employed at the San Francisco International Airport and its surrounding communities to work without fear for the safety and well-being of their sons and daughters.

Palcare's origins reflect the diverse coalition of Bay Area organizations that rely on its vital work. Corporations and labor unions, public interest groups and private foundations, county and local governments alike joined together during the late 1980's and early 1990's with the goal of reducing pressure on working parents. These disparate elements disagreed on many political and economic issues, but they were united in their vision of the benefits which hard-working mothers and fathers were entitled to receive.

They wanted a top-notch, secure facility with the space and comfort to serve as a cocoon for the intellectual, social, and physical development of young children; an educated and motivated staff with an Early Childhood Educator devoted to each and every boy and girl; a level of flexibility to accommodate the complex and hectic work schedules of single parents and multiple-income families, and a measure of affordability that would allow mothers and fathers to avoid painful choices between important parenting priorities. These ideals guided the creation of Palcare and formed a combination of values which has resulted in Palcare's extraordinary success over the past five years.

Mr. Speaker, to give credit to all of the individuals and organizations that have contributed to Palcare's growth and acclaim would require a book, but I want to mention some of the key ones. Its Founding Partners, the varied array of interests determined to develop a solution for the area's child care crisis, deserve special recognition: United Airlines, the San Francisco International Airport, the Airport Labor Coalition, San Mateo Country government, the City and County of San Francisco, Mills Peninsula Health Services, The Child Care Coordinating Council, the San Mateo Central Labor Council, and The United Way. This partnership has been bolstered by many large and small employers from throughout the Bay Area who have contributed generously to Palcare's scholarship fund to dilute the financial burden on working parents, and who have donated valued supplies and services to the center. Recent benefactors have included The Gap Foundation, PG &E, Xerox Corporation, and the Visa Corporation.

The organization has also been blessed by the sincere efforts of Palcare Parents, several of whom sit on the 21-person Board of Directors and many of whom formed an active Parent Advisory Committee to suggest improvements to the center. Above all, Palcare is the product of its talented and nourishing staff under the leadership of Executive Director Nirmala Dillman. Mr. Speaker, these fine individuals and bodies stand proudly as a model for child care providers and community leaders across America.

I am joined in my appreciation of Palcare by many impressive entities. The center has been recognized by the Women's Bureau of the Departmental of Labor, the Association of Work/Life Professionals and the California Association for the Education of Young Children as an example for others to emulate. These experts are exceeded in the degree to which they cherish Palcare only by the mothers and fathers who draw comfort and security from its services. Art Pulaski, a good friend of mine who is Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the California Labor Federation, AFL–CIO, and a Palcare Parents, said: ''The thing I think about most is my kids—that they're safe, well cared for, and happy. It's important to me that they are prepared for school, academically as well as socially.''

For the sake of Art's son, Luke, and for all of the other Bay Area families that value its services, it is a privilege and honor for me to congratulate Palcare on five years of invaluable contributions, and to express my hope that every parent in America will eventually have access to the type of care which Palcare so ably provides for our community.

IN CELEBRATION FOR THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHESTER, NEW YORK

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 1998

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to call attention to the 200th anniversary of the First Presbyterian Church of Chester, NY.

For two hundred years the First Presbyterian Church has served the community of Chester, bringing neighbors, friends and the community as a whole together. The church has been instrumental in the development of Chester, helping to educate and fill the spiritual needs of residents and families throughout the region.

The First Presbyterian Church is truly a remarkable organization, built in 1798 the church has been an active part of Chester's community. Beyond its normal church activities the church provides: a nursery school, a food pantry and also sponsors a local boy scout troop.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations to Rev. Karen Patricia to her church councils, and her congregation for the 200th anniversary of their important and noteworthy church. I would also like to take this opportunity to invite my colleagues to join with me in recognizing the great contributions of the First Presbyterian Church in Chester, NY.

