

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