

to begin at 9:30 a.m. The purpose of this oversight hearing is to review S. 745, a bill to require the National Park Service to eradicate brucellosis afflicting the bison in Yellowstone National Park; S. 796 and H.R. 238, a bill to provide for the protection of wild horses within the Ozark National Scenic Riverways, MO, and prohibit the removal of such horses; and S. 1451, a bill to authorize an agreement between the Secretary of the Interior and a State providing for the continued operation by State employees of national parks in the State during any period in which the National Park Service is unable to maintain the normal level of park operations.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

FAITH IN ACTION

• Mr. COHEN. Mr. President, I rise today to take a moment to praise a worthy nonprofit organization that is having a real impact on four communities in my home State of Maine. The organization is Faith in Action, a national program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation that in 1993 began providing technical assistance and startup grants to help develop interfaith volunteer projects that focus on helping those in need of care from the community.

During the first 2 years of the program, Faith in Action limited its grants to faith coalitions—churches, temples, and synagogues—that wanted to begin volunteer care giving projects within their community. A total of 800 such projects will be funded over 4 years of this initiative. In 1995, Faith In Action expanded its criteria, and now encourages health and social service agencies to join with congregations to develop new projects. Each approved coalition is awarded a \$25,000 grant to assist people in the community of all ages who have special needs.

Over the last year, these grants have helped fund important projects in four communities in Maine: Portland, Bangor, Richmond, and Lubec. In Bangor, two Faith in Action programs are up and running, providing the frail elderly residents in and around that city with a variety of assistance. Developed by St. Joseph Healthcare, in conjunction with area churches and synagogues, the project assesses the needs of elderly residents, particularly improving their access to quality health care. Volunteers provide transportation, home visits, help in meal preparation, light housekeeping or repairs in the home, and other services to assist the elderly who want to maintain some independence, but cannot do everything for themselves.

A similar project is starting up in the small town of Richmond, where the grant money is being used to assist the homebound elderly with transpor-

tation, companionship, and other services. A new facility has opened in that town for those elderly residents who need some living assistance, but do not qualify for a nursing home. Some of the Faith in Action funds went toward the purchase of a van to help these residents get to and from the grocery store, pharmacy, and other errands. A grant in Portland is targeted for persons who have acquired brain injuries and will go toward meeting the special needs of that population. And far up the coast, in the town of Lubec, a Faith in Action grant is being used to help meet the needs of children, adults, and seniors who are receiving hospice care.

The common link between all these projects, of course, is the members of the community reaching out to help those within their city or town who need their help. Faith in Action grants are rooted in voluntarism, and in linking the different religious communities within a city or town to work together to better serve the community. Only by working together can we solve some of the many problems within our cities and towns.

As chairman of the Senate Special Committee on Aging, I am extremely aware of the daunting demographics that we face in the coming decades. More than 33 million Americans are over the age of 65 today—a number that will double in the coming three decades. We need to prepare now to meet the needs of today's aging population. Faith in Action is an organization with the vision to meet that goal, by encouraging the diverse members of a community to work with one another to address the special needs of individuals within that community. We need to encourage more and more people to get involved in Faith in Action volunteer projects, or in any volunteer project at all. We can do so much for each other, even if it is only for a few hours each month.

I congratulate the organizations in Maine that have already received Faith in Action grants and are putting them to such important use. I encourage other churches, synagogues, and temples in Maine and around the country to contact their local health and social service agencies and see if they can come up with a project that might serve the needs of the elderly or disabled in their community. Finally, I salute Faith in Action and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for their dedication to these projects—keep up the good work.●

REFORM IN RUSSIA

• Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, on February 5, Russia's Commission on Human Rights of the Russian Federation issued its report, "On the Observance of the Rights of Man and the Citizen in the Russian Federation." The report covers the years 1994-1995 and its conclusion is troubling: "the human rights situation in the Russian Federa-

tion has remained extremely unsatisfactory." The commission observed that constitutional guarantees for human rights and civil liberties "remain largely rhetorical" and that "in many aspects of civil and political rights and liberties there has been a distinct retreat from democratic achievements."

