

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CAPITOL HILL WELCOMES LEGISLATORS FROM TAIWAN

HON. ROBERT SMITH

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 1998

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome a distinguished legislators' delegation from the Republic of China on Taiwan. The legislators represent all major political parties in Taiwan: The ruling Nationalist Party, the Democratic Progressive Party, the New Party, and non-aligned parties. Members all democratically elected by the electorate, this delegation fully demonstrates how democracy has worked in the Republic of China on Taiwan. In ten years' time, Taiwan has evolved from a one-party state to multi-political parties of different ideologies. The growth of elective politics has been very healthy for Taiwan. Ambassador Stephen Chen tells me that there will be major elections this coming December: mayoral elections, legislative yuan (Parliament) elections and municipal elections. There is no doubt in my mind that Taiwan politics is vigorous and vibrant. Once again, Taiwan is setting a good example of elective democracy for other developing nations, especially China.

On the eve of President Clinton's visit to the People's Republic of China, I wish to say that while the P.R.C. is vital to U.S. interests, it is equally important that we not ignore the interests of our ally and trading partner: The Republic of China on Taiwan. For years and years, Taiwan has been buying American agricultural products worth billions of dollars and cooperating with us on all major issues affecting our two countries.

I therefore share the many concerns of our Taiwan friends who are visiting us here on the Hill today. Let us abide by the Taiwan Relations Act and continue our arms sales to Taiwan. It is also my hope that both Taiwan and the People's Republic of China will work toward eventual reunification when both sides reach similar levels of freedom and democracy. In the meantime, both sides should dialogue on all issues as equal partners. Moreover, the P.R.C. should declare that it will not use force against Taiwan now or in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my warmest welcome to this very distinguished group of legislators from Taiwan. I wish them every success during their short visit to Capitol Hill.

A TRIBUTE TO JANE SMITH

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 1998

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention the fine work and outstanding service of Mrs. Jane Smith of Yucaipa, California. Jane, the Associ-

ate Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction at the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools Office in San Bernardino, is moving to Colorado shortly to pursue a wonderful professional opportunity with the Weld County District 6 School District.

Jane graduated from the University of California, Davis with a Bachelor of Arts in English in 1968. Ten years later, she completed her Master of Arts in Education with a special emphasis on reading. She began her professional educational career as an English teacher with the Vallejo City Unified School District in 1968, and later, with the Fontana Unified School District in 1979. She served as a Reading Resource Specialist with the Fontana Unified School District from 1980-83 and a District Resource Teacher from 1983-1985.

In 1985, Jane became Assistant Principal at Fontana Junior High School. One year later, she became Director of Staff Development for the Fontana Unified School District where she served until November, 1989. At that time, she became Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services where she served until July, 1993. She then worked as Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction until 1995 when she took on her present assignment as Associate Superintendent with the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools Office.

Over the years, Jane has been widely recognized for her outstanding contributions in the field of education. Among other awards she has received the California School Leadership Academy Regional Merit Award and the Outstanding Achievement Award from the Redlands Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa. In addition, she has spoken at a number of educational conferences across the country, served in numerous professional development capacities, and had numerous articles published in educational journals.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me and our colleagues in recognizing Jane Smith as she concludes this chapter and begins another. To say the least, her fine work with the San Bernardino County School District will be greatly missed. Over the years, she has made a tremendous difference in the lives of countless students. I'd like to join County Superintendent, Barry Pulliam, and others in wishing Jane and her family the very best in their future endeavors.

A WELCOME TO ARMEN
MELKONIAN, CONSUL GENERAL
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 1998

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome Armen Melkonian, Consul General of the Republic of Armenia, to the 19th Congressional District of California. The Central Valley holds a large portion of the Ar-

menian community in America and is rich in Armenian culture and history. Thus Consul General Melkonian's leadership in Armenia has provided a great deal of inspiration to the Armenians in the Central Valley.

