose & Ladder Co. #1 and Steam Co. #1 were founded 125 years ago on the principle of neighbors helping neighbors. That principle has made them a success and will continue to do so in the future.

I would like to ask my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Kittatinny Hose & Ladder Co. #1 and Steam Co. #1 on 125 years of meritorious service to the community and in paying tribute to their brave and dedicated firefighters past and present who have sacrificed personal safety in response to the needs of others. The Newton Fire Department and all members of all the fire departments of Sussex County deserve our deepest thanks for their work on the behalf of our community.

WHO'S WATCHING THE WATCHDOG INSPECTOR GENERAL OVER- SIGHT COUNCIL

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 1998

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to create an Inspector General Oversight Council.

1998 marks the twentieth anniversary of the creation of the Office of Inspector General. It was created to be an independent and objective investigative unit within an agency but not under the jurisdiction of that agency. My intention is not to change the independent nature of the office, but recent events involving the Inspector General's (IG) office have raised concerns about the necessity for oversight. Events such as:

A Treasury Department Deputy Assistant Inspector General asserted pressure for inves-

tigation of an IRS Deputy Commissioner about personal tax matters over which the IG has no jurisdiction. This came after a Senate hearing during which the Deputy IRS Commissioner apologized for IRS abuses of taxpayers.

A former Treasury IG resigned on the eve of the Senate Governmental Affairs Subcommittee on Investigations' release of a report criticizing the awarding of sole-source consulting contracts.

Despite concerns expressed by the Social Security Administration's Commissioner and employee groups, the SSA's IG planned arrest scenarios using SSA field offices to arrest wanted criminals, potentially endangering the public and field office personnel.

A series of skirmishes between the Secretary of HUD and IG of HUD caused Senator FRED THOMPSON (R-TN) to observe "... maybe we ought to try to get someone's attention over there ..." (Washington Post, Sept. 9, 1998).

IGs have three principal responsibilities: to conduct and supervise audits and investigations; to combat fraud and promote efficiency; and to keep Congress and the agency head fully informed about problems and deficiencies. The original act did not anticipate the need to deal with arguments between the Secretary and IG of an agency, and provided no forum for the airing of grievances and input of impartial advice.

The bill I introduce today will create an Oversight Council to address concerns, such as those highlighted earlier, and recommend solutions to Inspector Generals. This would increase public confidence in the federal government by assuring that the Inspector General is held to standards of accountability and integrity while preserving the independent, nonpartisan role of the Inspector General. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this legislation to create an Inspector General Oversight Council.

THE NEED TO IMPROVE THE PALESTINIAN ECONOMY

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 1998

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues the Dvar Torah sermon Leo Kramer gave at the Adas Israel Congregation on August 8, 1998. The sermon is entitled "The Palestinians: The Strangers amongst Us."

Leo Kramer is an international business consultant with strong ties to Israel, but also with a strong commitment to helping the Palestinians enhance their economy. He sees Palestinian economic advancement as a key Israeli and U.S. interest and as essential to promoting real and effective peace. He says "We need to change the facts. The facts of Palestinian poverty, lack of export access, lack of dignity and respect. Once the facts change, the attitudes will change". And peace will be promoted.

Leo Kramer's remarks follows:

"THE PALESTINIANS: THE STRANGERS
AMONGST US"

(By Leo Kramer)

As Americans, as Jews, our commitment, our objective is clear—a secure Israel where

Judaism thrives, the salvation of the Jewish people

This is only possible in a peaceful environment.

What has happened the last 50 years?

Where are we now?

The answers ethically and practically are in Torah. Morality leading to action guarantees results.

"Do that which is right and good" (Deuteronomy, Chapter VI, verse 18), page 772 of Hertz Chumash—second edition.

"To do them" (Deuteronomy Chapter IV verse 1), page 756.

Man must act. Not only believe.

Not declarations for peace,

Not excuses based on what is wrong with others.

But to do what is right and "to do" means to deliver on the ground, where people live.

And what is right in our treatment of the strangers is clear.

How to Treat the Strangers (The Palestinians):

1. "You shall not wrong a stranger or oppress him, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt" (Exodus, Chapter 22, verse 20).

2. "And if a stranger sojourn with thee in your land, ye shall not do him wrong, The stranger that sojourneth with you shall be unto you as the home born among you, and thou shalt love him as thyself" (Leviticus Chapter, 19 verses 33-34).

3. "And I charged your Judges ... Hear the causes between your brethren and judge righteously between the man and his brother and the stranger that is with him". (Deuteronomy Chapter IV verse 16).

