JACK WALLACE RETIREMENT

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 24, 1997

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a veteran newspaper reporter and noted labor leader from my Congressional District in Pennsylvania, Mr. Jack Wallace. This week Jack will be honored on the occasion of his retirement from the Citizens' Voice Newspaper in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. Jack is an institution in Wilkes-Barre, and I am pleased to join his friends and colleagues in recognizing his outstanding career.

Although Jack's byline has appeared on only two articles during his 46-year career, he has written thousands of stories. And, though he has not gotten recognition for his authorship, he is the most recognized face at the Luzerne County Courthouse, his beat for 29 years. During the course of his career, he has covered eight District Attorneys beginning in 1968 and numerous County Commissioners, elected officials, and political campaigns.

Jack began his career 46 years ago with the Wilkes-Barre Publishing Company in its maintenance department. As was common in those days, he worked his way up to reporter. A strong supporter of labor unions and the right for workers to organize for representation, he was actively involved with the Newspaper Guild. He served 3 years as an executive board member, 7 years as union vice-president and 29 years as the local president.

Along with his journalistic endeavors, Jack is also active in the community. He is a member of St. Therese's church, the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, the Donegal Society and the Ancient Order of Hibernians. He was a little league baseball umpire for 16 years.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join with Jack's many friends, his family, coworkers and the community in honoring this dedicated professional. I send Jack my best wishes for a happy, productive retirement and congratulate him on an exemplary career in journalism.

A WELCOME TO HIS ALL HOLINESS BARTHOLOMEW, ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 24, 1997

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome His All Holiness Bartholomew, ecumenical patriarch of Constantinople as he comes to visit the United States. His service as a religious leader has provided a great deal of inspiration and spiritual leadership to millions of Orthodox Christians.

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew is the current Archbishop of Constantinople of the 2,000-year-old Orthodox Christian Church. The title of ''ecumenical'' means that Patriarch Bartholomew is the worldwide father and spiritual leader of nearly 300 million Orthodox Christians. It is the role of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to coordinate the work of the Orthodox Church, to convene councils and to facilitate inter-Church and inter-faith dialogs.

The ecumenical patriarch of Constantinople emerged as the world center of the Orthodox Church during the Great Schism in 1054. It was at this time that ecumenical was recognized by other Orthodox hierarchies as the principal patriarch of the faith. This position, although influential and significant, also represents the lives and sacrifices of the persecuted Orthodox Christians of the 20th century. Specifically, the ecumenical works in memory of the 700,000 Orthodox Serbians killed by Hitler and the thousands of Orthodox Christians repressed in the former Soviet satellites.

As the new millennium approaches, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew is striving for religious reconciliation and toleration. Evidence of this is the Ecumenical's establishment of an Orthodox archdiocese in China during a landmark visit to Hong Kong in 1996. Similarly, his commitment to bring harmony between the Christian, Jewish, and Islamic religions led to cosponsorship of the Peace and Tolerance Conference in Istanbul in 1994. The Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew's most current undertaking is facilitating peace and unity among the Catholic, Muslim, and Orthodox communities of the former Yugoslavia.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I welcome His All Holiness Bartholomew, ecumenical patriarch of Constantinople in his visit to the United States. His character and wisdom are symbolic of his outstanding service as a religious leader and human being. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew continued happiness and inspirational religious leadership.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 24, 1997

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and unable to vote on rollcall Nos. 523 through 525. Had I been present, I would have voted ''no'' on rollcall No. 523, the Rangel amendment to H.R. 2646; ''no'' on rollcall No. 524, passage of H.R. 2646; and ''yes'' on rollcall No. 525, in support of House Resolution 276, offered by Democratic Leader GEPHARDT regarding the Sanchez-Dornan case.

THOUGHTS ON NATO

HON. TOM BARRETT

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 24, 1997

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I would like to enter into the RECORD an article on NATO expansion written by a respected reporter from my home State of Wisconsin, Mr. Bill Kaplan.

Mr. Kaplan's article appeared in the Saturday, August 2, 1997, edition of the Wisconsin State Journal:

NATO EXPANSION NEEDS PUBLIC DEBATE

(By Bill Kaplan)

In the film ''Advice and Consent'' actor Henry Fonda, playing a U.S. secretary of State nominee, says: ''Son, this is a Washington, D.C., kind of lie—that's where the other person knows you're lying and he knows you know.''

That's a good description of the recent debate in Congress on the defense budget and President Clinton's decision to expand NATO. A brief review of the end of the Cold War makes the case.

The West won the Cold War decisively. The Berlin Wall came down in 1989. By 1991 all Communist regimes in Central and Eastern Europe had collapsed, the Warsaw Pact had ceased to exist and the Soviet Union had dissolved. By 1994 Russian troops had withdrawn from former Soviet satellites. Moreover, tough conventional arms agreements were reached in 1990–92 by the West, Russia and all other former Communist nations.

Also by 1994 Belarus, Kazakhstan and the Ukraine had given up all of their nuclear weapons and signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. The United States and Russia began to implement the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, START I, reducing their nuclear weapons. Moreover, START II, with even greater reductions in nuclear weapons, was signed by the United States and Russia, though only the United States has ratified it.

Finally, all observers agree that the Russian military has sharply degraded and could not prevail even in Chechnya. In contrast, the United States is the only remaining superpower.

So what about U.S. defense spending at near Cold War levels and the expansion of NATO?

Recently, the House and Senate approved a $268 billion military budget bill. That's 5½ times what Russia spends. It's 18 times as large as the combined spending of Cuba, Iran, Iraq, Libya, North Korea, Sudan and Syria. Moreover, U.S. defense spending dwarfs what all our NATO allies and Japan spend combined. But it gets worse.

The House version of the $268 billion military budget bill calls for buying more B-2 bombers, which the Pentagon does not need or want. The final price tag will be about $27 billion for planes that have no mission.

Wisconsin can be proud that only one member of the state's congressional delegation—GOP Rep. Mark Neumann—voted for this bonanza for defense contractors. And, most members of the Wisconsin congressional delegation, in the spirit of bipartisanship, went on to vote against the wasteful $268 billion military budget bill.

There were two exceptions. Democratic Ray Jay Johnson deserves a dart for voting for this bad bill. And, Neumann, after voting for the B–2 bombers, did not bother to vote on final passage of the military budget bill, which had the funds for the B–2.

But what about the expansion of NATO? Perhaps former Wisconsin Rep. Bob Kastenmeier said it best. ''NATO expansion is an extension of American power and influence, and represents an abject inability of European leaders to take responsibility for what happens in Europe. What should really be of interest to the U.S. is joining together the East and West in the European Union.''

Kastenmeier added: ''If the expansion of NATO is not aimed at Russia, then who?''

Similarly, retired Rear Admiral Eugene Carroll of the Center for Defense Information, a Washington, D.C., think tank, said: ''The U.S. is cynical and misrepresents the purpose of NATO expansion. Its purpose is to prevent a Soviet (Russian) revival. And, it will change NATO from a defense alliance to one based on hegemony.''

Carroll went on to say: ''It will cost a lot and prevent further nuclear arms control—nukes will become a safety net for the Russians.''

Wisconsin Rep. David Obey warned ''The expansion of NATO will create a new division in Europe. It will move the line eastward.''