

and will no doubt continue to do so as national president.

The Jaycees have made a fine choice, one of which they—and Meridian—can be proud.

HUMAN RIGHTS ATROCITIES IN SOUTH AFRICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. STOKES] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my distinguished colleagues, and the gentleman from New York [Mr. OWENS] for reserving this special order concerning the continuing human rights atrocities being committed by the South African Government against its black majority.

Last Thursday and Friday, the Congress and the American public experienced a rare opportunity to have a face-to-face exchange with those who have borne the pain of the inhumane system of apartheid, as several black South African children who have experienced detention and torture, came to the Rayburn Building to participate in a 2-day symposium on conditions in their native country. Their testimony brought to light the uncivilized and barbaric character of the Botha government.

Since the South African Government declared a general state of emergency on June 12, 1986, over 22,000 people have been detained, including 10,000 children between the ages of 10 and 18. These young people have been abruptly removed from their homes and classrooms, and arrested and imprisoned without charge.

Black South African children who testified at last week's symposium, revealed that during their forced detainment, they had experienced sexual abuse, solitary confinement, were kicked and beaten with the fists of adult security guards, subjected to electric shocks, were hit in the backs and head with rifle butts, almost strangled and suffocated, and threatened to be burned alive if they did not tell authorities the whereabouts of other children. It is both justifiable and unsupportable that any nation in this modern century would attack mere children with such open ferocity.

Government acts of oppression extend to the churches as well as the citizens of South Africa. In January of this year, a congregation of 2,000 people attending the funeral of Livingstone Nlotwana at Sisonke Presbyterian Church in Port Elizabeth, was attacked by police who forcibly entered the church building, removing the clergy and beating the mourners. Estimates indicate that a minimum of 134 clergy and church workers have been detained, tortured, deported, and restricted in their movement.

Mr. Speaker, while the South African Government openly attacks the black children of that nation. It vainly attempts to pursue these evils behind a curtain of silence. Currently, all print and electronic media coverage inside South Africa has been restricted by the government. Local newspapers and reporters, and particularly foreign correspondents, have been censored, questioned, detained, and expelled under the so-called security laws that followed the declaration of a general state of emergency last June. This means that the apartheid government is fully able to continue its daily acts of brutality and torture, unrestrained by the press and visual media.

Mr. Speaker, while the Congress asserted both a proper role and positive leadership in passing Public Law 99-440, the Anti-Apartheid Act of 1986, this legislation must be viewed as a first step toward challenging the unjust system of apartheid, that remains the greatest blight on human rights in the world today. I salute the children of South Africa, who came to tell us their story last week, and I ask that we stand behind them with our actions, and not merely our sympathies.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. RAY] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. RAY. Mr. Speaker, as most of my colleagues know, I recently received a 6-week medical leave of absence. Although I have now returned, my doctor has advised me that I should not work more than a normal day's work for 90 days.

On Monday, June 29, the House conducted business until 10:30 p.m. It was not possible for me to be present on the floor after 6:30 p.m. After this time, the House debated six amendments and had rollcall votes on four of these in addition to a vote on final passage of the bill. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: Lewis amendment: "No"; Walker amendment: "No." Carper amendment to reduce funds for Architect of Capitol: "Yes"; Swindall amendment: "Yes"; final passage: "Yes."

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate this opportunity to explain my absence yesterday evening and to state for the record how I would have voted on the rollcall votes which I missed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. ANNUNZIO] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. ANNUNZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. DANNEMEYER] is recognized for 60 minutes.

[Mr. DANNEMEYER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

ESCALATING INCIDENCE OF ARRESTS AND IMPRISONMENT OF CHILDREN IN SOUTH AFRICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York [Mr. OWENS] is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. OWENS of New York. Mr. Speaker, for the first time ever, a few days ago last week, a two-day symposium was held on Capitol Hill concerning the escalating incidence of arrests and imprisonment of children in South Africa.

The symposium was sponsored by the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law's Southern African project, which defends South African political prisoners and monitors the

human rights situation in South Africa. It was structured like a congressional hearing and it featured many Congress Members who served on the panel. The symposium sought to focus national attention on the crisis in South Africa with respect to children. It also proposed to undertake some concrete measures to assist the children of South Africa.

I am going to deal with the substance of that proposal tonight, because the details are very important, the horror of the story lies in the details. South Africa has not yet completely punctured the eyes of the world and prevented us from getting a glimpse of the horror taking place within its borders. We still do have some communication with South Africa because they would like to pretend, they like to carry on the pretense of being a civilized society. They want the approval of the free world. For that reason, they do maintain some semblance of a democratic society. They do allow some portion of the press to roam freely. They do allow some of their citizens to leave the country, so there is some information still available. While that information is still available, before death's curtain is drawn and we can no longer know what is taking place in South Africa, I think it is very important for all of us in the civilized world to take a close look at the details.

I do not think even under the savagery of Adolf Hitler's concentration camps children in particular were singled out. I do not think an attempt was made similar to the attempt South Africa is presently making to break the will of a whole generation. They have focused particularly on the children because they see they have a problem there, and they want not only to deal with individuals, but they are attempting to make examples of individuals in order to break the will, the soul, and the heart of the youth who will be the leaders of tomorrow.

Youths have been a special target of the apartheid regime, ever since the 1976 Soweto student uprising, when high school students and elementary school children took to the streets to protest the government's proposal to force Black youths to learn Afrikaans, the language of the ruling white minority. Thousands were arrested, beaten, jailed and killed at that time. Students have continued to protest inferior education, and other features of apartheid, in nonviolent but massive demonstrations.

The South African Government is not only arresting demonstrators, but frequently conducts general mass arrests of youths whether they were actually doing anything or not. According to the Lawyers' Committee, more than 10,000 children have been jailed without charge or trial under the so-called state of emergency declared by the South African Government last June, under which all civil liberties are