

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

ANATOLY KORNUKOV

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, something very outrageous has just happened in Russia that should be an affront to all Americans.

As we all remember, on September 1, 1983, the Soviet Union shot down a civilian jetliner, Korean Airlines flight 007.

Well Mr. Speaker, the very general who gave the order to murder those civilians, including our friend and colleague Congressman Larry McDonald, has just been appointed by President Yeltsin as the new Chief of Staff of the Russian Air Force.

And do you know what? This general, Anatoly Kornukov, still doesn't regret that he gave the order. He still maintains the Soviet fiction that KAL 007 was on a spy mission.

That's right, 6½ years after Boris Yeltsin stood on that tank, and led the dissolution of the Soviet empire, old Communist thinking not only persists in Russia, it is in fact prevalent and is being rewarded by Boris Yeltsin.

And 6 years after we put Russia on the foreign aid dole, to the tune of over \$50 billion from American and Western taxpayers, this is the thanks we get.

It is time for this administration to put their foot down and demand the removal of this killer, otherwise there will be no more foreign aid to Russia.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ELAINE (DE LA TORRE) BERNARD AND CAROL DE LA TORRE OF GENESIS, INC.

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Elaine (De La Torre) Bernard and Carol De La Torre of GENESIS, Inc. for being recognized Business Women of the Year by the Central California Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and Top Female Owned Business by the California State Chamber of Commerce. As sisters and owners of Genesis, Elaine and Carol have made countless contributions to the community and are very deserving of recognition.

For the past 10 years, Elaine Bernard and Carol De La Torre have dedicated their lives to Genesis, Inc., a non-profit organization that provides residential treatment, foster care and supportive family services to children who have been sexually, physically and/or emotionally abused, neglected or abandoned. The Genesis goal is to serve in the Fresno county area and community by providing interventions and building blocks for area youth and families. From the moment Genesis group homes

opened their doors, there have been tremendous changes in the lives of many children.

Originally, GENESIS, INC. opened one residential group home in Fresno to serve female adolescents who were predominately Hispanic and under-served. The number of group homes has grown to six with over forty-two clients in placement. GENESIS also established three community schools to assist with their educational needs and goals. GENESIS has been committed to providing job opportunities to Valley residents and has prided itself on the ability to provide quality employment for both men and women of diverse culture and backgrounds. Furthermore, GENESIS has provided a learning environment for university interns and volunteers who receive valuable on-the-job training and experience under the supervision of highly skilled professionals.

The California State Chamber of Commerce recognizes one top female owned business on an annual basis. On September 19, 1997 Genesis incorporated received this award under the criteria of success and contributions to the community. Genesis was chosen among 30 other nominations from around the state of California.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I pay tribute to Elaine (De La Torre) Bernard and Carol De La Torre of Genesis, Inc. for over 10 years of outstanding community service. It is the leadership and care exhibited by these two sisters that warrant this recognition. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Elaine (De La Torre) Bernard and Carol De La Torre many more years of success.

PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER EXPOSES LABOR ABUSES ON U.S. SOIL

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, the following article appeared in the February 9, 1998 Philadelphia Inquirer and describes the living and working conditions in the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). This article, "Your Pricey Clothing is Their Low-Pay" offers additional examples of the alarming conditions under which many workers in this U.S. territory toil.

Every independent reporter who has traveled to the CNMI to investigate the working and living conditions of the tens of thousands of imported foreign workers there—whose population outnumbered that of the U.S. citizens—has reached the same alarming conclusion: U.S. laws designed to protect workers on U.S. soil are not being adequately applied or enforced. Instead, this part of America has become an outpost for foreign investors, the construction, tourism and garment industries being the major suppliers of foreign workers. In the CNMI, Chinese labor bosses are able to "run their factories just as they would in

China—as virtual sweatshops." Because this is a U.S. territory, \$810 million worth of garments manufactured under these conditions in 1997 entered the U.S. duty—and quota-free and allowed to bear the "Made in USA" label.

One Chinese woman describes restrictive labor practices that include being forbidden from attending church. Another tells of working seven days a week and only occasionally getting a half-day off on Sundays. Human rights advocates say "many guest workers endure unpaid work, forced overtime, withheld wages and unsafe workplaces."

Many foreign workers live in "squalid shacks without running water, sufficient toilets or proper ventilation" but "are too deep in debt back home to risk getting fired" by speaking out about unfair treatment, poor working conditions, or improper wages. Indeed, many of these workers have sold their family's land, their homes, and have borrowed the money from loan sharks to pay recruiters who have promised them good, high-paying jobs in America. The workers must repay these loans or risk harm to themselves and their families.

As the article attests, the CNMI is hardly a good example of a situation we in Congress would want to emulate in our hoe States. Rather, it is an example of what can go horribly wrong when a U.S. territory government develops an economy based heavily on the importation of cheap, alien, indentured workers, who are granted no stake in society, and who are denied adequate labor protections by the local government.

Congress can, and should, take action to correct this situation. I have introduced legislation, HR 1450—the "Insular Fair Wage and Human Rights Act" that would place the CNMI immigration system under federal law, bringing the CNMI into conformity with every other U.S. territory. Further, this legislation will incrementally increase the local minimum wage until it reaches the federal level, and provide that garments only be allowed to bear the "Made in USA" label if all federal laws were adhered to in the manufacture of the garment.

[From the Philadelphia Inquirer, Feb. 8, 1998]
YOUR PRICEY CLOTHING IS THEIR LOW-PAY WORK

(By Jennifer Lin)

SAIPAN, NORTHERN MARIANA ISLAND.— The rest of America may worry about losing jobs to Asia, but this lush island in the far western Pacific has created an outpost of Asia right on American soil.

Pacific Rim investors—primarily overseas Chinese and Koreans—have flocked to this U.S. territory, building a profitable world-class garment industry. They hire workers from China. They import fabric, buttons and zippers from China. And in many cases, they run their factories just as they would in China—as virtual sweatshops—ignoring U.S. laws designed to protect workers.

Even so, the factories can sew "Made in the U.S.A." onto clothing, skirt U.S. duties and quotas, and pay their workers far less than the U.S. minimum wage. Attempts to rescind those privileges have been opposed by several American lawmakers, some of whom have taken trips to Saipan paid for by the island government.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

The coveted "Made in the U.S.A." label is like a seal of approval for clothing-makers, implying that products are untainted by labor abuses the American buying public associates with garments made in Asian sweatshops. But it has lost much of its meaning in Saipan.

Such companies as J.C. Penney, Ralph Lauren, Tommy Hilfiger and Jones New York have paid factories here to make their clothing under contract. The suppliers pay less than U.S. minimum wage and ship duty-free to the U.S.—giving them a decided advantage over competitors who make garments in the U.S.

Often it is impossible for American shoppers to know whether a "Made In U.S.A." shirt was sewn by workers in Philadelphia or by low-wage Chinese in Saipan. (Sensing problems, some U.S. companies have asked their Saipan suppliers to switch to labels that say "Made in the Northern Marianas" or "Made in Saipan.")

Last year, garment factories on the islands shipped a projected \$810 million in clothing to the U.S. mainland. Had the merchandise been treated like imports from Asia, the U.S. Treasury could have collected \$150 million in duties.

Most workers in Saipan's garment industry are Chinese, and 21 of the 26 factories are owned by Asian investors. China's giant, government-controlled textile industry has set up shop here as a way of avoiding strict U.S. quotas. Marianas Garment Manufacturing Inc., indirectly owned by the Chinese textile industry, hires all 500 of its workers in China and flies them here to sew "Made in Saipan, U.S.A." onto its clothing.

There is no other place in the United States or its territories like the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, a chain of 14 scenic islands, including the largest, Saipan, where more than 5,000 American troops died in a World War II battle.

It is the only place on U.S. soil where the local government can set its own rules on minimum wage, and one of two with its own immigration policy (along with American Samoa).

It is the only place where factories import entire workforces and can pay them \$3.05 an hour, well below the minimum wage of \$5.15 an hour in the United States and the \$8 an hour earned by the typical American garment worker.

And it is the only place where foreign workers outnumber citizens—about 35,000 "guest workers" to 27,000 U.S. citizens.

The Northern Mariana Islands offer just one example of how intense global competition combines with an ample supply of desperately poor laborers to perpetuate sweatshop conditions. Garment manufacturers hopscotch the globe in search of cheap labor, cutting deals with local contractors who promise ever cheaper and more pliant workers. When wages rise or workers become restive, manufacturers spread some of their work to the next cheap site, from Taiwan and South Korea in the 1980s to Mexico and Honduras today.

Often, the result is substandard working conditions and subsistence wages, despite campaigns by labor and human-rights groups that have improved the lives of many garment workers. The persistence of sweatshops preserves the low prices and wide selection Americans enjoy for imported garments. But sweatshops also make American-made garments less competitive while swelling American's massive trade deficit with the rest of the world—led by China.

What makes the Northern Mariana Islands unique is that manufacturers here rely not on local workers (who are U.S. citizens) but on imported workforces of impoverished laborers eager to toil for low wages, often under sweatshop conditions.

The islands' garment wages are far higher than the 20 to 50 cents per hour paid in the world's lowest-paying countries. But the exemptions from U.S. standards—and the direct pipeline to the U.S. retail market—more than compensate. The transplanted Asian garment industry here is growing at a rate of 45 percent a year, according to the U.S. Commerce Department.

In an effort to promote economic growth, the exemptions were negotiated by island leaders and approved by Congress in 1976, a year after islanders voted for U.S. commonwealth status. (The United States seized control of the islands from Japan after World War II.)

Island leaders argued that the territory in 1976 was too underdeveloped to afford the federal minimum wage. Islanders also were intent on controlling immigration. With a population in 1976 of only 14,000, the islands feared being overrun by Asians trying to migrate to the United States but getting no farther than Saipan.

(American Samoa has a small number of Chinese workers, but most of its "guest workers" come from neighboring Western Samoa and Tonga.)

Island leaders say they need the exemptions to protect their economy. Employers contend that locals do not want the back-breaking, low-wage sewing or construction jobs that go to outsiders.

Foreign laborers are so hungry for work that they pay thousands of borrowed dollars to middlemen to get them jobs. Once here, many live like indentured servants.

Coming from China, the Philippines, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, they sew clothing, build factories, clean houses, cook meals, wait on tourists, work as hostesses in karaoke bars, pave roads and guard hotels. Critics—including President Clinton—charge that the Northern Mariana Islands are flouting basic American values. Clinton has chastised the island government for importing destitute Asians despite an unemployment rate of 14 percent among natives on the islands, where 30 percent of all citizens live below the poverty line. In a letter last May, the President called labor practices on the islands "inconsistent with our country's values."

On Jan. 14, a bipartisan U.S. congressional commission noted that "only a few countries, and no democratic society, have immigration policies" as open to abuse as Saipan's. The commission recommended extending U.S. labor and immigration laws to the islands—reforms also proposed by the Reagan and Bush administrations.

Pending in Congress are bills that would gradually raise the islands' minimum wage to the federal level, impose federal guidelines for immigration, and restrict the use of the "Made in the U.S.A." label.

The Marianas government has hosted a steady stream of congressional visitors, at an estimated cost of more than \$500,000. The Roll Call newspaper reported that in the last year, seven lawmakers, 75 aides, five spouses and one child—House Majority Whip Tom DeLay (R., Texas) took his daughter—have traveled to Saipan, at a cost of about \$5,000 a person. Typically, the visitors stay in beachfront hotels, tour new factories, and visit golf courses and coral reefs.

"Everybody cries 'junket,'" said Tony Rudy, DeLay's press secretary. "... The fact is that our schedule was filled with meetings from top to bottom."

Rudy said DeLay toured factories and spoke with workers, who told him they earned more in Saipan than they could in their native countries.

"If you bump that up to \$5 or whatever an hour," Rudy said, companies will "just take the next plane over to the Philippines, where they can pay \$1 an hour."

In a letter to officials in Saipan in June, DeLay and House Majority Leader Dick Armey (R., Texas) said any legislation that would harm the islands' economy runs counter to the "principles of the Republican Party." Adam Turner, a spokesman for Juan N. Babauta, the Marianas' representative in Washington, said only "a handful" of Saipan's factories could be considered substandard.

"Hopefully," he said, "the local government will do a better job cleaning it up."

In fact, most of the islands' impoverished garment workers are grateful to earn \$3 an hour. But they work on U.S. soil, and it is indisputable that conditions in many plants here would not pass muster in America.

Eric Gregoire, who until November was a human-rights monitor for the Catholic Church, said some workers are forbidden by their Asian bosses to come and go as they please or to live as freely as people in the United States.

"We're all for economic prosperity, but you have to look at the other side of the ledger," said Allen Staymen, head of the office dealing with U.S. territories for the U.S. Department of Interior. "Slavery also was a very prosperous economic system. Prosperity in itself doesn't justify behavior that is not acceptable in the United States."

In just 15 years, Saipan has built a flourishing garment industry from almost nothing. Its factories employ about as many people as does Philadelphia's beleaguered apparel-and-textile trade, which has lost thousands of jobs to overseas competitors.

"It's an absolute insult to American workers and American taxpayers that you would be able to make these products using harshly exploited individuals and foreign workers and then get all the benefits of using the 'Made in the U.S.A.' label," said Rep. George Miller (D., Calif.), who is pushing to take away most of the islands' privileges.

Spokesmen for several U.S. companies said their monitors have found no evidence of substandard conditions in island plants that sew their garments. "We do monitor those factories where we do sourcing in the Marianas, and to date have had very satisfactory results," said Wes Card, chief financial officer of Jones Apparel Group Inc. of Bristol, which retails the Jones New York label.

One of biggest island factories is Marianas Garment Manufacturing Inc.—indirectly owned by the China National Textiles Import & Export Corp. (Chinatex), a behemoth that handles \$1.2 billion in Chinese textile exports to the world, much of it to the United States.

Robert O'Connor, a Saipan-based attorney for the company, denied that the factory, known locally as MGM, is tied to the Chinese state-run textile industry.

"The name Chinatex has never had anything to do with this corporation," O'Connor said.

In fact, all of the individuals listed as directors and officers of the Saipan factory are executives with the Osaka, Japan, branch office of Chinatex.

Wu Yong, president of the MGM factory, said in a telephone interview from Osaka that Chinatex opened the factory because shipments from Saipan are not controlled by U.S. quotas on textile imports. The United States sets comprehensive limits on shipments of clothing coming from other countries in order to protect U.S. textile jobs. The factory uses labels that say "Made in Saipan, U.S.A." and "Made in the U.S.A."

MGM is one of several garment factories charged in recent years with violations of federal labor laws. In 1992, the island government accused the Chinese factory of keeping two sets of books and paying sweatshop wages—half of the territory's minimum

wage, which was \$2.15 an hour at the time. In September, the company settled the charges by paying \$1 million in back wages.

"That happened five years ago," Wu said through an interpreter. "It's not happening anymore."

Far from Saipan's luxury hotels are what the U.S. Interior Department calls "labor camps," home to 20,000 Asian workers. The fortunate ones get dormitories with bunk beds and communal bathrooms. Others find themselves consigned to squalid shacks without running water, sufficient toilets or proper ventilation.

Young Chinese women spend their days hunched over sewing machines under fluorescent lights. The hours are long and the conditions sometimes harsh, but few complain. They are too deep in debt back home to risk getting fired.

Some Chinese men said they paid \$7,000 apiece for construction jobs, while Chinese seamstresses are charged from \$3,000 to \$4,000 each for passage here—often as much as they will earn in a year after paying taxes and fees for room and board. The money goes to Chinese government middlemen, who secure passports and arrange jobs.

Once here, guest workers are vulnerable to exploitation. Human-rights advocates say many guest workers endure unpaid work, forced overtime, withheld wages and unsafe workplaces.

A seamstress from southern China said she is forced to work seven days a week at Micronesian Garment Manufacturing Inc., one of the largest factories, with nearly 300 workers. Occasionally, she said, she can take a half-day off on Sunday to wash her clothes or write letters. Several workers said the garment factory, controlled by Hong Kong and mainland Chinese investors, would not grant overtime unless the women met their daily quotas. Typically, if a worker falls behind, she must reach her quota on her own time just to qualify for time-and-a-half overtime pay.

Steve Yim, a Hong Kong-based management consultant for Micronesian Garment Manufacturing Inc., confirmed that workers must meet their quotas before they can earn overtime but denied that women work for no pay in order to fill their daily quotas.

"I'm not aware of it," Yim said, adding that no one was forced to work overtime, "but if they are willing to work seven days, we don't prohibit them. We can't stop them."

Guest workers are reluctant to speak out, because they know their employers can send them packing with one day's notice.

"It's not a job market where if they don't like it, they can leave," said Gregoire, the human rights worker. "You're going to sit there and endure whatever you have to endure." Most workers from China are required to sign contracts with the Chinese government, vowing to obey the laws of the United States, Northern Mariana Islands—and China.

A two-year contract for one Chinese carpenter forbids him from engaging in "any political or religious activity." He cannot take drugs, watch "sex movies," fight, get drunk or "fall in love or get married." Some garment-industry executives say conditions are improving as manufacturers become more attuned to American labor practices.

Eloy Inos, an executive with Tan Holdings Corp., the largest garment-maker on Saipan, said the garment factories help create ancillary work in shipping, insurance and other support services. He said some problems had been caused by Asian manufacturers' unfamiliarity with U.S. labor standards.

"They've since learned and have changed a lot, although at times the changes were painful," Inos said.

But restrictive labor practices persist in many garment factories here, despite limited reforms and continued pressure by human-rights groups. Recently, Chinese women were forbidden by their employer from attending a Christian church. The church's Korean pastor had to remind the South Korean factory manager that people in the United States are free to practice religion.

At another South Korean garment company—formerly S.R. Corp., now Coral Fashion Inc.—workers were told that they could leave their barracks only twice a week for one hour. Violators "will be barred from going out the barracks indefinitely," the company wrote in a notice posted on Feb. 6, 1997. The factory has since been warned by local officials that it is against the law in the United States to lock up one's workers.

FOOD CHECK-OUT DAY

HON. JON CHRISTENSEN

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, Monday, February 9th, was "Food Check-Out Day." "Food Check-Out Day" marks the day when most Americans have earned enough money to pay for all the food they will consume for the year. American families spend just 10.9 percent of their disposable income for food compared to 15 percent in France, 18 percent in Germany and 33 percent in Mexico.

Besides supplying the country with an affordable food supply, the American farmer provides jobs to workers off the farm. For each dollar spent on food in this country, only 23 cents goes to the farmer; 77 cents goes to food marketing, processing, retailing, generating thousands of jobs for American workers. In my State of Nebraska, 1 out of 4 jobs are tied to agriculture.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the farmers and ranchers from my State. Without their hard work and dedication to agriculture, the United States would not have the safest, let me reiterate the safest, and most affordable food supply in the world.

CHRISTA CARPENTER'S AWARD WINNING ESSAY

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to share the following essay with our colleagues. It was written by one of my constituents, Ms. Christa Carpenter, and won first place in the March for Life national essay contest commemorating the twenty-fifth anniversary of legalized abortion in the United States. I believe she presents a compelling argument in support of the sanctity of all human life.

WE MARCH ON FOR LIFE AND TRUTH

God's truth is eternal, absolute, universal, and impartial. It is our most powerful weapon in the battle to end abortion. During the past twenty-five years of the murdering of our brothers and sisters, His truth has been marching on in the pro-life movement.

Our Faith tells us that a pre-born baby, from the moment of fertilization, possesses a

soul, and is created in the image and likeness of God. Despite the physical condition of the baby, or the circumstances of conception, all are equal in the sight of God. Whether deformed, retarded, black or white, protectors of life must keep in mind that Christ's truth is without exception, and all pre-born babies possess the right to life. There are no exceptions, no compromises, when it comes to the life of ANY baby.

The Catholic Church proclaims that all men are "obliged to honor and bear witness to the truth". In fact, it is our duty to defend the pre-born. St. Thomas Aquinas states, "As a matter of honor, one man owes it to another to manifest the truth."

Abortion is a direct violation of the truth. The entire platform of the pro-abortion movement is based on lies. Their many statements such as "It's a woman's body"; "It's a blob of tissue"; "The mother's life is at stake" are attempts to justify the murder of a pre-born human being. Abortion can never be justified, for everyone knows in his conscience that it is wrong.

These remarks have been proven wrong by people who have LIVED Christ's truth. The most vivid example in my mind happened two years ago during my Mother's crisis pregnancy, when her water broke and she went into labor prematurely. The doctors refused to give her medical treatment to help save my twenty-week old pre-born brother, John Paul. They said my Mother would die if the pregnancy continued, and declared she should have the abortion for the "sake of the mother".

With the help of many friends, Mom was able to stay at home, never leaving her bed for ninety-three days. Our family endured many trials to keep my brother alive. We were rewarded when he was delivered at thirty-three weeks, for this was long after the time the doctors said he would be dead. He lived twenty-three hours, and received Baptism and Confirmation before he went "straight to Heaven". Many in the world took our experience for a failure, but we take comfort in the fact that John Paul is a saint, and sees God "face to face". Thanks to the truth we learned from those in the pro-life movement, we know Christ's truth. It conquered the lies of the pro-death world in the case of my Mother. She is living proof that the "life of the mother" exception is just an excuse to kill a baby.

Defenders of life, world-wide, have shown their commitment to the truth by sacrificing their time and comfort for the abolition of the Massacre of the Innocents. Actively they protest at abortion clinics, and present the pro-life message at every opportunity: on television, in newspapers, on radio, and in schools.

More often than not, we never see the "fruits" of our endeavors. Some say our efforts in the pro-life movement will never be able to stop the mass murder of children throughout the world. Yet, whether representatives of His truth are the majority or the minority; whether abortion increases or stops entirely; whether we have no political support or have the help of the entire government; His TRUTH will perpetually reign supreme. When it comes to the life of a baby, all know that a baby is a child created in the image and likeness of God, and abortion is the murder of that precious infant.

This battle may ensue for our lifetime or for the next generation to come, but His truth will ultimately "set us free" from the evil of abortion. Advocates of life, take heart: for as His truth is marching on, our God is marching with us.

CONGRATULATING DONNA WEINBRECHT—OUR GOOD WILL AMBASSADOR OF THE SLOPES

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of the United States Congress and the people of New Jersey to congratulate Olympic legend Donna Weinbrecht of West Milford, New Jersey, on an outstanding career. She is a mentor and role model for our young people and a credit to our nation for her excellence in all she does. This young woman from New Jersey is an inspiration to both athletes and non-athletes alike. Her sterling character, hard work, unending dedication and thorough mastery of her sport make her a role model for young people across our nation.

Donna—the world-renowned “Queen of the Moguls”—competed in her final Olympic freestyle race today. Despite a rash of injuries, including a very sore knee, Donna skied her way into the finals on Sunday and today came extremely close to a second career Olympic medal, with a fast and clean run to the finish line.

Mr. Speaker, Donna has been the “foundation” of the U.S. freestyle team for 11 years. Over her career she won an Olympic Gold Medal, seven U.S. titles and five World Cup Championships. These championship performances are what has earned her the international reputation as the “Queen of the Moguls.”

But her impact on her sport goes beyond trophies and honors. She has also served as the sport’s “goodwill ambassador.” Due in large part to Donna’s energetic promotion of freestyle skiing—or “the bumps”—we have the opportunity to watch this exciting form of skiing at the Olympics and around the world.

While Donna is the “Queen of the Moguls,” her mother, Caroline Weinbrecht, calls herself the “Queen of the Screams” for her style in cheering on her daughter.

Caroline and Jim Weinbrecht stayed home from their daughter’s trip to Japan this year because both have health problems that would have made the 14-hour trip difficult. They were with Donna when she won the gold in Albertville in 1992, however, and her brother and sister, Jim and Joy, are in Nagano. They are a family that is always there for each other.

Donna was born April 23, 1965, in Hoboken and now resides in West Milford. Donna won the first-ever Olympic gold medal for women’s freestyle mogul skiing at the 1992 Olympic Games. Nine months later, she suffered a severe knee injury while training for the next ski season. Many experts didn’t expect her to ski competitively again, but with disciplined training and extra effort she came back to win the World Cup in 1994 and 1996. Those are the traits of character and dedication that will bring her continued success in whatever future life endeavor course she chooses.

The 5-foot-4 skier has known a lifetime of achievements. The highlight, of course, was taking the Gold Medal in Freestyle Mogul Skiing at the 1992 Olympic Games in Albertville. In 1990, 1991, 1992, 1994 and 1996, she was both the World Cup and U.S. National Champion in the same event. She took the U.S. title in 1988 and 1989.

She has won 46 Gold, 12 Silver, 12 Bronze World Cup Medals. She was named “International and U.S. Female Freestyle Skier of the Year” by Ski Racing Magazine in 1996; “International Sportswoman of the Year” finalist in 1993; Women Sports Foundation’s 1996 “Ski Athlete of the Year”; the United States Olympic Committee’s “Amateur Athlete of the Year” for 1990–1992; and one of the Women Sports Foundation’s “Outstanding Amateur Athletes in America” for 1990–1992. She was a member of the Amateur Athletic Union in 1990–1992.

Donna’s hometown of West Milford has been enthusiastically cheering on their favorite skier. Students at Apschawa Elementary School e-mailed messages to Donna earlier this week and Olympic flags hang outside several neighbors’ homes. Local schools have shown students videos of her past performances. At West Milford High School, where she was a high school skier, a mural on the gymnasium wall commemorates her 1992 Olympic victory.

My Congressional colleagues and I join Donna’s family, the residents of High Crest Lake in West Milford, the citizens of New Jersey and, indeed, all of our nation in saluting our Olympic champion. Donna will always be a “gold medal champion” in our hearts. She has carried our flag proudly.

TRIBUTE TO TALLER SAN JOSE
(ST. JOSEPH’S WORKSHOP)

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Taller San Jose (St. Joseph’s Workshop) for offering hope to the Latino youth who seek a productive, self-reliant future. The young people who come to Taller San Jose are looking for a second chance to “work on their lives”. The students are male and female, 18 and over, and bilingual. They have usually dropped out of school, often more than once; have one or more children; want to finish school; and seek job training in order to become productive adults.

The program includes life skills and mentoring, GED preparation, computer literacy, clerical skills, nursing assistant training, and wood-working. All classes are designed for participants to develop job ready skills and behaviors which translate into accountability and responsibility. The program also offers classes to the larger community such as English as a Second Language at the basic and intermediate levels.

Taller San Jose, which has been open for 2½ years, was a recent recipient of the Audrey Nelson Community Development Achievement Award. This award recognizes exemplary uses of Community Development Block Grant funds which address the needs of families, homes and neighborhoods. TSJ was recognized as one of six in the nation to receive this national award in 1998.

IN HONOR OF PHILIP J. GARONE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Philip J. Garone, a beloved member of the Greenpoint, Brooklyn community who recently passed away.

Mr. Garone, a lifelong resident of Brooklyn, was one of six sons born to Angelina and Angelo-Charles Garone in 1911. When Philip’s father passed away, Philip began working after school to help support his family. This dedication to his family continued throughout his life.

Philip Garone also had a passion for music. He began playing the saxophone at an early age and was soon sought after by music great Tommy Dorsey. After working as a lithographer in the printing industry, Philip would play the sax at Greenwich Village clubs with famous musicians such as Gene Crooper and Sam “the man” Taylor.

In 1936, Philip married Virginia Torre at St. Francis De Paola Church. Together they had three daughters, Angela, RoseAnn and Phyllis, and lived on Lombardy Street in Greenpoint. Throughout their 23 years marriage, Philip was urged by many musicians to go on the road with his music. Again, his dedication to his family kept him close to home.

