

of public housing residents, and has sought to strengthen the Community Reinvestment Act.

As chair of the Congressional Black Caucus he heightened substantially the CBC's influence on major policy issues of concern, both domestically and internationally. In his efforts to ensure security, growth, and development for the African-American community, Kweisi has exercised his adeptness to build coalitions. His resourcefulness and ability to make allies is only one of his tremendous leadership qualities.

He leaves a legacy of leadership, commitment, and responsibility that must be carried on and preserved in this institution. He serves as an example to our youth and others who aspire greatness.

In fondly remembering his first days in Congress and his dear colleague advising Members of the correct pronunciation of his name, today we all know who he is and how to pronounce his name, and now we all cheer for his future and success.

Go forward my friend and do good work.

INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION OF MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE ACT OF 1995

SPEECH OF

HON. STEPHEN E. BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 1996

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to the Flow Control Act of 1996, House Resolution 349, as it is currently drafted. While I support the provisions of this resolution, I do not in any way support this effort to address flow control without addressing the issue of interstate transportation of municipal solid waste. It is my feeling that doing so, the House of Representatives is again failing to provide a national framework of controls and incentives for states and localities to implement responsible, solid waste management programs.

Failure of this House to include comprehensive waste control legislation, including granting States the authority to control the flow of waste as well as to limit the amount of out-of-State waste which can be dumped within their borders, reveals that the real intent is not to encourage responsible waste management. Instead, taking this action sends the message that this House is more concerned with the financial resources which are being depleted by the lack of flow control authority, than it is with the limited, natural resources being depleted by the lack of State authority to regulate the amount of municipal waste which can be imported and dumped.

The Supreme Court has acknowledged that Congress has sole jurisdiction over the regulation of interstate commerce. Over the past 5 years, the Congress has acknowledged it should exercise this authority with regard to the issue of municipal waste.

In the 104th Congress, the Senate passed comprehensive legislation which addresses the issue of municipal waste management affecting all 50 states. Early last year, I introduced H.R. 1288, the Interstate Transportation of Municipal Waste Act, which is identical to the bill introduced by Senator COATS. Senator COATS and I did so recognizing the necessity

of developing a comprehensive national waste management policy, one which addresses the severe problems facing our own State of Indiana.

I represent a district in Northcentral Indiana which received two-thirds, or around 1 million tons, of the amount of out-of-State waste dumped in Indiana last year. House Resolution 349 does not address this problem of out-of-State waste which faces many States such as Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Virginia. These States are forced to deal with the millions of tons of waste generated by other States and localities, and dumped within their borders. I am greatly concerned over the lack of progress this House has made on this issue. I believe this House is ignoring its responsibility and addressing only the financial problems of a limited number of states.

I believe that Congress' lack of action penalizes States like Indiana, which have not only reduced their production of solid waste, but have devised a responsible management plan to dispose of it. I am here in support of a national system which will enable and encourage each State and locality to develop and implement responsible, solid waste management plans. The only way to do so is to address the issue of municipal solid waste management, which includes both the problems of flow control and interstate waste.

Mr. Chairman, I urge this House to continue the work of the past 5 years, to follow the work of the Senate, and to consider the work of Chairman OXLEY and his colleagues on the Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade and Hazardous Material, who have approved H.R. 2323, a comprehensive waste management reform bill. That is why I must stand here today and call on my colleagues to oppose this resolution.

OPPOSES FRENCH GOVERNMENT NUCLEAR TESTING PROGRAM

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 1996

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I wish to voice my strong disapproval with the French Government's nuclear testing program. I join with many of my colleagues—and most the world community—in protesting the detonation of six French nuclear weapons in the South Pacific. That is why I am joining the congressional boycott of the French President's visit to Congress.

French President Jacques Chirac will appear February 1 before a joint session of Congress. I can not of good conscience attend. France and the United States have a proud relationship of cooperation extending back to the beginning of our Nation. However, France's conduct in the South Pacific can not be justified. Exploding nuclear weapons in pursuit of further weapons development contradicts the view of 175 nations—including France and the United States—who signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. It also needlessly endangers the environment and people of the region.

Just last week, France acknowledged the presence of radioactive iodine in the lagoon near the Mururoa test site. Despite their declaration that the tests blast are perfectly safe,

we have no way to know if this is true. Since the French Government refuses to allow independent assessment of the environmental impact of these nuclear explosions, I must remain suspicious. Are the people who live in the South Pacific threatened by nuclear poison in their region of the world? What will the ecological and human health threats 10, 20, or a 100 years from now?

Although the Clinton administration has officially denounced the French nuclear testing program, its actions hardly match its rhetoric. I urge the White House to put real pressure on the Chirac government. Let us not forget our responsibility in this matter: the United States has long supported the French nuclear weapons program.

I must take special exception to the U.S. decision to allow French military aircraft to fly to the South Pacific test site the use of U.S. airspace. How can the world take seriously a United States criticism of the French nuclear weapons testing program when the United States refuse to take even the most basic action to resist the French action. The only assurance Congress can get from the U.S. State Department is that no nuclear materials are being transported "according to the best of our knowledge." This hardly represents strong scrutiny by our Government.

Now that the French Government has ended its series of nuclear detonations, I call on President Chirac to firmly commit his nation to end all future test. At the very least, France should declare the permanent closing of the South Pacific test site. France should also clean up the nuclear mess if left behind and allow independent monitoring the area. It is the least they can do for the South Pacific peoples who will have to live with the legacy of decades of nuclear weapons testing.

The rationale for nuclear testing ran out years ago. If the world governments won't stop this cold war relic now, then when? I look forward to the recognition by France that their ongoing nuclear weapons testing program was simply wrong. Perhaps we can now move toward a international ban on all future such explosive tests. The United States must continue to press for a comprehensive ban on all such future nuclear test explosions. And France must become an active player in these negotiations.

It is my hope that a change in the behavior of France's Government will allow me to participate in Mr. Chirac's next visit to Congress. I also look forward to a successful conclusion to the ongoing comprehensive nuclear talks so the world can take an important step toward nuclear disarmament.

HONORING WALTER HAGAN

HON. BILL RICHARDSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 1996

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, few of us have the opportunity, desire, or even the ability to spend 50 years in any one profession. Those of us who do accomplish this amazing feat deserve special commendation.

I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Walter Hagan of Dallas, TX, as he celebrates his 50th year in the airline business. Mr. Hagan's half-century tenure is particularly