The strangers amongst us, amongst our brethren, are the Palestinians.

And who are these Palestinians? Stereotypes don't work. Sometimes anecdotal history helps:

Ewan Clague, my colleague, no longer with us, who served four presidents and was the head of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, taught me, "If your eyes differ with data, believe your eyes."

Let me tell you what my eyes have seen and what my ears have heard.

A. When I last was in Amman, people remembered my first visit. Yes, I said, five years ago. No, they said eight.

That was the beginning of this mission taking the road less traveled. And as Robert Frost wrote. . . "that has made all the difference."

When Israel agreed at that time with the European Community on the unrestricted shipment of Palestinian goods to Europe, Israeli leadership asked me to help the Palestinians because they were sure that economic problems would follow.

Sometime later my wife and I were invited to a New Year's Eve party in Amman.

On arrival, we found ourselves meeting with Palestinians who also asked for the same help.

Israelis and Palestinians requesting the same positive help started me on this less traveled road.

B. Soon I found myself setting in a packing house in Gaza. Present were fathers and sons, brothers and uncles and nephews and soon I wondered why they all have the familiar American accent. I asked how come and where they were educated. I found they went to college in Michigan, Tennessee and Arizona.

C. And some time later an orthodox Jew in New York says, "Leo, you must explain to the Palestinians the effect and meaning of Passover. And he prepared an excellent summary for them which I delivered. Not long thereafter, I find myself sitting with the Palestinians in Gaza, explaining Passover. They say they don't get it.

And I explained Passover again and they don't see the significance I am about to give

up when a leader of the political Palestinian movement, Fatah, shouts out, "You mean Pesach, Leo!"

Not our stereotypical view of the Palestinians—but real!

Do these stories sound like the teaching of these last 50 years? Not at all!

What has been our education leading to orientation and attitude?

Fear and hate have been used to squeeze money out of us. And in the process no distinction was made between: all Arabs and Palestinians, and Palestinians in Israel, and Palestinians across the green line.

And there is a world of difference between the groups.

We were told if we do not contribute, our brethren will be thrown into the sea and to prove it, let us tell you how evil are the Palestinians. The image stuck.

Was fundraising now a substitute for religion and Torah and we gave and did not notice the world was changing?

The Torah does not say, "Do that which is right" only to those you like and admire. However, it is clear if you do what is right, you will reduce the arena from which terrorists are recruited.

Torah teaching—practical solution.

These 50 years we kept our views and did not notice changes.

We must not confuse security with terrorism. Did Israel not win every war? And is not Israel's military partner, the USA, the only real power by far, not only in the Middle East, but in the world? Are we not proud of Israel's might?

And the Palestinians? No army, no F-16s, no MI tanks—no U.S. military alliance. The Palestinians have been a beaten people—their life has been in part determined by Jews. In such a circumstance, how does our religion tell us to behave?

What I am saying would be the same during Rabin's days, during Peres' days, during Netanyahu's days. My statement before the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, at the Capitol, Thursday, July 13, 1995.

In part: Some years ago I came to the conclusion that the critical element essential to achieve peace in the Middle East was the economic well being and the dignity of the Palestinian people. And this was in the interest of Israel and the Jewish people.

Who has the power to make these critical changes and improvements? Not the Palestinians, not the PLO and not the PNA (Palestinian National Authority).

The resources, the power, and the controls in these critical areas lie with the West, the donor nations, the United States and Israel.

Until these matters are adequately addressed, there can be no lasting peace.

If they are not addressed, we will not stop this generation's hate from being passed on to the next generation and the children will be fighting each other. We must now allow this to happen.

The state of Israel and the well-being of its people are not threatened by a Palestinian Army, Air Force or Navy. They are not a security threat to the nation of Israel.

Some equate terrorism to a security threat. That in turn is used to delay economic liberation of the Palestinian people which, if not achieved, will guarantee that the children of this generation will still be at war. We cannot allow that. Yes, we must stop terrorism but how?

Economic deprivation will breed further terrorism. Raising the economic standard gives us hope.

I was proud to be appointed to participate in the peace signing in Cairo. I heard my government announce that without economic progress on the ground, peace is a risk. I agreed then and I agree now, Palestin-

ians are still waiting for that delivery. We can no longer delay.

I have heard over and over again the Israeli pronouncement that the well being of the Palestinians is in their interest. I agree.

Hurts of the past must not be excuses for continuing hurts into the future.

Free passage of goods, open markets, investments and reliability of American commitment will produce prosperity and peace in the region.

