

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

U.S. FOREST SERVICE POLICY

HON. RICK HILL

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 1998

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, something has gone haywire at the U.S. Forest Service.

In published news reports, and in testimony before the House Resources Subcommittee on Forests and Forest Health, it is clear that the agency is pursuing forest policies which are driven by politics and public relations rather than science and common-sense. I have to agree with subcommittee Chairman HELEN CHENOWETH of Idaho that the Forest Service's top-down policies have more to do with the 2000 presidential campaign than responsible national forest management.

What has been recently imposed in our forests is a moratorium on management. The hands of local forest managers have been tied. Combined with the recent weather trends in my home State of Montana, this lack of local management is a recipe for disaster during this upcoming fire season.

A recent article in the newsletter Conservation News (March 23, 1998) entitled "Sportsmen being excluded from public lands, House panel is told" is a clear example of the emerging agenda of the Clinton/Gore Administration and how they are using our forests in the most cynical way possible.

SPORTSMEN BEING EXCLUDED FROM PUBLIC LANDS, HOUSE PANEL IS TOLD

CHENOWETH HITS 'MEDIA MANIPULATION' PLAN

Sportsmen are increasingly being denied the right to enter public lands, Safari Club International told a House subcommittee last week.

Before the U.S. Forest Service is permitted to pursue its planned moratorium on forest road construction, Congress should require that the agency publish a list of all road closings in the last 10 years, the group told the forest and forest health subcommittee.

"We want to insure that this new effort does not further erode an already diminishing access to recreational opportunity on public lands," said Ron Marlenee, Safari Club's government affairs consultant. "Increasingly, sportsmen are coming up against pole gates, gates, barriers and 'no motorized vehicles' signs when they arrive at the edge of public property," he told a hearing.

The hearing was the second in two weeks to consider the Forest Service's proposal to impose an 18-month moratorium on the construction of roads in so-called "roadless" areas. The scheme has drawn angry protests from westerners, with several congressional chairmen threatening to slash the Service's 1999 budget (See Conservation News, March 9, page 1).

The focus of last week's hearing was H.R. 3297, which would suspend the continued development of a roadless area policy by the Service until public hearings are conducted on all Forest Service units nationwide. As of late last week, the measure had 24 co-sponsors.

Subcommittee Chairman Helen Chenoweth (R-Idaho) again blasted the Clinton Adminis-

tration for its forest policies. She referred to a recent Washington Post article about a Forest Service communication plan to promote its agenda. "It's a detailed strategy on how to manipulate the media and everyone else to get support for the administration policies over the next eight months," the article stated.

The article quotes the plan as proposing to have Service Chief Mike Dombeck traveling to spectacular forest fires to gain media coverage.

"We now have seen a copy of Chief Dombeck's PR plan which was reported in the press," Chenoweth told the hearing. "After reading it, I am left to question, Where does the Forest Service get the legislative authority to manipulate the press and others to promote their agenda?" she asked.

"I am also left to wonder where Chief Dombeck gets the legislative authority to use this once proud agency—and I stress once proud agency—to take every opportunity to tie with the vice president's Clean Water Initiative and indeed provide a media event for the VP?" Chenoweth said, quoting from the plan.

She claimed that, "rather than protect the forest environment, Chief Dombeck has allowed the Forest Service to be used as a tool of the Clinton-Gore Administration to gain partisan political advantage and promote Vice President Gore's presidential aspirations.

"This blatant use of the Forest Service for strictly partisan political purposes will not be tolerated," Chenoweth said. "It is unthinkable to utilize catastrophic fire and the resulting devastation to human life and the environment for partisan political gain and to promote Vice President Gore's presidential aspirations."

The Safari Club's Marlenee suggested a hidden agenda in the roads proposal. "In an effort to further justify road closures, the Forest Service implies that hunting in the forest system is having negative impact on wildlife," he testified. "They contend that access has led to 'increased pressure on wildlife species from hunters and fishers,'" he said, quoting an agency notice.

"My experience has been that the Forest Service consults extensively with state wildlife agencies and that the jurisdiction of wildlife and hunting is primarily a state right and responsibility," Marlenee continued.

"Because the Forest Service allegation appears in their public document, because it impugns the role of hunting in conservation, and because it denigrates the capability of state wildlife management, I would suggest this committee require the Forest Service to name even one state wildlife agency that is not fulfilling (its) obligations. We know of none and resent the fact this ill-thought-out statement is being used to justify closure considerations that could be harmful to sportsmen and to wildlife management," he said.

ON THE PASSING OF FATHER ORESTE PANDOLA OF BALTIMORE

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 1998

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a truly great pastor and great person, Father Oreste "Rusty" Pandola, who has been chosen to receive the Thomas D'Alesandro, Jr. Award for 1998. This award is named for my late father, who served as a long time Mayor of Baltimore and as a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives. It is presented annually by the Little Italy Lodge to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to Baltimore's Italian-American community.

Just a few days before his untimely death on January 17th, 1997, Rev. Oreste Pandola, SAC, known to everyone in St. Leo's as "Father Rusty," was asked what he would like inscribed on his tombstone. Always ready with a witty reply, he answered, "Well, I put an elevator in the church and another one in the school. How about, 'Going up!'" With that, he laughed heartily and made his familiar thumbs-up sign.

Although he had been suffering a constant battle against the debilitating effects of diabetes, little did anyone realize how soon afterward, those words would come to fruition. Father Rusty was only 54 when he died of a heart attack. He had been pastor of St. Leo's for eight years. One parishioner summed up his leadership by saying, "He affected the parish unlike anyone we've had in the past. His open friendship, his demeanor, his confidence. He could get people to do things for the church."

He was a priest who saw the needs of his community beyond the religious aspects, although he certainly was a wonderful shepherd of his flock. He never let personal health problems get in the way of his pastoral duties. After injuring his shoulder in a fall while attending a meeting in New Jersey, he celebrated Mass with his left arm in a sling.

Father Rusty enjoyed life, Italian food—especially pasta—and cream donuts, laughed loud at a good joke—even at his own expense—and was not afraid to try new things such as para-sailing.

One of his major achievements was the renovation and subsequent re-opening of the church school, closed in 1980, as an adult learning center. A man of vision, he saw a building wasting away and he saw many of the more senior residents of the Little Italy community with idle time and idle minds. He gave birth to the Adult Learning Center, which today bears his name and is in its third year and growing.

Father Rusty had a reputation of being involved in activities and interests that went beyond his duties as pastor. He was compassionate, understanding and optimistic. To him, no task was to great. Being happy all the time and being positive in his assessment of things

• 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.

seemed to be natural qualities. "Piece of cake," he would say to someone who felt that a task was too great. "Hang in there."

Born and raised in New York, he was ordained a priest in the Pallotines of the Immaculate Conception Province in Brooklyn, NY in 1969, seven years after entering the order. He served as chaplain and teacher of religion at Bishop Eustace Preparatory School in Pensauken, NJ, in 1969. Father Rusty came to Baltimore in the 1970's, serving as vocation director and novice master for his order. He also was the director of the Pallotine Seminary in Hyattsville, MD, and he also served for a time as a Provincial Superior of the Pallotine Fathers.

Cardinal William Keeler, Archbishop of Baltimore, called him "a truly great pastoral leader. He spoke to the people in a way which was at once witty and humorous and also quite profound." Reflecting on his avid reading, the Cardinal added, "If I had to name one person who was knowledgeable about the Bible, who was in tune with today's current problems and was compassionate, it was Father Rusty."

Rev. Peter Sticco, SAC, the Pallotine Provincial at the time, told the mourners in his eulogy, "He was your pastor, he was your hero, he was your friend."

The Rev. Oreste Pandola, SAC, is a worthy recipient and exemplifies the great spirit of Thomas D'Alesandro, Jr. in whose name this award is presented.

IN HONOR OF GEORGE AND HELEN
DUDAS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 1998

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the anniversary of the marriage of George and Helen Dudas fifty years ago, May 22, 1948. These two people truly exemplify a bond that can stand the test of time.

George and Helen Dudas entered the covenant of marriage at a time when the future was uncertain. World War II had just concluded, an economic boom was prevailing over the nation, and two young persons chose to take the first step on a long and successful life together. Their marriage saw many events in its fifty years, both joyous and challenging, that strengthened their bond and their love for each other.

George and Helen Dudas have clearly maintained a close bond with each other that has survived the test of half a century. Their marriage covenant, a beacon for all of us in these unstable times, exhibits a true love for each other and an ability to cope with the tests of marriage.

My fellow colleagues, join me in saluting George and Helen Dudas, two fine persons who have maintained a loving and devoted relationship for fifty years and we hope for fifty more.

THE DO-NOTHING CONGRESS

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 1998

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, March 25, 1998, into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

THE DO-NOTHING CONGRESS

1965, my first year in Congress, was extraordinary in its legislative accomplishments. In that year Congress enacted Medicare, aid to education, and voting rights legislation, just to name a few examples.

1998, my last year in Congress, has been extraordinary so far for the opposite reason. Each week, Congress wants to get out of town as quickly as it can, come back as late as possible and spend a minimal amount of time in session. The legislative schedule for this year calls for Congress to meet for fewer than 90 days—including Mondays and Fridays, when virtually no real business gets done. That's the shortest schedule in history. At this time, Congress has only about 50 serious legislative days remaining before it adjourns in October. The biggest bill enacted so far was the renaming of Washington National Airport in honor of Ronald Reagan.

Congress is doing a bare minimum to get by. Members feel that the less we do here the better. They want to go home more often to remind the public of their accomplishments—most notably, last year's balanced budget agreement—and want to avoid the high-profile errors of the recent past, like the government shutdowns in 1995 and 1996 and the delay in passing a disaster relief bill for flood victims last year.

So far, the "recess strategy" employed by the congressional leadership seems to be working. For the first time in 25 years, a majority of Americans approves of the way Congress is doing its job. Congress, one of the most criticized institutions in America, has rarely gotten above a 40% job approval rating in recent years. Today it's at 56%. The standing joke here is that Congress is never more popular than when it is in recess. There isn't any doubt that the nation's soaring economy and the mellow political mood in the country have contributed to these high ratings, but it's also true that voters are pleased with the balanced budget agreement and this year's anticipated budget surplus, and those two achievements will certainly define this 105th Congress. When people feel better about the performance of government it helps everybody in the government.

OUTLOOK

Much of the remaining time is going to be taken up with measures that simply have to be passed, like the budget and the appropriation bills, and very popular legislation, like the highway bill.

The parties are at loggerheads over a long list of major issues including a minimum wage increase, education initiatives, campaign finance reform, Medicare expansion, tax policy, and the terms of any new funding for the United Nations and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). In addition, some of the legislative possibilities have already been foreclosed. There will not be a campaign finance bill this year, must to my distress. It is unlikely there will be a significant environmental legislation, and it's beginning to look now as if we will not address the long-term problems of financing Social Security and Medicare. Those items will not be taken up until the next Congress, if then. The tobacco legislation is very much in doubt and a great deal of work needs to be

done on a code of conduct for the managed care industry and increased support for child care.

All of which is not to say that there aren't any high-stakes battles ahead in the remainder of the legislative year. Education will be one. Members of Congress are very much aware that across the country parents and business leaders want more done to improve the quality of education. Congress has before it competing proposals, including more funding for repairing and modernizing schools, increasing the number of teachers, providing more money directly to states through block grants, tax-free savings accounts, voucher programs, and additional money for teacher education. Some significant education legislation is a real possibility in this Congress.

There is strong interest in taxes. There is talk of a flat tax or a national sales tax or eliminating the current tax code, and, of course, a long list of tax cut proposals. But it is quite clear that Congress will not enact comprehensive tax reform this year.

Expanding health care coverage for those approaching retirement age and regulating HMOs will certainly be seriously considered, as will child care initiatives. There is also a lot of concern in Congress about values. Many bills have been introduced to address this concern, including bills to crack down on drunk driving, to discourage smoking, to ban online gambling, and to restrict access to pornography on the Internet. The values concern is also reflected in debates on re-vamping the bankruptcy laws and even on providing new money for the IMF.

There is, of course, a lot of debate on what to do about a possible federal budget surplus. Some want to return the money to the taxpayers, others want to spend the money on highways and bridges, others want to put the money toward Social Security reform.

CONCLUSION

Members frequently comment that the populist anger that dominated the political environment in the early 1990s is on the wane. We do not construe that as being a newfound, overwhelming respect for Washington, but it does reflect contentment with the status of the economy and a growing feeling that politics is irrelevant to the lives of most people. Public approval of Congress is hardly sky high but it has been consistently higher in 1997 and 1998 than at most times in the previous decades.

One of the positive things about the present mood is that Congress is focusing more on governance rather than simply rhetoric, which marked, for example, much of the early 1995 period. I really do not think the American people are telling us to do nothing. I think they want us to focus on the areas that are very tangible to them: health care, education, child care. What they are telling us is to work together and to avoid producing bad legislation.

This Congress is not going to make any big waves. But Congress can do a lot in a short time when it wants to, and I would expect the pace of activity in Congress to pick up in the next months.

HONORING ROSA AND CARLOS DE
LA CRUZ

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 1998

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, Cuban patriot José Martí said: "Talent is a gift that brings with it an obligation to serve the world,

and not ourselves, for it is not of our making." I would like to recognize Carlos and Rosa de la Cruz for giving of themselves to the betterment of the community and utilizing their talents to help those in our community who have been less fortunate. I am pleased to congratulate the de la Cruz' for having recently been honored with the Simon Wiesenthal Award for Community Service.

The Simon Wiesenthal Center recognizes South Florida residents who have exhibited a spirit of true commitment and leadership in their community. After having been forced to flee communist aggression in Cuba in 1960, the de la Cruz' moved around the country, finally settling in Miami in 1975. Since then they have dedicated their efforts to improving the accessibility and quality of educational and social services available to our South Florida youth, as well as bringing awareness and appreciation for the arts.

While dedicating tremendous time and effort to our community's youth, they are also successful business owners. As board members for various foundations, they have also contributed to furthering the work of such wonderful institutions as the Dade Community Foundation, the Performing Arts Foundation of Greater Miami, and the United Way where they were honored with the 1997 Alexis de Tocqueville Award for community service. They have been an inspiring force in improving the quality of life for many South Florida residents.

HONORING THE HUFFINGTON CENTER ON AGING AT BAYLOR COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 1998

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Roy M. and Phyllis Gough Huffington Center on Aging at Baylor College of Medicine as the center celebrates its tenth anniversary on April 7, 1998. The anniversary celebration will highlight the breakthrough research on aging conducted by the Center's internationally renowned scientists, as well as the contributions that older Americans can and do make throughout their lives.

The Huffington Center on Aging is committed to addressing the needs of an aging population by providing medical education and training, conducting basic and clinical science research, and delivering health care through Baylor College of Medicine-affiliated hospitals and other institutions. In just 10 years, the Center has grown to national and international stature in all of these areas, becoming one of the premier centers on aging in the world.

The Center's history dates to 1980, when Robert J. Luchi, M.D., current Director of the Huffington Center on Aging, established a Geriatric Evaluation Unit at the Houston Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC), a Baylor-affiliated institution. As needs grew, the program and staff increased with support from the VAMC and Baylor's Department of Medicine. In early 1987, Baylor College of Medicine committed funds to create the Baylor Program in Aging, and the National Institute on Aging awarded a Geriatric Leadership Academic Award to Dr. Luchi as principal investigator

and James R. Smith, Ph.D., as co-principal investigator. In 1988, the Honorable Roy M. and Phyllis Gough Huffington endowed the program to establish the Roy M. and Phyllis Gough Huffington Center on Aging.

The Center facilitates and coordinates interdepartmental research and initiates its own research studies in areas including cell and molecular biology of aging, adrenal cell biology, aging of the skin, control of gene expression in cellular senescence, the aging cardiovascular system, health care outcomes research, and ethical issues in acute and long-term care settings.

The Center's educational opportunities include courses and seminars in the basic and clinical sciences for clinical practitioners, students, trainees, faculty, staff, and health professionals, as well as continuing medical education courses. The Center sponsors courses for medical students, geriatric medicine clinical rotations for medical residents, and an accredited Geriatric Fellowship Training Program.

