

twice the number of poor adults over 18. Yet the Republican proposal would reduce Federal funding for child care by 20 percent over 5 years. Child care assistance is often the key to whether families can move from welfare to work. How can reform succeed if this need is not sufficiently addressed?

Disabled children are victims of this bill. The Republican proposal would cut SSI benefits to disabled children by \$10.9 billion over 5 years. Within 6 months, 250,000 of the 900,000 severely disabled children now receiving benefits would lose them. These children already face difficulties in coping with the world, only to be met with more challenges in these cuts.

Abused and neglected children are victims of this bill. Incidents of child abuse number up to 3 million a year, yet child welfare and protection programs, including foster care and adoption assistance, will be replaced with a block grant, cutting \$2.7 billion in funding over 5 years.

Hungry children are victims of this bill. The School Breakfast and Lunch programs and the WIC program will be replaced with nutrition block grants. Funding for these block grants is set below the funding which would have occurred under the current programs, yet the number of families in need of these programs continues to rise.

We are responsible for our children's future. When our children are neglected, our Nation will suffer. President Harry Truman said that nothing is more important in our national life than the welfare of our children. If you believe this as I do, you will join with me in opposition to this legislation that will undeniably harm our most valuable resource.

DELEGATION DETAILS HUMAN RIGHTS CONDITIONS IN TURKEY

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 1995

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month members of a Parliamentary Human Rights Foundation delegation returned from a fact-finding mission to Turkey. The human rights situation in that country has significantly deteriorated in recent years despite assurances otherwise by Turkey's leaders.

At present, internal tensions have reached new heights, threatening to tear apart the multiethnic fabric of Turkish society while destabilizing the entire region. Turkey's campaign against the Kurdish Worker's Party [PKK] has been used to justify the recent invasion of Northern Iraq as well as sweeping restrictions on pro-Kurdish expression and peaceful political activity. And, while the PKK continues to operate and gather support, Turkey's democratic credentials are increasingly questioned.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I ask that the report of the Parliamentary Human Rights Foundation delegation, which outlines many of the human rights problems in Turkey and offers constructive recommendations on how Turkey's Government might better address such problems be printed in the RECORD.

REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS CONDITIONS IN TURKEY, MARCH 2, 1995

I. SUMMARY

The Parliamentary Human Rights Foundation (formerly the Congressional Human

Rights Foundation) organized a human rights fact-finding mission to Turkey (2/25-3/1/95). The delegation was led by the Honorable J. Kenneth Blackwell, a Member of the Board of Directors and former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Human Rights Commission (UNHRC). The delegation also included David L. Phillips, President of the Foundation. The purpose of the trip was to investigate reported human rights violations committed by the Government of Turkey, particularly the abuses against its citizens of Kurdish origin. The delegation also investigated violations by the PKK, a separatist organization committed to armed struggle. Based on the delegation's findings, a report has been submitted to officials in Geneva, Members of the U.S. Congress, the European Parliament, and National Assemblies in Europe.

II. PROGRAM

The delegation visited Istanbul, Diyarbakir, and Ankara. In order to consider a broad range of views, the delegation spoke with Turkish officials from the Office of the Prime Minister, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Turkish Grand National Assembly, the Governor and Deputy Governor of the Emergency Region, and Turkish Army personnel. The delegation also met with representatives of the Turkish Human Rights Association, the Turkish Human Rights Foundation, the Diyarbakir Bar Association, HADEP officials, a DEP Parliamentarian, lawyers representing the DEP MPs, former MPs of Kurdish origin, and Kurdish citizens.

Our official request for meetings with Layla Zana and Ahmet Turk, imprisoned parliamentarians and members of the Foundations Interparliamentary Human Rights Network (IPN), was declined. Despite assurances from the Governor of the Emergency Region, our travel to Kurdish villages outside of Diyarbakir was blocked at military checkpoints. The office of the Diyarbakir Human Rights Association was closed and four members were arrested within 24 hours of the delegation's meeting with representatives of the Association.

III. SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS

Turkish authorities are systematically violating the rights of Turkish citizens, including those of Kurdish origin. The Anti-Terror Act and the State of Emergency provide legal sanction for gross human rights violations, particularly in Southeast Turkey.

Turkish authorities state that their objection is to the non-combatants terrorism. However, many civilian non-combatants suffer human rights violations as a result of the struggle between Turkish authorities and the PKK. The PKK is an extremist, militant organization responsible for acts of terrorism in which Turkish military and police personnel are targeted, as are Kurdish civilians. It should be noted, however, that the PKK has recently called for a "civilian solution" to the Kurdish question and has recognized Turkey's borders.

