

The reiderstvo report neatly encapsulates a Russian phenomenon that both contributes to, and is accelerating as a result of, Russia's economic decline. According to the authors, Russian corporate raiding practices, facilitated and even directed by the Kremlin, are "contributing to Russia's current unfriendly business climate and to declining investor confidence in the country." Russia's uniquely destructive practice of corporate raiding not only has dire ramifications for the Russian people and any remaining foreign investors, it has long term implications for Russian stability.

Reiderstvo (literally "raiding"), an ominous and violent practice in Russia since the early 1990s, is vastly different from U.S. corporate "raiding"—that is, hostile takeovers by outside shareholders. Reiderstvo represents both private acquisition of business assets and public expropriation through a series of illegal bullying tactics that allow raiders to sell off a company's assets, often to a state controlled entity, and rapidly launder the proceeds, making massive profits and destroying businesses in the process.

This particular report is noteworthy for its documentation of two aspects of reiderstvo. First, reiderstvo and asset grabbing is far more widespread and imbedded in Russian business culture than most people outside of Russia have thought. Astonishingly, Russian President Putin himself said that the number of current arrests for economic crimes suggests that tens of thousands of companies of all sizes in Russia continue to be harassed, intimidated, robbed, and outright stolen.

Second, the study analyzes major cases of corporate raiding, and identifies the most common raiding tactics. These tactics include malicious prosecutions (false charges), malicious tax inspections, regulatory harassment, misuse of shares and shareholder protections, misuse of the banking system, abuse of international law enforcement, "Dark PR" campaigns, and even violence. In any given raid against a business, it is likely that several of these tactics will be used simultaneously. From their case studies the authors extract four stages of the reiderstvo process: preparation, negotiation, execution, and legalization.

In the case of OGAT, Ltd., one of the largest and most successful transportation companies in Russia, raiders used fraudulent documents to sell off company assets. In the case of TogliattiAzot, Russia's largest ammonia company, the company underwent 120 tax inspections in 18 months and was assessed \$150 million in alleged unpaid taxes in order to try to force the company into bankruptcy, making it easier and cheaper to acquire. Yevroset, a highly successful mobile phone operator, was the victim of three raids in which \$1.4 million worth of cell phone handsets were taken, tax charges levied against one of its suppliers, and searches made of the homes of top managers, all to force owners to sell the company to a raider.

It is easy to draw parallels from these cases to the more famous cases of Hermitage Capital and the Yukos Oil Company and demonstrate the state's own growing role in corporate raiding.

Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the Human Rights subcommittee and of the Helsinki Commission, I have focused much of my congressional work on fighting for human rights—for all human rights, throughout the world. And countless times I have seen the connection

between human rights violations and governments that engage such grotesque forms of corruption. One connection, of course, is that rampantly corrupt governments commit human rights violations in order to cover up their crimes, or those of the mafias that dominate them. Such was the famous case of the heroic Sergei Magnitsky. The kind of government corruption we see in Russia today, manifesting itself in the ruthlessness of reiderstvo, is that which imperils the human rights of the Russian people.

Mr. Speaker, this report is a much needed and critical assessment of Russian corruption at the highest levels of authority and has important implications for U.S. foreign policy in the dimensions of human rights and rule of law and commercial relations.

The report may be found at www.reiderstvo.org. I strongly urge my colleagues to read it.

PEARLAND ISD CAMPUS TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2016

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the following teachers of Pearland Independent School District for being named Campus Teachers of the Year.

Each school year, principals, teachers and staff members are recognized by the school district with various awards as a reflection of their hard work and dedication to their students and the school as a whole. This year 23 Pearland teachers were awarded the title "Campus Teachers of the Year": Jennifer Black from Carlestone Elementary, Anne Romolo from Challenger Elementary, Patricia Guel from Cockrell Elementary, Tiffany Cox from C.J. Harris Elementary, Katie Strong from Lawhon Elementary, Lisa Rocha from Magnolia Elementary, Christina Morton from Massey Ranch Elementary, Maureen Clayvon-Wright from Rustic Oak Elementary, Ruth Mondich from Shadycrest Elementary, Katie Cruz from Silvercrest Elementary, Gay Stricklin from Silverlake Elementary, Kristine Holland from Alexander Middle School, Rebekkah Rudd from Jamison Middle School, Crystal Hildebrand from Rogers Middle School, Connie Medley from Sablatura Middle School, Shatterra Jackson from Berry Miller Junior High, Lori Sandman from Pearland Junior High East, Lana Garcia from Pearland Junior High South, Mara Williams from Pearland Junior High West, Troy Myers from Dawson High School, Jennifer Duggan from Pearland High School, Hunter Morgan from Turner College and Career High School, and Ann Lowrey Merrill from the PACE Center. These teachers go above and beyond to inspire their students and create a supportive educational environment. We are grateful for their commitment to education and providing a safe, inspirational learning environment for our students.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to these dedicated Pearland teachers for being named Campus Teachers of the Year. We thank them for all that they do.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ROBERT HANSON

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2016

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the passing of Robert "Bob" Hanson, who served as the Chairman and CEO of Deere & Company from 1982 to 1990.

Both as a citizen and a businessman, Bob was invaluable to the Quad-Cities and our region. During his tenure as CEO, Bob guided John Deere through the farm crisis of the 1980s, and kept up company morale during a decade rife with layoffs and downsizing. He focused on developing Deere as a good corporate citizen that gave back to Moline, and made time to engage and build relationships with employees at every level of the company. Later CEOs have credited Bob with laying the foundation for Deere's future success.

In addition to his business success, Bob also gave back to the community as an individual. In the middle of earning his degree, Bob served our country for three years as a Marine in World War II. His passion for helping others led him and his wife, Patricia, to contribute generously to his alma mater, Augustana College, and establish a scholarship for the Quad-City Symphony Orchestra.

Mr. Speaker, as we commemorate Bob's life, and his dedication to our community, my thoughts and prayers are with Bob's wife, Patricia, and the rest of his family during this difficult time.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CAPE COD MUSEUM OF ART

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2016

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Cape Cod Museum of Art on their 35th anniversary.

Thirty-five years ago, Harry Holl and Roy Freed brought to life their vision for a museum that honors and celebrates the works of outstanding artists from the Cape Cod region in Massachusetts. Mr. Holl, a renowned potter, sculptor, painter, and a Dennis resident himself, lived out the same values that comprise the museum's mission. As a teacher, he inspired his students and developed local art programs. Mr. Freed, both a lawyer and a sculptor, was dedicated to providing a venue to showcase the talents of our community. He brought together supporters at the founding of the Museum, and he contributed to the remarkable achievements and growth of this museum.

What started with ten local supporters, the Cape Cod Museum of Art now houses seven exhibition galleries, the Weny Education Center, a screening room, an outdoor sculpture garden, and a permanent collection of more than 2,000 works of art. Artists across the nation have drawn inspiration from our local community and our beautiful landscapes. I am proud to say the museum is esteemed nationwide, with the recent exhibit 'Breaking the Mold' which featured outside artists drawing 718 submissions by 227 artists from 29 states.