Clinical faculty and trainees provide patient care to older persons through the Geriatric Medicine Associates of Baylor College of Medicine at Smith Tower and the Methodist Hospital; the Houston Veterans Affairs Medical Center; and several hospital and community long-term care facilities.

During its short history, the Huffington Center on Aging has produced some important research breakthroughs. Center researchers cloned a gene critical for control of cell proliferation, creating opportunities for treating certain conditions associated with aging, including cancer. The Center's computer experts and faculty developed a hypertext module for geriatric education of health professionals that has been nationally judged the most wanted new education tool in geriatrics. The Center has also been widely praised for creating one of the most successful community programs on health issues of importance to older women.

For its many successes, the Huffington Center on Aging has been named a national Center of Excellence in Geriatrics by the John A. Hartford Foundation, Inc., of New York. As such, the Huffington Center on Aging has the mandate to train the future national leaders in geriatrics and gerontology. Baylor College of Medicine has committed substantial additional resources to the Center and the Huffington family and other supporters of the Center continue to be generous in their support. As a result, the Center's educational programs embrace virtually all the health professions trained in the Texas Medical Center and allied institutions and extend widely throughout the state of Texas. The alliance between the Huffington Center and the Methodist Hospital is breaking new ground in the delivery of superb patient care to the elderly.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Huffington Center on Aging at Baylor College of Medicine for ten years of excellence and innovation in improving the quality of life for older people, and I look forward to even greater successes as they work to ensure healthier lives for older Americans in the 21st Century.

IN HONOR OF COMDR. RICHARD R. UZL, JR.

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 1998

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Commander Richard R. Uzl, Jr. for his years of devoted service to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of District 7 and to his country. Commander Uzl exemplifies the American spirit at the highest level.

A native Clevelander, Commander Uzl attended local schools and graduated from James F. Rhodes High School in January, 1963. Commander Uzl then made a crucial decision in his life: to serve in the armed forces of the United States. During a tumultuous time when the profession of serviceman was not exactly glamorous, Commander Uzl sacrificed his immediate future to serve his nation in its armed services. He joined the U.S. Air Force in February, 1963 and served four years in the Air Force until his discharge in 1967. He served as an aircraft mechanic, earning leadership position while serving in two world hotspots: Korea and Vietnam.

After leaving the Air Force, Commander Uzl chose to continue his education and earned two degrees from Applied Technology in Cleveland. However, Commander Uzl continued his association with our nation's armed services by becoming a charter member of "Old Brooklyn" VFW Post No. 10228 in 1988. Named Post Commander in 1991, Uzl worked his way through the ranks of County VFW offices, serving on numerous committees and administering the district Voice of Democracy program for patriotic youth. Currently, Commander Uzl is the District 7 Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

My fellow colleagues, join me in saluting a model American who has defended his country and continued Americanism and patriotism by serving with the VFW, Commander Richard R. Uzl, Jr.

SALUTING AMBASSADOR TO IRELAND JEAN KENNEDY SMITH

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 1998

Mr. KING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute our Ambassador to Ireland Jean Kennedy Smith. Ambassador Kennedy Smith has announced that she will be leaving Dublin this year, completing a remarkable diplomatic career in Ireland.

Under her leadership, the U.S. asserted its moral leadership and began to take an active role in the Irish peace process. Ambassador Jean Kennedy Smith deserves much of the credit for helping to bring about the best opportunity for a just and lasting peace in Ireland in more than 75 years.

Jean Kennedy Smith is beyond all doubt the most active, dynamic and effective U.S. Ambassador in our entire history of diplomatic relations with the Republic of Ireland. She will be missed and it will be extraordinarily difficult to fill her shoes. I am proud to have worked closely with Ambassador Kennedy Smith and even more to call her my friend.

Mr. Speaker, I submit an editorial analysis of Ambassador Kennedy Smith's remarkable legacy from the Irish Voice newspaper.

[From the Irish Voice, Mar. 18-24, 1998]

TIME TO RETHINK U.S. EMBASSY ROLE

The announcement that U.S. Ambassador to Ireland Jean Kennedy Smith will be leaving her post this summer brings to an end the most extraordinary chapter yet in Irish and American diplomatic relations.

She will be greatly missed, not just for her contribution to the peace process but for her overall energy and commitment to improving understanding and links between Ireland and America.

There will likely never be another ambassador like Kennedy Smith, who played such a crucial role in the Irish peace process and redefined the American/Irish diplomatic relationship in a way that has transformed that office forever.

Indeed, the major question following her departure should be whether it is now time to institutionalize what she has put in place—the acceptance that the U.S. ambassador in Dublin plays as important a role in Northern Ireland affairs as does the American envoy in London.

It has always exclusively been the purview of the London ambassador to report on and deliver assessments on Northern Ireland to the Secretary of State and the President. Just how flawed some of those assessments can be was highlighted by the recent memoirs of former U.K. ambassador Raymond Seitz, whose total involvement was to visit Northern Ireland once in a British army helicopter before sending back his "insights." He refused to meet SDLP leader John Hume on that trip, which surely endeared him to moderate Nationalist supporters.

At a time when the Irish government is likely to have a larger say in the affairs of the North, it seems fitting that the U.S. ambassador in Dublin should have significant input into State Department decision making, and that it should not again revert to being the sole concern of the U.S. ambassador in Britain.

There is also a need to keep a high caliber ambassador in Dublin such as Kennedy Smith. Proximity to the President matters most in such appointments, and there were few closer than Senator Edward Kennedy and his sister to Bill Clinton.

Before Kennedy Smith the occupants of the position tended to be elderly, well-heeled gentlemen—appointed mainly in return for financial contributions—who coasted for a few years in Dublin before retirement. The notion of Dublin as a sleepy backwater took hold, encouraged no doubt by those in the State Department who viewed Northern Ireland as a problem for the London embassy to deal with.

The notoriously pro-British slant in the State Department also extended to many in their Dublin embassy, a fact which caused Kennedy Smith no amount of problems. It is time that the embassy there reflected the importance of the Irish issue to the U.S., and also that Northern Irish specialists be appointed to Dublin.

Kennedy Smith has certainly made a start on this. Despite her lack of experience on Irish issues she entered the minefield of Northern Ireland and emerged not only unscathed but triumphant. At several critical moments in the peace process—most notably when the visa issue for Gerry Adams was being debated—she showed leadership and courage and withstood the slings and arrows of her opponents, many of whom worked through the British press to malign her.

She had her share of critics in the State Department too, who saw their long undis-

puted hegemony over Irish issues crumble. Events and history will prove her right in that debate.

The greatest send-off she could now receive would be another visit from the President to Ireland as part of a successful conclusion to the peace process. It is the least Jean Kennedy Smith deserves after such an impressive term of office.

A LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT TO SERVICE DEDICATION TO MR. FRED QUELLMALZ

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 1998

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to honor an outstanding individual on his service to the success of citizen diplomacy, Mr. Fred Quellmalz. Mr. Quellmalz has been dedicated to service with the Sister Cities International for the past 40 years.

In 1956, Mr. Quellmalz and a select group of people met with President Dwight D. Eisenhower at the White House to discuss a people-to-people citizen diplomacy program. This program grew and became Sister Cities International. Mr. Quellmalz has been an active member of this program for the past 40 years and has helped to get people in the community involved with citizen diplomacy.

On April 18, 1998 the Illinois Chapter of Sister Cities International will honor Fred Quellmalz with the Lifetime Achievement Award for his outstanding dedicated service to the people in the community and to the life of the citizen diplomacy program. Mr. Quellmalz not only watched the program grow, but was actively involved in its progress. In fact, Mr. Quellmalz was founder of two chapters in Illinois, the Des Plaines and the Illinois State Chapter, as well as Treasurer for both organizations.

I would like to extend my very best wishes to Mr. Fred Quellmalz on his achievements with Sister Cities International as well as his dedicated community service.

THE PASSING OF FRANK WONG

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 1998

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to mourn the passing of a great American, a man dedicated to the democratic principles that are at the very foundation of our country. Frank Wong died on March 9th after suffering a stroke. He was 79.

Mr. Wong founded the Chinese Democracy Education Foundation in San Francisco 13 years ago and was instrumental in coordinating protests and other activities in the Bay Area after the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre of pro-democracy demonstrators in Beijing. He was instrumental in the effort to bring the Goddess of Democracy, a replica on the statue created by the student protesters, to Portsmouth Square in Chinatown soon after the massacre. He also hosted many of the student dissidents who came to the United States as political refugees after the tragedy.

Mr. Wong was born in China in 1919, and came to the United States in the 1940's to study at New York University. His heart, however, was never far from his homeland, and inspired by the freedoms he enjoyed in this country, he returned to China to become the editor of a Chinese newspaper. His return would not be an easy one. The Chinese Communists were in control, and his ideas for a free and open society ran counter to the prevailing powers. In 1957, Communist Party officials had him arrested for his pro-democracy position and advocacy for human rights. He was sentenced to three years in a re-education forced labor camp.

After his release from prison, Frank Wong came back to the United States. Despite his hardship, his belief in the freedom of the human spirit could not be shaken. He remained committed to the principles of democracy and human rights in China. The Chinese Democracy Education Foundation is dedicated to promoting these values, and since its inception has given out 40 awards to individuals and groups which have worked towards achieving these goals.

As one who had the privilege of working with Frank, I was always impressed by his courage, dedication to democratic ideals and his gentle manner. It is with great regret and respect that I extend my deepest sympathy to Frank's wife, his children Eric and Joyce and his five grandchildren.

RED RIBBON WEEK IN BYRON
DISTRICT #226

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 1998

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I am proud today to commend the efforts of the families, students, parents, and teachers of the communities of Byron, Mt. Morris, Oregon, and Stillman Valley, Illinois, as they launch this year's celebration of Red Ribbon Week, from March 30 to April 3. I extend a special thanks to Randy Vavra, his co-workers, and the many others involved in planning drug awareness activities for assisting in the coordination of this week. The significance of Red Ribbon Week and its impact on the young people in our communities is crucial to getting out the message that drug use destroys lives.

The Red Ribbon Campaign is a national effort organized to commemorate federal agent Enrique Camarena, who was tortured and murdered by drug traffickers in February 1985. In his memory, the Red Ribbon has become a symbol recognizing volunteers and professionals working in the field of drug and violence prevention, drug demand reduction, law enforcement, and treatment. These efforts are supported by schools, churches, media, law enforcement agencies, business, and government.

Although Red Ribbon Week is normally recognized in October, this year Byron and nearby communities have moved the celebration to the spring in order to bring in internationally renowned drug prevention speaker Milton Creagh. Mr. Creagh sports an impressive resume of professional and community activities for which he has received many honors and

awards. In addition to Mr. Creagh's appearance, the district is planning a variety of student activities, as well as a drug and alcohol awareness inservice for all district staff.

I fully support the Red Ribbon Campaign and the work of everyone involved. Drug awareness and prevention begin with families and communities, so I congratulate the people of Byron, Mt. Morris, Oregon, and Stillman Valley as they put together Red Ribbon Week. Your work will further the goal of eradicating the scourge of drugs that threatens our children and will direct them along a path to a brighter future.

A VISION FOR THE THIRD MILLENNIUM

HON. BOB LIVINGSTON

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 1998

Mr. LIVINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I submit to the RECORD "A vision for the 3rd Millennium" by Martial Arts Grandmaster Jhoon Rhee. Grandmaster Rhee has been employing his "Lead by Example Action Philosophy" for over 50 years as a martial artist, goodwill ambassador, businessman, citizen, husband, father and most of all as a teacher of young people.

His philosophy seeks as its goal a healthier, happier society. His tenets of "knowledge in the mind, honesty in the heart and strength in the body" are important values that adults should seek to instill in children. And the best way to do that is by being a living example of those important virtues—leading by example.

I encourage all Americans to follow Jhoon Rhee's example of strength, honesty and leadership.

A VISION FOR THE 3RD MILLENNIUM

We, the Martial Artists, citizens of the world, hereby declare the "Lead By Example Action Philosophy" to the world. We all know that a picture is worth a 1000 words, but we also must know that action is worth a 1000 pictures. The "Lead By Example Action Philosophy" is designed to inspire all people to be more enlightened; to ensure effective children's education for family unity; and to promote cultural diversity for universal harmony. The "Lead By Example Action Philosophy" can be achieved through "Joy of Discipline"—a mental and physical exercise program that can lead us to achieve "100 Years of Wisdom in a Body of 21 Year old", the foundation for a happy global society.

The "Lead By Example Action Philosophy" is a new social awakening campaign for a perfect global society in the 3rd Millennium. It is not a religion but recognizes a Supreme Intelligence as the origin of life and happiness. People constantly move to avoid pain or to seek joy and comfort. Therefore, the universal purpose of life, unquestionably, is happiness. The ultimate value for happiness is Love; only Beauty triggers the love emotion; and only Truth beautifies human heart.

Therefore, When I am truthful, I am beautiful in heart; When I am beautiful in heart, everyone loves me; When everyone loves me, I am happy.

Conversely, When I lie, I am ugly in heart; When I am ugly in heart, everyone hates me; When everyone hates me, I am unhappy.

Therefore, a truthful way of life is not only good, but also wise; a false way is not only wrong, but also foolish. Truth, Beauty, and Love are three basic elements of Good that

we must live by daily. Deceit, ugliness, and hatred are three basic elements of evil that we must recognize but never practice. All thoughts of Truth, Beauty, and Love secrete a positive brain substance, Beta Endorphin, for our better health and happiness, but thoughts of deceit, ugliness, and hatred secrete a natural negative brain substance, adrenaline, which leads to stress that can cause fatal diseases. Everyone is born to be happy with each breath of life. We all deserve the most joyful social environment for absolute global happiness. The foundation for a happy society is perfect human character, exercising true freedom approved by the one's conscience, and never practicing false freedom licensed by selfish animal instinct. People of the 3rd Millennium must be perfect human beings, defined by never making mistakes knowingly, harmful to none, and beneficial to all. Therefore, as a martial artist, I must first develop a perfect body as the temple for a perfect mind.

An ideal human being is one who has achieved a balanced education consisting of three basic human qualities—Knowledge in the mind, Honesty in the heart, and Strength in the body. The purpose of knowledge is to take action, for knowing does not make things happen, but actions always do. All parents of the 3rd Millennium must become teachers for their children, not by words alone but also by their actions, for children are born to learn not only by listening but more by watching deeds of adults. Consistent good behavior and spontaneous action come only from skills and good habits.

Three Golden Rules for parents and teachers to help children develop many good skills and habits are: (1) Lead By Example; (2) Never fail to correct their mistakes with a smile until good habits are formed; and (3) Lead By Example.

Therefore, I will recite My Four Daily Affirmations to reaffirm my daily commitment to achieve 100 years of wisdom in a body of 21 year old, as follows: (1) I am wise because I always learn something good everyday; (2) I am humanly perfect because I never make mistakes knowingly; (3) I like myself because I always take action to make good things happen; and (4) I am happy that I am me because I always choose to be happy.

Therefore, I am a wise, perfect, active, and happy center of the universe.

THE CASE FOR PAYING U.N. DUES

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 1998

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues an excellent op-ed Ambassador Richard N. Gardner wrote in the March 4th edition of the Los Angeles Times.

The article is entitled "There's more than politics at stake in unpaid U.N. dues." At its heart, the issue is that if the United States has no legal obligation to live up to its treaties and other international agreements, then the message we send is that any nation is free to violate any commitment made to the United States or to any other nation. That is not a world in which we should want to live.

The op-ed by Ambassador Gardner follows:

[From the Los Angeles Times, Mar. 4, 1998]

THERE'S MORE THAN POLITICS AT STAKE IN UNPAID U.N. DUES

(By Richard N. Gardner)

A top priority for the Clinton administration is to persuade Congress to pay more

than \$1 billion in back dues to the United Nations. Failure to do so will undermine critical U.N. operations in peacekeeping and development and further diminish U.S. influence in the world organization.