The Government of Turkey believes all persons who seek political and cultural expression for the Kurds are "separatists" and PKK sympathizers. Suspected by Turkish authorities as bases for PKK operations, more than one thousand Kurdish villages have been destroyed. Human rights monitors report instances of arbitrary detention, torture, extrajudicial killing, and restrictions on freedom of expression. In addition, democratically elected parliamentarians of Kurdish origin have been jailed and convicted for disseminating "separatist" propaganda and supporting an "armed band" while, in reality, they were merely representing the interests of their constituents. There are seri-

ous shortfalls in Turkey's administration of justice.

IV. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The Interior Ministry indicates that 1,046 villages in the emergency region have been evacuated; human rights monitors say several thousand villages have been destroyed; homes and their claimed inhabitants have been burned; use of chemical agents and poison gas are reported. The Government acknowledges that 940 combatants have been killed; however, other reports claim that thousands have died. The population of Diyarbakir has doubled to more than 1.2 million as internally displaced persons have sought refuge in the city.

The DEP parliamentarians were convicted in proceedings many observers labelled a "show-trial." The Government of Turkey indicates that 8,682 persons have been sentenced under its Anti-Terror Act, which permits arbitrary arrest. Many of those known to be arrested, as well as persons who have disappeared, were just attempting to peacefully exercise freedoms of speech, association, or other internationally recognized human rights. The Turkish Human Rights Association reports instances of extrajudicial killings and torture of persons held in incommunicado for political crimes. There are 250 cases/appeals presently before the European Court of Human Rights and the European Commission on Human Rights.

The Constitutional Court of Turkey has no right of review for "decrees with the force of law" issued under the state of emergency. The Anti-Terror Act, adopted in 1991, restricts many civil liberties, including attorney access to, as well as the rights of, persons in detention. The Anti-Terror Act and state of emergency provisions also restrict freedom of expression. Government agencies harass and imprison human rights minors, journalists, lawyers, and professors. The Act's broad and ambiguous definition of terrorism, particularly Article 8, has led to widespread abuses of innocent civilians.

In addition, the Constitutional Court has banned the DEP party, a vehicle for the expression of Kurdish cultural identity and full citizenship rights. In the past two years, 26 DEP and HADEP members have been killed. In the run-up to recent elections, the DEP headquarters was bombed. The press law permits banning of publications with a court order and states that "responsible editors" bear responsibility for the content of their publications; 19 journalists have been tried under the Anti-Terror Act. On December 3, 1994, a journal reputed to be pro-PKK, the "Izgur Ulke" was bombed. There are no independent Kurdish language newspapers, television, or radio. Regarding cultural expression, the Constitution does not recognize Kurds as a national, racial, or ethnic minority. Two hundred Kurds were arrested during Newroz New Year celebrations in Diyarbakir.

It is important to note that the PKK, itself, is responsible for gross human rights violations by targeting village officials, guards, informants, teachers, and young men who refuse to take up arms against the authorities. By the admission of its own representatives, the PKK has recently killed 179 village guards, 66 collaborators, and police officials. The well-being of almost every Kurd is adversely affected by the conflict.

As a result of the conflict, Turkey's citizens of Kurdish origin have become bereft of many democratic rights and are denied effective political and cultural expression. The

resulting radicalization of the Kurds is contributing to a worsening security situation throughout the country. An increasing number of Kurds are turning to the pro-Muslim Welfare Party.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS

The international community should promote improvement in human rights conditions in Turkey by encouraging a dialogue between Turkish authorities and legitimate representatives of Kurdish interests. To this end, amnesty should be provided to convicted DEP parliaments so that they can participate in a dialogue concerning the reduction of tensions and the normalization of relations between Turkish authorities and Turkey's citizens of Kurdish origin.

Within the competence of the UNHRC, the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, and the Special Rapporteurs on Torture and Freedom of Expression should investigate human rights conditions in Turkey. The Government of Turkey has "invited" the Special Rapporteur on Summary Executions to visit Turkey. A suitable itinerary and near term date should be finalized.

Efforts should be made by the U.S. and the E.U. to establish mutual reinforcing restrictions on the sale of military equipment which might be used against civilian populations. The US and EU should also coordinate the extension and/or relaxation of tariff and trade privileges based on Turkey's overall human rights performance.

Technical assistance programs in the rule of law should be undertaken among Members of the Turkish Grand National Assembly, European Parliament, and U.S. Congress in order to strengthen democratic institutions and assist in constitutional and legislative reform. The Anti-Terror Act should be amended so that the rights of Turkish citizens are safeguarded, as is the right of the state to protect its territorial integrity. Electronic computer networks should be established between the TGNA and parliamentary bodies in other countries.