Philip and Virginia were married for 23 years until Virginia’s tragic death from cancer in 1959 at the age of 42. Five years later, Philip met and married Angie DeLuca.

In Philip’s 60 year musical career he played for community events, politicians, feasts, dances, block parties, and neighborhood weddings. In recent years he began playing for senior citizen groups at the Garity Post and the Swinging Sixties.

On April 13, 1997, Philip Garone died of a massive stroke at the age of 86. The silence of his saxophone is felt throughout the Greenpoint community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues rise with me in this tribute to Mr. Philip Garone, a very talented and devoted man who contributed to his community with the beauty of his music and his devotion to his family and neighbors. He is greatly missed.

LISTEN CAREFULLY, PRESIDENT
MENEM

HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, Argentine President Carlos Menem will attend a special showing of “The Elixir of Love” at the Metropolitan Opera House at Lincoln Center. With all due respect to tenor Ramone Vargas, there are far more important voices for President Menem to hear in New York.

He should hear the voice of Americans angry about the failure of his government to bring anti-semitic terrorists to justice. In 1992, the Israeli embassy in Buenos Aires was bombed. Two years later, the Argentine Jewish Mutual Association (AMIA) was car-bombed. Not a single person has been convicted of these crimes.

He should hear the outrage of the American Jewish community, angry that 115 people were murdered by these bombings, the worst act committed against Diaspora Jews since the Holocaust.

Most important, however, President Menem should see how Americans deal with terrorists who kill in our country. We use all available resources to track down these cowardly murderers. Americans would never stand for such incessant delays in bringing them to trial.

I understand that by mentioning these tragedies, I am bringing to his attention some of the unpleasant realities that exist in Argentina. It would be much easier for President Menem to turn a blind eye to the problems of terrorists and Neo-Nazism in his country.

But, President, Menem, you need to hear that the world will continue to look at Argentina with a jaundiced eye until there is action in this case.

You need to hear that anti-semitism is unacceptable in a democracy.

And you need to hear that we will not rest until justice is served.

Listen, carefully, President Menem. We hope we are heard.

REMEMBERING THE JAPANESE-AMERICAN INTERNMENT

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, we have always prided ourselves in being one Nation, one people. The United States is truly a country composed of immigrants, and the great attraction continues to be the hope of a better life in this dynamic land. However, February 19 represents the tragic betrayal of that American dream to a group of Americans singled out for their race. On February 19, 1942, President Franklin Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066 which authorized the relocation and incarceration of thousands of Americans of Japanese descent in camps all over the United States.

After the American declaration of war against Japan, Executive Order 9066 went into effect. Japanese-American families endured terrible living conditions under these camps administered by an organization called the War Relocation Authority. Food shortages, cramped, communal living quarters and lack of sanitation facilities were only a few of the hardships. Although Japanese-Americans were later allowed, and sometimes forced, to enlist in the American military service, they were paid sub-level wages and fought for a country which imprisoned their families. Some courageous Japanese-Americans legally challenged the executive order; however, the Supreme Court upheld its validity.

On December 17, 1944, President Roosevelt revoked Executive Order 9066 and Japanese-Americans were allowed to return home. Many families were forced to start their lives from scratch. Although the American Evacuation Claims Act of 1948 was supposed to compensate Japanese-Americans, less than 10% were paid in property losses of over 26,500 claims. On August 10, 1988, President Reagan issued an apology and offered restitution for those who survived the camps. How-

ever, half of the 120,000 incarcerated Japanese-Americans died even before the bill was signed into law.

Japanese-American imprisonment in the 1940's is a tragic episode in American history which cannot be repeated. February 19, is a fateful day and should remind us of the lessons learned from Executive Order 9066. The racial connotations attributed to that order resulted in the mass betrayal of thousands of Americans who were constantly moved to exhibit their loyalties to the United States.

In 1998, there are those who have not even heard of the Japanese-American internment. We must educate our constituents on the importance of this day. I am happy to note that the Museum of American History has provided an extensive exhibit on this subject. I encourage my colleagues to view this exhibit. As Americans, we owe it to our constituents to educate ourselves about this terrible and unfortunate experience in our history.

IN HONOR OF REP. RONALD V. DELLUMS

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, Rep. Ronald V. Dellums leaves the House of Representatives after twenty-six years of dedicated service to the people of California's ninth district and to all Americans. His unyielding determination and leadership curbed military spending and aided the reserve of the nuclear arms race. His resolution for change led him to develop alternative agendas and budgets to take the burden of the Cold War off the next generation. Investment in education, economic development and the reinstatement of a progressive tax base were his weapons. Dellums' desire for justice for all, shadowed his support of the 1991 Civil Rights Restoration Act, the reauthorization of the 1967 Voting Rights Act and for reparations for Japanese-Americans interned in concentration camps during World War II. His intensity for justice did not stop on the shores of America. In 1971, Rep. Dellums was the first to introduce legislation for economic sanctions against the racist apartheid regime of South Africa. Fifteen years later his bill passed the House, leading to the imposition of sanctions. South Africa is now free.

What do you say to a man who has devoted his career to justice and peace? You say . . . Thank you, Mr. Dellums. Thank you for standing tall against the forces that be. Thank you for being independent and outspoken. Thank you for supporting what was always the greater good.

The retirement of Rep. Ronald V. Dellums will be a great loss in the halls of Congress, but his legacy of peace will live on.

A TRIBUTE TO A BASEBALL GIANT

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my admiration and deep grati-

tude for an outstanding athlete and a magnificent human being. Andre (The Hawk) Dawson. On February 21, 1998, Andre will be honored with a tribute for his many accomplishments in the field of baseball and for his achievements as a father and a mentor to thousands of young people who have reaped the benefits of his dedicated work in our community and throughout our nation.

For his outstanding accomplishments, Southwest Miami Senior High School Alumni Association, will proudly induct Andre into the Southwest Miami Senior High School Hall of Fame. Our high school athletes will be performing on the playing field of "Andre Dawson Field", and SW 50 Terrace (between 88 and 89 Avenue) will become "Andre Dawson Drive".

Andre has dedicated his ability and love of baseball to the game, thus achieving a multitude of awards since 1977. He began as Rookie of the Year in 1977, winning the Silver Slugger Award from 1980-'87, Gold Glove Award, 1980-'88, Allstar Team Selection from 1980-'89, Sporting News Player of the year in 1987 and the National League Most Valuable Player Award in 1987. He played for professional baseball teams, including the Boston Red Sox, Chicago Cubs, and the Florida Marlins.

Andre's stellar achievements go above baseball. He is a wonderful role model for our young people because of his deep religious faith and his commitment to family and community. He has worked tirelessly through fundraising events to raise money for children's benefits and making appearances on behalf of children's causes. He devotes much of his time to the Jimmy Ryce Foundation, a foundation formed to find missing children, and he has raised money for Alzheimer's disease research. He also has a private Andre Dawson Foundation, which is dedicated to helping the needy.

Andre is truly deserving of his upcoming honor. He has been blessed with a great talent, a compassionate heart, and a passion for helping his fellow man. We have been blessed to have Andre Dawson as our hero on and off the field.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE TOWN OF GARRETT PARK

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Town of Garrett Park, Maryland which is celebrating 100 years of incorporation this year. Throughout the year the town will be celebrating numerous centennial events, including a New Year's Eve party and a New Year's Day Open House.

The Town of Garrett Park is named for Robert W. Garrett, who was president of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad in the late 1800's. The railroad, which first opened in the Washington, D.C. area in 1873, helped jump-start development in Montgomery County and ultimately, helped lay the groundwork for the incorporation of Garrett Park.

The one hundredth anniversary of Garrett Park's incorporation is a great achievement. This lovely town, which is located on the

banks of Rock Creek, has grown from its simple beginnings into a model for other municipalities to emulate. Garrett Park is a town which has embraced modern technology and yet still maintained a strong association with its rich history.

When you ask the people of Garrett Park to describe themselves and their town, they usually speak of their "independence" and "civic duty". They have a great respect for their local government and strive to look after one another. Garrett Park's greatest attribute may be the sense of close-knit community, from which stems its national recognition.

Again, I congratulate Garrett Park on this milestone. It is an achievement that all America should look up to and honor.

TRIBUTE TO MR. WALTER HAMEL,
LAST SURVIVING WORLD WAR I
VETERAN OF HAVERILL, MASSA-
CHUSETTS

HON. JOHN F. TIERNEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute Mr. Walter Hamel, the last surviving World War I veteran in the City of Haverill, Massachusetts.

Mr. Walter Hamel is a true American patriot and war historian. Born 97 years ago, one of seven children, he enlisted in the war. Still underage at only 17 years old, Walter entered the service with the permission and blessing of his mother. During World War I, Walter was assigned to the U.S. Army Signal Corps in Hawaii. Not only did he gallantly serve in this post during World War I, his patriotism for the United States never waned. Upon his return, Mr. Hamel participated in many parades and walked from nursing home to nursing home to distribute flags on Veterans' Day. Last November, the Haverill Gazette, located in my district, profiled Mr. Hamel as "An Enduring Patriot" for his actions.

Indeed, Mr. Hamel is not only a source of inspiration to his friends and family, but also to us all. Mr. Speaker, I am proud of the accomplishments of Mr. Walter Hamel; his military service and civil pride are to be commended. I hope my colleagues will join with me today in wishing Mr. Walter Hamel the very best as he continues to inspire us all.

TRIBUTE TO EDWARD C. VALDEZ

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Edward C. Valdez for his commitment and dedication to the Hispanic community. Edward Valdez is a prominent attorney and was awarded the 1997 Latin American Businessman of the Year. His accomplishments with the Hispanic community are noteworthy and warrant recognition.

Born in Castroville, California, Valdez spent much of his childhood in the fields picking fruit and vegetables. Valdez did very well in school, but had the notion that college and

higher education was for non-Hispanics. He grew up in a community where people worked in the fields all of their lives and no one ever went to college. This discouragement caused him to join the Army instead of continuing on with school.

In the service, Valdez began to meet college graduates and realize that he could also go to college. In 1964, Valdez finished his military obligation and enrolled in junior college. His college studies and determination paid off in the late 1960s when AAA Insurance hired him as a claims adjuster. The company soon promoted Valdez to a job in Fresno, where he continued his education at California State University, Fresno. In 1969, he began law school and worked as a paralegal by day and studied by night.

After graduation, Valdez and several other lawyers formed a partnership that became well known for work with the under-served Valley populations and Hispanic leaders. When his partners left the firm to become judges, Valdez built his firm into a solo practice. He continued his motivation by providing help with several community service projects. Valdez supports the Central California Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and the positive effects it has on business in the Valley.

Valdez credits much of his success as a result of his education. I praise his emphasis in the importance of higher education. He encourages lifting Valley farm-labor populations into enterprises that bring jobs and money through higher education.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I pay tribute to Edward C. Valdez for his accomplishments and dedication to the Hispanic community. His passion for the legal profession and his encouragement for Hispanic youth is both refreshing and inspirational. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Edward Valdez many more years of success.

PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER RE-
PORTS RAMPANT LABOR ABUSES
IN U.S. COMMONWEALTH

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, the following article is the second of two that appeared in the February 9, 1998 Philadelphia Inquirer and describes the plights of tens of thousands of foreign workers who live and labor in one of our U.S. territories, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). This article, "For Workers, Island Jobs can be a Losing Proposition," describes the desperate situations of these workers once they arrive in the CNMI deeply in debt and prone to exploitation.

Every independent reporter who has traveled to the CNMI to investigate the working and living conditions of the tens of thousands of imported foreign workers there has found that the principles behind the labor and immigration situation in the CNMI are contrary to those defined by established ideals of American democracy. The CNMI economy is based on the exploitation of a large, disenfranchised, foreign population, and laws to protect these workers on U.S. soil are neither being adequately applied, nor enforced, and perpetrators of justice are not being punished.

The article describes fifty-five men from China who each paid \$7,000 to a Chinese recruiter for "transportation, passports, and the promise of construction jobs. Most had to borrow money from friends, family members or loan sharks." Once they arrived in the CNMI, these men found no jobs waiting. Although the men marched in protest to the offices of the U.S. Department of Labor, the federal government could not help them because the CNMI has sole authority over immigration policy and controlling recruiters.

A similar story is repeated for 134 men from Bangladesh who paid \$5,000 to recruiters for jobs that did not exist. In both cases, the recruiters responsible for bringing these men from China and Bangladesh to the CNMI have fled, while the men remain disenchanting, hungry and desperate for employment.

The article also details the story of one 22 year old Chinese worker who tells of being summoned four times by her garment factory supervisor in his attempts to pressure her into returning to China to have an abortion after she became pregnant. The worker refused to have an abortion and, after losing several days of work because of a pregnancy related illness, was fired. She is now jobless and fears deportation back to China, where she would likely be subjected to a late-term abortion because she is unmarried.

Nowhere else in America would these practices be allowed to continue. Congress must act to change this situation. I have introduced legislation, HR 1450—the "Insular Fair Wage and Human Rights Act" that would place the CNMI immigration system under federal law, bringing the CNMI into conformity with every other U.S. territory. Further, this legislation will incrementally increase the local minimum wage until it reaches the federal level, and provide that garments only be allowed to bear the "Made in USA" label if all federal laws were adhered to in the manufacture of the garment. Passage of this legislation would bring additional federal oversight to the policies practiced in this remote corner of America.

[From the Philadelphia Inquirer, Feb. 8, 1998]
FOR WORKERS, ISLAND JOBS CAN BE A LOSING
PROPOSITION

(By Jennifer Lin)

SAIPAN, NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS.— They arrive on the red-eye flight from Hong Kong pulling little suitcases on wheels into the humid, predawn blackness. Poor, tired and hungry for work, these young men and women from China are hoping for a slice of the American Dream.

They have paid thousands of dollars to agents at home for jobs in clothing factories on this faraway island that few can find on a map. At the airport, they stand out from the Japanese tourists heading off to luxury hotels on blossom-scented beaches. They are whisked away by waiting van's to spartan barracks.

For many desperate Asians, dreams of working in America have turned into living nightmares in Saipan. Men from Bangladesh and China have turned over their life savings to middlemen for jobs that never materialize. Young women from the Philippines have come to work in bars and been forced into prostitution. Garment workers from China have found themselves toiling in sweatshops for employers who cheat them out of their wages or limit their freedom.

Chinese garment worker Tu Xiaomei, 22 and pregnant, is one of the many unlucky ones. She is broke, jobless, and fearful of being deported.

Tu arrived in Saipan in the summer of 1996 and planned to work in a garment factory for two years. At a \$3.05-an-hour sewing job here, she could earn more in one year than in four back home.

She fell in love with a Chinese laborer and became pregnant. When her factory found out, Tu said, it pressured her to return to China to have an abortion. She said a supervisor summoned her four times to deliver the same message.

"She didn't say, 'You must go back to China for an abortion.'" Tu said, "but she always said, 'Think about it.'"

It is difficult to get an abortion on this predominantly Catholic island. But in China, abortion is widely used as a form of birth control for women limited by the government to one child. In Tu's home province of Jiangxi, women, by law, are not allowed to marry until they are 23 and may not legally bear a child until they are 24.

Tu refused to have the abortion. She wanted to work until the baby was born (she is due in May) and return to China only after her two-year contract with the factory had expired in July.

But in December, she missed several days of work because of a pregnancy-related illness. Her boss at the factory, owned by mainland Chinese and Hong Kong investors, told her not to come back, she said.

Steve Yim, a Hong Kong-based management adviser for the factory, Micronesian Garment Manufacturing Inc., denied that anyone pressured Tu to return to China for an abortion and said she "deliberately" stopped going to work.

Six months pregnant, Tu now rents a room near a busy road. Her bed consists of two wood planks on blocks. She has little food on her shelves and no money to see a doctor. Her biggest fear, she said, is being forced to return to China, where she would risk being pressured to undergo a late-term abortion.

"I don't want to have an abortion," Tu said. "It's a small life; it's six months old. I'm afraid."

The tens of thousands of foreigners brought to Saipan as "guest workers" are recruited by middlemen who operate in a murky business that is loosely regulated and open to abuse. Local recruiters who promise to find jobs for foreigners work in tandem with agents in such places as China, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and the Philippines.

Fifty-five Chinese men from northeast China said they arrived here in September, only to find there were no jobs waiting. The men, recruited from a down-and-out industrial region of China with high unemployment, each paid \$7,000 to a Chinese agent for transportation, passports, and the promise of construction jobs. Most had to borrow money from friends, family members or loan sharks, they said.

For weeks, the men were holed up in a dirty, hot, crowded, metal barracks near a golf course with an ocean view. They had little to eat and limited fresh water, they said. J&J International, the employer who had promised them work, had only been able to place a few of them.

On Oct. 21, the rest of the men marched in protest to the offices of the U.S. Department of Labor, carrying a banner that read, in English and Chinese: "We need live. We need work."

The U.S. federal government could not help them. One of the unique things about the Northern Mariana Islands is that the local government has full authority over immigration. It also is responsible for policing recruiters.

Kim Long, an employee for J&J International, said in December that the company had found work for 10 men and that the others were seeking too much money, demand-

ing wages of \$5 an hour instead of the island's minimum wage of \$3.05 an hour.

The men told a different story. They said they would work for any wage at all.

In a letter to U.S. labor officials in October, they wrote, in Chinese: "Many Chinese regard the United States as heaven on earth. But there are swindlers out there who dare to bring shame to the American government."

The jobless laborers protested again in December. This time, having been kicked out of their barracks, they carried bedrolls under their arms. Embarrassed local officials went on television to seek jobs for the men and leaned on garment factories to find them work.

Some of the men got work building a casino on a neighboring island. About a dozen became so frustrated that they returned to China.

Another batch of workers from Bangladesh, meanwhile, has not been as fortunate.

In early 1997, 134 men from Bangladesh paid \$5,000 apiece to recruiters for jobs that, as it turned out, did not exist. The local go-between, responsible for arranging the work in Saipan, fled to the Philippines.

Today, many of the men are still without work, left to scrounge for food and shelter, fearful of being deported and knowing that angry loan sharks would be on their tails back home.

Naive and unschooled, many of these workers believed the tall tales they heard from unscrupulous recruiters. One was promised a U.S. passport as soon as he got here. Another said he was told he could take a bus from Saipan to California. He is still looking for work.

CONGRATULATIONS TO HOLLIS DYER, OAK GROVE, MO'S, BUSINESSPERSON OF THE YEAR

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that the Oak Grove, Missouri, Chamber of Commerce has named Hollis Dyer as Business Person of the Year.

Born in Independence, Missouri, Hollis Dyer's family moved early in his life to Odesa, Missouri, where he graduated from Odesa High School at the age of 16. In 1945, Dyer began a short career in the Army, and then went on to attend Southwest Baptist Junior College in Bolivar, MO. He received an Associate of Arts degree from that school, and then attended Central Missouri State University. Before graduating from CMSU, Dyer became a teacher, and he continued to teach from 1947 through May 1955. In 1955, Dyer began a new career in banking, and became president of the Commercial Bank of Oak Grove in 1962. Dyer has served as president of the bank ever since, and he has established himself as an outstanding community leader.

Over the years, Dyer has attempted to make his hometown a better place to live and work. He, along with the community, brought one of the earliest senior citizen apartment complexes to the region, and this facility became a model prototype. Dyer was also involved with naming the streets in Oak Grove in order to create better insurance rates for

the residents of the small community. In addition, Dyer supported the schools and churches of the area, as well as their many worthwhile projects.

Hollis Dyer's endless interest in the growth of the community and the well-being of its residents makes his name a household word to many who live in the city and the surrounding area. I am certain that the Members of the House will join me in congratulating Oak Grove, Missouri's Businessperson of the Year.

IN HONOR OF PICABO STREET

HON. MIKE CRAPO

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to your attention the exciting news from the Winter Olympics in Nagano, Japan.

Picabo Street, an outstanding ski racer and pride of Sun Valley, Idaho, which I have the honor of representing, has captured the gold medal in the Women's Super-G event. This announcement is particularly exciting for the whole country because this medal represents one of the first two medals won by any U.S. competitors in Nagano. My colleagues will also be interested to know that, in addition to being from the world-renowned ski resort of Sun Valley, she is also named for the town of Picabo in Idaho's Second Congressional District.

As you may recall, Mr. Speaker, Picabo Street has already become a well-known sports star from her silver medal triumph in Lillehammer, Norway, four years ago. But yesterday's accomplishment is much more heroic when you consider that she has only just returned from a knee operation that would have ended most careers and a frightening fall twelve days ago that resulted in her becoming unconscious. I'm pleased to join my colleagues in saluting her today.

And the news only gets better. The Super-G is not Picabo Street's preferred event. As a downhill specialist, her triumph in the yesterday's event firmly establishes Picabo Street as the favorite for Saturday's Women's Downhill event. Mr. Speaker, our heartfelt thanks go out to Picabo Street for ending America's medal drought in Nagano. I'm sure you will be watching eagerly the contest on Saturday.

HONORING THE 1998 FAIRFAX COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE VALOR AWARD WINNERS

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 1998 Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce Valor Award Winners. On Thursday, February 12, 1998, the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce will present the Annual Valor Awards at the McLean Hilton.

The Valor Awards honor public service officials who have demonstrated extreme self-sacrifice, personal bravery, and ingenuity in the performance of their duty. There are five categories: The Gold Medal of Valor, The Silver Medal of Valor, The Bronze Medal of

Valor, The Certificate of Valor, and The Life Saving Award.

The Valor Award is a project of the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce, in conjunction with the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. This is the twentieth year that these awards have been presented.

The Silver Medal of Valor is awarded in recognition of acts involving great personal risk.

The Silver Medal of Valor Award Winners for 1998 are: Police Officer John Alford, Police Officer First Class Randyll E. Newman, Police Officer First Class Dennis E. Voebeau, Police Officer First Class Michelle A. Wicker, Police Officer First Class Jeffrey K. Rockenbaugh, and Second Lieutenant Jesse F. Bowman.

The Bronze Medal of Valor is awarded in recognition of acts involving unusual risk beyond that which should be expected while performing the usual responsibilities of the member.

The Bronze Medal of Valor Award Winner for 1998 are Police Officer First Class Daniel C. Gohn, Police Officer First Class Scott F. Moskowitz, Master Police Officer Anthony J. Ruffel, Police Officer First Class Steven W. Faett, Police Officer First Class Michael J. Weaver, Master Technician Kerry R. Jackson, Technician Samuel L. Gray, Technician Robert J. Alvarado, Master Police Officer Michael W. Bishop, Police Officer First Class T. Brad Caruthers, and Police Officer First Class David R. Moyer.

The Certificate of Valor is awarded for acts that involve personal risk and/or demonstration of judgment, zeal, or ingenuity not normally involved in the performance of duties.

The Certificate of Valor Award Winners for 1998 are Firefighter Gregory G. Foley, Lieutenant Wesley L. Marshall, Technician Anthony E. Doran, Technician Michael D. Hendershot, Lieutenant Charles D. Mills, Sergeant Diann L. Makariak, Police Officer First Class John J. Kiernan, Jr., Police Officer Chad E. Mahoney, and Police Officer First Class Scott F. Moskowitz.

The Lifesaving Award is awarded for acts taken in life-threatening situations where an individual's life is in jeopardy, either medically or physically.

The Lifesaving Award for 1998 are Technician Joseph P. Gorman, Lieutenant Michael A. Seabright, Public Safety Communications Center Assistant Supervisor Mary Ann Gerald, Police Officer First Class Paul J. O'Neill, Police Officer First Class Abraham Gelabert, Police Officer First Class Randolph A. Conley, Public Safety Communications Assistant Arlene Foote, Public Safety Communications Assistant Ronald D. Brooks, Police Officer Timothy C. Benedict, Police Officer First Class John W. Jackson, Police Officer Pierre J. Geis, Firefighter Brian K. Morton, Captain Randall J. Kennedy, and Lieutenant David L. Prohaska.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to send my sincere gratitude and heartfelt appreciation to these distinguished public servants who are truly deserving of the title "hero."

PUNJAB REPORTER'S MAIL BEING SEIZED

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, once again the truth has leaked out from behind the facade of Indian democracy. The Punjab government of Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal has issued an order intercepting the mail of Sukhbir Singh Osan, a reporter based in Chandigarh who writes for numerous publications including *Aj Di Awaaz*.

In addition to Mr. Osan, the superintendent of police, Mr. R.P. Singh, issued a written order to intercept the mail of "five senior ex-Army officers and some politicians residing in Chandigarh," according to *Burning Punjab News*. Postal authorities verbally confirmed the existence of the order, but refused to put the confirmation in writing.

This is not a new practice. In 1993, the Movement Against State Repression—and why does a democratic country need a "Movement Against State Repression" anyway?—went to court to get an injunction against the Home Secretary of the Union Territory, who was intercepting the mail of politicians and journalists. The High Court ruled the interceptions illegal, yet a mere five years later the Punjab government is doing the same thing. This is the reality of Indian "democracy."

Mr. Osan has been one of the few journalists with the courage to expose the repression, corruption, and police-state tactics of the Punjab government. For this, his civil rights are being violated, yet India and its friends here insist more loudly than ever that India is a "democracy." Clearly, it is not a democracy for Sukhbir Singh Osan and other political opponents of the Punjab government or for the minorities living under the repression of the state and central government. Couple this with the political detentions of several followers of Jasbir Singh Rode last August and the ongoing complaints against Sikh youth under the supposedly-expired "Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act" (TADA), and you discover the real face of Indian democracy. Underneath that democratic veneer is a brutal police state unworthy of American aid or trade.

I ask the American ambassador to India to raise this matter with the Government of India and to report back to the Congress on when this ban is going to be lifted. Journalists and all citizens must be free to receive information freely. Until India learns to respect freedom of the press, it has no right to call itself a democracy.

I am inserting the article from *Burning Punjab* on the interception of Mr. Osan's mail into the RECORD. I hope my colleagues will take the time to read it.

CITY SCRIBE'S MAIL INTERCEPTED

CHANDIGARH, January 22—The Punjab Government headed by Parkash Singh Badal has ordered to intercept the mail of a city scribe working for *Aj Di Awaaz*, five other ex-army officers and a few politicians.

According to the information, Punjab Intelligence SSP Mr. R.P. Singh has directed his men in writing to collect the mail of Sukhbir Singh Osan, five senior ex-army officers and some politicians residing in Chandigarh.

When contacted the postal authorities confirmed the interception of mail by Punjab

CID men. However, Postal authorities refused to give anything in writing.

It may be recalled that during 1993 President of Movement Against State Repression, Mr. Inderjit Singh Jaijee, had challenged in the Punjab & Haryana High Court the orders issued by the U.T. Home Secretary to intercept the mail of certain politicians and ten journalists. The High Court described the said order not only unconstitutional but illegal also. Sukhbir Singh Osan has invited the wrath of Parkash Singh Badal and his police for daring to expose corrupt practices of the Government in his dispatches from time to time.

A TRIBUTE TO LEON H. FIELDS

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Leon H. Fields, an outstanding public servant. Mr. Fields has spent nearly 28 years helping Chicagoans get here to there and back again.

Mr. Leon Fields of Glenwood, Illinois is retiring from the Chicago Transit Authority, which operates the bus and rail system in the city.

The service Mr. Fields has offered to the CTA is a real "up-by-the-bootstraps" story. He began his career with the authority in 1969 as a rail car service and repairman. He steadily rose through the ranks at the CTA. Mr. Fields worked as a Maintenance Instructor, a Repair Shop Foreman, a Liaison to the Executive Director, Manager of Field Operations, Director of Rail Vehicle Light Maintenance and finally, General Manager of the CTA's orange line, which runs through the heart of my congressional district.

