

"There is always something new out of Africa." As we approach the 21st century, that statement is still extremely valid. There are many scholars who track this phenomenon, but there is no one more renowned than Dr. John Henrik Clarke.

Dr. Clarke, a master teacher, always avails himself of opportunities to share his knowledge. This weekend he will visit Newark, NJ to participate in a lecture series sponsored by the New Jersey Black Issues Convention.

In 1991, during the Congressional Black Caucus Legislative Conference, I had the honor and pleasure of convening a workshop in which Dr. Clarke participated. His presentation was simply spellbinding. Everyone sensed and appreciated his labor of love—teaching. I am sure my fellow New Jerseyans will come away from this lecture equally stimulated and satisfied.

John Henrik Clarke was born on January 1, 1915, in Union Springs, AL. He grew up in Georgia and moved to New York City in 1933 where he wanted to pursue a career as writer. After 4 years of military service, he attended New York University and majored in history and world literature. From his early years Professor Clarke studied the history of the world and the history of African people in particular.

As a writer of fiction he has published over 50 short stories. His articles and conference papers on African and African-American history, politics, and culture have been published in leading journals throughout the world. He has written or edited over 21 books.

Dr. Clarke has taught African history for 20 years and presently in professor emeritus of African world history in the Department of Africana and Puerto Rican Studies at Hunter College in New York City, and a former distinguished visiting professor of African history at the Africana Studies and Research Center at Cornell University. He has received over a dozen citations for excellence in teaching and has received several honorary doctor of letters degrees. He was accepted into the Alpha Beta Upsilon Chapter of the honor society of historians, Phi Alpha Theta.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage anyone who has an opportunity to learn from Dr. Clarke to seize it.

TRIBUTE TO BARBARA AUSTIN
LUCAS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 1996

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, in the borough of Brooklyn there is an institution called Bridge Street A.M.E. Church which serves as a beacon of light and a source of spiritual sustenance for its parishioners. Assistant Pastor Barbara Austin Lucas contributes greatly to the positive activities and energies that flow from the church. Reverend Barbara has impeccable academic credentials. She graduated with honors from Tufts University, received masters degrees from Boston University and Colgate Rochester Divinity School, and earned her Ed.D at Union Theological Seminary and Teachers College, Columbia University.

Reverend Barbara has traveled throughout the Western Hemisphere as well as the continent of Africa in her quest to seek knowledge

and spread goodwill. An organizer by nature, Barbara is responsible for the Sisters Sharing Convocation in Buffalo, a program that focused on African-American women addressing solutions to critical problems that beset the black community. She is also a member of the Missionary Society, the Brooklyn Historical Society, the NAACP, and Church Women United.

A devoted mother and wife, Reverend Lucas has three children, Kemba, Hakim, and Kareem. She also works with her husband, the Reverend Frederick A. Lucas, Jr., pastor of Bridge Street A.M.E. Church. Reverend Lucas has been the recipient of numerous awards, including the Outstanding Young Women of America, the Sister Sharing Award, and the Church Woman of the Year Award. I am pleased to recognize her unique achievements and contributions.

ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY
OF PARK SLOPE CIVIC COUNCIL

HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 1996

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to call attention to a distinguished organization, the Park Slope Civic Council, serving the community of Park Slope, Brooklyn, for several generations, and hopefully many more to come. The tireless work and courageous leadership exhibited by the members of the council have helped make Park Slope the caring and close-knit community it is today. As a longtime resident of Park Slope, I have witnessed the positive contributions made by this group and feel grateful for their commitment to improving the quality of life for my neighbors and their families. I wish them continued success and prosperity as they unite in celebration of their 100th anniversary.

It is not too often that a small group of civic-minded leaders join hands in furthering the needs and interests of their community. Yet, this group is exemplary for making Park Slope a special place to live and grow up. For a number of years the residents of Park Slope have benefitted from a wide range of civic projects championed by the council. I am honored to have such a courageous and innovative organization working to unify the people of my neighborhood and district. I hope that the Park Slope Civic Council will continue serving its community for another 100 years as they are acknowledged for their remarkable leadership.

HONORING JOURNALIST CRISTINA
SARALEGUI

HON. ROBERT MENEDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 1996

Mr. MENEDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Cristina Saralegui, a distinguished journalist and talk show host committed to making a difference in her community. Cristina will be honored during afternoon ceremonies on March 22 by the communities of Union City, West New York, and Jersey City.

Cristina's contributions to her family, profession and community are numerous. Born in

Havana, Cuba, Cristina was destined to become a renowned public personality from an early age. She was raised in the image of her grandfather, Don Francisco Saralegui, known as "The Paper Czar" throughout Latin America for his prolific magazine publishing endeavors. In 1960 at the age of 12, Cristina left Cuba for Florida, where she later attended the University of Miami, majoring in mass communications and writing.