These recommendations are provided so that the international community can become fully seized by the worsening human rights conditions in Turkey. The authors of this report hope for reconciliation through dialogue so that peace, prosperity, and democracy may flourish for all citizens of the Turkish Republic.

CONGRATULATIONS TO CANTIGNY POST 367 ON ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 1995

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, today, I congratulate the Veterans of Foreign Wars Cantigny Post 367 in Joliet, IL, as it celebrates its 75th anniversary and thank them for their hard work and dedication to the community and our country.

For the past 75 years and more, the veterans have given their time, and in some cases their lives, and their service to America. Today we show our appreciation.

Thank you for your lifelong devotion to democracy.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars was organized in 1899 and is composed of Army, Navy, and Marine veterans—all of whom share a comradeship and a distinct allegiance to both country and each other. Perhaps the objectives listed for the VFW organization de-

scribe its purpose best. "To preserve and strengthen comradeship among its members; to assist worthy comrades; to perpetuate the memory and history of our dead, and to assist their widows and orphans; to maintain true allegiance to the Government of the United States of America."

On March 28, 1920, the Chateau Cantigny Post No. 367 in Joliet was formed. Its name was derived from the men who served with the 1st Division and saw action at the Cantigny Woods. John Baron served as the first commander of the post which had 38 charter members.

Since that day, Cantigny Post 367 members have contributed greatly to the community. They dedicate their time and energy to assisting hospitalized veterans through raising funds for Hines VA Hospital, Danville VA Hospital, North Chicago VA Hospital, the VFW National Home and the Veterans Home in Manteno, IL. The post also presents flags to high schools, ROTC groups and other civic organizations.

It is a distinct pleasure to have such an honorable and patriotic group in the 11th Congressional District and I applaud your efforts. Congratulations on your 75th anniversary and please continue your hard work—it is truly appreciated.

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 1995

SPEECH OF

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 1995

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4) to restore the American family, reduce illegitimacy, control welfare spending and reduce welfare dependence:

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the Talent amendment. The Republican welfare reform plan is weak on work, and this amendment does not solve that problem.

This amendment provides neither enforcement of its work requirements or resources to meet them. This amendment has no guarantees that those who get work will make a living wage.

The Talent amendment would not lift people out of welfare and into work. It would create an even large class of working poor in this country than we have now.

Real welfare reform should emphasize self-sufficient employment that provides a liveable wage, that can create a long-term solution to the crisis of poverty.

The Talent amendment does not strengthen the work requirements in the Republican bill or provide real job opportunity. I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on the Talent amendment.

ENDING DISCRIMINATION

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 1995

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, one does not solve discrimination with discrimination. Affirm-

ative action represents nothing more than a Government-designed racial spoils system. Equal treatment, not preferential treatment, should be the standard. Equal opportunity, not equal results, must be the goal.

For the past 30 years, Government quotas and guidelines have promoted a society that treats some Americans differently from others. Government dictates how varying ethnic groups will divvy up jobs, promotions, contracts, and college admissions. Affirmative action promotes opportunity based on race and creed not merit. This premise promotes the false idea that minorities cannot compete without special favors. Simply put, it implies inferiority.

Affirmative action pits group against group, stirring envy and resentment while eroding the value of individual worth. You do not raise yourself up by holding others down. Government-imposed favoritism demeans the genuine achievements of those it is supposed to help.

Mr. Speaker, in the twisted game of affirmative action, quantity takes precedence over quality allowing discrimination to pose under the guise of fairness. We must not confuse equal opportunity with equal results any longer. The more equal the opportunity the more diverse the results. It is time to end affirmative action. We need to promote fair competition in our society, not Government quotas and favoritism.

MRS. VIRLIN MILLEE WATSON FOR HAVING REACHED HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JAY DICKEY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 1995

Mr. DICKEY. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to pay tribute to Mrs. Virlin Millee Watson. Mrs. Watson was born on March 25, 1895, to the late James William Millee and Sarah Jane Long Millee in Sebastian County, AK, near the town of Fort Smith, where she lived until 1906 when her family moved south to Pine Bluff, AK.

Mrs. Watson graduated from Pine Bluff High School and began work in June 1915 for Schober-Martin Dry Goods Co. as a pattern clerk and also answered the telephone. She studied bookkeeping in night classes at a privately-run school in Pine Bluff and in 1916 was hired by Joe Hankins & Co. cotton buyers as a bookkeeper. In 1919 she became bookkeeper for Pine Bluff Produce and Provision Co. and worked in that position until her marriage. During this time she was an active member of the Ohio Street Baptist Church and also enjoyed an active social life.

On November 15, 1922, she was married to Clarence Watson. Mr. Watson was employed in the administrative office of the Cotton Belt Railroad. After the marriage, she joined the First Baptist Church and, in addition to church