

and there aren't jobs that they can get because of the weak economy—so that's why they turn to gangs.

There are two well-known gangs in Western U.S.; they're known as the "Crips" and the "Bloods;" the Crips and the Bloods are rivals in the Western U.S.—the Crips wear blue and the Bloods wear red. There is a lot of hatred between these two gangs; a Blood will not ask for a cigarette because the word begins with a c, as in Crips. Instead, they ask for a figarette." Parents are very fearful for their children's lives when they go out to play or go to school; if they are caught wearing the wrong colors, they could be misinterpreted for belonging to a gang, and get hurt or killed. Parents dress their children carefully in brown, yellow or other neutral colors, and they avoid buying British Nike's brand sneakers, because the initials have come to mean "bloodkiller," a sign of disrespect in a Blood neighborhood. Nearly 50% of the Black male population age 21 through 24 is involved in some sort of gang activity. More than 200,000 people live in South Central L.A., and most have turned their homes into what look like jails: heavy metal-grid bars across the windows and doors, their yards turned into military compounds with wrought-iron fences, etc. They do this to protect their property, their family and themselves from gangs involvement.

Solutions to ending the gang problems of the U.S. are difficult to come up with. Trying to attract the interest of teenagers is also hard to do. Some suggestions have been: recreational activities for the students to participate in after school so they can stay off the streets. A way to bring teenagers into the picture of helping out is by way of teacher training. They need training to recognize gang members (signal), and discourage their activities. Other than recreational activities, there should be also an alternative for those nonathletic students. There should be tighter security—security officers at schools to deal with troublesome students; increased discipline would mean stricter enforcement of existing disciplinary rules. Metal detectors are also a way of weeding out weapons, and in some schools there's a truancy court that deals with people with high absenteeism. There is also . . . alternative schools with programs for disciplinary problem children. Former gang members participate in community awareness campaigns. And one last solution would be to control the unemployment by making . . . more jobs available for students and young people.

Congressman Sanders: Andrea, thank you very much; that was excellent. I'd like to ask you a very brief question, one question: in your judgment, has the government or other interests done a good job of controlling or eliminating youth gangs in America?

Answer: I don't think so, because there's a lot of unemployment out there, and that's why these teens are turning to gangs, because they don't have anything to do. So I think that the government should create more jobs for the students to get involved with.

Congressman Sanders: Are you familiar with the Summer Youth Employment Program?

Answer: A little bit.

Congressman Sanders: The Summer Youth Employment Program is a Federal program which allows low- and middle-income students to have summer jobs. It's a very important program, in districts such as you were speaking about in Los Angeles, where unemployment is very high. One of the things that I should tell you, a little bit sadly, is we were fighting this fight, but we think that the leadership in Congress is going to eliminate the funding for the Summer Youth Employment Program, which I

think addresses some of the concerns that you've raised.

REVISION OF UNITED STATES-
PUERTO RICO POLITICAL STATUS
ACT, H.R. 3024

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 1996

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, today I am submitting for the RECORD a revision of H.R. 3024, the "United States-Puerto Rico Political Status Act." The purpose of the revised version is to enable Members of Congress to consider the actual language of the political status option which was presented to voters as the definition of the "Commonwealth" political status option in a 1993 plebiscite conducted by Puerto Rican authorities under local law. The local political parties in Puerto Rico formulated the ballot definitions in that plebiscite.

On December 14, 1994, the Legislature of Puerto Rico adopted Concurrent Resolution 62, requesting the 104th Congress, if unwilling to accede to and implement the definition of "Commonwealth" from the 1993 ballot, to state ". . . the specific status alternatives that it is willing to consider, and the measure it recommends the people of Puerto Rico should take as part of the process to solve the problem of their political status." Before responding to Concurrent Resolution 62, on October 17, 1995, the Subcommittee on Native American and Insular Affairs, Committee on Resources, and the Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, Committee on International Relations, conducted hearings on the 1993 plebiscite results in which representatives of each principal political party testified and persons of all persuasions were afforded the opportunity to submit statements for the record.

Based on the record of that hearing (see, Joint Hearing Report, Serial No. 104-56 (Committee on Resources)), Chairman DON YOUNG and I introduced H.R. 3024 along with 13 other cosponsors to the request of the Puerto Rico Legislature in Concurrent Resolution 62. H.R. 3024 reflects the best judgment of its sponsors with respect to how Puerto Rico's political status can be resolved consistent with the U.S. Constitution and this Nation's commitment to self-determination. The definition of "Commonwealth" on the ballot in the 1993 plebiscite was not included in the bill as introduced for reasons which include those set forth in the letter of February 29, 1996, from Chairman DAN BURTON and I as the two subcommittee chairmen who conducted the joint hearing on October 17, 1995, signed as well by our respective full committee chairmen. See, CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, March 6, 1996, E299-300.

