

With best regards,
Sincerely,

LEE H. HAMILTON,
Ranking Democratic Member.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, DC, January 30, 1997.

DEAR MR. HAMILTON: Thank your for your letter of November 20 in which you commented on the U.S.-Indonesia relationship.

We appreciate your thoughtful comments. We share your concerns, both about human rights violations in Indonesia and the continued tension in East Timor, and the problems these issues could pose as we work to preserve Congressional support for a relationship that has contributed so much to the stability of the Southeast Asia region and has proven so beneficial to U.S. security and economic interests.

Indonesia is entering a protracted period of political transition that will determine the country's future in the post-Soeharto period. The widespread arrests of political dissidents that occurred in the aftermath of the July 27 riots in Jakarta are particularly troubling. Although it is the Indonesian people and government who ultimately will shape their nation's future, we believe we can and should help encourage the development of civil society in Indonesia. To this end, we have worked to promote a greater respect for human rights and democratic principles of governance.

We concur with your view that we must ensure as well that the Indonesian Government understands that sound U.S.-Indonesia relations depend on improvements in the human rights situation and progress toward resolution of the East Timor question. Secretary Albright, Acting Assistant Secretary Kartman, and Ambassador Roy have and will continue to underscore at every opportunity that our bilateral relationship is important but cannot reach its full potential until Indonesia's human rights performance improves.

With regard to East Timor, we strongly support the ongoing UN-sponsored talks between Indonesia and Portugal and the introductory discussions. We have consistently urged the Indonesian Government to implement tension reduction measures and will continue to do so, drawing on the excellent advice included in your letter. These initiatives as well as a growing realization that the world is watching seem to have had a positive effect in East Timor, as the Indonesian authorities recently have maintained considerable restraint in the face of large demonstrations in support of Bishop Belo.

Recently, the Indonesian military has taken steps to try to correct its human rights shortcomings. Abuses by troops, for example, have been followed up by courts martial and in some cases by prison sentences. Furthermore, in some instances the military honor boards have been headed by graduates of U.S. International Military Education and Training (IMET) programs. These same officers also have helped incorporate human rights materials in Indonesian military training courses and, in the province Irian Jaya, have been responsible for issuing new rules of engagement manuals that include human rights principles.

Your suggestion that we should continue to pay special attention to informing Members of Congress of the benefits the U.S. derives from our relationship with Indonesia is well-taken. In this regard, we have and will continue to press the Indonesian government to authorize Congressional travel to East Timor so that members can assess first-hand the human rights situation and economic development there.

Although the Administration is strongly committed to advancing the cause of human

rights in Indonesia, we must also craft our initiatives in a balanced manner that preserves and promotes the cooperative relationship from which both countries derive important benefits. To accomplish this and to enhance our limited influence on internal developments in Indonesia, we will have to approach the Indonesian first as a friend—a nation which recognizes their contributions and can, therefore, speak frankly about what further progress is needed to allow the relationship to reach its full potential.

We greatly value your counsel on the challenges we face and look forward to working with you to pursue a course that advances the full range of interests that characterize our bilateral relationship with Indonesia.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

BARBARA LARKIN,
Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs.

TRIBUTE TO WILLA J. HAWKINS

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 1997

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, it is truly an honor to rise before you today to pay tribute to an individual who exemplifies the very best in civic pride and responsibility, and who has shown how gifted a woman she is by her actions and spirit. On Saturday, February 15, 1997, a luncheon will be held to honor Willa Junior Hawkins for her distinguished service to the citizens of Flint, MI, in her roles as educator, administrator, activist, and community leader.

Willa Hawkins, a resident of Flint, MI since the age of 6, graduated from Northern High School, and received degrees from Michigan State University and Eastern Michigan University in the field of education. She took those degrees and put them to use as a teacher in the Flint Public School system for 15 years, and as a principal for 17 years.

In addition to helping cultivate our most precious natural resource, our Nation's children, Mrs. Hawkins developed an interest in politics, beginning in the 1960's with her participation in the civil rights march in Washington, DC. She continued her involvement by working on various campaigns, including serving as campaign manager for 12 years for County Commissioner Sylvester Broome. Upon Commissioner Broome's death in 1991, Ms. Hawkins made the transition from campaigner to candidate as she was appointed commissioner and was later elected to the position, holding it until December 21, 1996.

Because of Ms. Hawkins' stellar reputation as a writer, planner, and organizer, she has served on numerous Genesee County boards including Community Mental Health, Community Action Agency, and Parks and Recreation Commission. She has also served with the Valley Area Agency on Aging, New Paths, Food Bank of Eastern Michigan, and Transition House board of directors.

Mr. Speaker, it is with a tremendous amount of pride that I appear before you today to recognize my colleague, my constituent, and my friend, Willa J. Hawkins. In the time I have known her, she has been a person who cannot help but make a lasting impact on everyone she comes in contact with. I ask you, Mr.

