

For media companies like ours that may consider entering your market, what assurances can you provide regarding press freedom in Ukraine?

The economic advantage I described before are as applicable to foreign media investors as they are to foreign construction engineers.

Today we have more than 10,000 periodicals of all shapes, sizes, and opinions published in Ukraine. Our constitution elevates ideological diversity, forbids censorship, and guarantees free speech and association rights to every citizen.

But you must remember, we are a new country and a new democracy. This actually means we need more help than other, more developed democracies.

When we are talking about press freedom, it is critical to remember that independent publications belong to people and/or companies, some of whom express themselves through clannish, corporate, or private interests and ambitions, which doesn't necessarily benefit anyone other than themselves.

The President's Decree states that a newspaper can only be closed by the person who owns it, founded it, or if our judicial system deems it has broken the law. In other words, in our country, just like yours, we do have laws and we demand that all citizens, private and corporate, adhere to them. Any person or company who obeys the law and pays his taxes has nothing to worry about.

#### 2001 CONGRESSIONAL CLASSROOM

### HON. DAN MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 24, 2001*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a minute to recognize the students of the 2001 Congressional Classroom from my district in Florida. One student from the junior class of each of the participating high schools in my district was selected competitively to participate in the program here in Washington, DC.

Throughout the week, the students had the opportunity to meet with several of my fellow colleagues in the House of Representatives, as well as Florida Senators BOB GRAHAM and BILL NELSON, and Justice Antonin Scalia of the United States Supreme Court. The students also had the opportunity to meet with Dan Goldin, Director of NASA; Elaine Chao, Secretary of Labor; and Dr. Francis Collins, Director of the Human Genome Institute at the National Institutes of Health. The Congressional Classroom program also included an important trip through history with a visit to the National Holocaust Museum.

The Congressional Classroom program is a superb opportunity for young people to learn more about the United States Government, and provides them with a first hand account of the persons and institutions that comprise our government. It is always an honor and a pleasure to share this experience with young people, as it is a learning experience for the students as well as myself. Keeping in touch with the issues that affect the future generations of this nation is crucial to maintaining the spirit and effectiveness of our government.

I would like to thank the teachers, parents, staff, and all of my distinguished colleagues

who so generously donated their time and effort to make this program a success. I wish the best of luck to all the students who participated, and that they can continue to have a powerful and positive influence on their communities and the world.

Finally, I would like to congratulate the participants of the 2001 Congressional Classroom:

Will Butler, Saint Stephens School; Brad Chase, Pine View High School;

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 24, 2001*

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, due to inclement weather, my flight was late which is why I missed rollcall votes No. 126 and No. 127. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on No. 126 and "yea" on No. 127.

#### U.S. DISPLACEMENT FROM THE U.N. HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

### HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 24, 2001*

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to take this opportunity to introduce into the RECORD, the following statement to the Canadian Senate by the Honorable Jerry S. Grafstein, Q.C. regarding the United States' displacement from the U.N. Human Rights Commission. Senator Grafstein cochaired the 42nd meeting of the U.S.-Canada Interparliamentary Group held last weekend.

Senator Grafstein's remarks address the important role the United States has played over the last century in the evolution of international rule of law and leadership in projecting a human rights agenda around the world. I hope that my colleagues will take to heart the encouraging comments of Senator Grafstein.

Hon. Jerahmiel S. Grafstein: Honourable Senators, next week Parliament is co-hosting the forty-second annual meeting of the Canada-U.S. Interparliamentary Group in Western Canada. As Canadian co-chair, I have pondered the role of the United States with respect to Canada. Yet who can fail to consider the United States' paramount role in the evolution of international rule of law and American leadership in projecting a human rights agenda around the globe in the last century? Therefore, it came as no small shock when we discovered two weeks ago that the European bloc, led by France, and the Asian bloc, led by China, were successful in displacing the United States as a sitting member of the UN Commission on Human Rights for the first time since its creation in 1947.

Honourable senators may recall that it was due to the efforts of Eleanor Roosevelt that this commission was first established. Now, instead of the United States, we have France, Sweden and Austria representing the North American and European bloc. Other nations, those exemplars of human rights na-

tions, include Algeria, China, Saudi Arabia, Uganda, Armenia, Pakistan, Syria and Vietnam.

It is regrettable that the staunchest promoter of human rights around the globe has been displaced, not because of its failure to promote a human rights agenda but, rather, primarily because it has forced the international community to confront human rights in a way that no other region, block or nation has been prepared to project so singularly and so consistently. Only the United States publishes annually a region-by-region analysis of nations that fall below international human rights norms.

Honourable senators, may I recommend that you read a very short book entitled *On The Law of Nations* by former U.S. Senator Daniel Moynihan. It gives an extraordinary account of the role that international law has played in the foreign policy of the United States. It is a primer for all those who are interested in the rule of law in international relations.

Returning to the exclusion of the United States from the United Nations Human Rights Commission, I can best sum up by quoting these words from another antique senator that express for me the current situation: *O tempora! O mores!*

#### TRIBUTE TO JAMES F. HETTINGER FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE CITIZENS OF GREATER BATTLE CREEK

### HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 24, 2001*

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. James Hettinger for over 20 years of dedicated service to the citizens of greater Battle Creek, MI.

Today, Thursday, May 24, 2001, the citizens of Battle Creek, MI will gather to pay tribute to a man who's efforts over the past twenty-three years led to the formation and expansion of one of the nation's premier industrial parks, and the economic rebirth of a community.

As Chief Executive Officer of Battle Creek Unlimited, the marketing and economic development arm of the City of Battle Creek, Jim has served as an excellent ambassador for the community, touting the positive attributes of locating facilities in the Cereal City to businesses around the world. To date, his efforts have led to the decision by approximately two dozen international companies to locate in the Fort Custer Industrial Park, resulting in over 3,000 jobs.

Jim has forged cooperative agreements with surrounding communities in an effort to spur economic growth beyond the boundaries of the city. He has been a driving force behind countless critical projects in the area including: the establishment of an inland U.S. Customs Port of Entry and Foreign Trade Zone 43; the retention of hundreds of jobs at the Battle Creek Federal Center; the relocation of the Western Michigan University College of Aviation to Battle Creek, and most recently, the forging of an innovative e-learning agreement with the Canadian province of New Brunswick.