EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

DIANA'S LEGACY

HON. JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 5, 1997

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to bring to your attention an editorial written by our colleague, Rep. JIM MCGOVERN of the Third District of Massachusetts, regarding Princess Diana's role in the fight against landmines. I think that Congressman MCGOVERN's piece eloquently depicts Princess Diana's compassionate commitment to banning these terrible killing devices, and highlights the importance of our continuing the effort to ban landmines forever.

At this time I would like to place Congressman MCGOVERN's words in today's RECORD.

[From the Boston Globe, Sept. 5, 1997]

DIANA'S LEGACY—SHE REACHED OUT TO LAND MINE VICTIMS

(By James P. McGovern)

This week, at a conference in Oslo convened to forge an international agreement banning land mines, delegates from more than 100 nations rose and stood silent for one minute to remember the work that Princess Diana had done on behalf of victims of land mines.

Like the rest of the world, they had awakened Sunday to learn the terrible news of her death. And like all of us engaged in the international campaign to ban land mines, we felt the grievous loss of one of our most effective and compassionate champions.

In the space of 22 minutes—about the amount of time it took to read and absorb the details of Princess Diana's tragic accident—someone is killed or maimed by a land mine: more than 26,000 men, women, and children each year. In at least 68 countries there are more than 110 million unexploded land mines lying in fields, deserts, roads, along rivers and streams, in forests, and on footpaths.

In June Princess Diana attended a benefit organized by the American Red Cross in Washington that raised more than $650,000 for victims of land mines. Later that month, she traveled to Boston to raise funds on behalf of land mine survivors and declare support for the international movement to ban these terrible weapons.

Unlike many others of her social standing and celebrity, Princess Diana was not content to limit her work to appearing at posh charity events for causes she supported. She felt compelled to reach out and literally touch those individuals confronting life's greatest challenges.

Never satisfied to learn about issues solely from news accounts, Diana cared to witness firsthand the stories of those most affected by land mines: children injured and in pain from land mine explosions; families who had lost loved ones; and those unable to return to their ancestral homes because the land was sown with the death, destruction, and danger of antipersonnel land mines.

In the field she learned how these weapons do not distinguish between the foot of a soldier and the foot of a child at play. In the field she saw how land mines are designed to kill or badly maim anyone who triggers them and that they keep on killing long after hostilities are ended. The average lifespan of an antipersonnel land mine is 50 to 100 years. At the current rate, it would take more than a thousand years to rid the world of all the land mines in place.

That is why Princess Diana declared her support for an immediate ban on these terrible and indiscriminate weapons. This is why she traveled to Angola and Bosnia to bring comfort, support, and hope to the families of victims and survivors. And this is why she used her celebrity—and the horde of video cameras and photographers who shadowed her every move—to bring human faces into the living rooms of families across the world.

Just three weeks ago, Princess Diana visited Bosnia to hear personal stories from families of victims and survivors. She was determined that their stories would galvanize the international community to embrace a worldwide ban on these weapons.

Princess Diana clearly stated that her interests were humanitarian, not political. While international experts like General Norman Schwarzkopf can thoughtfully address how banning land mines makes for effective foreign policy, Diana understood that no one could express the human tragedy of these weapons to an international audience better than the victims themselves.

This June, legislation was introduced in the Senate calling for an international ban on land mines; similar legislation will be introduced in the House. In December, representatives from more than 100 nations will gather in Ottawa to sign a binding treaty to ban the use, manufacture, export, and stockpiling of these weapons. I hope that the United States will join this effort.

Princess Diana was perhaps the jewel in the crown of the international movement to ban land mines; her compassion and involvement helped to focus the world's attention on this issue. But no one acknowledged more gratefully than she that the crown itself is constructed from the lives and work of millions of people.

When the nations of the world gather in December to sign the international treaty, Diana will be remembered. And decades—perhaps centuries—from now, when the last land mine is cleared from the earth, her legacy and work will be complete.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 5, 1997

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, today we bring to close the first week of our final legislative session this year. It has been a productive week, with the passage of several important appropriations bills. I have been pleased with the tone and demeanor of the bipartisan debate this week. Now is the perfect time to bring a bipartisan campaign finance reform bill to the floor for a vote. In the next several weeks we will have the time and opportunity to vote for campaign finance reform, if the leadership of this Congress is willing to let a bill come forward.

There are those who have begun to follow through on their threats to shut down the House and delay the normal work that we must get done before the end of the year. We can avoid all of this if we are given the opportunity to vote on a reform bill. I have been an active member of the Bipartisan Freshman Campaign Finance Reform Task Force, I am an original cosponsor of the Shays-Meehan bill, these two bills offer members the opportunity to let their constituents know where they stand on this issue. There are over 70 campaign finance bills pending this Congress. Not a single campaign finance reform bill has been given a hearing in this Congress. Whether you support or oppose campaign finance reform every Member should be given the opportunity to vote on this issue, and we must do it before the end of the year.

I hope that in the next several weeks the leadership of this House will give the Members an opportunity to vote on campaign finance reform. We will have the time to debate and vote on a bill and we have many bills that can be considered. Failure to act now will be a failure to serve the people we represent.

THE MILITARY SELECTIVE SERVICE REPEAL ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 5, 1997

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Military Selective Service Repeal Act, to repeal in its entirety what I believe to be a wasteful cold war relic that should be extinct.

From 1948 until 1973, during both peacetime and periods of conflict, men were drafted to fill vacancies in the Armed Forces which could not be filled through voluntary means. Suspended in April 1975, it was resumed in 1980 by President Carter in response to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. However, as any American knows, the conditions for the draft have changed since the days of Vietnam and the threat of Soviet invasion. Still, registration continues as a supposed hedge against underestimating the number of servicemen needed in a future conflict.

The Department of Defense has concluded that we live in a time that projects no war—not even the worst case scenario of two simultaneous regional conflicts—that would require drafting combat troop replacements. Suspension of peacetime registration could be accomplished with little risk to national security, considering the low probability of the need for conscription. The fact is that peacetime draft registration could be suspended with no effect on military mobilization requirements, little effect on the time it would take to mobilize, and no measurable effect on military recruitment,