HONORING OUTSTANDING HISPANIC BAYTONIANS

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 1998

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor 50 outstanding hispanic individuals and organizations who will be recognized May 1, 1998 in special programs at Exxon, Lee college, and San Jacinto Mall in Baytown, TX. These individuals and organizations are historical pioneers who have helped pave the way for Baytown's growing and vibrant community. As the citizens of Baytown and Texas celebrate the first 50 years of this great Texas city, we also honor the following hispanic Baytonians for their leadership and commitment to the future of the Baytown Hispanic community:

Mayor Pete Alfaro, Antonio Bañuelos, Bañuelos Boys Band, Baytown Mexican School, Baytown Mexican War Heroes killed in action, (Don) Fermin Beltran-Juarez, The Honorable Eva Benavides, The Honorable Tony Campos, U.S. Marshall Art Contreras, Amelia deHoyos, Guadalupe Aleman deHoyos, Ruben deHoyos, Councilman Manuel Escontrias. Manuel Espinoza, Jr., Gilberto Garcia, Frank Gonzalez, Sr., Luciano and Manuela Gonzalez, Regina Gonzalez-Martinez, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Greater Baytown, Humble 997 Baseball Team, Ladies Auxillary—Sociedad Mutualista, La Tipica Orchestra Fem., Las Guadalupanas, Mexican American Graduating Seniors (M.A.G.S.), Pioneer Mexican Laborers, Jose and Virginia Moreno, Marta Moreno, Willie Moreno, Alfonso Nava, Vicente Nieto, Aurora Porter, Ignacio Ramirez, Sr., Eugenia Renteria, Pablo Reyna, Ambrose Rios, Jr., Eugenia Renteria-Rios, Feliciano Rios, M.D., Freddy Rios, Geneva Renteria-Rios, Janie Salinas-Bricker, Rufo Sanchez, Hilda Sandoval-Pena, Eugenio Santana, Sr., Sociedad Mutualista, Rudolph Torres, Eloy Valdes, Lucas Vegas, Jr., Elena R. Vergara, George Zamora, Mercedes Zamora.

I congratulate these outstanding citizens and organizations and commend them on their many contributions to the City of Baytown and the Hispanic community.

HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY TO MRS. REGINA HIEBEL

HON. JAY W. JOHNSON

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 1998

Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, today, it is my great honor and pleasure to wish a very happy birthday to Mrs. Regina Hiebel of Appleton, Wisconsin on the occasion of her 100th birthday. Mrs. Hiebel will reach the century mark on May 8 of this year, an incredible milestone.

She has lived to enjoy what Cicero called ''the crown of life.'' She is blessed by many years, and all who spend time with her are blessed by her company. Mrs. Hiebel's friends know her to be kind and fascinating and courageous. I am even told that she elected to have surgery at the tender age of 92, a brave decision indeed.

Mrs. Hiebel continues to lead a vibrant life. Even in her most recent years, she has traveled the country, and her friends tell me she still has meals with friends every day and has her hair done every week.

I know all of Appleton and the people of Northeast Wisconsin join me in wishing Regina Hiebel a happy, happy 100th birthday.

GRAND JURY REPORT ON THE 1993 SPECIAL ELECTION FOR THE SECOND SENATORIAL DISTRICT SEAT

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 1998

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to submit into the record the findings of the Ninth Statewide Investigating Grand Jury's Report relating to the 1993 Special election for

the Second Senatorial District Seat in Pennsylvania.

This election case serves as a grotesque example of the potential for voter fraud and abuse in our election system. This Grand Jury has taken an indepth look at voter fraud in Pennsylvania and its report should compel us to review voting practices and affirm voter protection and fairness across the country.

As the attached information discloses, voter fraud can have broad abuses in the areas of PAC activities, false voter registration, absentee ballot irregularities, election certification processes, and candidate activities at the polling place.

Mr. Speaker, in every elective office of the United States, from President to Township Supervisor, we must maintain the integrity of the voting booth. If the voting booths cannot be a place of integrity and if Americans cannot cast their ballots knowing that the winner will ultimately be one who has garnered the most votes in a fair competition, then our democracy is in danger.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA,
Harrisburg, April 6, 1995.

SUBJECT: Public Hearing on the Ninth Investigating Grand Jury's Report Relating to the 1993 Special Election for the Second Senatorial District

TO: Members of the House State Government Committee

FROM: The Hon. Paul I. Clymer, Chairman, House State Government Committee

The following is an overview of the Ninth Investigating Grand Jury's report relating to the 1993 special election for the Second Senatorial District seat. This overview includes a summary of the major issues reviewed by the Grand Jury, as well as findings and recommendations for legislative, executive and administrative action. You may want to pay particular attention to the recommendations. I've also enclosed a copy of the original text of the grand jury's recommendations.

As you know, the grand jury's report is the subject of the State Government Committee's April 10 hearing, scheduled for 10 a.m. in Room 140 of the Main Capitol Building. Please bring this information to the hearing with you. If you have any questions in the meantime, do not hesitate to contact Susan Boyle at 772–3465 (2–3465).