On March 23, 1996, a comprehensive hearing on H.R. 3024 was conducted by the Committee on Resources in San Juan, PR. Again, all parties were afforded an opportunity to testify or submit written statements. On the basis of the exhaustive record now before the committee and extensive consultations with interested individuals, political parties, and elected officials in Puerto Rico, the Subcommittee on Native American and Insular Affairs is prepared to consider further H.R. 3024.

Obviously, it would be unfair and irresponsible to allow the deliberative process of Congress regarding H.R. 3024 to be held hostage by those who, for whatever reason, may prefer to delay or prevent a considered and unambiguous Federal response to the 1993 plebiscite. However, to accommodate the widest possible range of rational and responsible views on this matter, Chairman YOUNG has taken the time to consider the record carefully, and he has agreed to support revisions to the bill based on comments and recommendations made in hearings and during consultation with some of our colleagues, representatives of the major parties, and other concerned parties.

Thus, for example, we are prepared to ensure that a valid definition of "Commonwealth" consistent with applicable rulings of the U.S. Supreme Court is included in the democratic process under this bill—even though the present status would not have changed under the original version unless the voters approved a new status. In addition, the revised version of H.R. 3024, with the 1993 "Commonwealth" definition prepared by the local political party which supports that status option, is being made available for consideration by the subcommittee and interested Members of Congress.

The constitutional, fiscal, and political obstacles to implementation of both the core elements and most provisions of the 1993 "Commonwealth" definition remain, as indicated in the February 29 letter cited above. Still, Chairman YOUNG has demonstrated exceptional sensitivity toward the difficult issues which arise from the inclusion of this "best of both worlds" definition on the 1993 ballot, and its approval by a slight plurality but less than a majority of the voters. Under the U.S. Constitution only Congress can determine what political status options it is willing to consider as requested by Concurrent Resolution 62, but Chairman YOUNG's decision to present the 1993 definition to Congress for its consideration reflects his commitment to the most open and bipartisan approach possible.

I want to express my admiration for the conscientious and careful approach which Chairman YOUNG has taken in this matter. While some of the people of Puerto Rico and even some Members of Congress may well prefer this legislation not be considered on the merits, there is no credible basis for further delay. The process of hearings and accommodation of the views of others which Chairman YOUNG has overseen has been exceptionally fair, and, by ensuring that people in Puerto Rico know that the 1993 definition of "Commonwealth" is considered by Congress in the original form without alteration, Chairman YOUNG has demonstrated unprecedented flexibility and openness.

That is why some 60 Members, including Democrats and Republicans, are now cosponsors of the United States-Puerto Rico Political Status Act, H.R. 3024. That is why we are going to move forward without further delay.

The revision to H.R. 3024 is made by inserting the following language on line 22, page 9, of H.R. 3024 as introduced on March 6, 1996:

(3) A path of Commonwealth, in which—
"(A) the Commonwealth is a mandate in favor of guaranteeing our progress and security as well as that of our children within a status of equal political dignity, based on the permanent union between Puerto Rico

and the United States encompassed in a bilateral pact that cannot be altered except by mutual agreement.

“(B) the Commonwealth guarantees—
“(i) irrevocable United States citizenship;
“(ii) common market;
“(iii) common currency;
“(iv) common defense with the United States;

“(v) fiscal autonomy for Puerto Rico;
“(vi) Puerto Rico Olympic Committee and our own international sports representation; and

“(viii) full development of our cultural identity, under Commonwealth we are Puerto Ricans first;

“(C) we will develop Commonwealth through specific proposals to be brought before the United States Congress; and

“(D) we will immediately propose—
“(I) reformulate section 936, ensuring creation of more and better jobs;

“(ii) extend the Supplementary Security Insurance to Puerto Rico;

“(iii) obtain Nutritional Assistance Program allocations equal to those received by the States; and

“(iv) protect other products of our agriculture, in addition to coffee.”.

SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO MRS. MARY VEREEN ON HER RETIREMENT

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 1996

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a remarkable educator whose exemplary life of commitment represents a genuine consecration to the ideals of service on behalf of thousands of students. Mrs. Mary Vereen is retiring from the Dade County Public Schools after serving 31 years of continuous teaching, educating and motivating countless boys and girls to choose the path of academic excellence and personal achievement.

In her own quiet but dignified way she epitomized the noble qualities that ordinary Americans, the unsung heroes and heroines of our Nation, have always engendered into their charges time and time again. I would not feel right at all if I did not share with Congress the legacy of excellence and sacrifice this humble educator bequeathed to benefit the lives of so many children in my community.

A salient description of what Mrs. Vereen meant to many homes in the inner city is so compelling as to tug at the heartfelt simplicity and relentless commitment she gave to these children. Nurturing them into becoming responsible and productive members of society, she transformed her covenant of service into one that bespeaks of her utmost caring and encouragement for their future. She also veritably became an oasis of hope and support for their parents who have had to weather the storms that constantly challenged them along the way.