Complicating the administration's task is a new and fallacious idea that has been accepted by many members of Congress; that the United States has no legal obligation to pay its U.N. debts. Last fall the Senate Foreign Relations Committee declared that the U.N. Charter "in no way creates a 'legal obligation' on the United States Congress to authorize and appropriate" the money to pay the dues. In justification, the committee wrote: "The United States Constitution places the authority to tax United States citizens and to authorize and appropriate those funds solely in the power of the United States Congress."

These statements reflect a dangerous misunderstanding of the relation between international law and domestic law.

The U.N. Charter is a treaty that legally binds us as it does other U.N. members. Of course, a treaty cannot override the U.S. Constitution. Congress is free as a matter of domestic law to violate U.S. obligations under international law.

But these truisms do not alter the facts: If Congress exercises its constitutional right to violate a treaty, the United States still has a legal obligation to other countries; and our refusal to live up to our commitments can have legal consequences.

There is no international police force to enforce international law, but nations generally observe their treaty obligations because of their desire for reciprocity and fear of reprisal.

In 1961, when the Soviet Union refused to pay its assessments for the Congo and Middle East peacekeeping operations, Republican and Democratic members of Congress insisted that the U.S. go to the World Court to get an advisory opinion that the Soviet Union had a legal obligation to pay. The U.S. brief of the court, in whose preparation I had a part, stated: "The General Assembly's adoption and apportionment of the Organization's expenses create a binding legal obligation on the part of the member states to pay their assessed shares." In 1962, the court agreed with that proposition, and the General Assembly accepted it.

Article 19 of the U.N. Charter provides that a country in arrears of its assessments by two full years shall lose its vote in the General Assembly. The Assembly in an unfortunate failure of political will, failed to apply that sanction to the Soviet Union when it became applicable in 1964. Never the less, the Assembly recently has regularly applied the loss of vote sanction.

We are not just dealing here with legal technicalities, but realpolitik in the best sense of the word. If nations were free to treat their U.N. assessments as voluntary, the financial basis of the organization would quickly dissolve. Some would not mind it if the U.N.'s financial support unraveled. They do not seem fully to appreciate how important the U.N.'s work in conflict resolution, peacekeeping, sustainable development, humanitarian relief and human rights can be for the United States.

If the United States has no legal obligation to live up to its treaties and other international agreements, neither do other countries. Then, any country would be free to violate any legal commitment it has made to us, whether to open its domestic market, reduce its nuclear arsenal, provide basing for our ships and aircraft, extradite or prosecute terrorists or refrain from poisoning the global environment. Congress must focus on all of the consequences of its failure to honor our U.N. obligations.

THE UNITED STATES-PUERTO RICO
POLITICAL STATUS ACT—H.R. 856

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 1998

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 856, the United States-Puerto Rico Political Status Act. My decision to support this legislation is based on my experiences in Puerto Rico and as a Member representing the last state to be admitted to the union. Not only do I believe the referendum mandated under this legislation to be in accord with the will of the people of Puerto Rico—I also believe it is morally incumbent upon the Congress to move the self-determination process along. The United States cannot declare itself to be the capital of the free world when it denies the fundamental principles of democracy to a group of its citizens.

Let me be clear, this legislation is not a statehood bill. It allows Puerto Ricans the right to express their own views about their island's destiny through an initial non-binding referendum. The next step in the process would require the aspirations of the majority of the people of Puerto Rico to be reviewed and approved by the President of the United States and the Congress. A change in status to either statehood or independence would actually require three island-wide majority votes, three congressional approvals, and a prudent transition period of ten years. Certainly much more thought, review, and revision would follow an approval of this legislation by the House of Representatives. However, we can at least do our duty as Members of Congress by providing the people of Puerto Rico with the opportunity to undertake the process.

All the political conjecture about this legislation—"it creates an artificial majority in favor of statehood," or "new Members of Congress from Puerto Rico will join the Democratic Party," or "the definition of Commonwealth is unfair," or "Puerto Rico will be America's Quebec," are all just that—conjecture. No one really knows what will result from this legislation, no one can predict the future. The lesson learned when Alaska and Hawaii joined the union as the 49th and 50th states bears this out. The political soothsayers of the day determined that Alaska would have a Democratic delegation and Hawaii would be Republican. As we all know, today the exact opposite is true. We cannot determine the future of Puerto Rico by voting for H.R. 856. However, we can stop the conjecture and begin the work it will take to give Puerto Ricans the ability to determine their own future.

I would also like to address the question of English as the official language. As a legislator who supported the inclusion of Hawaiian and English as official languages of the State of Hawaii, I am proud to say that the recognition of both languages has been a benefit to our islands, not a deficiency. Children who attend Hawaiian immersion schools actually score higher in English and other academic disciplines than their classmates who do not have the reference point of a second language. By encouraging the study and knowledge of more than one language, the children discover a deeper meaning to their studies. They have a cultural reference point that chil-

dren without the knowledge of their native language lack.

Bilingualism is an asset—let us continue to encourage it in Hawaii and also Puerto Rico. A rich and unique cultural history should not divide Puerto Rico from the rest of the United States. A rich and unique cultural history defines who Puerto Ricans are today. Let us pass H.R. 856 and allow Puerto Ricans to define who they are and where they want to be in the future.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 1998

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, there is one more day left before this House debates campaign finance reform. This is our opportunity to reform the broken political process. Unfortunately, this opportunity is being wasted because the leadership of the House has chosen to submit a bill, H.R. 3485, that stands no chance of passing. There are a wide variety of good bills pending in this body that provide real options for fixing our broken system, the leadership should allow the members an opportunity to consider those bills.

Regardless of where each member of Congress stands on the issue of campaign finance reform we all share one goal, promoting citizen involvement in the electoral process. The bill we will vote on tomorrow actually restricts citizen involvement by amending the Motor Voter Act and adding burdensome rules to verify citizenship among voters. These provisions will result in a chilling effect on voting. We need to do more to encourage voter participation, rather than discouraging it.

Mr. Speaker, the solution to this dilemma is simple, allow an open rule that gives every campaign finance proposal, including the Bipartisan Freshman Integrity Act, a vote on the floor of the House of Representatives.

THE DRIVER RECORD INFORMATION
VERIFICATION SYSTEM
ACT—THE DRIVERS ACT

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 1998

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, this morning, with my colleagues CONNIE MORELLA, ZOE LOFGREN, HENRY WAXMAN, NICK LAMPSON, and NITA LOWEY, we are introducing the Driver Record Information Verification System Act or DRIVERS Act for short.

This legislation is being introduced in response to the tragic and senseless death of a local and promising young student Benjamin Cooper. Last summer, a commercial truck driver with a lengthy record of driving violations, at least 22 in the past year and at least 31 over the past ten years, was permitted to get behind the wheel and continue to drive. On August 12th, the truck driver ran a red light, overturned and crashed into the car driven by Ben Cooper.

The Washington Post in a September 3rd editorial correctly asked, "What Kept Him (this

truck driver) on the Road?" My own involvement on this issue began on August 25th, when I received a letter from one of Ben's classmates, Lester Feder who asked me to help develop a national database to ensure that drivers with a history of reckless behavior and numerous driving violations cannot obtain a new license. I very much appreciated Mr. Feder's letter and his efforts to add meaning to Ben Cooper's death by working to prevent a similar tragedy from ever occurring again.

As I looked into the tragic circumstances in more detail, I was shocked to learn how easily someone can exploit loopholes in the current driver registration system to obtain a new, clean license that can effectively wipe out any past driving violations. This appears to be what may have occurred with the driver of the truck who killed Ben Cooper. The most significant problem with the present system is that there are fifty different systems and databases for personal driver licenses, one for each state, and one incomplete national system for commercial driver licenses.

Unfortunately, these separate systems are often incompatible and cannot communicate with each other, requiring records to be updated manually. Moreover, not all states are doing a good job at coordinating and sharing information on bad drivers. Courts and law enforcement officers routinely lack information on a past driver's record prior to sentencing someone with a reckless or DWI (driving while intoxicated) charge. And, in turn, they lack a user-friendly system for transmitting their convictions to all fifty states.

Only five states operate a database that can be shared electronically with other states. Forty five states transmit update information to other states by paper. Needless to say coordination among the states on current driver record information is sporadic and inefficient. Records are often incomplete and not updated on a timely basis.

Anyone motivated to hide their past record of violations can obtain a new license in a different state and obtain a clean driving record. To make matters worse, the commercial driver license information system, which was designed to establish a national database on commercial drivers only covers a small portion of the total driving population. Advancements in information management technologies, however, offers the promise of a simple easy to manage, real-time national database that can retrieve, update and manage a national database on the nation's 200 million licensed drivers.

Only with a national database that includes both personal and commercial driver license information can we effectively thwart those who seek to hide their past records. Permitting this new system to use social security numbers, something now permitted with the commercial drivers' license system, will also make it more difficult to alter one's name or identity. The ease and potential cost savings of a national system offers the promise that all states will seek voluntarily to join the national system.

Before we reach that stage, however, we must test its feasibility of the new system. The legislation we are introducing today, takes this first step by authorizing \$5 million for the U.S. Department of Transportation to work with several states to develop this national database. Once the bugs in the new system are resolved, and I believe they can be, we can

offer all states a new cost-efficient and comprehensive system they will all want to join.

The legislation we are introducing today is not a panacea. It is, however, a step in the right direction.

IN HONOR OF JASON DAVID
SLOWBE ON HIS ATTAINMENT OF
EAGLE SCOUT

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 1998

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Jason David Slowbe of Strongsville, Ohio, who will be honored on March 22, 1998 for his attainment of Eagle Scout.

The attainment of Eagle Scout is a high and rare honor requiring years of dedication of self-improvement, hard work and the community. Each Eagle Scout must earn 21 merit badges, twelve of which are required, including badges in: lifesaving; first aid; citizenship in the community; citizenship in the nation; citizenship in the world; personal management of time and money; family life; environmental science; and camping.

In addition to acquiring and proving proficiency in those and other skills, an Eagle Scout must hold leadership positions within the troop where he learns to earn the respect and hear the criticism of those he leads.

The Eagle Scout must live by the Scouting Law, which holds that he must be: trustworthy, loyal, brave, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, clean, and reverent.

And the Eagle Scout must complete an Eagle Project, which he must plan, finance and evaluate on his own. It is no wonder that only two percent of all boys entering scouting achieve this rank.

My fellow colleagues, let us recognize and praise Jason for this achievement.

TRIBUTE TO REP. JIM HOWARD

HON. THOMAS J. MANTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 1998

Mr. MANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to former Representative James J. Howard on this the 10th Anniversary of his passing. First elected to Congress in 1964 and serving until his death in 1988, Congressman Howard served longer than any other Representative in the history of the Third Congressional District of New Jersey.

As the first representative from New Jersey to serve as chairman of the House Public Works and Transportation Committee, Representative Howard was responsible for passage of important legislation such as the 55-mile-per-hour national speed limit which was the first legislation to focus attention on the relationship between speed and safety. In addition, his anti-drunk driving and 21-year old minimum drinking age laws have prevented the deaths of many young motorists and innocent victims around the country.

Out of deep concern for the shore district he represented, Representative Howard championed major environmental legislation

throughout his tenure in Congress. Among the bills he sponsored were the 1987 Clean Water Act, the Superfund Act of 1986 which limited the discharge of raw sewage by New York City and banned new sludge dumping in the New York Bight, the Plastic Pollution and Research Act of 1987 and the Groundwater Protection Act of 1987.

He was also responsible for passage of the Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1982, which increased the Federal gas tax by five cents a gallon to greatly expand the nation's highway program, as well as numerous other pieces of legislation which greatly improved our nation's transportation system.

Mr. Speaker, Representative Howard truly demonstrated loyalty to his community and country throughout his lifetime of service. I know my colleagues join me in paying tribute to this fine man on the 10th Anniversary of his passing.

HOME OF THE HEROES
CELEBRATION

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 1998

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, please include the following editorial in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

[From the Chieftain, Pueblo, CO, Mar. 25, 1998]

HOME OF HEROES, TRULY

Since the beginning of World War II, about 30 million Americans have served in this nation's armed forces.

Of all of those people, only a small number have been awarded the Medal of Honor. And of that number, more than half were awarded it posthumously, meaning even fewer have received the nation's highest honor while alive.

Now the astounding part. Four of the living recipients grew up and attended schools in Pueblo.

And two of them attended the same high school. Central. Pueblo is the only city in the nation to be the home of four Medal of Honor recipients, and Central is the only high school to claim two.

William Crawford, now of Palmer Lake, and Carl Sitter of Richmond, VA. attended Central High. Jerry Murphy of Albuquerque attended Pueblo Catholic High school, and Drew Dix of Pueblo and Fairbanks, Alaska, attended Centennial High School.

A week ago, as a heavy spring storm raced through Pueblo, the four recipients attended the unveiling at the Pueblo Convention Center of the Home of Heroes display honoring these four special men.

The display features a uniform from each of the four, plus replicas of their medals and blowups of Associated Press news photos taken about the same time in the same area where the Puebloans earned their honors. Press a button and an electronic recording details each man's heroism.

Their fellow Puebloans showed the depth of their respect when about 200 braved the storm to attend the ceremonies. The gentlemen were obviously touched by the outpouring of respect and honor they received while here.

Now Pueblo is urging the Medal of Honor Society to hold its annual meeting here in 2000. That is when a statue honoring Pueblo's four recipients specifically and all Medal recipients in general is to be dedicated.

The project was organized by our publisher, Robert H. Rawlings, and is being supported by foundations and individuals from throughout the state.

Two Puebloans were surprised by the Medal of Honor Society, Doug Sterner, who along with his wife Pam began the Home of Heroes celebrations and who designed the concept behind the Home of Heroes diorama, was given the Society's prestigious distinguished Service Award. He accepted the award on behalf of his entire family.

This week Mr. Sterner was both proud of the honor and modest. As he put it to us, "I feel this honor goes to all of Pueblo. Pueblo has been so supportive" of the Home of Heroes program.

Yes, Pueblo truly is the Home of Heroes. We are all mightily proud of them and appreciate the "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty" which earned them the Medal of Honor—and their nation's undying gratitude.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 1998

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I was traveling with the President in Africa yesterday, March 24, 1998, and was unable to vote. I would have voted in favor of approving the journal (Rollcall No. 64). I would have voted in favor of H.R. 3211 (Rollcall No. 65). I would have voted in favor of H.R. 3412 (Rollcall No. 66). I would have voted in favor of H.R. 3096 (Rollcall No. 67).

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 1998

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce concurrent resolution No. _____ to encourage the use of federally-supported research findings surrounding the impact of untreated sleep disorders and sleep deprivation on the nation's health, safety and economy.

Studies show that Americans are chronically sleep deprived. According to a report by the National Commission on Sleep Disorders Research, approximately 40 million Americans suffer from some 80 identified sleep disorders and millions more intermittent sleep problems linked to depression, stress, pain, and other ailments. According to the National Sleep Foundation, two-thirds of adult Americans get far less sleep than the eight hours they need to maintain proper alertness during the day due partially to demanding lifestyles.

The pervasive sleep deprivation is taking a toll on the nation's health and productivity as sleepiness affects vigilance, mood, alertness, motor skills, and the memory of people in both the home and the workplace. Fatigue all too often has deadly consequences, causing at least \$100,000 police-reported crashes on our nation's highways every year and contributing to other transportation and industrial disasters. Although, fatigue and sleep deprivation is estimated to cost Americans \$100 billion each

year. The National Sleep Foundation's recent poll found that 57% of Americans have driven when drowsy during the past year. 23% of adults have actually fallen asleep at the wheel in the past year. Obviously, sleep deprivation is a major concern in our homes, our work places and on our highways.

To address these serious concerns, the National Sleep Foundation, a variety of organizations, federal agencies and companies have initiated a program called National Sleep Awareness Week during March 30–April 5 to raise awareness of the importance of good sleep and the consequences of insufficient sleep in the home, workplace and on the highway. I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting their efforts and to work toward ensuring that proper attention is given to chronic sleep deprivation and fatigue by policy makers, medical care practitioners, researchers, and educators.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 1998

Ms. HOOLEY. Mr. Speaker, yesterday evening when the House was voting I missed rollcall votes number 64, 65, 66 and 67 because my flight to Washington from Oregon was cancelled. I respectfully request that the record reflect that had I been present, I would have voted yes on 64, yes on 65, yes on 66 and yes on 67.