Armen Melkonian was born in Yeravan, Armenia in 1958. He is married to Yevkenya Melkonian and has two children, Ashod and Ani. Armen Melkonian graduated from Yerevan State University, Faculty of Near Eastern Studies Arabic Division in 1980. Armen received his Ph.D. in the Eastern Studies Institute of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia.

From 1982-1984 Armen Melkonian served as an Arabic language translator in South Yemen. He served as a Soviet Army Lieutenant from 1986 to 1988. Following his commitment as a Lieutenant, he lectured in the Eastern Studies Institute of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia in the division of Arab countries. Armen lectured as part of the Eastern Studies of Yerevan State University in the beginning of 1991. He served as an aid to the President of the Republic of Armenia from 1992-1994. At the beginning of 1994, he was in the foreign ministry of the Republic of Armenia. Being the first secretary of Arab countries division, led him to becoming the ambassador in Cairo, Egypt from 1994-1997. From 1997-1998 he was the administrator for the foreign ministry's Middle Eastern countries division of the Republic of Armenia. Currently he is the Consul General of the Republic of Armenia in Los Angeles.

Armen Melkonian is the author of numerous articles in scholarly journals and various publications. He has participated in various symposiums all over the world. In 1990, his paper "Armenian Medieval Resources about Arab Caliphates" earned him a degree in Historical Sciences.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I welcome Armen Melkonian to the 19th Congressional District of California. His leadership has been an inspiration to the Armenian community. I ask my colleagues to join me in welcoming Armen Melkonian to the United States and to the 19th Congressional District of California.

AN INTERNATIONAL SPOTLIGHT ON CHIAPAS

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 1998

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I commend to my colleagues' attention the attached statement by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Honorable Mary Robinson. The situation in Chiapas, Mexico is only getting worse, and Mrs. Robinson is right to call our attention to the brutal situation in southern Mexico. It is high time that all sides in that festering conflict renounce violence and dedicate themselves to a peaceful resolution of that conflict.

• 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.

STATEMENT BY MARY ROBINSON, UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN CHIAPAS, MEXICO

I have been following with mounting concern the situation of human rights in the Chiapas region of Mexico. News reports and almost daily submissions from representatives of indigenous groups and NGOs indicate an alarming deterioration over the past several days.

These reports paint a grim picture of an atmosphere of fear among the indigenous people of Chiapas caught between government forces supported by officially funded militias on one side and armed resistant groups on the other. Such conflict does not serve the interests of anyone.

The deaths of nine people in what has been reported as an action by government forces in the town of San Juan de la Libertad this week is just the latest in a string of violent incidents in a region already affected by widespread displacement, dispossession and severe poverty.

These are serious violations of the rights of indigenous people. As High Commissioner and as the UN Coordinator for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, I appeal to the Government of Mexico to look urgently at ways of restoring dialogue with communities in Chiapas. A reduction in the military presence in the region could be an important first step in restoring confidence that a peaceful solution might be found. This would also contribute to improving the current climate of fear.

The Office of the High Commissioner is prepared to assist the Government in meeting its obligations under the International Covenants and other human rights treaties it has ratified including ILO Convention 169 of 1989 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples. We would also welcome opportunities to assist civil society organizations active in promoting respect for human rights as an essential condition for improving the lives of people in Chiapas.

TRIBUTE TO THE CITY OF
ROSEVILLE'S 40TH BIRTHDAY

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 1998

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I would like to send birthday greetings to a special city at the heart of Michigan's 10th Congressional District. On June 20, 1998, the City of Roseville will celebrate its 40th birthday and will dedicate a new library addition. Citizens of Roseville will gather at the Civic Center grounds for food and family entertainment in honor of this historic occasion.

When Michigan became a state in 1837, this area was a small farming community known first as Orange Township, then as Erin Township. As history tells us, William Rose was appointed as the area's first postmaster in 1836. In a tribute to his father, Denison Rose, a hero of the War of 1812, William established the Roseville Post Office. Gradually, the whole community became known as Roseville.

