

over forty years used exploitative and brutal means to limit black opportunity in order to extend white privilege. The extent of the brutality and violence revealed by the TRC has far exceeded what even the most ardent critic of apartheid had considered possible.

It now appears that wealthy South Africans may be asked to pay a once-only tax to help fund reparations for victims of gross human rights violations. The ANC advised the Truth and Reconciliation Commission on May 13 that those who prospered under the apartheid system should finance meaningful reparations for the victims of gross violations of human rights on both sides of the apartheid conflict. According to the ANC statement to the TRC, "it would be useful if the commissioners could apply their minds to considering the necessity and viability of ensuring that the Doctrine of Odious Debt is given recognition in mobilizing some of the resources that would help make the reparations more feasible." The Doctrine of Odious Debt was used by the ANC government as a rationale for forgiving South Africa's debt to Namibia. Fundamental to the concept are the old principles in Roman and Roman-Dutch law that the wrongdoer should not benefit from the wrongdoing.

QUALITY OF LIFE

Some whites in South Africa see the quality of life as deteriorating. The privileges they enjoyed by being the exclusive beneficiaries of apartheid are being threatened and in some areas curtailed. The black majority who were kept outside the mainstream economy by design are demanding a fair share of the economic pie. A recent report on focus group discussions conducted in South Africa found the mood of community leaders across race and party lines to be one of ambivalence. Some local community leaders are impatient and nervous about the future. At the same time, most blacks believe that they must be patient and that the country is moving in the right direction. This patience is not to be confused with disengagement or passivity. Rather, it is a realism rooted in the belief that changing four decades of apartheid will take more than three years. Those who have enjoyed the benefits of freedom; those who take access to water and electricity for granted; those whose children have long had good schools available; those who have had good health care when and where they needed it; and those who were safe in their suburban homes while criminals were permitted to prey, sometimes in collusion with the police, on township and squatter village residents at will, are more likely to use a different yardstick to measure the quality of life in the new South Africa.

Yet, there is one thing on which all South Africans agree. It is the common feeling that unless the crime rate is reduced the quality of life will be significantly impaired. There is an obsession with crime in some quarters, an obsession fed both by reality and a long period of isolation and psychological exile from the rest of the world. Many South Africans are convinced that the high level of crime they are experiencing is somehow unique to South Africa. The government has been greatly limited by the desire not to restrict newly granted liberties and by a police force beset with corruption, poorly trained and whose only major responsibility in the past was to support the maintenance of a police state. They know nothing about community policing and, in some instances, have no desire to learn. But none of this takes away from the fact that crime must be reduced and the government has a very limited window of opportunity in which to do it.

More is being done, however, than is commonly assumed. The government has an anti-crime strategy and a recent report indi-

cates that it is succeeding in some areas. Crime was down in nine categories in 1996, but every high profile bank robbery, rape or murder reminds leaders that more must be done.

The bottom line is that there is still much hope and high expectations in South Africa as it begins its fourth year of the new democracy. As a black leader in a small community that seems to have every reason for despair put it, "We are doing very well. You can actually see things like houses. Look at the electricity. Look at the clinics now. We must admit all races. So there are actually tangible, measurable changes." The majority population in South Africa continues to startle many by the genuineness of its approach to reconciliation and the vast reservoir of hope and goodwill that remains.

SPRINGFIELD BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S CLUB CELEBRATES 80 YEARS

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 1997

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a leading civic organization in Massachusetts' Second Congressional District, the Springfield Business and Professional Women's Club. October 28, 1997, will mark the 80th anniversary of the club's founding. The club has a long history of contributing to Springfield through its civic participation, its sponsorship of speakers and events, as well as its scholarship.

In October 1917, 16 women with a common desire to improve the positions of women in the work force gathered at the local YWCA. They founded a club with the original objective to "blend together women in the professions and businesswomen so that the standard of working women could be raised." Two years later, delegates traveled to St. Louis to join several hundred other women in the founding of the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs. In its first decade, several Springfield members served as officers of the National Federation as well as traveling to Europe to help found the International Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs. The first treasurer of the International Federation was Henrietta Harris of Springfield.

Throughout its history, the club has reached out to promote several charitable organizations. Through their Harris-Bullman Fund, they have been generous supporters of the Open Pantry, Camp Star-Camp Angelina, Grey House, and the Forest Park Zoological Society. Their Jessie M. Bourne—Winifred Daly Scholarship Fund provides nontraditional women students with a scholarship to either return to college or enroll for the first time. In addition, the club routinely collects good used work clothing to donate to women on welfare or who were in prison and are now seeking professional employment.

Beyond these endeavors, the club has championed the role of women in our political system by donating funds and volunteer hours to the Women's Vote Project. Through their continuing Springfield Forums the club has welcomed distinguished guests, such as Amelia Earhart, to speak on current events and their experiences.

On October 28, 1997, the club will celebrate its 80th anniversary. On this night, members will be joined by State officers of the Massachusetts Federation of Business and Professional Women, elected officials, and leaders of other women's organizations to highlight past accomplishments and the evolution of club activities. As an organization with a storied history, it is my hope that the club will use its past triumphs as a springboard for future successes. I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the Springfield Business and Professional Women's Club on this milestone.

TRIBUTE TO DORIS AND KEN RUFENER

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 1997

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Doris and Ken Rufener for 29 years of outstanding community service and congratulate them as recipients of the Conejo/Las Virgenes Future Foundation Civitas Award. Their dedication to serving all of the citizens in our community is remarkable.

The Civitas Award is extremely prestigious because it is not given routinely or annually, but only when one has fulfilled specific criteria. The recipient must have exemplified true, unselfish, and outstanding citizenship, demonstrated the ability to motivate and inspire others, and made a singular and lasting impact in our community. All the while, he or she must have been involved in many aspects of community life, giving extensive service beyond employment, giving long-time, meaningful service to the community and serving as a role model for the residents of the Conejo/Las Virgenes region.

Doris and Ken have fulfilled the aforementioned criteria with overwhelming evidence. They have both served to defend our Nation in the U.S. Air Force. Ken has also served as a board member and president of the Military Order of World Wars. They have provided spiritual assistance to those in the community through their involvement in Westminster Presbyterian Church, particularly Doris's role as a deaconess. The Rufeners are involved in every aspect of community life from their neighborhood homeowners association, various men's and women's service clubs in the area, to athletic associations and assisting in providing mental and health care to indigent persons. Doris's involvement is highlighted by her role as a Governor's appointee to the advisory board at Camarillo State Hospital. This description merely scratches the surface of the Rufeners' record of service to the community; unfortunately the full extent of their dedication is too lengthy to discuss here today.

Doris and Ken also lead full everyday lives. Ken, after serving as mayor and council member of the city of Westlake Village, is currently a director representing division IV of the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District. Doris is concentrating her work at the Human Resources Center and the local mental hospital. They are also the loving parents of two children, David and Karen.

I believe that John F. Kennedy's criteria for determining success in community involvement exemplify the spirit of the Civitas Award