

to abuse this right: Pregnant women cross the border into the United States as illegals, give birth to a child and then claim the right to immigrate legally based on the citizenship of that child. Some 40 percent of children born in California are now born to parents who are illegal aliens. This is an outrageous abuse not only of our Constitution and legal system, but of the innocence of childhood as well. This end-run around the Constitution was not the intent of the Founding Fathers and we must find a way to stop it. The birth of these children not only circumvents our law, but results in huge medical costs for the hospital care of the mothers and their children. These costs are not covered by insurance and ultimately drive up the cost of insurance premiums for American citizens.

Education is another issue involving the children of illegal immigrants. When illegal aliens are enrolled in public schools, costs go up but tax revenue does not—illegal parents don't pay taxes. This results in overcrowding of schools and, ultimately, higher taxes for tax-paying citizens. In some border communities, as many as 40 percent of school enrollments come from illegal aliens.

Crossing our borders illegally is not the only crime committed by some illegal aliens. Thousands turn out to be criminals come to prey on American citizens. This not only increases fear and reduces safety, but runs up exorbitant costs when these criminals are caught, convicted and housed in U.S. prisons.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service has been hampered by incompetence, inefficiency, and indifference. The inability of this agency to do its job has become common knowledge, to the point that it is not longer a serious deterrent to attempts to illegally enter our country. The INS must be improved and we must do our part by ensuring that it is adequately staffed and funded and has the legal tools it needs to do its job.

Illegal immigrants may be the lawbreakers in this equation, but U.S. employers are often their accomplices, turning a blind eye and deaf ear to the issue. Employers have not taken seriously their responsibility to determine that would-be workers are, in fact, legal U.S. citizens, and to not only reject illegals but report them to the authorities. An immigration task force headed by Barbara Jordan recently concluded that a national identification card may be the only answer here. Such an idea is supported even by a broad spectrum of opinion, liberal to conservative.

These costs of illegal immigration add up very quickly. How can we balance the budget or make difficult cuts in worthy programs when this illegal activity is allowed to continue unchecked at such expense? As a member of the Congressional Task Force on Immigration Reform, I call on the House leadership to make this a priority of the House of 104th Congress. We must focus the spotlight on this national scandal and see that it is ended, not next year, next month or next week or even tomorrow but today. There can be no more excuses, no more delays.

THANK YOU, FRANK RECHSTEINER

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 12, 1995

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, people who generously and graciously give of themselves time and time again are most deserving of our gratitude. Mr. Frank Rechsteiner of Bay City, MI, is one such individual. He is being honored on May 31 by the Boys and Girls Clubs of Bay County, Inc., for his 25 years of service to this outstanding organization as an officer and a member of its board of directors with the awarding of its 1995 Helping Hand Award. This seventh annual Night to Remember will truly be a special one.

Frank was born in the Bay City area, in the town of Kawkawlin, which also gave us the 1993 recipient of this prestigious award, our former colleague and my predecessor, Bob Traxler. He graduated from Bay City Handy High School and continued to apply himself as a most capable individual, rising to his current position of president and CEO of Rechsteiner Trenching.

Frank's love for youth is very easy to understand. As the father of four children, MaryAnn, Michael, Matthew, and Marc, he knows personally how precious children are, and how vital careful upbringing is for their adult lives. He and his wife RoseMarie can be proud of their success as parents.

His devotion to his community includes his service on the 4-H board of directors, and his efforts as director of the Bay County Fair and Youth Exposition. As a member of the Bay City Lions Club, St. Maria Goretti Church, the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rites, and as a Noble of the Mystic Shrine Elf Khurafeh Temple, he has exemplified what it means to be involved for the betterment of his friends and neighbors.

Frank Rechsteiner is also known for supporting many organizations and individuals, including myself with his legendary pancake breakfasts. Frank doesn't say "no" when asked to help. He asks "how" and "when." That is one reason why he continues to serve today as the vice president of the Boys and Girls Club Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, we all know that our communities can be a little better, and problems easier to solve if we take the time to become involved. Some have the best of intentions, but never get involved. Frank Rechsteiner has the best of intentions and the best of involvement. He is a model to us all.

I urge you and all of our colleagues to join me in congratulating Frank Rechsteiner for his well-deserved Helping Hand Award from the Boys and Girls Clubs of Bay County.

TRIBUTE TO OUR LADY OF REDEMPTION CHURCH AND BISHOP NICHOLAS J. SAMRA

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 12, 1995

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, this coming weekend Our Lady of Redemption Church in my home State of Michigan, is celebrating its

75th anniversary. In addition, their interim pastor, Bishop Nicholas J. Samra, is celebrating his 25th anniversary as a priest.

