important that the trade unions want to change policy through their demonstrations.

CROATIAN SEEKS TO END HUMAN-RIGHTS ABUSES

(By Jack Anderson and Jan Moller)

When Dobroslav Paraga rallied his fellow Croatians for change in 1991, he could get only a few hundred supporters to publicly protest Croatian President Franjo Tudjman's regime.

Seven years later, close to 15,000 of Paraga's countrymen routinely crowd the city squares in discontent over the civil rights violations and declining economic fortunes that have befallen Croatia under Tudjman's watch. One-fourth of all Croatians are currently unemployed.

''Before, people were afraid to speak out against the government,'' Paraga told our associate Kathryn Wallace. ''Now they are hungry.''

Conditions were supposed to improve when the communist government toppled in 1990 and democracy prevailed.

But Paraga tells us the new government is still communist, albeit disguised as a social democracy.

A 1997 State Department report agrees with this assessment, referring to the government as ''authoritarian'' and Tudjman's recent re-election as ''fundamentally flawed.''

''The president serves as head of state and commander of the armed forces, chairs the influential National Defense and Security Council, appoints the prime minister who leads the government, and approves senior appointments in local government,'' the report states.

''Government influence circumscribes and weakens the judiciary. This, combined with the extensive constitutional powers of the presidency, the overwhelming dominance of the (Croatian Democratic Union, Tudjman's party), its absolute control of television, and the continuing concentration of power within the one-party central government, makes Croatia's nominally democratic system in reality authoritarian.''

It also grants the government the ability to violate human rights as it sees fit.

The tall, rumpled Paraga doesn't look the part of a patriot or a politician. Yet in the last decade he's been arrested and jailed in his own country as well as in Austria and Canada for what the Croatian government calls ''high treason'' and ''terrorist acts.''

Paraga's offense? He was the president on the Croatian Party of Rights 1861, espousing such radical views as freedom of the press and an equitable separation of powers between the judicial, legislative and executive branches of government. A 1993 visit to Washington to raise awareness of human rights violations in his homeland led to his removal from the legislature. The government's reason: ''Dissemination of false information'' to incite rebellion.

''Our neighbors have freedom, but we stay at the same place,'' Paraga told us. ''I have lost 28 friends in car bombs and assassinations, (and) I have been imprisoned. I have lost fear.''

While Paraga has been outspoken of the offenses of his government—assigning responsibility for the assassinations of 28 officials of his party to Tudjman's group—he disavows any violent or terrorist activities.

He is in the United States now at the invitation of recently retired Rep. Ronald V. Dellums, D-Calif., the ranking member of the House National Security Committee, to help draft a human rights resolution—which, if passed, would be the first official policy statement by the United States about the government of Croatia.

It's not the first time that Paraga has sought congressional help in his freedom fight. He first came to our attention nearly a decade ago, in 1989, when Croatia was still part of communist Yugoslavia. Then a 28-year-old dissident, he had already been in five prisons for a total of four years, the first time being when he was only 19.

In 1980 he and his friend Ernest Brajder were thrown in jail for circulating a petition opposing torture in Yugoslavia. Paraga came out alive, but Brajder did not. After three days in jail, he was dead in what the U.S. State Department admitted were ''mysterious circumstances.''

Back in 1989, Paraga made the rounds on Capitol Hill, as he has this month, explaining the plight of those who dared stand up to the Croatian authorities. The Senate believed Paraga and passed a resolution with plenty of ''whereas'' and ''therefore'' language. It had no binding effect on anyone, but it nevertheless made headlines in Yugoslavia.

One again, Paraga is hoping that a congressional resolution will help prod the Croatian government into loosening its iron-fisted grip on power and information. He told us that his party, disbanded by the government, nonetheless has the support of as much as 80 percent of young people in Croatia.

After nearly a decade of war and political turmoil, it's high time that Croatia gets back on the road toward free markets and respect for human rights. If a congressional resolution can help bring this about, we urge Congress to act without delay.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO ADJUST THE BOUNDARIES OF THE LAKE CHELAN NATIONAL RECREATION AREA AND THE WENATCHEE NATIONAL FOREST

HON. DOC HASTINGS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 1998

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I have introduced a bill today that would correct a mistakenly drawn boundary between the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area and the Wenatchee National Forest.

This measure would move the boundary that divides one land owner's property into two different federal jurisdictions, the National Park Service and the National Forest Service. While the land owner was originally assured that his property was located completely within the Wenatchee National Forest, it is now apparent that due to an error in the original boundary designation, that only part of his property is so designated. This bill would retroactively change this oversight to the original intent.