Cristina's involvements in the field of journalism are diverse. While still in college, she participated in an internship with Vanidades, the No. 1 ranked women's magazine in Latin America. In 1979, Cristina's exceptional ability as a journalist led to her being named editor-in-chief of Cosmopolitan En Espanol magazine, a position she held for 10 years. In 1989, Cristina launched her own television program "El Show de Cristina," which has become a No. 1 rated talk show viewed by over 100 million people worldwide in 18 countries. Cristina also utilizes her talents by hosting a daily show on the radio called "Cristina Opina". Rounding out her successful mastery of the media is a monthly magazine Cristina La Revista through which Cristina endeavors to improve the lives of Hispanic-Americans and assists them in becoming more productive members of their communities.

Cristina's legendary commitment to Hispanic-Americans has been long recognized. She was recognized by the Council on Women's issues as a "No-Nonsense American Woman" for being a premier role model. The stipend received from this award was donated to the American Foundation for AIDS Research, where Cristina serves as a member of the National Council. Other citations received by our esteemed honoree include being named a "Legendary Woman of Miami," and a "Corporate Leader Award" from the National Network of Hispanic Women.

It is an honor to have such an outstanding and considerate individual visit my district. Cristina Saralegui exemplifies the tremendously positive influence one person can have on the lives of many. I am certain my colleagues will rise with me and honor this remarkable woman.

UNFUNDED MANDATES AND CBO
ESTIMATES

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 1996

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 is intended to assist Congress in its consideration of proposed legislation by providing the development of information about the nature and size of mandates in proposed legislation. The Congressional Budget Office is directed by that statute to help in developing such information.

I am concerned that the Congressional Budget Office estimate received by the International Relations Committee on the conference report on H.R. 1561, the America Overseas Interest Act, was not helpful in meeting the purpose of the law.

My concerns are detailed in the exchange of letters that follows.

U.S. CONGRESS
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
Washington, DC, March 12, 1996.

Hon. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN,
Chairman, Committee on International Relations, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: In response to the request of your staff, the Congressional Budget Office has reviewed the Conference Report to H.R. 1561, the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1996 and 1997, as reported on March 8, 1996. The bill would consolidate various foreign affairs agencies, authorize appropriations for the Department of State and related agencies, and address other matters in foreign relations.

The bill would impose no intergovernmental or private sector mandates as defined by Public Law 104-4 and would have no direct budgetary impacts on state, local, or tribal governments.

We are preparing a separate federal cost estimate for later transmittal.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contacts are Pepper Santahicia, for effects on state, local, and tribal governments; and Eric Labs, for impacts on the private sector.

Sincerely,

JAMES L. BLUM,
(For June E. O'Neill, Director).

U.S. CONGRESS, COMMITTEE
ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS,
Washington, DC, March 20, 1996.

June E. O'Neill,

Director, Congressional Budget Office,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MS. O'NEILL: I write to register my concern with your letter of March 12, in which you provided a partial Congressional Budget Office estimate on the conference report on H.R. 1561, the Foreign Relations Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 1996 and 1997. I also would like a copy of your complete cost estimate on the conference report.

I have two major concerns with your March 12 letter.

First, you addressed the letter only to the "unfunded mandates" estimate required by P.L. 104-4 (the "Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995"). It would be more useful to Members to have the cost estimate for an entire bill or conference report submitted at once. Separating CBO estimates on different issues in the same bill and supplying such estimates at different times leaves CBO vulnerable to question about its procedures, and diminishes its helpfulness for Members.

Second, I also question the "unfunded mandates" estimate you provided. You state that H.R. 1561 "would impose no intergovernmental or private sector mandates as defined by Public Law 104-4 and would have no direct budgetary impacts on state, local, or tribal governments." In my view, this assertion is not supportable when applied to several specific provisions in the conference report. These four provisions are:

Section 1104: Requires the President to certify: (1) that either Thailand, Hong Kong, Malaysia, and Indonesia keep refugee camps open or that Vietnam will expand its refugee interview programs; and (2) that any Vietnamese, Cambodians, or Laotians who cite the Lautenberg provisions (automatically allowing in refugees from certain countries) will be allowed into the United States without having to provide any additional proof.

Section 1253: Prohibits use of Department of State funding (migration and refugee assistance) for the involuntary return of any person claiming a well founded fear of persecution.

Section 1255: Adds to the definition of a refugee anyone who claims he or she is a victim of or has good reason to believe he or she

may become the victim of coercive population control practices.

Section 1256: Prohibits State Department funds (migration and refugee assistance) to be used to "effect the involuntary return" of any person to a country where there are substantial grounds to believe they are in danger of being subjected to torture.