I have had the pleasure of working with Mr. Fields for more than five years, and I can tell you that his family's gain will be a loss for the people of Chicago who rely on the CTA. His knowledge, experience and dedication are second to none.

I would like to extend to Mr. Fields and his wife Denosia, and their children, Leon Jr., Angela, Tarsha and Latryce my best wishes on his retirement and my hope that they have many, many years together to enjoy the important things in life.

COLORECTAL CANCER LEGISLATION

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to announce that I am introducing a resolution to bring new public attention and federal resources to the issue of colorectal cancer.

Every year I lose an average of 172 of my constituents in Monroe County, New York to colorectal cancer. This is a tragic failure of our health care system because colorectal cancer is preventable, detectable, treatable, and often curable. Nevertheless, 55,000 Americans died in 1997 from this terrible disease.

Today I am introducing legislation that I hope will begin to dispel this deadly lack of knowledge. Along with 20 of my colleagues, I

will introduce a resolution drawing attention to colorectal cancer and urging the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a national public education and awareness campaign.

Too many Americans are simply unaware of their risk for colorectal cancer and the need for regular screening. Many cases of colorectal cancer can be prevented by eating a healthy, well-balanced diet, exercising regularly, and avoiding the abuse of alcohol and tobacco. Other cases can be prevented by removing precancerous polyps. And when colorectal cancer is detected before it has spread, it is 92 percent curable.

Tragically, too many cases of this cancer are not detected at that early stage. Respected authorities such as the American Cancer Society recommend that people over 50 have annual colorectal cancer screenings. Yet fewer than 20 percent of Americans at risk do so. According to one survey, one-third of men and women over 50 had never even heard of a sigmoidoscopy, one of the main tests to detect this disease.

We need to mount a war against this terrible disease. Education is the first vital step enabling us to reach all Americans with factual, scientific information about reducing their risk for colorectal cancer. We need to talk about this disease, and we need the media to take an active role in writing about it. Ten years ago it was not considered polite to talk about a mammogram in public; I want to bring colorectal cancer screening out of the closet the same way. Yesterday's Washington Post Health section set a shining example by devoting an entire special issue to colorectal cancer. We need more efforts like this to teach everyone about the steps they can take to avoid this disease.

As an activist on women's health issues, I would like to note that this issue is especially important for women. For too long, women have viewed colorectal cancer as a man's disease. This is utterly false. Colorectal cancer is an equal opportunity killer, striking men and women at equal rates. I want to be sure both our brothers and our sisters are all getting regular colorectal cancer screenings and taking measures to reduce their risk.

Education is the first step in the battle we are waging. Today I sent a letter to HHS Secretary Donna Shalala embarking upon the second step of this war as well. This letter requests that the department examine some of the causes underlying the low rates of colorectal cancer screening in our nation, including levels of screening around the nation, the importance of factors such as insurance coverage, and the role physicians play in ensuring that patients are screened regularly. This report will yield some new insights into additional steps we can take in Congress to fight colorectal cancer.

I am pleased to note that several Members of Congress with outstanding records on the issue of colorectal cancer are serving as lead original cosponsors of this resolution: Representatives CHARLIE RANGEL, BILL THOMAS, NORMAN SISISKY, BEN CARDIN, and ALCEE HASTINGS. Fifteen other Members of Congress have signed on as original cosponsors as well. I am also proud to announce that this resolution already has been endorsed by the American Cancer Society and Partnership for Prevention.

I hope all my colleagues will join me in working to defeat colorectal cancer, a disease

that needlessly claims the lives of far too many Americans every year.

TRIBUTE TO BISHOP JOHN HURST
ADAMS

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today during Black History Month to pay tribute to one of the most effectual persons I have ever known, Bishop John Hurst Adams, the Senior Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Bishop Adams was born in Columbia, South Carolina, where he now lives and presides.

Bishop Adams grew up in the Waverly neighborhood of Columbia, which is located in the Sixth Congressional District which I proudly serve. He attended Waverly Elementary School, Booker T. Washington High School, and later Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, North Carolina, where he lettered in four sports. Bishop Adams continued his education at the Boston University School of Theology, Harvard University School of Divinity, and Union Theological Seminary.

Bishop Adams has spread the gospel across the breadth of our country during his lifetime of service. He began his ministry with a small congregation in Lynn, Massachusetts. He taught at Payne Theological Seminary in Ohio, and later served as President of Paul Quinn College in Texas for six years and as Chairman of the Board for eight. During his years at Paul Quinn College, the school received accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) and saw many new buildings, renovations and improvements.

Bishop Adams next pastored the First AME Church in Seattle. His impact on the community was so great that both daily newspapers published editorials lamenting his departure. From Seattle, Bishop Adams went to Los Angeles where he pastored Grant AME in the Watts section of Los Angeles, known for the Watts riot. It was here that he created a Saturday morning Ethnic School to teach reading, writing and black pride without white hate. That Saturday morning school continues to function today. It was while in Los Angeles that Bishop Adams was elected the 87th Bishop of the African Methodism.

Upon his election, Bishop Adams served the Tenth Episcopal District in Texas and later left his mark on the Second Episcopal District here in the Mid-Atlantic States. Under his leadership, 40 new congregations sprouted throughout the district. From here, he went to serve the Sixth Episcopal District in Georgia, and while there served as Chairman of the Board of Trustees for Morris Brown College, Turner Theological Seminary, Interdenominational Theological Center and the Atlanta University Center. He also served on the Centennial Olympic Committee.

I am very proud that Bishop Adams' service has now called him to the Seventh Episcopal District in South Carolina to preside over the State's 609 AME churches. Although his work is far from over, he has made numerous improvements in the community in which we live. Under his Chairmanship, Allen University, one

of seven historically Black Colleges and Universities in my district, has received its ten year accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Enrollment at Allen continues to climb, and the campus is in perpetual renovation as an exciting building program has been launched. And if I might add Mr. Chairman, this body has played a significant role in that renaissance, having recently appropriated funds to begin the restoration of historic buildings on that campus. Under Bishop Adams' leadership, the Reid House of Christian Service in Charleston, has flourished and now includes the Adams Building which houses the only African American Adoption Center in South Carolina.

Bishop Adams is a strong believer that people must join together to do what they cannot do alone. To that end, he has founded the Congress of National Black Churches, the Institute on Church Administration and Management in Atlanta, Georgia; the Richard Allen Service and Development Agency in Washington, D.C.; and the Educational Growth Organization in Los Angeles, California. He continues to serve on many boards and directorates, including the Interdenominational Theological Center, Institute on Church Administration and Management, Joint Center for Political Studies, Children's Defense Fund Black Community Crusade for Children, National Black United Fund, Industrial Area Foundation, National Urban League, and South Carolina's Palmetto Project.

Bishop Adams has received many fitting honors and awards throughout his 25 years as Bishop. In 1996, he was awarded South Carolina's highest citizen honor, the Order of the Palmetto, in recognition of his contributions to the State. And last Saturday I joined with thousands of South Carolinians who met in Charleston to help celebrate his Golden Anniversary in the ministry and Silver Anniversary in the bishopric. That celebration, Mr. Speaker, defied the notion that a prophet is without honor in his own homeland.

Although he has been called one of the "most progressive black church leaders in history," Bishop Adams most important calling is that of his family. Bishop Adams and his wife, Dr. Dolly Dessel Adams, have been partners in the ministry for 41 years. They have three daughters and six grandchildren. Bishop Adams is referred to by many as the 3.5 million member AME denomination's "most influential cleric." I am very proud to call him my friend.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me today in honoring Bishop John Hurst Adams whose spirit, belief, and kindness have moved communities to action across the nation. He is an excellent role model, a valued friend, an outstanding leader and a great American.

AARP REFUTES MAILINGS ON
KYL-ARCHER

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, for offices receiving mail on the Kyl-Archer bill to let any doctor at any time bill any Medicare patients as much as the doctor wants, the following article from the February, 1998 AARP Bulletin will provide a useful insert-answer.

The AARP article shows that a number of groups have been trying to scare seniors into contributing to a phony cause.

[From the AARP Bulletin, Feb. 1998]
AARP ANSWERS 'SCARE CAMPAIGN' ON
MEDICARE PRIVATE CONTRACTING
(By Elliot Carlson and Don McLeod)

Medicare beneficiaries are being flooded with misinformation about their right to enter into private contracts with their doctors.

As examples, observers cite reports in some newspapers and magazines stating that, because of the 1997 Balanced Budget Act (BBA), doctors will be barred from treating older patients on a private basis.

"What we have here," says AARP legislative director John Rother, "is a concerted scare campaign aimed at misleading Medicare beneficiaries into believing that they have lost the freedom to choose their own doctors and seek the care they need."

That's false, Rother says. Rather than weakening an enrollee's right to contract privately with doctors, he adds, the recently enacted BBA actually expands that right. Prior to passage of that law last fall, Medicare beneficiaries and doctors were not permitted to contract privately for services Medicare covered, such as office visits.

Any doctor treating a Medicare patient had to file a claim with Medicare and was limited in how much he or she could charge a beneficiary.

The BBA liberalizes these provisions. For the first time, effective Jan. 1, 1998, the law allows doctors to contract privately with Medicare enrollees for services that are already covered by Medicare.

But no sooner was the BBA enacted, Rother points out, than some groups started misinterpreting it—telling people incorrectly that the new law, rather than expanding enrollee rights, had taken them away.

One group, he notes, has been writing beneficiaries, quite erroneously, that if they pay a doctor out of their own pocket for a treatment not covered by Medicare, then their doctor will be barred from treating Medicare patients for two years.

Not so. Patients always could—and still can—privately buy services not covered by Medicare, such as prescription drugs, eyeglasses and hearing aids. "Beneficiaries have always been able to pay out of their own pocket for services not covered by Medicare without penalty to themselves or their physicians," says Nancy-Ann DeParle, administrator of the Health Care Financing Administration, which runs Medicare. "The new Balanced Budget Act doesn't change that."

And you always could—and still can—pay for extra medical tests you want without you or your doctor being penalized, even if your doctor disagrees about the need.

A case in point is mammograms. Under the law Medicare pays for one mammogram per year. If you have a history of breast cancer in your family and your doctor deems it advisable, Medicare will pay for a second test.

Even if you aren't a high-risk case for breast cancer but you simply want a second test, you can go ahead and pay for it on your own without penalty to you or your doctor.

But the 1997 BBA does change some things. As noted above, it allows doctors for the first time to contract privately with Medicare enrollees for services that are already covered by Medicare.

This change stems from a bill advanced last June by Sen. Jon Kyl, R-Ariz., who said the change was needed to allow "those 9 percent of the physicians who do not treat Medicare patients to continue to treat their patients [after patients turn 65] as they always have." In the waning hours of the de-

bate on this proposal, House-Senate conferees modified the Kyl provision and incorporated a number of enrollee protections.

A key protection requires doctors to disclose contract terms. Thus, the doctor and Medicare patient must both sign a contract in which the patient agrees not to file a claim with Medicare. The patient also agrees to pay 100 percent of whatever amount the doctor charges. The contract must disclose that Medicare will pay no portion of the cost of the service. Nor will the enrollee's medigap policy.

Also, the new provision is limited to doctors who agree, in an affidavit, to forgo all payment from Medicare for two years—a clause that has turned out to be controversial. Critics argue that the "two-year ban" makes it very hard for doctors to take advantage of the Kyl provision. And, they add, it could discourage doctors from taking new Medicare patients.

Such concerns don't stand up to close examination, says Tricia Smith, coordinator of AARP's legislative health team. "There is good reason for the two-year exclusion." For starters, "the provision is a real protection for Medicare patients," she says. "It's intended to prevent doctors from picking and choosing patients based on income and severity of illness."

"Also," Smith adds, "it seeks to protect Medicare against fraud."

In the wake of the controversy over private contracting, Senator Kyl is advocating a new bill that would go well beyond the intent of his original proposal. Not only is he seeking to eliminate the two-year ban, but he also wants to allow doctors to contract privately with low-income patients and those in managed care. And he wants to let doctors pick and choose what services they will contract for.

The legislation is supported by the American Medical Association (AMA), which has opposed Medicare's limits on balance billing—the extra amount doctors can charge beneficiaries over and above Medicare's payment.

But AARP, along with the New York-based Medicare Rights Center and some other consumer groups, strongly opposes the Kyl legislation. The American College of Physicians has raised serious questions about it.

"These proposed changes could open up Medicare to even more fraud and abuse than we see now," says AARP's Smith. "Medicare would have a very hard time identifying which services were paid for privately. Thus, doctors could double-bill and collect from both beneficiaries and Medicare."

Critics, AARP among them, also worry about the danger that private contracting could create a "two-tiered system"—one for better-off enrollees who could afford high-priced doctors and another for all other enrollees.

Finally, AARP and other critics worry about the ability of doctors to charge any price for services rendered and the Medicare enrollee being held responsible to pay 100 percent of the bill.

"When a beneficiary agrees to a private contract, he or she is liable for 100 percent of what the doctor chooses to charge for the service," Smith observes. "When beneficiaries discover that and recognize that their medigap policy won't cover the costs, they may find that the out-of-pocket costs will be unmanageable."

INTRODUCTION OF THE SAFE SCHOOLS INTERNET ACT

HON. BOB FRANKS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce the Safe Schools Internet Act. Later this year, our schools and libraries will be receiving funds from the Congressionally created Universal Service Fund to defray costs of Internet access. While it is undeniably important for our children to have access to this important tool in their classrooms, the "hooking up" of America's schools also comes with problems.

As most people know, in addition to the priceless information available on the Internet, the Internet also contains a limitless supply of material not appropriate for children. When we hook our schools to the Internet, we are also hooking them up to this material. While we would never let our school libraries carry material such as Penthouse or depictions of violent torture, we may soon be doing so through the Internet.

However, technology currently available on the market makes it possible to block out many offensive Internet web sites. The Safe Schools Internet Act would require that any school system accepting federal money from the Universal Service Fund to facilitate Internet access install Internet blocking software. Under the bill, libraries would be held to the same requirement for at least one computer in the library. The method of blocking would be left to local school and library officials, ensuring continued local control of these important institutions. This Safe Schools Internet Act will ensure that children in our schools and libraries are not confronted with age-inappropriate material, and that the federal government does not find itself financing offensive material in our schools.

I hope my colleagues will join me and co-sponsor this important legislation.

COMMENDING JAMES CASALE

HON. ROBERT A. WEYGAND

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend James Casale, age 7, who has already proven himself to be an outstanding member of our society, James attends second grade at Gladstone Street School in Cranston, Rhode Island. When told that his school was having a canned food drive for the poor, James raided his family's pantry for items to contribute. After a few days, his parents told him the best way to contribute was to use his own money to buy food.

James used \$100 saved from allowances and tooth fairy money to buy 17 cases of food. On November 20th his father dropped James and his four hundred cans off at the schoolyard. Those four hundred cans inspired other students in his school to donate even more than they already had. In previous years, the Thanksgiving food drive had accumulated only a few hundred cans. Last year's food drive set a record at 1,600 cans. However, because of

the example set by James Casale, this year's canned food drive more than doubled that amount, raising 3,445 cans.

James had seen people in the newspaper and on television who needed help, so he simply did what he could to help them. When asked why he made such a generous donation, James said that he did for poor people. Wouldn't it be wonderful if everyone who saw a need did what they could and stepped in to fill the void? Too many of us say "I don't have the time," or "I can't afford it", yet James gave freely of both his time and money.

I had the opportunity to meet with James on November 21 and present him with a Public Service Certificate in recognition of his outstanding and invaluable service to the community. I was impressed by both the compassion and drive of this young man.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in commending seven year old James Casale for setting an example for his classmates and his community.

CHICAGO DEALER HONORED BY
TIME MAGAZINE—STANLEY
BALZEKAS, JR.

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor a fine businessman of the automobile industry, Mr. Stanley Balzekas, Jr. Mr. Balzekas Jr., a businessman in the Chicagoland area, delivers great service to families and individuals in the Chicagoland community.

Stanley Balzekas Jr., president of Balzekas Motor Sales, was honored by TIME Magazine with the 29th annual TIME Magazine Quality Dealer Award (TMQDA). Mr. Balzekas received this award on January 31, 1998 for his outstanding business achievements in the automobile industry. As part of the award, TIME Magazine makes an annual grant of scholarship funds to the University of Michigan Business School in the names of TIME, Good-year, the National Automobile Dealers Association, and the TMQDA recipients.

Stanley Balzekas Jr., a native of Chicago, Illinois, began his career in the automobile industry working part time for his father during high school and college. Upon graduation from DePaul University in Chicago, Illinois, and his completion of a masters degree of business and marketing, Mr. Balzekas climbed his way through the ranks to become president of Balzekas Motor Sales. Currently, Stanley Balzekas resides in Chicago with his wife, three children and three wonderful grandchildren.

I would like to extend my congratulations to Mr. Stanley Balzekas Jr. on his great accomplishments as a businessman and friend to the community bringing families and individuals "the American dream" of purchasing a new automobile.

TRIBUTE TO LEONARD W.
ZIOLKOWSKI, SOUTHSIDE AD-
VANCEMENT ASSOCIATIONS'
MAN OF THE YEAR

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a remarkable member of my district, as well as a friend of many years, Mr. Leonard W. Ziolkowski, for being named Man of the Year by the Council of South Side Advancement Association of Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The Council of South Side Advancement is a civic network that draws from organizations throughout the area to unite the community and encourages involvement from its citizens. One way in which the Council encourages this is through recognition of outstanding members of the community at the Lincoln Day Banquet. As an honoree at this year's banquet, Mr. Ziolkowski personifies the leadership and involvement for which the organization strives.

Len's professional career exhibits remarkable examples of dedication and leadership. Appointed a patrolman in 1950, he was consistently promoted throughout his longstanding career with the Milwaukee Police Department until his retirement in 1986 as inspector of police. He then shared his experience and knowledge as supervisor of the police science program at the Milwaukee Area Technical College. He also has served as a member of the Fire and Police Commission for the City of Milwaukee and director of the Milwaukee Police Academy, which gained national recognition while under his direction.

Currently president of the South Side Business Club and vice-president of St. Joseph's Foundation, Len's leadership transcends his professional career and carries into his community involvement. As a fellow American of Polish descent, Len promotes his heritage by his participation in the Milwaukee Society and the Polish National Alliance. He is also active in the American Society of Law Enforcement Trainers, Law Enforcement Training Officers Assoc., International Narcotics Enforcement Officers Association, and the American Legion post 415.

I ask that you join me in congratulating Len Ziolkowski as he is honored at the Lincoln Day Banquet on February 22nd, 1998.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. CORRIE BELL
MISSOURI

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a pillar in our community, Mrs. Corrie Bell Missouri of Columbia, South Carolina, on the occasion of her 100th birthday.

Mrs. Missouri has offered tireless assistance to her community for many years. She visits Pontiac Elementary School annually, where she entertains the students with facts from her "Wonder Years." One of the skills Mrs. Missouri likes to share is her ability to recite the alphabet backwards. She is very active with the Francis Burns Senior Citizens, as well as

with the Zion Canaan Senior Citizens Bible Study.

Mrs. Missouri was born in Richland County, South Carolina, on March 24, 1898, to Wilson and Estelle Bell. Mrs. Missouri is one of six children. Her siblings include William Harry Bell of New York (89 years old), Marion Bell Foster (deceased), Desport Bell (deceased), Essie Dixon (deceased), and James S. Bell (deceased). Family and good values are Mrs. Missouri's most cherished possessions. At an early age she married Bogan C. Missouri (deceased). They had one son, the Reverend Rufus Levi Mosby. She proudly carries the title of great-grandmother and has two granddaughters, Carrie Boyce and Beverly J. Mosby; and one great-grandson, D. "Ray" Boyce.

In her youth, Mrs. Missouri attended school at Zion Canaan Church. In those days, children only went to school for three months so they could help in the fields the remainder of the year. Mrs. Missouri is a member of Zion Canaan Baptist Church, and she enjoys reading the Holy Bible and listening to all types of Christian music. Her favorite Bible scripture is Psalms 100, which calls for Christians to worship and give thanks to the Lord. She encourages the young to "obey your parents. Parents, love and respect your children, and teach your children about the Lord."

On Tuesday, March 24, 1998, family and friends will gather in celebration of Mrs. Missouri's 100th birthday. Please join me in wishing Mrs. Corrie Bell Missouri a prosperous and happy birthday. Mrs. Missouri is truly a living example of the American spirit that our country's flag represents.

PRESERVING THE DISTRICT OF
COLUMBIA'S CHARITABLE ASSETS

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, all across the United States, Blue Cross and Blue Shield health insurance plans are changing their stripes through mergers, conversions, other changes in corporate status, or buy-outs. As many of my colleagues know, these changes have triggered debate in many states over the fate of charitable assets of these plans. As one observer put it, "The Blues see green. Consumers see red."

In California, for example, two new foundations have over \$3 billion for health care, courtesy of the Blue Cross conversion. In New Jersey, an appeals court ruled last year that the Blues there are, in fact, "charitable and benevolent." In Texas, the attorney general is in court to block the merger between the Texas and Illinois Blues. In North Carolina, the state legislature set up a study commission to examine the fate of the Blues plan there. In Kansas, the attorney general has filed a claim against the officers and directors of the Blues for breach of their fiduciary duty in connection with their campaign to deny the charitable status of the assets.

Each of these cases demonstrates that the tug-of-war over charitable assets is a state matter. Rarely, if ever, does Congress become involved, though perhaps the time is drawing near for a national examination of these trends.

Right in our own backyard here in the nation's capital, the Washington Blue Cross plan recently merged with the Maryland plan headquartered in Baltimore. This followed passage of HR 3025 at the end of the last session of Congress, facilitating the merger by amending the Federal charter of the DC Blues, which is the only Blue Cross plan nationwide to have been chartered by Congress rather than by a state. The merger is being challenged in two court actions brought by the Blue Cross policyholders and by a national patient advocacy foundation, who claim that the merger involves an illegal shift in control of charitable assets away from the intended beneficiaries. Lawyers for Blue Cross are citing congressional action on HR 3025 as a defense in the lawsuits.

While HR 3025 modified the DC Blues' charter to change its provisions for membership, the legislation was silent on all issues involving the plan's charitable and benevolent status and the charitable nature of assets. A review of the last minute consideration of this legislation in November 1997 that Congress took no action to diminish the charitable status of the Blues plan, nor did Congress contemplate the effect of HR 3025 on the DC Blues' obligations arising from its charitable status.

HONORING LAURA BERMAN

HON. ROBERT A. WEYGAND

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor a young Rhode Island student from my district who has achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in her community. Laura Berman of North Kingstown has just been named one of my state's top honorees in the 1998 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred on the most impressive student volunteers in each state.

Ms. Berman is being recognized for creating a library awareness program for third graders in her community of North Kingstown. Laura had read about a project in the New York City school system and decided to base her program on that. Working with a fellow volunteer, the local library system, and the elementary school teachers, Laura designed a classroom presentation that would impress upon children the joys of reading and the activities offered by the public library. Laura also distributed personal library cards to every child, along with a t-shirt purchased with donations that read, "Your library card . . . don't leave home without it!" The program was so successful that Laura has recruited additional volunteer help and plans to offer it at two more elementary schools this year.

In addition to Ms. Berman, I am pleased to tell you that there were four Distinguished Finalists. Ryan Arruda of Wickford Middle School in North Kingstown initiated a program to collect recyclable aluminum cans to benefit the local food pantry. Mariah Northrop also of Wickford Middle School participates in "Make a Difference Day" to clean up her community. Janaina Stanley of North Kingstown High School started a program called Breaking Down Barriers to prevent racism, prejudice

and hostility in her community. Finally, Erin Conti or Warwick Veterans Memorial High School volunteers as a "buddy" on a baseball team for physical and mentally challenged children.

All of these students should be very proud of themselves for having been singled out from such a large group of dedicated volunteers. I heartily applaud each and every one of them for his or her initiative in seeking to make Rhode Island a better place to live, and for the positive impact they have made on the lives of others. Each one has demonstrated a level of commitment and accomplishment that is truly extraordinary in today's world, and deserves our sincere admiration and respect. Their actions show that young people can—and do—play important roles in our communities, and that America's community spirit continues to hold tremendous promise for the future.

IN TRIBUTE TO DR. WILLYS
FRANCIS MUELLER, JR.

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to recognize a most distinguished member of our community, Dr. Willys Francis Mueller, Jr., of Flint, Michigan. After devoting 33 years of his life to the medical profession, Dr. Mueller has decided to retire from his position as Chairman of the Department of Pathology at Hurley Medical Center in Flint. Throughout his many years of dedicated service, Dr. Mueller has worked as an honorable physician, a selfless civic volunteer and a devoted family man.

Dr. Mueller attended the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and graduated with a degree in pre-med. He continued his education at U of M, and received his Medical Degree in June of 1959. To complete his education, Dr. Mueller did his internship and residency, and later became certified in pathologic anatomy, and clinical and forensic pathology. In September 1966, Dr. Mueller joined the United States Army and became Captain of Medical Corps Assignments. He served as a Staff Pathologist and as a Chief of the Accident Pathology Branch in the Military Environmental Division at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology.

As a member of various medical organizations, Dr. Mueller has made immeasurable contributions to the lives of people throughout the State. He is a member of the Michigan Association of Blood Banks, the Michigan State Medical Society and the Michigan Association of Medical Examiners, to name just a few. He has served as a Clinical and Adjunct Professor at Michigan State University, Northern Michigan University and Michigan Technical University.

Dr. Mueller's work as a physician is only to be outdone by his involvement in several civic organizations. These include the American Red Cross, The Hurley Clinic, St. John Catholic Church and Delta College. Also, he has been involved in numerous speaking engagements at local high school career days and service clubs.

Mr. Speaker, Willys Mueller's spirit of volunteerism combined with his lifetime commit-

ment to healing makes him truly worthy of praise and recognition. It is indeed a pleasure to stand in front of this House and speak of Dr. Willy's Francis Mueller, who through his thoughts, deeds, and actions has provided the community with an invaluable resource and an indomitable spirit. The City of Flint is a better place because of Dr. Mueller's selfless service to humanity. Our community owes him a tremendous debt of gratitude. We wish him well in all his future endeavors.

MARY ANN KIRK, "MARYLAND
AMERICAN MOTHER"

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute Maryland's 1997 "Maryland American Mother," Mary Ann Kirk. A resident of Rockville, Md., and my constituent, Mrs. Kirk was honored last year for her devotion to her wonderful family and for her tireless efforts as a community volunteer. Mrs. Kirk has been active in promoting character and citizenship education in Maryland's schools. She has long been an active volunteer with the American Heart Association and with area school tutoring programs. In all her activities, she underscores the important roles of mothers in shaping our society.

The "Maryland American Mother of the Year" is sponsored by American Mothers, Inc., an organization founded in 1933 to strengthen the home and family and to provide support to mothers in a sometimes troubling, always challenging, world. AMI, the official sponsor of Mothers' Day, provides outreach programs that include parenting workshops, tutoring and literacy programs, providing clothing and shelter for needy families.

Mr. Speaker, please join with me in saluting Mary Anne Kirk, who by her contributions to her own family and to her state and community, richly deserves the title "Maryland American Mother of the Year." She truly makes a difference.

TRIBUTE TO DOROTHY SEELEY,
SOUTHSIDE ADVANCEMENT AS-
SOCIATIONS' WOMAN OF THE
YEAR

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Mrs. Dorothy Seeley, who will be honored Sunday, February 22, 1998, as the Woman of the Year by the Council of South Side Advancement Associations, Incorporated, of Milwaukee.