IN MEMORY OF OREE WOODS

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 1998

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to someone I had the privilege of meeting just last November—Oree Lea Woods of Sadler, Texas—who died on January 19 at his residence after a long illness. He was 79 years old. Although I knew Oree only two short months, I felt that I had known him all my life.

I had the opportunity to visit Oree and his wife, Jean, at the invitation of CASHA Resource Home Health Services. This was one of several home health visits that I made during our winter break. I have long been a supporter of home health services as a member of the Health and Environment Subcommittee of the Commerce Committee, and it was good to see how much these services meant to Oree. Oree had experienced continued health problems during the past two years and had been a home health patient for two months when I met him. He and Jean had high praise for this service and were grateful to have this health assistance during Oree's recuperation period.

Oree was a World War II veteran and a lifetime member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He served for three years as Mayor of Sadler, was a retired metal lather, and was a member of the First Baptist Church. He was married to his wife, Jean, for 57 years, and they have a son, Kimsey Woods, a daughter, Karen Whitmire, two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Because of home health care, I was able to visit with Oree and Jean in the comfort of their home, where we swapped many stories about family, childhood escapades, school, World War II experiences, and health care. I came away from our visit feeling that I had truly had a chance to get to know Oree—an experience that I think would not have been possible outside the home environment.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the importance of home health services in enhancing the quality of life for thousands of patients throughout our nation. As we adjourn today, it is a privilege for me to pay tribute to the late Oree Lea Woods—a man who lived his life in devotion to his wife, his family, his community, and his country.

ANNOUNCING THE INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO REDUCE THE MARRIAGE TAX PENALTY MARCH 19, 1998

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 1998

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, today Representative KLECZKA and I are introducing legislation to reduce the marriage tax penalty for most Americans.

The marriage penalty reduction legislation I am introducing with Representative KLECZKA (D–WI) simply would increase the standard deduction for joint filers so that it equals twice that of single filers. The standard deduction in tax year 1997 is $6,900 for joint returns and $4,150 for single returns. Two singles get a combined standard deduction of $8,300 compared to $6,900 for a couple—thus penalizing the couple for getting married. In my view, increasing the standard deduction for joint filers is the simplest, fairest, easiest, and most fiscally responsible way in which to address the structural marriage tax penalties within the code.

As you can see from the attached charts to be inserted into the record, the fix I proposed last Congress would have eliminated virtually

all marriage penalties, and, it even provides a modest bonus for one-earner families.

The McDermott-Kleczka plan is progressive: Since most high-income taxpayers do not use the standard deduction, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has found that only 36% of the benefits from this type of change goes to taxpayers earning $50,000 or more—meaning—64% of the benefits go to couples earning less than $50,000/year. CBO found that other leading repeal proposals direct at least 65% of the benefits to those taxpayers earning more than $50,000/year.

The McDermott-Kleczka plan is affordable: CBO estimates that increasing the standard deduction for joint filers costs roughly $4 billion/year. Estimates prepared by the Joint Committee on Taxation verify this finding. Meanwhile, CBO found other leading repeal proposals cost as much as $29 billion/year.

The McDermott-Kleczka plan is family friendly: In addition to eliminating the marriage penalty, the standard deduction fix slightly increases the marriage bonus (see charts)—making it more affordable for the spouses of single earners who prefer to have a parent stay at home to care for their child or children. This bonus provides a small incentive without creating a new program and is not excessive so that it overly penalizes individuals for being unmarried.

The McDermott-Kleczka plan is simple compared to the problems raised by other repeal proposals which will force taxpayers to do their taxes twice in order to figure out which is the best choice for their family.

In 1997, repeal of the marriage penalty was pushed aside by the Republican Majority. Inexplicably, in the W&M Committee, where roughly 20 members signed the Contract with America my amendment failed. Most likely, the Majority preferred cutting taxes for corporations (not mentioned in their contract). In my view, a tactical decision was made that it was more important to provide tax cuts preferred by the business community (such as reducing the corporate AMT and corporate capital gains tax cuts) than it was to address the marriage penalty.

In fact, no legislation was introduced during the 105th Congress to repeal the marriage penalty until after the Budget Agreement passed Congress last August.

Now that repeal of the marriage penalty is finally being addressed and if it sincerely is a priority of this Congress, I would urge my colleagues to take a second look at the McDermott-Kleczka proposal before they rush to advocate an alternative.