RECOGNITION OF DR. HUGH O. LABOUNTY

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 1998

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize an outstanding volunteer and citizen from the 48th Congressional District. Dr. Hugh O. LaBounty came to my district in his retirement as President of the California State Polytechnic University, Pomona—an institution he led with distinction for 13 years. However, Dr. LaBounty, who is an historian by training, and has served as a consultant to the Government of South Korea, to the United Arab Emirates, to the Tanzanian National Ministry of Education, and the Ministry of Education of Athens, Greece, does not understand the word “retirement.”

Since Dr. LaBounty “retired” to Oceanside in 1991, he has served the brand new California State University established in our backyard of San Marcos. His appointment as Senior University Consultant was established by Founding CSUSM President Bill W. Stacy with “compensation of one dollar per year and other valuable considerations.” Dr. LaBounty proceeded to earn his compensation and, more importantly, the gratitude of a struggling new campus. Of note was his service in assisting the campus prepared for its first accreditation by establishing an external assessment team visit, thus paving the way for a successful review. Subsequently, Dr. LaBounty lent his expertise toward the estab-

lishment of its Foundation. Not content to merely help manage the funds of the Foundation, Dr. LaBounty then assisted the campus in planning a professional fundraising program, and continued by raising funds himself.

Lest you think his contributions were primarily academic or business in their focus, I will also mention that Dr. LaBounty used his personnel connections with actor Raymond Burr and the powers of his persuasion to bring a collection of Hans Erni's artwork to the campus for permanent display. It is the first art collection housed at the campus. For the sake of the residents of the 48th District, we hope it is not the last.

Mr. Speaker, as you can see, Dr. LaBounty has not yet understood retirement as “withdrawing from the business or public life” as my dictionary defines it. For this the educational community of CSU San Marcos and the civic community of the 48th District are grateful.

A GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY IN RECOGNITION OF GOLDEN EFFORTS

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 1998

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt as to the value of our many fine veterans organizations. The work that these groups do for their members and their communities is very often supplemented by auxiliaries. I am proud to tell our colleagues that on April 2, Amvets Ladies Auxiliary #22 of Bay City, Michigan, will be celebrating its 50th anniversary.

They began with 10 members and have grown to nearly 75, who carry on a half century of dedication and service in honor of their motto: “We waited together. Now let's work together.” Members of the auxiliary have certainly waited together over the years. Whether it was during the time of World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm, or any other military activity, the members of the Amvets Ladies Auxiliary #22 were always ready to lend a hand.

The members of the Auxiliary worked from the very beginning to raise funds to support community service, child welfare, servicemen, Americanism, hospital and scholarship projects. They held Tupperware and Stanley parties, made and sold candy, and sold white clovers for the benefit of others.

Whether it was food baskets at Thanksgiving and Christmas, or gifts for servicemen during Vietnam, or the need for volunteers and resources for the Saginaw VA Hospital, or yellow house ribbons during Desert Storm, the auxiliary was there. The Lutheran Orphanage, the Women's Crisis Center, and school children who have participated in the Americanism contest, have all benefited from the generous efforts of the Auxiliary. And the Amvets Ladies Auxiliary #22 is rightly proud of the fact that they have been a working partner with Amvets Post #22 in hosting state conventions, a state bowling tournament, a fall conference, and a driver's excellence program.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and all our colleagues to join me in congratulating all of the members of the Amvets Ladies Auxiliary #22, and its officers, Patricia Michalski, President; Kathy Hair, 1st Vice President; Diane Woods,

2nd Vice President; Linda Marshall, Secretary; Karen Kelly-Jamrog, Treasurer; Katherine Avery, Chaplain; Patricia Jane, Sergeant at Arms; Phyllis Frenzke, Americanism Chairperson; Linda Marshall, Scholarship Chairperson; Marcella Schmidt, Hospital Chairperson; and Anne Schmidt, Parliamentarian. May they be granted their wish of reaching joyous 75th and 100th anniversaries in the years ahead.

HONORING MARSHALL V. MILLER

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 1998

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor today to rise and salute a recipient of Vice President GORE's Hammer Award, Mr. Marshall V. Miller, Esquire, of Miller and Company in Missouri's 5th Congressional District for his outstanding contributions to improving the trade compliance process on international trade issues. The reforms which Mr. Miller has achieved in the U.S. Custom Services trade compliance process has resulted in the Department's improvement in service to American businesses and their customers.

Miller and Company is receiving special recognition as a team that has significantly contributed in supporting the President's National Performance Review Principles. This emphasis on client services directly reflects the performance principles. Through the reinventing government process, Marshall Miller has participated as a member of the Partnership and Compliance Assessment Team which has identified, prioritized, and created action plans for removing barriers, enhancing maximum compliance, and reducing costs to the trade industry and the customs service.

Receiving the Hammer Award is a special recognition and honor which Miller and Company and its primary principal, Marshall Miller, have earned. Those that are fortunate enough to know Mr. Miller are aware of his energy and quest for efficiency. Mr. Speaker, I applaud my constituent, Marshall V. Miller, on receiving the Vice President's 1998 Hammer Award.

A TRIBUTE TO HELEN HILTON RAISER

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 1998

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Helen Hilton Raiser who is being honored by the Volunteer Center of San Mateo County, California at the Eleventh Annual Very Important Volunteer Dinner.

Helen Raiser is an active community volunteer who gives generously of her time and talents to a wide variety of organizations and causes. She has been a trailblazer in the handgun control movement so that we will have safer communities. She has worked extensively with young people, especially as an enthusiastic volunteer in Scouting. She has been a tenacious champion of accessible housing. She has been a leader in providing high quality retirement housing and care for

our community's seniors through the construction, development, and property management business she and her late husband John Raiser built during their 37 year marriage. She has been a dedicated board member of numerous non-profit organizations, and a talented chair of many fund-raising events. This year Helen Raiser chairs the Very Important Volunteer Dinner for the Volunteer Center of San Mateo County and has chosen "The Love of Reading" as the theme. She understands the critical role reading plays in people's lives, especially in the lives of children.

Since coming to the San Francisco Bay Area in 1960 from British Columbia, Helen Raiser has dedicated herself to bettering her community for everyone. Mr. Speaker, Helen Hilton Raiser is an outstanding citizen and I salute her for her remarkable contributions and commitment to our community. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and congratulating her on being honored as the Volunteer Center of San Mateo County's Very Important Volunteer.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION

HON. BILL ARCHER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 1998

Mr. ARCHER. Mr. Speaker, Social Security represents the single most commitment to the elderly and the disabled that has been made by our society. It is a great testament to our nation's dedication to assuring a floor of security for workers and their dependents.

Yet, due in part to the aging of baby boomers, this vital program will be unable to fully honor its benefit commitments as of the year 2029. Forecasts of future Social Security insolvency, and suggested remedies, are being discussed more and more in the media and at kitchen tables all across the country. Americans want to learn more and share their views with their elected officials.

We need to take a long, hard, thorough look at Social Security, and the sooner we do so, the sooner we will be able to make decisions that will not be precipitous—but that can be developed in prudent and constructive ways. We must take advantage of a timely and rare opportunity, this era of budget surpluses, to find a solution which treats causes, not symptoms. We must be open to fully explore structural changes which may be critical to the long-term stability of the system, as well as to our economy.

We are obligated to protect Social Security and to stabilize it, not just for the near-term, but for the long run. This complex program, which affects the lives of so many Americans in unique and different ways, needs to be closely scrutinized by an independent panel of experts, like the one on which I served under Ronald Reagan in 1982.

Along with Mr. Kasich—Chairman of the Committee on Budget and Mr. Bunning—Chairman of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Social Security, I am introducing legislation which includes the creation of a Bipartisan Panel to Design Long-Range Social Security Reform.

One thing for certain in our life is change. I used to think, growing up, that you ought to be able to have everything in one little niche and

you could come back year after year and it would always be there. I have found that isn't the way life is. Social Security has evolved and adapted to change over the years since it was created in 1935. We need to take the time starting now, to carefully deliberate on proposed solutions. We must not leave any stone unturned. And no matter what we do, we have got to ensure that the solutions are inter-generationally fair. I urge my colleagues to join me as cosponsors of this legislation.

IN MEMORY OF JEAN KLETZKY

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 1998

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the late Jewish community leader, Jean Kletzky. Jean Kletzky was known throughout the community as a woman who truly loved her community and made a lifelong commitment to community service. When she retired to Florida in 1979 from New Jersey, she became immediately active in supporting humanitarian causes in South Florida.

Jean Kletzky will be remembered as a listener, a teacher, and a person whose understanding of people and things is admired. Her companion of 18 years, Daniel D. Cantor, regarded her as an intelligent, alert, and strong woman who was responsible for helping fulfill his aspirations and dreams. Together they built the Daniel D. Cantor Senior Center in Sunrise, Florida. The center provides senior citizens more than 65 daily functions including a food service, an Alzheimer division, an elderly division, a wandering garden, support networks, and myriad cultural activities. The belief behind the center is that life begins at 65 and people who participate at the center realize that being elderly does not make them old. The Daniel D. Cantor Senior Center offers people a place that gives them life, happiness, and more hope than they would normally have outside the center.

Among her many philanthropic accomplishments, Jean Kletzky served as an administrative assistant to the director of the Retired Teacher's Union of Florida for ten years. She also shared her wonderful sense of style and interior decorating with her friends and family to help them create beautiful homes. And, she was responsible for successfully directing the fund-raising campaign for the construction of the Daniel D. Cantor Senior Center.

Jean Kletzky was a member of the National Women's League for Israel, Jewish Adoption and Foster Care Options (JAFCO), City of Hope, National Council of Jewish Women, Women's Division of the Jewish Federation of Broward County, and was an Endowed Lion through the Jewish Community Foundation of the Jewish Federation of Broward County.

The people of Broward County will sorely miss Jean Kletzky. Throughout her life those who knew her regarded her as a driven leader, a humanitarian, a friend, a wonderful bridge player, a mother, and a wife. Now, she is remembered as a heroine to the residents of South Florida.

OPPOSING H.R. 3310 IN ITS CURRENT FORM

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 1998

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I understand that under House rules it is too late to withdraw as a cosponsor of H.R. 3310, the Small Business Paperwork Reduction Act Amendments of 1998, which is to be considered by the House tomorrow. However, new information has come to light about H.R. 3310, which compels me to declare that I can no longer support the legislation as it is drafted.

I share with many of my colleagues the desire to streamline unnecessary and onerous regulatory requirements. Small businesses should not be overburdened by government regulations in this highly competitive economy. It is with this goal that I signed onto H.R. 3310. Unfortunately, I have learned that this bill will have unintended consequences that go far beyond paperwork reduction.

H.R. 3310 throws out the wheat and the chaff. Besides addressing technical violations of reporting requirements, it also creates disincentives to report information vital to public health, workers safety, the environment, and to the smooth running of our economic markets. To cite just one example, this bill creates disincentives for businesses to file reports with the Food and Drug Administration about the adverse affects of new drugs and products.

I join the Administration, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and numerous labor and environmental groups in opposing H.R. 3310 in its current form.

TROPICAL FOREST CONSERVATION ACT OF 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2870) to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to facilitate protection of tropical forests through debt reduction with developing countries with tropical forests:

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Chairman, today the House passed H.R. 2870, the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998. Building on President Bush's Enterprise for the Americas Initiative, this legislation will help protect globally outstanding tropical forests around the world in a fiscally responsible manner. This legislation is the result of a lot of hard work by many organizations and people. I would like to take a minute to thank them.

I have already talked about the committee leadership—in particular, Chairman GILMAN, Mr. HAMILTON and Mr. BEREUTER. I would also like to thank committee staff, particularly Mark Kirk, Elana Broitman, Maria Pica and Dan Parks.

The environmental community has spent many hours helping us to develop this legislation over the past two years and to generate

bipartisan support for the bill. Special thanks goes to the leadership and staff of Conservation International, The Nature Conservancy and the World Wildlife Fund, particularly Peter Seligmann, Russ Mittermeier, Ian Bowles, Glenn Prickett and Will Singleton from CI; John Sawhill, Tia Nelson, Randall Curtis and Bill Millan from TNC; and Kathryn Fuller, Jamie Resor and Estrelitta Fitzhugh from the World Wildlife Fund. Special thanks goes to the Ohio Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, especially Bud Talbott, Denise King and Jan van der Vort Portman, for their consistent efforts to build support for the bill.

I would also like to thank officials in the Treasury Department—particularly the Office of International Development, Debt and Environmental Policy, including Bill Schuerch and Ken Luden, and the Office of International Debt Policy, including Mary Chaves and Max Hudgins—for the help they gave us in making sure the final product reflected the best practices. Their experience with the Enterprise for the Americas Initiative gave us a practical context within which to work.

And finally, I would like to thank my Chief of Staff, John Bridgeland, who coordinated this entire effort, my legislative staff, Tim Miller and Seth Webb, Mr. Kasich's staff, Wayne Struble and Chris Kearney, Mark Synnes from the Legislative Counsel's office, and Susan Fletcher, Betsy Cody and Pat Wertman from the Congressional Research Service, for all of their hard work on this initiative.

I look forward to working with Senators LUGAR, BIDEN, CHAFFEE and LEAHY as this legislation proceeds through the Senate.

CARLSON COMPANIES A PRIVATE COMPANY WITH A PUBLIC CONSCIENCE

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 1998

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, on March 23, 4,500 individuals recognized the outstanding 60 year contribution of a leader in the Minnesota and American business community, who transformed the hospitality industry from a small local operation to a spectacular international enterprise. More importantly, this distinguished party will celebrate the contribution of an individual who has been a leader in his community and has created an example of community commitment that could well be followed by many American businesses. This special event will honor the anniversary of Carlson Companies and its founder Curt Carlson.

Some of my colleagues may well know the history of Carlson Companies and Curt Carlson. With a \$55 loan, Curt began his business career by starting a trading stamp company, Gold Bond Stamps. While trading stamps, a merchandise enhancement product, had already been in use, it was Curt Carlson and his growing company that expanded their use to include grocery stores, gas stations and other independent merchants and made collecting trading stamps a household occupation.

From that base, Curt Carlson entered the hospitality industry with the acquisition of the Radisson Hotel—now a proud international name in quality hospitality around the globe.

Curt Carlson diversified his corporation and expanded into other areas such as creative restaurants with entertainment themes. Now, after over 60 years in the business, Carlson Companies currently comprise over 100 corporations world wide and the company's brands employ 147,000 people in more than 140 countries. In 1997, Carlson Company's brands generated \$20 billion in revenue system wide.

The success of Carlson Companies as measured by its size, the number of employees, or profit is impressive. However, a true measure of Curt Carlson and Carlson Companies should also be their commitment to the local community. This commitment is reflected in the motto of Carlson Companies—"Private Companies with a Public Conscience." It was Curt Carlson and other Minnesota business leaders who established the Minnesota Keystone Club, pledging to give five percent of their earnings to non-profits. These efforts have greatly added to the quality of life and caring in their communities and throughout Minnesota. This commitment has become the nationwide standard.

While Carlson Companies have been active throughout our community. Curt Carlson has been a strong supporter and advocate for public higher education. The University of Minnesota, through the help of Curt Carlson has established the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs. This renown center of political science, identified with Minnesota's beloved Senator and a personal friend of Curt, features the "Carlson Lecture Series" which brings influential national and international leaders to the University to speak to the students and the general public. In addition, personal gifts from Curt Carlson has allowed the University of Minnesota to embark on "The Minnesota Campaign" with the goal of making the University of Minnesota as one of the top 5 public universities in the nation and to build a new, modern Carlson School of Management facility.

Mr. Speaker, in this time of faceless conglomerates and merger mania among corporate giants, it is a pleasure to recognize the contributions of Carlson Companies. The 60 year record of success is an appropriate tribute to Carlson Companies leader, Curt Carlson. Curt Carlson has shaped the culture and business practices of our great state of Minnesota. His commitment has made a real difference for today and certainly for the future of Minnesota and our nation. Curt Carlson's leadership and commitment to his community provides an example to emulate.