The Council of South Side Advancement Associations is a network comprised of delegates from south side Milwaukee veterans, scholarship, business, civic and senior citizen organizations. Its members, from many diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds come together in a coalition to educate themselves on local matters, to provide support to each other and address issues involving the South Side community.

In this spirit, the Council will celebrate its 51st annual Lincoln Day Banquet on February 22nd and will honor my long time friend and supporter, and senior citizen advocate extraordinaire, Mrs. Dorothy Seeley.

Dorothy has a well-earned reputation around the Milwaukee area and our entire state as a real go-getter and fighter for the rights of our senior citizens. From her years at Nordberg Manufacturing Company as a crane operator, to her union steward days, right on through her appointments by Wisconsin Governor John Reynolds and Milwaukee County Executive John Doyno, Dorothy has been a friend of working men and women and retirees. To this day, as President of United Seniors of Wisconsin, Dorothy pursues the never-ending battle to protect the rights of seniors, so that their voices can be heard here at home in Milwaukee, in Madison at the State Capitol and in Washington, D.C.

In 1990, Dorothy was given the prestigious honor of being named one of Wisconsin's Ten Most Admired Senior Citizens by Security Savings at an awards ceremony during the Wisconsin State Fair.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I ask that you join me in congratulating Mrs. Dorothy Seeley on a job well done. Keep up the great work, Dorothy, for many years to come. May God Bless.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 3161—
TORTURE VICTIMS RELIEF ACT

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on February 4th, I joined my distinguished colleague from New Jersey, Congressman CHRISTOPHER SMITH, in introducing H.R. 3161, the Torture Victims Relief Act. Together, the two of us introduced similar legislation during the 104th Congress.

Our important legislation attempts to deal with the detrimental consequences of the most egregious form of violation of international human rights—the widespread use of torture. Human rights experts estimate that there are over 79 countries around the world where torture is practiced on a systematic basis. As a consequence, there are currently an estimated 200,000 to 400,000 victims of foreign governmental torture in the United States, who are in dire need of qualified psychological and medical treatment in adequate facilities. The traumatic experiences of torture—which according to experts in most cases does not ultimately aim to obtain information, but simply to break and destroy the victim's personality and human identity—result in continuous nightmares, flashbacks, anxiety attacks, and deep depressions.

In 1973, Amnesty International appealed to the world medical profession to respond to the international use of torture and to develop a multi-pronged treatment program to counter the severe effects of torture. These efforts—in particular under the outstanding leadership of Dr. Inge Genefke, MD, DMSc.h.c.—resulted in the establishment of the first Rehabilitation and Research Centre for Torture Victims in Copenhagen, Denmark, in 1982. This international movement has now grown to encompass 173 centers in 76 countries. The suc-

cessful work of these centers—based on four parallel pillars consisting of psychotherapy, physiotherapy, social counseling and nursing—have shown that with adequate treatment, torture victims can resume productive and fulfilling lives.

Mr. Speaker, since torture is used by the most despicable of totalitarian oppressors around the world as one of their most common techniques for suppressing freedom of speech and democratic rights, it typically targets the strongest and most outstanding defenders of these democratic values in foreign countries. The United States has courageously defended and promoted the values of freedom and democracy around the world, the very principles on which this country was founded. The victims of torture are these courageous people who, knowing full well the risk of physical and psychological harm which will inevitably come to them if they are arrested, uphold our common values in the face of their brutal oppressors.

Mr. Speaker, these heroic defenders of human rights and human liberty deserve our strongest support. The Torture Victims Relief Act (H.R. 3161) will fully implement the provisions of the U.N. Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, which prohibits the involuntary return of any person to a country if there is substantial evidence that a reasonable person in those circumstances would fear subjection to torture.

President Ronald Reagan signed the U.N. Convention on April 18, 1988, and the United States Senate ratified it on 21 October, 1994. With the ratification of this convention, these international norms became binding law in the United States. There is no domestic legislation, however, to implement these international legal provisions. Our legislation will rectify this oversight by providing the legal provisions necessary to implement the Convention on Torture.

Furthermore, our important bill will make important changes in the immigration procedures under which torture victims will be handled. The provisions of this bill expedite the processing for asylum applicants who make credible claims that they have been victims of torture. The legislation establishes the presumption that such applicants should not be detained while their asylum case is pending, and it designates refugees who are torture victims as refugees of special humanitarian concern with priority for resettlement at least as high as that given to any other refugee group.

In addition, the Torture Victims Relief Act provides for special training for officials who are involved in implementing immigration procedures. This training will provide information about torture and its long-term effects, and this will help these officials to consider the special physical and psychological circumstances a torture victim has to endure when they have to provide evidence in support of their asylum claim.

In order to ensure an adequate rehabilitation treatment for victims of torture, this bill authorizes \$5 million for FY 1999 and \$7.5 million for FY 2000 from funds authorized for the Department of Health and Human Services to support domestic torture treatment programs. In addition, the bill fully supports the international efforts I have outlined above. It authorizes \$5 million for FY 1999 and \$7.5 million for FY 2000 of funds authorized under the Foreign

Assistance Act for international rehabilitation services, and it authorizes \$3 million for FY 1999 and \$3 million for FY 2000 of funds authorized under the Foreign Assistance Act to contribute to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Torture Victims.

In a further effort to strengthen the international effort to address the scourge of torture, our legislation commits the United States to use its voice and vote in the United Nations to support the investigation and elimination of practices outlawed under the U.N. Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to join me in support of this important legislation.

COMMENDING THE HEROISM OF
CUB SCOUT WILLEM REYNAR

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize a brave and outstanding young American, Cub Scout Willem Reynar of Cub Scout Pack 440.

Willem Reynar is the epitome of a good Cub Scout, possessing courage and bravery beyond his years. In September 1997, Willem was able to think clearly and act quickly when he found his younger sister in a drowning situation. Willem didn't panic and in turn saved his sister's life.

I commend Willem Reynar for his courage and heroism. According to the great American author Mark Twain, "Courage is resistance to fear, mastery of fear—not absence of fear." Willem Reynar was able to conquer his fear and save the life of another human being.

Willem Reynar's bravery is an example to his Pack and to us all. Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to join me in commending Cub Scout Willem Reynar, a hero who truly deserves the Boy Scout Lifesaving Award.

BOB ADAMS: AN AMERICAN HERO

HON. J.C. WATTS, JR.

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to a friend, a role model and a hero in the black community. This man believes in the four values which have made America great. Those values are hard work, integrity, faith in God and persistence. In particular, Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a successful black businessman who overcame dire circumstances to realize the American Dream.

Indeed, my good friend Bob Adams is the personification of the American Dream. Here is a man who was born into poverty and who understands what it feels like to go to bed with an empty belly, wake up with an empty belly, and then go to school and try to learn on an empty belly. There are millions of children in this country, Mr. Speaker, who have to endure the same horrible circumstances, but I am hopeful we can work in a bipartisan fashion in Congress to help end this suffering.

Though the odds were against him succeeding, Bob Adams never gave up. He never chose a life of stealing and drug dealing. That would have been the easy way out. Instead of saying, "I can't make it. It's too hard to succeed," Bob Adams instead decided to work hard in school, keep his faith in Jesus and maintain a positive attitude. Just like that song you hear over the radio, Bob Adams told himself, "I might get knocked down, but I'll get up again. You're never going to keep me down."

Today, Mr. Speaker, I am proud to say that my friend Bob Adams is a successful businessman who owns a printing company and today does his part to give back to his community. He is one of the greatest examples I can think of when it comes to excellent role models in the black community.

Mr. Speaker, my fellow colleagues, when the going got tough, Bob Adams didn't say, "I have gone this far, I can go no farther." Instead he told himself, "I'll never quit and I'll never give up." Friends, that is the essence of the American Spirit. That is the bulldog mentality that built America into the greatest country in the world.

My friends, whenever we despair and feel like quitting, it is time for us to get up, dust ourselves off and remember that great Bible verse—"I can do all things through him who gives me strength." And then we should remember the example of such fine role models as Bob Adams for inspiration. Bob Adams is proof that anyone can succeed in America if they put their mind to it, and their faith in God.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, on February 5, 1998, I was unavoidably detained, therefore, missing roll call votes 8-10. Had I been here I would have voted Yea on roll call vote 8 (H. Res. 348) providing for the consideration of H.R. 2846; Yea on roll call vote 9 (H.R. 2846) prohibiting spending Federal education funds on national testing without explicit and specific legislation; and Yea on roll call 10 (H.R. 2631) disapproving the cancellations transmitted by the President on October 6, 1997, regarding Public Law 105-45.

TRIBUTE TO LARRY ROSENTHAL

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a member of my staff who has recently left my office to become the Chief of Staff at the National Indian Gaming Commission. Larry Rosenthal, who hails from my hometown of Flint, MI, began working as a legislative assistant in my office in 1987. I recognized immediately that Larry shared my belief that the role of government is to preserve, protect, defend and enhance human dignity.

As Members of Congress, we know how crucial it is to have a good staff. I have always

sought to hire people who have good heads and good hearts. Larry has both attributes in great abundance. Indeed, over the years, Larry has not only become one of my closest advisors, he has also been one of my dearest friends.

During his tenure on my staff, Larry handled a variety of my most important legislative priorities. He was instrumental in the passage of the Michigan Wilderness Heritage Act, the Grand Island National Recreation Area Act, and the Michigan Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Larry's work as the staff coordinator for the Congressional Automotive Caucus was crucial to my efforts to reinvestigate the Caucus and provide effective leadership in Congress on issues affecting the American automotive industry.

Most recently, Larry dedicated his time and efforts to the First Americans, Native Americans. He worked tirelessly to ensure recognition and federal support for tribes across the United States. Larry was committed to the fundamentals of sovereignty and respect that play such a critical role in Native American culture. His work as staff coordinator of the Congressional Native American Caucus has earned him a reputation in Washington, D.C. as one of the most knowledgeable congressional staffers on these issues. He has also earned the respect and gratitude of Native Americans in Indian Country.

There is no doubt that Larry has left an indelible mark on all of those who have come in contact with my congressional office. Whether planning a softball game, a reception for Ernie Harwell, or a conference on Indian Issues, Larry brought excitement and interest to each event. It is this dedication and devotion coupled with an indomitable spirit that makes Larry Rosenthal such a unique person. I am proud to call him my friend.

Larry's departure from my office is very bittersweet. Although I know that Larry will serve the government well at the NIGC, I will certainly miss his expertise. His service to the Ninth Congressional District should serve as an example to us all. Please join me in expressing my gratitude to Larry for his many years of service on Capitol Hill. I wish him the best in all his future endeavors.

1,160-PERCENT INCREASE IN DRUG PRICE

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, enclosed is a copy of a letter I've received from a Midwestern doctor.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE STARK: I am not from your district or even from California but I know your interest in problems with the pharmaceutical industry so I wanted to share this outrage I just found out to my dismay.

I called the Darby Drug Company to order a thousand tablets of the generic for Lomitol and found that what had been \$27.95 in 1997 is now \$325.00—honestly—more than a 10% increase. I could not believe it but was told it is true. They don't have the 1998 catalogue yet but they say that is the new price.

Help!

I have seen increases in the prices of drugs that seemed too high, but this is absurd. How

can they get away with it? Certainly the cost of making it did not go up more than 10 times in less than a year. The reason given me was that now there is only one company making it—a lame excuse for taking such advantage of patients in need.

Thanks for your efforts to protect the poor consumer.

WESTINGHOUSE SCIENCE TALENT SEARCH

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in the People's House to pay tribute to four young scholars from Ward Melville High School, in Setauket, Long Island whose talents and hard work have earned them the coveted distinction as finalists in the 1998 Westinghouse Science Talent Search contest. Continuing a remarkable legacy of scientific achievement at Ward Melville, Christopher Michael Gerson, Grace Ann Lau, Clyde Law and Thomas Peterson have been invited to Washington, DC to compete for the top honor in America's oldest and most prestigious high school scholarship competition.

Inspired by their own ingenuity and thirst for knowledge, and supported by the dedicated teaching staff at Ward Melville, Christopher, Grace, Clyde and Thomas have all created impressive research projects that met the competition's rigorous standards and earned them the recognition of the Westinghouse judges. These hard-working scholars have produced brilliant experiments in scientific research.

Christopher Gerson studied the effects of colliding continental plates by producing a laboratory model that accurately simulates geological movements. Using a sandbox with a movable wall to simulate plate motion, and precise marking and photography techniques, Chris devised a method for studying plate science using innovative quantitative studies. A sports columnist for the school magazine and a member of the school marching band, Chris hopes to study computer science and mathematics at Princeton University.

For her project, Grace An Lau researched the effects that extracts from green tea have on an enzyme involved in inflammatory tissue injuries. Her study demonstrated that green tea can significantly inhibit the enzyme Neutrophil, which is implicated in a variety of diseases, including arthritis and cystic fibrosis. A violinist in the school orchestra and a Science Olympiad participant, Grace will study biology in college and hopes to become a veterinarian or a field scientist.

Clyde Law's physics experiment examined the compressibility of nuclear matter substances by studying the flow of protons, providing important insight into nuclear and astrophysics. Clyde is a participant in Science Olympiad and was a finalist in the ThinkQuest Internet Contest. He is also active in the Asian Culture Club and tutors Chinese. He hopes to attend MIT to study engineering and computer science and plans to become a computer systems analyst.

Thomas Petersen's breakthrough project produced what is believed to be the first experimental verification that thermally induced

capillary waves will cause spontaneous holes in certain polymer thin films. Thomas has been playing the cello since he was four and was a soloist and principal cellist in the Long Island Youth Orchestra. Tom also participates in various math and science clubs, won the gold medal in Science Olympiad and plans on pursuing a career in engineering.

The achievements of Chris, Grace, Clyde and Thomas are due in no small part to the outstanding high school science program at Ward Melville High School that, for the second year in a row, produced the most Westinghouse Science Talent Search finalists in the Nation. In fact, the four were among the 11 contest finalists chosen from Long Island high schools, comprising more than one-quarter of the finalists chosen from all 50 states. The schools in my home area of Eastern Long Island produced fourteen semi-finalists in the Westinghouse Contest, including the four finalists and: Meredith Suzanne Croke of Miller Place, Jonathan Aaron Arbreit, James Joseph Cascione, Adam Brett Gottlieb, Joleen Okun, Alice Takhatajan, and Shellen Wu who are all from Setauket, Christine Anne Champey and Michael Teitelbaum of Smithtown and Robert Nalewajk from Stony Brook. All of these students deserve congratulations for their hard work and achievements.

Mr. Speaker, as America focuses on improving student achievement and preparing them for the high-tech, computer driven future of the 21st Century, the accomplishments of Christopher Michael Gerson, Grace Ann Lau, Clyde Law and Thomas Peterson show us that America's future is in trusted hands. Their classmates can take inspiration from their success and adults have seen what great things our children will achieve when we provide them the skills and support. And so, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in saluting Chris, Grace, Clyde and Thomas and all of the other talented students across the United States who have been named finalists in the 1998 Westinghouse Science Talent Search Contest.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPETITION

HON. ALLEN BOYD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. BOYD. Mr. Speaker, while I was not a Member of Congress when the 1996 Telecommunications Law was passed, it's easy to see that competitive business strategies from long distance companies and FCC's ever-changing interpretation of this legislation are responsible for telephone competition being stymied.

I don't believe Congress anticipated major long distance companies concentrating on the more lucrative business customers while totally ignoring the local residential market. Congress also didn't foresee the FCC taking this law and changing it to the point where no Regional Bell Company has a chance of offering long distance service to their customers in the near future.

On multiple occasions state utility commissions have submitted favorable recommendations to the FCC, stating the 14 point checklist has been met and that Regional Bell Holding

Companies should be allowed into the long distance market. Each time the FCC has rejected the recommendation.

It's time for the issue to get off the regulatory treadmill. We're long overdue for full scale telecommunications competition to begin.

IN MEMORIAM OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, on February 23, in Annapolis, Maryland, men, women, and children will come together to remember and mourn family, friends, and neighbors who died because of domestic violence during the past year. The memorial service reminds all in attendance of the terrible price Maryland pays when homes become places of fear and terror instead of havens of love and safety.

The Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence, which organizes the service each year, has worked diligently for more than 15 years for better and tougher laws against domestic violence, for increased funding for shelters for battered women and their children, for training judges and law enforcement personnel, and for educating the public about domestic violence and its consequences on our society.

In the last decade, we have made enormous strides on the state, local, and federal levels against domestic violence. Our state and local laws have been improved and strengthened. The Violence Against Women Act, which I sponsored, has not only changed the way we enforce domestic violence laws but also has provided needed funding to help states and local communities make a real difference in the struggle against domestic violence.

Early next month, I will introduce the second Violence Against Women Act. VAWA II, as it has been called, will continue the federal commitment to fund the National Domestic Violence Hotline, shelters and counseling programs, judicial training programs, and other services so important to our local communities. VAWA II will also address child custody, housing, legal assistance, medical training, insurance discrimination, protection for disabled women, and issues critically important to the health and well being of our families.

Mr. Speaker, let us join with the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence to recommit ourselves to ending domestic violence in our homes and in our communities in whatever way we can: as legislators, as advocates, as volunteers, as parents, and as friends. And let us remember that as legislators, the bills we write and the votes we cast will determine to a great extent whether our children and their children will live in a world where domestic violence is no more.

TRIBUTE TO JACK BIRNBERG

HON. BILL PASCARELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. PASCARELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce you to Mr. Jack Birnberg. Jack is a remarkable individual who has done much to improve the quality of life for the people of the Eighth Congressional District of New Jersey.

Deeply concerned with the well-being of our senior citizens, Mr. Birnberg has been actively involved with the Daughters of Miriam Center for a number of years. Most recently, he served two terms as President of the Board of Trustees of that organization. Prior to that he was the Vice-President and a member of the finance committee for six years.

Jack is also an active member of the community at large. He is a former trustee of the Barnert Hospital and serves as a trustee at the Barnert Temple. Jack has also served as the Commissioner and President of the Board of the Children's Shelter of Passaic County and as a President of the Northeast Regional Association of Small Business Investment Corporation. He is also a former member of the Executive Council and the Board of Governors of the National Association of Small Businesses Investment Corporation.

Currently, Jack is a corporate banker. He is the Chairman of the Waldorf Group, Incorporated, of Little Falls and the Tappan Zee Capital Corporation. In addition, Jack is the Chairman of the Board of Olo Deerfield Fabrics, Inc. of Cedar Grove.

Although active in the community and the corporate world, Jack is also a dedicated family man. A resident of Wyckoff, Jack is married to the former Louise Rothstein. They are the proud parents of four sons, Michael, Steven, Jeffrey, and John. They have two grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me, our colleagues, Jack Birnberg's family and friends, and the grateful residents of New Jersey as we commend Jack for his years of service to the community.

AUGLAIZE COUNTY SESQUICENTENNIAL

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my most sincere congratulations to the people of Auglaize County as they celebrate their county's Sesquicentennial Anniversary.

In reviewing the history of the county, it came to my attention that Dr. George Washington Holbrook was principally responsible for the county's existence. Indeed, when Dr. Holbrook arrived in Wapakoneta, Ohio, from New York in 1834, what we now know as Auglaize County was then located in Allen and Mercer counties. With the belief that the people of Wapakoneta and its neighboring communities deserved further recognition and representation, Dr. Holbrook convinced both local and state leaders of the need for a new county. Dr. Holbrook's efforts and dreams were realized on February 14, 1848, when the Ohio General

Assembly passed legislation creating Ohio's 84th county, Auglaize. For his contributions, Dr. Holbrook is known as "the father of Auglaize County."

To commemorate the tremendous achievements of the people of Auglaize County over the last 150 years, a variety of celebrations are scheduled throughout the year. I am especially looking forward to the Air Show at the Neil Armstrong Airport in New Knoxville and the County Fair.

I congratulate the great people of Auglaize County on this historic achievement and wish them the best of luck over the next 150 years!

TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT OF
1996

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, two years ago this week the President signed into law the Telecommunications Act of 1996 aimed at removing monopoly protections and creating fair, full and open competition in the communications marketplace. One of the primary goals in passing this law was to give consumers the benefits of more choices, lower prices and greater quality in their telephone and cable services.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, it hasn't happened. In lieu of competition, consumers in many areas of the country are seeing mergers of massive proportions, higher cable rates and lawsuits filed by frustrated competitors seeking to enter the long distance market. Having said that, I would point out that Ameritech, the regional communications company that serves my home state and four other Midwestern states, has done a commendable job of fostering competition in our part of the country.

Today there are more than 130 companies certified to compete in the Ameritech region, and the Company has interconnection agreements with 60 of them. Additionally, the Company's competitors are serving more than 500,000 local lines by reselling service under their brand names. Ameritech is also bringing true cable competition to the Midwest. Its cable subsidiary, Ameritech New Media, has 65 franchises with communities in Ohio, Illinois and Michigan, and is now actively competing against incumbent providers in 40 of those communities offering enhanced cable TV service to more than 100,000 homes. In those communities where Ameritech New Media competes, incumbent providers have slashed their prices, offered customers free premium and pay per view channels, added more channels to existing service and guaranteed customers better service. This is precisely what we intended when we passed the Telecommunications Act.

However, Mr. Speaker, in spite of their efforts, neither Ameritech nor any of the former Bell companies has managed to cross the regulatory threshold to enter the long distance market. I think I speak for many of my colleagues when I say that I am extremely disappointed that consumers across the country have yet to enjoy the full benefits of the Telecommunications Act. I continue to believe this is a good law, and I would urge the Federal Communications Commission to make it work.

We now have a new chairman and three new commissioners at the FCC and I am impressed by their recent comments stressing the need to implement the Act. I encourage them in the strongest possible terms to implement the law and give consumers the choices they deserve.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF VARIABLE STAR OBSERVERS

HON. GEORGE E. BROWN, JR.

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. BROWN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions that amateur astronomers from around the world have made to our understanding of some of the most profound questions that have confronted mankind—the evolution of the universe. In the very brief period in which humans have had the ability to look up and ponder our place in the universe, we have transcended a time in which religious dictate required a belief that the heavens were unchanging, to one in which we accept change as the status quo.

We now know that stars change. Sometimes the change is dramatic and visible to all such as the supernova explosion in 1987. More often, the changes are subtle to the casual observer. Yet these subtle changes in star brightness due to pulsations and eruptions and eclipses behind intervening objects are crucial in understanding the nature of the universe and its ultimate fate.

Mr. Speaker, in 1911 the American Association of Variable Star Observers (AAVSO) was founded at the Harvard College Observatory. This independent research organization is dedicated to coordinating the observations of variable stars by amateur astronomers in 46 participating countries.

AAVSO receives, digitizes, and archives over 300,000 observations yearly from 300 to 350 observers. Since its founding, AAVSO has catalogued over 8.5 million observations from 4000 observers. AAVSO boasts the largest and longest running computer readable accessible variable star catalogue in existence.

This valuable data base is used to help schedule precious observing time by the large public and privately operated observatories, to carry out collaborative research in analyzing the long term behavior of variable stars, and finally by educators and students.

In 1995, NASA conducted a major study of cataclysmic variable stars by the ASTRO-2 telescope during the Space Shuttle mission STS-67. During the course of this mission, NASA depended on AAVSO for critical guidance in identifying the best variable star targets. This coordinated research program resulted in a superb data base on ten cataclysmic variable stars that has provided a wealth of scientific understanding. Since then, AAVSO has worked with NASA to coordinate observations on the Hubble Space Telescope, the Extreme Ultraviolet Explorer, the X-Ray Timing Explorer, the International Ultraviolet Explorer, and many other international space borne telescopes.

Mr. Speaker, the astronomy community has had a long tradition of active participation by

amateurs since the time of Galileo. The vitality of this discipline is evident in magazine shelves worldwide that carry astronomy related publications. AAVSO itself publishes its own highly respected journal to disseminate latest results and scientific concepts.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend AAVSO for its outstanding work and over eighty years of productive contributions to the field of astronomy.

TRIBUTE TO THE EPICUREAN CLUB OF WASHINGTON, DC, INC. AND CHEF RICHARD FISHER

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to honor The Epicurean Club, which was originally an all-male group of Executive Chefs who had apprenticed in Europe or Stewards. The club's membership today is composed of men and women who are chefs, bakers and restaurant owners. I am delighted that The Epicurean Club will celebrate its 60th anniversary with a Dinner Dance on February 22, 1998. During that event Chef Richard Fisher, CEC will be honored for his skillful and untiring service as Chairman of the club's annual Christmas Party.

Twenty-five years ago, when chefs were not very well-paid or recognized, this party was an important social event. The club borrowed a ballroom and solicited donations of food and wine. Spouses who rarely went out because their husbands were always at work put on their finest and the party was always a tremendous success. The party was evolved and today serves over 500 people and has become the only Christmas party for some of the area's neediest children. Last year, the club served 200 children from the DC Department of Human Services and The Orphan Foundation of America. Each child received a gift, a gingerbread house, extra food and a visit with Santa Claus.

For over twenty-five years, Chef Fisher has worked in hotels and restaurants and was a representative for Knorr-Swiss in the Metropolitan area. He has been an active member of the club for over twenty years and is also a member of the National Capital Chefs Association. He has served as a judge at Culinary Salons and is regarded as a true food professional. He lives in Virginia with his wife Trudy and has been Chairman of the club's annual Christmas Party for twenty-five years.

Chef Fisher's work on behalf of children of the District of Columbia reflects the caring spirit of many persons who reside outside our city. His efforts serve as a model and motivation for men and women in the metropolitan region who sincerely want to lessen the impact of poverty and hunger.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that this body join me in congratulating The Epicurean Club of Washington, DC, Inc. on the occasion of their 60th Anniversary and in applauding Chef Fisher for his selfless service.

SUPPORTING H.R. 3137

HON. WILLIAM L. JENKINS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H.R. 3137, the Medicare Venipuncture Seniors Protection Act of 1998. This legislation sponsored by Representative BOB ADERHOLT (4th-AL) would delay implementation of the elimination of the venipuncture home health benefit included in the Balanced Budget Act of 1997. In order to determine whether or not the benefit should be restored after the delay, the bill commissions a study of venipuncture benefits. I also want to take the time to applaud the efforts of other Members of Congress who have taken a lead on this important issue. Representative NICK RAHALL (3rd-WV) took the first step to correct this error in the Balanced Budget Act when he introduced H.R. 2912, the Medicare Venipuncture Fairness Act of 1997. I cosponsored the legislation which restores the venipuncture benefit completely.

Everyone is opposed to fraud, waste, and abuse in the Medicare Program. I want to do everything we can to eliminate these items from the program so that we can offer additional medical services and prolong the life of the Medicare trust funds. However, complete elimination of the venipuncture benefit is not a solution to this problem. Unfortunately, eliminating home health visits for the sole purpose of obtaining a venipuncture was included in the Balanced Budget Act passed by this Congress and signed into law by the President last year.

This change in Medicare has affected individual States in different ways. Some of the most negatively affected are rural Southern States like Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, Mississippi, Kentucky, and West Virginia. In Tennessee, State regulations prevent lab technicians from entering homes and drawing blood under Medicare part B. Further, there is no safety net on the State level which will care for these patients. If our intent is to save money in health care, it does not make sense to discontinue this benefit. Many of these individuals could be placed into nursing homes and onto the Medicaid Program. In Tennessee, one recent study has indicated that an additional 3,000 nursing beds will be needed by the year 2000. More beds will be needed if this inequity is not corrected.

Like many other Members of Congress, I supported balancing the budget and getting our financial house in order. When I ran for Congress in 1996, one of my primary goals was working to get the budget balanced. However, I believe that we have gone too far with the elimination of this benefit, and I have no intention of balancing the budget on the backs of our frail and elderly.

