

Candidate Martin says Americans set shining example in Eastern Europe

By SANDRA GUY
Times Staff Writer

AMERICAN businessmen may be criticized as greedy at home, but emerging Eastern European democracies see them as "a guiding light in this world," says Lynn Martin, a local business leader.

"For all the times we've ignored people and allowed profits to come

before them, overall the economic system that is part of the southern suburbs, the chamber of commerce and this country, allow each of us to become all we want to become," she said.

"That ultimately is the true measure of freedom," Martin, R-III, is challenging incumbent Sen. Paul Simon, D-III, in the November general election.

She spoke to the Chamber of Commerce of the Southern Suburbs recognition dinner Friday night at the Holiday Inn Chicago South.

Although Martin acknowledged the local support over Mayor Richard Daley's recent proposal to build a third area airport on the Southeast Side, she turned most of her attention to world-altering events ongoing.

Martin was one of four female

congresswomen who traveled in December to East Germany, Poland and Hungary as those countries began their revolutionary break with communism.

The courage of political dissidents inspired Martin, but left her wondering whether Americans take their privileges for granted.

She recalled watching a crowd in East Berlin holding a candlelight

vigil to demand the release of political prisoners and to protest leaders "who'd taken light away from those who had condemned the government."

"Would I have in the candle?" she asked. "Or would I have been too busy or too frightened?"

During a meeting with a dissident group in Hungary, Martin said she

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The money helps them — a little

By LORRIE HICKS
Times Staff Writer

RELATIVES and friends of the victims of violent crimes are beginning to get help coping with the problems that follow in the aftermath.

According to Anne Seymour, a spokesman for the National Victim Center in Dallas, Texas, the lives of those affected by violent crimes will never again be the same, and they need help coping.

"Even when the killer is caught and convicted, those people left behind never get over it and never have any peace of mind because they never had the chance to say goodbye," she said.

That anguish isn't limited to just family. Friends of the victim can be casualties of grief as well.

For example, a spokesman for the Days Inn motel chain, said the murders of Mary Margaret Gill at the chain's Merrillville motel and James Marie Gilbert at the Remington motel last March have been very stressful for the employees.

"We feel very bad about this," said Poole. "The people at the property level still have this on their minds and, with the anniversary (March 3), they are really feeling it."

Seymour said sometimes those left behind need more than emotional support — they may need help paying burial costs.

In Indiana, that help comes through the Compensation for Victims of Violent Crime program, administered through the Workers Compensation Board of Indiana.

Doug Mangham, executive secretary of the board, said victims and families can receive up to \$10,000 through the program, though the average is much less.

He said any violent crime, from a beating to a murder, qualifies the victim for help. The money can be used for burial expenses, medical bills or loss of income. But the program has limitations: The person applying must have no other means of income.

Mangham said each year he files gets between 1,200 and 1,500 requests for help. Since its inception, the program has paid out more than \$4.5 million to victims.

Illinois has a bill of rights that tries to ensure fair and compassionate treatment for victims and witnesses of violent crime. The bill of rights also tries to ensure that victims and witnesses are treated fairly by the criminal justice system.

Under the law, victims have the right to be notified about virtually all aspects of the case.

Research information about programs available to help crime victims and their survivors is available at the National Victim Center, 337 W. 7th St., Suite 1001, Dallas, Texas 76102 or calling (472) 877-3355.



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Hanging on to hope

Parents of Days Inn victim believe killer will be caught

By LORRIE HICKS
Times Staff Writer

THE LAST year has not been easy for Andy and Patricia Mitchell and their two grandchildren, but they continue to hope.

They hope the person who murdered their daughter, Jennifer Marie Gilbert, 24, will be brought to justice.

Gilbert was robbed and then abducted from the Days Inn Motel in Remington on March 3, 1989. About two hours later, her bullet-riddled body was found along a rural road in White County.

"I have lived for 55 years, and I have never gone through anything like this," Andy Mitchell said.

But he still holds out hope that his daughter's murder and that of Mary Margaret Gill, 24, of Ross Township, who was murdered at the Days Inn in Merrillville, will be solved.

"This is a difficult case, and I will take time for the police to catch the person who did this," said Mitchell. "I feel they (the police) are doing all they can and that they're going to get him."

"We won't ever forget this, and we haven't forgotten about the other girl either."

Since Gilbert's death, her children Scott, 14, and Kim, 19, have lived with the Mitchells.

"The grandchildren are doing fine. We enjoy them

and they enjoy us, even though there is quite an age difference," said Mitchell. Kim is a freshman at Calumet College of Saint Joseph, where she is on academic scholarship. Scott will be a high school freshman this fall.

Mitchell has found solace from his grief at his work at the Northwest Indiana District Council of Carpenters. His friends and colleagues at the district council put up a \$20,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the killer.

Mitchell said he's working on an article for a carpenter's newsletter circulated throughout the United States that will inform readers of the murder and the reward being offered.

His hope is that somewhere there is someone with information that will help solve the case.

There are also plans to circulate flyers giving information about the murders and the \$20,000 reward.

"It might help catch the killer; it will do nothing for the Mitchell's loss."

"Even if the case is solved, there will always be a void in my life," he said.

"I have not gotten real involved in the case, having my other kids for the papers, because I travel a lot and I'm not alert at all times. There might be a day that I find myself sitting in a coffee shop next to the person who did this or someone might tell me something about it."

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