

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY, 176
YEARS OF FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY

SPEECH OF

HON. HERBERT H. BATEMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 1997

Mr. BATEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join my colleagues today in recognizing the 176th anniversary of the beginning of the revolution that freed the Greeks from the subjugation of Ottoman rule.

On March 25, 1821, Greek patriots began their long struggle for freedom and for independence from the Ottoman Empire. However, the arduous journey to democracy did not end with achievement of independence in 1829. During World War II, the Greeks fought courageously and suffered severe casualties in their tireless efforts to fend off Nazi armies. There were forced to fight once again in the 1940's in order to turn back the forces of communism, a resistance in which we were proud to extend a hand. Although the years since have been marked by hardships and sacrifice, the people of Greece have shown their resolve, courage, and fortitude. Their dedication to freedom has demonstrated itself in the ultimate success of democracy in modern-day Greece.

We cannot discount our indebtedness to Greece and her people. Western art, architecture, literature, and philosophy all stem from the achievements of the ancient Greeks. Without question, the Greek people have left an indelible impression on world history. But, of all the contributions Greeks have made toward the betterment of mankind, I believe their greatest contribution to be the ideal of democracy. It is fitting that we, the United States of America, should have founded the wellspring of our Nation's laws and ideals in the democratic traditions of Athens and other Greek city-states. And, it was indeed appropriate that during the Greek war for independence, they looked to our Declaration of Independence to guide them in their struggle to rediscover democracy.

In closing, I would like to note that no nation has contributed more to modern Western civilization than Greece, and no nation has had to struggle harder or more often to preserve its liberties. In recognition of all that Greece means to the world, and in tribute to its patriots throughout the centuries, we salute our friends in Greece—and our many Greek-American citizens—on this day of independence.

LA PROGRESIVA PRESBYTERIAN
SCHOOL TWENTY-FIFTH YEAR
ANNIVERSARY

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 1997

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize La Progresiva Presbyterian School for its 25th school year anniversary.

The Presbyterian school, La Progresiva, was founded in Cardenas, Cuba by a North American missionary named Dr. Robert L.

Wharton on the 11th of November, 1900. On that day, La Progresiva opened its doors with only 14 students and with the reading of the first book of Corinthians chapter.

The school developed into one of the finest educational establishments of Cuba, expanding its facilities to accommodate the increasing enrollment of students. Its growing reputation as a fine center of learning, however, was put to a stop in 1961 with the arrival of communism in the island.

Communism was able to put an end to the material aspect of La Progresiva in Cardenas, but it could never destroy the spirit and ideals which still remained alive. So in September 1971, with the help of the First Spanish Presbyterian Church of Miami and the alumni of the old La Progresiva, the new Progresiva opened its doors. It started with humble beginnings in much the same way its predecessor had.

Like the old school, this new one grew in popularity and as a result of the increasing demand for enrollment, La Progresiva added another wing to its main building in 1978. The school continued its expansion adding more classrooms to accommodate the demand for admittance into the school. Along with growing in educational capacity, La Progresiva also bettered itself in the athletic department, improving over the years in its sports and, presently, plans are being discussed for a gymnasium.

The Progresiva spirit has prevailed through the years to produce a center of learning which will stand long into the future and one which makes all "Progresivistas" proud.

On this, La Progresiva's 25th school year anniversary, the school's motto is stronger than ever: "Una Vez de La Progresiva, Siempre de La Progresiva."

RURAL ROADS FUNDING

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 1997

Ms. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, anticipating this year's reauthorization of the 1991 Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act [ISTEA], I am introducing legislation today that will provide rural area roads eligibility for a small percentage of funding under the Surface Transportation Program [STP].

The intent of ISTEA's STP initiative was to provide greater flexibility to State and local authorities for transportation needs by providing States with block grant-type authority. However, ISTEA regulations prohibit roads classified as local or rural minor collectors from receiving Federal-aid highway funding. Since most roads in rural areas fall under this classification, they are not eligible for funding and remain in severe disrepair.

Under ISTEA's current STP distribution formula, States are required to set aside 10 percent of their STP funds for safety programs and 10 percent for transportation enhancement programs. The remaining 80 percent of STP funding goes into a general purposes fund, with a remaining distribution account receiving 50 percent, and a statewide distribution account receiving 30 percent.

Under the remaining distribution account, funding is provided to areas over 200,000

population, while only a minimal level of funding is provided to rural areas under 5,000 population based on a fiscal year 1991 funding level. Unfortunately, congressional attempts to provide State flexibility do not ensure adequate and equitable distribution of Federal assistance to rural area roads. Moreover, roads functionally classified as local or rural minor collectors are not currently eligible for the rural areas under 5,000 population funding and, since most rural roads fall under these two classifications, they are ineligible for Federal assistance.

My legislation would allow roads functionally classified as local or rural minor collectors eligibility for STP funds under the existing special account for areas under 5,000 population only. My legislation would not amend the road classification system. Rather, it would only modify 23 U.S.C. 133(c) to allow roads functionally classified as local and rural minor collectors STP funding eligibility under the areas under 5,000 population account 23 U.S.C. 133(d)(3)(B).

In addition, my legislation provides that of the 50 percent to be obligated under the remaining distribution account, at least 20 percent, or the existing minimum requirement, whichever is greater, should go to the rural areas under 5,000 population account. Finally, my legislation would amend the statewide planning process by requiring States to also consider the transportation needs of rural areas, including local and rural minor collectors.

I urge my colleagues to support this necessary legislation as it will provide the flexibility ISTEA was intended to produce and will greatly improve our roadway system by allowing local and rural communities the opportunity to decide which roads should be repaired.

EXTENDING EFFECTIVE DATE OF
INVESTMENT ADVISERS SUPERVISION
COORDINATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 1997

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, this legislation will provide an extension of 90 days to the effective date of title III of the National Securities Markets Improvement Act of 1996.

The extension of the effective date, which was requested by Securities and Exchange Commission Chairman Arthur Levitt, will help ensure the orderly implementation of the important changes that will be effected by the Investment Advisers Supervision Coordination Act, which is title III of the Improvement Act. I strongly support this responsible request. The Institute of Certified Financial Planners, which represents many of the investment advisers who will be affected by the Improvement Act, also supports the extension of the effective date of title III. I include for the RECORD copies of Chairman Levitt's letter to Chairman BILEY, as well as a letter from the Institute of Certified Financial Planners to myself offering their support for this legislation.

In addition, I wish to clarify the intent of a provision in title III of the Improvement Act that provides for the establishment of a telephonic or other communication means to provide information about investment advisers' backgrounds. The act directs the Commission to