These four provisions have the potential of greatly expanding the states' burden of caring for refugees. Today, states pay on average at least \$3,000-4,000 to support one refugee for a year. These financial responsibilities apply to every new refugee introduced into a state's population. Even if states are able to step out of some existing responsibilities, they cannot do so immediately. Changing regulations, adopting new laws, negotiating with the federal government, takes time. And when the groups of people who qualify for state benefits is changed, litigation will almost always result.

It seems to me that all four provisions create a strong likelihood of increased costs to states that could easily reach the \$50 million threshold set by the Unfunded Mandates Act of 1985. If states may be subject to increased costs as a result of these provisions, the provisions will have a "direct budgetary impact." And if the federal government is imposing new financial burdens for states, it is creating unfunded mandates.

Given the difficulty in analyzing precisely costs in areas with a large number of unknown factors, such as how many individuals might enter the United States if these provisions were to become law, I do not think it possible to conclude in absolute terms that these four provisions do not impose direct budgetary impacts on state governments and do not create unfunded mandates.

The recently enacted Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 is intended specifically "to assist Congress in its consideration of proposed legislation" by "providing for the development of information about the nature and size of mandates in proposed legislation." I did not find your March 12 letter helpful in meeting the purpose of this law.

Sincerely,

LEE H. HAMILTON,
Ranking Democratic Member.

INDIAN AMERICANS DOMINATE U.S. HOTEL INDUSTRY

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 1996

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I call to the attention of my colleagues an article entitled "Hospitality is Their Business, Indian-Americans' Rooms-to-Riches Success Story." This article appeared in the business section of today's New York Times.

Mr. Speaker, as this article correctly points out, Indian Americans are now the dominant force in the domestic hotel industry. Today, Indian Americans own 12,000 hotel and motel properties. This translates into 46 percent of America's economy hotels and 26 percent of the United States total lodging. This is truly an amazing and impressive accomplishment.

Mr. Speaker, Congress is in the midst of a long and protracted debate on how to reform our Nation's immigration laws. Many of my colleagues have endorsed the idea of sharply reducing the number of legal immigrants to this country as part of this overhaul of our immigration policies. I believe that any Member who reads this article will have to seriously

question and ultimately reject that proposal. We are a nation of immigrants. Immigrants have built this country into the economic powerhouse of the Western World. Indian Americans are one of our country's most visible success stories. As Joel Kotkin, a senior fellow at Pepperdine University, stated in the article, "These Indians are modern Horatio Algers."

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to closely review this important article. I know my colleagues join me in saluting the Indian American community on its speculator success in the hotel industry. We need more entrepreneurs such as the Indian Americans described in this article who are willing to become self-sufficient, productive, and profitable members of our society.

[From the New York Times, Mar. 21, 1996]

HOSPITALITY IS THEIR BUSINESS
(By Edwin McDowell)

In the quarter-century that people of Indian ancestry have been emigrating to the United States in sizable numbers, they have carved out a steadily bigger share of the nation's hotel industry. Starting with no-name motels, they soon graduated to Days Inn, Econo Lodge, Rodeway and other economy franchises.

Today, with more than 12,000 properties, Indian-Americans own 46 percent of America's economy hotels and 26 percent of the nation's total 45,000 lodgings.

"We used to be isolated in a few states in the South," said Ravi Patel, whose Charlotte, N.C., company, Sree Inc., owns 20 hotels. "Now we're almost everywhere."

They are also moving up. A new generation is buying properties like Sheratons, Radissons and Hiltons, adding an upscale chapter to an immigrant success story.

The first wave of motel ownership was propelled by the Indian-Americans' strong family ties, close-knit communities and a willingness to invest years of sweat. This latest wave represents a break with tradition and a willingness to tackle bigger, more complex challenges. But the original community still provides the backing, as today's entrepreneurs pool the resources of extended families and borrow from fellow Indian-Americans, for whom a handshake is often sufficient collateral.

"These Indians are modern Horatio Algers," said Joel Kotkin, a senior fellow at the Pepperdine University Institute for Public Policy in Malibu, Calif. "They're willing to start in marginal and sometimes risky areas that native-born Americans are not interested in going into, and working incredibly long hours."

Ramesh Gokal, who bought a 26-room hotel in North Carolina soon after coming to the United States in 1976, is now president of Knights Inn, a chain of about 180 franchised economy hotels. Children of the industry pioneers are establishing their own companies and using newly acquired knowledge of capital markets to build budding empires.

"My parents' generation did business by having x dollars, buying y goods and selling for z," said Karim Alibhai, the kinetic 32-year-old president and chief executive of Gencom American Hospitality, a family-owned hotel group in Houston. "At the roadside hotels they ran, the management philosophy was get guests in and out, and have the maids clean the rooms."

But these days, "you have to know administration, management and how to use Wall Street to invest and to grow," added Mr. Alibhai, who was born in Kenya and majored in economics at Rice University. (Many Indian-American hotelkeepers came to America by way of Africa, where their families had lived for several generations in many cases.)