Speaker, and my fellow members of the 105th Congress to join me in recognizing Mrs. Willa J. Hawkins.

TRIBUTE TO LOCKWOOD GREENE

HON. BOB INGLIS

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 1997

Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Lockwood Greene, one of the country's largest design-build consulting firms and a fine company located in Spartanburg, SC, in my district. On February 19, Lockwood Greene will donate more than 5,000 original engineering drawings to the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History so they may be preserved for all to enjoy.

The works date to the mid-1800's and provide a historical look at how America evolved as new technologies were invented. Included in the collection are drawings, depicting how power was transmitted through a factory before the introduction of electricity; drawings recording the emergence of water as a form of power; and designs for radio stations that were built shortly after World War II. Lockwood Greene has a long history of contributions to engineering, beginning with its founding in New England in 1832 and continuing today with its headquarters in South Carolina.

I commend Lockwood Greene and its chairman, Donald R. Luger, for their tremendous gift to the Smithsonian and for preserving these wonderful designs, which lend so much insight into the history of both American engineering and our cultural development. I am pleased to represent the employees of Lockwood Greene.

TRIBUTE TO JO KAPLAN

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 1997

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Jo Kaplan, who has devoted her legal career to representing the poor, the underprivileged, and children. As both a member of the Los Angeles County Public Defenders Office and a lawyer in private practice, Jo has dedicated herself to helping those members of society who are desperately in need of help. Through her tireless efforts and selfless ways, she has made life better for so many.

Jo's husband, Larry Feldman, is a close friend of mine, and I know how proud he is of his wife's accomplishments. There is so much to tell. For example, since graduating from UCLA Law School in 1968, Jo has been a leader in getting more humane treatment for juvenile prisoners. She began by working in the public defenders office and later with then-Los Angeles County Supervisor Jim Hayes on ways to improve the lot of children held in detention. This included advocating a right to treatment for incarcerated youths, meaning the State had an obligation to try to give them ameliorative treatment while they were in custody.

After leaving the public defenders office, Jo established her own practice, quickly becoming a recognized expert in juvenile law in Los Angeles County. During this period she continued to work for better conditions for juveniles housed in mental hospitals, camps, group homes, and local county-run detention facilities. In recent years, Jo has broadened her area of advocacy to include reasons why children turn to crime. She concluded that almost all her clients started out as abandoned, abused, and/or neglected children. She has represented both parents and children in Los Angeles County Dependency Court with the idea that the parties need help, not punishment.

Since 1990, Jo has been head of one of the law firms of Dependency Court Legal Services. Currently, her firm represents over 10,000 children, ranging from infants born with drugs in their system to legally orphaned 19-year-olds who have been raised in our foster care system.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in saluting Jo Kaplan, whose dedication to the rights and well-being of children is an inspiration to us all.

IN HONOR OF WARD CONNERLY

HON. CHARLES T. CANADY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 1997

Mr. CANADY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in commendation of Ward Connerly for his singular contributions to the fight for equal opportunity for all Americans. Ward Connerly has fought tirelessly to bring an end to the discriminatory practice of giving preferential treatment to individuals based on race or gender. His accomplishments in the cause of equality are a tribute to his strong will and character.

As a member of the University of California Board of Regents, Ward Connerly successfully led the fight to end the university's practice of using race as a factor in admissions. His example should be a beacon to national academic institutions, illuminating a brighter path toward policies which truly reflect the American understanding of equal opportunity.

Ward Connerly continued his struggle against preferences as the leader of the grassroots movement that brought the California civil rights initiative to fruition. Through his efforts, more than 1 million signatures were obtained in support of CCR1, which was placed on the November ballot. After a vicious campaign of distortions waged by its opponents, the initiative received 54 percent of the vote: The people of California let it be known that they wanted an end to the unjust policy of race and gender preferences in hiring, contracting, and college admissions.

Today, Ward Connerly is chairman of the American Civil Rights Institute. This new civil rights organization is dedicated to educating the American public about race and gender preferences. Through the institute, Mr. Connerly will again be at the forefront of this debate, carrying the banner of equal opportunity throughout the Nation and to Washington. I know of few other people who can shoulder such a burden with the exemplary combination of determination and grace that Mr. Connerly has demonstrated.

In a world where rhetoric rarely matches action, Ward Connerly practices what he preaches. As a young man, he did not stand outside the ring, waiting for an invitation to enter. He climbed in, fighting difficult odds. Through hard work and sacrifice, he paid his way through college. Then, he would not let the color of his skin hold him back; now, he refuses to let it win him favor.