TRIBUTE TO BILL SCOTT

HON. J.D. HAYWORTH

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 1998

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mr. Bill Scott, an outstanding leader in the agricultural community in Arizona and President of the Family Farm Alliance, a grassroots organization serving irrigated agriculture throughout the West. After serving the Alliance diligently and responsibly for the past eight years, Mr. Scott is stepping down from the presidency. I want to take this occasion to honor him for his long service to his fellow farmers and ranchers.

Bill has been involved with agriculture his entire life. He farms in the Maricopa Stanfield area of Arizona and is in partnership with his two sons, Colin and Craig, under the name of Marathon Farming Company, which includes El Dorado Ranches CJ & L Farms and MFC Farms. These farms encompass approximately 6,000 acres of planted cotton, wheat, and alfalfa.

Under Bill's leadership, the Family Farm Alliance was founded eight years ago by farmers from California and Arizona who needed a coordinated way to meet directly with legislators and their staff in Washington, D.C. on federal water policy issues. At its inception, the Alliance was a handful of individuals representing only two western states with a determined purpose. Bill has been an instrumental part of the Alliance's growth from a small group to the large and well respected organization that it is today. The Alliance now has members representing 13 western states.

In addition to serving as the President of the Alliance, Bill also is the Director of the Maricopa Flood Control District. In the past he has served as the head of the Maricopa Stanfield Irrigation District, Cotton Incorporated, the Board of Arizona Cotton Growers Association, and many other organizations.

Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay tribute to Mr. Bill Scott. His service to the Family Farm Alliance, the State of Arizona and western agriculture is greatly appreciated. I wish him all the best.

HONORING FILIPINA S. MACAHILIG

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 1998

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to note the passing of a woman whose loving care for her family and community spanned half the world, for over half a century.

Filipina S. Macahilig began life in Manila, graduating from the University of the Philippines before working as a nurse through World War II. The children at the schools on Panay Island were comforted by her tender and competent care.

At war's end, Ms. Macahilig moved to the United States, first to San Francisco and then to the Monterey Peninsula, where she continued to care for the ill and infirm. She and her beloved husband Edel raised her large family: four sons, Rene, Felicisimo, Requirio and Edilberto, and four daughters, Alice, Bernadette, Suzanne and Teresita, all of whom graduated with highest honors and became outstanding members of their communities. Her warmth extended outwards into the community through her service as a longtime member and officer of the Filipino Community Organization of the Monterey Peninsula. She replenished her spirit at the Carmel Mission Basilica where she was a faithful parishioner. She cared for her fourteen grandchildren and five great-grandchildren with her own special kind of gentle compassion, providing a model of humanity that they will carry with them always.

Her death at the age of 87 was a loss, but her generous spirit will continue to warm and nurture the community through the memories she has left with us.

FAMILY FARM SAFETY NET ACT
OF 1998**HON. RICHARD A. GEPHARDT**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 1998

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, today my colleagues LEONARD BOSWELL, EVA CLAYTON, JIM CLYBURN, LANE EVANS, DAVID MINGE, COLLIN PETERSON, EARL POMEROY, GLENN POSHARD, DEBBIE STABENOW and I are introducing legislation to restore the farm safety net shredded by the Republicans in the 1996 Farm Bill. House Republicans want to end the farmer safety net. Democrats want to mend it.

Over the past two years, America's farmers have watched large harvests and the Asian crisis push down grain prices as much as 40 percent. University of Missouri economists tell us that, as prices continue to fall, real net farm income could fall more than 8 percent this year. Producers are concerned. First, that the existing safety net is inadequate. Second, that even these protections, inadequate as they are, are scheduled to be phased out in a few short years.

This bill restores a sensible safety net by giving farmers a better chance to market their grain for a fair price. This bill utilizes a market-oriented tool farmers know well: the marketing loan. Marketing loans have generally provided a safety net ensuring producers 85 percent of a commodity's 5-year average price. The 1996 bill slashed the safety net by cutting these rates sharply. Our bill will establish loan rates equal to 85 percent of historic price levels—providing more income stability. Our bill boosts loan rates. Corn and soybeans up \$.30 per bushel. Wheat up \$.59 per bushel. Cotton up \$.04 per pound.

We must take other steps to repair the safety net as well. We need an emergency price floor for dairy farmers in all regions of the country. We also need Congresswoman CLAYTON's bill to ensure hard-working farmers access to Federal credit cut off by the Republicans.

We must also extend the ethanol program. Tomorrow the Ways and Means Committee will act on the highway bill. We call upon the Republican Chairman to extend the ethanol program. Ethanol provides us clean energy—and strengthens American agriculture. The ethanol program strengthens corn prices, boosting the annual income of a typical Missouri grain farm by \$15,000 to \$30,000.

Last year, key Republicans opposed the ethanol program, and Congress failed to renew the program. This halted construction of a dozen ethanol plants—\$700 million in investment—in rural America, costing our rural communities good-paying jobs.

Congress can do better. So we are renewing our call to the Republicans: Stop the attack on America's farmers. Let's restore the ethanol credit. Let's stand together for opportunity for Rural America.

TRIBUTE TO TOM SZELENYI

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 1998

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to my dear

friend and advisor Tom Szelenyi of Millbrae, California. This week he marks his 70th birthday, and his seven decades provide lessons from which all of us can learn—worthy examples about perseverance and overcoming obstacles to create a life distinguished by a commitment to his family and his community.

Mr. Speaker, Tom Szelenyi's long and unpredictable journey began on March 28, 1928, in Budapest, Hungary. The only child of a middle-class Jewish family, his early years were happy ones, marked by close friends and loving parents. His father was a traveling salesman who was away from home for a portion of every week. During this time Tom remained with his mother and freely engaged in typical childhood pranks without fear of punishment—until his father's return at the weekend.

The happy circumstances of Tom's early life were abruptly shattered on March 19, 1944, when the German Army seized control of Hungary. The occupation had swift and bloody consequences for the Hungarian Jewish population. Tom, only sixteen years old at the time, suffered mightily. Shortly after the German occupation, Nazi storm troopers arrested Tom's father and sent him to a forced labor camp. He never returned. He was murdered by a young German soldier for not working fast enough.

Tom and his mother found temporary refuge in one of the "safe houses" that Swedish diplomat and humanitarian Raoul Wallenberg designated as "Swedish Legation Property" throughout Budapest. Wallenberg's remarkable courage saved the lives of as many as 100,000 Hungarian Jews—including myself and my wife, Annette, as well as Tom Szelenyi and his mother. Through Wallenberg's efforts, Tom Szelenyi survived through the summer months, the time when the bulk of the Hungarian Jewish population was deported to Auschwitz and other Nazi death camps.

Tom's sanctuary was short-lived, however. He was captured by the Germans in the fall of 1944 and, with a group of Hungarian Jewish men, was forced to undertake a "death march" of exhaustion and starvation from Budapest to the Austrian border. From there, Tom was shipped to the concentration camp at Buchenwald, Germany, where he arrived in November 1944.

Tom endured seven months at Buchenwald—seven months of hunger, agonizing work details, and the ubiquitous fear of death. At the end of the war, with the American Army driving closer and closer to the center of the Third Reich, he and other surviving inmates were forced to march from Buchenwald to the concentration camp at Theresienstadt in Czechoslovakia. Most of Tom's fellow prisoners succumbed during this last Nazi torment, victims of starvation, exhaustion, and cold-blooded murder. Throughout this agonizing trial, as with his many previous struggles, Tom endured, driven by the hope that he would live to create a better life for himself and his family.

The German war machine collapsed in May 1945, and Tom Szelenyi was liberated from Theresienstadt that same month. Still only a seventeen year-old boy, he then proceeded to make his way back across the war-ravaged continent to his home in Budapest. There he joyfully discovered that his mother had survived the war and had remarried.

At this time, it became evident to Tom that he had no future in Hungary. He realized that

the time had come to fulfill his lifelong dream of living in the United States. Tom initially spent time in Germany and Canada, but he finally arrived in New York City in 1952—penniless, but emboldened by a hunger to build a new life in America.

His early years in this country were not easy. The young, but strong-willed Tom Szelenyi worked at a number of different jobs—loading bales of hay onto ships, loading motion picture film cans onto trucks, and then working his way up to become a movie distributor for Warner Brothers.

In late 1956, Tom received a telephone call from the Red Cross informing him that his mother had escaped from Budapest in the wake of the Hungarian uprising and that she was on her way to New York City. When she arrived, he immediately decided to take her to live in California. He had been impressed by the mild climate—he visited the state once in January and did not need to wear an overcoat. He was also attracted by the great opportunities available on the West Coast.

In California, through hard work, Tom found great success in the air freight business. He recently retired after thirty successful years in that field. He has also applied his accumulated wisdom to making a difference in his adopted homeland, and he has advised and assisted me on some of the most important decisions that I have faced in my career in public service. For some time, Tom has been my representative to the San Mateo County Democratic Central Committee, and he has served as liaison with the small business community in my district.

As successful as his business career had been and as important as his contributions to the community have been, Tom Szelenyi's proudest accomplishment is his family. In early 1957, three months after moving to the Bay Area, he met Evelyn Feiler, a charming and brilliant woman, and they were married soon after. Tom and Evelyn have enjoyed forty wonderful years together. They are the parents of two fine sons, Mark and Bob. They also have two delightful grandsons, and Tom never misses their soccer and T-ball games.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Tom Szelenyi for the integrity and example of his life and for his service to our community as he celebrates his 70th birthday. I am proud to know Tom and to have him as my friend.

SCHOOL OVERCROWDING FORUM:
PROBLEMS & SOLUTIONS**HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 1998

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following testimony for today's CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

STATEMENT OF CARMEN CRUZ, 6TH GRADER,
LOARA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, ANAHEIM CITY
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Hello, my name is Carmen Cruz and school overcrowding is a problem at Loara School. That's why we have year-round school here. In my class, we move, which means we move around from room to room each month. Moving is no fun, yet it is useful because it fits in more kids at school. Some of my friends

in my room went to different schools last year but because their schools were crowded they had to come to Loara. They used to walk to their school but now they have to ride a bus to Loara. I would be really sad if I had to change schools because I would miss my friends. Before we had portables we had a bigger upper grade playground. That's one of the reasons why I don't like school overcrowding. Two other reasons are that the portables are small and there is no water inside.

At Loara there were too many students so we hired more teachers. We also had to let cars drive on the playground because there was no room for all the cars that brought kids to school. Now they're making a bigger parking lot and that means a smaller playground. It's good for the teachers and parents but not for the kids. We need funds to build more schools and they have to be close to where the kids live. One issue they're talking about in Anaheim is double sessions but that doesn't help my learning and other children's learning. My Motto about overcrowding is "More Schools Means More Space."

STATEMENT OF SUE PREUS, PARENT, ANAHEIM CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

My name is Susan Preus. I am a mom. I very actively participate in Anaheim City School District and PTA roles. For the District, I've served, or am serving, on the year round, curriculum selection, and double session committees. I recently received a second appointment to the School Board. I have held most school site PTA offices and currently am the president of the Anaheim Elementary School Council PTA. Overriding all this school involvement is my previous statement that I am a mom, first.

I have a son in ninth grade in the Anaheim High School District. His primary education was provided in Anaheim's elementary schools. My niece, for whom I provide care, is in second grade in the Anaheim Elementary District. School overcrowding has affected me and my family since my son was in first grade. I became very active in the District nine years ago as a participant in the first committee on year-round schools. My son attended one of the first six schools to change to a multi-track year-round schedule. Over the years, the District has placed more schools on this year-round calendar to the extent that all 22 schools are now on this schedule.

Although I personally like year-round for educational reasons, it does create some problems for families. One of the largest problems is that the high school district is on a traditional calendar. This means that if you have a junior high or high school student and an elementary student your children may not have any vacation time together. Child care can be difficult especially for single parent or dual-working parent households. Parents may be able to rely on high school students for child care in the summer, of course at the expense of the older child's "vacation." Such a resource is unavailable for the younger child's off track period during the traditional school year.

The community has responded slowly to the needs of children having vacation throughout the year. Children still get questioned, "Why aren't you in school?" if they are out and about during what is traditionally school time. When a child responds, "I'm off track", the questioner seldom understands what that means.

The typical summer program for children, such as scout, church, and sports camps, summer movie specials, city park and recreation activities, and even some library programs, have not accommodated the year-

round students. For example, a child on Track B, with no "summer" month of vacation, cannot participate in any camp. "Summer" reading programs are active only from June through August.

It is a constant struggle to maintain a sense of community within our own schools. Keeping everyone informed of events and activities is difficult since 25% of the school population is unavailable at any given time. The year round schedule essentially created four distinct school communities. In order to fairly reach all pupils, site staff and PTA must duplicate all programs: Open House, child services (dental and health check-ups), special assemblies, award ceremonies, PTA fund-raisers, etc. It is also difficult to reach everyone for the evening enhancement activities as Family Math night or parenting classes.

PTA Boards no longer have a break from their jobs. They must try to enlist volunteers from each track so that all four school communities are represented and to ensure continuity of programs throughout the year.

The year round calendar has enabled the District to house and educate 7,000 more students than its originally designed capacity. Projections are that pupil enrollment will increase by 1,000 per year for the next five years. Unless we obtain additional facilities we are rapidly approaching another major, more distressing, change to the school schedule—double sessions.

All the extracurricular programs that are already inadequate on a year round schedule are compounded with double sessions. Do we have soccer practice in the mornings? Will the piano teacher hold lessons at 8 p.m.? Will day care watch some children all morning? And will there be enough day care to accommodate the need? These are important concerns for people with moderate standards of living. The situation is worse for those who are not financially secure. How do we implement the breakfast program? Who watches the child when the adults are at work and the family can't afford a baby sitter? What happens to a neighborhood when half the children are "hanging out" all morning? What happens to the sense of community? The District would be burdened with a nightmarish bus schedule, complicated classroom and associated facility usage plans, and most likely an inadequate facilities maintenance program.

Most importantly, child safety is jeopardized by a double session schedule. Imagine a first grade student walking home in the dark during a peak street traffic period. There are many horrifying situations a child could get into, and I feel the cost of a worst case scenario would be too great.

This is why I have become active in ways I never thought possible. I would never have imagined nine years ago when I became involved in my local PTA that I would now be sitting here, testifying before Congress. However, now is the time for all voices of reason to be heard. Our individual and collective mistake would be to quietly accept double sessions rather than actively support measures such as HR2695 and Governor Wilson's state bond measure. In Anaheim, we know that we must also take action locally and not rely solely on state and federal funds. That is why we are working to pass a local school bond on April 14. The costs to taxpayers for these measures is small compared to the benefits gained by all of our children.

TESTIMONY OF MARY ALICE MADDEN, TEACHER, LATHROP INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL, SANTA ANA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

INTRODUCTION

It is indeed a privilege and an honor to appear before you today, and I thank you for

the opportunity to do so. I have taught for 27 years, the last 17 at Lathrop Intermediate School in Santa Ana, California. During that time I have seen many changes in our schools, not the least of which has been the continual growth in our enrollment, both at my school site and throughout our District.

RAMIFICATIONS OF ENROLLMENT GROWTH

Overcrowding has many obvious ramifications on the daily operation of a school. It also has other effects which may not be as obvious at first glance. I teach at an intermediate school serving more than 2100 students in grades six, seven, and eight. Our campus is seven and a half acres in size. This is well under the recommended size for an intermediate school (which is 20 acres) and well over the ideal enrollment. We are in our sixth year on a 60-20 four-track year-round schedule. This means that we normally have 1500 to 1600 students in session at any one time.

Increased enrollment has meant that we have added 7 portable classrooms to our campus. All students and teachers have classrooms in which to meet and we have many excellent programs in place. Year-round education has many advantages, and I am not implying that it is not a sound educational strategy. As we have grown, additional teachers have been added along with an additional counselor and administrator. We have also been awarded grants to provide additional supplies and staff development opportunities.

However, continual growth from an enrollment of 1300 to our current 2100 over the last 8 years has brought some less than ideal situations. Some of the conditions resulting from our crowding include the following:

(1) Teachers traveling from classroom to classroom each period. This is a burden for those teachers as they, in some cases, move equipment and materials five times a day. Other teachers change classrooms on a monthly basis, as staff and students leave for vacation or return from vacation.

