know now that the bomb that exploded at the Olympics consisted of three lengths of pipe packed with smokeless powder, an explosive substance that is completely unregulated by Federal law. This in itself is a scandal, and of course the perpetrators of the act are still at large.

We are not even safe in our homes. In upstate New York a 10-year-old girl opened a Christmas package left in her family mailbox. Instead of a gift, she was greeted with an explosion that burned over 27 percent of her body.

The bomb turned out to be a ''message'' from a disgruntled employee of her family. I would like to send a return message to domestic terrorists and I need your support. Unfortunately it often takes tragedies such as these to spur this House to action. I was shocked to discover 2 years ago that under current law possession of explosives is not a Federal felony. For years we said that certain people, for example a felon, should not be allowed to carry guns, and yet they can drive around in their car or keep at home 100 pounds of gun powder that is not even a crime and that nobody accounts for.

Bombers commit murder by remote control. They do not have to be in the same room as their victims or even in the same city. They never have to see the death and destruction that they cause, and their ruthless method of murder often kills random bystanders. It is no wonder that Americans are uneasy on the streets and their homes, in airplanes.

We need to act now against these particularly cold-blooded killers. We must not wait for another attention-grabbing attack. In recent years we have seen mail bomb attacks on a judge and civil rights activists in the South and a string of bombings at abortion clinics. How much more evidence do we need of the pressing need for stronger laws?

And do not think it cannot happen in your district. Two days ago, this week, a potentially deadly pipe bomb was discovered a few blocks away from my Rochester office and was just outside the headquarters of Eastman Kodak. Fortunately, no one was hurt. But perhaps next time we will not be so lucky.

We have got to keep explosive materials out of the wrong hands. My bill would require Federal permits for all explosive purchases and would mandate a nationwide background check for these permits. It also increases penalties for those who violate Federal explosives laws. Obtaining this permit is not a burdensome process. To receive a permit you only need to provide your name and address to the vendor and indicate the purpose of the purchase. This information would be invaluable to law enforcement officials who are investigating terrorism.

Such a process would allow us to screen out people who should not have access to these destructive materials, such as felons, fugitives and others who show a tendency to take out whatever things they might have on their fellow Americans.

Moreover, my bill contains special provisions that requires every person who purchases more than 5 pounds of black or smokeless powder, and 5 pounds is enough for gun enthusiasts to have to make their own bullets that would make them hold a Federal permit. Criminal bombings have doubled since 1988. Think about that. This is almost becoming retribution of choice in the United States. They have doubled since 1988. One-third of those incidents involved black powder or smokeless powder.

Of course this is the part of the bill that will send our friends in the National Rifle Association through the roof. But under the current law, any purchase of less than 50 pounds of black powder is totally exempt from any kind of oversight. This is crazy. Fifty pounds of explosive powder can unleash substantial destruction. As every law enforcement official knows, bomb makers love that stuff. It is cheap, it is available, it is unregulated, and a little bit goes a long way. In fact it only takes a pound and a half to make a pipe bomb.

I would also like to point out these regulations will not harm legitimate sportsmen. As I pointed out a while ago, 5 pounds of black powder will reload 750 shotgun shells.

Each year, millions of pounds of explosives are purchased without any permit being required or no regulation, and we in Congress have a duty, I believe, and an obligation to protect the lives and property from bombings.

Last session, we passed my legislation to help protect innocent people from bombs made of plastic explosives such as the bomb used on PanAm flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland. It is time we got tougher on terrorists here at home. Passing H.R. 85 will give law enforcement officials another tool in tracking down these homegrown terrorists. It must be done. Nobody knows who is going to be next.

FAREWELL TO REPRESENTATIVE FRANK TEJEDA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Puerto Rico [Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to join with so many of our colleagues in honoring Frank Tejeda for all his years of dedication and service to this Congress, to our people, to our Nation. As we honor the memory of the great person that Frank Tejeda was, I cannot help but look back and think about moments that I had the opportunity to share with him.

Frank and I began service in the House 4 years ago. And as a matter of fact, Frank was one of the first Members that I met when I arrived in Washington. I will always remember the time when I was invited to participate in a hearing at the Committee on Veterans' Affairs where issues related to Hispanic veterans were being discussed and particularly Puerto Rico.

During my opening statement I proceeded to narrate the glorious and distinguished history of Puerto Rico's 65th Infantry Regiment. Specifically, I made reference to the time when the 65th Infantry Regiment was asked to cover the withdrawal of thousands of marines during the Korean war. Frank, who was a member of the committee and a marine himself, recognized the valorous service of Puerto Rican veterans in all the major wars and conflicts that this Nation has been involved in during this century but then took exception to my comment on the withdrawal of the marines and he said, with a smile on his face, ''but you know, CARLOS, we, the Marines, never were withdraw from battle.''

As you see, I believe that this statement characterizes Frank's life. He never withdrew from anything. He never gave up. His life was an incredible story of triumph over adversity. He lived a life of hard work, hard work in his district, hard work in the military, hard work here in Congress, hard work wherever he went.

But most of all Frank understood the value of freedom and honesty and he was well aware of the dramatic cost of keeping our cherished and hard-fought liberties.

Frank, I was privileged to have you as my colleague, but most of all I was privileged to have you as my friend. We will miss you but your memory will be with all of us forever and an example for us to follow.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. PITTS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. PITTS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

HELPING THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia [Ms. NORTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor first and foremost to thank Members for the way they responded to the President's remarks concerning the District yesterday. The President spoke, in his State of the Union speech, warmly of his own intention to assist the District, and partly in his words, ''to renew this great capital city so that Washington, DC, is a great place to live, and is once again the proud face America shows to the world.''

I appreciate as well the concerned words of Speaker GINGRICH, who devoted part of his own opening speech, upon being sworn in, to the District. The Speaker has in fact been very helpful to the District during the 104th Congress.