In support of its finding, the commission noted, *inter alia*: an increasing militarization of society; growth in the jurisdiction and powers of the security forces; the use of force to resolve domestic affairs, as in Chechnya; aggravation of racial and ethnic intolerance and discrimination; and the termination of state support for human rights organizations and offices. "Political expediency," the commission charges, "increasingly takes precedence over fundamental principles of law and respect for human rights and dignity," a cause "for grave concern."

Mr. President, only this past week the former head of the commission, Sergei Kovalev, was in Washington to testify before the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe [CSCE], also known as the Helsinki Commission and on which I have recently been appointed to serve. Mr. Kovalev was president of Russia's Commission on Human Rights from its inception in October 1993 until he submitted his resignation on January 23 of this year. The commission's report bears his stamp. His resignation was in protest over the very matters I have just noted: the fear that Russia's leaders are paying only lip service to democratic and economic reform and contemplating a return to the worst features of Soviet-era authoritarian rule.

Mr. Kovalev's testimony last week focused on the fighting in Chechnya, about which I will comment further below, but he has a long history of fighting for human rights, including as a political prisoner in the former Soviet Union. His voice is among the most respected in Russia; he maintained his seat in Russia's State Duma despite the resurgence of the Communists in December's parliamentary elections.

In his letter of resignation to President Yeltsin, Mr. Kovalev wrote:

Even though you continue to proclaim your undying devotion to democratic ideals, you have at first slowly, and then more and more abruptly, changed the course of your government policy. Now your government is trying to turn the country in a direction completely contrary to the one proclaimed in August 1991.

He then goes on to analyze President Yeltsin's swing toward authoritarianism. Mr. Kovalev questions President Yeltsin's commitment to the basic hallmarks of democracy, when he has "virtually halted judicial reform", and thwarted transparency and accountability with the creation of secret institutions and constant issuing of secret decrees.

Mr. President, in the past 6 years, we have witnessed amazing democratic

and economic transformations in Russia. While these radical changes have borne some difficult and unfortunate challenges both in Russia and the international arena, Russia had been on a course of reform that we embraced. We counted on President Yeltsin, whose own personal metamorphosis had apparently paralleled his nation's, to lead Russia through these challenges. But now there are troubling signs of erosion of Yeltsin's genuine commitment to reform which, if continued, could have detrimental consequences for the U.S. national interest. Our interest lies in the continuation of reform in Russia—whether led by President Yeltsin or not.

As we wait for more reform in Russia, President Yeltsin has tried to reassure the international community with positive words and uplifting promises. But some of the actions we have seen in recent weeks, including the sacking of his respected economic advisor and other Cabinet-level reformers, lend pause. The replacements have been Soviet-era hardliners resistant to reform and internationalism. Many people have voiced reservations about President Yeltsin's authoritarian tendencies, and hope that it may just be election year posturing, a response to the decidedly antireform results of last month's parliamentary elections in Russia. The question we must ask is how far on the slippery slope do we go with President Yeltsin? When do his attempts to appease hardline critics leave Russia in the same boat he claims to want to avoid?

Mr. Kovalev testified about the excessive use of force in Chechnya and I join in his condemnation of practices repugnant to human dignity. It is clear that the fighting in Chechnya is war; the combatants on both sides are committed to a cause. But even in war, there are standards of respect for human rights and for civilized conduct. These have been violated on both sides of the conflict and both deserve condemnation.

But Russia, as a sovereign state, and as a member of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, has a special obligation to avoid civilian casualties during hostilities on its own territory. The practice of calling in indiscriminate airstrikes on Chechnyan villages must end, just as surely as the Chechnyan practice of terrorism must stop.

The overall slowing and, in fact, apparent retreat by Russia's leadership in human rights and reform brings into question the future direction of United States-Russia relations, as well as Russia's place in post-cold war alliances, in doubt. President Clinton and Secretary Christopher are right to do all they can to work with the new Russian officials and offer constructive support wherever we can to advance the cause of reform. But we must keep our eye on the ball: our goal is reform—democratic, economic, and military reform—and support for President Yeltsin to the extent that he will deliver those reforms.

