told that the products we made were for export to foreign countries, they watched our every move to be sure we made no mistakes. If there were mistakes or someone did not appear to be working hard, we were severely punished. They used ankle fetters, handcuffs, solitary confinement, and other means to punish us.

Today, I often wonder if the tea I drink or the silk I weave comes from a Laogai camp and is made by all those poor Laogai slaves still suffering in China.

Daily, we were assaulted mentally. We were continually brainwashed. We were not allowed to say our prayers or to read the Bible. I remember clearly my first day in the detention center. I knelt down on the muddy ground, bowed my head, and begged to the Lord to give me strength. A warden immediately scolded me, ''Who told you to kneel down? Even at the door of death, you keep up your superstitions. This is a counter-revolutionary activity.'' In the Laogai, we were not allowed to hear and read anything but Communist propaganda. We had to spend two hours every day reading Mao's book and reciting the prison regulations. I remember one sixty-year-old Sister who made a set of small rosary beads out of a thread so it would not be discovered and be confiscated by the guards. This continuous brainwashing helped destroy all human love and was a denial of all basic human rights.

Spiritually, it was a constant struggle. We faced constant despair, and always heard the discouraging and threatening comments of the authorities. A prisoner had to confess her crime everyday, which meant scolding oneself and accusing oneself of being guilty of the greatest crimes against the people and government. Every prisoner was degraded. They minimized their own value of being human. They were separated from their families and society. They were tortured in a dark hell that had no foreseeable end. They fought the despair and hopelessness of thinking that they were to spend the rest of their lives as slaves in the Laogai.

One woman refused to work on Sundays. She would say prayers instead of singing revolutionary songs in front of Mao's portrait. One day, she was dragged out to the field where we were working and beaten to death in front of all of us.

I said the Communists aim was to torture the body and break the human spirit in every possible way and at every possible opportunity. When the warden told me my lovely sister had died, he simply said, ''The People's Government acted humanely . . . it is all over now . . . you should not cry because that's against the rules and it would have a bad effect on the feelings of the others about thought reform''. They succeeded to the point where to many it looked like there was no future and no hope. The prisoners in the Laogai camp were always in a deep depression. I myself prayed to God to let me die. I wanted to die more than I wanted to live because the circumstances were too horrible. Even if you didn't want to continue living under those circumstances, they wouldn't let you die. There was a constant suicide watch.

God sustained us nonetheless. My faith preserved me. God's Grace helped me live through this nightmarish journey. Finally, my prayers were answered. After my parents had written many, many letters to the government from Hong Kong, my husband, my son, and I were allowed to leave the Laogai in December 1978.

Today, I sit before you to take this opportunity to tell you the truth. To tell you the facts as I have myself experienced. But I speak not for myself, but for the thousands of brothers and sisters who are still living this terrible existence. Thank you for listening to my story. I hope that you may better understand the realities of the Laogai through my account of it.

TESTIMONY OF FATHER CAI ZHONGXIAN, LAOGAI SURVIVOR, BEFORE THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS, APRIL 3, 1995

My name is Cai Zhongxian. I am a Catholic priest.

I was ordained in 1940. I was arrested and charged as a counter-revolutionary in 1953 because of my refusal to cooperate with the Communist authorities and denounce the Roman Catholic Church. I was unexpectedly released without explanation in 1956. It turned out that the Communists hoped that the leniency showed to me would convince me to collaborate with the Party to persuade other Catholics to become members of the officially sanctioned ''Patriotic Catholic Church''. This ''Patriotic Catholic Church'' is nothing more than a Communist puppet organization. When I refused to cooperate, I was once again arrested. I was detained twice for a total of seven years at the Shanghai Detention Center, without charge or trial, until I was finally sentenced to a fifteen-year term in 1960.

I was then sent to a Laogai camp in Jiangxi Province which served as a brick factory. I avoided dying of starvation mostly because I supplemented the rationed food by eating frogs, snakes, and rats.

In 1962, five other priests and I were confined in a six-by-twelve foot windowless room that was filled with four inches of standing water. Despite this ill-treatment and other inhumane conditions, I continued my services as a Catholic clergy. I even successfully converted some of the guards who were charged to watch us to Catholicism.

At the completion of my sentence, I was 62 years old. I was not fully released at that time. The government forced me to accept ''forced-job-placement'' in the Laogai camp because I was originally charged with a ''counter-revolutionary crime''. I knew that a ''forced-job-placement'' assignment meant a life sentence laboring at the Laogai. I labored at the Nanchang Number 4 Prison for eleven years as a ''forced-job-placement'' worker.

In 1981, at the age of 74, I was again arrested for my continued activities as a Catholic priest. I was sentenced to serve another ten-year term as a Laogai slave. In 1988, I was released fully as a token of good will towards Filipino Bishop Sinhemai. I was 81 years old at the time of my release.

