

higher education, a career, or community service. Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating Adam Summers, Anthony Paul Pagorek, and Joseph Rybarczyk for their commendable efforts in society. It takes a great deal of tenacity and devotion to achieve such an illustrious ranking. These three young men have established promising futures, while at the same time improving the quality of life in Indiana's First Congressional District.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ATLANTIC  
ELECTRIC

HON. FRANK A. LOBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 18, 1996*

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, Atlantic Electric, a utility serving residents in the Second District, sponsors an outstanding program to assist teenagers in Cumberland County. For its role in this effort—called the Peer Group Connection program—Atlantic Electric was honored with a Special Distinction Award for Educational Partnerships from the Edison Electric Institute [EEI]. Ms. Fern Mills, manager of community relations for Atlantic Electric, was recently in Washington to receive the award from EEI president Thomas R. Kuhn.

The Peer Group Connection program is a partnership effort between Atlantic Electric, Cumberland Regional High School, and community members of Cumberland County. It seeks to address difficulties in transition between elementary and secondary school through effective use of peer influence. The program seeks to build safe, responsive communities in which ethnic, racial, and cultural differences are respected.

In making the presentation during a Capitol Hill ceremony, Mr. Kuhn said:

Recognizing that helping teenagers helps society, Atlantic Electric joined other leading Cumberland County, New Jersey businesses in starting the Peer Group Connection, as a support group for high school students coping with the pressures of growing up. Results show higher grades, fewer absences, and a more positive attitude toward school.

To Atlantic Electric and others involved in the educational partnerships, I say congratulations—keep up the good work.

TREASURY, POSTAL SERVICE, AND  
GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. CARDISS COLLINS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 17, 1996*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3756) making appropriations for the Treasury Department, the U.S. Postal Service, the Executive Office of the President, and certain independent agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes:

Mrs. COLLINS of Illinois. Mr. Chairman, here we go again, get ready, the Gingrich-

Army Republicans had so much fun last year—shutting down the Government, causing insecurity for the American people, and downright scaring the hard-working citizens in every district about the ability of the Federal Government to keep operating—that the Gingrich-Army Republicans are trying to do it all over again. The one-sided, Republican partisan drafted Federal appropriations bill is being shoved down the throats of the President and the American people. What will happen? Well, if the bill is unacceptable to the President in his analysis of what is best for the American people, he will veto it.

Mr. Speaker, it isn't rocket science to understand what is unacceptable about this bill. In H.R. 3756, Treasury-Postal Appropriations for Fiscal Year 1997 the Gingrich Republicans provide \$23.3 billion for the Treasury Department, U.S. Postal Service, and various offices of the Executive Office of the President. Sure, that's a lot of money, a billion here and a billion there, pretty soon begins to look like real money—but this funding level is \$1.3 billion less than recommended by the administration, you know, the one that is responsible to the American people for the delivery of services and programs under the jurisdiction of those Federal agencies.

One provision in this legislation is similar to a bill I have introduced to provide a permanent solution to the issue of FBI background checks. However, the Gingrich provision doesn't go far enough. Recent hearings held by the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, of which I am the ranking minority member, revealed a longstanding, apparently open system with a lack of adequate protections over these kinds of sensitive records. We also learned that when Presidents leave office, they take these files with them to their Presidential libraries, where the protections are just as weak, or nonexistent.

The Clinton White House and the FBI, to their credit, have made some significant internal changes to make sure this type of mistake cannot happen again. We need to ensure, however, that future White Houses continue to provide adequate protection to these records. That is why I introduced the Background Security Records Act of 1996, H.R. 3785, to guarantee that these most sensitive and private records are protected, to tighten restrictions on how these records are obtained and treated, and to make accountable high-ranking FBI and White House officials for their protection.

My Background Security Records Act of 1996 would do four things: First, it would send back to the FBI the security records of individuals no longer at the White House; second, it would require the written permission of the individual whose record is requested from the FBI before the FBI could send it to the White House; third, the bill would extend the criminal sanctions of the Privacy Act to the misuse of these records; and fourth, it would require the Secret Service to develop accurate lists of individuals in need of access to the White House. My bill goes even farther than the provisions in this appropriations bill that don't really accomplish what is needed, the appropriations' bill provision just gives token attention to the issue.

In slashing the President's request for appropriations, the Gingrich Republicans attempt to dictate Federal administrative reorganization. For instance, by a number of tactics, the

Republicans are trying to give the Department of Defense the responsibility of modernizing the Internal Revenue Services' computer and information technology. Come on. Are the Republicans' special interest defense contractors so out of work that we have to turn over the IRS to them? Mr. Speaker, I object.

If that's not enough, those same Republican extremists who want to shrink Federal Government as long as it only cuts education, cuts social services, and cuts housing or other programs designed to provide a bridge to self-sufficiency for the middle- and low-income Americans, not the Gingrich Republicans' special interest fat-cats—now that same party wants to tie the purse strings of this administration on things that they, Gingrich Republicans, can't tie up on a straight up-and-down vote during a public debate. I think it's particularly funny that the Gingrich Republicans apparently think the American people are so dumb that they can't see this as a "tax reform" effort to further erode the ability of the IRS to administer and enforce tax collection.

Of all the appropriations bills, perhaps this one should be the most responsive to the request of a President, any President. But this Gingrich Republican bill denies President Clinton the ability to manage his own house, the Executive Office of the President. Does it make sense for any opposition party to be able to dictate to a sitting President how that President runs his or her own Government house? That is a strictly partisan attack on a Democratic Presidency.

Come on, even the Gingrich-Army Republicans can't believe the American people are that dumb. I urge my colleagues to reject this appropriations bill.

PERUVIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. WILLIAM J. MARTINI

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 18, 1996*

Mr. MARTINI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the 175th anniversary of Peruvian independence. On July 28, 1821, Don Jose de San Martin led rebel troops in freeing Peru from Spanish rule. The victories of this Peruvian national hero in many ways laid the foundation for independence for all of South America.

I am proud to say that in the Eighth Congressional District of New Jersey, this great day is going to be remembered with all the fanfare it deserves. From July 20 to 28, we will celebrate Peruvian Heritage Days. The days will consist of numerous activities to enhance public awareness of Peruvian history and cultural heritage, and the crowning event will be the parade on Sunday, the 28th. I know from personal experience that it will be both interesting and entertaining.

Mr. Speaker, on this most auspicious occasion, I feel compelled to point out that this day should be a special one not only for Peruvians and Peruvian-Americans, but for freedom-loving people everywhere. Neither the United States nor Peru would be the proud countries we know today if people who came before us had not stood up for their rights, and demanded national sovereignty and independence.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, allow me to add that regardless of whether you favor the melting