

programming. Their tactics, in other words, are no different from those of the mafia.

The website of RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service, www.radiosvoboda.org, has a substantial following in Ukraine. But even our Internet efforts have faced government obstruction. Earlier this year, RFE/RL attempted to send a "mirror server" to Kyiv, which would have provided Internet users in Ukraine with much quicker and more reliable access to the site. Ukrainian customs, however, refused to admit the server, seizing on a clerical error to accuse RFE/RL of attempted smuggling. Just looking at the harassment Radio Liberty has faced in Ukraine, you can see why Reporters Without Borders has given Ukraine such low marks.

In addition to the problems I mentioned earlier, there is one more problem plaguing the Ukrainian media environment—and this one is the most worrisome of all. It is apathy. Over and over again, scholars and observers of Ukraine note that when the government interferes with freedom of the press, the Ukrainian people—including journalists—do not protest much. As one Ukrainian journalist has stated, "Freedom of speech is not valued in our society, and its violation does not cause public outrage" when it is threatened.

Ladies and gentlemen, if I can leave you today with one message, it is that freedom of expression does matter. There's a reason that the founders of the United States put freedom of speech and freedom of the press at the top of the Bill of Rights. There's a reason that Thomas Jefferson once wrote, "If it were left to me to decide whether we should have a government without a free press or a free press without a government, I would prefer the latter." There's a reason Franklin Roosevelt called it "the first freedom." There's a reason it occupies an important place in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. That reason is that without a free press, society simply does not work—and its people cannot prosper.

Newspapers, radio, and television perform two functions that are absolutely critical: first, they allow a nation's citizens to engage in an ongoing conversation with one another, and to form intelligent opinions about how their society should be run; and second, they serve as a check against government corruption. It is a universal truth of human nature that power corrupts. A free press is the most important protection we the people have against government's inevitable tendency to increase its own power. This is the critical difference between the Communist view of government and the democratic view of government: the Communists preached that the government knew best. The democratic view is that because power corrupts, government cannot be trusted and it therefore must be checked in every way possible. That is why democracy requires a representative legislature, independent courts, and, most importantly, a free press.

One of my favorite words in the English language is "obstreperous." I am told that in Ukrainian it is halaslivly. If you look at the word's Latin roots—"ob"—against, and "strepere"—to make a noise—you can get an idea of what it means: unruly, clamorous, noisy, defiant. What Ukraine needs more than anything now is for you, the Ukrainian people, to be more obstreperous. If corrupt officials violate your rights, make lots of noise. If they shut down the TV stations they do not control, make lots of noise. If they send goons to polling places when you are trying to vote for your local mayor, make lots of noise. And if they try to steal next month's election, make lots of noise. Protest, defiance, noise, demanding the truth—these are the fundamental ingredients of freedom and democracy.

My fondest wish is for this to be the last anniversary that Radio Liberty ever celebrates in Ukraine; nothing would make me happier than for us to become obsolete. But as long as Ukraine lacks a free press, Radio Liberty will be with you—if it takes another 50 years, we will not abandon your cause of real freedom, of real democratic institutions.

Remember, though, that the most important role will be played by you, the people. Never forget that apathy is the dictator's best friend—and that obstreperousness is the dictator's worst nightmare. Ukraine is a proud place, but it is not a free place.

A window was opened when the Soviet Union dissolved and the nation-state of Ukraine arose again—and now it's up to you to make sure that the window stays open, so that Ukraine can at last breathe the same fresh air, that is a fully free media, that we in the West have worked so hard for and been fortunate enough to breathe for so long.

TRIBUTE TO JONESBORO MAYOR
HUBERT BRODELL

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 4, 2004

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man with a very impressive public service record. Jonesboro Mayor Hubert Brodell is retiring after 17 years of serving the needs of Jonesboro's citizens. He has served four consecutive terms as mayor and will be stepping down this year. I would like to pay tribute to his service and dedication and acknowledge his retirement today.

Hubert Brodell has worked very hard for both the economic development and the industrial growth of Jonesboro. Under his leadership, the city has expanded by 2/3 its original size, primarily due to the 1987 annexation referendum he put together to prepare for future growth. This has allowed and also attracted various industries to the area. The population has doubled during his time in office, and Mayor Brodell has risen to the challenges of a growing community by meeting them head on. He implemented the 911 Center that expanded and improved emergency services; maintained a goal of keeping the streets and highways up to par; and worked fervently with city services to better meet the needs of all who call Jonesboro home.

In his personal life, Hubert Brodell is a family man. He has been married to his wife, Dorothy, for 50 years and has 6 children and 17 grandchildren. He has decided this to be his last term so he can spend more time with the people he loves.

So on behalf of the U.S. Congress, I extend my sincerest appreciation to Hubert Brodell for his outstanding service and citizenship. Jonesboro and all of Northeast Arkansas is a better place to live and work because of his service, and I am proud to call him my friend.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JEANETTE
WARE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 4, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a sad heart that I rise to pay tribute to the passing

of Jeanette Ware, a dedicated humanitarian from Carbondale, Colorado. Jeannette was a devoted member of the community, and will be missed by many in Carbondale. As her family and friends mourn her loss, I believe it is appropriate to recognize Jeanette before this body and this Nation today.

Jeanette Ware moved to Carbondale in 2000 and immediately volunteered as an Emergency Medical Technician with the fire department. Instantly making a difference, she was recognized as the rookie of the year in 2001 and was later awarded the Carbondale Fire department's Life Saver Award for saving a child's life. Jeanette also started her own business as a midwife, assisting mothers with child birth and caring for their babies. She sadly was taken from this world, at the young age of 28, in a car accident when her car lost control and went off the road.

Mr. Speaker, Jeanette was a dedicated young woman that selflessly served her community, and I am honored to pay tribute to such an amazing person. At such a young age, her contributions to the community are an incredible model for all Americans. My thoughts and prayers go out to her family and friends during this time of bereavement.

URGING THE GOVERNMENT OF
UKRAINE TO ENSURE THAT THE
PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS ON
OCTOBER 31, 2004 ARE FREE,
FAIR, AND CONSISTENT WITH
INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 4, 2004

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring the attention of my friends and colleagues in Congress to an issue of a critical importance to U.S. national interests in Europe—the upcoming presidential elections in Ukraine on October 31, 2004, just days before our own elections on November 2, 2004.

Ukraine has been a country at crossroads since it first regained independence in 1991. It conducted parliamentary and presidential elections but the outcome always fell far short of the international standards and democratic commitments of its own constitution. Although the government of Ukraine adopted recommendations of the OSCE into its electoral law, the implementation was lagging. On many occasions, international elections observers observed fragrant violations of the law at all levels of the Ukrainian political system. The worst abuses exploited the so-called administrative resources to virtually shut out the opposition candidates from the political process. Despite pressure from the United States Government and Congress, these practices continued.

Nevertheless, Mr. Speaker, we hoped that these elections would be a marked improvement over the past because the government of Ukraine understood how crucial they are to ensure Ukraine's integration in Europe. Ukraine's democracy and geopolitical orientation are at stake. Throughout the past year, many Ukrainian dignitaries traveled to Washington to meet with United States Administration officials and Members of Congress to assure us that these elections would be different.