

the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia [Ms. NORTON] is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I have introduced a bill that is of importance to every Member of this House if they have constituents who come to visit this city. It is called the District of Columbia Police Coordination Act of 1997.

What it does is very straightforward. It would make mandatory cooperative agreements between the Metropolitan Police Department and the Federal agencies so that they would have to come to terms with sending agency personnel to patrol areas around their own Federal buildings, donating or sharing equipment and supplies, sharing radio frequencies, and streamlining the process of arresting suspects. The U.S. attorney would be the coordinator.

This is so straightforward, why is it not happening already? We have got thousands of police, we have got 30 police forces in Washington, DC, and they all operate as private police forces. No coordination goes on. And so the hard-pressed District police, faced with violent crime, are duplicating efforts that could be going on downtown.

My bill seeks to introduce rationality and cost efficiency into a totally uncoordinated, very inefficient, and wasteful use of Federal police power.

We send many of our Federal law enforcement officers to the state-of-the-art facility at Brunswick, GA. Then we come back and capture them inside Federal buildings. One of the officers told me that in this day, when we are concerned about security, a Federal police officer in a Federal building, if he sees a van, a suspicious looking van outside a Federal building, does not have the authority to go outside and ask that van to move along. We need to empower these police to do police work.

There is already good coordination between the Park Police, which has jurisdiction all over the whole city, but there are multiple police forces, such as the Government Printing Office police force, the Naval Observatory, the Federal Protection Service for the Federal buildings, the Library of Congress. The list goes on, and it is very long. Most of these officers are unable to make arrests except in the building or in the immediate environs of the building. Most do not even patrol the block around their Federal agency. Worse, on the few occasions in which they do intervene into unlawful activity, many call 911 to get a District police officer as if they were a regular citizen. Instead, they are people with arrest powers. I am talking about people who carry guns and cannot come outdoors to play with the thugs.

My bill says, hey, you get more money than the D.C. police, you get better pensions, you face a whole lot less crime. Come out here where the real crime is.

When the high crime rates went up in the District, there was a lot of blame to go around and a lot of it belonged to the District. Always, the District gets stinging criticism. Criticism of our own local police or death penalty rhetoric is not going to do anything to assist our police on the streets today, right now. Federal law enforcement officers should not be left underperforming when—by the way, they desperately want to perform because they lack the authority to render service commensurate with their police power and their arrest authority.

There is ample precedent for my bill. In 1992, this body passed my bill that freed the Capitol Police to go beyond the few blocks around the Capitol, and so they now patrol the high crime Capitol Hill area. This body understood immediately that we should not be training cops at the level we do and then failing to get the highest and best use of them. This is a period when we are losing policemen as if they were fighting wars. The high crime areas will always be patrolled by our own District police; but surely in the middle of town, thousands of police officers assigned to Federal agencies, who carry guns, who have police power, ought to be freed up to use that police power.

We are requiring greater efficiency from police these days. We are not responding simply to the call for more money. The call for greater efficiency is paying off. We see it in the large cities where crime rates have tumbled down. They can tumble down in this city, too. We are doing saturated arrests, and the crime rates have come down remarkably. How long can our police keep it up if we do not get help from police who are perfectly willing to, indeed, help?

I appreciate that many of those uniformed police came to stand with me this morning in a press conference. I ask the Congress and this House to pass my police coordination bill and help me get rid of crime in the District of Columbia.

TEACHER APPRECIATION DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from Mississippi [Mr. PICKERING] is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Teacher Appreciation Day to express my gratitude to teachers who have helped shape my life, and to my family, many of whom have taught, and continue to teach today. The theme of this year's National Teacher Appreciation Day is: One teacher can shape a child, one child can shape the world. I am thankful for this day so that we can praise those who shape not only our lives individually and our children and our communities but also shape our future.

