PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2004

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, due to my attendance at the World AIDS Conference in Bangkok Thailand, I regrettably missed a number of rollcall votes last week.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall Nos.: 370, 369, 366, 364, 363, 362, 361, 359, 358, 357, 356, 355, 354, 353, and 349. I would have voted "no" on rollcall Nos: 368, 367, 365, 360, 352, 351, 350, and 348.

CONGRATULATING VIVEK VISWANATHAN, WINNER OF THE U.S. INSTITUTE OF PEACE NATIONAL PEACE ESSAY CONTEST

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2004

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise proudly to inform the House that the winner of the U.S. Institute of Peace's (USIP) 2004 National Peace Essay Contest is Vivek Viswanathan, a junior at Herricks High School in New Hyde Park, New York. Out of more than 1,000 contestants from all 50 States, U.S. territories and even overseas schools, Vivek's composition, "Establishing Peaceful and Stable Postwar Societies Through Effective Rebuilding Strategy," was judged by USIP's distinguished Board of Directors to be the national first place essay.

Having met Vivek, and having seen what a mature and thoughtful young man he is, I know how proud his parents and family must be at this time. A well-rounded individual, interested in public and world affairs as well as sports and music, Vivek is a terrific example of what America's youth are capable of.

Vivek's essay is lucid, concise and compelling. In light of the ongoing post-conflict struggles in Southeast Europe, Afghanistan and Iraq, I believe his observations are worth the attention of the whole House and I will ask that Vivek's essay be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Unlike many putative experts, Vivek's understanding of post-conflict dynamics begins with the observation that "the discontinuation of armed conflict does not imply resolution of the underlying concerns that caused the conflict." Many American lives and millions of dollars might have been saved had our government acknowledged this basic premise months ago.

Vivek points out simple keys to success in helping states recover: The plan for reconstruction must be tailored to the specific situation at hand; the international community must supply an abundance of resources both economic and military; and the reconstruction process must have a national rather than international imprimatur to be accepted by the society being rebuilt. Sadly, it seems to me these very common-sense approaches have been lacking in our own recent stabilization efforts.

The good news, I hope, is that our struggles today will inform the leaders of tomorrow, the Vivek Viswanathans who will write and study and guide our country in the future. All of the contestants in USIP's contest are worthy not only of our praise, but our strong encouragement. Their enthusiasm, their concern and their passion for a better world are the best guarantee of our Nation's bright future.

Mr. Speaker, Vivek Viswanathan richly deserves our congratulations, and I know the whole House will join me in wishing him the very best for the future, a future of continued achievement and ever greater distinction and one, we may hope too, of peace.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 13, 2004

The House in Committee of the White House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4766), making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes:

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Chairman, yesterday I voted for the FY05 Agriculture Appropriations Bill because it provides American farmers with the support they need to continue to be the world's leading suppliers of food and fiber.

However, I am strongly opposed to the Flake Amendment that was accepted during floor consideration of that bill. While this amendment would not foreclose a tobacco buyout, it would make it more difficult to implement.

This House needs to recognize that the federal government is decimating our rural tobacco communities. A buyout is the only fair way to eliminate the Depression-era federal tobacco program and transition to a free market production system. The last thing we need is an amendment that complicates this transition and destroys American jobs.

Therefore, I will do everything in my power to get this wrong-headed amendment stripped from the bill before it is sent to the President's desk.

TRIBUTE TO DR. DAVID TAWEI LEE

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2004

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. David Tawei Lee. Dr. David Tawei Lee, Taiwan's premier diplomat in Europe, has been reassigned to replace Representative C.J. Chen as Taiwan's top representative in Washington. Dr. Lee will be in charge of Taiwan's Washington office and serve as Taiwan's de-facto ambassador in Washington.

Dr. Lee is uniquely qualified for this top post. He began his Foreign Service career in Taiwan's Washington office from 1982 to 1988. From 1993 to 1996 he was Director General of Taiwan's office in Boston. In 1996 he was Director-General of North American Affairs at Taiwan's foreign ministry. Subsequently he was Taiwan's spokesman from 1997 to 1998 and Taiwan's deputy foreign minister. For the last few years he was Taiwan's number one diplomat in Europe, responsible for liaisoning with all European countries.

Dr. Lee received his Ph.D. in political science from the University of Virginia and did research work at Harvard University. In 2000 Oxford University Press published his monumental study, The Making of the Taiwan Relations Act which offers an unprecedented look into the legislative history of the Taiwan Relations Act.

I am pleased that the Taiwan government has assigned Dr. Lee to represent Taiwan in Washington. In the months ahead, Dr. Lee will continue to strengthen the relations between Taiwan and Washington. I am sure that he will do an excellent job given his strong professional and academic credentials. Many of us look forward to welcoming him to Washington.

Like many of my colleagues, I have enjoyed working with the outstanding diplomats from Taiwan. I have also enjoyed working with Professor Nathan Mao. Having written a number of books and articles on Chinese subjects, he is a China expert. His knowledge as well as his communication skills are highly respected on the Hill.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in extending a warm welcome to Ambassador David Tawei Lee and his wife Madam Lin Chih and I invite my colleagues to do the same.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2004

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, July 19, 2004, because of the leave of absence, I was unable to vote on legislation. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall 391: To promote freedom and democracy in Vietnam, "yes."

Rollcall 392: Concerning the importance of the distribution of food to hungry or malnourished children around the world, "yes."

Rollcall 393: Northern Uganda Crisis Response Act, "yes."

PAYING TRIBUTE TO TOM DENNIS

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the selfless service of Tom Dennis of Grand Junction, Colorado. For more than seven years, Tom has shown incredible devotion to the betterment of his community by helping to feed the hungry. It is my privilege to recognize his service before this body of Congress and this nation today.