THE NINTH STATEWIDE INVESTIGATING GRAND JURY'S REPORT NO. 2 RELATING TO THE 1993 SPECIAL ELECTION FOR THE SECOND SENATORIAL DISTRICT SEAT

INTRODUCTION

In December 1993 the Ninth Statewide Investigating Grand Jury began its investigation of allegations of criminal activity with regard to the special election for the Second Senatorial District seat held on November 1, 1993. The investigation began with an inquiry into reports and complaints of allegedly widespread illegalities in absentee voting. Those allegations involved: 1) improper distribution of absentee ballots where no application for such ballot had been made; 2) the distribution of absentee ballots to individuals not entitled to them; 3) use by these individuals of these ballots; and 4) forgery of absentee ballot related documents.

During the course of the investigation, other matters of concern came to light. They included: 1) allegations of questionable political action committee (PAC) activities; 2) allegations that WAM grant checks were provided to one of the candidates for distribution during campaign appearances; and 3) allegations that arrangements were made to have one of the candidates travel to Harrisburg to be sworn in before the election board even certified his victory.

The grand jury investigated each of these matters. In some instances, where the grand jury found criminal conduct and was able to identify the persons responsible, it recommended the initiation of criminal proceedings. In other instances, the grand jury recommended legislative, executive or administrative action to correct certain problems or perceived problems.

FINDINGS—THE STINSON CAMPAIGN AND ABSENTEE BALLOTS

The grand jury found that the campaign of candidate William Stinson made a concerted effort to generate absentee ballots. The campaign's strategy involved the extensive handling of both absentee ballot applications and ballot packages by campaign staff and volunteers. The ultimate goal was to generate a large number of ballot applications and submit them to the Philadelphia Board of Elections immediately prior to the deadline so that the Bruce Marks campaign would not have time to mount its own absentee ballot effort.

Individuals, many of whom were in dire need of money, were recruited by campaign staff and volunteers to go door to door and solicit ballot applications. They were paid $1.00 per application generated. Many voters were told that, in filling out the applications, they were signing up for a ''new way to vote.'' A number of the applications generated through this drive were not filled out properly and thus were rejected by the Board of Elections. Because of the sheer volume of absentee ballot applications generated and the fact that most of them were submitted either on or very close to the application deadline, many applicants were never made aware that their applications were rejected by the Board of Elections and thus were disenfranchised. Even more startling, is the fact that Stinson volunteers also rejected absentee ballot applications that were improperly completed.

Stinson campaign workers also obtained absentee ballot packages for delivery to applicants. Despite a 1978 memo from then-DA Ed Rendell to City Commissioner Marge Tartaglione indicating that such a practice violates the Election Code, all of the City Commissioners and many of their staff confirmed that the hand delivery of absentee ballots to applicants was a common practice.

FINDINGS—OTHER ABSENTEE BALLOT IRREGULARITIES

The grand jury found that lies and misrepresentations were used by Stinson campaign volunteers, as well as by others who were not affiliated with the campaign, to entice voters to sign absentee voter applications. Many voters who signed applications were not even told why they were doing so. Others were not even asked if they met the qualified absentee elector criteria set forth in the Election Code. Some voters allowed campaign workers to fill out portions of their absentee ballot and/or declaration envelope. In fact, some campaign workers went so far as to tell voters how to vote. Even more disturbing, a number of registered voters indicated that their signatures—on either the absentee ballot applications or the ballots themselves (or both)—had been forged.

FINDINGS—FALSE VOTER REGISTRATION

The grand jury found instances in which individuals who did not live in the Second Senatorial District were registered to vote there. In a number of cases, these voters used the registration address of the home of the judge of elections or committee person.

FINDINGS—EFFECTS OF FRAUDULENT ACTIVITY ON THE VOTING PROCESS

The above-referenced fraudulent activities had a significant impact on the electoral process, according to the grand jury. The most egregious effects include:

* voters were, at best, mislead, at worst, disenfranchised;
* fraudulent votes were cast and counted;
* by personally delivering ballots to voters, campaign workers were able to accompany the absentee voter into his personal voting space.

FINDINGS—ELECTION CERTIFICATION PROCESS

The grand jury found that, although the Philadelphia City Commissioners and the State Senate did not violate criminal law in their certification and swearing in of candidate Stinson, the handling of these processes was rather ''unusual.'' Candidate Marks' absentee ballot challengers were not permitted to testify before the City Commissioners during their certification meeting. The challenges, said Commissioner Talmadge, should have been made by poll watchers at the polling place, as required by the Election Code.