ALEXANDER OGORODNIKOV AND CHARITY IN MOSCOW

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, recently I visited Moscow with my colleagues

Mr. HALL of Ohio and Mr. WOLF of Virginia, along with the distinguished Librarian of Congress and specialist on Russia, Dr. James Billington. We were there as part of an international delegation invited to discuss with Russian officials the new Russian law on freedom of conscience and religious organizations. This trip was very fruitful and I believe will have played a role in having some of the most pernicious elements of that regrettable legislation removed or alleviated.

During our stay in Moscow, the U.S. Embassy kindly arranged a meeting for us with Alexander Ogorodnikov, a former Soviet political prisoner whom I first met in 1988. Until recently, he had operated a soup kitchen and shelter for endangered young women in Moscow. I say "recently" because just before our arrival, the soup kitchen was closed down by order of city officials. The shelter is still open, although it has been subjected to periodic police raids since its opening.

Mr. Ogorodnikov opened his soup kitchen on Khoroshevskoe Shosse in February 1991, the first such privately funded charitable institution in the former Soviet Union. Among the financial contributors were religious organizations in the United States, Germany, France, and the Netherlands. The soup kitchen fed pensioners, homeless persons, former incarcerated, refugees, people from other neighborhoods, basically most anyone who needed a meal. According to Mr. Ogorodnikov, an average of 450 to 550 persons visited the soup kitchen every day as of 1997.

Unfortunately, as the saying goes, no good deed goes unpunished—especially in today's Russia. Neighborhood officials and the Moscow city property authorities have been leveling (in Mr. Ogorodnikov's words) "unjustified financial claims" against the soup kitchen. The case has gone to court and has still not been resolved.

Nevertheless, on the night of November 13, 1997, a group of unknown persons showed up when none of the soup kitchen personnel were present and seized the premises. On the next day, when soup kitchen personnel arrived for work, they were not permitted to enter. The new occupants announced that "repairs had been initiated." Mr. Ogorodnikov was not even allowed to retrieve his equipment or the foodstuffs that had been stored at the soup kitchen.

On January 15, I visited the soup kitchen, or rather what was left of it, with Mr. Ogorodnikov. Repair work on the building was being done, but it appeared as if the soup kitchen had never existed. All Mr. Ogorodnikov's kitchen equipment and his foodstuffs had disappeared. We asked for the foreman of the operation and, after a while, he showed up. I don't think he was glad to see us. The foreman informed Mr. Ogorodnikov that his equipment had been removed and stored elsewhere in the city, but he refused to say where.

Mr. Ogorodnikov was shown a back room where someone had stashed two of the icons that had been on the soup kitchen wall, and Mr. Ogorodnikov was required to sign for the icons before he could remove them for safe keeping, "so there won't be any claims." Of course, no one worried about claims when the food, refrigerators, freezers, tables, and other equipment were hauled away.

The foreman did indicate that he would arrange to have the equipment delivered wher-

ever Mr. Ogorodnikov instructed, a rather difficult condition, since Mr. Ogorodnikov has no other place to store his equipment. In the meantime, Mr. Ogorodnikov could win his case against his tormentors, and the court might order his foodstuffs and equipment returned to him. By that time, who knows what will remain?

Mr. Speaker, ironically, the United States Government has spent significant amounts of taxpayers' money to assist Russia with macro-economic programs, small business assistance, and humanitarian aid. Yet here is a Russian man who, like many of his contemporaries, could have gone into business for his own financial gain. Instead, he has devoted himself to helping the many poor and destitute among his countrymen. In return, local officials harass him, shut down his operation, and deprive many others of the chance to have a decent meal.

It is a sad commentary on human nature, and bespeaks badly on the political leadership of a city with such great potential.

HONORING JACK B. LEVY

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with my constituents and the friends and family of Jack B. Levy as they gather in Long Beach, New York to celebrate his 100th birthday. Jack is the quintessential example of the American success story and exudes those characteristics and traits that are part of the great American heritage. Born on February 25, 1898 in Levov, Russia as Yankel Levov, he immigrated to America at age 15. Passing through Ellis Island and by the whim of an immigrant inspector, he emerged into his new country as Jack B. Levy.

Having been taken in by his aunt and uncle, Jack took advantage of the many opportunities being offered him and on his second day in America began his first job. Jack was not one to sit idly by and undertook a series of jobs that would include cab driver, train engineer and anything else at which he could earn a living working 12 hours a day seven days a week. With a voracious appetite for reading the daily papers, a habit which he still maintains, Jack quickly learned to read and write English. He soon became a citizen and established the practice of having voted in every local and national election.

In 1924, he married Mollie Steinman and began a family that was to include his children, Lawrence, Aaron and Irene, eight grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren. Much to the perseverance and dedication of their parents, the work ethic, the concept of community service and giving of one's self to help others became ingrained in their daily lives.

Retirement has not changed Jack as is evidenced by the County of Nassau recognizing him for his outstanding work among senior citizens. Not only has he continued to be a source of joy and enlightenment to his entire family, he has also taken his many talents and effectively applied them to the members of the Senior Center of Long Beach, New York.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to rise and join with me in honoring Mr. Jack B. Levy.

At a time when we search for heroes and outstanding leaders to provide us with that leadership imbued with warmth, compassion and understanding, we are well-served by the extraordinary efforts of Jack Levy.

REMEMBER THE MAINE!

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of a tragic and intriguing chapter in American History. This Sunday, February 15th, marks the Centennial Anniversary of the sinking of the *U.S.S. Battleship Maine* in Havana harbor, Cuba. This still unsolved mystery surrounding the sinking of the *Maine* and the role her explosion played in the start of the Spanish-American War have given her a most prominent position in American history.

On January 24, 1898, the *U.S.S. Battleship Maine* was dispatched from Key West to Havana to protect American lives and property during the conflict between Cuban revolutionaries and the Spanish Colonial Government. A letter home from Captain Charles Sigsbee recalls that fateful night of February 15, 1898, when the evening's calm was shattered by a "bursting, rending, crashing sound or roar of immense volume." At 9:40 p.m. the explosion lifted the forward section of the *Maine* followed immediately by a second, large and more violent explosion near the center of the superstructure. The entire interior of the vessel went dark as men struggled throughout the wounded ship to find a way out of the sinking and burning hull. The explosions emanated primarily from the forward section of the *Maine* where the crew was bunking and housed. 265 sailors were dead or missing following the disaster.

After an investigation by the U.S. Navy Court of Inquiry, it was determined that a mine had set off the explosions. While the court did not speculate on who had set the mine, a majority of Americans blamed it on the Spanish. The cry, "Remember the Maine!" echoed in the streets of the nation and the halls of Congress. Two days after the report of the court of inquiry, Navy Secretary John Davis Long ordered the peacetime white hulls of U.S. ships overpainted in dull battle gray.

The U.S. flag still flies from the salvaged mast of the *Maine* at Arlington National Cemetery over the graves of the sailors and Marines whose bodies were recovered in 1911. The remains of the first 27 members of the crew returned to the U.S. also rest at the *Maine* Memorial Plot in Key West, Florida.

The *U.S.S. Battleship Maine* and the people of Key West share an inexorable history. During her brief period of service the *Maine* would visit Key West on two memorable occasions. The destruction of the *Maine* and the tremendous loss of life shocked and deeply saddened the people of Key West. The entire community would mourn the dead sailors and offer aide and comfort to survivors of the explosion. Shortly thereafter, the city would offer a portion of its cemetery as a final resting place for the 27 dead sailors that arrived from Havana.

This weekend America will join the U.S. Battleship Maine Centennial Commission in Key

West to once again remember the *Maine* on the 100th anniversary of its destruction. As it was a century ago, the history of our nation, the island of Key West and the battleship *Maine* are bound together for all time.

CELEBRATING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF LITHUANIAN INDEPENDENCE

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 80th anniversary of the declaration of Lithuanian Independence.

For nearly 55 years, Lithuania was occupied by Soviet military forces. But in the past five years, the people of Lithuania have been able to finally enjoy and celebrate the freedoms and privileges of an independent nation.

The United States and Lithuania have now formed a significant partnership between our leaders, our governments, and our people. We have close trade relations with Lithuania. We are mutually committed to the security of the Baltic region.

With free and fair elections recently completed, Lithuania has established a commitment to democracy and pluralism. I believe we can say with great confidence that Lithuania is becoming a full partner in the effort to build democracy and promote freedom around the world.

I commend the Lithuanian-American community for their persistence and hope through the many challenging decades. The 80th anniversary of Lithuanian independence was celebrated by the Lithuanian-American community in Southeast Michigan on Sunday, February 8, at the Lithuanian Cultural Center in Southfield.

I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Lithuania's independence.

HONORING ALBERT NEDOFF, JR., A NATIONAL LEADER IN DRUG ENFORCEMENT

HON. DEBBIE STABENOW

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. Speaker, "It is my honor to congratulate Albert Nedoff, Jr., who after nearly twenty-four years of service at the Drug Enforcement Administration has been appointed the Associate Director of the Chicago High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Task Force.

"With this new position, Albert will work under the leadership of the U.S. Drug Czar, Gen. Barry McCaffrey.

"Albert is a national leader in the area of drug enforcement, who has spent more than eight years in Detroit's DEA office. During his tenure, he was instrumental in several high-profile cases, including the dismantling of the Chambers Family's control of Detroit's crack cocaine market and the case that resulted in the arrest and conviction of Toni Cato Riggs, the widow of Gulf War Veteran Anthony Riggs.

"The 1990 murder of Anthony Riggs drew national attention when he was gunned down

in the streets of Detroit, just one day after returning home from the war. Four years after Anthony Riggs' murder, a task force of undercover drug agents and police officers, under the supervision of Albert Nedoff, videotaped a confession by Toni Cato Riggs regarding her involvement in her husband's murder, resulting in a first-degree murder conviction.

"I am pleased that after nearly forty years of city and federal government service, Albert Nedoff has chosen to continue serving our country in the area of law enforcement. Though he will be missed in the Michigan area, it is reassuring to know that he will still be fighting to rid our nation's streets of drugs. I wish him well in his new position and wish his family the very best in the future."

TRIBUTE TO ALBERTO VAZQUEZ

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and pay tribute to Mr. Alberto Vazquez, the newly selected Mr. Amigo.

Every year, members of the Mr. Amigo Association, who represent the City of Brownsville, Texas, travel to Mexico City to select a new Mr. Amigo to serve as the honored guest of the Mr. Amigo festivities in Brownsville. The Mr. Amigo festivity is a four day international event which invites the United States and Mexico to celebrate the cultures of these neighboring countries. During the Mr. Amigo celebration, which originated as a pre-Lenten festival, Brownsville citizens participate in a series of parades, dances and parties to demonstrate the goodwill of both countries. It is a major function which is eagerly anticipated by many South Texans as well as our winter visitors.

We are honored to recognize Mr. Alberto Vazquez as the 34th Mexican citizen chosen by the Mr. Amigo Association. Mr. Vazquez was born in Guaymas, Sonora. He filmed 34 movies with outstanding Mexican Stars such as Soler, Marga Lopez, and last year's recipient of Mr. Amigo, Angelica Maria. Mr. Vazquez has recorded 108 records, many of them receiving gold and silver status, and listings on the top spots of the international record charts. He has received numerous awards and recognitions throughout Mexico, the United States and Latin America.

Alberto Vazquez recently released his latest record "Cosas de Alberto Vazquez," which includes such hits as "Te he Prometido," "Tus Ojos," "Anoche me Enamore," and "El Ultimo Beso."

Mr. Alberto Vazquez is a perfect recipient of the Mr. Amigo award. For he has, over the long period of his career, taken his unique screen, television, and stage performances to numerous countries, including the United States. A true ambassador of his country and of his culture, he has been praised by numerous organizations for his unconditional commitment to improve mutual understanding and cooperation between Mexico and the United States. Mr. Alberto Vazquez should be recognized for both his artistic ability and his contribution to his commitment to bicultural relations between the two nations.

Mr. Amigo, Mr. Alberto Vazquez, will receive the red-carpet treatment when he visits

Brownsville as the city's honored guest during the upcoming Mr. Amigo celebration. During his stay on the border, he will make personal appearances in parades and other festival events. Official "welcome" receptions will be staged by organizations in Cameron County, Texas, and the cities of Brownsville, Texas, and Matamoros, Tamaulipas, Mexico.

I ask my colleagues to join me in extending congratulations to Mr. Alberto Vazquez for being honored with this special award.

THE WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY: 125 YEARS OF HONORING THE MEMORY OF GENERAL GEORGE WASHINGTON AND THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR IN NEW JERSEY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and pay tribute to the Washington Association of New Jersey. As the keepers of the Ford Mansion, also known as Washington's Headquarters, and the guardians of Morristown National Historical Park, the support of the Washington Association and its members has been extraordinary. This year, the Association celebrates its 125th year of service to honoring the memory of George Washington and preserving Washington's Headquarters and the park's historical sites for future generations.

The Ford Mansion, built in Morristown between 1772-74, was the home of Colonel Jacob Ford, Jr., a landowner, iron manufacturer and ardent patriot of Morris County. As Colonel of the Eastern Battalion of New Jersey's militia forces, Jacob Ford participated in the first Battle of Springfield. However, shortly thereafter, he fell ill with pneumonia and died on January 10, 1777. Even so, Colonel Ford's widow, Theodosia, who was left with five children, offered the mansion to General George Washington to use as his headquarters during the very harsh winters of 1777 and 1779-80 in New Jersey. Unlike the areas of New Jersey nearer to New York City, Morristown had fewer loyalists and its surrounding hills provided natural defenses for a winter refuge where the next summer campaign could be planned. In addition, the Continental Army and various militias could be maneuvered quickly to either Manhattan or Philadelphia from their primitive and difficult encampment at Jockey Hollow.

In this grand home, Washington, along with his aide-de-camp Alexander Hamilton, would lay out the strategy for much of the Revolution's greatest campaigns. At a tall secretary desk, which still graces the mansion, Washington penned some of the most important letters of the Revolution. Some of the greatest heroes of the war, including the Marquis de Lafayette, General Schuyler, General Greene, General Knox, and even the infamous traitor General Benedict Arnold, walked through the Ford Mansion's front door and graced Martha Washington's wartime dining room with their conversations about victory, defeat and the battles yet to come. It has been said that under the Ford Mansion's roof have been gathered more figures known to the military

history of our Revolution than any other house in America. It is no wonder that Morristown is considered the Military Capital of the Revolution.

Nearly a century later, the Washington Association of New Jersey was founded in Morristown in June of 1873, in order to save the Ford Mansion as it was offered for sale by the heirs of Colonel Ford's grandson, the Honorable Henry Ford. Four New Jersey gentlemen, former Governor Theodore F. Randolph, William Van Vleck Lidgerwood of Morristown, and George A. Halsey and General Norris Halsted of Newark, were responsible for leading this great effort. The Association was chartered by an act of the New Jersey State Legislature on March 20, 1874 as a stock-granting corporation in New Jersey.

The Association maintained the Ford Mansion in Morristown until 1933, and in the process accumulated a remarkable collection of Revolutionary War memorabilia. Through the influence of the Washington Association, Mayor Clyde Potts of Morristown and Mr. Lloyd Waddell Smith, member and sometime president of the Association, the Ford Mansion was donated to the Federal government on March 2, 1933, creating Morristown National Historic Park, the nation's first historic park. Also included in the park were Fort Nonsense in Morristown and certain parcels of land in Jockey Hollow where the troops were encamped during the horrible winter of 1779-80.

Today, the Washington Association of New Jersey supports Morristown National Historic Park by acquiring rare books and manuscripts pertaining to the Revolution or George Washington, contributing financially to the park and, by Federal statute, is the official consultant to the National Park Service in Morristown. The Association also acts as an advocate for the park when the property is threatened by any inappropriate development.

In 1998-99, the Washington Association of New Jersey will be celebrating the 125th anniversary of its foundation and incorporation. Planned activities include updating and reprinting "A Certain Splendid House" (the history of the Ford Mansion), publication of a scholarly catalog on "War Comes to Morristown", the new, permanent exhibit at Washington's Headquarters Museum, a lecture series which will bring distinguished scholars into Morristown, and the eventual expansion of Washington's Headquarters Museum so that more of the 400,000 items in the collections at Morristown can be properly exhibited.

Although the mansion is now part of a National Historic Park, the Association's work is appreciated most by the residents of Morris County. Washington's Headquarters, as it is called by most, is the Town of Morristown's common denominator. It is what the people of Morristown identify themselves with, what they remember most when they leave and the first thing they want to see when they return. It is our public treasure and the Washington Association of New Jersey is its entrusted guardian.

So, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me as I salute the Washington Association of New Jersey on the occasion of their 125th anniversary and for their great work in preserving our nation's first National Historic Park, the memory of our nation's greatest citizen and Morristown's most famous and dearest house.

AGRICULTURE EXPORTS AND TRADE AGREEMENT

HON. THOMAS W. EWING

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a concurrent resolution regarding trade between the U.S. and the European Union. Recent news reports indicate that the Administration may be considering concluding a trade agreement with the EU that would not include agriculture. Given the difficulties that American agricultural exports face in gaining access to the EU market, it is unthinkable that any cross-sector agreement with the EU would exclude agriculture. This resolution calls on the Administration to actively pursue eliminating tariff and non-tariff barriers imposed by the EU on U.S. agricultural exports. This resolution also cautions the Administration against engaging in trade negotiations that might undermine the ability of the United States to have a level playing field for American producers.

American agriculture is more than twice as reliant on exports as the overall economy, and thus the American farmer is hurt the most by unfair barriers to market access. This is especially true with the European Union, where barriers to U.S. agriculture products remains the most vexing problem in our commercial relationship. The EU has shown relatively little progress in liberalizing trade in agriculture between our two markets. The EU has failed to comply with a WTO ruling which overturned an EU ban on hormone-treated beef from the U.S. The EU has failed to implement the bilateral agreement on veterinary equivalence standards and EU subsidies continue to distort market prices. U.S. farmers are the most efficient and productive in the world and they deserve our every effort to pry open foreign markets and tear down unfair barriers to market access.

Mr. Speaker, if U.S. agriculture exports are to continue growing at the present rate, the U.S. government needs to be more aggressive in eliminating barriers to trade around the world. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this resolution.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, last week on February 4th during Roll Call Vote No. 7, on H.J. Res. 107, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted Yes.

I ask unanimous consent that the record reflect this.

MEL McLEAN: EXAMPLE OF THE AMERICAN DREAM

HON. FRANK RIGGS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. RIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I call the attention of my colleagues to Mel McLean of Humboldt

County, California. Described as a moral, caring and generous man by residents in the community of Fortuna and the Northern California County of Humboldt, Mr. McLean is an example of the American Dream.

Mel McLean still greets visitors with a twinkle in his eye and a firm handshake, despite a stroke that limited his speech 11 years ago. That's appropriate for a man who, for many years, sealed important deals with little more than a handshake.

Though he is known locally as a philanthropist, Mel got where he is today by hard work, despite setbacks along the way. He started his career in logging more than 50 years ago with various jobs in the woods. In 1938, he and a partner contracted to run a tie mill just following his marriage in 1937 to Grace, his close friend and companion for over 50 years before her death in 1989.

The young couple struggled through the Depression, even hauling away logs discarded by the loggers. They peeled the bark off by hand and sold it for 35 cents a truckload. Beans and potatoes were their supper most nights.

In 1946, Mel and another partner became involved in the grocery business, a venture that grew to include four stores. Two years later he moved his timber business to Humboldt County and formed a partnership named Lindsey Lumber Company. They bought the East family sawmill and the logging operation at the Bar W Ranch near Bridgeville, hiring 15 men.

In 1950, a fire destroyed the mill, so they moved to McCann. The company grew to own 10 tie and stud mills, and built a planing mill at McCann. The planing mill was destroyed in the 1955 flood, but they rebuilt it and continued operations. In 1958, he and his partner bought another sawmill just north of Rio Dell. This was the beginning of Eel River Sawmills.

To keep an eye on his diverse interests, Mel became a pilot. His wife, Grace, usually accompanied him on these trips. The couple enjoyed visiting other countries, but their hearts were with the people of the Eel River Valley.

Mel McLean believes strongly in seeing that residents of the Eel River Valley have jobs. He has proved that several times by rebuilding instead of just walking away from the disaster. When fire destroyed two-thirds of the mill in 1961, he rebuilt immediately, using the sawmill employees in the reconstruction so that not one man lost his job.

The company incorporated in 1963 and built a new planing mill. It had about 90 employees, up from 33 in 1961. The following year was a good one and saw the addition of a new debarker and a new chipper plant. Then came the Christmas flood of 1964. More than 8 million board feet of logs and 5 million feet of lumber went down the river, along with most of the mill.

This gave them a choice, according to Grace McLean in a 1989 interview. "It was either go down the road with a sack on our back, or hard work and start it over again."

For Mel, the answer was clear. The men of the Eel River Valley deserved jobs, and he would provide them. The company reopened and had men back on the payroll in 3 to 5 months.

By 1979, the company had added mills in Redcrest and Alton. And in early 1987, the company added the Fairhaven power plant on the Samoa peninsula, utilizing waste products from the mills to produce clean energy. In

1989, the McLeans took another step in looking out for their employees when they set up an Employee Stock Ownership Plan. Under the plan, the employees will eventually own the company.

Mel McLean wants to improve the quality of life for all residents of the Eel River Valley. He has made, and continues to make, generous donations to local groups, schools and organizations. He always treats his employees fairly and the respect between him and the workers is evident whenever McLean tours the plant. He always lets each man know he is important and leaves the impression that the entire staff is his extended family.

On February the 12th, 1998, Mel McLean will be honored and named to the Republican Hall of Fame in the Humboldt as a devoted advocate of Conservative causes. The honor is well deserved for his generous and fair spirit. We wish him many years of continued and rewarding accomplishments.

HOMAGE TO VARIAN FRY, A REAL AND UNLIKELY HERO

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, Varian Fry was one of the greatest, albeit one of the most unrecognized, American heroes of the twentieth century. As a young relief worker in Vichy France during the early years of World War II, he responded to the onslaught of Nazi persecution with a degree of bravery which stands out even when compared to the courage of other noble men and women who resisted German oppression. Fry led a small group of American liberals in creating the Emergency Rescue Committee (ERC), an organization dedicated to using every means at its disposal to help political and intellectual refugees escape from Nazi-dominated France. The ERC operated for two years, from the fall of France in 1940 until its offices were forcibly shut down in 1942, and its work saved the lives of at least 2,000 talented scholars, artists and leaders, including such cultural luminaries as Marc Chagall, Hannah Arendt and Max Ernst. Fry's actions led to the founding of the International Rescue Committee after the war.

Varian Fry's lifesaving efforts are all the more remarkable in light of fierce opposition not only from the pro-Fascist Vichy government, but also from resentful American consular officials. As a result of this antagonism, Fry's heroism went unrecognized in his lifetime. He died in obscurity over thirty years ago.

Varian Fry's contributions have been recognized by Yad Vashem, Israel's memorial to the Holocaust, where he stands as the only American honored as a "Righteous Gentile." Mr. Speaker, it is long past due for the American government and the American people to pay tribute to this heroic champion of human rights. I would like to enter into the record a touching and inspiring review of Fry's autobiography, *Surrender on Demand*, written for "The New Republic" by Alfred Kazin. I would also like to invite my colleagues to attend *Assignment: Rescue, The Story of Varian Fry and the Emergency Rescue Committee*, a moving exhibit which will be featured at The

Jewish Museum in New York through March 29, as well as *The Varian Fry Celebration*, which will be on display at the San Francisco Main Library after March 8.

[From the New Republic, Feb. 9, 1998]

A REAL AND UNLIKELY HERO—HOMAGE TO VARIAN FRY

(By Alfred Kazin)

The Armistice with Nazi Germany that France had to sign in June 1940 contained a clause, Article XIX, obliging the French Government to "surrender upon demand all Germans named by the German government in France, as well as in French possessions, colonies, Protectorate Territories, and Mandates." "Germans" originally meant all inhabitants of the greater German Reich—Germans, Austrians, Czechs, and many Poles—but by 1940 it meant every political opponent whom the Nazis wanted to get their hands on. There were American relief organizations in France sponsored by the YMCA, the Unitarians, and the Quakers. But a group of American liberals, outraged by the Nazis' open violation of the right of asylum, formed the Emergency Rescue Committee to bring political and intellectual refugees out of France before the Gestapo and the Italian and Spanish Fascist police caught them in what their rescuer Varian Fry was to call "the most gigantic man-trap in history."

The volunteer (there were not many) whom the Committee chose to direct this effort from Marseille was Varian Fry, a 32-year-old Harvard-trained classicist perfectly at home in Europe. Indeed, on the surface, with his elegant name and his precise manner, he may have seemed just a little too refined. With his classmate Lincoln Kirstein, he had founded the pioneer journal of modernism *The Hound and Horn*. When I met him at *The New Republic* after the war, he liked, on our many walks, a little affectedly, to show off the little dogtricks that he had taught his French poodle Clovis, whom he had named after the ancient king of the Franks. But Varian was at heart so pure and intense a democratic conscience that he could not bear the lingering Popular Front sentimentality about Stalin on *The New Republic*; and he resigned from the magazine in 1945, just before Henry Wallace took it over.

In fact, for thirteen months in France, Varian was our own Scarlet Pimpernel. He was endlessly bold and resourceful in the always correct manner that was natural to him. And he was forced to leave France because his labors on behalf of Jews and political refugees had enraged both Vichy's pro-Fascist bureaucrats and reactionary American consular officials. Varian was one of the great civilian heroes of the war. In the face of the most maddening bureaucratic slights, delays, and hostilities presented by Vichy France, Franco's Spain, and the American consul in Marseille (he finally got the French to expel Varian), my friend organized from a room in the Hotel Splendide the ramshackle yet somehow effective organization that helped to get virtually 2,000 people to safety. Varian is the only American honored as a "Righteous Gentile" at Yad Vashem, Israel's memorial to the Holocaust.

Surrender on Demand, Varian's wonderful account of his noble adventure in France, his "story of an experiment in democratic solidarity . . . of illegal work under the nose of the Gestapo," was first published without much effect in 1945, and it has now been brought back into print in conjunction with the splendid exhibition "Assignment: Rescue, The Story of Varian Fry and the Emergency Rescue Committee" at the Jewish Museum in New York. The museum has also enclosed in its press kit Varian's essay "The Massacre of the Jews," which appeared in

The New Republic's issue of December 21, 1942. Unlikely as this seems now, the anguish that Varian brought to the subject did not altogether interest people at the magazine (I had just joined the staff), who were languishing for the New Deal that Roosevelt had discarded in wartime. "That such things could be done by contemporary western Europeans, heirs of the humanist tradition, seems hardly possible": only Varian, hardly innocent but obstinately virtuous, would have written that sentence. He ended his article by demanding "a little thing, but at the same time a big thing"—that the United States "offer asylum now, without delay or red tape, to those few fortunate enough to escape from the Aryan paradise."

In Berlin on July 15, 1935, Varian had seen Hitler's troopers attack Jews in "the first pogrom." On November 9, 1938, Nazi leaders had openly encouraged the burning of synagogues, the pillage of Jewish homes, and the murder of their inhabitants. "Injecting air-bubbles into the bloodstream," Varian observed in his *NEW REPUBLIC* article in 1942, "is cheap, clean, and efficient, producing clots, embolisms, and death within a few hours . . ."

