

I am deeply concerned about this call by the judge for extrajudicial violence against Mr. Hussein. I urge your government to take necessary measures to protect Mr. Hussein and request that your government reaffirm publicly the right of Mr. Hussein to practice the religion of his choice, according to articles 29 and 35 of Kuwait's Constitution.

Our two countries enjoy close relations, and I am proud that our soldiers served and fought together in the war to liberate Kuwait from Iraqi aggression. As a friend of Kuwait, I would urge you to address the personal safety of Mr. Hussein and take steps to uphold the principles of religious freedom embodied in your Constitution.

I appreciate your attention to this matter, and I look forward to your reply.

With best regards,
Sincerely,

LEE H. HAMILTON.

EMBASSY OF THE STATE OF KUWAIT,
Washington, DC., July 25, 1996.

The Honorable LEE HAMILTON,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN HAMILTON: Thank you very much for your inquiry concerning the Kuwaiti citizen, Mr. Robert Hussein, who has recently converted from Islam to Christianity.

The Government of the State of Kuwait has stated publicly that it will guarantee Mr. Hussein's safety. A public statement issued by the Ministry of Justice and dated 22nd of July 1996, affirms unequivocally Mr. Robert Hussein's right to practice the religion of his choice with all the freedoms that one commonly associates with religious practices; and further states that it is the duty of the Kuwaiti authorities to protect him against any threats, harassment or abuse, just like any other citizen or non-citizen of the State of Kuwait.

Here as follows are some of the significant facts that must be clarified:

1. Originally, Mr. Hussein's case was brought before the Family Courts system in Kuwait, which is governed by religious law in matters pertaining to marriage, divorce and inheritance, only. As well, this case is a civil case between Mr. Hussein and his wife, involving also child custody. While the courts have ruled in Mr. Hussein's favor in the child custody case, his former wife has appealed the verdict.

2. I wish to assure you that Mr. Hussein has neither been incarcerated nor sentenced to death by the State as has been reported erroneously. Furthermore, though he has been declared an apostate by the Family Court, the only penalty that was imposed on Mr. Hussein was to fine him the nominal court fees.

3. Mr. Hussein's constitutionally guaranteed civil rights remain intact and unaffected by the case. These include his right to own property, vote or receive government benefits. If Mr. Hussein feels that his constitutionally guaranteed rights are being compromised, he may choose to bring his appeal before the appropriate authorities at the Ministry of Justice and/or the Human Rights Committee in the Kuwaiti Parliament. In addition, Kuwait's independent and free press has shown unwavering commitment towards reporting human rights complaints by citizens and non-citizens alike. Kuwait's press remains a testament to our nation's desire for a more open and tolerant society.

In conclusion, let me say that justice, liberty and equality for all citizens are not only guaranteed by the constitution (article No. 35 states that "Freedom of religion is absolute"); but also, Kuwait has had and continues to have a very long-standing tradition of religious tolerance and acceptance. In Kuwait today there are at least six churches and no less than 200,000 practicing Christians allowed to worship publicly. As a matter of fact, Kuwait's first modern hospital was built by American missionaries during the first decade of our present century. This enduring gift of the evangelical church of America is a shining witness to the Kuwaiti national character that is based on tolerance and respect for the beliefs of others.

I hope that the above information has helped to clarify some of the issues in the aforementioned case, however, should you require additional information concerning this and any other matter, please feel free to contact the Embassy of Kuwait.

Best regards,
Sincerely,

MOHAMMED S. AL-SABAH, PH.D.,
Ambassador.

TRIBUTE TO CY WAGNER AND
JACK BROWN

HON. LARRY COMBEST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 1996

Mr. COMBEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Permian Basin Petroleum Association's Top Hand Award recipients for 1996. I cannot think of two more deserving individuals of this prestigious award than Cy Wagner and Jack Brown. These two Midland oilmen are the founders of Wagner & Brown Ltd. They are well-known for their hard work and intelligence in the oil industry which made Wagner & Brown Ltd., a great American success story.

Cy Wagner graduated high school in Tulsa from Central High School and then went on to receive a degree in geology from Oklahoma University. He began his career with Amerada Petroleum in Midland in early 1957. In 1961, he began working for J.E. Jones Drilling in Midland.

Jack Brown was born in Brownsville but grew up in San Antonio. After graduating from Breckenridge High School, he went to Texas A&M for a year and then into the Army, stationed in Japan for 3 years. When his duties to his country were over with, Brown returned to Texas A&M and in 1950 graduated with degrees in petroleum engineering and mechanical engineering. After working as a roughneck in Alice, TX and then in Venezuela for 2 years with Texaco, Jack Brown returned to Texas to join J.E. Jones Drilling in Midland in 1957.

Wagner and Brown formed their own partnership in 1961 and later was joined by landman Deane Stoltz. Most of their activity was centered around the Permian Basin area. By 1967 the group drilled more than 60 wells in the Bagley Field in New Mexico which supplied needed cash flow for larger projects elsewhere.

In 1969 Stoltz, Wagner, and Brown exchanged most of their interest in the Bagley Field for a 25 percent equity position in Tipperary Corporation, to be run by Stoltz, and control of the partnership was turned to Wagner and Brown.

Wagner & Brown, Ltd. began their largest drilling program in 1975 on 30,000 acres of the Conger Field in Sterling and Glasscock counties, and today they run more than 600 wells in this area. The partnership now employs about 200 people and operated over half

of the 2,000 wells in which the two participated in.

Both Cy Wagner and Jack Brown are dedicated oilmen who have strengthened West Texas and this whole country. However, their contributions go much further than the oil industry. Both men have given generously in support of countless local organizations involved in education, culture and community development. They richly deserve the title of Top Hands.

TRIBUTE TO DR. WARREN
WETZEL, M.D.

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 1996

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, Wisconsin-native, Dr. Warren Wetzel, for 25 years an active member of the New York City medical community, died this year.

Dr. Wetzel, a noted authority on emergency trauma, served as director of trauma and surgical critical care at Kings County Hospital Center in Brooklyn. Prior to joining Kings County Hospital Center, Dr. Wetzel made his mark at the Bronx Municipal Hospital Center rapidly rising from assistant attending surgeon to director of trauma service. He was also an associate professor of clinical surgery at Albert Einstein College of Medicine extensively lecturing on topics such as: "Urban Trauma," "Changing Patterns of Gunshot and Stab Wounds," "Management of Liver Trauma," and "Management of Bites and Stings."

Through his zealous advocacy for the medical profession, Dr. Wetzel was a key member of various committees including, but not limited to: New York City Trauma Center Advisory Committee; oversight committee, New York State Department of Health Regional Trauma Quality Assurance Grant; residency review committee, State University of New York Health Science Center; and education committee, Bronx Chapter of the American College of Surgeons.

As a result of his dedication to helping others, Dr. Wetzel's legacy continues through Doctors Against Murder, a unique nonprofit organization he founded so that doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals could educate youth on the trauma of violence. Doctors Against Murder was the first recipient of the National Association of Public Hospital's Jim Wright Vulnerable Population Award, June 29, 1996. The medical profession and the recipients of Dr. Wetzel's efforts will truly miss him. It is my honor to recognize his sterling service, and to introduce him to my colleagues.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3734,
PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND
WORK OPPORTUNITY RECONCILIATION ACT OF 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 31, 1996

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, today I join a bipartisan majority of the House to return our