STRUCTURAL MARRIAGE TAX PENALTIES AND BONUSES IN 1997 DOLLAR AND PERCENTAGE AMOUNTS BY WHICH JOINT INCOME TAX LIABILITIES EXCEED THOSE OF TWO SINGLES

[Marriage tax bonus shown in parenthesis]

Income levels ($000s)	Joint income tax liability	50/50		60/40		70/30		100/0	
		Amount	Percent	Amount	Percent	Amount	Percent	Amount	Percent
20	$1,170	$210	22	$345	42	$378	48	($810)	(41)
25	1,920	210	12	210	12	384	25	(810)	(30)
30	2,670	210	9	210	9	269	11	(810)	(23)
35	3,420	210	7	210	7	210	7	(1,272)	(27)
40	4,170	210	5	210	5	210	5	(1,922)	(32)
50	5,670	210	4	210	4	(252)	(4)	(3,222)	(36)
60	8,028	1,068	15	1,476	6	(304)	(4)	(3,664)	(31)
75	12,228	1,444	13	1,256	11	281	2	(3,918)	(24)
100	19,228	1,444	8	1,444	8	1,152	6	(4,668)	(19)

Source: CRS.

McDERMOTT-KLECZKA LEGISLATION CHANGES THE STRUCTURAL MARRIAGE TAX PENALTIES AND BONUSES: DOLLAR AND PERCENTAGE AMOUNTS BY WHICH JOINT INCOME TAX LIABILITIES EXCEED THOSE OF TWO SINGLES

[Marriage tax bonus shown in parenthesis]

Income levels ($000s)	Joint income tax liability	50/50		60/40		70/30		100/0	
		Amount	Percent	Amount	Percent	Amount	Percent	Amount	Percent
20	$960	.....	.....	$135	16	$108	13	($1,020)	(52)
25	1,710	.....	.....	.....	.....	174	11	(1,020)	(37)
30	2,460	.....	.....	.....	.....	59	2	(1,020)	(29)
35	3,210	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	(1,482)	(32)
40	3,960	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	(2,132)	(35)
50	5,460	.....	.....	.....	.....	(462)	(8)	(3,432)	(39)
60	7,636	$676	10	84	1	(696)	(8)	(4,058)	(35)
75	11,836	1,052	10	864	8	(111)	(1)	(4,310)	(27)
100	18,836	1,052	6	1,052	6	760	4	(5,060)	(21)

Source: CRS.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JULIAN C. DIXON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 1998

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, yesterday during Roll Call vote number 58 I inadvertently voted yea. I intended to vote nay.

RECOGNIZING THE UNIVERSITY OF MARY HARDIN-BAYLOR LADY CRUSADERS BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 1998

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor Lady Crusaders of Belton, Texas for their determination in making it to the national women's basketball championship game.

After posting an impressive season record of 24–6, the Lady Crusaders entered the women's NAIA Division II National Tournament unseeded. Fighting their way through highly ranked teams to the finals, they challenged Walsh University of Ohio for the championship trophy Tuesday night.

Although they fell in the championship game, these young ladies combined effort, teamwork, dedication, and vision to fool the experts and outplay their opposition. The Lady Crusaders set several new tournament records and proved that the underdog should never be counted out.

I ask you to join me in acknowledging the accomplishment of these outstanding athletes from my Texas Congressional District. Congratulations Lady Crusaders for a job well done.

TRIBUTE TO ANDREA GIBSON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 1998

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to stand here before you today and pay tribute to a courageous young person in my district. Ms. Andrea Gibson, a 11th-grader at Warren Central High School in Vicksburg, MS saved a 5-year-old from drowning on June 29th in a pool in Birmingham, Ala. Ms. Gibson was on vacation with her mother when she noticed a child staring fearfully into the pool calling his brother's name.

When Andrea heard the young boy, call out for his brother, she quickly noticed that the child was at the bottom of the pool and proceeded to jump in. Once the boy was rescued from the pool, Andrea quickly performed CPR to revive the young man. Had it not been for the actions of Ms. Gibson, the life of a young child could have been in severe jeopardy or lost.

Mr. Speaker, my hat goes off to Ms. Gibson. At a time in our history where so many children are doing negative things, it is stories such as these where we need to take a look at our young people's positive actions and congratulate them on their valor and good judgement. Ms. Gibson is a very courageous young woman and I wish her the very best in her future endeavors.