(2) We lack the ability to offer intersession classes during student vacation time because we lack classrooms in which to offer these extended year programs.

(3) We have tried to maintain class size as low as possible, but some classes are larger than we would prefer. This limits the contact time between the teacher and each student during the school day.

(4) Our library is heavily used, but we cannot always accommodate all teachers who wish to use the facility with their classes.

(5) We have an excellent computer program, with three complete labs and additional computers in the library, and we offer access before and after school, but not all classes are able to use the labs as often as they would like because of sheer numbers of students. The computers certainly do not replace the teacher, but they provide opportunities to extend lessons. Most of our students come from homes in which there is no computer access.

(6) Increased pressure on physical education facilities, as bungalows have been added, thus encroaching on available play areas.

(7) More crowded teacher work areas, as we now have 90 teachers where we once had 60.

(8) Increased pressure on the use of facilities such as rest rooms for students and staff.

(9) Increased pressure on the use of food service facilities.

(10) More crowded storage areas, as we now have more books and supplies and need more areas to store these items.

We have many excellent programs for our students before, during, and after the school day. As a school and a District I feel we have

responded creatively and effectively to the challenges which have arisen as a result of continual growth. However, if we are talking about providing the best possible educational environment for our students, we are certainly talking about additional school construction and reduction in school enrollment so all students may have maximum access to all facilities and resources.

I thank you for your interest in, and support of, our educational programs, and I thank you for the opportunity to share some of our concerns.

TESTIMONY OF JUDITH MAGSAYSAY, PRINCIPAL, PÍO PICO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, SANTA ANA, CA

It is a privilege to meet with you this morning and to have this opportunity to share with you some of the challenging issues confronting just one of many overcrowded schools in Southern California. I am Judith Magsaysay, principal of Pío Pico Elementary School in the Santa Ana Unified School District.

Pío Pico is a year-round school located in central Santa Ana. The neighborhood surrounding the school is home to some 26,000 young people under the age of eighteen, making it the second densest neighborhood in the United States, in terms of youth population. There are six elementary schools, two intermediate schools and one high school all within walking distance of the Boys and Girls Club across the street from Pío Pico. Pío Pico has just under 900 students and backs up to the Lowell Elementary campus which services about 1,000 students. We are just three blocks north of Martin Elementary which also has about 1,000 students.

Due to overcrowding, we have had a "nomadic" history. Pío Pico opened in portables in July, 1991 on the Martin Elementary playground. At the time, Martin had 1,630 students and our new school was not scheduled to be constructed before 1994. Due to the need to better serve students in this crowded neighborhood, our Board of Education decided to open Pío Pico as a "school within a school." The following July, we moved into a portable school on the lot of our future school site. A year later, in 1993, to help downsize Lowell Elementary, which had swelled to over 1,300 students, we "annexed" another five portables on the Lowell campus which is adjacent to our lot. Finally, in December of 1995, we moved into our new building with 600 students.

Actually, all year-around schools have nomadic teachers. Usually, four teachers share three classrooms over the course of the school year. When one of the four goes off-cycle (on vacation), she must pack up all of her personal belongings and those of her students and store them. Where space permits, schools provide closets or cabinets on rollers. At Pío Pico and at other extremely cramped campuses this moving is exacerbated by the fact that we have so little storage space for books and materials for the on-cycle teachers and students, let alone enough storage for the off-cycle teachers' materials. Many of our teachers end up taking carloads and carloads of their things home each trimester.

This requires a lot of time and physical energy on the part of the teaching and custodial staff. Teachers going off-cycle are given a one-hour early dismissal on the last day of the trimester. Those teachers who are returning receive a "duty day" for unpacking and setting up their classrooms. Most teachers spend many additional evening and weekend hours to adequately prepare their classroom environment for students.

Pío Pico sits on a 3.5 acre lot. The California Department of Education recommends that elementary schools be built on lots of

approximately ten acres. Our lot is less than half of this optimum size . . . and that's not taking into consideration the addition of portables! The building was designed to serve a maximum of 630 students in 21 classrooms. With the four cycle year-round schedule, we were able to serve a maximum of 850 students in the 1995-96 school year.

Then along came class size reduction. We all agree that this is a good thing for kids. But in already overcrowded schools, it has been a space nightmare. There was very limited space to begin with, for children to run and play. To assist with downsizing in first grade, the District moved three portables into out already undersize playground. While awaiting the arrival and hook-up of the portables, we set up three classes of first graders in our Multipurpose Room for six months. During that time our school had no indoor gathering place for the music program, for assemblies and presentations, for after school dance clubs, etc. We held parent meetings in the library where we couldn't seat even half of the parents in attendance.

During the 1996-97 school year, a committee of teachers and parents conducted a study of alternative year-round calendars to create additional space for class size reduction in third grade. They spoke with a number of Los Angeles Unified School District staff members and parents who were on Concept 6 and realized that we could downsize in third without adding any extra portables if we switched to this year-round model. In July, 1997, the SAUSD allowed Pío Pico to begin a pilot implementation of the Concept 6 calendar.

Concept 6 consists of three, instead of four cycles; that is, two cycles are in session and one cycle is on vacation. Each cycle has four months in school followed by two months of vacation. With Concept 6 we have two-thirds of our students in session as compared to the four cycle year-round schedule which has three-fourths of all students in session at the same time. This has created 3 additional classroom spaces during the school year, enough for us to downsize most of our third grades to 20:1.

On Concept 6, three teachers share two classrooms. Most of the time teachers share classrooms with the same grade level or close to it. This year, even with Concept 6, we ran out of class space and were forced to open a third/fourth grade class in October which has to rotate between a kindergarten and a fifty grade classroom. We have moved forward with a request for five additional portables to assist with what appears to be inevitable . . . more children . . . more downsizing . . . and not enough classroom, storage and meeting space.

We are currently in the process of evaluating the academic and space benefits of Concept 6 so that we can make sound recommendations to the other schools in the District that are considering Concept 6.

The biggest concern with Concept 6 is the length of vacation. While our students receive the same number of instructional minutes each year due to additional minutes each school day, they have about 13 fewer school days than the four cycle year round schools. We do offer some intersessions across the street at the Boys and Girls Club, but not enough to service more than half of the 300 off-cycle students due to space and financial constraints.

We are fortunate to have a Title VII project at Pío Pico which helps to pay the cost of compensating teachers for conducting intersession classes with their students. Most schools do not have enough money to do this and the summer school dollars are not allocated for our year-round schools.

OTHER PRESSING ISSUES

Due to lack of space, our school cannot accommodate a Head Start Program or Day

Care for off-cycle children. Those families most in need of pre-school and intersession interventions are most often in our most crowded neighborhoods. The few Head Start Programs that we have in Santa Ana are filled to capacity, with waiting lists. We are hopeful that outside organizations, such as churches and in our case, the Boys and Girls Club across the street will receive requested funds to allow Head Start to use available facilities or to place portables on their sites for pre-school and off-cycle child care purposes.

A Joint-Use Facility Agreement is currently in the works between the SAUSD and the City of Santa Ana Parks and Recreation Department. We have fewer than half the number of parks and recreational facilities in our city compared to other cities our size. Santa Ana has approximately 330,000 residents. We have 40 parks and eight community centers. Oakland, with 380,000 residents has 100 parks and 24 community centers. Minneapolis has 360,000 residents and 100 parks and 70 community centers. Through joint-use agreements, Santa Ana schools will be more fully utilized for both recreational and educational purposes after school hours.

I am hopeful that today's hearing will help clarify some of the issues and possible solutions to overcrowding. We must find creative solutions by engaging the larger community, as well as our State and Federal governments in issues impacting the education and well-being of our children, our future.

TESTIMONY OF MIKE VAIL, PRESIDENT, CALIFED INFRASTRUCTURE COALITION
INTRODUCTION

Good morning. My name is Mike Vail. I am the President of the Cal-Fed Infrastructure Coalition, a statewide organization of school districts and business interests which was established to support Federal school facilities funding efforts. I also serve as Senior Director of Facilities Planning and Governmental Relations for the Santa Ana Unified School District, one of the fastest growing school districts in California.

School districts throughout the nation, including those in Orange County, are facing a facilities crisis. A combination of factors, including record student enrollment growth, deteriorating buildings and lack of funding for educational technology, has fueled this crisis. And it threatens our ability to prepare today's students for the workplace of the twenty-first century.

ENROLLMENT TRENDS

Between 1986 and 1997, national K-12 public school enrollment increased by 14 percent, to a record total of 45.2 million students. According to the National Center for Education Statistics, this number will reach 48.3 million by the year 2007. The 3.1 million projected new students will create a need for over 6,000 more schools across the nation.

The impact of this projected enrollment growth will likely be greatest for urban school districts such as those in Santa Ana and Anaheim, since urban districts already have the most overcrowded schools. According to the Council of Great City Schools, the average number of students per school in the U.S. was approximately 511 in 1993-94. But this same average for the districts which serve the greatest number of Title I students was 713, 40 percent above the national average.

The national enrollment growth trend has been mirrored in Orange County. More students keep coming to our community's schools. In 1986, countywide K-12 enrollment was 337,000. In 1990, it had reached 368,226. By 1996, it had grown to an all-time high of 434,420 students, a 22 percent increase over a

ten year period. This enrollment growth has resulted in a corresponding need for new classrooms. Approximately \$203 million in new construction applications from orange County school districts are currently on file at the Office of Public School Construction in Sacramento. This figure does not represent the total need, since the State's eligibility rules and the lack of funding discourages many districts from submitting applications.

Santa Ana Unified, the County's largest school district, has experienced long-term student increases which began in 1979. Over the last 18 years, the district's enrollment has almost doubled, growing from 28,700 to nearly 54,000. For the last five years, the largest single grade level in Santa Ana has been kindergarten. As a result, it has been especially challenging for the district to implement Governor Wilson's Class Size Reduction program in grades K through 3.

RESPONSES TO OVERCROWDING

In the past, most California school districts have depended on State monies to meet construction financing needs. Funding for the State School Building Program is derived from the proceeds of statewide school construction bond measures. However, this funding source is very undependable because the State Legislature sometimes fails to place a bond measure on a statewide ballot and the voters of California sometimes reject these measures. Since 1993, only one statewide school construction bond measure has been approved by the voters. The State currently has no funds available to pay for new projects.

Local school districts in California have the ability to present bond measures to the voters within their community. However, such measures require a two-thirds "yes" vote, making approval extremely difficult to obtain. California is one of only four states which has a two-thirds vote requirement for local school construction bond measures. Districts can issue Certificates of Participation (COPs), a lease-related financing, without voter approval. The debt payment of COPs issues is an obligation of the district General Fund. Since per student education funding in California is among the lowest in the U.S., most districts are hard-pressed to support substantial COPs debt.

Because of the lack of construction funding, California districts have turned to other methods to meet the need for more classrooms, including use of multi-track year-round schedules and the installation of portable classrooms on existing school sites. In Santa Ana Unified, 23 of 32 elementary schools and four of seven intermediate schools utilize year-round schedules. The district is currently using over 600 portable classrooms on existing campuses—the equivalent of 27 elementary schools. Over 35 percent of Santa Ana Unified's classroom capacity is provided by portable classrooms. The presence of these portables impact a school's core facilities, such as restrooms and food service areas. They encroach on our small playfields, and are more expensive to maintain than permanent classrooms.

Despite these measures, Santa Ana Unified needs to build at least one new high school and three new elementary schools. These projects would not provide enough classrooms to implement the State's Class Size Reduction (CSR) program at additional grade levels, nor would they relieve the need for portable classrooms or year-round schedules. These projects would simply allow the District to "keep its head above water." In order to fully implement the State's Class Size Reduction program in grades K-3, the District would need to add approximately 200 additional classrooms—the equivalent of

nine new elementary schools. If CSR was implemented in grades K-6, 500 more classrooms would be required.

CONDITION OF FACILITIES/LACK OF TECHNOLOGY

At a time when student enrollments are reaching all-time levels, existing facilities are in need of major modernization efforts. In 1995, the U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO) issued a number of national reports detailing the condition of America's public schools. The GAO found that one-third of public schools, attended by approximately 14 million students, needed "extensive repair or replacement of one or more buildings." Almost 60 percent of the nation's public schools reported at least one major building feature in disrepair. Those features included roofs, exterior walls, windows, plumbing, heating/ventilation/air conditioning, electrical power and lighting. Three-quarters of these buildings needed multiple features repaired. About half of all public schools reported at least one unsatisfactory environmental condition. Those included poor ventilation, heating/lighting problems, or poor security.

According to the GAO, fewer than half of America's public schools have sufficient technology infrastructure, including modems, phone lines and wiring for networks. Even in schools with enough computers, over one-third reported insufficient wiring for computers and communication technology. Accordingly to the CEO Forum on Education & Technology, two-thirds of America's schools are connected to the Internet, but only 14 percent of classrooms have Internet access. The business leaders also found that only three percent of public schools are using technology to maximum benefit.

Santa Ana Unified's backlog of major modernization and maintenance projects totals over \$45 million. Twenty-one of 45 schools are over 30 years old. Fifteen of these schools are in need of major renovation. Currently, 5,953 computers are being used by the district's 54,000 students. Approximately 2,900 of these computers are obsolete and unable to connect to the Internet. Most district classrooms have been wired to have the capability of linking with the Internet. However, our shortage of computers (the ratio is one computer for every 17 students) limits actual Internet usage by students.

The condition of existing classrooms is important because research shows that facilities affect learning. A study performed in Washington, D.C., schools revealed that the standardized test scores of students in schools rated in "fair" condition were 5.45 percentage points higher than those of students in schools rated as "poor." The difference in schools between "excellent" and "poor" was 10.9 percentage points, which is significant. Research in Virginia of building condition and students' achievement and behavior demonstrated a five to seven percent difference in percentile ranking of students in higher-quality buildings. A similar study conducted on a statewide basis in North Dakota showed four to 11 points difference in scores when comparing building condition and student achievement.

CONCLUSION

California is trying to do something about our overwhelming school facilities problem. Governor Wilson has proposed placing \$8 billion in state bonds for school construction on the ballot over four elections. The Governor has also proposed a permanent funding source for the K-12 maintenance program. To assist local communities, Mr. Wilson supports reducing the threshold for passage of local school bonds to a simple majority. All of these measures would be extremely helpful to school districts.

We recognize that school construction is primarily a state and local responsibility. But our coalition feels that California's rising student enrollments and overcrowded conditions are creating pressures that must be addressed by all levels of government. Governor Wilson's program is a major step forward. However, it does not totally resolve the school facilities crisis.

The need is greater than the resources which are currently available. The Federal government should join in a partnership by assisting state and local governments in meeting the school facilities crisis in California and all other states. There is a national interest in strong local educational systems with school facilities properly equipped to motivate our children. This is how they will learn the skills necessary to succeed in a technological and competitive marketplace. The school infrastructure issue is just as critical a national need as the long-standing Federal commitment to assist state and local communities in the building of our roads and highways.

Thank you, Congressman Sanchez, for your efforts to make your colleagues in Congress aware of this crisis. The legislation that you have introduced will provide Federal financial incentives for local districts to build the schools needed for the students of today and tomorrow. The Cal-Fed Infrastructure Coalition supports this legislation.

We ask you and your colleagues in Congress to work with President Clinton on a bipartisan basis to devise a program which will allow the Federal government to give our states and local communities incentives to build the schools our children need.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak with you about these important issues. I look forward to answering any questions that you might have.

THE STATUS OF SCHOOL FACILITIES IN CALIFORNIA

Presented by Sue Pendleton, California Department of Education

SCHOOL FACILITY NEEDS IN CALIFORNIA

Increased student population.
Modernization and retrofitting of old school facilities.
Deferred maintenance.
Class size reduction.
Child care.

PAST GROWTH IN STUDENT POPULATION

In the past 10 years, California has built enough schools to house over 1.2 million new students (a 28% increase in enrollment).

To do this, California school facilities increased to house the entire student populations of the states of Idaho, Montana, Utah, Wyoming and Nevada.

