

CONGRATULATING THE CITY OF
ELGIN, IL

HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 21, 1997

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today for two reasons. First, to congratulate Money Magazine on its 25th anniversary, but also to commend the magazine for adopting the city of Elgin, IL and beginning a year-long project to enhance the personal-finance knowledge of the city's residents.

Mr. Speaker, the city of Elgin, in my 14th District of Illinois, was chosen for this project because it is truly a microcosm of our Nation. A city with an industrial heritage that has seen a surge in suburban growth in recent years, Elgin is also home to several of the Nation's largest firms which have experienced strong export sales growth.

In the coming year, Money Magazine, in conjunction with Elgin Community College, will provide free financial seminars for Elgin residents. In addition, a dozen Elgin families will be highlighted in a series of articles dealing with family financial concerns and innovative ways of addressing those concerns. The project kicks off on January 29, 1997 with a ceremony at Elgin High School, to be attended by former President and Mrs. George Bush.

It is significant to note that while Money Magazine could have celebrated its 25th anniversary quietly, and without fanfare, the publisher and editors of the magazine have instead decided to mark this occasion by assisting this community and its residents with their financial planning. This action deserves our commendation and our thanks.

Mr. Speaker, I also congratulate the city of Elgin, its citizens, and civic and business leaders, on its selection for this worthy project. Elgin is an outstanding community, and one I am proud to represent in this House.

LOOKING TO THE WESTERN
HEMISPHERE

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 21, 1997

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, today, I officially became the chairman of the Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere of the International Relations Committee. I am looking forward to working with my colleagues, both Republican and Democrat, on the subcommittee as we begin a very exciting and challenging period in which we will review our relations with our partners in the hemisphere.

The end of the cold war and the movement toward democracy and economic reform in Russia and central Europe held great promise that the world would enter a period free of superpower rivalry, a lowering of the nuclear threat, and an all-around feeling that peace and political stability would prevail throughout the world.

Despite the expectations that evolutionary changes in Europe would serve as a model for a greater global commitment to open societies, the promotion of democracy, and the development of strong economies and mar-

kets, the international environment remains as complex and as dangerous as ever.

United States foreign policy continues to face complex and ever changing challenges from Bosnia to China, from terrorism to the stability of the global economy, from Palestine to Northern Ireland.

But while U.S. policymakers within the administration and the Congress struggle to resolve the most difficult and dangerous of these issues, we are ignoring one of the most dramatic success stories of the post-cold war period. And the irony of it all, is that this transition is taking place right in our own backyard of the Western Hemisphere.

The evolution of the nations of Latin America to democratic governments, market economies, and open societies has been perhaps the most overlooked event since the fall of the Berlin wall.

Despite the direct impact events in Latin America have on the United States in terms of trade, narcotics trafficking, and immigration, U.S. policymakers, including the Congress, have often, although not entirely, turned an uninterested eye south of our borders and have failed to take advantage of the enormous potential for peace, political stability, and economic opportunity these changes are bringing about.

The resolution of the crisis in Haiti, the recent peaceful elections in Nicaragua, and the signing of the peace accords in Guatemala, ending 35 years of confrontation, clearly argues that the transition to peace, cooperation, and the democratization of the entire hemisphere, although sometimes rocky, is in its final stages. The economic miracles taking place in Argentina, Brazil, and Chile are a credit to the genuine commitment of those governments and peoples to take their place as regional role models.

Unfortunately, these stories are going largely unnoticed unappreciated in the United States.

Latin America is a success story which the United States should be celebrating by pursuing a more engaged foreign policy designed to support the peace process, promote continued political stability, renew old friendships, cultivate new ones, and lend strong support to regional economic development and free market economies.

Like many, though, I fear that the momentum achieved thus far by the nations of Latin America could be stalled unless the United States reenergizes its efforts to provide strong leadership throughout the region. Confronting no major conflict or problem in the region, U.S. policy seems to lack clarity or coherence which could lead to a further decline in our ability to influence events in the region.

There can be no doubt that economic growth in the region is the key to strengthening democracy, ensuring long-term political stability, and reducing poverty. The 1994 Summit of the Americas held great promise for the critical areas of trade and economic development. The momentum created there must be renewed and sustained.

But leadership requires a better knowledge and understanding of the nations of the hemisphere and the great strides made thus far. U.S. policy must look forward and should be based, not on what has happened in the past, but what can happen in the future if we work with the nations of the hemisphere in a cooperative partnership to strengthen democracy,

implement economic development policies, encourage free trade, and to make a renewed commitment to civilian authority, human rights, and social justice.

This is not to say that all is well in the hemisphere. Lingered problems associated with drugs, illegal immigration political corruption, arms competition, and the strength of the peso, temper the euphoria of the success story. Beyond those endemic problems, which must be addressed primarily by the nations of Latin America themselves, nagging questions arise regarding the future of the new democracies, NAFTA, fast track, and Cuba. Also, to a lesser, but nevertheless important degree to many in the United States are issues regarding intellectual property, patent, and copyright violations, the environment and labor standards which must be addressed.

The foreign policy agenda for the Western Hemisphere is large and laden with both promise and problems. And while these issues may not seem as important as issues facing this Nation elsewhere, I believe we would be making a tremendous mistake if we did not take advantage of the positive signs and events emerging from the hemisphere by actively engaging our neighbors to the south in a renewed partnership for peace, stability, and economic development.

This will be the thrust of the subcommittee's work and I look forward to getting on with the job.

TRIBUTE TO KENT SWANSON, JR.

HON. ROBERT L. EHRLICH, JR.

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 21, 1997

Mr. EHRLICH. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to a heroic young man whose life ended tragically and prematurely, Kent Swanson, Jr.

Kent Swanson was raised in Phoenix, MD, where his parents still live, and graduated in 1989 from Dulaney High School in Cockeysville. He attended Lewis and Clark College in Portland, OR, receiving a degree in biology in 1995.

Kent had a lifelong love of the outdoors. Upon graduating from high school, Kent travelled to the Andes, where he climbed his first 20,000 foot mountain. His experiences in the majestic Pacific Northwest, however, defined the course of his life.

While in college, Kent joined the Portland Mountain Rescue Squad. This enabled him to use his love of the mountains to help others. He used his skills, his good judgement, and his intimate knowledge of the often treacherous mountain terrain to rescue skiers and climbers lost or stranded in the mountains.

On one occasion, Kent and his team braved freezing rain to reach three stranded colleagues. Such acts of heroism became routine in Kent's life. While a member of the ski patrol of Mammoth Mountain, a popular resort near Los Angeles that handles 15,000 skiers a day, he personally treated or rescued an estimated 3,000 injured skiers during one season.

Kent was known for his expertise as a mountain climber as well as for his bravery. He spent his summers working at the American Alpine Institute in California, where he developed a guide and instruction manual for the