

that was too late. Many had already printed the piece, and had to wait for the next day to carry the AP's follow-up explanation.

The Morning News's blunder was easily identified. "We require two independent sources [on major stories]," Langer explained, "and an editor has to know who the sources are." So far, so good. While the Tuesday story quoted only one source, a "Washington lawyer familiar with the negotiations," the paper actually had another that it did not reveal, and even a third on a "tell me if I shouldn't print this" basis, according to Langer. When the primary source backed out, Langer checked the second source. He found that source had thought he was confirming the vaguer story the Morning News had carried on Monday, not the more specific Tuesday version.

As all this unfolded, the Monday editions of the New York Post and the New York Daily News splashed identical frontpage headlines, Caught in the Act. Each quoted only "sources," without further elaboration. The Washington Post and the Los Angeles Times ran similar reports from their own sources. The Wall Street Journal did the same. Of course, there is no way short of a public unmasking to tell if all these publications' sources were separate individuals or the same (busy) people talking to all of them. Meanwhile, on television newscasts, the story lost its qualifications, drifting toward a concreteness that still had not been justified.

The Morning News, strangely enough, later insisted that its original story was mainly correct, and that the mistakes involved only "nuances." "We thought we had two sources saying a Secret Service agent was negotiating for access to Starr, had gotten it and had talked to Starr's camp," Langer says. "Our source bailed out because it was a 'former or present agent'—a nuance, and, second, the negotiations to get this person to Starr were complex, and mediators were involved. The basic facts of a Secret Service agent, past or present, being put in touch with Starr was correct." But Langer also downgraded the "compromising situation" of Clinton and Lewinsky to an "ambiguous" one—a much more important shift.

Darrell Christian, AP managing editor, says the changes, especially the less damning description of the position Lewinsky and Clinton were caught in involved more than nuances. "When they [the Dallas Paper] withdrew the story and said those details were inaccurate, we thought we had no choice but to take it off the wire."

As CJR went to press, no news organization had been able to confirm any part of the story beyond doubt. No present or former agent had been named. No journalist had claimed direct contact with him or her.

So, Langer was asked, is the story true? "Tough questions. I can't personally answer. People in a position to know are saying it is true, and I don't think they're making it up."

A BREAKDOWN IN FARM COUNTRY

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

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, when farmers break down in the field during harvest, they do not have the luxury of hauling their equipment to the shop to wait on time-consuming repairs. Instead, they use the tools they have available at the time, a pliers, a hammer, baling wire, to get the equipment moving again and to get the crop in the bin.

Mr. Speaker, it is harvest time in Kansas, and our markets are having a breakdown. Farmers in Kansas and across America are facing tough times. The wheat harvest is well underway, and while the yields have been satisfactory, farmers are facing the lowest prices in recent memory, due in large part to lagging exports of U.S. commodities.

Projections by the U.S. Department of Agriculture forecast agricultural exports declining \$5 billion this year. This decline is having a serious impact on the bottom line for Kansas farm families. Current wheat prices are \$1 lower than those received during the last 2 years.

One of our best chances to lift commodity prices and breathe life into the farm economy is through an aggressive export policy. The House of Representatives today made a significant move in that direction. Today we passed the agricultural appropriation bill for 1999. Under this legislation, the P.L. 480 Food for Peace Program is fully funded at over \$1 billion.

The Export Enhancement Program is fully funded at \$550 million to help combat unfair export subsidies, and the General Sales Manager Program is funded at a level that makes available over \$5 billion of credit guarantees for agricultural exports.

U.S. farmers are clearly the most efficient and can compete with farmers anywhere in the world. They cannot, however, compete with the treasuries of the European Union and other subsidizing countries. U.S. farmers continue to lose markets and market share due to foreign subsidies and unfair trading practices by our competitors. Still, the Clinton administration has refused to use the tools we have available to combat these subsidies and gain negotiating strength to push for that level playing field in future trade negotiations.