"Even though Hitler may lose this war, he may win it anyway, at least, as far as Europe is concerned. . . . The Christian churches might also help . . . the Pope by threatening with excommunication all Catholics who in any way participate in these frightful crimes. . . . There is a report, which I have not been able to verify, that the Office of War Information has banned mention of the massacres in its shortwave broadcasts. . . . The fact that the Nazis do not commit their massacres in Western Europe, but transport their victims to the East before destroying them, is certain proof that they fear the effect on the local populations of the news of their crimes."

Despite the fact that the urgency of the situation has never been greater, immigration into the United States in the year 1942 will have been less than ten percent of what it has been in 'normal' years before Hitler, when some of the largest quotas were not filled. There have been bureaucratic delays in visa procedure which have literally condemned to death many stalwart democrats."

This was the man who had gone to Marseille two years before with just \$3,000 from patrons of the Emergency Rescue Committee, only to find himself initially frustrated by the delusions of some VIPs whom he had come to rescue. Rudolph Breitscheid, the leader of the Social Democratic bloc in the Reichstag, openly frequented a sidewalk cafe with Rudolph Hilferding, formerly German Minister to France. He boasted that Hitler would "never dare" to arrest him. He was wrong. He was nabbed and never heard from again. Giuseppe Modigliani, the head of the Italian Socialist Party and a Jew (and the brother of the painter), was easy to spot. He insisted on wearing in all weather a fur coat, a gift from the Garment Workers Union in New York, and he adamantly refused to shave his beard. "I've always worn it."

Franz Werfel and his wife Alma were at the Hotel du Louvre et de la Paix, in hiding under the name of Mrs. Werfel's former husband Gustav Mahler, who had died in 1911. Werfel looked "exactly like his photographs: large, dumpy, and pallid, like a half-filled sack of flour. His hair was thin on top and too long on the sides. He was wearing a silk dressing gown and soft slippers and was sitting all over a small gilt chair." The Werfels had fled from Paris to Lourdes, where they had sought the protection of the Church. Werfel, a Jew, had begun *The Song of Bernadette*. When they realized that they would never be able to leave France from Lourdes, they came to Marseille to get the American

visas waiting for them at the Consulate. But there was now a general ban on exit visas.

The Werfels insisted on ordering up champagne as they went over their problem with Varian. He had just arrived and he hadn't yet found out what the possibilities were. The Werfels had heard of refugees going down to the Spanish frontier and getting over safely, but they didn't know if those lucky souls had reached Lisbon for passage to America. Most of them had probably been arrested in Spain and handed over to the Gestapo. There was also the risk of being arrested for travelling without permission. It was all very confusing. What were they to do? They finally got away, at first encumbering their saviors with twelve suitcases. But Alma made it into Spain on foot, Mahler, manuscripts in her pack.

The American Federation of Labor had succeeded in persuading the State Department to grant emergency visas to a long list of European labor leaders, and it had dispatched Frank Bohn to help them with the escape. Bohn, a hearty extrovert who talked like "an itinerant revivalist," was one of the two or three Americans in France prepared to help Varian. Through Bohn he met a young German social democrat named Albert Hirschman, a political refugee who was "very intelligent and eternally good-natured and cheerful," who joined his staff. "I began to call him Beamish," Varian wrote, "because of his impish eyes and perennial pout, which would turn into a broad grin in an instant." Staff conferences were held in the bathroom, where Varian turned on the faucets to create a deafening rush of water.

Another invaluable aide was "vivacious and ebullient" Lena Fishman, who had worked in the Paris office of the joint Distribution Committee, was competent in English, French, German, Russian, Polish, and Spanish, and was especially useful in calming the excited. "Il ne faut pas exagérer," she used to say. (Lena had her own way of talking. When I first met her, she asked me who my publisher was. I told her, but the name obviously meant nothing to her. "Je n'ai jamais couché avec," she said.)

Most of the refugees whose names had been given to Varian in New York were still missing. Nobody knew where they were or what had become of them. But refugees started coming to Varian's room at the Splendide as soon as word went out.

"Many of them had been through hell; their nerves were shattered and their courage was gone. Many had been herded into concentration camps at the outbreak of the war, then released, then interned again when the Germans began their great offensive in May. In the concentration camps they had waited fearfully while the Wehrmacht drew nearer and nearer. It was often literally at the last moment that they had had a chance to save themselves. Then they had joined the great exodus to the south, sometimes walking hundreds of miles to get away from the Nazis. . . ."

Nor was it only the refugees from Germany and Austria who were worried. Luis Companys, the Catalan trade-union leader, had been picked up by the Nazis in Belgium or the occupied part of France and sent down to Spain, where he was promptly garroted. And the French police were treating foreigners with a combination of muddle and brutality which left very few of them with any desire to stay in France longer than they had to."

In big cities such as Marseille, the large and constantly changing refugee population kept the police nervous, and occasionally stirred them to mass arrests called raffles. Fortunately for Varian, the first to come to the Splendide were young and vigorous German and Austrian Socialists who were not afraid, once Varian gave them American

money, to go down to the Spanish frontier and cross over on foot. One of them gave Varian a map of the frontier, showing that they planned to cross along a cemetery wall at Cerbère. They knew where to avoid the French border control. You were not to go farther into Spain until you got the Spanish entrada stamp on your passport. The Spaniards were interested only in Spanish transit visas and, above all, in money.

Refugees who hadn't yet received American visas were taking Chinese or Siamese visas and getting Portuguese transit visas on almost any identification they possessed which seemed to promise that the holder would go on from Portugal. The first difficulty was getting into Marseille, that is, past the police control for passengers arriving by train. You could avoid the police only by going into the station restaurant through a service corridor to the Hotel Terminus. There were risks. Foreigners weren't supposed to travel in France without safe conducts issued by the military authorities. Any foreigner caught traveling without such a safe conduct was likely to be sent to a concentration camp, where his future was uncertain, and where the Gestapo could get him if he was wanted.

The Nazis were dreaded, the French were corrupt and brutal, the American consular officials were difficult and nasty. So difficult and nasty, indeed, that they became Varian's particular antagonists. In a short preface to *Surrender on Demand*, ex-Secretary of State Warren Christopher writes of Varian that "regretfully, during his lifetime, his heroic actions never received the support they deserved from the United States government, particularly the State Department." That is putting it mildly. Varian's book is too taken up with the many people he saved (and the many more he couldn't save) to relate how Assistant Secretary of State Breckenridge Long managed to keep immigration quotas unfilled when thousands of refugees were desperate to get into America.

When a member of Varian's staff named Danny was arrested, and Vichy's Ministry of Finance intimated that Danny would be let off with a fine if the American Embassy intervened, Varian had no hope that this would happen. He was aware of the Embassy's hostility to "aliens." To his surprise, he was able "to touch something very deep in the American consul at Marseille, who helped get Danny off." This was astounding. Harry Bingham, son of Hiram Bingham, the former governor of Connecticut and United States senator, had been a humane, helpful figure as head of the visa section at the Marseille Consulate. But he was recalled, and his successor, Varian wrote, "seemed to delight in making autocratic decisions and refusing as many visas as he could."

Varian sought a visa for Largo Caballero, the Socialist prime minister of Republican Spain when Franco launched the Civil War. The Consul had never heard of him, and when he was finally informed who Caballero was, he said: "Oh, one of those Reds." Varian explained that Caballero had resigned the premiership rather than continue to cooperate with the Communists. "Well," the Vice-Consul said, "it doesn't make any difference to me what his politics are. If he has any political views at all, we don't want him. We don't want any agitators in the United States. We've got too many already." The court at Aix had refused to grant Caballero's extradition to Spain. If he could get him an American visa, Varian thought, he might be able to smuggle him to Casablanca and there put him on a boat for America. Caballero remained a prisoner of the Nazis until the end of the war.

Both the Vichy French and the American Embassy now sought to get Varian out of

France. The Gestapo was bringing pressure on the French police to arrest him immediately. A high police official informed him that "you have caused my good friend the Consul-General of the United States much annoyance. . . . Unless you leave France of your own free will, I shall be obliged to arrest you and place you in *résidence forcée* in some small town far from Marseille, where you can do no harm." As Varian got up to go, he asked the official, "Tell me frankly, why are you so much opposed to me?" "Because you have protected Jews and anti-Nazis."

Varian played for time. He had no assurance of a replacement, and his staff was afraid that their "relief" organization would collapse if he was forced out of France. And finally he was. The Embassy had refused to reissue his passport unless he agreed to leave at once. The organization sent out nearly 300 people between the time he left in August 1941 and the time it was raided and closed by the police, on June 2, 1942.

Varian returned to the States, wrote his book, and quit *The New Republic* in protest against the pro-Soviet sentiments of its editors. His last years were unhappy. His first wife died, and he was separated from his second. He moved to Connecticut, taught Latin at a local school, and died in 1967. During his thirteen months in France, Varian's organization offered assistance to 4,000 people, and between 1,200 to 1,800 of those people made it to safety. Varian's organization saved British soldiers and pilots, Marc Chagall, Jacques Lipchitz, André Breton, Max Ernst, André Masson, Hans Namuth, Hannah Arendt, Wanda Landowska, Marcel Duchamp, Randolph Pacciardi (leader of Italian exiles fighting in the Spanish Civil War), the German poet Hans Sahl, Victor Serge, Max Ascoli, the pianist Heinz Jolles, the Catholic writer Edgar Alexander-Emmerich, the psychiatrist Dr. Bruno Strauss, the German art critic Paul Westheim, the Sicilian novelist Giuseppe Garetto, the Surrealist poet Benjamin Péret, the former liberal Prime Minister of Prussia Otto Klepper, the museum director Charles Stirling, the novelist Jean Malaquais. There were many, many more. Chagall would not leave until he was assured there were cows in America.

Varian rescued also many people who were not famous, not distinguished, not artistic. And how it burned him that there were many, many more he was unable to rescue. This man really cared.

TRIBUTE TO A GREAT LEADER,
CHITIMACHA CHAIRMAN RALPH
DARDEN

HON. W.J. (BILLY) TAUZIN

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Speaker, we have recently lost an important leader who made a significant difference in the lives of many people in southern Louisiana. The Chitimacha Indian tribe Chairman Ralph Darden had his life cut short on January 8th by a car accident.

Chairman Darden took the small and impoverished Chitimacha Indian tribe virtually from rags to riches in the decade he led the tribe. He believed in hard work and in the tribal members gaining self-reliance and not dependency on the federal government. He helped bring about a dramatic economic development for both the Chitimacha tribe and

the surrounding communities to the point that Chitimacha is the biggest employer in the parish—aside from government.

But it was not only jobs and economic growth that Chairman Darden accomplished for the Chitimacha and southern Louisiana. He was committed to seeing that every Chitimacha child got a college education if they so desired and thus he helped underwrite their college scholarship program. He had served as President of the Chitimacha tribal school board and as a board member of the United South and Eastern Tribes. And he realized that the tribe had to diversify its economic interests and invest in land purchases and other industries for long term security. Already the tribe had one of the finest restaurants in south Louisiana named for the tribe's oldest living member, Mr. Lester. Chairman Darden looked out for the long term interests of his people. And he made his tribe one of the most respected "model" tribes in the country.

Chitimacha Chairman Darden had earlier worked for the current Governor Mike Foster and they remained good friends.

That he was widely respected and appreciated by the tribal members and by the surrounding community members was evidenced at his funeral attended by about 1,000 people. His sons gave moving tributes to their father and a young girl sang the "Colors of the Wind" song from the movie *Pocahontas*.

I cannot improve on the tribute poem written by another notable Indian Howard Rainer "To A Dear Friend":

"Who was this leader among Chitimachas?
Whose visions for his people went beyond the
eyes of many?

A man who shared his example that others
might succeed.

A Chitimacha who gave of his time for the
cause of his tribe.

A man who prayed for goodness to prevail to
the prevail to the next generation.

A leader whose heart heard the woes of
many, and extended his hand to go on.
Who was Ralph Darden?

A mortal who gave that others might re-
ceive,

A husband cherished by his wife,

A father admired,

A light to those who now shed their tears,

May the Great Creator God Hear my prayer,

I thank Him for my brother,

Who shared his love and friendship, a gift I
shall cherish, until we meet again!"

Mr. Speaker, I knew Chairman Darden.

I want to extend my personal condolences to Chairman Darden's family and to the Chitimacha and surrounding communities, and pay my personal tribute for his many achievements. His death is a big loss for all of us.

NOTING THE PASSING OF BER-
NARD 'BEN' KAUFMAN AN OUT-
STANDING BUSINESSMAN

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I announce the passing of Bernard "Ben" Kaufman, an outstanding member of the Cleveland business community. Mr. Kaufman passed away on February 4, 1998. He was a good friend and an outstanding gentleman whom I respected and admired. In his

honor, I want to share with my colleagues and others throughout the nation some important information concerning the late Mr. Kaufman.

Ben Kaufman was one of the finest printers throughout the Greater Cleveland area. It was a trade that he learned at an early age and devoted his life to perfecting. He was born and reared in Cleveland. Upon his graduation with honors from South High School, and armed with his printer's union card, he began working in various print shops. His employers included the Plain Dealer, the Cleveland News, and the Cleveland Shopping News.

In 1951, Ben Kaufman became a partner in Brothers Printing. Eight years later, he became the sole owner of the business. Those of us who came to know Ben Kaufman learned that although he owned the print shop, he was one of its best workers. He often worked long hours, arriving before sunrise each morning and working late in the evening.

Throughout his career, Mr. Kaufman took pride in the fact that he retained his union membership. Individuals who ran for public office, regardless of party affiliation, utilized his print shop. In fact, I recall that it was not unusual to encounter your political opponent while visiting Brothers Printing. My brother, the late Ambassador Carl B. Stokes, and I could always depend upon Ben Kaufman for printing advice and political advice as well.

Mr. Speaker, Ben Kaufman was also an individual who cared about the community. He was affectionately known as the "Mayor of Euclid Avenue" for his commitment to maintaining the neighborhood. Other merchants and residents of Euclid Avenue looked forward to the American flags which would line the streets on various holidays. We also recall that he would plant trees along Euclid Avenue in order to beautify the neighborhood.

Ben Kaufman was proud of the fact that his sons, Jay and David, followed in his footsteps and continue to operate Brothers Printing. I have enjoyed a close friendship with the Kaufman family and I extend my deepest sympathy to Jay and David upon the loss of a devoted father. I also want to express my sympathy to Ben's wife of 48 years, Dotty; his daughters, Rosean and Laura; his grandchildren and other members of the family. Ben Kaufman will be remembered as an outstanding businessman, a loving husband and father, and a very special friend to all who knew him. He will never be forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO HOSPICE

HON. ALLEN BOYD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. BOYD. Mr. Speaker, while November was National Hospice Month, I would like to take a moment now that the busy holiday season is over to recognize and thank several of the hospices which serve the communities in my district. Hospice of North Central Florida, Bay Medical Center Home Care and Florida Hospices, Inc., which is based in Tallahassee and serves all of Florida's hospices, make invaluable contributions to North Florida's families, all year round.

Hospice care involves a team of professionals, including physicians, nurses, therapists, home care aides, counselors and volunteers who help terminally ill patients and their

families share their final days at home in peace, comfort and dignity. These hospice caregivers help patients, as well as their family members, with one of the toughest transitions in life. The hospice program, primarily based in the home, treats the person, not the disease; focuses on the family, not the individual; and emphasizes the quality of life. Hospice care ensures that the patient's life is as fulfilling and satisfying as possible, right up to the last moment.

Last November, I was pleased to be personally invited by my friend Ron Wolf, to visit Bay Medical Center and participate in a breakfast honoring the many volunteers who give of their time to help North Florida's terminally ill patients and their families. Volunteers are the backbone of hospice care, and the multitude of volunteer positions available in hospice care serve as an opportunity for community members, old and young, to get involved in a service organization that provides critical care to those in need.

Hospice care has played an important role in my life. Two years ago, I lost my father to cancer. I do not know what my mother and my family would have done without the care that our area hospice provided. The hospice allowed my father to die at home, in dignity, surrounded by the people who loved him. I want to thank the caregivers who helped my family through a very difficult time. My family and I will never forget their commitment and compassion.

HONORING DR. KENNETH
GERHART MATHIS, M.D.

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of an extraordinary man, Dr. Kenneth Gerhart Mathis of Pasadena, TX, who passed away on Sunday, February 1, 1998. His passing is a tremendous loss for his family and all the citizens of Pasadena who knew this fine physician and civic leader.

"Dr. Ken," as he was known, graduated summa cum laude from Texas Christian University in 1952, the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in 1955, and Bates School of Law, where he won the Fred Parks Award in 1977.

Dr. Mathis is best known for his radio show, KTRH's "Ask the Doctor," which aired from the mid-80's to October of 1990. His kind and gentle manner was evident on and off the air in his counsel to his many patients. He was well-read and well-rounded and his colleagues noted his phenomenal ability to communicate with his patients. He was a popular guest speaker and often lectured nationwide on many medical and legal topics.

It was always clear that what mattered most to Dr. Ken Mathis was the well-being of his patients. In an era when the practice of medicine is rapidly changing, he reminded many of an old-fashioned country doctor. He was always available to patients who needed him and often opened his clinic on weekends. Patients could go to his clinic rather than endure the uncertainty of waiting or the trauma of the emergency room. His patients respected him for his compassion and capability and trusted him for his knowledge and expertise.

Dr. Mathis was deeply committed to his country and the City of Pasadena. He served as a qualified flight surgeon for the U.S. Air Force in France from 1957-1959 with the 50th TAC Wing F-100 Jet Fighter Bombers. His civic activities included service as a board member of the Southwest Diabetic Foundation and the American Heart Association, and he received the Paul Harris Award from the Pasadena Rotary Club. He traveled widely and spread the word about Pasadena wherever he went. His many interests included the Shriners, trains, classic cars, boats, and of course Dutch Masters cigars.

Whatever he did, Dr. Mathis' intelligence, compassion, and integrity served him and all those he encountered well. He brought a tireless energy, an unflagging drive, and a passionate caring to each of his endeavors.

Dr. Mathis was more than just a great physician; he was also a great Texan, a dedicated citizen, devoted husband, father and grandfather. We offer our sincere condolences to his wife Gay, his children and grandchildren, and his entire family. We feel their loss as our entire community mourns the passing of Dr. Kenneth Mathis.

SISTER RITA STEINHAGEN

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring the plight of Sister Rita Steinhagen to the attention of my Colleagues. Sister Rita, who has been serving the poor and the impoverished in Minnesota for decades, was among 22 people found guilty January 21, 1998 in a Federal court in Georgia of trespassing at the U.S. Army's School of the Americas (SOA) at Fort Benning, Georgia. The court sentenced her to six months in prison, and fined her \$3,000. (A substantial amount for someone living effectively with a vow of poverty for 47 years.)

The horrific history of the SOA today is in focus. The SOA was established in 1946 to train military officers from Latin American countries. To date, nearly 60,000 military personnel from various Latin American countries have attended the SOA. Unfortunately, upon returning to their home countries, many graduates have instigated challenges to self-determination and participated in the overthrow of democratically elected governments and have been implicated in the broad abuses of human rights. It is apparent that the SOA did not teach its students proper and ethical conduct, rather perverse lessons were learned, and historically have been used to abuse the people of Central and South America.

Recently declassified documents have revealed the profoundly anti-democratic methods used to train Latin American militaries at the SOA. The Pentagon has released seven training manuals demonstrating that as recently as 1992, the SOA was distributing materials which instructed the student trainees in execution, extortion, and torture.

Sister Rita Steinhagen recalled the murders and rape by soldiers initiated and led by the graduates of the SOA that have never been punished. It is indeed ironic that people such as Sister Rita can be sent to prison for having

the audacity to repeatedly and peacefully protest the SOA while the SOA's graduates outrageous conduct remains unpunished.

Sister Rita Steinhagen is a non-threatening woman. A dedicated Sister who is respected and admired by her colleagues and friends. Upon returning from her startling court sentence in Georgia, she was greeted by friends and supporters at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport clapping and singing, "When the Saints Go Marching In."

Sister Rita's life has been illuminated by a commitment to social justice. Her experiences express no threat to society or harm to any person. Rita Steinhagen grew up in Walker, Minnesota, where like many heartland Minnesotans, she enjoyed outdoor recreation and is a passionate fishing activist to this day. At the age of 23, she became a Sister of St. Joseph of Carondelet. She quickly acquired recognition as a Sister of St. Joseph, because of her outstanding service in health and social work.

Over these 47 years, Sister Rita has worked as a medical technologist. Her career is highlighted by founding the Bridge, a shelter for runaway youth, and The Free Store. More recently, she has been working with torture victims at the Center for Victims of Torture in Minneapolis, and of course her social conscience and active protests of such institutions as the SOA.

All of her devoted life, she has stood as an advocate for peace and human rights. She has frequently toured several Latin American countries and has personally experienced the graphic vista of horror. It was during these journeys that first led her to her involvement and protests with the School of the Americas.

Over 600 arrests occurred on Sunday, November 16, 1997. Over 2000 people gathered at the main gate of Fort Benning, Georgia for a prayer vigil and memorial service marking the eighth anniversary of the massacre of six Jesuit priests and two women in El Salvador in 1989 by graduates of the U.S. Army School of Americas. Over 60 people from Minnesota were among those arrested. These arrests at the SOA are the largest number of nonviolent civil disobedience arrests at one time in the U.S. in over a decade.

Mr. Speaker, this peaceful Minnesota woman who has devoted her life to alleviating social injustice, stated to the federal court judge on the day of her sentence:

"Your Honor, I'm 70 years old today, and I've never been in prison, and I'm scared. I tell you, when decent people get put in jail for peaceful demonstration, I'm more scared of what's going on in our country than I am of going to prison."

Mr. Speaker, Sister Rita's words clearly demonstrate the irony of this case. We as members of Congress, have a responsibility to uphold the law and ideals of social justice. We must honor and respect the men and woman who have sacrificed their lives for the well being of others and those willing to raise their voices to the contradiction within our system. Justice will not be served by the imprisonment of Sister Rita Steinhagen. The core values of our society have been ill served by the tragic consequence of the SOA operation.

Enclosed for member's review is a recent Minnesota newspaper article concerning Sister Rita and the incident.

SISTER RITA GETS 6-MONTH SENTENCE—DO-GOODER NUN AWAITS JAIL FOR PROTEST AT FORT BENNING

Doug Grow

Sometime in the next few weeks, we are supposed to believe the country will become a safer place because a 70-year-old woman, Sister Rita Steinhagen, will be whisked off our streets and hauled to a federal penitentiary to serve a six-month sentence.

Sister Rita, who has been serving the poor and downtrodden in Minneapolis for only a few decades, was among 22 people found guilty Wednesday in a federal court in Georgia of trespassing at the U.S. Army's School of the Americas at Fort Benning in Georgia. She not only was hit with the hard time, but with a \$3,000 fine as well—a hefty sum when you've been living with a vow of poverty for 47 years.

Sister Rita was surprised by the sentence. "What did you expect?" I asked.

"I didn't expect six months," she said.

"When you do the crime, you're going to get the time," I said.

But Sister Rita says that's not true. She talked of how people, allegedly taught at the School of the Americas, have murdered and raped in Latin American countries and never served any time at all. Sister Rita and others of her ilk keep thinking that if U.S. citizens ever understand that their tax money is being spent to train despots, rapists and murderers, they will be outraged and demand policy changes.

To date, it's not working out that way. So far, what's happening is that people such as Sister Rita are being sent to prison for having the audacity to peacefully protest and the rest of us are yawning. Anyway, the reason Sister Rita and the others got hit with the prison sentences for their misdemeanor offenses in November is that they were repeat offenders at Fort Benning.

So, who is Rita the Repeater?

For starters, she really doesn't look like a threat. She has white hair, a quick smile and a delightful sense of humor. For example, when she got off the plane at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport Thursday night after being sentenced in Georgia, she was greeted by friends and supporters clapping and singing, "When the Saints Go Marching In."

Sister Rita's response to the greeting?

"I said: 'This is peculiar. I got six months in jail, and everybody's clapping.'"

There's little in her biography to suggest that she's a threat. She grew up in Walker, Minn., learning to fish. (Her single most prized possession is her fishing rod, which she uses whenever she can.) She didn't even plan to become a nun. At 23, she went to visit a friend who was becoming a nun and discovered she felt comfortable.

"Do you think I belong here?" she asked one of the sisters.

"I certainly do," was the response.

And so it was done. Rita Steinhagen was on her way to becoming a Sister of St. Joseph of Carondelet. Sister Ann Walton, who is among the order's leadership team, said Sister Rita has represented the soul of the Sisters of St. Joseph.

"She is one of our finest," Sister Ann said. "She's in the pattern of the women [sisters] in the French Revolution who were imprisoned for their beliefs. She's in a very long line of people who have given of themselves."

Over the years, Sister Rita has worked as a medical technologist. In her career, she has founded a place called The Bridge, a shelter for runaway youth, and The Free Store. (The Free Store, founded by Sister Rita in 1968, still exists, though it no longer is affiliated with the Sisters of St. Joseph.) Of late, she

has been working with torture victims at the Center for Victims of Torture in Minneapolis.

Through the years, she has been arrested at several Twin Cities protests but never served jail time. She also has made frequent work-related trips to Latin American countries and has been horrified at what she has seen and heard. It was the Latin American journeys that led her to the protest at the School of the Americas.

This Minnesota woman who has devoted her life to quietly doing good, didn't accept her sentence in silence.

"I told the judge: 'Your honor, I'm 70 years old today, and I've never been in prison, and I'm scared. I tell you, when decent people get put in jail for six months for peaceful demonstration, I'm more scared of what's going on in our country than I am of going to prison.'"

The response of Judge Robert Elliot? "He didn't say anything," she said. "He couldn't care less."

Now, she's back in Minnesota waiting for the letter that will inform her where she's supposed to go to serve her sentence.

"There's no room," she said of the delayed sentence. "Isn't that something. You have to wait in line to go to prison."

This weekend, she planned to do her waiting by going ice-fishing in northern Minnesota. Rita the Repeater is going fishing because she needs the solitude—but beyond that, she'll be in prison when the spring opener rolls around.

PROHIBITION ON FEDERALLY SPONSORED NATIONAL TESTING

SPEECH OF

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 5, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2846) to prohibit spending Federal education funds on national testing without explicit and specific legislation:

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Chairman, today I will vote against H.R. 2846, which seeks to prohibit the implementation of the national tests proposed by President Clinton.

The debate on national testing is not a new one. I remember these debates from the 60's and 70's and even more recently in the early 1990's. I opposed national testing then and I oppose it now.

My vote today does not reflect a change in my position on this issue, it is simply a statement that this bill is not needed at this time. We know there is a wide difference of opinion on national testing and it does always fall along party lines. In fact, the last major debate on national testing in the Congress was in 1991 and 1992 over a Bush Administration initiative to implement a much broader national testing system than what is being proposed by President Clinton.

When President Clinton offered his proposal for a national Reading test for the 4th grade and a national Math test in the 8th grade, we again embarked on this familiar debate.

With very passionate arguments on each side of this issue, the Congress—Members of the House and Senate—worked very hard last year to craft a compromise in the Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill. While not per-

fect, as most compromises are not, it was something that Members with very different views could agree on.

The compromise allows only the development of test, not the implementation or the distribution. It transfers the responsibility of overseeing the tests to the National Assessment Governing Board (NAGB), the same organization that conducts the well-respected NAEP (National Assessment of Education Progress) test.

The bill before us today flies in the face of that compromise. It adds no constructive element to the debate that continues on whether we should move forward on a national test and whether the Congress is ready to authorize such a measure. It seems more a political maneuver to focus on areas of disagreement, rather than to move forward on the many items of mutual agreement in an education agenda for this country.