The Commissioners apparently certified Stinson first, after hearing only one witness. In the meantime, Stinson had been instructed to go to Harrisburg the night before so that he would be readily available to be sworn in. In fact, Marks was in the process of appealing the Commissioners' ruling when Stinson was sworn in. The grand jury suggested that this chain of events might lead one to believe that everything was prearranged and that the various decisions made in the certification process were based on partisan politics.

FINDINGS—POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEES

The grand jury examined the activities of both the FDR Federation PAC and the Committee of 17 PAC. The FDR Federation PAC put out a brochure which was targeted to Jewish voters in the Second Senatorial District and which featured a number of Jewish candidates, including Bruce Marks. Witnesses involved with this PAC admitted that it was established specifically for the purpose of putting out the brochure. The PAC had two members, neither of whom played an active role in making policy decisions relating to the brochure. Decisions relating to the PAC and the brochure were made by Senate Republican campaign staff. The grand jury did not consider the FDR Federation PAC a true PAC as defined in the Election Code. Rather, its members agreed, the PAC served as a front for the Senate Republican Campaign Committee.

The Committee of 17 PAC was created by William Stinson. Not only did the PAC's officers fail to register the PAC and file campaign expense reports in accordance with law, but Stinson's wife forged a number of checks by signing the PAC treasurer's name. The grand jury compared this PAC to the FDR Federation PAC, in that no one associated with the PAC had any idea what its purpose was and that it was controlled by a third party; in this case William Stinson.

FINDINGS—CANDIDATES' ACTIVITIES AT THE POLLING PLACE

The grand jury learned that candidate Stinson was involved in a number of questionable activities on election day. Not only did he open and close voting machines for his mother, who is the judge of elections for the 33rd Ward, 13th Division, but he allegedly opened and read a number of absentee ballots. The grand jury asserted that these activities are prohibited by the Election Code and, thus, recommended that Stinson be charged with certain violations of the Code. He was subsequently tried and found not guilty.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LEGISLATIVE, EXECUTIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

The following is a list of recommendations for legislative, executive and/or administrative action made by the grand jury. The recommendations are based on the findings summarized above.

1. The Office of Attorney General should continue to investigate the allegations brought to light in the grand jury report.

2. The Election Code should be amended to specifically prohibit the payment of monetary incentives to individuals who solicit absentee ballot applications and/or distribute absentee ballots.

3. The elected office of City Commissioner of the City of Philadelphia should be abolished. The ''ministerial acts'' of registering voters, approving applications for absentee ballots and counting votes should be performed by civil service employees, not partisan politicians.

4. The Election Code specifically provides that any elector whose absentee ballot application is rejected by notified immediately of such action. To the extent that there is any ambiguity in the language of this section of the Code, the grand jury recommends that the Election Code be amended to require that this notification be made directly to the elector.

5. The Election Code should be amended to prohibit anyone other than employees of the City Commissioners' office from delivering absentee ballots to voters and delivering completed ballots to the Board of Elections.

6. The Election Code should be amended to establish a procedure whereby an absentee elector could designate an ''agent'' to deliver his or her absentee ballot application, obtain the absentee ballot from election officials, return it to the elector and/or return the completed ballot to election officials upon its completion.

7. The General Assembly should review existing classes of absentee voters and determine if additional classes of voters should be permitted to vote by absentee ballot.

8. The General Assembly should review the laws relating to challenges to absentee ballots and consider establishing a procedure for dealing with allegations of massive or organized absentee ballot fraud. Present law provides adequately for individual challenges but not for allegations of mass fraud.

9. The grand jury asserts that, under no circumstances should a candidate or members of his or her immediate family be involved in the opening/closing of polls or the canvassing of votes, and recommends that the General Assembly amend the Election Code to specifically criminalize such activities.

10. The General Assembly should amend the Election Code to ''better define'' the terms ''political committee'' and ''political action committee'' and to make it a crime to use one political committee or PAC to hide the activities of another political committee or PAC.

11. The General Assembly should be amended to more clearly provide for the duties and responsibilities of PAC officers, particularly the chairman and treasurer. In particular, the Election Code should identify the officer responsible for registering political committees and for filing all of the reports required of such committees.

12. The General Assembly should enact legislation prohibiting governmental officials or employees from requesting that their subordinates engage in political activity.

13. The four caucuses of the General Assembly which distribute WAM grants should take steps to prohibit the distribution of such monies by non-incumbent candidates for public office for political purposes.