My grandparents on my mother's side were both teachers; W.C. Thomas and Ivon Thomas. They came of age during the Depression. My grandfather became a principal at a small rural agricultural high school and then went on to teach at the junior college that serves my area. I had the benefit during the period in which I grew up of having adults come to me as a child and saying, "If it had not been for your grandfather, I would not have stayed in school, and I would not be what I am today."

It gave me a true appreciation and an understanding for the role of what teachers and those in the education community give to people. My mother was a teacher and was a director of a kindergarten program. I have three sisters. Today, one teaches fifth grade in Opelika, AL. My oldest sister has six children and home-schools. My other sister taught freshman composition at the University of Mississippi. My aunt, Karen Pickering, teaches fifth grade at Calhoun Elementary School.

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I come to this day with appreciation for what teachers give, and I want to give specific praise to one teacher, one coach, who had a specific influence on my life and to whom I am not sure that I would be here as a Congressman today if he had not given me encouragement at a critical point in my life. His name is Lonnie Meaders. He began teaching and coaching in 1950, and he served the Jones County-city schools for almost 30 years. He was my junior high football coach. When I finished junior high, most people thought that I was too small and too slow to continue at the high school level. He encouraged me to continue playing when no one else did.

My 10th grade year, my first year in high school, I was the smallest on the team. I made up for the lack of size with an even greater lack of speed. In my 11th grade year, I began to play. In my 12th grade year, I had enough success on the field to earn a college football scholarship.

It was that experience of continuing to play when no one else thought that I could or should that gave me the confidence and gave me a foundation to believe that with hard work that I could succeed. It was Coach Lonnie Meaders who influenced not only my life, but countless others who went through the Laurel city schools. He was also the tennis coach, his 9th grade team went 18 years never losing a match. We are blessed to have those like Coach Meaders who teach us and encourage us at critical points in our lives.

I now have four children ages 7, 5, 3 and 1, and I want to thank Mrs. Harper, who teaches my oldest child today. She has brought a young, shy, 7-year-old out, and he is beginning to blossom as she encourages him on a daily basis.

My job in representing the teachers and the families of my district is to

make sure that we give the resources, the freedom, and the flexibility to our teachers so that they can help shape the character of our children. Teachers can help establish the fundamentals upon which our children will prosper and, hopefully, one day succeed at whatever their dream may be.

For those who have taught me, to my family which has served the education community, I want to extend a special thank you to them all.

ENCOURAGING BROWNFIELD DEVELOPMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Florida). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. VIS-CLOSKY] is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. VIS-CLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to join me in promoting an effective way to encourage the redevelopment of abandoned, idled or underutilized commercial and industrial sites known as brownfields. Nationwide, brownfields are often overlooked for redevelopment because of real or perceived contamination. As a result, developers frequently turn to undeveloped greenfield sites. This creates a vicious cycle of lost tax revenues and job opportunities for local residents, while the brownfields are not cleaned up.

There is wide bipartisan support for measures that would encourage the redevelopment of brownfields. Although the specifics have not yet been worked out, I am pleased that the recent budget agreement contains a brownfields initiative to assist cities in cleaning up contaminated sites as part of a broader economic redevelopment strategy.

Effective brownfield redevelopment must create jobs, clean the environment and generate economic activity in our urban areas. However, we must not start a race to the bottom where cleanup standards are sacrificed on the altar of brownfield renewal. We must ensure that brownfield redevelopment does not become a back door to let polluters off the hook. A final product that does not meet these reasonable standards falls short of a readily achievable goal.

In March, I introduced the Brownfield Cleanup and Redevelopment Act, H.R. 1206. This legislation would establish a process whereby States with EPA-certified voluntary cleanup programs would be authorized to make final decisions regarding the cleanup of low- and medium-priority brownfield sites. To date, roughly three dozen States have implemented or are in the process of implementing voluntary cleanup programs. While these programs have been popular, the benefits of State cleanup programs will be significantly enhanced in the context of a Federal system that, first, encourages Federal-State partnerships; second, provides legal finality to the cleanup process; and, third, removes

Federal requirements for certain procedural permits for cleanups conducted under certified voluntary State programs.

