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Sovereign Order of Cyprus Honors Zenon C. R. Hansen

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

OF

HON. MARIO BIAGGI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 1973

Mr. BIAGGI. Speaker, under leave to extend my remarks, I insert the highlights of the ceremony at which a high distinction was conferred upon one of our foremost humanitarians and patriots in the United States, Zenon Clayton Raymond Hansen, chairman and chief executive officer of Mack Trucks, Inc. Mr. Speaker, the honor to which I am referring was the investiture of Mr. Zenon C. R. Hansen as a Chevalier of the Ordre Souverain de Chypre.

Mr. Hansen has distinguished himself in his community and throughout the Nation in various executive and directorial capacities in the interest of the Boy Scouts of America, YMCA, United Fund, U.S. Treasury Bond Drives and a score of other civic, charitable, religious, educational and fraternal organizations. He is the recipient of a number of honors and awards for his efforts to foster and advance the high ideals of freedom and citizenship.

The ceremony took place at the Chapel of the World Church Center of the United Nations in New York, in the presence of distinguished church prelates and public officials.

The Sovereign Order of Cyprus, one of the oldest orders of chivalry, was founded in the year 1192, by Guy de Lusignan, King of Cyprus and Jerusalem, and confirmed by Pope Innocent III in the year 1200, who imposed upon it the dual mission of spreading the Christian faith and acting as a bulwark of Christendom in the eastern Mediterranean. The order was created on the model of the Hospitaller and Military Orders such as those of the Temple, and of St. John, installed in the Holy Land. Three hundred men of noble birth were inducted as knights in the new order and allowed to wear the red, eight-pointed cross of the order at the throat. They were obliged to defend the island route to the Holy Land and to prevent attack and infiltration of the infidels. The order also consisted of men-at-arms, chaplains, and serving brothers who, with the knights, were organized in commanderies. The distinguishing mark of the knights was a blue mantle with the red cross of the order upon it. The order attracted to its ranks some of the most vigorous nobles of Christendom, and these knights were to take an active interest in the affairs of the Holy Roman Empire and of the Byzantine Empire in addition to their defense of the pilgrims and their charitable works.

Under a succession of able grand masters, for more than 3 centuries, the deeds and influence of the Sovereign Order of Cyprus were enormous and its members played an

important role in the political life of the times. After the annexation of Cyprus by Venice, the order entered into a period of decline and its members dispersed throughout the Balkan States and Western Europe. More recently the order was activated by the descendants of some of its most illustrious knights with the blessings of the Holy See and dedicated to the unique values of Christian civilization and the spirit of ecumenism. Its reorganizers, like their famous ancestors, felt obliged, in the face of the many dangers which beset our culture and our institutions, to reestablish this venerable and tradition-laden order of chivalry, springing from one of the most respected shrines of Western thought; affirming in this way, the continuity of Christian effort against terror and injustice on a far-reaching ecumenical level.

The Sovereign Order of Cyprus, today a modern organization, based upon ancient principles and traditions is dedicated "to strive for the maintenance of Christian ideals and Western humanism, the liberty and dignity of man, and to oppose all forms of oppression." Among its objectives is the building of hospitals, places of worship, and other charitable, spiritual and educational institutions. The order honors writers, artists, men of science, culture, education and medicine; leaders of the free world from every walk of life, regardless of race, creed, color or national origin.

In its nearly 800-year history, only 900 men have received this coveted knighthood and symbolic cross. For the propagation and diffusion of its principles, the order has created an institute for the Study of Moral Philosophy and Social Sciences, "Academie des Etudes Superieures" which it subsidizes.

Mr. Speaker, it is my particular pleasure to inform this House that His Excellency Lorenzo de Valitch, titular bishop of Ephesus and apostolic delegate to the United States, the hereditary grand chancellor of the Sovereign Order of Cyprus, heir to the rich traditions of this noble and ancient order, created an American commandery of the order more than 7 years ago, in recognition of the dynamic and crusading American spirit which has contributed immeasurably to bringing freedom from oppression to the many peoples of the world. Bishop de Valitch personally presided over the inauguration of the American commandery and has since personally overseen its affairs. A magisterial seat in Rome, Italy, enables the United States commandery to enjoy certain diplomatic privileges, and for the purpose of propagating the order as a subject of international law in such countries in which it is represented. It also enjoys the right of active and passive diplomatic representation and to guarantee and direct such representation in each and every place where its credentials have been presented. It can appoint ambassadors, ministers and consular representatives with specific districts and accordingly issue ap-

propriate diplomatic passports, pursuant to international customs.

I would like to enter in the RECORD the names of some of the outstanding members of this order both in the United States and abroad:

- H. R. H. Prince Louis de Bourbon.
- H. S. H. Prince L. Radziwill, Rome and London.
- Count Stefan Potocki diplomat, Paris.
- H. E. J. Velasco-Alvarado, President, Peru.
- H. E. Charles Aillot, Ambassador, Ivory Coast.
- H. E. Dr. A. Bellini, Noted Industrialist, Italy and Belgium.
- H. E. Damaskinos Georgakopoulos, Archimandrite du Trone Oecumenique.
- General James H. Doolittle.
- Lowell Thomas.
- Dr. Boris Pregel, Scientist and Philanthropist.

- Monsignor Patrick B. Fay.
- Hon. Ludovic Huybrechts, Industrialist.
- Henry S. Evans, Author and Professor of International Relations.
- Rev. Fred P. Eckhardt.
- Maitre Jacques Gambier de Laforterie, Noted Lawyer, Paris.
- H. E. Philibert Bongo, Ambassador to Rome.
- Dr. Serge Korff, Professor, Nuclear Physics, N.Y. University.
- Hon. Edward Thompson, Supreme Court Justice, New York.
- Louis A. Brun, New York.
- Joseph James Akston, Patron of Arts, Palm Beach, Florida.
- Victor Wallace Farris, Philanthropist, Inventor, Palm Beach, Florida.
- Jean E. Saurel, Pan American Union, Washington, D.C.
- S. E. S. Prince Francesco Caponera di Sebaste, Italy.
- H. E. Count Luciano Pelliccioni de Poli, Italy.
- H. Dale Hemmerdinger, Real Estate Executive, New York.
- Stanley Carey, Insurance Executive, New York.
- Frederick N. Kinne, Phd. Industrialist, New Jersey.
- A. William Carter, New York.
- Donald W. Scholle, Investments, N. Y.
- Emil V. Hegyi, Oil Company Executive, Dallas, Texas.

Frederick Paul Pittera, International Exposition Consultant, New York.

These distinguished contemporaries typify the caliber of men holding this high honor. I wish to congratulate Mr. Zenon C. R. Hansen at having been selected to join this illustrious group. I would also like to commend His Excellency Bishop de Valitch for his tireless efforts to bring about a better world and to wish him and the knights of the Sovereign Order of Cyprus continued success in their humanitarian efforts.