

Salopek is a journalist. He is not a spy. He has written on everything from the human genome diversity project, for which he won his first Pulitzer Prize, to the civil war in the Congo, for which he won his second.

He has been a student of cultural geography, which informs his current project on the Sahel, once traveling hundreds of miles by mule through the remote Sierra Madre region in Mexico.

In another brilliant story, Paul traced the route of a barrel of oil, tracking shipments of crude oil from across the globe, until they reached South Elgin in my home State of Illinois, and filled the gas tanks of the cars in my home State.

He has written a touching article about 7-year-old brides in Ethiopia and a 13-year-old school girl in Angola who was tortured after she was accused of witchcraft.

His writing captures the reader from the opening sentence, illuminating and educating along the way. As Adlai Stevenson once said: He can make the words march on the page.

One of his former colleagues, now with the Seattle Times, wrote this week:

If we don't care about Paul, we don't care about the stories he writes. We don't care about the world and the people in its farthest reaches and most desperate circumstances. His work serves us all, to help us understand and feel.

I would like to associate myself with that quotation.

Paul Salopek is a journalist, a reporter, and most fundamentally he is a writer. He crossed a border without the correct paperwork, but he has spent his writing career breaking down borders that divide us in this world.

I am hopeful the Government of Sudan will recognize the fact that although Paul did enter the country without a visa, which is a civil violation, he did so as a writer, writing for the National Geographic magazine. He is not a spy. He did not come to this region of the world with any political agenda.

I am heartened by the news that the Khartoum Government has issued a pardon to a Slovenian writer and envoy who had been convicted of similar charges.

I hope that Mr. Salopek can be released even more quickly.

The American Society of Newspaper Editors, Reporters without Borders, the Overseas Press Club, and the Committee to Protect Journalists have all issued statements urging the release of Paul Salopek and his driver and translator who were detained with them.

I want to repeat those calls on the floor of the Senate.

This is an opportunity for the Sudanese Government to make one small step in the right direction, toward recognizing basic freedoms.

I want to thank all those who tried to help; my colleague, Senator OBAMA, traveling in Africa, who has tried to do his part to help Paul Salopek. I also

want to acknowledge the work that has been done by former Congressman, former Ambassador, former Secretary, now Governor Bill Richardson of New Mexico, who is also trying to help in every way he can.

This is an opportunity for the Sudanese Government to make the right step in the right direction, toward recognizing basic freedoms, toward demonstrating the kind of humanitarianism which will leave, I think, the Sudanese Government in good stead with many countries around the world.

It is my deepest hope that Paul Salopek will soon be reunited with his family and soon be released from this prison. It is a matter of the freedom of the press but, as I said, also the freedom of one fine man.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REPORT 109-325

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have a transmittal letter dated September 5, 2006 printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, September 5, 2006.

HON. TED STEVENS,
President Pro Tempore,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: After two years of investigation and five hearings, the Committee is pleased to transmit our bipartisan, unanimous Final Report, 109-325, entitled "GIMME FIVE"—Investigation of Tribal Lobbying Matters.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN MCCAIN,
Chairman.
BYRON DORGAN,
Vice Chairman.

TRIBUTE TO THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF GM IN BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, for 25 years the Chevrolet Corvette, known as America's sports car, has been exclusively manufactured in the General Motors Bowling Green Assembly Plant

in Bowling Green, KY. I rise today to celebrate Bowling Green as the "Home of the Corvette." We are very proud that it is in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

The Corvette looms large as one of America's most admired sports cars. Introduced in 1953, it was originally produced elsewhere, but in 1981, General Motors recognized Kentucky as the growing, business-friendly environment it has become and decided Bowling Green and the Corvette made a good match. The first Kentucky-built Corvette rolled off the assembly line on June 1, 1981.

The Bowling Green Assembly Plant also produces the Cadillac XLR and XLR-V in addition to three models of the Corvette. Over 39,000 GM cars are manufactured in Kentucky each year and delivered to driving enthusiasts all over the world. Over the 2½ decades, the Bowling Green Assembly Plant has undergone redesign and updating to incorporate the latest technology. Recently, the newest model, the Corvette Z06, was launched and continues the success of the made-in-Kentucky Corvette brand.

The over 1,200 Kentuckians who work at the Bowling Green Assembly Plant maintain a high standard of quality while also serving as vital contributors to their communities. Plant employees have generously donated their efforts and resources to noble causes such as the United Way, Junior Achievement, the American Red Cross, D.A.R.E.—Drug Abuse Resistance Education—the Make-A-Wish Foundation, and various local charities.

The plant and its workers also work closely with Western Kentucky University to sponsor grants and events. They also offer 30 internships to WKU students each year, giving young men and women an invaluable opportunity to learn about the business world from inside one of America's biggest companies. Several interns have gone on to earn permanent jobs with GM after graduation.

The Bowling Green Assembly Plant's contribution to the local economy cannot be understated, either. Not only does the plant provide jobs to Kentuckians and keep directing money into the local economy, the plant also offers public tours, attracting over 50,000 tourists to the area every year.

Every Corvette built in Kentucky is custom-built for an individual customer; the cars are not mass produced. The employees of the Bowling Green Assembly Plant are very proud of their commitment to precision and high quality. They have won more than 70 automotive industry awards since 1997.

The Bowling Green Assembly Plant will celebrate its 25 years in Kentucky this September. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Kentuckians who make America's sports car for their dedication to achievement and success, both on the job and in their communities. Kentucky is still reaping the rewards