

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

DAVIS OF VIRGINIA/WYNN/
MORELLA/MORAN OF VIRGINIA/
CUMMINGS/HOYER/WOLF GOV-
ERNMENT SHUTDOWN PREVEN-
TION AMENDMENT

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 1997

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, this week the House is scheduled to vote on H.R. 1469, the Disaster Recovery Act of 1997, at which time we intend to offer our Government shutdown prevention amendment. This amendment will provide 100 percent of fiscal year 1997 spending levels through the end of fiscal year 1998, in the absence of regular appropriations bills. In addition, our amendment specifically ensures that no Federal employees will be furloughed or RIF'd because of this temporary funding level.

This amendment will guarantee that the Federal Government does not hold Federal employees hostage during a stalled appropriations process. In the State of Texas alone, this amendment will ensure that almost 200,000 hard-working Federal employees and their families will not have to face the prospect of unknown periods of unemployment when the Government shuts down. This is a common-sense amendment which will work as a safety net until the normal fiscal year 1998 appropriations process is completed.

In sum, this 100-percent safety net is an effective way to provide an immediate guarantee that: First, the Federal Government will always remain open and working for the taxpayer; second, we will meet our commitment to keep America's civil servants on the job; and third, we will meet our shared goal of controlling Federal spending.

AN ACHIEVABLE DREAM

HON. ROBERT C. SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 1997

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call my colleagues' attention to the remarkable work of An Achievable Dream, a true success story in my district. It was 5 years ago when Walter Segaloff founded the An Achievable Dream Academy for academically at-risk students, many of whom have demonstrated that they are ready and willing to learn, if just given the proper environment. Sadly, their home environment is too often not conducive to learning. That's where An Achievable Dream, or AAD, steps in.

By instilling a love of learning and enabling each child to develop a personal, achievable dream leading to academic and subsequent professional success, AAD puts its arm around the shoulder of these kids who may otherwise be headed for academic and social

failure as a result of poverty, family problems, or low self-esteem. Many of these children have been stigmatized, seeing only what they can't achieve. But Walter Segaloff and the others who direct AAD have shown them a different path, one toward personal success and price.

AAD's achievements are based on the combined efforts of dedicated individuals, who provide the vision and hard work, and local corporations and businesses, who have provided much-needed and appreciated monetary support. It is this community interest and assistance which helps set AAD apart, making it a role model for the rest of this Nation as we search for ways to improve education.

Reader's Digest magazine recently awarded AAD with their American Heroes in Education Award, a fitting tribute to a great program. This is only the most recent award garnered by AAD: The program has also been honored by a joint award sponsored by Business Week magazine and the McGraw-Hill Educational Publishing Group, in cooperation with the American Association of School Administrators, for educational innovation.

I would like to add my words of appreciation and thanks today to An Achievable Dream and the dramatic contributions the program has made to the Newport News community in Virginia, and to the Nation as a whole.

PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS IN YEMEN

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 1997

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I want to draw the attention of my colleagues to the recent parliamentary elections in Yemen. The Congress doesn't often pay attention to Yemen, but what transpired there on April 27 was impressive. In a country that recently experienced civil war, that is one of the poorest countries on Earth, and that is in a part of the world where elections are not the norm, Yemen's electoral experience is worth noting.

On the spectrum of elections in the Arab world, these elections were perhaps the most positive outcome ever. The elections were competitive, they were open to all adult men and women, and political parties had the opportunity to get their message out.

What is particularly impressive is the commitment of the people of Yemen to the electoral process. Three separate national networks of independent election monitors watched ballot boxes throughout the country. In a country of high illiteracy, especially female illiteracy, the Arab Democratic Institute and other nongovernmental organizations worked hard to increase voter turnout, especially among rural women. The participation of women, 30 percent was low, but it was significantly higher than the level in the 1993 parliamentary elections, 19 percent.

The elections were not without flaws—there were some ballot box irregularities, there was too much military presence at voting places, there was some violence, and the elections did not fundamentally alter political power in Yemen, which remains in the hands of President Saleh.

The true test of the elections in Yemen depends on what happens next—whether the new Parliament will take up its responsibility to serve as an effective check on executive power, and whether the Parliament will work to improve life in Yemen.

I believe that it is in the United States national interest to support the development of a civil society in Yemen, and to enhance the effectiveness of Yemen's Parliament—not only because of the positive benefits for the people of Yemen but because of the importance of this example and experience for the entire Arab world.

TRIBUTE TO A YOUNG BENE-
FACTOR AND ROLE MODEL, MR.
MICHAEL CARRICARTE, JR.

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 1997

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is indeed a distinct honor and great privilege to pay tribute to one of Miami's young unsung heroes, Michael Carricarte, Jr. Thanks to his efforts, on May 15, 1997, the students and staff of St. Francis Xavier School, an inner-city elementary school located in Miami-Overtown community, will join Archbishop John Clemente Favalora and the clergy in blessing and opening the doors to new classrooms and playground. Myriads of supporters and volunteers will be joining in to celebrate this historic occasion in my district.

This event was made possible by this young entrepreneur whose immense love for children is beyond measure. Armed with a vision toward making a difference in the Overtown children's future, 27-year-old Michael Carricarte, Jr., president of Dade County-based Amedex Insurance Co., vowed to provide a better environment for their learning. Reaching out to these inner-city children he is indeed making a difference in their lives.

Not oblivious of the drama of poverty, along with the problems of growing up, he took up the challenge that the children of St. Francis Xavier School will have a place where they can study and learn and obtain a God-loving environment. In his role as chairman of the school's building fund project, he begun raising money from personal friends and corporations, maximizing it with a personal loan he obtained from a local bank.

While there are special cases of individuals who go above and beyond the call of duty toward their fellowmen, Michael Carricarte, Jr., ensured that his vision is accompanied by his personal touch of concern and devotion to

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