Today's action by Congress makes it clear, we are committed to an aggressive trade policy, committed to exports, and committed to American agriculture. Despite the current crisis, the administration has been reluctant to use the Export Enhancement Program for wheat or flour, citing criticism of the program, without offering alternatives or suggestions to make the program more effective.

The fact is that EEP is one of the few export promotion programs that is authorized, funded, and GATT legal. If changes need to be made to the program to make it more effective, these steps can and should be taken by the administration.

With the passage today of the agricultural appropriation bill, Congress, both the House and Senate, have acted to give USDA both the authority as well as the money to aggressively combat trade subsidies by our agriculture competitors.

Mr. Speaker, there is a breakdown in farm country, and it is time for this administration to use the tools, be that

the pliers or the hammer or the baling wire, whatever it takes. Those tools are available. They need to be used, and we need to get our farmers up and running.

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

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

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

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

FOREIGN OPERATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 1999

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, the House of Representatives will soon be addressing the foreign operations appropriations bill for fiscal year 1999. Shortly after the July 4 recess members of the Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs will begin marking up this legislation, which determines to a major degree American engagement in a changing world.

I would like to take this opportunity to address an area where I believe American policies, assistance, and investment can make a critical difference in promoting our values of democracy, human rights, and free markets. That is, support for the Republics of Armenia and Nagorno Karabagh.

Mr. Speaker, I served as co-chairman with the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. PORTER) of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues. Our Caucus has 64 members from both sides of the aisle, and I visited Armenia and Nagorno Karabagh, and can tell Members that the need for help is still great, and the potential of Armenia to be a long-term friend and partner of the United States is also great.

The Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related deserves praise for many important provisions in the fiscal year 1998 foreign ops bill. That legislation provided for the first time direct U.S. humanitarian assistance to the people of Nagorno Karabagh. It also established a discretionary spending fund to restore infrastructure and promote regional integration in the Caucasus.

As in previous years, the legislation also earmarked direct aid to the Republic of Armenia. It maintained the section 907 ban on direct aid to Azerbaijan, albeit with some very big exemptions, until that country lifts its blockade of Armenia and Nagorno

Karabagh. In order to build on the progress made last year, I hope my colleagues who serve on the Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs will consider the following proposals.

First, I urge an earmark of not less than \$100 million to Armenia to promote economic development, trade, and increase U.S. investment. Because Armenia is largely cut off from the west due to the Turkish and Azerbaijani blockades, U.S. assistance has played a vital role in helping this small landlocked Nation to survive. Despite the hardships caused by the blockades, Armenia has registered strong economic growth, with the private sector accounting for a large and growing share of GDP.

Furthermore, aid to Armenia is strictly monitored and effectively implemented. Earlier this year Armenia's voters had successful presidential elections, further proof of the impressive development of a multi-party democracy.

I also urge the subcommittee to build upon its historic achievement in the fiscal year 1998 bill to earmark assistance to Nagorno Karabagh at \$20 million. This mountainous Republic is indeed a functioning society, a fact attested to by members of the USAID team that visited Karabagh to conduct a needs assessment pursuant to the fiscal year 1998 bill.

Unfortunately, our State Department has apparently interpreted the provision of aid to the victims of the Karabagh conflict, contrary to the intent of the subcommittee, as referring also to expanding existing funds for Azerbaijan's needs.

I would urge the subcommittee to build on the fine precedent it established last year by increasing the earmark for Nagorno Karabagh, specifying that the funds are targeted for use within Nagorno Karabagh and further broadening the scope of assistance to Karabagh to include the reconstruction of infrastructure damaged during the war.

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I also believe we must maintain, without any exemptions, Section 907 of the Freedom Support Act, which became law in 1992. We must not allow any weakening or other ways of getting around the requirements of Section 907.

In addition, I believe we should require the administration to report to Congress on what steps it is taking to ensure Azerbaijan's compliance with the conditions of Section 907.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, in keeping with this goal of attaching tough but fair conditions to the provision of U.S. aid, we should retain the Humanitarian Aid Corridor Act. This act became law in 1996, and I believe, as most Americans, that countries that block the delivery of U.S. humanitarian assistance to other countries should not themselves receive assistance from the United States.