This year the Congress must consider the reauthorization of NAGB and NAEP. It seems to me a more constructive approach would be to consider in the context of this reauthorization whether to authorize a national testing system. The compromise forged in the Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill will stand while the Congress works on the NAGB and NAEP legislation. Why we need to take up this legislation at this time, only a few legislative days since the passage of the Labor-HHS-Education compromise is puzzling.

Therefore, I will vote against this bill today. It is not constructive and it does nothing to further the debate on national testing in this country.

CONCERNING ATTORNEYS' FEES, COSTS, AND SANCTIONS PAYABLE BY THE WHITE HOUSE HEALTH CARE TASK FORCE

SPEECH OF

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 107) expressing the sense of the Congress that the award of attorneys' fees, costs, and sanctions of \$285,864.78 ordered by United States District Judge Royce C. Lamberth on December 18, 1997, should not be paid with taxpayer funds:

Mr. STARK. Mr. Chairman, February 4, the House wasted an afternoon debating a totally meaningless "sense of the Congress" that the taxpayer "should" not have to pay about \$300,000 in lawyers' fees for a group which had sued the White House over the make-up and secrecy of the long-defunct Health Care Task Force.

It was pure partisan bashing of the Clinton's health reform efforts. I repeatedly offered a unanimous consent amendment (the parliamentary rules of germaneness prevented a regular amendment) to make the Resolution real: to save the taxpayers from paying this fine. Repeatedly the Republicans rejected the offer to do what they claimed their Resolution was "trying" to do.

All in all, their position on this Resolution was the most transparent political nonsense that the Congress has seen in years.

The following memo from the American Law Division of the Library of Congress makes the silliness of their Resolution clear:

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE,
Washington, DC, February 4, 1998.

To: House Committee on the Judiciary.
From: American Law Division.

Subject: Draft Joint Resolution Expressing the Sense of Congress that the Award of Attorneys' Fees in the Magaziner Case Not be Paid With Taxpayer Funds.

This memorandum is furnished in response to your request for an analysis of the above draft joint resolution, which was prompted by a recent federal district court decision. In *Association of American Physicians and Surgeons, Inc. v. Clinton*, 1997 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 20604 (D.D.C. Dec. 18, 1997), the plaintiffs sued for an injunction declaring that the President's Task Force on National Health Care Reform did "not qualify for an exemption from the Federal Advisory Committee Act [FACA, 5 U.S.C. App. 2 §§1-15] as an advisory group composed solely of 'full-time officers or employees' of the government." During the litigation, Ira C. Magaziner, Senior Advisor to President Clinton, submitted a sworn declaration that all working group members were federal employees. The court found that this declaration was false, and that "the most outrageous conduct by the government in this case is what happened when it never corrected or up-dated the Magaziner declaration." Eventually, however, the government took action that amounted to what the court called a "total capitulation."

The plaintiff then filed an application with the court for an award of attorneys' fees; i.e., it asked the court to order the government to pay its attorneys' fees. A federal court may not order the United States to pay the attorneys' fees of another party, unless a statute authorizes it to do so. FACA contains no such authorization. However, the Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA) authorizes awards of attorneys fees against the United States in two instances. First, under 28 U.S.C. §2412(b), it authorizes federal courts to order the United States, when it acts in bad faith, to pay the attorneys' fees of the prevailing party. Second, under 28 U.S.C. §2412(d), it provides that, in any civil action (other than tort cases) brought by or against the United States, "a court shall award to a prevailing party other than the United States fees and other expenses . . . unless the court finds that the position of the United States was substantially justified or that special circumstances make an award unjust." Under §2412(d), but not under §2412(b), fees are capped at \$125 per hour, and only individuals whose net worth did not exceed \$2 million at the time the civil action was filed, and organizations whose net worth did not exceed \$7 million and that had not more than 500 employees, may recover fees.

In response to the plaintiff's motion for an award of attorneys' fees, the court found that, prior to August 1994, the United States had acted in bad faith, and therefore was liable for the plaintiff's attorney's fees for that period without regard to the \$125 per hour cap. As to the subsequent period, the court found that the plaintiff had prevailed, that it was an organization with a net worth below \$7 million and fewer than 500 employees, and that the position of the United States, though taken in good faith, was not substantially justified. It therefore awarded fees for the subsequent period, subject to the cap. The total award, for both periods, came to \$285,864.78.

The draft joint resolution expresses "the sense of the Congress that the award of \$285,864.78 in attorneys' fees, costs, and sanc-

tions that Judge Royce C. Lamberth ordered the defendants to pay in *Association of American Physicians and Surgeons, Inc., et al. versus Hillary Rodham Clinton, et al.*, should not be paid with taxpayer funds." As a sense of Congress expressed in a joint resolution, this proposal will have no legal effect if it is enacted. If its language were introduced as a bill and enacted as a public law, then its effect, provided it were upheld as constitutional, would be to preclude the United States from complying with the district court's order to pay the plaintiff its attorney's fees. This hypothetical statute, by itself, would not require anyone to pay the attorney's fees, because, as EAJA permits fee awards only against the United States, there would be no legal basis to assess the fees against anyone else.

An argument might be made, however, that this hypothetical statute would violate the Takings Clause of the Fifth Amendment, which provides: "nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation." The hypothetical statute arguably would deprive the plaintiff of its private property, in the form of a fee award that a court had ordered paid to it. However, *Association of American Physicians and Surgeons, Inc. v. Clinton* remains subject to appeal, and, if it were reversed on appeal, the plaintiff would lose its entitlement to a fee award. See *Poelker v. Doe*, 432 U.S. 519, 521 n.2 (1977). Consequently this property may not be "vested," and, if the hypothetical statute were to take effect prior to its vesting, then, arguably, no unconstitutional taking would occur. In *Hammon v. United States*, 786 F.2d 8, 12 (1st Cir. 1986), the court of appeals wrote: "No person has a vested interest in any rule of law entitling him to insist that it remain unchanged for his benefit." [Citations omitted]. This is true after suit has been filed and continues to be true until a final, unreviewable judgment is obtained. Chief Justice Marshall first announced that principle in *The Schooner Peggy*, 5 U.S. (1 Cranch) 103, 110, 2 L. Ed. 49 (1801). The Supreme Court held in that case that a court must apply the law in force at the time of its decision, even if it is hearing the case on appeal from a judgment entered pursuant to prior law.

A caveat, however: the preceding quotation states only the majority view as to when "property" status attaches to a cause of action. There is also case law supporting the "contention that one has a vested property right in a cause of action once it has somehow accrued. [Citations omitted] Those cases are conceptually difficult to reconcile with cases that hold that a plaintiff does not have a vested property right in a claim unless there is a final nonreviewable judgment." *Jefferson Disposal Co. v. Parish of Jefferson, LA*, 603 F. Supp. 1125, 1137 n.31 (E.D. La. 1985).

A cause of action accrues once the injury that gives rise to the cause of action has occurred. Therefore, those cases that find accrual sufficient for vesting would ipso facto find a final lower court judgment sufficient for vesting. Other cases do not make clear whether final judgments trigger property status only once they are no longer reviewable. For example, in *O'Brien v. J.I. Kislak Mortgage Corp.*, 934 F. Supp. 1348, 1362 (S.D. Fla. 1996), the district court wrote: "Reviewing the relevant Eleventh Circuit case law, it appears clear that a mere legal claim affords no enforceable property right until a final judgment has been obtained." One might argue that, even if mere accrual is not sufficient to trigger property status, and a final judgment is necessary, a nonreviewable judgment may not be necessary. Again, however, the majority view appears to be that a nonreviewable judgment is necessary. Consequently, it appears that the stronger argument would be that a statute that over-

turned the award of attorneys' fees in *Association of American Physicians and Surgeons, Inc. v. Clinton*, before a final appeal had been decided or the time in which to appeal had run, would be constitutional.

The draft joint resolution, we reiterate, does not purport to overturn the award of attorneys' fees; it would merely express the sense of Congress that the government not pay the fee award, and does not express the sense of Congress that anyone else pay it.

TAXPAYER REPAYMENT ACT OF 1998

HON. ASA HUTCHINSON

OF ARKANSAS

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. Speaker, my colleague, Mr. BLUNT, and I, would like to point out that over a year and a half ago, an historic agreement was reached under which lawsuits brought by forty states against the tobacco industry would be settled, the tobacco industry and regulation thereon would be restructured, and underage smoking would be targeted for reduction and eventual elimination. Today we are introducing legislation that guarantees that the estimated \$386.5 billion to be paid by the tobacco industry under this settlement will, indeed, compensate states and individuals for smoking-related health costs and reduce rates of teen smoking, rather than perpetuate the cancerous growth of big government.

The Taxpayer Repayment Act of 1998 mandates that money collected by the federal government from any tobacco settlement be used to fund only those programs specifically authorized in federal legislation implementing provisions of the national settlement. Any revenue collected beyond what is spent on those specifically-authorized programs—programs that include, but are not limited to youth anti-smoking campaigns, Medicaid reimbursement, FDA regulatory reform, public health programs, compensation to growers, and litigant reimbursement—will be used to pay down the national debt and provide tax relief to all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, the American people have been footing the bill for tobacco-related health costs for far too long. It is only fair that we ensure that this settlement will provide a guarantee that they will be reimbursed for their troubles and not burdened with bigger government. The Taxpayer Repayment Act will do this. It will help protect our nation's children from the ravages of smoking, but it will also protect American citizens against the equally insidious cancer of bigger government and heavier taxation. Mr. Speaker, this is a reasonable and equitable bill, and we would urge our colleagues to support it.

HUTCHINSON-BLUNT TAXPAYER REPAYMENT ACT—SUMMARY

The Taxpayer Repayment Act guarantees that if a global tobacco settlement is enacted into law, health care, youth smoking cessation, and other programs authorized by the implementing legislation may be fully funded. At the same time, it ensures that extra revenue is used to reimburse Americans for their expenditures on tobacco-related health care costs and not burden them with bigger government and higher taxes.

SECTION 1—RESTRICTION OF NEW PROGRAMS

Prohibits money received by the federal government from a global tobacco settlement or from any state settlement from being used to create or maintain any new federal programs unless they are specifically authorized by federal legislation implementing the settlement.

Prohibits tobacco settlement money from being used to expand currently-existing programs unless such expansion is specifically authorized in the terms of the federal legislation implementing the settlement.

SECTION 2—USE OF EXCESS REVENUES

Directs revenues in excess of those used for programs specifically authorized in the terms of legislation implementing any portion of a global tobacco settlement toward tax relief (1/3) and debt repayment (2/3).

Creates a "Tax Cut Offset Trust Fund" into which the 1/3 slated for tax relief will be placed for use as Congress, by law, directs.

SECTION 3—SPECIFICS OF DEBT REDUCTION

Exchanges marketable government securities for unmarketable securities currently in the Social Security and other Trust Funds, thereby repaying these trust funds and reducing the national debt.

Requires that after all Trust Fund accounts are replenished, excess revenues be used for direct payments on the national debt.

SECTION 4—PROHIBITION ON USE OF EXCESS FUNDS

Prohibits excess revenues from being counted as new budget authority, outlays, receipts, deficit or surplus, for budget estimates.

Requires that when funds are expended from any trust fund into which tobacco settlement money is placed, a corresponding amount of marketable securities in those funds be sold, and the trust fund balance reduced accordingly.

SWEENEY AND BECKER ON THE RIGHTS AND ROLE OF LABOR IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, as world attention has focused on the financial crisis in East Asia, we have failed to consider the role of labor in resolving the Asian economic turmoil. The plight of Asian workers—and by extension, U.S. workers has been addressed only secondarily. Government and institutional officials lament the impact of reduced budgets, higher interest rates, and other deflationary actions on nations' workers, but opine that there is no other choice. In the long run, they argue, all workers will be better off by having a sound economy.

Mr. Speaker, this is old-fashioned thinking for a new age of globalization. Globalization means that we are all tied together. Governments, capitalists, financiers, and labor share economic problems and an economic future. We must either resolve our problems together or the problems will not be resolved. As the President of the AFL-CIO, John Sweeney, recently told participants at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, "If labor has no role, democracy has no future." Labor must be part of the solution.

If we do not craft a global economy that allows all participants to benefit from growth,

that ensures workers a voice in the economic architecture of the global economy, and that gives as much importance to the rights of labor as to the rights of capital, then globalization will not work. We will continue to fight economic crisis after economic crisis. And in the end, it will not be the financial fires that burn us—it will be the social and political flames that engulf us.

There are steps to be taken. First, the United States must speak out forcefully and at every opportunity for the rights of workers. Internationally recognized labor rights are not onerous to observe. They are the core, basic human rights that the United States should promote and defend as the world's leading democracy.

Second, the United States must actively commit to the Conventions of the International Labor Organization (ILO) by ratifying its core Conventions. There are now 181 Conventions. The United States has ratified 12, and only one—Convention 105 on forced labor—is considered a core Convention. Other core Conventions relate to rights of association, the right to organize and bargain collectively, minimum wage, and child labor. The U.S. should make ratification of all the core Conventions a top priority. The White House now has Convention 111 under consideration that would prohibit discrimination in employment based on race, gender, religion, or national origin. The White House should send this Convention to the Senate for ratification as quickly as possible.

Third, the United States should urge the International Monetary Fund to incorporate labor considerations and standards into its discussions and stabilization programs with member countries. A thriving, prosperous community of workers will translate to a thriving prosperous economy. If workers are left to bear the burdens of economic stabilization inequity, then countries, companies, and investors will not achieve their stabilization objectives. Mr. Speaker, President John J. Sweeney of the AFL-CIO and President George Becker of the United Steelworkers of America made this case with eloquence and have advanced specific proposals. I wish to submit to the RECORD Mr. Sweeney's speech in Davos, Switzerland on January 31, 1998 and Mr. Becker's testimony before the Committee on Banking and Financial Services on February 3, 1998.

COMMENTS BY JOHN J. SWEENEY

It is a privilege and a pleasure to address the World Economic Forum, and to join the distinguished members of this panel.

Does labor have a role in defining the future? In the United States, ask the opponents of the minimum wage. Or the management of United Parcel Service. Or the proponents of fast track trade accords that ignore labor rights and environmental protections.

Let us be very clear. If labor has no role, democracy has no future. Social Justice does not "compromise the efficiency of the model." It is essential to its survival. If this global economy cannot be made to work for working people, it will rap a reaction that may make the Twentieth Century seem tranquil by comparison.

We meet at an historic turning—one that everyone in these meetings must see. The long effort to build the global market has succeeded. Capital and currencies have been de-regulated. Great corporations have built global systems of production, distribution,

marketing. Barriers have been dismantled. Technology's miracles are turning our world into one neighborhood.

But the turmoil affliction the Asian economics sounds a dramatic alarm. The question now is not how to create the global market, but how to put sensible boundaries on the market that already exists. How to make the market work for the majority and not simply for the few. In this new effort, labor and other democratic citizen movements will and must play a central role.

Look around the world. Japan mired in recession, Asia in crisis that China still faces. Russia plagued by a kind of primitive, gangster capitalism. Europe stagnant. Africa largely written off by global investors, Latin America drifts.

The US is hailed as the great "model." Our prosperity is unmatched; the dollar is strong; our budget balanced. Unemployment and inflation are down and profits are up. But, most working people in the United States today labor longer and harder simply to hold their own. One in four children is born to poverty. One in five workers goes without health insurance. The blessings of prosperity have been largely captured by the few. Inequality is at level so obscene that New York investment houses this year warned executives not to talk about the size of their bonuses.

And now, the Asian nations are forced to export their deflation to the U.S. Our annual trade deficit will soar towards \$300 billion. Over one million U.S. workers are projected to lose their jobs. Wages, only now beginning to recover, will once again be depressed. And this is the "model" in the best of times.

The current collapse calls into question not simply Asian practices but the global system itself. As Korean President Kim Dae Jung has said, authoritarian systems in Asian lived a lie. But their crony capitalism was bankrolled by the reckless high rollers of the global casino, including Japanese, European and American banks and investment houses.

The response to the crisis reveals the limit of the current arrangement. Conservatives say let the market solve the problem. But since the Great Depression no sensible leadership would take that gamble. The IMF is called in to stop the hemorrhaging. It bails out the speculators and enforces austerity on the people. Its prescription reinforces the very affliction it seeks to cure.

Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin has wisely warned about the "moral hazard" of bailing out profligate speculators and banks.

But too little has been said about the "immoral hazard" of forcing working people across the world to pay the price—in layoffs, declining wages and increasing insecurity.

I have just returned from Mexico, which has been presented as a "successes" for Asians to follow. There, speculators and bond holders had their losses covered. But some two million workers lost their jobs. The middle class has been crushed. Wages lost over half their value. Environmental poisoning is worse than ever. Political violence is spreading. Crime is spiraling out of control. Few nations can weather this form of success.

This global system broadcasts its stark contrasts—of untold wealth for the few and growing insecurity for the many, of laws that protect property and expose people, of liberated capital and repressed workers. The inequities are indefensible ethically, but they are also unsustainable economically—as U.S. Federal Reserve Chair Alan Greenspan suggests with his warnings about deflation.

I suggest to you that we must usher in a new era of reform. One that seeks not more

de-regulation, but greater accountability. Not further unleashing of speculative capital, but channeling of real investment. Not greater license for corporations, but empowerment of workers and citizens.

Labor, environmental, and democratic citizen movements are already struggling to define this new internationalism in practice and in policy. At the AFO-CIO, we are building stronger working relations with unions across the world. We fight to defend labor rights at home and abroad. We are uniting with other citizen movements to struggle for basic environmental, consumer and civil rights. We will demand coordinated efforts to stimulate growth, to regulate currency and capital speculation, to extend labor and democratic rights as part of the response to the Asian collapse.

At the beginning of this century, the industrial revolution created new promise and glaring inequities. It took many decades— and revolutions, wars and a Great Depression—to elaborate the protections that saved that system from itself. Now at the beginning of the 21st century, the global economy poses the same challenge. Let us hope we need not relive the horrors of the past to reach its promise for the future.

TESTIMONY OF GEORGE BECKER

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee: My name is George Becker, and I am president of the United Steelworkers of America and chairman of the Economic Policy Committee of the Executive Council of the AFL-CIO. I appreciate the opportunity to be here today on behalf of the thirteen million working men and women of the AFL-CIO. We in the labor movement are well aware that the financial crisis now roaring through east Asia will have profound consequences for working people all over the world. We stand in solidarity with the working people of Asia to urge the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the U.S. Congress to put the interests of workers and communities at the top of their priority list as they take steps to address this crisis—not at the bottom, after the bankers, financiers, and multinational businesses have been taken care of.

Deep currency devaluations, in conjunction with austerity programs, will cut wages and purchasing power in South Korea, Indonesia, and Thailand. The United States will be pressured to act as importer-of-last-resort, absorbing cheap Asian goods while at the same time Asian markets for our exports dwindle.

In the aftermath of the crisis, the U.S. trade deficit is projected to grow by about \$100 billion in 1998, resulting in a loss of approximately 1 million jobs (or potential jobs), most of them in the better-paying manufacturing sector. Job losses will be heavily concentrated in industries such as steel, electronics, apparel, and automobiles, in which east Asia is a large producer. Buyers in these key industries are enormously price sensitive. Export-intensive industries such as aircraft and capital goods will also suffer. Boeing is already reporting that Garuda Airlines of Indonesia has delayed taking delivery of six jets. If the crisis worsens, China will certainly reduce others.

Without fundamental changes in the structure of international financial markets and the institutions that regulate these markets, we can expect continued volatility and future crises of growing severity. The present moment of crisis is the time to press for necessary changes in the international financial system, particularly in the conditions imposed by the IMF in exchange for the "bail-outs" it gives to countries that have exhausted all other sources of credit. The

United States should condition further contributions to the IMF on fundamental changes in the IMF's program.

The clout and leverage exercised by the IMF must serve a broad set of social and economic goals. Currently, the IMF defines its mission narrowly, as protecting the interests of international capital. The IMF requires debtor governments to raise interest rates, cut public spending, deregulate financial markets, and weaken labor laws to facilitate massive layoffs and deep wage cuts. These terms may solve some short-term credibility problems with foreign investors, but will necessarily exacerbate the tensions, inequality, and instability of the global economy. Such policies are short-sighted and must be fundamentally altered.

The United States, which is the single largest contributor to the IMF, must use every means at its disposal, both formal and informal, to change the way the IMF operates. The AFL-CIO will support members of congress in efforts to assure that IMF programs reflect the following principles:

1. Commitment to and vigorous enforcement of international labor and human rights. Countries that receive IMF funds must commit themselves, in an enforceable way, to respect for internationally recognized worker rights. If necessary, this would involve modification of laws and practice to comply with ILO standards and human rights. These commitments must ensure that governments will protect workers' rights, even during times of crisis. Strong and independent labor unions play a crucial and irreplaceable role in assuring that the benefits of economic expansion are equitably distributed.

Some Administration spokespeople have argued that it is impossible to introduce worker rights conditionality in the context of emergency bailouts, given the short time-frame and the many other demands being put forth. We disagree. In any case, however, time pressures do not prevent the IMF from taking such action with respect to the seventy or so countries not in immediate crisis that are also receiving IMF funding. We realize that implementing such provisions cannot be accomplished unilaterally by the United States, but representatives of the U.S. government need to declare publicly that this is a policy we are seeking to achieve. This need to be consistently reinforced by all relevant U.S. government agencies.

The Sanders-Frank Amendment, enacted by Congress in 1994, requires that the U.S. Executive Directors to the international financial institutions (including the IMF and World Bank, among others) use the "voice and vote of the United States" to urge these institutions to encourage borrowing countries to guarantee internationally recognized worker rights. Our experience to date with this law has been disappointing. Nowhere in the IMF program for Indonesia, for example, are worker rights given even a cursory mention. Yet, in principle, with a contribution of 18 percent of the IMF's quotas, the United States could, if it so chose, effectively veto any loan package (IMF rules require 85 percent agreement on most decisions).

In addition to using our voice and vote at the IMF to this end, the U.S. government can and should act to garner support for such a move from our trading partners, especially in Europe. It would be useful to consult with the new governments of France and Britain, in particular, to develop a joint strategy, that would be more effective than independent action on the part of the United States.

We encourage the U.S. government to continue its efforts to bring the ILO into a more central role in the development of structural adjustment packages. Incorporating labor

standards and social safety nets in the IMF program will produce an adjustment program that is more equitable, more successful and more sustainable, as has been shown in the case of the Czech Republic. A more balanced program will ensure that IMF demands for labor market flexibility (often functionally equivalent to weakening labor unions) are consistent with core labor rights.

Finally, the imprisonment of Muchtar Pakpahan in Indonesia continues to serve as an egregious and glaring example of the IMF's and the U.S. government's indifference toward worker rights. If it is possible for the IMF to recommend dismantling Korean labor law as a condition of emergency loans, then surely it is possible for the IMF to use its extraordinary leverage to force the Indonesian government to free this courageous and suffering man. Mr. Pakpahan's only crime is to have worked toward building independent labor unions. His health continues to be precarious, and his medical care continues to be extremely inadequate. U.S. government officials who have visited Indonesia recently have failed to make any public statements advocating the release of Mr. Pakpahan. Whatever private communications that may have taken place, if any, have failed to yield results. The release of Muchtar Pakpahan would be a symbolic, but important, step toward recognition of how integral the improvement of labor rights is to the current situation. It would also be a positive statement to Indonesian workers that welcome changes are occurring.

2. Domestic economic growth and development, not austerity and export-led growth. The model that led to this crisis glorifies export expansion as the preferred development path. This model leads to destructive, low-road international competition and worker impoverishment and is ultimately unsustainable, as the current crisis demonstrates. The United States has neither the capacity nor the will to absorb unlimited exports; thus, the rescue plan for east Asia must not rely exclusively on this premise. The U.S., Europe, and Japan must work together to stimulate domestic demand in the developing economies and avert a dangerous tendency toward global deflation.

3. Reduction in the volume of destabilizing capital flows. Over the long run, it is essential that policies to regulate short-term borrowing and to dampen speculative flows of capital be implemented. There are three structural dimensions to the crisis. They concern the interaction of exchange rates, foreign portfolio investment, and foreign currency denominated lending. All three dimensions need to be addressed.

First, the existing system is unstable and vulnerable to speculative exchange rate movements. A small "Tobin" transactions tax on foreign exchange dealings would discourage speculatively induced collapses. It would be sufficiently large to penalize speculative trading, but not so large as to deter long-term investors.

Second, foreign portfolio investment is extremely sensitive to exchange rate movements. The natural mechanism to slow such flows are "speed bumps," whereby investors commit to a minimum stay when they bring money in. Speed bumps stop sudden outflows because investors cannot withdraw their money at will. This has the beneficial effect of forcing investors to consider risk carefully before committing money.

The third element of the crisis concerns foreign currency denominated loans. Many countries cannot borrow in their own currency, and are therefore exposed to increases in debt burdens resulting from foreign exchange fluctuations. Since it is costly to "hedge," or pay a small fee to ensure against currency loss, borrowers often choose not to

do so. Monetary authorities should require lenders to hedge their foreign country loans. This is equivalent, in a rough sense, to requiring international deposit insurance. This will cause the cost of credit to rise. However, the risk is there, and it needs to be priced in. Credit should not be subsidized through the provision of bail-outs paid for by taxpayers.

4. Transparency and broader participation in determining IMF policy. The IMF must consult regularly with labor unions and other broad-based organizations, not just with business and financial institutions, in the development of structural adjustment programs and emergency loan packages. Program documents should be made publicly available. By recognizing that workers must be included in developing a response to economic crisis, the tripartite commission (including representatives of labor, business, and government) established in South Korea is a promising step.

5. Ensure that speculators pay their fair share. The banks, corporations, and individuals who profited from risky investments during good times must not be shielded from losses during downturns. Banks must reschedule their debts with longer maturities and at appropriate terms, ensuring that financial losses fall on those who made poor decisions. This must be an explicit and widely understood condition for future IMF funding, as well. Asian and American workers and taxpayers must not be asked to foot the bill for a party to which they were not invited.

In his testimony before this committee on January 30, Secretary of the Treasury Robert Rubin argued that forcing investors and creditors to take losses involuntarily would "risk serious adverse consequences." He cited three reasons, none of which is entirely convincing. He argued that forcing losses could cause banks to pull money out of the country involved. Yet, banks are already pulling what money they can out of these countries. He raised the concern that such actions would reduce the nation's ability to access new sources of private capital. This was not, however, the experience of the 1980s, when banks did return to markets (such as Brazil) where they had been forced to accept reduced payments on their loans—after stability had returned. Third, Secretary Rubin argued, the "most troubling" issue was that this could cause banks to "pull back" from other emerging markets. But is not a central cause of this problem that banks have loaned excessively and imprudently in these emerging markets? It should be considered an advantage if a policy change causes banks to act more cautiously in the future.

Even if we move toward reform of the international financial system, concrete steps must be taken to stop the destabilizing flood of cheapened imports which have already been unleashed by this crisis. Strategic intervention by the United States and Japan could help the embattled currencies of Indonesia, Thailand, and South Korea stabilize and regain some of their lost value. In the United States, steel, autos, electronics, apparel, and other threatened industries face an immediate threat which requires specific trade actions to maintain import shares consistent with 1997 levels in order to protect the jobs of these workers.

ASIAN FINANCIAL CRISIS

The financial crisis now roaring through east Asia will have profound consequences for working people all over the world. Deep currency devaluations, in conjunction with austerity programs, will cut wages and purchasing power in South Korea, Indonesia, and Thailand. The United States will be pressured to act as importer-of-last-resort, absorbing cheap Asian goods while at the

same time Asian markets for our exports dwindle.