My bill would expedite the clean up of eligible brownfield sites while protecting human health and the environment and creating jobs. H.R. 1206 is designed to encourage the cleanup of brownfields by providing certainty and finality to owners or prospective purchasers that the EPA will not require additional cleanup after an EPA-approved State voluntary cleanup has occurred.

My bill makes clear that if State voluntary cleanup programs meet certain criteria and are certified by the EPA, then approved cleanups conducted by certified State programs could proceed in lieu of Superfund. However, under H.R. 1206, the EPA administrator would certify State voluntary cleanup programs based on several criteria including, first, adequate opportunities for meaningful public participation in the development and implementation of cleanup plans at eligible facilities; second, the provision of adequate technical assistance, resources, oversight and enforcement authority; and, third, certification from the State that the cleanup of an eligible facility is complete. In addition, certified State programs could modify Federal permit requirements for eligible facilities to expedite their cleanups.

However, this bill is narrowly targeted to address only sites that are not Superfund sites that are not included on the national priorities list or subject to enforcement actions. Further, under H.R. 1206 the EPA explicitly retains its authority to gather information on any brownfield site. If it is discovered that the site is contaminated in such a way that it would not be considered a low- or medium-priority brownfield, it will no longer be eligible as a facility under the legislation, and EPA would retain full enforcement authority under Superfund.

I also want to briefly highlight another bill I have introduced. It is H.R. 1462 which would authorize \$20 million over 3 years to establish a pilot revolving loan fund for State voluntary cleanup programs. Because of their experience in administering targeted loan assistance programs, States are in a good position to use Federal funds to support local cleanup and redevelopment projects. Under H.R. 1462 States would provide a 20-percent match and begin repaying loans within 5 years.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to sponsor these bills which will build upon existing redevelopment efforts. By creating a distinct beginning and end to the voluntary cleanup process, businesses and jobs will be more attracted to unproductive brownfields as opposed to undeveloped farmland and other greenfield sites.

TRIBUTE TO MY TEACHER, FATHER JOHN PUTKA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from Colorado, Mr. BOB SCHAFFER, is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today is National Teacher Appreciation Day, and we celebrate this all week long. I am reminded today especially of the teachers that have had such a profound influence in my life, and powerful influence at that, not the least of which was my father, a school teacher for his whole career, retired now; taught in a government-owned school system in which I did not live and did not have the chance to attend there, but he had the good sense to send me to another school where I had the opportunity to learn from this man here who I brought a picture of today.

Mr. Speaker, this picture is from January 7, and the man, this is me over here on the left, the man at the right here is Father John Putka who my colleagues will find at the University of Dayton presently. This was the day that I got sworn in, and this was a teacher who made the trip here to the U.S. Capitol to celebrate the occasion, and I have to tell my colleagues that there are many, many individuals throughout this country who have been inspired by Father John Putka.

Now he was my high school teacher at More High School in Cincinnati, OH. It is a Catholic school and one that is run by the Marianist Brothers, which Father Putka is a member of that holy order, and Father Putka was my senior Christian marriage teacher. Now he taught several different topics. His training is in political science, and in law, in philosophy and divinity, and he manages to bring all of those disciplines together in a way that has such a remarkable influence upon the lives of all of the students that have had an opportunity to sit in the chairs before him.

It is interesting about this picture itself, because when we were having it prepared and it was downstairs in one of the offices, one of the staff members who was preparing this did not want to part with it, and the reason was because she had the opportunity to learn from Father Putka too, as it turned out.

I have to tell my colleagues that it is unfortunate that there are not more students throughout the country that have a chance to learn in the kind of setting that I had an opportunity to learn in and that many students do throughout the country, but still not enough. I was able to attend this school because choice, school choice, was something that was available to me and to my family and to my brother and sister and others in my community. It was an opportunity for me to choose which kinds of education settings made the most sense for me. For