

H.R. 2846—NATIONAL TESTING

HON. FRANK D. LUCAS

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 5, 1998

Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker. During the first session of the 105th Congress, nearly 300 members of the House rejected the President's federal testing plan as part of the FY 1998 Labor, HHS, and Education Appropriation Act. A compromise was reached that prohibited the President from moving forward with national testing in FY 1998. However, no agreement was reached regarding national testing activities in FY 99 or beyond. Therefore, President Clinton is at it again.

For some reason the Clinton Administration thinks people inside the beltway know what is best for my children and my constituent's children in Western Oklahoma. The Department of Education is moving forward to write a national test to be voluntarily administered to fourth and eighth graders in reading and math respectively. How can a huge bureaucracy such as the Department of Education know how to test the students of Hollis, Oklahoma? Has anyone from the Clinton Administration ever been to Hollis, Oklahoma? Is it appropriate to give fourth and eighth grade students in Boise City, Oklahoma population 1,509 the same national test as the students in Boston, Massachusetts? What is the Clinton Administration hoping to accomplish with the results of these beltway developed tests?

Many questions still need to be answered regarding the manner in which the Administration is moving ahead with test development. During consideration of the FY 98 Labor, HHS, and Education Appropriations Act, I head from hundreds of parents who were irate with the proposal of national testing. Parents, local PTA's, and local school boards know what is best for their local students. Let's support the parents in our districts by voting in support of H.R. 2846 and insuring that Congress will have a voice in developing any sort of voluntary testing. Parents need to know that their children's best interests are being protected.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF JOHN H.
HARLAND CO. IN GURABO, PR**HON. CARLOS A. ROMERO-BARCELÓ**

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 5, 1998

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have the opportunity to call attention to an important American success story. This past December 1997, the John H. Harland Co., headquartered in Atlanta, GA, celebrated the 25th anniversary of its Gurabo, PR, printing plant.

The Gurabo plant opened in 1972. During that quarter of a century, Harland's employees have played a crucial role in helping the company meet the needs of its customers. Today, the 52 employees at the Gurabo facility fill approximately 31,000 check orders each month for customers of financial institutions in Puerto Rico, Antigua, the Virgin Islands, the Dominican Republic, and throughout the Caribbean. The financial institutions represented include

Banco Popular, Banco Santander, Citibank, Scotia Bank of Puerto Rico, and Banco Bilbao Vizcaya.

Based on their experience with Harland's Gurabo facility, many of these financial institutions now also use other Harland products and services, including the company's database marketing software which help them to better understand the needs of their customers. They have served as a fine example of entrepreneurship, demonstrating over the past 25 years their commitment to the development of quality products and services. As the needs of their clients expanded or varied, so did their services.

The John H. Harland Co. was founded in 1923, and is the second largest check printer in the United States. It is also the Nation's leading provider of database marketing to financial institutions. Harland is understandably proud of the Gurabo plant and its employees. And Mr. Speaker, we are proud to have such a good corporate neighbor in our community. John H. Harland Co. has preserved and enhanced a great tradition during its first 25 years in Puerto Rico. I offer my congratulations to the John H. Harland Co. and its employees on the occasion of its 25th anniversary in Puerto Rico. It is my hope that their fine example proves to be a catalyst for other companies to make similar commitments. May the company's endurance and prosperity serve as positive lessons to future generations of Americans.

JENNIFER RODRIGUEZ PARTICIPA-
TION IN THE WINTER OLYMPICS**HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 5, 1998

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today, just one day before the Opening Ceremonies at the 1998 Winter Olympics in Nagano, Japan to congratulate Jennifer Rodriguez, the first Cuban-American to participate in this most important event. Ms. Rodriguez, who will compete in the women's speedskating tournament, also has the distinction of being the first Hispanic athlete and the first Miamian to participate in a Winter Olympics. As a Hispanic, a Cuban-American and a resident of South Florida, I am immensely proud of Ms. Rodriguez great accomplishment.

We are blessed to be the heirs of an extraordinary tradition of athleticism, competition and camaraderie which began over 2,000 years ago in Ancient Greece and lives on in our modern Olympic games. These celebrations bear witness to the best in the human spirit—the Spirit of the Olympiad. As elected officials, we too partake of an arena which itself is marked by conflict. All too often, however, we forget to play fair—the old cliché that it is not just about winning. These games should remind us of the inherent value of sportsmanship.

I salute Ms. Rodriguez for her dedication. Her effort serves as testimony that those virtues the Ancient Greeks so valued are alive and well, so much so that they have driven a young woman from the warm, semi-tropical climate of her native South Florida to the ice-cold weather of Milwaukee where she has

been training rigorously since 1996 for this upcoming event.

Good luck Ms. Rodriguez and best wishes to your family! They, like me, must be very proud.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
RONALD V. DELLUMS

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 1998

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it saddens me today to say goodbye to Congressman RONALD V. DELLUMS of the 9th District of the State of California. He has brought a great conscience to this body during our debates over military spending and the role of the modern U.S. military. He is as thoughtful and passionate on issues to protect the opportunities for children as he is on reducing a massive military budget. Mr. Speaker, on those issues of advocacy of children, he reminds many of a mutual friend of both of ours, Congressman Mickey Leland of Texas.

Mr. Speaker, we all know that Congressman DELLUMS is a staunch opponent of weapons funding, specifically the funding of the B-2 bomber, an issue where he and I have disagreed on sharply. However, as with all his dealings with opponents, I never experienced a slight or an unkind word.

Although he opposes many weapons funding initiatives, he is not an enemy of our military or the ideas of the country it is sworn to protect. Rather, he is outspoken when in times of peace, our military spending takes more importance than feeding our children.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge that Congressman DELLUMS and Congressman Leland lead the effort to end U.S. support for the apartheid regime in South Africa by introducing legislation calling for economic sanctions. Fifteen years later, that legislation passed the House, imposing the sanctions that would eventually lead to the dismantling of apartheid and begin the creation of a new South Africa.

Congressman DELLUMS was born in Oakland, CA, on November 24, 1935. However, he has deep Texas roots. After serving in the U.S. Marine Corps for 2 years, he received an A.A. degree at Oakland City College, A.B.A. from San Francisco State University and his master's in social work from the University of California at Berkeley.

Throughout his career in the Berkeley City Council and Congress, his education background and experience in social work helped draw attention to the plight of the poor and influence the implementation of policies like the National Health Service Act and the Head Start Program.

Mr. Speaker, among all his legislative accomplishments and contributions to this body, all Americans, particularly African-Americans are proud that in 1973 he was the first African-American appointed to the formerly known House Armed Services Committee. He made another historic first in the 103rd Congress, becoming chairman of the committee. As chairman, he articulated a progressive and alternative vision of the military, beginning an honest debate over the possibilities of reinventing our military forces without threatening national security.