In the aftermath of the crisis, the U.S. trade deficit is projected to grow by about \$100 billion in 1998, resulting in a loss of approximately 1 million jobs (or potential jobs), most of them in the better-paying manufacturing sector.

Without fundamental changes in the structure of international financial markets and the institutions that regulate these markets, we can expect continued volatility and future crises of growing severity. The present moment of crisis is the time to press for necessary changes in the international financial system, particularly in the conditions imposed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in exchange for the "bailouts" it gives to countries that have exhausted all other sources of credit. The United States should condition further contributions to the IMF on fundamental changes in the IMF's program.

The clout and leverage exercised by the IMF must serve a broader set of social and economic goals. Currently, the IMF defines its mission narrowly, as protecting the interests of international capital. The IMF requires debtor governments to raise interest rates, cut public spending, deregulate financial markets, and weaken labor laws to facilitate massive layoffs and deep wage cuts. These terms may solve some short-term credibility problems with foreign investors, but will necessarily exacerbate the tensions, inequality, and instability of the global economy. Such policies are short-sighted and must be fundamentally altered.

The United States, which is the single largest contributor to the IMF, must use every means at its disposal, both formal and informal, to change the way the IMF operates. The AFL-CIO will support members of Congress in efforts to assure that IMF programs reflect the following principles:

1. Commitment to and vigorous enforcement of international labor and human rights. Countries that receive IMF funds must commit themselves, in an enforceable way, to respect for internationally recognized worker rights. If necessary, this would involve modification of laws and practice to comply with ILO standards and human rights. These commitments must ensure that governments will protect workers' rights, even during times of crisis. Strong and independent labor unions play a crucial and irreplaceable role in assuring that the benefits of economic expansion are equitably distributed.

2. Domestic economic growth and development, not austerity and export-led growth. The model that led to this crisis glorifies export expansion as the preferred development path. This model leads to destructive, low-road international competition and worker impoverishment and must be reversed. The United States, Europe, and Japan must work together to stimulate domestic demand in the developing economies and avert a dangerous tendency toward global deflation.

3. Political and economic democracy. Without a strong and vibrant civil society, there is no counterweight to crony capitalism and no accountability for governments.

4. Reduction in the volume of destabilizing capital flows. Policies to regulate short-term borrowing and to dampen speculative flows of capital must be implemented.

5. Stabilization of exchange rates at levels closer to their pre-crisis values. The excessive devaluations caused by the loss of confidence in the East Asian currencies should be reversed. This is essential to blunt the negative impact of the crisis on American workers.

6. Transparency and broader participation in determining IMF policy. The IMF must

consult regularly with labor unions and other broad-based organizations, not just with business and financial institutions, in the development of structural adjustment programs and emergency loan packages. Program documents should be made publicly available. By recognizing that workers must be included in developing a response to economic crisis, the tripartite commission (including representatives of labor, business, and government) established in South Korea is a promising step.

7. Ensure that speculators pay their fair share. The banks, corporations, and individuals who profited from risky investments during good times must not be shielded from losses during downturns. As banks reschedule their debts, financial losses must fall on those who made poor decisions. Asian and American workers and taxpayers must not be asked to foot the bill for a party to which they were not even invited.

Even if we move toward reform of the international financial system, concrete steps must be taken to stop the destabilizing flood of cheapened imports which have already been unleashed by this crisis. Steel, autos, electronics, apparel, and other threatened industries face an immediate threat which requires specific actions to maintain import shares consistent with 1997 levels in order to protect the jobs of these workers.

IN HONOR OF THE NEW YORK
STATE BLACK AND PUERTO
RICAN LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS

HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, I stand with you today to pay homage to The New York State Black and Puerto Rican Legislative Caucus and the New York State Association of Black and Puerto Rican Legislators, Inc. as it hosts its 27th Annual Legislative Conference.

The Association, established in 1989, has been the successful non-profit arm of the Caucus. Charged with a philanthropic mission, it functions as an important partner in serving African-American and Latino constituents through scholarship programs and other community projects. I wish to commend them especially for their work in organizing this 1998 Conference.

The Caucus, since its inception in 1966, has successfully led the charge to ensure equal access, protection and representation of the interests of Black and Hispanic constituencies in New York State. To use its own words: "The Caucus has made it a policy never to wait on others to confront controversial matters but has willingly placed itself forward to be the first to rise to the occasion." And they have been true to their word. In Albany they have become formidable advocates for justice, tolerance and fairness in state government.

My years in the New York State Assembly allowed me the opportunity to work with this great body. For me it was an honor to have served beside such fine Caucus members as Al Vann, Denny Farrell and Arthur Eve to name a few. Today, it continues to be an honor to work with such impressive former Caucus members as Representatives RANGEL, OWENS, SERRANO and the newly elected Congressman from Queens, GREGORY MEEKS—all now serving in Washington. I admire the leadership and intensity current and former Caucus members continue to bring to the debate

of social and economic justice in America. I thank you all for keeping the focus where it should be, on the hardworking communities of New York.

I salute the Caucus today upon the opening of its Annual Conference with the presentation of this CONGRESSIONAL RECORD statement for all that this fine body has attempted to do and all that it has done on behalf of New Yorkers. To the Caucus members, I with you many more years of success and I thank you for your fine service and dedication to the state of New York.

CHINA IS AWARE OF THE NEED TO
CONSERVE WILDLIFE

HON. DANA ROHRBACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to report that since the introduction of the American Champion "Super Scout" spotter aircraft in antipoaching operations in Kruger National Park, South Africa, in September, 1996 by the non-profit United States-based Wilderness Conservancy, not one rhinoceros or elephant has been killed by poachers there. That is a success story that was made possible by a grant to the Wilderness Conservancy from the Forestry Department of the government of the Republic of China on Taiwan.

In the past, some conservation groups have criticized the Republic of China's government for what they believed was an insufficient effort to stop the illicit importation of ivory, rhino horn and other wild animal parts into Taiwan. In recent years, however, the ROC government has adopted ever-stronger laws to curb that illicit traffic, has strictly enforced them and has imposed stiff penalties on violators.

Beliefs in folk medicine techniques that employed wild animal parts took root over many centuries, and it has not been an easy task for the ROC government to change those beliefs (held especially by older persons). Nevertheless, the ROC has undertaken a concerted effort to end the illicit trade in animal parts in light of both human population growth and the drastic reduction of the wildlife populations upon which the traditional remedies were based. Today, the government of the Republic of China is engaged in a comprehensive environmental education program in its schools to make all of its young people aware of the need to conserve wildlife.

The ROC has done more. They have made an additional grant to the Wilderness Conservancy for the purchase of another aircraft, a refurbished Cessna 206. It will undertake a multi-purpose role in southern Africa this year. It will support the spotter aircraft by flying antipoaching teams to airstrips ahead of fleeing poachers, in order to intercept them before they can reach safe havens. The new aircraft also will resupply game-scout teams deep in the bush, thus permitting longer patrols over larger areas. It will carry scientists of the Wildlife Breeding Research Center and their portable cryogenic laboratory into the field to facilitate Assisted Reproduction Technology (embryo transfer and in-vitro fertilization) and the creation of a Genome Resource Bank (the collection, processing, storage and use of

gametes and other biological material from rare and endangered wildlife species). Finally, the aircraft will fill a humanitarian role by transporting volunteer doctors, dentists and nurses to remote villages to administer to those in need.

In addition to the Republic of China's grant to purchase the aircraft, the Wilderness Conservancy has received a grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, under the African Elephant Conservation Act of 1988, to provide hand-held aircraft radios, hand-held Garmin GPS units and portable repeater stations to assist the anti-poaching effort. These will be in place this year and will make radio communication between pilots and ground teams possible, greatly enhancing the poacher-interception effort.

Saving the rhinoceros and elephant from extinction is dangerous work and requires great dedication by those who do it. These generous grants from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Republic of China will help greatly toward the goal of ending the poaching of large wild animals. In the process, there is a unique four-way cooperative effort between the people of Taiwan, a conservation-minded American organization (with expert knowledge of aviation and anti-poaching), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the men and women on the anti-poaching front lines in South Africa.

IN OPPOSITION TO H.R. 1428, THE
VOTER ELIGIBILITY VERIFICATION
ACT

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 1428, the voter eligibility verification act. This bill is unnecessary. This measure is based on the unsubstantiated premise that registration and voting by noncitizens in this country is a major problem that cannot be successfully addressed under current federal and state laws.

Under current law, the INS is already required to cooperate with election officials in investigations of voter registration and vote fraud.

This bill undermines the voting rights act of 1965 by placing the final determination of voter eligibility back into the hands of state and local election officials bypassing the protection of the voting rights act.

This bill also weakens the protections of the privacy act by exposing citizens' social security numbers.

This bill will not work. There are no federal lists of citizens, particularly of citizens who are born in this country. Two federal agencies, the Social Security Administration and the Justice Department argued against this proposal last year before the Judiciary Subcommittee on immigration and claims. The Social Security Administration stated that "it is unable to confirm citizenship." The Justice Department stated that the INS "cannot systematically use its automated databases to confirm whether an individual is a citizen."

This bill will discourage, not encourage voter participation. Very few citizens can produce their birth certificates in a few hours or days

and replacement takes weeks and costs a fee. H.R. 1428 would subject citizens, especially first-time voters, or established voters who move, to inconvenience which will easily deter participation.

We need to encourage, foster increased voter participation. Members of this distinguished House know the importance of each vote. We have, since the civil rights struggles began, worked to eliminate barriers to voting, not to erect new ones to meet phantom problems. I urge my colleagues to join me and defeat this bill.

INDIAN GENOCIDE BETRAYS
GANDHI'S PRINCIPLE OF NON-
VIOLENCE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, will you please insert the following remarks as part of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD'S extension of remarks section.

INDIAN GENOCIDE BETRAYS GANDHI'S
PRINCIPLE OF NONVIOLENCE

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, recently 22 of my colleagues and I wrote a letter to the Chief Minister of Punjab, Parkash Singh Badal, urging him to deliver on his campaign promise that he would appoint an independent judicial commission of inquiry to investigate the atrocities and genocide in Punjab. If South Africa can have its Truth Commission, why can't the truth about Indian genocide be brought to light?

This letter is not the product of a small ideological coterie. The signers come from both parties and they range across the political spectrum. What we have in common is a love of freedom and a belief that basic human rights must be respected, especially in countries that call themselves democratic.

The Indian government wraps itself in the mantle of Mohandas Gandhi, the spiritual leader of its independence movement. It has spent a lot of money to erect statues of Gandhi throughout the United States and around the world. Yet the genocide against the Sikhs of Khalistan, the Christians of Nagaland, the Dalits, the Muslims of Kashmir, the tribal people of Manipur, and others continues. Since Mr. Badal's government took power last year, at least 75 atrocities have been reported in the newspapers or otherwise documented.

In a democracy, especially one so overt in its dedication to the nonviolent principles of Gandhi, such genocide and ethnic cleansing should not be occurring. At the very least, the government should be investigating the genocide and bringing those responsible to justice. Instead, the Badal government in Punjab boasts that it has not taken action to punish any police officer. The central government in New Delhi is no better. Apparently, building statues to nonviolence is much easier than practicing it. No statue ever saved the life of a victim of state terrorism or police tyranny. What good did those Gandhi statues do Jaswant Singh Khalra, the human-rights activists the police kidnapped over two years ago?

It is time to make India start living up to the principles it espouses. A judicial commission to investigate the genocide is the first step that must be taken. This would show the world that India is finally beginning to get serious about respecting the

human rights of all people, not just upper-caste Brahmin aristocrats. Letting Amnesty International and other human-rights monitors into the country would also signal India's commitment to finding and punishing those who violate human rights. If India will not take even these minimal steps, then we must take strong action. It is time to impose tough economic sanctions on the Indian regime, cut off aid to that theocratic satrapy, and publicly support the freedom movements in the many captive nations of South Asia. By these steps we can help give the gift of freedom to all the people of the subcontinent. That is much more valuable than any statue.

On behalf of my colleagues, I would like to enter our letter to Chief Minister Badal into the RECORD.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 30, 1998.

The Honorable PARKASH SINGH BADAL,
Chief Minister of Punjab, Chandigarh, Punjab, India.

DEAR CHIEF MINISTER BADAL: On January 5, four human-rights activists led by Colonel

Partap Singh, President of the Khalsa Raj Party, and co-signed by Justice Ajit Singh Bains (Punjab Human Rights Organization), Inderjeet Singh Jaijee and Major General Narinder Singh (Movement Against State Repression) wrote a joint letter requesting that you fulfill your campaign promise to appoint an independent commission to investigate atrocities which have occurred in Punjab over the last 14 years.

The Central Bureau of Investigation, the Supreme Court of India and the United Nations Commission on Human Rights have found that the Punjab police have engaged in a deliberate policy of abduction, torture and illegal cremation of Sikh youth on a massive scale. All have urged your Government and the Government of India to facilitate a fully empowered and impartial inquiry into these and other custodial deaths.

We are also concerned that the police continue to engage in acts of murder, rape and torture of Sikh youth. Over 75 cases have been documented thus far. It is imperative that your Government fulfill its pledge to appoint an independent judicial inquiry to

determine just who was killed and who was responsible. It will send a signal to those elements in the security forces that your Government will no longer tolerate security elements that engage in lawless and brutal conduct.

Just as we are witnessing in South Africa's Truth Commission, it is time for the truth to come out in Punjab, for better or for worse.

Sincerely,

Edolphus Towns, Dan Burton, Cynthia A. McKinney, Dana Rohrabacher, Richard Pombo, Donald M. Payne, Collin C. Peterson, William J. Jefferson, Jerry Solomon, Phil Crane, George Miller, Gary Condit, Roscoe Bartlett, Tom Coburn, John N. Hostettler, Sheila Jackson-Lee, J.C. Watts, John T. Doolittle, Sam Farr, Esteban E. Torres, Bernard Sanders, Wally Herger, Randy "Duke" Cunningham.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, February 12, 1998, may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

FEBRUARY 24

9:30 a.m.
 Commerce, Science, and Transportation
 To resume hearings to examine the scope and depth of the proposed settlement between States Attorneys Generals and tobacco companies to mandate a total reformation and restructuring of how tobacco products are manufactured, marketed, and distributed in America. SR-253

Veterans' Affairs
 To hold hearings on the nomination of Togo D. West, Jr., of the District of Columbia, to be Secretary of Veterans Affairs. SH-216

Joint Economic
 To hold hearings to examine the budget request for fiscal year 1999 for the International Monetary Fund (IMF). 311 Cannon Building

10:00 a.m.
 Appropriations
 Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee
 To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1999 for the Agricultural Research Service, Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service, Economic Research Service, and the National Agricultural Statistics Service, all of the Department of Agriculture. SD-138

Appropriations
 Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Subcommittee
 To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1999 for the Department of Justice. SD-192

Judiciary
 Technology, Terrorism, and Government Information Subcommittee
 To hold hearings to examine incidences of foreign terrorists in America five years after the World Trade Center. SD-226

Labor and Human Resources
 To resume hearings to examine the scope and depth of the proposed settlement between State Attorneys General and tobacco companies to mandate a total reformation and restructuring of how

tobacco products are manufactured, marketed, and distributed in America. SD-430

2:00 p.m.
 Energy and Natural Resources
 National Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation Subcommittee
 To hold hearings to examine the status of the visitor center and museum facilities project at Gettysburg National Military Park in Pennsylvania. SD-366

Judiciary
 Constitution, Federalism, and Property Rights Subcommittee
 To hold hearings to examine whether term limits or campaign finance reform would provide true political reform. SD-226

FEBRUARY 25

9:30 a.m.
 Rules and Administration
 To hold oversight hearings on the strategic plan implementation including budget requests for the operations of the Office of the Secretary of the Senate, the Sergeant at Arms and the Architect of the Capitol. SR-301

Indian Affairs
 To hold hearings on the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 1999 for Indian programs. SR-485

9:45 a.m.
 Energy and Natural Resources
 Forests and Public Land Management Subcommittee
 To hold oversight hearings on the use of speciality forest products from the National Forests. SD-366

10:00 a.m.
 Appropriations
 Defense Subcommittee
 To hold closed hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1999 for the intelligence community. S-407, Capitol

Judiciary
 To hold hearings to examine incidences of high tech worker shortage and immigration policy. SD-226

2:00 p.m.
 Judiciary
 To hold hearings on pending judicial nominations. SD-226

FEBRUARY 26

9:30 a.m.
 Appropriations
 Legislative Branch Subcommittee
 To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1999 for the Secretary of the Senate, the Capitol Police Board, and the Congressional Budget Office. S-128, Capitol

Appropriations
 Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government Subcommittee
 To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1999 for the Treasury Department, focusing on law enforcement programs. SD-192

Rules and Administration
 To hold hearings on S. 1578, to make available on the Internet, for purposes of access and retrieval by the public, certain information available through the Congressional Research Service web site, and to hold oversight hear-

ings on the budget requests for the operations of the Government Printing Office, the National Gallery of Art, and the Congressional Research Service. SR-301

Veterans' Affairs
 To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans Affairs to review the legislative recommendations of the Non-Commissioned Officers Association, the Paralyzed Veterans of America, the Jewish War Veterans, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, the Blinded Veterans Association, and the Veterans of World War I. 345 Cannon Building

Indian Affairs
 To hold oversight hearings on the Bureau of Indian Affairs' tribal priority allocations. SR-485

10:00 a.m.
 Appropriations
 Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee
 To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1999 for the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Department of Agriculture. SD-138

Appropriations
 Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Subcommittee
 To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1999 for the Department of State. S-146, Capitol

Judiciary
 Business meeting, to consider pending calendar business. SD-226

Labor and Human Resources
 To resume hearings to examine the confidentiality of medical information. SD-430

2:00 p.m.
 Judiciary
 Antitrust, Business Rights, and Competition Subcommittee
 To hold hearings on oversight of the Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice, focusing on international and criminal enforcement. SD-226

2:30 p.m.
 Appropriations
 Defense Subcommittee
 To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1999 for the Department of Defense. SD-192

MARCH 3

9:30 a.m.
 Appropriations
 Military Construction Subcommittee
 To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1999 for Army and Defense programs. SD-124

Appropriations
 Energy and Water Development Subcommittee
 To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1999 for the Department of Energy, focusing on defense programs. SD-116

Veterans' Affairs
 To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans Affairs to review the legislative recommendations of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. 345 Cannon Building

- 10:00 a.m.
Appropriations
Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1999 for the Rural Utilities Service, Rural Housing Service, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, and the Alternative Agricultural Research and Commercialization Center, all of the Department of Agriculture.
SD-138
- Appropriations
Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1999 for the Federal Bureau of Investigations, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and the Immigration and Naturalization Service, all of the Department of Justice.
S-146, Capitol
- 10:30 a.m.
Appropriations
Foreign Operations Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed legislation making supplemental appropriations for the International Monetary Fund for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998.
SD-192
- MARCH 4
- 9:30 a.m.
Indian Affairs
Business meeting, to mark up those provisions which fall within the committee's jurisdiction as contained in the President's proposed budget for fiscal year 1999 with a view towards making its recommendations to the Committee on the Budget, and to mark up the Indian provisions contained in S. 1414, S. 1415, and S. 1530, bills to reform and restructure the processes by which tobacco products are manufactured, marketed, and distributed, to prevent the use of tobacco products by minors, and to redress the adverse health effects of tobacco use; to be followed by a hearing on s. 1280, to provide technical corrections to the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996.
SR-485
- 10:00 a.m.
Appropriations
Defense Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1999 for the Department of Defense, focusing on Air Force programs.
SD-192
- Appropriations
Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1999 for the Department of Commerce.
S-146, Capitol
- 2:00 p.m.
Judiciary
Antitrust, Business Rights, and Competition Subcommittee
To hold hearings on the implementation of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, focusing on section 271.
SD-226
- MARCH 5
- 9:00 a.m.
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
To hold hearings to examine the global warming agreement recently reached in Kyoto, Japan.
SR-332
- 9:30 a.m.
Appropriations
VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1999 for the Corporation for National and Community Service, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.
SD-138
- Appropriations
Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1999 for the Department of Education.
SD-562
- Appropriations
Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1999 for the Internal Revenue Service, Treasury Department.
SD-192
- 10:00 a.m.
Appropriations
Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1999 for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce, and the Small Business Administration.
S-146, Capitol
- Appropriations
Transportation Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine barriers to airline competition.
SD-124
- 2:00 p.m.
Judiciary
Immigration Subcommittee
Business meeting, to consider pending calendar business.
SD-226
- MARCH 10
- 9:30 a.m.
Appropriations
Military Construction Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1999 for military construction programs, focusing on Air Force and Navy projects.
SD-124
- 10:00 a.m.
Appropriations
Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1999 for the Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture.
SD-138
- Appropriations
Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine proposals to prevent child exploitation.
SD-192
- 2:00 p.m.
Appropriations
Energy and Water Development Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1999 for the Department of Energy, focusing on research and efficiency programs.
SD-116
- MARCH 11
- 9:30 a.m.
Indian Affairs
To hold oversight hearings on sovereign immunity issues.
Room to be announced
- 10:00 a.m.
Appropriations
Defense Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1999 for the Department of Defense, focusing on Navy and Marine Corps programs.
SD-192
- MARCH 12
- 9:30 a.m.
Appropriations
VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1999 for the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the Community Development Financial Institute.
SD-138
- Appropriations
Legislative Branch Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1999 for the Joint Committee on Printing, the Joint Economic Committee, the Joint Committee on Taxation, the Sergeant at Arms, the Library of Congress and the Congressional Research Service, and the Office of Compliance.
S-128, Capitol
- Appropriations
Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1999 for the Treasury Department.
SD-192
- 10:00 a.m.
Appropriations
Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1999 for the Supreme Court, and the Judiciary.
S-146, Capitol
- MARCH 17
- 9:30 a.m.
Appropriations
Energy and Water Development Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1999 for the Department of Energy's environmental management program.
SD-116
- 10:00 a.m.
Appropriations
Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1999 for the Food Safety and Inspection Service, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Agriculture Marketing Service, and the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, all of the Department of Agriculture.
SD-138
- Appropriations
Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1999 for the United Nations.
S-146, Capitol

- 10:30 a.m.
Appropriations
Foreign Operations Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1999 for foreign assistance programs, focusing on international narcotics.
SD-124
- MARCH 18
- 9:30 a.m.
Appropriations
Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1999 for the Department of Labor.
SD-138
- Veterans' Affairs
To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans Affairs to review the legislative recommendations of the Disabled American Veterans.
345 Cannon Building
SR-485
- Indian Affairs
To hold oversight hearings on the implementation of the Indian Arts and Crafts Act (P.L. 101-644).
SR-485
- 10:00 a.m.
Appropriations
Defense Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1999 for the Department of Defense, focusing on National Guard programs.
SD-192
- MARCH 19
- 9:30 a.m.
Appropriations
VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1999 for the Department of Veterans Affairs, and cemeterial expenses for the Army.
SD-138
- Appropriations
Legislative Branch Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1999 for the Architect of the Capitol, the General Accounting Office, and the Government Printing Office.
S-128, Capitol
- 10:00 a.m.
Appropriations
Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for the Federal Communications Commission, and the Securities and Exchange Commission.
S-146, Capitol
- Appropriations
Transportation Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1999 for the Department of Transportation.
SD-124
- 2:00 p.m.
Judiciary
Antitrust, Business Rights, and Competition Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine international aviation agreements and anti-trust immunity implications.
SD-226
- MARCH 24
- 9:30 a.m.
Appropriations
Energy and Water Development Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1999 for the Corp
- of Engineers, and the Bureau of Reclamation, Department of the Interior.
SD-116
- 10:00 a.m.
Appropriations
Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1999 for the Farm Service Agency, Foreign Agricultural Service, and the Risk Management Agency, all of the Department of Agriculture.
SD-138
- Appropriations
Transportation Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1999 for AMTRAK, focusing on the future of AMTRAK.
SD-192
- 10:30 a.m.
Appropriations
Foreign Operations Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1999 for foreign assistance programs, focusing on infectious diseases.
SD-124
- MARCH 25
- 9:30 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans Affairs to review the legislative recommendations of AMVETS, the American Ex-Prisoners of War, the Vietnam Veterans of America, and the Retired Officers Association.
345 Cannon Building
- Indian Affairs
To hold hearings to examine Indian gaming issues.
Room to be announced
- 10:00 a.m.
Appropriations
Defense Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1999 for the Department of Defense, focusing on Army programs.
SD-192
- MARCH 26
- 9:30 a.m.
Appropriations
Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1999 for the Department of Health and Human Services.
SD-138
- Appropriations
Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1999 for the Office of National Drug Control Policy.
SD-192
- MARCH 31
- 10:00 a.m.
Appropriations
Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1999 for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission and the Food and Drug Administration.
SD-138
- Appropriations
Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1999 for the Department of Justice's counterterrorism programs.
SD-192
- 10:30 a.m.
Appropriations
Foreign Operations Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1999 for foreign assistance programs, focusing on the Caspian energy program.
SD-124
- APRIL 1
- 9:30 a.m.
Indian Affairs
To hold oversight hearings on barriers to credit and lending in Indian country.
SR-485
- 10:00 a.m.
Appropriations
Defense Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1999 for Department of Defense medical programs.
SD-192
- 2:00 p.m.
Judiciary
Antitrust, Business Rights, and Competition Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine competition and concentration in the cable/video markets.
SD-226
- APRIL 2
- 9:30 a.m.
Appropriations
Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1999 for the National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services.
SD-138
- 10:00 a.m.
Appropriations
Transportation Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine airline ticketing practices.
SD-124
- APRIL 21
- 10:30 a.m.
Appropriations
Foreign Operations Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1999 for foreign assistance, focusing on crime programs.
Room to be announced
- APRIL 22
- 9:30 a.m.
Indian Affairs
To hold oversight hearings on Title V amendments to the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975.
SR-485
- 10:00 a.m.
Appropriations
Defense Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1999 for the Department of Defense, focusing on the Ballistic Missile Defense program.
SD-192

<p>APRIL 23</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Appropriations Energy and Water Development Subcommittee To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1999 for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. SD-138</p>	<p>APRIL 30</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Appropriations VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies Subcommittee To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1999 for the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Council on Environmental Quality. SD-138</p>	<p>MAY 11</p> <p>2:00 p.m. Appropriations Defense Subcommittee To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1999 for the Department of Defense. SD-192</p>
<p>APRIL 28</p> <p>10:30 a.m. Appropriations Foreign Operations Subcommittee To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for foreign assistance programs, focusing on Bosnia. Room to be announced</p>	<p>MAY 5</p> <p>10:30 a.m. Appropriations Foreign Operations Subcommittee To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1999 for foreign assistance programs. Room to be announced</p>	<p>MAY 13</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Appropriations Defense Subcommittee To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1999 for the Department of Defense. SD-192</p>
<p>APRIL 29</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Indian Affairs To resume hearings to examine Indian gaming issues. Room to be announced</p>	<p>MAY 6</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Appropriations Defense Subcommittee To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1999 for the Department of Defense, focusing on the U.S. Pacific Command. SD-192</p>	<p>OCTOBER 6</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Veterans' Affairs To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans Affairs on the legislative recommendations of the American Legion. 345 Cannon Building</p>
<p>10:00 a.m. Appropriations Defense Subcommittee To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1999 for the Department of Defense, focusing on Bosnian assistance. SD-192</p>	<p>MAY 7</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Appropriations Energy and Water Development Subcommittee To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1999 for the National Science Foundation, and the Office of Science and Technology. SD-138</p>	<p>POSTPONEMENTS</p> <p>FEBRUARY 13</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Judiciary Youth Violence Subcommittee To hold hearings to examine the ramifications of S. 10, to reduce violent juvenile crime, promote accountability by juvenile criminals, and punish and deter violent gang crime. SD-22</p>