

**Gift Ban:** I have cosponsored legislation to ban all gifts to Members, with limited exceptions for close personal friends or family. This bill would ban lobbyist contributions to a legal defense fund and prohibit lobbyists from making charitable contributions at a Member's behest. The bill also limits the ability of Members to profit from generous book-writing deals.

**Lobbying Reform:** Current registration requirements allow thousands of paid lobbyists to evade lobbying disclosure rules. Congress should act to close these loopholes and require lobbyists to disclose who pays them, whom they lobby, what issues they lobby for, and how much they are paid to influence the legislative process or the executive branch. In addition, Members of Congress and congressional committees should disclose information about legislation they introduce that was written by lobbyists.

**Ethics Panel:** I have introduced legislation to create an outside panel to investigate charges against Members. It is enormously difficult for the ethics committee to fairly investigate, prosecute, and judge ethics complaints against fellow Members. With less of an investigative burden, the committee could focus on important institutional ethics issues, including preventive education on ethics and guidelines on extremely harsh personal attacks.

**Congressional Salary:** I have consistently voted against congressional pay raises during my time in Congress, including the most recent increase in 1989. I support the proposals to freeze Members' salaries for several years. Current law provides for an automatic cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for Members unless Congress votes it down each year. While Congress has blocked these increases in recent years, these automatic COLAs should be abolished. At the very least, Congress should not receive an increase until the budget is balanced.

**Congressional Pensions:** I support significant reductions in congressional pension benefits. Possible reforms include increasing Members' personal contributions, capping total pension benefits, and means-testing benefits for former Members in lucrative jobs. Congress should conduct a comprehensive study to bring congressional benefits in line with benefits in the private sector.

**Franking:** Since 1992, with my strong support, the House has cut its mailing budget by more than 70%, banned mass mailings within 60 days of an election, and required all mass mailings to be approved by a bipartisan franking commission to ensure that they are substantive and non-partisan. Additional reforms are still needed. Congress should further restrict unsolicited mailings and ban "postal patron" mailings to all residents unless they advertise public meetings or solicit information. All large mailings should be disclosed for public scrutiny.

**Ongoing Reform Process:** I am introducing legislation to require regular congressional reforms—taking reform up every Congress rather than having one-shot, omnibus packages every twenty or thirty years. Members should have the opportunity to vote on significant reforms at least every two years. Reform should be a continual, ongoing process, and not wait until problems force belated change.

**Conclusion:** No issue is more important than the restoration of the confidence of Americans in their government. Americans will forgive government's honest failings if they believe that it cares about their needs and is trying to do a better job. Members of Congress have an obligation to earn the public's respect and trust. Congress has taken some important steps, but other, broader reforms are necessary if Congress is to be the truly representative body the peo-

ple deserve and the nation's founders intended.

URGING SUPPORT FOR THE UNITED STATES COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT OF 1995

**HON. NORMAN Y. MINETA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 1995

Mr. MINETA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce bipartisan legislation to celebrate key moments and presidents in American history, and by doing so help provide for the continued education of Americans about these subjects in the years ahead.

Commemorative coins have played a unique role in celebrating American history, as well as in providing a source of income for those nonprofit organizations which care for the legacies represented by these coins. This is part of the inspiration for the United States Commemorative Coin Act of 1995, which I am introducing today along with my colleagues Reps. LIVINGSTON of Louisiana, JOHNSON of Texas, SKELTON of Missouri, YATES of Illinois, HOYER of Maryland, STUPAK of Michigan, LIGHTFOOT of Iowa, and CUBIN of Wyoming.

Organizations supporting this effort include the Smithsonian Institution, the U.S. Mint, the U.S. Department of the Treasury, and the Citizens Commemorative Coin Advisory Committee. Our purpose is clear. In the effort to streamline important U.S. commemorative coin legislation, this bill includes a program of six commemorative coins to be minted during the next 2 years. To explain why this is in the national interest, some background history is in order.

In November of 1994, the Citizens Commemorative Coin Advisory Committee published its first annual report to Congress. The Committee, which is congressionally authorized, concluded that given the recent decline in commemorative coin sales there must be greater thought and limits to future coins. Offering numerous coin programs during the same period threatens the success of each individual program, does a disservice to those honored with commemorative coins, and increases the risk that the programs will operate at a loss to the Mint.

In its report to Congress, the Committee stated its full support of the 1993 Sense of the Congress Resolution, enacted as part of Public Law 103-186, which seeks to limit the number of commemorative coin programs in any 1 year. The legislation introduced today provides for the following coins to be minted: Bicentennial of U.S. Gold Coins (1995 minting), Harry S Truman and the United Nations (1996 issue), 150th Anniversary of the Smithsonian Institution (1996 issue), Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial (1997 issue), 125th Anniversary of Yellowstone National Park (1997 issue), and National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial (1997 issue).

Mr. Speaker, this is a well-balanced program with original sponsors to represent the subjects to be honored. In my added capacity as a Regent of the Smithsonian Institution, I had previously introduced H.R. 1079 with fellow House regents LIVINGSTON and JOHNSON to authorize the Smithsonian coin. But this omnibus bill offers several advantages to our

Nation, including a faster legislative process and the certainty of what our commemorative program will be in its entirety over a 2-year period.

I urge our colleagues to join in this effort and move this legislation quickly.

THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA SPORTS ARENA FINANCING ACT OF 1995

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 1995

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, at the request of the District of Columbia, I introduced H.R. 1509 on April 7, 1995, in order to begin the necessary process that will enable the District to begin work on a new sports arena. Since then, the District has developed a different funding mechanism and has requested that a revised bill be introduced. Mayor Barry and the City Council have assigned a very high priority to the new arena because of its revenue-generating potential at a time when the city is in acute financial distress. The Council has given its wholesale support to the project and the Mayor has expedited the project in the District to free it from procedures that might otherwise delay it. We will try to do the same here in the Congress.

I particularly appreciate that Representative TOM DAVIS, chairman of the subcommittee that must carry the legislation through the Congress, has agreed to become an original cosponsor and to expedite the bill.

H.R. —

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the "District of Columbia Sports Arena Financing Act of 1995".

**SEC. 2. PERMITTING DESIGNATED AUTHORITY TO BORROW FUNDS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF SPORTS ARENA.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—An agency or instrumentality may borrow funds for purposes of developing and constructing a sports arena in the District of Columbia if the agency or instrumentality is granted the authority to borrow funds for such purposes by the District of Columbia government.

(b) TREATMENT OF DEBT CREATED.—Any debt created pursuant to subsection (a) shall not—

(1) be considered general obligation debt of the District of Columbia for any purpose, including the limitation on the annual aggregate limit on debt of the District of Columbia under section 603(b) of the District of Columbia Self-Government and Governmental Reorganization Act (sec. 47-313(b), D.C. Code);

(2) constitute the lending of the public credit for private undertakings for purposes of section 602(a)(2) of such Act (sec. 1-233(a)(2), D.C. Code); or

(3) be a pledge of or involve the full faith and credit of the District of Columbia.

**SEC. 3. PERMITTING CERTAIN DISTRICT REVENUES TO BE PLEDGED AS SECURITY FOR BORROWING.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The District of Columbia (including the agency or instrumentality described in section 2(a)) may pledge as security for any borrowing undertaken pursuant to section 2(a) any revenues of the District of