

held in one of North Korea's 12 known prison camps. According to an MSNBC news report from January 2003, one of these prison camps is literally three times the size of Washington, DC. Meanwhile, the State Security Agency maintains at least 12 political prisons and about 30 forced labor and reeducation camps. There are also rumors of a series of underground camps. No one knows how many exist and, of course, how many prisoners are being held.

These Stalinist-style gulags await any citizen, even children, who dare to commit such crimes as reading a foreign newspaper, singing a foreign pop song, listening to a foreign radio broadcast, or making statements that could be interpreted as an insult to the regime. The camps combine starvation, hard labor and brutal and irrational punishments. In one camp, former inmates claim prisoners work in such hard conditions that 20 to 25 percent of the 50,000 prisoners die every year.

To leave North Korea without official permission is an act of treason. The Communist regime maintains a series of detention facilities along the border with the People's Republic of China for refugees forcibly returned. Pregnant women endure forced abortions or have their infants killed just after birth on the off chance that they were impregnated by Chinese men. Everyone is then interrogated to determine the extent of their exposure to the Free World, literally having the truth beaten out of them.

This determines whether the regime sends these refugees to a gulag facing certain death or to a gulag facing likely death. The massive mechanistic prison camp system, combined with the outlawing of immigration, has led many to refer to North Korea as "the world's largest prison camp." Jasper Becker, former Beijing bureau chief for the South China Morning Post, has estimated that Kim Jong Il and his father, Kim Il Sung, are responsible for killing over 7 million Koreans, 3 million civilians in the Korean war, 3 million by deliberate famine, and at least 1 million more political prisoners either executed or worked to death.

Mr. Speaker, even worse is the Free World's help that props up this regime. Since 1995, the United States has provided over \$1.1 billion, about 60 percent of it for food aid. About 40 percent was energy assistance through the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Corporation, KEDO, a multilateral organization established in 1994 to provide energy aid in exchange for North Korea's pledge to halt its nuclear program. The Bush administration finally shut down the KEDO program earlier this year, long after North Korea had publicly violated the agreement that secured KEDO energy payments in the first place.

Food aid to North Korea has also been an international humanitarian fraud. The Communist regime prevents donor agencies from operating in the country. The biggest suppliers of aid,

China and South Korea, do little or no monitoring of what happens to the food that they supply to this country. The world's food and humanitarian aid rarely makes it to those suffering in North Korea. Instead, it has been used to feed Kim Jong Il's million-man army, almost 1 million people in his security forces, as a preference for the Communist Party elite. No such aid should be allowed against North Korea demonstrates tangible progress to freedom and transparency. Now some people worry about the risk of confronting and destabilizing a hostile and heavily armed power. These people should know that no good policy comes without risk.

President Ronald Reagan did not coddle the Soviet Union, he did not offer to provide them the nuclear fuel they need to build nuclear weapons in the silly hope they would not build any. President Reagan took the struggle for freedom and democracy to the gates of the Soviet Union country itself.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 40 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord God, You speak as one who whispers to a beloved. You speak to the heart. Yet Your people do not listen. Lord, you give us Your word as a gift, truly filled with promise, a binding secret. Yet Your people pay no attention.

You have created the ear to always be open. But from somewhere within, Lord, we choose not to hear. So self-absorbed are we, so noisy in imagination, so preoccupied, Your word cannot be taken in.

Claiming to seek the truth, we play with numbers and madly put spin on language, when all You require is that we face the truth, study with honesty long and hard, then with humble attention open ourselves completely to Your saving Word to guide our very next step into realistic truth.

Now surrounded by complex and conflicting situations, Lord, each of us cries out to You: "Speak, Lord! Your servant is listening." Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the

last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PENCE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

POOR JUDGMENT

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, in their rush to be against everything that President Bush is for, Democrats have once again given us reason to question their timing and judgment.

A resolution has been introduced in the Senate to censure the President for ordering the National Security Agency to intercept communications of suspected al Qaeda members or related terrorist groups.

Apparently, this offends Democrats so much that they seek to scold the President in the midst of the war on terror. To them I ask: How would you monitor terrorist operatives who move to this country, blend in, and wait to strike? Do you think they hang a shingle on their front door reading "Terrorist in Waiting"?

The NSA program is one that provides the speed and agility that is needed as we fight this new kind of war. We must adapt, because in this day and age, terrorists move faster than any court possibly can. A span of just a few hours could make the difference between life and death.

Mr. Speaker, we are not questioning the Democrats' patriotism, as they so often charge. We are, however, questioning their poor judgment. They are unwise in opposing what is clearly a vital tool against terrorist organizations and in allowing the censure resolution to the Senate floor which could damage the President as he fights this war on terror.

TRIBUTE TO EZRA KATZ

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a south Florida leader for his widespread community involvement and his dedication to keeping alive the memory and the lessons of the Holocaust.

Ezra Katz has been the president of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation,

a member of the board of directors of the Foundation for Jewish Renewal, and a founder and life trustee of the Holocaust Memorial Committee of Miami Beach.

