

FLORIDA ENDORSES WORLD  
POPULATION AWARENESS WEEK

HON. KAREN L. THURMAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 17, 1995*

Mrs. THURMAN. Mr. Speaker, rampant population growth causes or exacerbates many of the world's most serious problems. Civil strife, hunger, infant mortality, and soil erosion all are affected by increased population. The solution to these problems lies in striking a more equitable balance between the world's population and resources.

The first step toward solving any problem is to generate awareness of the existence of the problem. This is precisely the reason behind the recognition of World Population Awareness Week, October 22–29. I would hope that every State will join with my State of Florida in recognizing World Population Awareness Week. Population awareness is important not only to poor countries of the world that feel the impact of explosive demographic growth more directly but also to all countries, because we all have a large stake in a peaceful, harmonious world.

For the benefit of my colleagues, the proclamation of Gov. Lawton Chiles follows these remarks.

PROCLAMATION—STATE OF FLORIDA

Whereas, world population is currently 5.7 billion and increasing by nearly 100 million per year, with virtually all of this growth added to the poorest countries and regions—those that can least afford to accommodate their current populations, much less such massive infusions of human numbers; and

Whereas, the annual increment to world population is projected to exceed 86 million through the year 2015, with three billion people—the equivalent of the entire world population as recently as 1960—reaching their reproductive years within the next generation; and

Whereas, the environmental and economic impacts of this level of growth will almost certainly prevent inhabitants of poorer countries from improving their quality of life and, at the same time, have deleterious repercussions for the standard of living in more affluent regions; and

Whereas, the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo, Egypt crafted a 20-year Program of Action for achieving a more equitable balance between the world's population, environment and resources that was duly approved by 180 nations, including the United States;

Now, Therefore, I, Lawton Chiles, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby proclaim October 22–29, 1995, as "World Population Awareness Week" in Florida and urge all residents to support the purpose and the spirit of the Cairo Program of Action, and call upon all governments and private organizations to do their utmost to implement that document, particularly the goals and objectives therein aimed at providing universal access to family planning formation, education and services, as well as the elimination of poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, social disintegration and gender discrimination that have been reinforced by the 1995 United Nations International Conference on Social Development, endorsed by 118 world leaders in 1995, and by the 1995 United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women.

ANTIPERSONNEL LASER WEAPONS

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 17, 1995*

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, on August 16, 1995, I wrote to Secretary of State concerning U.S. policy on the production or use of anti-personnel laser weapons. I expressed to the Secretary my support for a worldwide ban on such weapons.

On October 13, 1995, I received a reply from the Department of State on progress on the laser weapons issue at the Review Conference of the 1980 Convention on Conventional Weapons.

I commend the correspondence to the attention of my colleagues. The text of the correspondence follows:

COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL  
RELATIONS,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, August 16, 1995.

Hon. WARREN CHRISTOPHER,  
Secretary of State,

Department of State, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SECRETARY: I write concerning the upcoming conference in September, 1995 to review the 1980 Conventional Weapons Convention.

I want to urge you to support proposals at that conference to ban the production or use of anti-personnel laser weapons, since virtually all laser weapons systems have the potential to cause permanent damage of eyesight.

Lasers have valuable and legitimate uses in battle as range finders and target designators, but I believe it should be the policy of the United States to oppose development or production of anti-personnel laser weapons that can blind.

It is in the interest of the United States to work together with other technologically-advanced countries to stop the development or production of such laser weapons, to prevent their proliferation and possible future use against U.S. forces.

The upcoming September conference is a unique opportunity to achieve an outcome that is in the interest of the United States and the entire international community. Therefore, I urge you to support actively efforts to seek an international prohibition on the use of lasers for the purpose of blinding as a method of warfare.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

LEE H. HAMILTON,  
Ranking Democratic Member.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE,  
Washington, DC, October 13, 1995.

Hon. LEE HAMILTON,  
House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. HAMILTON: Thank you for your letter of August 16, seeking Secretary Christopher's support for an international prohibition on the use of blinding laser weapons in warfare.

I am pleased to inform you that the states parties to the 1980 Convention on Conventional Weapons (CCW) have reached consensus at the Review Conference on a new laser weapons protocol, Protocol IV. Not only does it include U.S. language prohibiting the use of "laser weapons specifically designed to cause permanent blindness of unenhanced vision," but it includes a complete transfer ban on such weapons and a requirement that parties take all feasible precautions in the use of all laser systems to avoid the inci-

dence of such blindness. We support these provisions as well.

As you noted in your letter, lasers have valuable military uses. The Administration wants to protect the legitimate uses of lasers. Our position at the Review Conference therefore balances the concerns raised regarding such weapons with U.S. military requirements. Article 4 of the new laser protocol reflects the U.S. position: "Blinding as an incidental or collateral effect of the legitimate employment of laser systems, including laser systems used against optical instruments, is not covered by this Protocol."

Thank you for your interest in this important issue. We look forward to a favorable resolution of the blinding laser issue at the conclusion of the CCW Review Conference.

Sincerely,

WENDY R. SHERMAN,  
Assistant Secretary,  
Legislative Affairs.

REMEMBERING BOB BILLINGS

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 17, 1995*

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert into the RECORD remarks I made on the passing of a truly great American, Bob Billings.

Bob was an inspiration to me. President Reagan was also inspired by Bob's tireless efforts to promote family values and Christian ethics in Washington.

We often met with Bob and discussed Christian education, moral issues, and the promotion of legislation to protect the rights of Christians to guide their children to believe in God.

Bob's conviction and enthusiasm inspired us all as we sought to hold America to traditional values. Bob will be greatly missed. Those of us who love this country and want to see it survive will experience a large void at the passing of Bob Billings.

Our prayers are with the entire Billings family at this time.

SADDLEBACK MOUNTAIN  
PROPERTY SETTLEMENT

HON. J.D. HAYWORTH

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 17, 1995*

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the city of Scottsdale and the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian community in Arizona, I am introducing legislation which would approve an agreement for the settlement of litigation over property located in Scottsdale, known as the Saddleback Mountain property. Saddleback Mountain is an important conservation resource, and this agreement will preserve it for future generations. The property is a 701-acre tract of land which was owned by the failed Sun State Savings and Loan and is now held by the Resolution Trust Corporation [RTC]. The agreement approved by this legislation provides for the sale by the RTC of part of the Saddleback Mountain property to the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian community, to be held in trust by the United States as part of