

DISASTER MITIGATION AND COST
REDUCTION ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 707) to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to authorize a program for predisaster mitigation, to streamline the administration of disaster relief, to control the Federal costs of disaster assistance, and for other purposes:

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Chairman, H.R. 707, "The Disaster Mitigation and Cost Reduction Act of 1999" is a good bill for three reasons. First, this legislation will provide funding to a newly created pre-disaster mitigation program, which is something that has been needed for quite sometime. Second, this legislation will increase the authorization for post-mitigation funding by 33 percent. Third, H.R. 707 places the needs of victims ahead of bureaucratic red tape.

When a disaster occurs, non-profit organizations should be given the ability to move as fast as possible to help restore vital services to those in need. These organizations, what are known as "lifeline facilities," provide critical services such as: communications power, drinking water, water treatment, and emergency medical care to communities in need. In the wake of a disaster, it is imperative that these facilities receive the aid necessary to recover without delay, so they can help others that might be suffering. It does not make sense to impose any additional paperwork burden on these organizations in the hours or days after a disaster has occurred.

I am pleased that the legislation includes an amendment I offered in Committee to allow these critical care facilities to be put back into service as soon as possible in order to prevent additional loss of life or property.

Mr. Chairman, I am a strong supporter of cutting unnecessary federal spending. However, if even one life may be threatened because of delay, it is not worth it.

I commend my colleague and Subcommittee Chairwoman TILLIE FOWLER for her efforts.

H.R. 707 is a good bill and one that I ask every member to support.

CONGRATULATING WTOP RADIO
FOR THIRTY YEARS OF NEWS
COVERAGE**HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 1999

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to recognize and celebrate a Washington establishment. Today marks the thirtieth anniversary of WTOP radio's commitment to an all-news format here in the nation's capital. Since 1969, WTOP has been Washington's only all-news radio station, and a primary source of information on major news events.

For thirty years, WTOP has been a leader in the reporting of international, national, and

local news. WTOP has consistently provided comprehensive, up-to-the-minute news coverage. The frequent weather and traffic reports have kept Washington informed and on time. In addition to reporting the news, I am proud that WTOP has shown a true community commitment. The station dependably reports and produces public service announcements and school closings. In addition, WTOP has consistently helped to raise funds with various charity organizations.

Several national broadcasting figures started their careers at WTOP, including Connie Chung, Warner Wolf, Roger Mudd, and Sam Donaldson. During my service in Congress, I have had the pleasure to work with another Washington institution, WTOP's long-term Capitol Hill Correspondent Dave McConnell.

WTOP continues to serve more than just Washington. I am pleased that WTOP has provided my district in Montgomery County, Maryland with around-the-clock news coverage for these thirty years. WTOP's current AM and FM broadcast signals reach listeners from Baltimore to Richmond, and from the Chesapeake Bay to the Shenandoah Valley.

I extend my warmest congratulations to WTOP radio on this special anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO EDWARD PATZ

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 1999

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen of Indiana's First Congressional District, Mr. Edward Patz. On March 27, 1999, Mr. Patz, along with his friends and family, will celebrate his retirement from the Pipefitter's Local Union 597. This reception will take place at the Villa Cesare in Schererville on March 27, 1999.

Ed Patz has dedicated a substantial portion of his life to the betterment of union members and the community of Northwest Indiana, as well as the entire state.

Mr. Patz's distinguished career in the labor movement has made his community and nation a better place in which to work and live. For more than forty years, Mr. Patz has served as an important figure in Local #597. He has held several positions throughout his tenure, but none as important as Business Agent, a position from which he retired on January 1, 1999.

Mr. Patz began his involvement with Local Union 597 in 1956, through his Pipefitter Apprenticeship with the Robert Gordon Corporation. Ed Patz was the top apprentice in the state of Indiana and won the state apprenticeship contest on November 23, 1960. In the same year, Mr. Patz graduated from the apprenticeship program and attained the rank of a journeyman. In 1983, Mr. Patz was elected to the Pipefitter's Local Union 597 executive board, where he served a three-year term. Mr. Patz was elected to the position of Business Agent in June of 1986, where he remained until his retirement in January 1999. Ed Patz served three consecutive two-year terms as Secretary-Treasurer for the Northwest Indiana Building Trades Council, and was involved as a committee chairman and/or member of numerous committees associated with the Build-

ing Trades Council. Ed Patz has devoted his career toward the expansion of labor ideals and fair standards for all working people.

On this special day, I offer my heartfelt congratulations to Ed Patz. His large circle of family and friends can be proud of the contributions this prominent individual has made. His work in the labor movement provided union workers in Northwest Indiana opportunities they might not have otherwise had. Mr. Patz's leadership kept the region's labor force strong and helped keep America working. Those in the movement will surely miss Mr. Patz's dedication and sincerity. I sincerely wish Ed Patz a long, happy, and productive retirement.

TRIBUTE TO ELENA PEISER
HANRAHAN**HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 1999

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Elena Peiser Hanrahan on the celebration on her 70th birthday on Saturday, March 13, 1999.

Elena is a woman of many accomplishments. She has been a leader in her Bayside community for many years and she has volunteered countless hours for many different causes.

Elena has served her parish of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament as President of the Rosary Society. She has also been an active member of the National Council of Catholic Women. She served as President of the Brooklyn Diocesan branch of the NCCW, and was appointed executive director of the Northeast region. She currently is the NCCW representative to the United Nations.

Elena was the Director of Volunteers at the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary for 12 years. While there, she expanded the network to include handicapped volunteers as well as senior citizens and teens.

Currently, Elena is the community relations director for her local chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons. She still maintains her busy schedule at her church where she helps to produce the monthly newsletter, organizes a pre-school group called "Mommy and Me," and lectures regularly at Mass.

Elena has accomplished all of this while devoting herself to her family of 8 children, 4 stepchildren, and 10 grandchildren. She is an energetic and motivated citizen who shows no sign of slowing down as she enters her eighth decade.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in extending my best wishes and congratulations to Elena Peiser Hanrahan on the occasion of her 70th birthday, and wishing her many more years of active service to her family and to her community.

IN SUPPORT OF H. CON. RES. 22

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 1999

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I was very disturbed to read on the front page of The Washington Post on February 11, 1999 the headline