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Froy Salinas

May 10, 1984

Dr. Hector Garcia
1315 Bright
Corpus Christi, Texas 78405

On March 20, 1984, Congressman Kent Hance honored you in the Congressional Record for receiving the Presidential Medal of Freedom. I had originally planned to present you with a copy of this Record at the recent dinner held in your honor. I was, however, unable to be placed on the program so I am enclosing herewith a copy of the Congressional Record.

I would like to also extend my personal Best Wishes.

With warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Froy Salinas".

Froy Salinas
State Representative

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mobilized. For months, he has appealed to any humanitarian instincts the Soviets may possess to allow him to be hospitalized. His pleas have gone unanswered. Because he is ill, he cannot obviously fulfill the unreasonable work quota he is allotted as a prisoner. He fears that he will be punished for not being able to work.

Anatoly Shcharansky is a symbol for all the Soviet Jews that have been unfairly denied the most fundamental of human rights. Despite this illegal infringement on the human rights of all Soviet Jews and dissidents, the Soviet authorities still remain reluctant to allow Soviet Jews to leave the Soviet Union and seek asylum in countries that value the importance of religious and political freedom. Never before in the history of the Soviet Jewry movement has the emigration rate been so low. As of November 1983, only 1,218 Soviet Jews were allowed to leave the Soviet Union. This figure is appalling considering the highest emigration rate was in 1979 with 51,320 people given the permission to seek freedom. Mr. Speaker, I would urge my colleagues to speak out against this inequity at every opportunity.

As we remember the thousands of Soviet Jews that continue to live in the Soviet Union hoping for the day when they can practice their religious and political beliefs without the fear of persecution, when they can speak out freely without being subjected to imprisonment and harassment, let us continue to protest human rights abuses at every step. We have a moral obligation to do so. ●

HONORING THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF YOUNG ISRAEL

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 1984

● Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to bring to the attention of my colleagues the outstanding achievements of the National Council of Young Israel, which represents more than 250 synagogues and 300,000 members nationwide.

For more than three quarters of a century, the Young Israel movement has dedicated itself to Jewish ethical values—service to the Creator and all mankind. This commitment manifests itself through the operation of a public hospital in the Midwest, employment agencies in six States, senior citizens' nutrition programs, and numerous other activities which improve the lives of untold numbers of Americans. At its 72d anniversary banquet on March 25, the Young Israel will honor 21 distinguished Americans whose endeavors on behalf of all our citizens merit national recognition.

Bill Tate, the Young Israel's "Man of the Year," is a labor leader of international reputation. His accomplish-

ments for American workers and civil rights are legion, and are matched only by his efforts for the United Jewish Appeal and his staunch support for Israel.

Ruby and Judy Gruenbaum, the recipients of the Young Israel's Golden Shofar Award, have rendered years of exceptional contributions to the Young Israel movement and the American Jewish community. A survivor of Auschwitz and Buchenwald, Ruby Gruenbaum contributed to the growth of his new country as he built his own business. Today he generously shares his blessings with those less fortunate than he. Following the Talmud's exhortation to give of himself as well as his means, Ruby has served as chairman of the Board of Yeshiva Moses Solovitchik, president of the Young Israel of Forest Hills, treasurer of the Greater New York Council of Mizrahi-Hapoel Hamizrachi, and the vice president of Young Israel's National Council.

Judy Gruenbaum's efforts on behalf of American Jewry are equally noteworthy. A former national officer of Emunah Women, she has served as a member of the Presidium of the Women's League of the National Council of Young Israel. Her leadership in the movement to reinvigorate Jewish ethical values among college students has been felt throughout our Nation.

Rabbi Simcha Krauss of Hillcrest, Queens, the Silver Shofar Award recipient, also has attained national stature. A prominent rabbinical leader for more than two decades, Rabbi Krauss occupies one of the most important pulpits in my district. His dedication serves as a model for all American religious leaders. Devoutly committed to his faith, Rabbi Krauss has published numerous articles on many aspects of Jewish tradition and its relation to American society. His essays have appeared in *The Jewish Parent*, *Shma*, *Tradition*, and the *Young Israel Viewpoint*—periodicals circulating throughout the United States and Canada. Rabbi Krauss' concern for American Jewish education led him to establish three important institutions of learning: The Hillel Hebrew Day School in Utica, N.Y.; the Yeshiva High School of St. Louis; and the Harry and Anna Schwartz Institute of Judaic Studies, an adult education institute at the Young Israel of Hillcrest.