SCHOOL FACILITIES NEEDS DUE TO INCREASED STUDENT POPULATION

In the next 10 years, the Department of Finance predicts California's K-12 population will grow by another 604,000 students to a total of nearly 6.2 million students by the year 2006.

To accommodate this 11% increase, California will need to build almost as many schools as currently exist in all of Oregon and Colorado.

It is estimated that \$8 billion will be necessary to meet this need.

SCHOOL FACILITIES NEEDS

Even without enrollment growth, California has school facilities needs.

School facilities needs: Modernization and technology

It is estimated that over 50% of existing schools are over 30 years old and many are badly in need of repair. Additionally, schools

built in the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s are not capable of meeting the technology needs of the 21st century.

To modernize, repair and retrofit existing school facilities will cost an estimated \$22 billion over the next 10 years.

Other school facilities needs

Deferred maintenance—estimated to cost \$6 billion in the next 10 years.

Class size reduction—cost depends on the number of grades implemented—permanent construction for four grade levels is estimated to cost \$2.5 billion, not including land.

Child care—estimated to cost \$500,000,000 in the next decade.

California's School Facilities: 10-Year Need Recap	
	<i>Billions</i>
Increased student population	\$8
(Does not include existing backlog) ..	
Modernization of old school facilities ..	22
Deferred maintenance	6
Class size reduction	2.5
Child care	5
<hr/>	
Total need	\$39

HOW TO MEET CALIFORNIA'S SCHOOL FACILITIES NEEDS

Historically, school facilities have been funded via a menu of funding options.

How to Meet the Need

State bonds—Amount raised in the past 10 years: \$9.8 billion; Percentage of total funding: 46%; Must be placed on the ballot by the Legislature and passed by the voters.

Local bonds (except for 1978-1986 when Proposition 13 eliminated local bonds as a funding source)—Amount raised in the past 10 years: \$5.9 billion; Percentage of total funding: 28%; Only half of the attempted elections pass.

Special taxes—Parcel taxes and Mello-Roos Community Facilities Districts (first authorized in 1983)—Amount raised in the past 10 years: \$800 million (\$.8 billion); Percentage of total funding: 4%; For registered voter approval, passage rate of less than 50%.

Developer fees—Amount raised in the past 10 years: \$2.5 billion; Percentage of total funding: 12%; Limited to providing facilities for new development.

Deferred maintenance—Amount raised in the past 10 years: \$1 billion; Percentage of total funding: 4%; Funding based on amount of excess bond repayments.

Multitrack year-round education to reduce the need for new construction—Construction cost avoided in the past 10 years: \$1.2 billion; Percentage of total funding: 6%.

Other funding sources

- Redevelopment.
- Asset management.
- Parcel tax.
- Certificates of Participation repaid by school district general fund.
- Federal Government.

California's School Facilities: Historical 10-Year Funding Recap	
	<i>Billions</i>
State bonds	\$9.8
Local bonds	5.9
Mello-Roos (special taxes)	0.8
Developer fees	2.5
Deferred maintenance	1.0
MTYRE (cost avoided)	1.2
<hr/>	
Total funding	\$21.2

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING SCHOOL FACILITIES?

Key players: Local education agencies and Governmental agencies, such as State Allocation Board, California Department of Education, School Facilities Planning Division, Department of General Services, Office of Public

Loan Construction and old. Loara classrooms were built between 1953 and 1957. Enrollment at Loara is over 900. Kindergarten in double sessions; 284 students in 1st and 2nd grades participating in Class Size Reduction under a limited waiver; and 49 students in special education classes in four classrooms.

OTHER FACTS ABOUT ACSD

Average age of buildings in the District is 43 years old.
 Nine of our 22 schools have enrollments of over 1,000 students.
 One half of our sites are under 7 acres in size.
 More than 200 portables are installed throughout the District. Some are over 25 years old.

STUDENT POPULATION GROWTH

ACSD has 22 schools serving over 20,230 students from kindergarten through 6th grade.

ACSD serves the central portion of the City of Anaheim.

ACSD's enrollment grew over 7,500 students in the last decade.

During the same period, only relatively small residential housing development has occurred within District's boundaries.

OPTIONS TO INCREASE CAPACITY

Scheduling solutions: Year round calendar, staggered sessions, double sessions.

Building solutions: Portable buildings, permanent buildings.

ORIGINAL VS. CURRENT CAPACITY

Design capacity 12,220—58%.
 Portable capacity: 5,600—26%.
 Year round capacity: 3,217—15%.

YEAR ROUND CALENDAR IMPACTS

Maintenance: Facilities are used almost 100% of the time. Lack of down time for preventive work. All major construction work must be done with students on campus.

Rotation of classes: Lack of storage space; furniture size; classroom environment.

PORTABLE BUILDINGS ISSUES

Cost is approximately \$70,000 to \$80,000 per unit properly installed. Installation of sinks may increase this cost even further.

Districts benefit from the flexibility. Availability is subject to supply and demand.

Ground space may be used in a less than optimum manner.

ACSD FACILITIES NEEDS

Facilities costs are estimated at \$100 million: Four additional schools and modernization of existing 21 schools.

Funding sources: General fund \$9 million; local bond \$48 million; State match \$45 million.

TESTIMONY BY JUDITH MICHAELS, LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR, CALIFORNIA FEDERATION OF TEACHERS

Reducing class size in California has pushed the topic of school facilities to the forefront of issues facing California edu-

cation. To provide students with the tools they need to succeed, we must address the challenge of creating funding mechanisms that will match the current and projected need for adequate school and higher education facilities. The need for new schools, modernization of older schools, and technology far exceeds available resources. California's schools currently rely on a combination of resources to meet their facility needs: state bonds, local bonds, developer fees, Mello-Roos Districts, and cost savings by adopting multi-track year round scheduling. As we approach the millennium, we need to look at how this pattern will serve the future, and revise and change the pattern so that we can build the schools we need.

While much debate about school construction focuses on developing regions, densely populated areas, whether in the cities or in suburbia, need to build or perhaps re-build their schools. Many children have spent their academic careers in portables because of overcrowding; for this reason we believe that we must allocate portions of state and federal funds for what we have come to call unhoused students.

After a hiatus in the early nineties, California increased its spending on education last year. The increased education budget demonstrated the success of Proposition 98, California's constitutional amendment guaranteeing that a fixed portion of state revenue be allocated to education. This money went to expand the class size reduction program, expand reading initiatives for grades four through eight, and expand community college resources to provide education, training, and child care to help those on welfare return to work. Since school districts cannot use Proposition 98 funds to build schools, this expansion of educational opportunities for students served to exacerbate the facilities crisis. We believe your H.R. 2695 will offer assistance as we continue to work on local solutions. Here are some of the things we are doing.

STATE BOND

A combination of state and local bonds builds schools. State School Construction Bonds reach the ballot through a series of proposals, debates, compromises, and votes. As on the budget, the state legislature must achieve a two-thirds majority in each house before a Bond proposal goes to the ballot. The legislature failed to achieve this majority in 1997, and work continues on proposals and compromises. We hope that these will be successful so that California's voters can vote on a state bond this June.

MAJORITY VOTE FOR LOCAL BONDS

While we believe that the state's primary funding source should remain the general obligation bond, we need to increase California's capacity to raise local funds, and that means changing the current the two-thirds majority requirement for passage of local general obligation bonds. A measure passed by the State Senate currently awaits action in the Assembly.

SCHOOL CONFIGURATION

In the debate on school facilities we must not lose sight of the purpose of building schools. We encourage school districts to explore, design, and implement forms of school organization and management that will avoid excess administrative costs and promote the instructional goals of each school. Before building schools, we should consider the effect the ever increasing size of schools has had upon the education of our students. A misreading of the economies of scale associated with specialization in schools has contributed to a steady increase in school size.

These larger schools may be cheaper to administer, but they reduce social supervision of students to the detriment of the larger society. And, at some point, the advantages of economies of scale turn into liabilities. For example, one of the factors that reduces the economies associated with large schools is the cost of transportation, both in direct expenditures and in the cost in student time,

time that students could more profitably spend on academic work. Furthermore, we believe that larger schools have detrimental effects upon students, teachers, and classified staffs; because of the greater size of the schools, we often find more anonymity and alienation. Additionally, large schools lessen each child's opportunities to participate in different social activities in the school setting.

New patterns of education administration, such as re-configuring grade levels or creating schools within schools, help alleviate problems caused by multi-track year-round scheduling, and offer great potential for schools to be run economically and to be educationally sound.

CONTINUING AND COALITION EFFORTS

The national interest in ensuring high quality education for all students inextricably links California-based efforts with those from Washington. The California Federation of Teachers is part of the California-DC Alliance, composed of millions of Californians committed to better education: K-12 school districts and associations, large and small business throughout California, the State Department of Education, labor unions, and law firms. While not a lobbying organization, the Alliance nonetheless works to identify issues critical to the economic health of California and to help keep the California's Congressional Delegation aware of the impact of Federal decisions upon local schools.

Nationally, the American Federation of Teachers and the National Education Association are working together on a proposal to bring more dollars into school construction. We have created a private sector task force to survey novel ways of increasing available resources to local school districts. This Task Force is looking at ways to leverage more dollars out of the private sector as well as different forms of bonds. We will keep you informed of its progress.

TESTIMONY OF DR. JAMES A. FLEMING, SUPERINTENDENT CAPISTRANO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Good morning. My name is James A. Fleming. I am Superintendent of the Capistrano Unified School District here in Orange County. My district is the largest geographically among the 28 districts in our county and is the 3rd largest in student population, with just over 40,000 students.

Before commenting on the challenge which faces my district and many in Orange County and California, I want to, first, express sincere appreciation on behalf of my School Board and me to Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez for the leadership she has demonstrated on a wide variety of issues of interest and concern to public school advocates. We especially want to thank her today for planning this forum and for her leadership on the "Expand and Rebuild America's Schools Act of 1997." The creation of a new class of national tax-exempt bonds may be just the incentive needed to provide facilities funding to assist suburban districts build new schools and renovate deteriorating schools as the Qualified Zone Academy Bonds provided for our nation's urban areas.

I thought the most helpful approach to be taken with my brief comments is to use the plight of my own school district as a case study demonstrating the urgency of the subject which calls us together this morning.

Of California's 999 school districts, Capistrano Unified is the 11th largest. Arguably, however, it is the fastest growing. This year alone, we realized an enrollment of 40,115, up from 37,431, our 1996-97 enrollment. This one-year increase in enrollment which could fill six elementary schools, three mid-

dle schools or a high school, by itself, represents a 7.3% growth, and this is only the latest year of a pattern. In early 1991, just as I was assuming the Superintendency post of Capistrano Unified, our K-12 enrollment was 23,734 students. With the 1997-98 K-12 enrollment of 40,115 which I just referenced, we have experienced a phenomenal 62% increase in student enrollment in slightly more than half a decade.

Our district has coped well with this growth under the circumstances. First, with well over \$100 million in state school bond money, we were able to apply creative financing and strategic planning which, combined with local dollars, allowed us to build twelve brand new schools within a single 5-year period. We have two more schools under construction at this time and eight more on the drawing board, if the state ever fills its empty school construction coffers. We also presently have a total of 607 relocatable buildings on the grounds supplementing our 40 permanent school campuses. But still, with the growth we are experiencing, even that is not enough.

Many in our district blame new residential development on school overcrowding. While there is no question that residential development has exacerbated the problem—particularly in districts like Capistrano—an even more significant causal factor of school overcrowding is an increase in the birth rate. One need only compare Capistrano's kindergarten enrollment to that of 12th grade to witness the trend. Last June our district bid adieu to 2,143 seniors who graduated from one of our five high schools. This September we then greeted 3,456 new kindergartners. These 1997 numbers are only the most recent indicators of a trend which has been in place for the last six years. Moreover, since CUSD's dropout rate of 1.6% is negligible, it cannot be assumed that part of the reason for the much lower number of graduating seniors than entering kindergartners is attributable to students dropping out of school.

We who administer and set policy for the public schools eagerly anticipate the entrée of the federal government in helping to meet the housing needs of a tremendously growing student population across America. I have been a public educator for 35 years and do not remember a time when Washington has ever stepped forward on the issue of school facilities in the manner represented by the "Expand and Rebuild America's School Act." The problem is clearly beyond any state's ability to address alone.

To those of us in high-growth districts within the State of California this federal interest is like a breath of fresh air. Very frankly, we have been disappointed in the state's response to classroom overcrowding up to this point. Inconceivably, even astoundingly, after instituting a high-profile facilities-intensive primary class size reduction program on top of record setting student growth, the State Legislature has refused, since 1996, to even place a state school bond on the ballot for the voters to consider. Our Republican Governor has stepped forward and provided leadership on the facilities issue through a series of bills which the Senate and Assembly will consider this session. The newspapers report that the one place he faces opposition is from members of his own party, state elected officials who ironically represent the highest growth parts of the state. I just don't understand it.

While, the state currently has no money for school construction, local districts which venture into the local bond arena are shackled with an unrealistic and usually unattainable obstacle: overcoming a situation where one negative vote counts double what a positive vote does.

With no state money available and with our hands tied because of the extraordinary 2/3 vote requirement to pass local bonds, California school districts find themselves in a vise. There is hope, however, if the Governor's-supported package of bills before the legislature this year has a chance of passing: an \$8.2 billion state bond issue; an initiative streamlining the school construction/renovation program, and a constitutional amendment permitting majority vote approval for local school bonds. Then we can, at least, begin to realistically address the problem.

While parents and educators will continue to present our school facilities case to our state legislators, and hope for a successful 1998 California legislative session, it is comforting to know that our leadership in Washington, D.C. has recognized the school overcrowding phenomenon as one of the most serious challenges in public education. Then, through such legislative proposals as the Expand and Rebuild America's Schools Act of 1997, willing to take action in the interests of the children of our nation, children who are our hope and our investment in the future.

SCHOOL OVERCROWDING

By Jacinth M. Cisneros

My name is Jacinth Cisneros. I have lived in Orange County for more than 40 years with 22 of those years in Anaheim. I have two children. (A 3rd grade boy and a 7th grade girl.) They attend schools within both the Anaheim City School District and the Anaheim Union High School District. Our family lives are complicated as one child is on a year-round schedule and the other is on a traditional schedule with summers off. I am fortunate to be a housewife in order to juggle the complexities of being a parent. Many of our families do not have the benefit of a parent that can stay home.

I am concerned about the education of my children. I am also concerned about the education of all of our children—yours, mine, and the children in the neighborhood down the street. I have watched Anaheim change over the past two decades. Ten years ago we were surprised by our enrollment increase. (The baby boomers finally decided to become parents.) We thought, "This can't continue. It will stop, even slow down." Five years ago, we were in denial. No one believed the increase and certainly no one believed it would continue. Today, we still continue to grow and to grow and to grow. We are currently over-enrolled by 7,000 students. Demographers project that we will continue to grow 1,000 more students each year for the next five years. The school my son attends was designed to house 600 students. It now houses approximately 1,100 students, with twice the staff and fewer restrooms than 30 years ago. The reality of our numbers slapped us in the face and rudely woke us up! As a community, we came together to work out our problems. Many years ago six of our schools went to a year-round multi-track schedule increasing our ability to house our children. Progressively more and more schools went year-round until, finally, last year the remaining six schools went to the same schedule increasing their capacity by approximately 25%. (Remember that was just last year.) Where are they coming from? There is no new construction, no new housing. How can this be? Anaheim is an affordable community for young families and our schools have continued to offer good, solid quality education. As our seniors move out, a family with young children moves in living close to their work-place. We are also faced with extended families and multiple families living in one home or apartment. Come this July we will be out of space again as 1,000

more students arrive on our school house steps. What will we do?

Up until now, Anaheim has coped well with its problems—maybe too well. Each new wave of enrollment led to using a new band-aid that fixed the problem temporarily. (The year-round band-aid had to be applied several times. The portable classroom band-aid continues to be applied.) Right now—our 1st aid kit is empty—no more Band-Aids and we are bleeding badly. At the very least, we need major surgery and possibly CPR.