While the Corridor Act provision does not single out any countries, it would clearly affect the Republic of Turkey, which has imposed a blockade on Armenia since April of 1993. Given Turkey's failure to abide by the requirements of the Corridor Act, I urge the subcommittee consider tightening the provisions by removing or at least strictly limiting the current broad discretion of the Presidential waiver.

CONGRATULATIONS TO NEW MEXICO'S NEW CONGRESSWOMAN, HEATHER WILSON

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

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, we have great news from the State of New Mexico. My district is in the State of Colorado and as many of us know, we lost our colleague Steve Schiff who represented very ably over the years the First Congressional District of the State of New Mexico.

After his passing, the Governor of the State called for a special election. And last night, the people of New Mexico made a very good, good decision. They are sending to Washington, DC a very capable, very competent, very energetic, very dedicated and very patriotic brand-new Congressman.

That Congressperson is Heather Wilson. Heather Wilson is the mother of three children, Joshua, Caitlin and Scott. Congresswoman Wilson is 37 years old. She will be sworn in tomorrow. She is married to an Albuquerque gentleman by the name of Jay Hone.

She is a distinguished graduate of the United States Air Force Academy. She is a Rhodes Scholar who earned her master's and doctoral degrees in Oxford University in England. Her dissertation, "International Law and the use of Force by National Liberation Movements," was published as a book and won the Paul Reuter Prize from the International Community of the Red Cross in Geneva, Switzerland.

For 7 years, Heather Wilson lived and worked in Europe. She was a negotiator and defense planning officer with the United States Air Force in England, where her work included negotiating all aspects of cruise missile deployment in Britain and managing to bring a \$125 million construction project to completion on time and under budget.

She then went to the United States Mission of NATO in Belgium where her work included arms control negotiations. She was the acting representative of the Secretary of Defense at the Conventional Forces in Europe, CFE, and handled negotiations in Vienna, Austria.

After leaving the Air Force in 1989, Heather became the Director for European Defense Policy and Arms Control on the National Security Council staff at White House.

In 1991, Wilson founded Keystone International, Inc., in Albuquerque to work with senior executives and large American defense and scientific corporations with business development and program planning work in the United States and Russia.

Keystone's clients included McGraw-Hill, Martin-Marrietta and others. Heather has written for the Wall Street Journal and publications specializing in foreign policy and defense issues, and has been a spokesman on those issues at Harvard University, the Military Academy at West Point, the Center for Strategic and International Studies, and other organizations.

She has also appeared on national television programs including Firing Line and CNN's Crier and Company.

She is active in civic affairs. Heather is a licensed foster parent, a member of the Albuquerque Kiwanis Club, and Kiwanians throughout New Mexico ought to be proud of what she did yesterday and who is going to represent their State.

She is a strong advocate for improved public schools. She was a bronze medalist in the 1990 American Rowing Championships.

What is exciting about Heather is not only her background, which is fairly extensive as I read by this resume, but the excitement that she reflects. One can tell by just talking with Heather how thrilled and honored she is to represent the fine State of New Mexico.

So New Mexico, despite the fact that there were some people who ran a very, very negative nasty campaign against her, her positive attitude, her "can do" attitude, her personality, clearly her background is what prevailed in that election.

Mr. Speaker, it shows that negative elections do not prevail. We can tell just by talking to her, just how excited and how positive this person is. That is what this Congress is made up of, a lot of people. That is what is should be totally made of.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to see that tomorrow New Mexico will have a new United States Congressman sworn in. They have a lot to be proud of. I can tell my friends in New Mexico, as their neighbor from the north in Colorado and on behalf of all of my colleagues, we are thrilled to see their new Congressman in Washington, DC.

REAUTHORIZATION OF THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Ms. HOOLEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act and increased funding for the Older Americans Act programs.

These programs, like Meals on Wheels, Senior Employment Service, Elder Abuse Prevention, they work. They help meet a critical need in a