Ezra Katz immigrated to the United States in 1958 from Israel. He has stood up for the rights of the Jewish people and has been a staunch supporter of the State of Israel. Ezra is a role model and a model citizen for all of us in south Florida, young and old alike.

It is my pleasure and honor to commend Ezra Katz as the inaugural recipient of the Simon Wiesenthal Legacy Award.

DETAIN ILLEGALS IN FEMA TRAILERS

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, Rita was her name. She was mad and took it out on southeast Texas. Her winds blew, the water rose, the trees fell, and the homes collapsed. To the rescue was FEMA.

FEMA said, we have house trailers to help the homeless. Well, Mr. Speaker, it has been 6 months since Hurricane Rita hit, and we are still on the lookout for those house trailers. Has anybody seen them?

Yes, Mr. Speaker, they have been located. All 10,000 of them have been found in the remote hills of Arkansas. But why are they there? Because I have heard Federal bureaucrats have some comical regulation that states no trailers in flood-prone areas, like the hurricane gulf coast. So the taxpayers have bought themselves 10,000 trailers with millions of dollars of taxpayer money, and they are hidden in Arkansas, I guess for safekeeping.

Since Homeland Security's FEMA isn't using them, I suggest we take them down to the Texas-Mexico border, where there is not a whole lot of rain and we don't have enough detention facilities for illegals, so that when border agents capture illegals, they can house them there in these trailers until they are deported back to their homes.

We got illegals, FEMA's got trailers, let's match them up together.

That's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING THE TREMENDOUS SUCCESS OF THE NATIONAL GUARD

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the Army National Guard recently announced it has surpassed its recruitment goals by 7 percent after enlisting 26,000 new soldiers in only 5 months.

As the Guard celebrates its best national record in 13 years, it is clear that Americans are registering in his-

toric numbers to serve their country, States, and communities. Volunteers are showing their resolve in completing the mission for victory in the war on terrorism.

I am also pleased to announce that the South Carolina Army National Guard is now ranked seventh in the Nation for recruitment. As a 31-year veteran of this unit and the father of two Guard members, I am extremely proud of South Carolina's enormous contribution to our national security.

Guard service enables Americans to learn valuable training, meet the most competent and patriotic citizens, protect American families during national catastrophes, and win the war on terrorism.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

NATIONAL SECURITY

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, 10 days ago Democratic Senators were calling President Bush weak on national security. Now they are seeking to censure him for being too aggressive in going after terrorists. Well, they can't have it both ways.

Congressional Democrats have no serious plan for national security. Maybe that is why they are doing this. They have a plan to use the security issue in their campaigns; they have a plan to try and kill strong anti-terrorism measures, like the PATRIOT Act; but they have no plan for securing our homeland.

Instead of supporting the PATRIOT Act, instead of supporting the intelligence community's work to monitor phone calls that could yield information that will save American lives, Senate Democrats are going to push a motion to censure President Bush.

If they are pushing this censure in order to distract from the fact they do not have a security plan, it is not working.

TRIBUTE TO REBY CARY

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, last month, February, was Black History Month, but indeed every month it is appropriate to honor the Black Americans who have contributed so much to the rich history and tapestry of our country. For that purpose, I want to rise and acknowledge one of my constituents today: Mr. Reby Cary.

Mr. Cary is an African American from Fort Worth, Texas. He served on the school board back in the 1970s. He was elected to the Texas House, District 95, one of the few African Americans to serve in that body in the 1970s.

After his retirement from the House, he went on to a professorship at the

University of Texas at Arlington, where he established African American studies as part of the curriculum. He is well versed on local aspects of African American history and has been a prolific author over the years. In fact, he has produced voluminous written material. His seminal work was "Princes Shall Come Out of Egypt, Texas and Fort Worth."

Mr. Cary has made it his life's work, for what years remain to him, to make certain that this Congressman is educated about the rich history of Black Americans in north Texas, and for that I thank him.

PARENTAL NOTIFICATION

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, The New York Times published a front-page article earlier this month under the headline "Scant Drop Seen in Abortion Rate if Parents Are Told." The story went on to say that laws requiring parents to be informed about a daughter's decision to have an abortion do not have the effect of reducing abortion rates.

I would just point out two things about this story, Mr. Speaker. First, other studies on the subject disagree with the findings published by the Times. Studies done by the Heritage Foundation and the Associated Press show significant drops in some States' abortion rates after the enactment of parental consent laws, such as 33 percent in Virginia and South Dakota and 25 percent in Texas.

I would also point out that all these statistics cloud the larger point of parental consent laws. The laws first and foremost seek to involve parents in one of the most important decisions their daughter will ever make. Minor girls dealing with a pregnancy desperately need their parents' involvement. That is what these laws promote.

FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION ACT

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, the Constitution of the United States reads in part that Congress shall make no law abridging freedom of the press. This freedom represents a bedrock of our democracy by ensuring the free flow of information to the public. But, sadly, this freedom is under attack.

Over the last few years, more than a dozen reporters have been issued subpoenas and questioned about confidential sources. In response to this alarming trend, last year I introduced the Free Flow of Information Act, a bill designed to protect reporters' rights to keep sources confidential.

I am particularly pleased today to rise to announce to the House that the