I served a total of thirty-three years in the Laogai. I can't begin to tell you how many people disappear completely for every one that survives. Thank you for inviting me here. I hope I have helped you gain an understanding of the Communist government's willingness to use the Laogai to destroy its citizens lives.

EXTENSION OF EXPIRING NATIONAL FOREST SERVICE GRAZING PERMITS PENDING FINAL AGENCY ACTION

HON. WES COOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 3, 1995

Mr. COOLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to prevent bureaucratic delays from hurting working ranchers that graze their livestock on National Forest System lands. My legislation would extend U.S. Forest Service [FS] grazing permits until the FS completes its obligations under the National Environmental Policy Act [NEPA].

Roughly half of the 9,000 term grazing permits issued on 90 million acres of National Forest System lands will expire by the end of 1996. Some of these permits have already expired, and ranchers—by no wrongdoing of their own—have been denied their right to graze their livestock due to bureaucratic red tape. The FS is required to conduct analyses to ensure that permits comply with NEPA, but the sheer volume of work has resulted in the FS's denying to reissue some permits because it is unable to complete NEPA documentation. My bill would extend these permits until the FS completes its obligations under NEPA.

My legislation would ensure fair treatment of law-abiding ranchers. These ranchers ought not be punished because the FS cannot complete its NEPA obligations on time. It is patently unfair that some permits have already been denied reissuance, and thousands of ranchers with permits on the brink of expiration face the same predicament. If the law is going to require the FS to jump through bureaucratic hoops, they ought to have time to do it before the permits of honest, hard-working ranchers are arbitrarily denied.

The ranchers I know hold up their end of the bargain; they are good stewards of the land, they fulfill their obligations, and they have every right to expect the Government to get its job done. They ought not be punished because our nation's environmental laws are unreasonable and inflexible. My bill would extend their grazing permits until the FS completes its NEPA documentation, so that no rancher is denied a permit because of bureaucratic delays.

The FS, to its credit, has expressed a willingness to work out this problem, but actions speak louder than words. The fact is that ranchers are being denied permits, through no fault of their own. That is simply unacceptable and my bill will fix it.

I ask unanimous consent that a copy of the legislation appear in the RECORD after my statement.

H.R. 1375

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. AUTOMATIC EXTENSION OF NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM GRAZING PERMITS PENDING COMPLETION OF FINAL AGENCY ACTION.

(a) EXTENSION.—The term of each expiring term grazing permit issued for lands within the National Forest System is hereby extended to cover the period beginning on the expiration date of the permit and ending on the date on which the Secretary of Agriculture completes final agency action in connection with the renewal of the permit. The extension shall apply to the holder of the expiring term grazing permit, subject to the same terms and conditions as apply to the expiring term grazing permit.

(b) EXCEPTION.—Subsection (a) shall not apply if the holder of an expiring term grazing permit is not in compliance with the terms and conditions of the permit at the time the permit is originally due to expire.

(c) ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL AND JUDICIAL REVIEW.—The extension of expiring term grazing permits under subsection (a) shall not be subject to administrative appeal or judicial review.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

(1) EXPIRING TERM GRAZING PERMIT.—The term ''expiring term grazing permit'' means a term grazing permit—

(A) that expires in 1995 or 1996; or

(B) that expired in 1994 and has not been replaced with a new term grazing permit solely because the analysis required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) and other applicable laws has not been completed.

(2) FINAL AGENCY ACTION.—The term ''final agency action'' means agency action regarding an expiring term grazing permit in which—

(A) any analysis required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) and other applicable laws has been completed; and

(B) all available administrative remedies have been exhausted.

(3) HOLDER.—The term ''holder'' includes the purchaser of a term grazing permit holder's permitted livestock or base property if—

(A) between January 1, 1995, and December 1, 1996, the holder has waived the term grazing permit to the Secretary pursuant to section 222.3(c)(1)(iv) of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations; and

(B) the purchaser of the term grazing permit holder's permitted livestock or base property is eligible and qualified to hold a term grazing permit.

(4) TERM GRAZING PERMIT.—The term ''term grazing permit'' means a grazing permit or grazing agreement issued by the Secretary of Agriculture for a specified term under section 402 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1752), section 19 of the Act of April 24, 1950 (commonly known as the ''Granger-Thye Act'') (16 U.S.C. 580*l*), or other law.

TRIBUTE TO YOUNG AMBASSADORS PROGRAM

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 3, 1995

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the Young Ambassadors Program for facilitating and promoting cultural and racial understanding between the United States and Japan. In 1990, the first delegation of Los Angeles area students and community leaders initiated the program with a visit to Japan. The Sixth Young Ambassador delegation will travel to Japan between April 6 and 14, 1995.

