

commitment of the Irish community. The traditions of celebrating the history and lineage of the families of Ireland have become ingrained in our community. Generations after generation continue the reminder of the importance of St. Patrick's Day.

From a small crew and a block long parade to the success of today's 100,000 plus participants, Kansas City demonstrates the values of keeping tradition alive. I enjoy the parade and all of the community cheer and enthusiasm. This morning the excitement was captured for the nation on ABC's "Good Morning America" program. Even on a cold and dreary day, Kansas City's St. Patrick's Day Parade brings the shining Irish pride of all of us to light.

Mr. Speaker, I salute the 25th Anniversary of Kansas City's St. Patrick's Day Parade and the excitement it has brought to our community and its residents through the hard work and determination of the Irish community of my district.

PRESERVE CRITICAL DATA IN THE
2000 CENSUS

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 1998

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a resolution expressing the Sense of the Congress that the 2000 Census should continue to collect demographic and socioeconomic data to promote sound decision making.

On March 31, 1997, the Census Bureau submitted to Congress the subject matters for questions on the long form. The long form is sent to one in six households. Its questions will provide the only accurate and reliable source of demographic, social and economic data about our population and housing. The Census Bureau will collect only data that is specifically required by law or a Federal court for the implementation of programs or the allocation of Federal funds; the Bureau has dropped its 1990 questions that have no explicit statutory justification.

The public sector relies on Census long form data. Federal agencies must have the information collected by the Census Bureau on the long form in order to administer federal programs. They also need this information to ensure that programs are inclusive, representative, and serve the needs of local populations. The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights needs the data to monitor discrimination based on national origin.

Beyond the federal government, the largest non-federal users of long form information are local governments. The National Association of Counties adopted a resolution calling for a census long form "to provide the useful demographic information necessary to guide our country into the 21st century." In addition, state, county, and municipal agencies; educators and human service providers; researchers; and political leaders all rely long form data. Members of Congress depend on accurate information. The questions on the long form give us insight into our communities, our transportation and infrastructure, our housing, and our ethnic constituencies.

The private sector is a secondary, but important, beneficiary of long form data. Census

data promote economic stability and growth in every sector of our economy. Retail, services, communications, and manufacturing companies rely on this data to allocate resources and develop investment strategies; to determine the location of new stores and plants; to assess the need for job training, educational, and child care programs; and to meet customer needs and preferences. Transportation providers use census data to assess the need for roads, highways, and transit systems. The housing industry relies on census data to gauge housing conditions, predict loan demand, and improve and expand housing in under-served markets. The private sector could not possibly replicate the information in the census.

We must send a message to those involved in the 2000 Census—the Congress, the Census Bureau, and the Administration—that we must preserve the long form, the only tool that gives us a comprehensive picture of who we are as a nation.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 1998

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, this week it was publicly disclosed that former Wisconsin Senator William Proxmire has Alzheimer Disease. Senator Proxmire, who had a long and distinguished career in the U.S. Senate, is a friend and mentor to me and many other Wisconsin citizens.

Yet, he will probably be best remembered not for what he did in the Senate but by how he got here. Senator Proxmire was famous for his efforts to shake the hands of as many citizens of Wisconsin as possible, standing hours on end at the State Fair and outside the Green Bay Packers games.

One year Senator Proxmire spent a total of \$184 on his reelection campaign! Can you imagine a Senator spending only \$184 on his reelection in today's political climate?

Next week, I hope we will remember my friend and mentor, Senator William Proxmire, as we debate campaign finance reform. His example should make our decision easy.

INTRODUCING THE COLLEGE TUITION
REDUCTION AND INFORMATION ACT OF 1997

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 1998

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleague from California, Mr. MCKEON, in introducing the College Tuition Reduction and Information Act.

In today's technology and information based economy, getting a high quality postsecondary education is more important than ever. For many Americans, it will be the key to the American dream. Historically, higher education prices have increased at roughly the rate of inflation. However, since the early 1980's, college tuition has spiraled at a rate of two-to-three times that of inflation every year. Ac-

ording to a report released by the General Accounting Office (GAO), between 1980-1981 and 1994-1995, tuition at 4-year public colleges and universities increased 234 percent, while median household income rose 82 percent, and the consumer price index rose only 74 percent.

Over the past year, I have held hearings across the country as my Committee worked to update and improve the Higher Education Act. One consistent theme I have heard from parents and students where ever I went was the reality that paying for college is a huge financial burden, and that for some, a college education will soon be out of reach. It is alarming to me that, at a time when the higher education programs under my Committee's jurisdiction provide roughly \$40 billion per year in student financial aid, parents and students tell me they cannot afford to pay the college bills. It is clear to me, as it is to anyone that has ever sent a child to college, that college is too expensive.

This trend in college pricing is especially alarming in that it only seems to apply to higher education. There are many other endeavors and many businesses that must keep pace with changing technologies and federal regulations. However, in order to stay affordable to their customers and stay competitive in the market, they manage to hold cost increases to a more moderate level.

That is why I'm joining my colleagues today in introducing this important legislation to implement a number of the recommendations of the Commission on the Cost of Higher Education. It is time that we all did something to control college costs. I want to ensure my colleagues and families across the country that I will continue to work hard to see that every American has access to a quality postsecondary education at an affordable price. This legislation will provide a needed step in that direction.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation, and to cosponsor the College Tuition Reduction and Information Act.

MEMBERS CRITICIZE CROATIAN
GOVERNMENT IN LETTER TO
THE PRESIDENT

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 1998

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform my colleagues of a letter to President Clinton expressing the deep concern of members about the Croatian government's authoritarian and non-democratic actions. Because the United States is sending financial aid to Croatia we must monitor the situation. I am inserting a copy of this letter along with a translation of a related March 13, 1998 Voice of America boardcast.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

Washington, DC 20515

Hon. WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON,
President of the United States,
The White House, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: We are writing to express our deep concern regarding the Croatian government's continued pattern of intolerance toward the basic freedoms of political expression, a free press, and civil liberties. While we expected that the transition