Ward Connerly fights for the belief in fairness that lies at the heart of the American spirit. What lessons are we teaching our children if, on the one hand we say discrimination is wrong, yet on the other, practice the very discrimination we denounce? Our actions must reflect our principles. We simply cannot build a colorblind society by requiring that people be color-coded. The examples we set for our children should reflect the principles of equal treatment that this great Nation embodies.

Ward Connerly is living proof of what we can accomplish through hard work and devotion to principle. When others have shied away, he has stood his ground. When others have quit, he has persevered. And where others have failed, he has succeeded. Today, despite the worst kind of personal attacks, Ward Connerly maintains his dignity and courage. It is people like Ward Connerly, who are determined to unite America—not fragment it along racial, ethnic, or gender lines—that will lead this Nation into the 21st century. Indeed, Ward Connerly is worthy of our praise and admiration.

LEGISLATION TO BAN THE USE OF
PANTOPAQUE IN MYELOGRAMS

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 1997

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, arachnoiditis easily qualifies as a disease of the nineties. It has been described as "the greatest enigma in the field of spinal surgery" with few surgeons ever having seen it, and even fewer knowing how to treat it. In simple terms, arachnoiditis means "inflammation of the arachnoid," and is characterized by chronic inflammation and thickening of the arachnoid matter, the middle of the three membranes that cover and protect the brain and spinal cord.

Arachnoiditis may develop up to several years after an episode of meningitis or sub-arachnoid hemorrhage—bleeding beneath the arachnoid. It may be a feature in diseases and disorders such as syphilis or it may result from trauma during a diagnostic procedure known as a myelogram. According to the Arachnoiditis Information and Support Network, more than 300,000 myelograms are performed in this country every year. Of the 12 million Americans who suffer from arachnoiditis, the cases resulting from myelograms could have been avoided.

In a myelogram, a radiopaque dye is injected into the spinal subarachnoid space. After the x-ray examination, as much of the oil as possible is withdrawn; however, a small amount is left behind and is slowly absorbed. Studies have implicated the iodized oil contrast medium, Pantopaque, in arachnoiditis. Water-soluble dyes such as Amipaque, Omipaque, and Isovue were once thought to

be safer for use, however, recent evidence proves they also cause arachnoiditis. In fact, Harry Feffer, Professor of Orthopedic Surgery at George Washington University states that patients who have had two or more myelograms stand a 50-percent chance of developing arachnoiditis. Numerous studies on animals have confirmed these findings.

Symptoms of arachnoiditis include chronic severe pain and a burning sensation which may attack the back, groin, leg, knee, or foot and can result in loss of movement to almost total disability. Other symptoms include bladder, bowel, thyroid, and sexual dysfunction, as well as headaches, epileptic seizures, blindness, and progressive spastic paralysis affecting the legs and arms.

In the past few years, arachnoiditis sufferers and Members of Congress alike have repeatedly asked the FDA to recall the use of Pantopaque. The FDA has clearly not reviewed the safety of Pantopaque—oil-based—as well as waterbased dyes, in spite of medical evidence. As a result, I have introduced a bill to ban myelograms involving the use of Pantopaque, Amipaque, Omipaque, or Isovue.

This legislation is not a new idea. Since 1990, Britain and Sweden have banned the use of Pantopaque in myelograms. In fact, a class action suit is still pending in Britain consisting of 25,000 people, 1,500 of which are nurses. In 1986, Kodak, the company that makes Pantopaque, voluntarily stopped distributing the drug in the United States, due to public pressure. Pantopaque has a 5-year shelf life. The last batch was due to expire April 1, 1991. However, the use of Pantopaque has continued, with the Arachnoiditis Information and Support Network having documented a case in September 1993 and hospitals stocking the dye as recently as April 1994. Undocumented cases of use continue.

A large number of medical professionals do not know how to diagnose myelogram-related arachnoiditis, and when they do, they cannot treat it. Medical journals and case studies from around the world document the connection between radiopaque dyes and arachnoiditis. Despite this documentation, the medical profession as a whole has not been effectively informed and still persists in its use. Moreover, the lack of information prevents the physician from recognizing the disease or side effects of the residual dyes after the fact. The time has come for thorough research to study this painful, disabling condition. The legislation I have introduced today will direct the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke to estimate the number of Americans suffering from myelogram-related arachnoiditis and determine the extent of this relationship.

Every year, chronic back pain is responsible for billions of dollars in lost revenues and millions more in health care costs. The American Journal reports that chronic low-back pain is estimated to cost \$16 billion annually in the United States. Occupational research finds that back injuries, pain, and complications cost an average of \$15,000 per incident. According to The Power of Pain by Shirley Kraus, 100 million Americans are either permanently disabled or are less productive due to back pain. Those who do work lose about 5 work days per year, a productivity loss of \$55 billion. Interestingly enough, these figures only refer to chronic back pain patients. Almost all arachnoiditis sufferers eventually become totally disabled, becoming permanent fixtures on