

lunches, Head Start, and research and development programs. Our roads and bridges are falling apart, water lines need repair, and our sewers are ruptured. While the American people are being neglected by our Government, I want to make sure that our Government will not send a dime to countries that are soft on the drug trade.

RISK ASSESSMENT AND COST-BENEFIT ACT OF 1995

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 1995

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1022) to provide regulatory reform and to focus national economic resources on the greatest risks to human health, safety, and the environment through scientifically objective and unbiased risk assessments and through the consideration of costs and benefits in major rules, and for other purposes:

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the motion to recommit. During the final minutes of consideration of H.R. 1022, Mr. WALKER amended the bill to apply all of the cost-benefit and other decisionmaking criteria to cleanups of our Nation's hazardous and radioactive waste site. Previously the bill applied only to major rulemakings above \$25 million and did not impact cleanups.

The Walker amendment which was offered without time for debate, will have profound adverse consequences for Superfund cleanups, for transferring property back to communities at closing military bases, and for the Department of Energy's program to dispose of high-level nuclear waste at Yucca Mountain and the WIPP facility in New Mexico.

This amendment was adopted with no hearings by the committees of jurisdiction. It will slow down cleanups by years while the new factors are grafted onto the existing program. For Members with closing military bases or property in urban cities awaiting redevelopment—you can forget reutilizing the property for economic redevelopment if the amendment is retained in the bill.

State laws which are now integrated into a process for deciding the appropriate level of cleanup will be preempted. Cleanups under the Walker amendment will be based strictly on a Federal cost/benefit analysis.

Litigation opportunities will abound. How do the new criteria work with the existing law? Do cleanups still have to be protective of human health and the environment? How do factors like cost-effectiveness, cost-benefit, and flexibility apply in the context of cleanup? All are rich opportunities for lawyers and litigation while no cleanup occurs.

Support this motion, allow cleanups to go forward, and let the committee's of jurisdiction reform the Superfund Program in a comprehensive manner.

CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL

HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 3, 1995

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, in 1912 Mrs. William Howard Taft accepted 3,000 cherry trees as a gift from Japan for the Nation's capital.

Since 1948 the National Conference of State Societies has sponsored the Annual Cherry Blossom Festival. Congress chartered the National Conference of State Societies in 1952 with Public Law 82-293. NCSS includes all of Washington's State and territorial societies. NCSS submits a financial report each year to the House Judiciary Committee. GAO has approved every audit for 42 years. President Abraham Lincoln was a member of the Illinois State Society, founded in 1854. Dozens of Members of Congress have served as presidents of State societies, including former Representative Bob Michel and Vice President AL GORE. Members and congressional wives currently chair the Michigan, Texas, Illinois, and Puerto Rico societies.

As a member of Georgia State Society, I am pleased to announce the NCSS will once again sponsor this year's festival events from April 2 through 9 in cooperation with National Park Service, the Downtown Jaycees, WRC-TV, and the Embassy of Japan. The festival celebrates our Nation's youth, represented by State and territorial cherry blossoms princesses, and celebrates our friendship with Japan.

On behalf of many colleagues, I would like to recognize the generous support NCSS receives from corporate sponsors such as American Family Life Assurance Company, headquartered in Columbus, GA. AFLAC and NCSS will be partners in a special cherry blossom donation for relief of earthquake victims in Kobe, Japan. Forty-three years after Congress chartered NCSS we can be proud this group still serves its original purpose with energy and distinction.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KAREN McCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 3, 1995

Ms. McCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, February 24 and for part of Thursday, February 23, I missed several rollcall votes during consideration of H.R. 450, the regulatory moratorium bill.

I was unavoidably absent due to an event in my district at the Cradles and Crayons Child Care Center. With pending consideration of legislation that would drastically alter school nutrition and child-care programs, I brought together children's advocates, parents, school administrators, child nutritionists, and nearly 100 people from my district directly involved with children to discuss the impact the legislation would have on the children on the fifth district.

However, had I been present, I would have voted "no" on Roll No. 174.

TRIBUTE TO PEGI MORTON YOUNG

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 3, 1995

Mrs. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Pegi Morton Young and her upcoming induction into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame.

After giving birth to a son with severe cerebral palsy in 1986, Pegi Morton Young cofounded the Bridge School, which is an innovative educational program for children with severe speech and physical impairments. She served as the unpaid director of the school for 6 years and remains active as president of the board of directors. Under Ms. Young's exceptional leadership, the Bridge School has been certified by the California State Department of Education as a non-public school and received community-wide praise for its outstanding program. Her commitment to the community is never-ending, and she is always the first to volunteer for a project.

Mr. Speaker, Pegi Morton Young is an outstanding citizen, and I commend her for her remarkable commitment and contributions to our community. I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting her as she is being inducted into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame.

IN HONOR OF MICHAEL J. O'REILLY, IRISH FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR, 1995

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 3, 1995

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Michael O'Reilly, Irish Firefighter of the Year, 1995, who will be honored at this year's St. Patrick's Day parade in Jersey City. Mr. O'Reilly is among the many Irish-American men and women who have helped make this country great.

The Irish have been immigrating to the United States since the early part of the 19th century. In that time, they have made many contributions to this country. They have distinguished themselves at every level of American society. As Irish-Americans have built their businesses, so have they contributed to the economic prosperity of this Nation. As they have grown politically, they have contributed to government on the local, State and national levels. Their devotion to family and friends demonstrates that much can be accomplished when people work together in harmony.

At home, Irish-Americans have worked hard to protect all of us from crime and fire. They have put their lives on the line to help ensure the safety of their fellow citizens. The long, proud tradition of Irish police officers and firemen scarcely needs to be mentioned. However, the Irish have not only been good neighbors at home, they have also put their lives on the line when they have fought to defend this Nation against our foes in every major conflict over the last 200 years.

Michael O'Reilly is part of this great Irish-American tradition. He has served the citizens of Jersey City as a firefighter since 1981. Through the years, he has bravely put his life