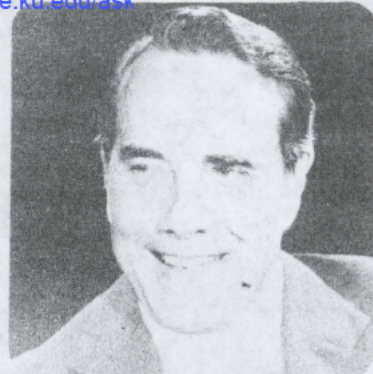


News from Senator

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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— ARMENIAN GENOCIDE —

DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

SENATE SHOULD HAVE MADE IT OFFICIAL

TODAY IS APRIL 24TH.

IT HAD BEEN MY HOPE THAT WE, IN THE SENATE, WOULD HAVE DECLARED THIS DAY ONE OF REMEMBRANCE FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE OF 1915-23.

THAT WAS NOT TO BE.

BUT I CANNOT LET THIS DAY GO BY WITHOUT TAKING PERSONAL NOTE OF ITS IMPORTANCE TO ARMENIANS AROUND THE WORLD; ITS MEANING TO MEN OF GOOD WILL EVERYWHERE.

IN 1915, EXPERTS ESTIMATE THERE WERE 2 MILLION ARMENIANS LIVING IN OTTOMAN TURKEY. EIGHT YEARS LATER, THERE WERE LESS THAN 100,000.

A HALF MILLION ARMENIANS FLED OTTOMAN TURKEY, AND COULD BE ACCOUNTED FOR IN OTHER COUNTRIES. THE REMAINDER -- 1.5 MILLION PEOPLE -- PERISHED.

THREE QUARTERS OF THE ARMENIAN POPULATION OF OTTOMAN TURKEY WAS WIPED OUT. MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN. ALMOST ALL OF THE REST FLED. WHY DID SUCH ENORMOUS NUMBERS OF PEOPLE DIE?

A POLICY OF DEATH

THE RECORD IS CLEAR. THEY DIED FROM MANY IMMEDIATE CAUSES -- FROM VIOLENCE, FROM STARVATION, FROM DISEASE, FROM DEPRIVATION. BUT THEY DIED, ALMOST ALL OF THEM, BECAUSE OF ONE CENTRAL REASON: IT WAS THE CONSCIOUS, CLEARLY ARTICULATED POLICY OF THE OTTOMAN AUTHORITIES TO SEE THEM DEAD.

I INVITE THE SENATE, AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, TO REVIEW THE RECORD WE MADE ON THE FLOOR WHEN WE DEBATED S. J. RES. 212. READ THE ORDERS ISSUED BY OTTOMAN AUTHORITIES -- TO MURDER MEN AND WOMEN; TO STARVE LITTLE CHILDREN.

READ THE HEADLINES, AND THE STORIES, OF THE CONTEMPORARY PRESS. HEADLINE AFTER HEADLINE, STORY AFTER STORY -- OF HACKING PEOPLE TO DEATH, BURNING THEM ALIVE, PURPOSELY STARVING THEM.

LOOK AT THE PICTURES -- IF YOUR STOMACH CAN BEAR IT. PICTURES OF PILES OF HUMAN CORPSES -- DOZENS, HUNDREDS, THOUSANDS -- DISMEMBERED, MUTILATED, EMACIATED.

1.5 MILLION PEOPLE KILLED. KILLED AS A RESULT OF CONSCIOUS, VICIOUS POLICIES OF AUTHORITIES OF THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE.

GENOCIDE -- IT HAPPENED

HISTORY HAS A NAME FOR WHAT HAPPENED -- A WORD COINED MANY YEARS LATER.

HISTORY CALLS IT A GENOCIDE.

THE SENATE, AS A BODY, REFUSED TO APPLY THAT TERM. BUT LET US, INDIVIDUALLY, TODAY HAVE THE COMPASSION AND THE COURAGE TO SIMPLY STATE THE TRUTH -- IT WAS A GENOCIDE.

AND IT IS A MOCKERY OF THOSE WHO DIED, AN INSULT TO THOSE WHO SURVIVED, AND A REPUDIATION OF THE SORROW OF THEIR FAMILIES WHO LIVE WITH US TODAY -- IT IS ALL THOSE THINGS, WHEN WE REFUSE TO SPEAK THE TRUTH; WHEN WE TURN OUR BACKS ON HISTORY; WHEN WE BURY OUR HEADS IN THE SAND.

THE SENATE HAS NOT HAD THE REQUISITE COMPASSION AND COURAGE TO DO WHAT WE SHOULD HAVE DONE.

PRESSURE POLITICS PAY OFF

WE HAVE BOWED TO THE PRESSURE OF SUCCESSIVE ADMINISTRATIONS, WHO FEARED AN OVERREACTION BY OUR IMPORTANT ALLY AND FRIEND, THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY.

(MORE)