In her stint as a teacher and then as an administrator, she created ample opportunity and brought so much joy to so many students who were eager to meet the challenges she posed to them. With this basic methodology Mrs. Vereen went on to guide her charges, both children and their parents, counseling them to abide by the tenets of common discipline and personal responsibility. She instilled into their value systems no less than the love of learn-

ing and the mastery of the basic skills, demanding moral excellence and communal courtesy in their dealings with one another. Mediocrity was unacceptable.

Mr. Speaker, my community will sorely miss the guiding hand of Mrs. Mary Vereen. Her legacy exemplifies a genuine stewardship reflecting an admirable fusion of utmost professionalism and personal integrity that will long be remembered and admired in the annals of educational leadership. I wish her a well-deserved retirement and success and happiness in her future endeavors.

NO DEAL ON TOBACCO INDUSTRY PROPOSAL

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 1996

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, recently two tobacco industry giants, Philip Morris USA and United States Tobacco [UST], presented a gift to the American people: their approach to how the industry and the Federal Government could work together to reduce youth smoking. Their present was beautifully wrapped with an agreement to ban cigarette vending machines, to restrict mail distribution of tobacco products, and to prohibit billboard advertising of tobacco products within 1,000 feet of schools—all of which would be greatly effective in decreasing youth smoking, an injurious activity that one out of every three American high school students take part in. But once we tear away the ribbons and packaging on this present, we find that all that's left is gag gift from the tobacco industry. The Philip Morris/UST proposal mocks the health and welfare of our Nation's children and the tobacco industry gets the last laugh.

The Philip Morris/UST proposal is an utter sham compared to the FDA's proposed rule:

The FDA proposed rule bans tobacco sponsorship of any athletic, musical, artistic or other social or cultural event. Under their proposal, the tobacco industry can sponsor motorsports and rodeo, two events that the tobacco industry is heavily invested in. These sporting events are the most commonly attended sporting events in the country.

The FDA proposed rule restricts tobacco advertisements to publications with an adult readership of 85 percent or more and less than 2 million readers under 18 years old. The industry proposal changes readership to subscribers. Since most children and youths do not subscribe to magazines, this provision becomes ineffectual.

The FDA proposed rule requires each tobacco manufacturer to contribute to a \$150 million public education campaign to discourage youth from tobacco use. The tobacco industry doesn't even bother to include this provision in their proposal.

But most importantly, the Philip Morris/UST proposal eliminates FDA jurisdiction over tobacco products. This would effectively shut down the FDA's ability to regulate tobacco at all with disastrous effects: It would preempt the FDA from ruling that nicotine is a drug. It would preempt the FDA from ruling that a cigarette is a device used to transmit an addictive drug. With no

FDA jurisdiction over tobacco, there is no agency with authority over nicotine-containing tobacco products.

We cannot allow the tobacco industry to go unregulated especially in the area of youth smoking. The threat to our Nation's children is too great. For example, in California alone:

Over 29 million packs of cigarettes are sold to California children annually, generating \$62.5 million in sales revenue for the tobacco industry.

Teens under 18 can successfully purchase tobacco from one out of three tobacco retailers in California.

Smoking among youth in California is increasing from 9.1 percent in 1993 to 10.9 percent in 1994.

And California is one of the leaders in anti-smoking efforts. I could only imagine how bad the statistics would be if even our few laws weren't in place.

Philip Morris and UST know that their public support has been reduced to ashes. Since today is World No-Tobacco Day, I urge Congress to embrace the FDA proposal, a comprehensive approach to reduce youth tobacco use and reject the tobacco industry's sham proposal. No deal for Philip Morris and UST. Our children's health is non-negotiable.

THE OIL SPILL PREVENTION AND RESPONSE IMPROVEMENT ACT

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 1996

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, it is with a sense of urgency that I introduce the Oil Spill Prevention and Response Improvement Act. On May 10, 1996, a tanker moored in Delaware Bay spilled 10,000 gallons of light grade crude oil. Strong winds pushed the slick toward the beaches of Cape May, NJ, posing a threat to wildlife and migrating waterfowl. The tanker had been anchored 17 miles off the Cape May Shore in an area known as the Big Stone Anchorage. It was involved in a process known as lightering. A tanker lighters by pumping some of its cargo into a smaller barge. This is usually done because there is insufficient depth of water to allow the tanker to safely make passage to secure oil terminals. Transferring oil over open water between two or more vessels is a risky process which greatly increases the possibility of spills or more serious accidents.

While the Cape May incident was a relatively minor accident and the environmental impacts were quickly contained, I am greatly troubled about the prospect of an accident in the New York Harbor. Thirty billion gallons of oil of every type are shipped through the Port of New York and New Jersey each year. One billion gallons is lightered from deep water anchorages beyond the Verrazano Narrows. That is 100 times the amount of oil spilled by the Exxon Valdez off the Alaskan coast. These barges are often single hulled and sometimes have no crew or anchor. The situation in the New York Harbor is doubly dangerous because of an institutional failure to dredge. The lightering process is used to reduce the weight of oil tankers and thereby lessen draft to enable these great ships to negotiate the shoaled-in channels and berths of