From the very beginning, the founders of Our Lady of Redemption Church were committed to seeing the emotional, educational, and spiritual needs of the Melkite community fulfilled. These Christian immigrants from Syria and Lebanon had been attracted to the growing opportunity of Detroit since before the turn of the century. However, not until 1920 did these faithful Melkites receive their own priest. In that year Bishop Michael Gallagher of the Roman Catholic Church requested Melkite Patriarch Dimitri Cadi to send a priest for the 2000-member Melkite community within his diocese. Since that time the Melkite community has grown to become a vital part of the Detroit metropolitan area.

Originally in Detroit, the church moved to Warren to accommodate the changing demographics of the community. This weekend, in addition to celebrating the past, the members of Our Lady of Redemption Church are proudly looking toward the future. The success of this vibrant community has enabled them to begin the construction of a new church on the current grounds. The groundbreaking ceremony will take place this weekend along with the other festivities.

The Diamond Anniversary of the founding of the church is a proud milestone. Likewise, so is the Silver Anniversary of the ordination of Bishop Samra. As the community prepares to celebrate these historic anniversaries, I applaud the Melkite community for its rich contributions to the tapestry that makes up American life in Michigan. I commend the congregation for their work and faith and urge my colleagues to join with me in wishing congratulations to all the members of Our Lady of Redemption Church. May their next 75 years be a continued fruitful ministry.

TRIBUTE TO ALLEN C. MARTIN

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 12, 1995

Mr. PAYNE of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, on March 31, 1995, a distinguished public servant, Mr. Allen C. Martin, retired from his position as undersheriff in the Union County Sheriff's Office. Mr. Martin, a lifelong resident of Elizabeth, had a 37-year career in law enforcement which was distinguished by his decency, commitment to the principles of justice, and his concern for his community.

Mr. Martin began his law enforcement career in 1953 when he joined the Elizabeth Police Department, where he was assigned to the Elizabeth Port area. In 1962, Mr. Martin joined the New Jersey Department of Corrections as a corrections officer. In 1968 he transferred to the Union County Sheriff's Office where he served as a sheriff's officer assigned to the warrant squad.

In 1978, Ralph Froehlich, a man who has since distinguished himself with his service and commitment to the ideals of justice, was elected sheriff of Union County. Sheriff Froehlich appointed Mr. Martin as undersheriff and placed him in charge of the process unit and warrant squad. Undersheriff Martin computerized the office and increased its capacity.

Councilman Martin has four grown children, a loving wife, and he continued to be active in his church and several social and political organizations, including the N.A.A.C.P.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join with me in paying tribute to a fine American, a family man, and a devoted public servant, Mr. Allen C. Martin.

SAFE BOATING WEEK

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 12, 1995

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Minnetonka Power Squadron for its sponsorship of Safe Boating Week, which is May 20–27.

I also want to highly applaud the Minnetonka Power Squadron's continuing efforts to make boating a safe summertime activity.

Minnesota is known worldwide for our more than 10,000 lakes. Each year, millions of Minnesotans and people from all over the country flock to these lakes to fish, water ski, canoe, or just beat the heat.

As we enjoy these activities, however, we must never forget the importance of boating safety. Carelessness or recklessness in boating can cause property damage and, even worse, result in serious injury or death.

During Safe Boating Week, the Minnetonka Power Squadron conducts many classes and public awareness activities to promote the importance of boating safety.

This yearly reminder of safe, proper boating techniques, and simple precautions—such as carrying life preservers—should be observed by all boaters throughout the boating season.

Mr. Speaker, it is my hope that all boaters—in Minnesota and across the country—will take the time to review safe boating precautions and exercise these practices all season long. I thank and applaud the Minnetonka Power Squadron for showing us how to enjoy boating safely.

SALUTE TO REV. DR. WILLIAM T. KENNEDY, JR.

HON. THOMAS M. FOGLIETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 12, 1995

Mr. FOGLIETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rev. Dr. William T. Kennedy, Jr., the pastor of Grace United Methodist Church in Philadelphia, on the occasion of his retirement.

Reverend Kennedy is completing 25 years of service in the ministry, 10 years of which have been at the Grace United Methodist Church in West Oak Lane. Reverend Kennedy has also served at Wesley A.M.E. Zion in South Philadelphia and at Tioga United Methodist in North Philadelphia. Reverend Kennedy has also had a distinguished career in education, teaching Sociology, Theology, and Preaching at Eastern College, the Eastern Baptist Seminary, Lutheran Seminary, and at Drew University.

In addition to his work in the ministry and teaching, Reverend Kennedy has participated

in numerous civic activities. He has served as the chairman of the Philadelphia A.M.E. Zion Ministers Conference, the chairman of the Housing Committee at the Waterbury Development Corporation, and as chairman of the Waterbury Human Relations Commission. Reverend Kennedy has also participated in a multitude of other community service organizations too numerous to name here.