Since becoming spiritual leader of that synagogue in 1980, Rabbi Krauss has worked tirelessly for the improvement of his community. I can attest personally to his dynamic leadership and concerned attention to the needs of all citizens of Queens. His inspiration is a basic ingredient in the Young Israel of Hillcrest's rise to preeminence in American and world Jewry.

Jack Gold, the National Council's Community Service Award recipient, is known for his efforts strengthening the institutions and assisting the good works of dozens of organizations in

Brooklyn and Queens. Nat Behmoiram will receive the council's humanitarian award. The wide-ranging breadth of his efforts and the depth of his accomplishments epitomize the Young Israel movement's commitment to community service.

The Young Israel's other Shofar Award recipients also merit commendation. They include: Rabbi Heshy Gissinger, Sidney Mochan, Joseph Zoldan, Louis Horowitz, Joe King, Herbert Weiss, Norma and Carl Goldstein, Zena and Norman Dachs, Toni and Howard Turner, Deborah and Harry Goldfarb, and Judge Bernard Bloom.

It is, therefore, my pleasure, Mr. Speaker, to call on the Members of the Congress to join me in extending congratulations to Mr. Harold Jacobs, president of the National Council of Young Israel; to Rabbi Ephraim Sturm, its executive vice president; and to all the officers and honorees. As they move forward to greater accomplishments, we say to each, in the words of David to Solomon, "Hazak, vehehmatz—be strong, and of good courage." ●

PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM AWARD TO DR. HECTOR P. GARCIA

HON. KENT HANCE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 1984

● Mr. HANCE. Mr. Speaker, the State of Texas has been honored to have among its citizens the distinguished person of Dr. Hector P. Garcia.

Dr. Garcia has recently been chosen by the President to receive the venerated Presidential Medal of Freedom. He is a most deserving recipient of this award, having served his people and his Nation nobly since 1942.

Among his achievements, Dr. Garcia counts service in the Army from 1912-46, during which time he was awarded a Bronze Star Medal and six battle stars. He also served as delegate to the United Nations under President Lyndon Johnson and was appointed to the U.S. Civil Rights Commission in 1968. He has served in over a dozen other federally and Presidentially appointed advisory councils, commissions, and delegations, each time serving with distinction and honor.

Dr. Garcia has also contributed his time and talent to numerous civil and community organizations. He founded the American GI Forum, a national organization of Hispanic veterans. It has been through the American GI Forum and his affiliation with other groups that Dr. Garcia has worked so hard to advance the worthy causes of Hispanics and minorities. His total commitment to bringing justice and equality to minority Americans is always unselfish. He advocates cooperation

over confrontation and his diligence in seeking nonviolent solutions to sometimes violent problems is comparable to Martin Luther King, Jr.

We are not the first to honor Dr. Garcia. His dedication to the Hispanic community, the State of Texas, and the Nation itself has been recognized and commended for many years. But it is entirely fitting that we do so again with this highest of awards, the Presidential Medal of Freedom. ●

PLYWOOD TARIFFS

HON. DON BONKER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 1984

● Mr. BONKER. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing legislation to close a loophole in the U.S. tariff schedule that is needlessly and unfairly costing jobs in the Pacific Northwest wood processing industry. Left uncorrected, the job toll stemming from this problem will steadily increase.

Certain plywood sheets are being exported by Canada to the United States as building boards rather than as plywood under the U.S. tariff schedule. This subjects such Canadian exports to a much lower tariff schedule, making the products cheaper than comparable plywood produced in the United States. The tariff category called building boards was apparently intended to be a residual one for special-use construction panels that might not fall into either plywood or wood veneer panel categories.

Instead, it has become a loophole category. By simply altering the edge of a plywood sheet, foreign producers are able to get their products categorized as building boards, qualifying for the dramatically lower tariff treatment. In theory, the edgework dedicates the sheet to some unspecified special construction use. In fact, the use of such sheets is no different than plywood sheets with plain edges.

My legislation would revise the building board category to insure that it is used only for special-use panels, and not for plywood. This revision makes the U.S. tariff schedule for these products conform more closely to the international code, which contains no building board category at all. Maintenance of a building board category in the U.S. code would only frustrate efforts to insure internationally recognized tariff categories, and continue to damage our own wood products industry.