Four conditions are needed, which are interdependent:

1. Reliable access to crossing borders for export.

2. The opening of overseas markets.

3. Private sector investment funds, i.e., perhaps \$100 million from the American side to challenge the Palestinians to provide another \$100 million to support and give confidence to the private sector for medium size investment based on reliable border crossings and open markets and long term commitments. Then we will see the capability of the Palestinians, the development, more effective use of our aid money.

4. A U.S. participation that is dependable and firm in the peace process, via the Middle-East Peace Facilitation Act.

True eight years ago. True three years ago. True today!

Recent conclusion by Ha'aretz (Israeli newspaper):

"Exports from the territories to overseas markets are still hamstrung by a seemingly infinite number of bureaucratic hurdles that pose under the guise of 'security consideration' and which are forcing Palestinian manufacturers to export their products via Israeli companies. The atmosphere of political uncertainty is dissuading potential investors from sinking funds into the Palestinian economy's manufacturing sector.

It is therefore not in the least surprising that, in this unhealthy economic climate, wages on the West Bank and in Gaza have dropped."

How can you earn a living if you cannot get what you produce to market at a proper price?

The reality! What are we doing? What should we do?

There is not a single Jewish organization, not one contributing in any way to peace process. There is fundraising using the word "Peace" but delivering nothing—nothing on the ground, nothing across the green line. And without a proper peace, there can be no Jewish life in Israel. Not a single Jewish based organization in Washington (or any in the US or the UK—find them) is contributing one penny to peace on the ground—not one penny across the green line. Funding projects in Israel proper is fine, but if we ignore what is happening beyond the green line how are we truly contributing to peace?

Why?

Who knows?

Is 50-year education too difficult to change?

Does fundraising without commitment pay off?

Commitment to the moral and practical teaching of the Torah will pay off—will bring peace.

What must we Jews do now? The salvation of our people is at stake. We must not focus on what is wrong with others. That is no excuse! What to do? We must perform on the ground, the only way to reduce terrorism.

Contribute to those organizations that can demonstrate to you without any, ifs and buts that money is resulting in a better health, a better life, a better education on the other side of the Green Line for the Palestinian people.

This is where the urgent need is. That is what the Torah commands us to do.

If we are talking about peace, we must address the well being of the Palestinian people on the other side of the Green Line.

We have no time for do-good conferences. We have no time for pleasantries. We must do things that improve the well being of the "strangers" amongst us, those on the other side of the Green Line. We have no time to wait to change attitudes. We need to change the facts. The facts of Palestinian poverty, lack of export access, lack of dignity and respect. Once the facts change, the attitudes will change.

A leader of Egypt asked me why the Palestinian oranges at Ashdod are crushed and I said I did not know. And he said, "They are your cousins, Leo, and you must find out."

I met with the appropriate military authority. They asked do you want an investigation? And I said no. Do I want sensitivity training through various international funds? No. Then what do you want?

We must appoint a person to be responsible, a colonel who need not like the Palestinians, who has the assignment to see that their products get on the ship undamaged so that they arrive in good shape for the customers. And the colonel will do so if he knows the price of failure, dishonorable discharge and loss of pension.

He will then do the job, his children will see that it works, and his grandchildren will live in a better world. First change the facts, Do that which is right and good, then the people will learn and attitudes will change.

Do that which is right and good and peace will follow.

There is a program for the improvement of health, fortunately without great publicity and political involvement, with Canadian, Jordanian, Israeli and Palestinian doctors cooperating to improve the health of the people on the ground.

I mandate them, no declarations of love, no press releases that you are for peace, but if you do not improve the well being of the people, we will cut you off.

Results, real results for people on the ground is what we must do. We must solve the problem of goods crossing borders so they can get to market and people will then invest and create jobs. Therefore we must prepare them by training and education. A group of visionaries are planning to build a college, an industrial college in Gaza. If you think about it, you will find other ways and other projects to deliver results on the ground. Just follow the Torah. Do what is right for practical results.

Not conferences, not teas, but delivering improvements on the ground. Do what is right and peace will follow. Jews will win militarily. But if they win in the wrong way, their children and grandchildren will be at war.

The Torah makes it clear, do what is right, perform on the ground. The ground is the territory in which the strangers live, the Palestinians. If we do so, there will be peace and Jews and Judaism will prosper.

To help the Palestinians is to help Israel.

TRIBUTE TO VERNON H. RICKS, JR.

HON. WILLIAM (BILL) CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 1998

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to commend Mr. Vernon H. Ricks, Jr. on the occasion of his retirement from the Xerox Corporation. Wednesday, September 30, 1998 marked the end of Vernon's remarkable thirty-