The Anaheim School Board responded immediately to the 911 calls from the community by placing on the April 1998 ballot a \$48 million school bond measure for new school construction and reconstruction of our existing sites. We were given the opportunity to help! A committee of parents, community members, teachers, and business leaders have been working countless hours to educate residents about the problems within our schools and the need for a solution; to carry the message that WE NEED CLASSROOMS and we need to repair the ones we already have. All of the schools in Anaheim are at least 30 years old with plumbing, electrical and sewer systems that need upgrading or replacing. If a generous business in Anaheim donated computers to all our classrooms, we would not be able to use them. Our electrical systems do not have the capacity to handle today's technology. What about the technology of the future? We want our children to continue to be able to compete on the world market. We should have a world class educational system in Anaheim to match the world class entertainment complex in our backyard. Our teachers and administrators should focus on providing the best educational program for our children. They shouldn't have to worry about our constant lack of facilities and problems with space. As a community and as a country we should be able to provide the foundation to build a powerful educational institution. Our schools should not be dealing with Band-Aids and should not worry about where to put the next tourniquet.

Passage of the school bond will ease our pain to a degree, but we still need your help. This bond will allow Anaheim schools to access state school funding when it becomes available. The Governor has proposed a \$2 billion statewide bond providing additional matching funds for the schools. With that money we come closer to actually solving some of our housing problems. Federal assistance in the form of tax free bonds as proposed by H.R. 2695 would move us along toward actually healing our housing "wounds." Funds "freed" by H.R. 2695 provide our district with the ability to repair a sinking playground, renovate an entire school, build a lunch structure, or replace old blackboards in all of our classrooms. The possibility exists of coupling the funds for new school construction and matching it with state funds as well. Our children would benefit twice as much.

We cannot do it alone. We need your help. We need you to recognize the problems and work with us to solve them. When we pull together—local communities, the state and the federal government, we will only produce a stronger educational system. We will be able to utilize all of our assets to the maximum. We will succeed in investing in the future of our children. We will communicate to the world that we value our children and their education.

If indeed the emergency crews do not arrive in time, if indeed our bond measure does not pass, if indeed the governor's statewide bond or H.R. 2695 does not pass, there is yet one alternative left to try. I need to be honest. It does not cost much money and will double the capacity of our schools imme-

diately—double sessions. Although financially the cost is insignificant, what will the cost be to our families? to our community? to the future of our children? Those costs cannot be measured. The impact is too great! When one session of children begins school at sun up and the other session leaves at sun down, what becomes of the family? Will the Girl Scout Troop or Boy Scout Troop reschedule their meetings to be held at 8:00 at night or how about eight o'clock in the morning? What about soccer or baseball teams? Will the dance teacher offer morning classes? I think the costs of double sessions are too great!

Our children's future is everyone's responsibility from the custodian to the superintendent, from the superintendent to the mayor, from the mayor to the governor, and from the governor to the President. Passage of a local bond will still not provide enough funds to close the gap that spreads wider and wider over the years. State matching funds will help and federal tax incentives for suburban schools are essential. Provide us with the life line we need to keep us from using any more Band-Aids from our first aid kit.

STATEMENT BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF
EDUCATION FOR LEGISLATION SCOTT S.
FLEMING

Representative Sanchez, Minority Leader Gephardt. First, I want to thank you Congresswoman, for calling this important Forum, and extend my appreciation to you, Congressman Gephardt, for taking the time to be here to join us in making a very simple point: there is a critical need, here in California and across the nation, to address compelling school infrastructure needs.

Whether you are here in California with the fastest growing school enrollments in the nation or in the nation's rust belt where all too often schools have deteriorated to the point where they pose serious safety threats to their students, this nation shares an urgent need to build and renovate school buildings to serve students today and into the next century. In June of 1996, the General Accounting Office issued a report which found a backlog of over \$111 billion in repairs and improvements to school facilities nationwide. At the same time, the National Center for Education Statistics projects that school enrollment will increase from 51.7 to 54.6 million between 1996 and 2006. Simply to hold our own and maintain current class sizes, that growth in number of students will require over 6,000 more schools than existed in 1996. Here in California, the 1996 enrollment which had been projected to be over 5.8 million is anticipated to reach nearly 6.9 million in 2006—more than one million new students. Again, without even taking into account efforts to reduce class sizes, that would necessitate more than 40,000 new classrooms in California within a decade. We should make no mistake about the fact that, with all of the talk about meeting the nation's infrastructure needs—highways, airports and the like, failure to also address the school infrastructure needs of this nation will have a serious impact not only on the individual lives of millions of American students, but also on our nation's future economic prosperity.

As you well know, in the summer of 1996, President Clinton proposed a major initiative to assist localities in addressing this critical need. He proposed a \$5 billion package designed to leverage, by "buying down" interest rates on local school bonds, \$20 billion in school infrastructure improvements across the nation over a four year period. We realized at the time we made that proposal that it would not be an instant or complete solution to this critical situation, but it was

a bold step forward, moving the federal government into a new role in assisting local authorities to respond to school overcrowding and deteriorated school buildings in accordance with locally-designed initiatives. That legislation was introduced in both Houses of the Congress—in the House of Representatives by Representative Nita Lowey of New York and in the Senate by Senator Carol Moseley-Braun of Illinois. We deeply appreciated their leadership and that shown by both of you in working to gain strong support within the Congress for the plan. Unfortunately, during last summer's bipartisan negotiations which led to the historic budget agreement subsequently adopted by the Congress and signed by the President, in spite of strong support by the Administration, it proved impossible to include the school construction initiative within the agreed upon budgetary framework. While the budget package made very significant investments in education, the absence of the school construction proposal was a major disappointment. Since that time, Secretary Riley and the President have made clear their intent to continue to seek ways to finance a school construction initiative, and that has been a priority in the development of the Fiscal Year 1999 budget which will be released on February 2.

Before moving on, I want to make sure to emphasize that last year's budget agreement included an important Congressional initiative that focuses on the need to help school's serving at least 35% students eligible for free and reduced priced lunches under the Department of Agriculture's school lunch program. That proposal, originated by Representative Rangel of New York, the senior Democratic member of the House Committee on Ways and Means, provides \$800 million in special bonding authority to make available interest-free capital for startup costs—including rehabilitation or repair, equipment purchases, and development of course materials and training expenses—for special schools or programs within schools. That \$800 million in financing is available in two installments, \$400 million in the current tax year and \$400 million in tax year 1999. That important assistance for public education is being administered by the Department of the Treasury which last month released regulations to implement the new authority. Under the allocations determined by the Treasury Department, \$112.7 million of that interest-free capital will be available to meet needs right here in California. I know that both of you have been supportive of the Rangel program and that, you, Congresswoman Sanchez, have introduced your own legislation, the "Expand and Rebuild America's Schools Act," which expands upon that new approach and focuses it on construction and the pressing needs facing Orange County and similar communities around the nation. Your initiative is an important and valuable contribution to the work that is underway to ensure that real help is provided by the federal government to meet this need.

Earlier witnesses today have made very clear the real-life impact of school overcrowding on their lives. As the parent of a teenager who spent his fifth grade in a portable classroom in a Virginia public school, I can personally relate to much of what those individuals had to say. When students are left to learn in overcrowded or antiquated facilities, when their schedules are set to fill available space, not to structure the learning experience at optimal times for those young students, the challenge of preparing young minds for success in the twenty-first century is made tremendously more difficult. Just last week, Secretary Riley visited a school in Los Angeles with your colleague, Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald. When

they arrived, an unexpected fire-drill was underway. None of us would deny the importance of knowing how to quickly evacuate a school building, but this fire-drill was not for that purpose. It had been triggered by wiring that had been damaged as a result of a leak in the school's roof. The result was lost time in a school day. Any teacher, any principal can tell you that such unnecessary exercises are distracting and disruptive and that losing a block of time like that is not easily reclaimed. That unnecessary fire drill robbed hundreds of young students of important learning time. The same is true when students have to take added time over and over again in a school day to move from portable classrooms to other school activities.

All of this takes on added importance as we seek to maximize the tremendous potential that technology holds to broaden and strengthen education in America. This month, as a result of changes enacted by the Congress in the Telecommunications Act, schools and libraries across this nation become eligible to benefit from reduced rates for accessing the Internet. Those resources can assist both with readying schools to bring computers on line and in covering the monthly access charges that schools will need to build into their operating budgets. These reduced rates, known as the E-Rate, offer tremendous opportunities to young Americans. But the fact of the matter is that school facilities have to be up to the task. Inadequate wiring systems and overcrowding alike can severely limit or even preclude altogether schools' ability to take advantage of the opportunities that technology makes possible.

As this Forum comes to a close and you head back to Washington, I know you and

Secretary Riley will be working closely together to impress upon your colleagues in the Congress the importance of moving forward, in partnership with local school districts—like the Anaheim City School District, Santa Ana Unified, and others in this area—to put in place a serious, but fiscally responsible approach to meeting these compelling needs. Balancing the budget is not an end in and of itself. Instead, now that we are on target to meeting that goal, we must work together to ensure that essential investments are made that will enable our economy to grow. Educating those who will be the economic brainpower of the next century ranks at the top of those investments, and, as I said earlier, the task of educating all young people to high standards is made much more difficult when they are forced to learn in overcrowded or structurally deficient environments.

The task of the Congress and the Administration this year will be to ensure that the federal government does its part. Legislation will be on the table with Administration support. We need to work together to move that legislation into law.

COMPETITION IN THE LONG DISTANCE MARKETS

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 1998

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I don't understand why a potential key player in the

long distance market is being systematically eliminated.

For the past two years the FCC has detracted from the process and has not assisted in making local telecommunication competition a reality.

Some long distance companies have been quoted publicly as saying that they are going to ignore the local residential market because of the limited revenue it produces. Meanwhile, they have pursued with great zeal local business markets.

Why has the FCC ignored these factors? The Regional Bell Companies are not offering long distance service today because of the FCC's misinterpretation of the 1996 Telecommunications Law. The FCC continues to reject approved recommendations from states suggesting the absence of competition in local markets. That is not correct. Competition is out there. Why has it been overlooked?

The FCC should take off its dark glasses and open its eyes to the intense competition in the local market. The Bells shouldn't be kept out of the long distance market because of business decisions made by their potential competitors. The Bells have made a good faith effort to open the market and judging from the amount of local business competition, they've succeeded. They deserve entry into the long distance market.

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, March 26, 1998, may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MARCH 30

2:00 p.m.
Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings on the nominations of Elaine D. Kaplan, of the District of Columbia, to be Special Counsel, Office of Special Counsel, and Ruth Y. Goldway, of California, to be a Commissioner of the Postal Rate Commission.
SD-342

MARCH 31

9:30 a.m.
Armed Services
Strategic Forces Subcommittee
To resume hearings on proposed legislation authorizing funds for fiscal year 1999 for the Department of Defense and the future years defense program, focusing on strategic nuclear policy and related matters.
SR-222

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Business meeting, to mark up proposed legislation to reform and restructure the process 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.
SR-253

Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings on S. 1100, to amend the Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America, the legislation approving such covenant, and S. 1275, to implement further the Act (Public Law 94-241) approving the Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America.
SH-216

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

Labor and Human Resources
To hold hearings to examine issues relating to charter schools.
SD-430

Veterans' Affairs
To hold hearings to examine tobacco-related compensation and associated issues.
SD-106

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

2:00 p.m.
Foreign Relations
Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the economic and political situation in India.
SD-419

APRIL 1

8:00 a.m.
Labor and Human Resources
Business meeting, to mark up S. 1754, to consolidate and authorize funds for health professions and minority and disadvantaged health professions and disadvantaged health education programs, proposed legislation authorizing funds for programs of the Higher Education Act, and to consider pending nominations.
SD-430

9:30 a.m.
Appropriations
Interior Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1999 for the Department of the Interior.
SD-124

Indian Affairs
Business meeting, to mark up S. 1797, to reduce tobacco use by Native Americans and to make the proposed tobacco settlement applicable to tobacco-related activities on Indian lands, and S. 1279, proposed Indian Employment Training and Related Services Demonstration Act; to be followed by hearings on proposed legislation to revise the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988.
SH-216

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

Judiciary
Antitrust, Business Rights, and Competition Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine competition and concentration in the cable and video markets.
SD-226

1:30 p.m.
Environment and Public Works
To hold hearings to examine how tobacco smoke affects environmental air.
SD-406

2:00 p.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-124

Energy and Natural Resources
National Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation Subcommittee
To hold hearings on titles I, II, III, and V of S. 1693, to renew, reform, reinvigorate, and protect the National Park System.
SD-366

APRIL 2

9:00 a.m.
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
To hold hearings on S. 1323, to regulate concentrated animal feeding operations for the protection of the environment and public health.
SR-332

9:30 a.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine the status of Puerto Rico.
SH-216

10:00 a.m.
Appropriations
Transportation Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine airline ticketing practices.
SD-138

2:00 p.m.
Judiciary
Administrative Oversight and the Courts Subcommittee
Business meeting, to consider pending calendar business.
SD-226

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

APRIL 23

9:30 a.m.
Appropriations
VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1999 for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.
SD-138

Appropriations Interior Subcommittee To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1999 for the Forest Service, Department of Agriculture. SD-124	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-192	MAY 5	and protect the National Park System, and S. 1614, to require a permit for the making of motion picture, television program, or other forms of commercial visual depiction in a unit of the National Park System or National Wildlife Refuge System. SD-366
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-192	10:30 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	MAY 6	OCTOBER 6
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 APRIL 28	9:30 a.m. Appropriations VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies 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	MAY 7	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
9:30 a.m. Indian Affairs To resume hearings to examine Indian gaming issues. Room to be announced	2:00 p.m. Energy and Natural Resources National Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation Subcommittee To hold hearings on titles VI, VII, VIII, and XI of S. 1693, to renew, reform, reinvigorate, and protect the National Park System. SD-366		CANCELLATIONS
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	2:00 p.m. Energy and Natural Resources National Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation Subcommittee To hold hearings on S. 1515, to amend Public Law 89-108 to increase authorization levels for State and Indian tribal, municipal, rural, and industrial water supplies, to meet current and future water quantity and quality needs of the Red River Valley, to deauthorize certain project features and irrigation service areas, and to enhance natural resources and fish and wildlife habitat. SD-366		MARCH 31
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 Defense, focusing on the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Council on Environmental Quality. SD-138	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		2:30 p.m. Energy and Natural Resources Water and Power Subcommittee To hold hearings on S. 1515, to amend Public Law 89-108 to increase authorization levels for State and Indian tribal, municipal, rural, and industrial water supplies, to meet current and future water quantity and quality needs of the Red River Valley, to deauthorize certain project features and irrigation service areas, and to enhance natural resources and fish and wildlife habitat. SD-366
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 Defense, focusing on the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Council on Environmental Quality. SD-138	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		APRIL 1
2:00 p.m. Energy and Natural Resources National Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation Subcommittee To hold hearings on title IV of S. 1693, to renew, reform, reinvigorate, and protect the National Park System, and S. 624, to establish a competitive process for the awarding of concession contracts in units of the National Park System. SD-366	2:00 p.m. Appropriations Defense Subcommittee To hold hearings on titles IX and X of S. 1693, to renew, reform, reinvigorate, SD-192		2:30 p.m. Judiciary Immigration Subcommittee Business meeting, to consider pending calendar business. SD-226
	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		POSTPONEMENTS
	2:00 p.m. Energy and Natural Resources National Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation Subcommittee To hold hearings on titles IX and X of S. 1693, to renew, reform, reinvigorate, SD-192		MARCH 26
	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		2:00 p.m. Governmental Affairs Oversight of Government Management, Restructuring and the District of Columbia Subcommittee To hold hearings to examine the Government management of electromagnetic spectrum. SD-342
	2:00 p.m. Energy and Natural Resources National Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation Subcommittee To hold hearings on titles IX and X of S. 1693, to renew, reform, reinvigorate, SD-192		APRIL 1
	2:00 p.m. Energy and Natural Resources National Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation Subcommittee To hold hearings on titles IX and X of S. 1693, to renew, reform, reinvigorate, SD-192		9:30 a.m. Indian Affairs To hold oversight hearings on barriers to credit and lending in Indian country. SR-48