

HONORING THE CITIZENS ADVICE
BUREAU

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 1997

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to praise the Citizens Advice Bureau, an organization started in the Bronx 25 years ago which has helped thousands of people to make a better life.

The CAB is a multiservice organization founded by clergy, community activists, and social workers who were concerned about the rising level of poverty and the massive housing loss the Bronx was suffering. From a single office it has expanded to 20 offices serving an area with a population of 600,000.

It was a pioneer in the consumer protection field, entitlements and advocacy for senior citizens. In its initial years, it worked for affordable housing and tenant protection. In the late 1980's, CAB was one of the first Bronx organizations to implement an AIDS services program. In the 1990's, its transitional housing program and family relocation services enabled more than 1,000 families to stabilize their lives and secure permanent housing. Its eviction prevention program has kept 10,000 families in permanent housing.

The CAB now works to provide immigrants with help and guidance. Every year more than 1,500 young people participate in its early childhood development programs, summer camp, and teen programs.

The Homeless Outreach Team patrols 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in streets, highways, and parks to find and help homeless people. Because of their efforts not a single homeless person has died in the Bronx during the past two winters.

The CAB helps those in need, making the Bronx a better place for people of all ages. It deserves thanks from all of us.

HELPING EMPOWER LOW-INCOME
PARENTS [HELP] SCHOLARSHIPS
AMENDMENTS OF 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 1997

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I would like to address the comments made earlier in this debate by the gentleman from California [Mr. MARTINEZ]. I would refer the House to the RECORD on this matter, for the gentleman misquoted my remarks and blatantly mischaracterized by comments which were clearly made in support of competitive schools and free-market economics.

Observations previously expressed by me on the House floor were obviously directed at those Government-owned schools which are absolutely terrified by school choice. Without question, this excludes the majority of education institutions in America today which embrace competition and are competitive. In fact, they compete very well. I would suggest the gentleman visit Colorado and see for himself how charter schools, intradistrict choice, and post-secondary enrollment options have re-

sulted in more opportunities for schoolchildren. Perhaps these kinds of schools exist in his State too.

Mr. Speaker, never have I equated America's public schools with a Communist legacy, as the gentleman from California suggested. In fact, I have never before mentioned both in one speech.

Any comments I have made regarding Government monopolies were plainly an indication that centrally planned economies found in other countries are models of failure. In fact the Communist legacy was a failure because that party's economic policies guaranteed mediocrity. The purpose of this observation was also plainly meant as a warning to avoid allowing our Federal Government to trample on our federalist traditions and restrain competitiveness with respect to educating children.

Quite the contrary, our Government should resist such tendencies of some bureaucracies to limit competition and establish monopolies. That was the clear point of my speech which was properly received by the majority of our colleagues.

It is regrettable that anyone would misinterpret these remarks as anything other than an admonition against Government monopolies and in favor of competitive schools which again constitute the vast majority of American institutions.

I hereby reaffirm my strong support for a thriving public education system. I restate my rejection of increased Federal intrusion in local school settings, and I fully approve of the innovations in public education that are improving education quality for America's schoolchildren.

Mr. Speaker, we should resent any suggestions to the contrary and regard them as malicious in intent, certainly reckless in use. At these times, we do well to call upon the faculties of statesmanship and honor than invective.

The American people demand full and honest debate by their Representative in Congress, on the topics which matter most. Useful dialog should be encouraged through intellectual discourse, not suppressed by partisan sniping, as is the effect of the mischaracterizations made by the gentleman from California.

Our devotion, instead should be toward the American children who have a right to expect first-rate learning opportunities. Perhaps today's lesson is one on the difference between statesmanship and imprudence.

FREEDOM OF SPEECH, FREEDOM
OF THE PRESS

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 1997

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I want to address the House for a time about the sanctity of one of America's most treasured rights: the freedom of speech.

Freedom of speech is central to most every other right that we hold dear in the United States and serves to strengthen the democracy of our great country.

It is unfortunate, then, when actions occur that might be interpreted as contrary to this honored tenet.

Currently there is a dispute between journalists in my district and the new owners of the Monterey County Herald newspapers. All employees of the newspaper were required to reapply for their jobs when the new owners took over the paper. Several of the employees—some of them prize-winning journalists—were not rehired.

This action has left many in the community feeling that the newspaper is acting unfairly toward the reporters and fearing that it will affect the tenor of the news reported. Further there are suspicions that the owners may be engaging in antiunion efforts, casting further pall on the ability of the paper to serve the reading public.

I urge every American—no matter the position they hold in this society of ours—to carefully consider the actions they take when those actions concern the dissemination of public information. Freedom of speech and freedom of the press are much too powerful rights to be lost to squabbles over the union or nonunion status of employees. They are too basic to the structure and fabric of American life to fall victim to bottom line dollar equations.

I know the fired employees and the new owners of the Herald continue to negotiate over this matter. I am hopeful that the two sides can come to a mutually satisfactory arrangement that leaves the journalists reporting, the paper profiting, and the reading public informed.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL
CHEMISTRY WEEK

HON. TIM ROEMER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 1997

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, November 2 to 8, 1997 is the 10th celebration of National Chemistry Week. I rise, today, in recognition of the members of the American Chemical Society who are volunteering their time this week to increase the public's understanding about the important role chemistry plays in the success of this Nation and in our everyday lives. Through hands-on activities, chemical demonstration programs, and a variety of other events, kids of all ages will learn and do chemistry.

The feature activity of the week is a national effort to test water hardness in local neighborhoods. Children are receiving copies of a Planet Chemistry activities booklet through their schools that allows them to be part of the national effort. They then go out and get a water sample from their local stream, lake, or well and use the test strip included in the booklet to determine the hardness of the water, and report their results through the ACS site on the Web. The test strips were produced by a company in my district, Environmental Test Systems of Elkhart, IN. I am proud to tell you that 2.6 million of these strips distributed in 650,000 copies of the booklet allowed this project to get children all over the country involved.

Volunteer chemists and chemical engineers of the ACS St. Joseph Valley Section in my home district also scheduled events, such as panel discussions and hand-on educational demonstrations, to highlight chemistry for their