The Young Ambassadors Program was founded by Sanrio Co., Ltd., a Japanese company specializing in small gift items. Mr. Shintaro Tsuji, president of Sanrio Co., Ltd. and his son, Kunihiko, Tsuji, president of Sanrio Communications, Inc. have been instrumental in supporting and nurturing the program.

The delegation is composed of eight high school students. Reflecting the rich diversity of the Los Angeles area, the students include immigrants from Eritrea, El Salvador, and Korea. American-born African-American, Mexican-American, white and multiracial students are also in the delegation. Over the past 5 years, more than 23 different ethnicities have been represented in the program.

Current delegates include: Shameka Allen, Granada Hills High School, Er-Gene Kahng, Los Angeles Center for Enriched Studies, Tony C. Marshall, Jr., Washington High School, Yvonne Olivarez, Dorsey High School, Oscar Sosa, Eagle Rock High School, Daniel Tekleab, Venice High School, Domikian Ware, Hamilton High School, and Sharon Williams, Monrovia High School.

The sharing of perceptions through candid discussion is a major feature of the program. These young leaders are provided an extraordinary opportunity to spend more than a week meeting with community leaders to learn more about challenges they face. This provides a great opportunity for modeling and building long-term relationships.

For many who leave their neighborhoods for the very first time, it is a remarkable opportunity to broaden their cultural horizons. I salute the Young Ambassadors Program for providing a life-changing, positive experience for young people. I also salute Mr. Shintaro Tsuji and Mr. Kunihiko Tsuji for their thoughtful concern and action on behalf of our mutual communities.

REGARDING THE REPEAL OF THE 1993 CLINTON SOCIAL SECURITY TAX

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 3, 1995

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, this week we will have the opportunity to right the wrong done to America's seniors only 2 years ago when President Clinton pushed through Congress—against the vote of every Republican—a tax package raising the tax on Social Security benefits.

The Clinton tax hike increased the financial burden on some 9 million middle-income seniors by an estimated $500 per year. And let us not forget that the Clinton tax package hit seniors in other ways as well, including the increased energy tax and increased Medicare premiums.

Furthermore, this was all laid on top of already inequitable circumstances such as the ''notch'' disparity and the Social Security earnings test. After years of service to their Nation as workers, soldiers, mothers and fathers, America's seniors hardly deserve this biased treatment in their retirement years.

It wasn't until the mid-1980's that the Federal Government began to tax seniors' Social Security benefits. At that time—and against my vote, I might add—Congress applied Federal income taxes to 50 percent of Social Security benefits for seniors earning $25,000 as individuals or $32,000 as couples. President Clinton increased to 85 percent the amount of income subject to taxation for seniors making only $34,000 a year.

The only message this conveys is that careful savings and planning for retirement do not pay off. Is this the message we want to send to American workers?

Furthermore, the Social Security tax is a clear violation of the pact with America's seniors which the Social Security Program represents. Seniors work hard all their life and have a substantial portion of their income taken from their pay check and placed in holding for their retirement as Social Security benefits. To tax this income when seniors collect it is no less than double taxation.

The Social Security tax should be eliminated. I encourage my colleagues to take this first step toward resolution and to support the repeal of the Clinton Social Security tax hike as included in H.R. 1215.

HONORING NATALIE ROBERTS

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 3, 1995

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, after a distinguished career of almost 40 years of service to the children of the Bronx, my good friend Natalie Roberts will be retiring from the New York City educational system.

Natalie Roberts started her career as a teacher in 1955 and later became an assistant principal, and finally a principal in the New York City schools.

Natalie has served as vice president of the New York City Elementary Principals' Association and the New York City Administration Women in Education. She has served as a mentor to others and has been honored by B'nai B'rith and the Association of Jewish Professionals. In addition, she was the recipient of the Distinguished Education Award from the Association for Curriculum Development.

I join with her family, friends, and colleagues in saying to Natalie: Job Well Done.

A TRIBUTE TO SELENA

HON. HENRY BONILLA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 3, 1995

Mr. BONILLA. Mr. Speaker, ever so often, someone comes along who rises above the crowd, yet is so well grounded that we all feel special. Selena was like that. Despite international recognition and having been awarded the highest honors in the music industry, she always remained ''de nosotros.''

She brought a great deal of pride to the Mexican-American community of Texas. Adults respected her for her promotion of family values. Young people took pride in her achievements. We all enjoyed her music and admired her great beauty and talent.

It is ironic that we lost Selena during the spring when the most beautiful and colorful of Texas flowers open up and bloom. We were looking forward to seeing her blossom. Yet, she will always remain near in our hearts.

We have her music and we have our precious memories. She loved her, husband, her family, and us—her fans—and we loved her, too. She will be missed.

HONORING STANLEY O. IKENBERRY UPON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. THOMAS W. EWING

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 3, 1995

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, this week the Illinois congressional delegation and alumni of the University of Illinois in the Washington, DC