I conclude by quoting from Mr. Kovalev's March 6 testimony to the CSCE in which he, in turn, drew on the wisdom of one of Russia's leading proponents of democracy and human rights, Andrei Sakharov:

the West should have a two-track policy (towards Russia): assistance and pressure. Assist, and effectively assist—the growing civil society and democratic movement in (our) country. Exert pressure, and strong pressure—on those forces that oppose peace, human rights and progress.●

DISAPPROVAL OF ADMINISTRATION'S CERTIFICATION OF MEXICO

● Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, I rise today to further comment on a joint resolution introduced on March 5, 1996, that disapproves of the administration's certification of Mexico. I am joined by my colleagues Senator HELMS, Senator MCCONNELL, and Senator PRESSLER who are original cosponsors of Senate Joint Resolution 50, but were inadvertently omitted as original cosponsors upon introduction. I also urge its immediate passage.

In order to determine if a country has cooperated fully with the United States, the President must evaluate the country's efforts in several areas: their efforts to reduce cultivation of illegal drugs, their interdiction efforts, the swift, decisive action by the Government against corruption within its ranks and their extradition of drug traffickers. The results of the Government's efforts are the true indication of success. These same standards should also be used when Congress measures the accomplishments of foreign governments.

As required under the Foreign Assistance Act, the President released his list on March 1 and granted Mexico full certification. That designation is completely unacceptable, and undeserved. And for that reason, my colleagues and I are introducing this joint resolution of disapproval of Mexico's certification.

Mexico is a sieve. For the President to certify that Mexico is complying with antinarcotics efforts and curbing the export of drugs across the border is simply not supported by the facts.

Our own Drug Enforcement Agency [DEA] estimates that up to 70 percent of all illegal drugs found in the United States come from Mexico. Seventy five percent of the cocaine in the U.S. is said to have come from Mexico. Virtually all of the heroin produced in Mexico is trafficked in the United States. These numbers certainly do not sound like full cooperation to me. From these numbers alone, it seems as though the Mexican Government has failed horribly in its efforts to curb the flow of drugs into the United States. Even the International Narcotics Control Strategy Report just released by the State Department states that "no country in the world poses a more immediate narcotics threat to the United

States than Mexico." Our own State Department says this.

Even efforts to end police corruption have failed because the drug trade has infiltrated the Mexican law enforcement community. Robert Gelbard, Assistant Secretary of State for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs in a congressional hearing, stated that "we have always been aware—and acknowledge—that law enforcement corruption in Mexico is a deeply entrenched, serious obstacle to bilateral antinarcotics cooperation." The State Department, in their 1996 Strategy Report, while acknowledging some efforts by the Mexican Government, indicates the continuation of official corruption by stating that, "endemic corruption continued to undermine both policy initiatives and law enforcement operations."

It is time that the Mexican Government takes aggressive action against drug traffickers. Promises are no longer adequate. Among other steps that should be taken, Mexico should be arresting and extraditing more of its cartel leaders. Mexico must comply with the 165 outstanding requests for extradition by the United States. That would be real cooperation.

The Mexican Government should also swiftly enact legislation stemming the growing problem of money laundering and enforce its anticorruption laws. There are no reporting requirements if an individual walks up to an exchange center with suitcases filled with cash. This should be adequate evidence that Mexico needs reporting requirements of large cash transactions. Action to identify and prosecute officials that interfere with the investigation, prosecution, or have assisted in the drug trade, must occur with greater frequency if government officials are to be trusted.

For the President to claim that Mexico has been fully cooperating to end the scourge of drugs is beyond belief. I hope that the Senate will now closely analyze and debate the extent of Mexico's participation in the illegal drug trade. Then we should ask ourselves, "Is the Mexican Government taking actions that actually slows the flow of drugs?" It seems as though it has not.

The Mexican Government must do more to fight the narcotics industry that has permeated the lives of the Mexican people and the economy of Mexico. The drug trade is worth tens of billion of dollars to Mexico. No wonder Mexico is having difficulty decreasing the flow of drugs from their country into ours. There is too much money involved.

Mexico is now being used to store cocaine from Colombia for shipment into the United States. The cartels may be storing as much as 70 to 100 tons of cocaine in Mexico at any one time. With a developing narcotics infrastructure and its close proximity to the United States, Mexico has proven to be an asset that the cartels do not want to lose. And now there are reports that