

After losing his chairmanship of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. HEFLEY) told *The Washington Post* that there is “a bad perception out there that there was a purge in the committee and that people were put in that would protect our side of the aisle better than I did. Nobody should be there to protect anybody. They should be there to protect the integrity of the institution.”

Mr. Speaker, congressional Republicans should listen to their former ethics chairman, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. HEFLEY). The integrity of the House of Representatives is much more important than any one Member.

These actions by the Republican majority really make one wonder why the changes are necessary now. It seems clear to me that the Republican leadership went to all of this trouble to protect one of its leaders. Last month the *Wall Street Journal*, which has a conservative editorial page, charged there is an “odor,” an “unsavory whiff” at the very highest reaches of this House. Every single day, it seems, more revelations come out about questionable actions by a member of the Republican leadership. These daily revelations should concern every Member of the institution.

My Democrat colleagues and I realize the integrity of the House is at stake. We cannot allow weakened ethics rules to move forward to protect anyone, and it is critical that the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct be allowed to do its job and that is impossible under the new Republican rules.

Mr. Speaker, as the majority leader, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) said back in November 1995, “The time has come that the American people know exactly what their representatives are doing here in Washington, are they feeding at the public trough, taking lobbyist-paid vacations, getting wine and dined by special interest groups, or are they working hard to represent their constituents? The American people have a right to know.” That was the majority leader, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), in his own words 10 years ago.

Let me say, the majority leader was right, the American people deserve answers and they will not get those answers under the weakened Republican ethics rules. That is why Democrats are fighting so hard to have the old rules restored. If the majority leader believes his comments from 10 years ago, I would think he would join us in our fight.

DISCRIMINATION AT THE UNITED NATIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PRICE of Georgia). Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2005, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, we are currently engaged in a detailed and comprehensive review of the United Nations, the system it has, with the goal of providing reforms that are going to ensure transparency, accountability, and efficiency in all U.N. operations. A critical component of this effort must include measures to ensure that Israel is afforded equal treatment and representation while addressing the anti-Israeli and anti-Semitic component that is pervasive in many U.N. bodies and its affiliated agencies.

The 1975 United Nations resolution equating Zionism, the national liberation movement of the Jewish people, to racism stands out as an example of this bias and outright bigotry. While this was the most notorious illustration of its anti-Jewish sentiment at the U.N. there are many, many others.

During the 1991 session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, for example, the Syrian representative to the U.N. repeated the Damascus blood libel that Jews killed Christian children to use their blood to make Matzo. In 1997, the Palestinian representative charged that the Israeli Government had injected 300 Palestinian children with the HIV virus.

The goals of the 2001 U.N. World Conference Against Racism were undermined by hateful anti-Jewish rhetoric and anti-Israeli political agendas, prompting both Israel and the United States to withdraw their delegations from the conference.

In the United Nations General Assembly, we must look no further than the over 20 resolutions introduced by the Palestinian delegation each and every year against Israel, challenging Israel's policies and her very right to exist. During the 59th session of the U.N. General Assembly for 2004, close to 30 percent of all resolutions considered by this body were measures condemning Israel in some fashion.

At the U.N. Commission on Human Rights, there is an entire agenda item, item 8, that is dedicated to attacking and criticizing Israel. Countries that are gross human rights violators, such as Libya, Indonesia, and Egypt, have introduced resolutions under this category that criticize Israel for alleged human rights abuses in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

An additional resolution was introduced at this year's Human Rights Commission regarding what was termed as the Palestinian right of self-determination for the Palestinians, as well as another one on Israel and Lebanon. Yet there was not a single measure on the Syrian regime's gross violations of the rights of the Syrian and the Lebanese people or on the deplorable acts committed by the Iranian regime against its people.

Israel is a democracy and yet its sovereignty and its right to defend itself are frequently called into question in the United Nations system. The ruling last summer by the International Court of Justice on Israel's security

fence is a case in point. Not only was Israel's inherent right to self-defense branded illegitimate by the United Nations, but terrorists and suicide bombers remain uncensored.

In addition, the failure of the U.N. system in fulfilling its mandate is illustrated by the limitations placed on Israel's membership. Israel is denied the ability to serve or run for leadership positions in multiple U.N. bodies and its affiliated agencies. While Israel was accepted as a temporary member of the Western European and Others Group, it is not allowed to present candidacies for open seats in any U.N. body and is not able to compete for major U.N. bodies.

Israel is excluded from consultations at the U.N. offices in Geneva, Nairobi, Rome and Vienna. By contrast, there is a separate “U.N. Division For Palestinian Rights,” a “Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, a U.N. Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative to the Palestinian Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority,” and “NGO Network on the Question of Palestine.”

There is also an entire agency, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, specifically designated for Palestinian refugees at a cost of over \$400 million in the year 2004, yet all other refugees and internally displaced persons throughout the world are covered by the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner For Refugees.

Mr. Speaker, I include the remainder of my statement for the RECORD, and close by saying any effort at reforming the United Nations must include an end to the anti-Israel and anti-Semitic sentiment that has infected the U.N. organization for far too long.

I held a hearing last week to evaluate United Nations programs related to the Middle East, with special emphasis on the anti-Israel discrimination and anti-Semitic attacks.

It became abundantly clear that any U.N. reform efforts must address this imbalance and bias in favor of rogue states and individual groups.

In turn, the discrimination against Israel in the United Nations must be brought to an immediate end.

I have undertaken various initiatives to correct this injustice and ensure full membership and participation for Israel in all U.N. forums.

Most recently, I introduced H. Res. 54: calling on the United Nations to hold countries accountable for anti-Semitic statements and anti-Israeli incitement and calling for U.N. entities, such as UNESCO, to develop and implement Holocaust education programs throughout the world as part of an effort to combat such religious intolerance and anti-Israeli bias.

I ask my colleagues to render their support to these efforts and to co-sponsor this resolution.

The goals enshrined in the U.N. Charter—the promotion of international peace and security, and the respect for fundamental human rights—have never been more significant for the Jewish people and the State of Israel, which was founded on the ashes of the Holocaust.