While the tariff on plywood is a flat 20 percent, the so-called building boards, used as plywood, are exported subject to a tariff of 1.9 cents per pound plus 3.4 percent. The plywood industry estimates that this schedule equals a flat 10 percent tariff. Under the U.S. tariff schedule, even that will continue to decrease dramatically.

While the volumes imported from Canada under this category represents

only a portion of plywood products marketed in the United States, the volume jumped an alarming 74 percent in 1982. My greatest concern is, as the tariff schedule decreases, the practice of exporting plywood under the building board category may spread to all forms of plywood exported by Canada to the United States. Such a practice would be devastating to our industry.

Mr. Speaker, the wood products industry has been and remains committed to free and fair international trade, despite its losses due to numerous unfair trade practices by foreign competitors. For example, the industry strongly supports further mutual tariff reductions through negotiations with our trading partners to reduce artificial international trade barriers. The legislation I am introducing should not be regarded as protectionist or a reversal of the industry's free trade position. Rather, this bill brings the U.S. tariff schedule into closer conformity with international standards, restoring equal treatment of plywood products in the U.S. market for both foreign and domestic producers. For this reason, the legislation has the specific support and endorsement of the American Plywood Association, which represents both small and large U.S. plywood producers.

I am hopeful, Mr. Speaker, that the Committee on Ways and Means will promptly seek Executive comment on this proposal and include it in the group of miscellaneous tariff bills that it recommends favorably to the House for passage before the end of this Congress. ●

N. F. PLUNKETT, JR., DRIVER OF THE YEAR

HON. BEN ERDREICH

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 1984

● Mr. ERDREICH. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to bring to the attention of the House of Representatives someone whom I represent whose established safety record on our Nation's highways has earned him the title of "Driver of the Year" by the American Trucking Association.

Mr. N. F. Plunkett, Jr. of Midfield, Ala., has been a driver for Chevron U.S.A. of Birmingham since 1947. He has compiled an accident-free safety record spanning 37 years and 2.7 million miles. His safety record places him among an elite group of Chevron's more than 1,000 drivers. Only seven other drivers have 30 consecutive years of accident-free driving, and he is one of three drivers with 35 years of driving without a preventable or nonpreventable accident.

The "Driver of the Year" is chosen by a panel of national safety experts from among nominations of State drivers of the year. The State trucking as-

sociations select their nominees from 12 State drivers of the month during a calendar year.

Mr. Plunkett gained valuable driving experience between 1943 and 1947, when he joined the U.S. Army and hauled supplies in England and then crossed the English Channel to transport gasoline to General Patton's tank force as they moved through France and Germany.

An advocate of strict enforcement of the 55 m.p.h. speed limit to reduce speeding by all vehicles, Mr. Plunkett cites defensive driving as the best way to avoid potentially serious accidents.

In fact, he was selected as State Driver of the Year for an act of heroism last fall when he rescued a trucker whose tractor-trailer veered off the highway and over an embankment, staying with the injured driver until the highway patrol and an ambulance arrived on the scene.

Mr. Plunkett is only the second Alabamian to be honored as National Driver of the Year since the American Trucking Association began the awards program in 1948, and it is a proud moment for me to have someone in my home district who has achieved such an outstanding accomplishment.

As we continue in our efforts to assure the safety of Alabamians and people across the country on our highways, I am certain that my colleagues in Congress join me in commending Mr. N. F. Plunkett, Jr., the American Trucking Association's national "Driver of the Year." ●

THE FEDERAL DEBT RECOVERY ACT OF 1984

HON. JIM MOODY

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 1984

● Mr. MOODY. Mr. Speaker, today several of my colleagues and I introduced the Federal Debt Recovery Act of 1984. This legislation would authorize various Federal agencies to contract with private law firms to help curb the massive debt owed to the Federal Government.

The need for this legislation is clear. The General Accounting Office (GAO) recently reported that "debts owed the Government are enormous and growing each year, with billions of dollars delinquent." According to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), some \$40 billion in nontax, delinquent debts are owed to the Government. With the annual Federal deficit nearing \$200 billion, recovery of these debts becomes essential for the health of our Nation's economy.

The original Debt Collection Act of 1982 allows, among other things, the Federal Government to charge interest and penalties on delinquent debt, to report delinquent debtors to credit