Reverend Kennedy has been a selfless contributor to his work and community throughout his lifetime. I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing Rev. William T. Kennedy, Jr. as he celebrates his retirement. I wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

DEVALUATION OF THE MEXICAN PESO

HON. MARK ADAM FOLEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 12, 1995

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to alleviate the dislocation of a specific sector of the Florida economy due to the devaluation of the peso. While this legislation is designed only to relieve the problems experienced by the winter tomato industry in south Florida, it is my belief that the underlying intent of the legislation should be considered to be applied to all areas of trade within the North American Free-Trade Agreement [NAFTA].

Let me outline some ideas about NAFTA preamble of the agreement—the governments of the United States, Canada, and Mexico resolved to: First, create an expanded and secure market for the goods and services produced in their territories; second, reduce distortions to trade; third, ensure a predictable commercial framework for business planning and investment; and fourth, promote sustainable development.

And finally, the second objective of NAFTA is to: "Promote conditions of fair competition in the free trade area."

When the Mexican peso underwent the devaluation beginning in December 1994—these objectives were tossed out the window. The administration's only response was a multi-billion-dollar bailout of the Mexican currency with American taxpayer dollars. However what the administration failed to address was the impact of this devaluation of the peso on our vitally important domestic industries. Nobody knows for certain about the overall effect, but let me outline the effect on an industry that is important to my home State of Florida.

Florida's tomato industry generates an estimated \$650 million in economic activity, and employs more than 2,000 workers. However, over the past 2 years, Mexico's share of the United States winter tomato market has nearly doubled. A devaluation of the Mexican currency has caused a massive export of Mexican tomatoes to the United States markets where a stronger, more stable currency is the real objective.

During the winter season, Florida produces about 95 percent of the fresh market tomatoes grown in the United States, with the only competition coming from Mexico. As the attached chart shows, the volume of Mexican tomato imports has dramatically increased over the past year due to the devaluation of the peso.

How has this affected the bottom line of tomato producers in Florida? They have seen the prices for their tomatoes decline from \$15 for a 25 pound carton to only \$5 from the period of January 30 to February 15 of this year. This steady decline in prices can clearly be attributable for the search for stable U.S. dollars.

Mr. Speaker, it is my belief that the recent peso devaluation undermines the bases for the establishment of tariffs and more than eclipses the tariffs negotiated to help transition the Florida tomato industry into a free trade agreement during the 10-year phase out period for tomatoes.

Therefore, today I am introducing legislation to link the tariff of tomatoes to the devaluation of the Mexican peso. This is a simple solution that would multiply the tariff on tomatoes by an equal percentage of the peso devaluation thereby establishing a fair and stable climate for trade between Mexico and the United States.

Furthermore, this legislation directs the Secretary of Agriculture to determine the nature and extent of harm done to the domestic industry and take actions to remedy such harm. Mr. Speaker, in 1990, there were 230 tomato growers in Florida, today, there are less than 100 with the threat of dumping from Mexico occurring every year.

Finally, this legislation takes steps to ensure that Mexican tomatoes entering the United States meet the same standards established by the United States Department of Agriculture for domestic tomatoes. The Department has been far too lax in allowing in Mexican tomatoes which do not meet the same United States standards.

While some may argue that this legislation will violate the NAFTA, I dispute this most vehemently. NAFTA was to establish clear and stable rules of trade between the United States and Mexico. This legislation would ensure that to be the case by reducing any distortions to trade due to the devaluation of the peso. I urge my colleagues to carefully examine the impact of the devaluation of the peso on all industries around the country and determine if this would be a workable solution for other sectors of the economy.

FLORIDA VEGETABLE REPORT FEDERAL-STATE MARKET NEWS USDA AND FDACS TOMATO SHIPMENTS 1993–94 AND 1994–95

[1,000 25-lb Cartons]

Shipments through	1994–95		Shipments through	1993–94	
	Florida	Mexico		Florida	Mexico
1/29/95	12,942	11,635	1/30/94	16,374	11,061
1/30/95	75	292	1/31/94	172	271
1/31/95	97	292	2/01/94	232	195
2/01/95	143	352	2/02/94	242	245
2/02/95	132	346	2/03/94	206	206
2/03/95	95	336	2/04/94	142	193
2/04/95	93	339	2/05/94	242	223
2/05/95	48	6	2/06/94	104	6
Total	13,625	13,598		17,714	12,400
2/06/95	84	423	2/07/94	162	220
2/07/95	164	384	2/08/94	326	258
2/08/95	154	420	2/09/94	282	308
2/09/95	94	448	2/10/94	234	268
2/10/95	134	525	2/11/94	218	273
2/11/95	108	609	2/12/94	284	268
2/12/95	49	8	2/13/94	129	2
Total	14,412	16,415		19,349	13,997
2/13/95	76	768	2/14/94	179	378
Total	14,488	17,183		19,528	14,375