Years passed and the residents witnessed great changes such as a plank toll road and the Rapid Electric Interurban. Churches, schools and libraries were established as spiritual, educational, and cultural centers. In the 1950s, the area experienced a population explosion. Homes, shopping centers, industrial

plants, and highways were developed. In 1958, the booming village was incorporated as the City of Roseville.

As the 52,000 members of this community celebrate their past, they are also anticipating a bright future. With the dedication of the new addition to Roseville Library, the city is dedicating a living piece of history. Mr. Long, who founded the institution in 1936 said, "No town should be without a library." Since it has opened, the Library has changed locations, expanded, and become "the information place" for the citizens of Roseville.

On the 40th Anniversary of the City of Roseville, we celebrate the people who have made this community a diverse and wonderful place to live. I would like to extend my congratulations on this historic occasion and best wishes for a successful future.

HONORING SHEPARD COLEMAN

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 1998

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, today it is with sadness that I rise to recognize the life of Shepard Coleman, a talented musician and award winning musical conductor. I wish to call to the attention of our colleagues the outstanding talents of Shepard Coleman, who made his home in Orange County, New York. On June 27, there will be a memorial service for Shepard Coleman in Sugarloaf, New York, at the Lycian Center.

Shep Coleman was an accomplished musician who for many years was the leading cellist with the New York Philharmonic. The Washington Post reported on May 17, that as a graduate of the Julliard School of Music, Shep Coleman was a pit musician in many Broadway musicals from 1946 to 1960. He played under Leonard Bernstein for more than twenty years, as well as playing for Frank Sinatra. In 1964, Shep Coleman won a Tony Award for his magnificent musical direction of the Broadway hit, "Hello Dolly".

Shep Coleman was extremely active in local theater productions. He was a loving teacher as well as a great performer. He was also a strong supporter of many AIDS charities and art organizations. When he moved to Warwick, New York, he became active in their Humane Society. Shep Coleman continually gave of himself for the benefit of our entire community.

I came to personally know Shep through his advocacy for the Arts in our home region. Shep was the kind of person who placed a high premium on attracting young people to the Arts and encouraging them to develop their talents. Shep never hesitated to remind me that by stimulating the Arts Community, we are helping the economy of our entire region.

Shep Coleman was an articulate, unique individual who will long be missed greatly by his friends and neighbors in Orange County, New York.

Shep is survived by his sister, Diana Hoffman, of New York City, his brother, Aaron Coleman also of New York City, and his nephews Robert and Kenneth Hoffman.

Shep Coleman lived to the age of 74. He was always involved in so many different aspects of our communities, always devoting himself to a good cause. Mr. Speaker, I invite

all my colleagues to join me in honoring Shepard Coleman. We have lost an outstanding talent and a great friend.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. BOB BERRY

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 1998

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention the fine work and outstanding service of Dr. Bob Berry of Yucaipa, California. Bob, the Chief Information Officer for the Information Systems Department at the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools Office in San Bernardino, is moving to Michigan shortly to pursue a wonderful professional opportunity with Central Michigan University.

Bob graduated from Central Michigan University in 1969 with a double major in Biological Science and Instrumental Music. Three years later, he earned a MA degree in Curriculum Development and Educational Administration from CMU. In 1979, Bob completed his Doctor of Education degree at Northern Arizona University.

Dr. Berry began his professional career at the Fowler Public School System in Michigan serving as Director of Instrumental Music (1969-74) and Principal of Fowler High School (1974-1976). From 1976-84, he worked at Northern Arizona University as Assistant Director of Research and Development, Assistant Professor of Educational Administration, and Executive Director of the Arizona Public Schools Computer Consortium.

In 1984, Bob became Chief Information Officer (CIO) for the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools. In this capacity, he has had the responsibility of planning, organizing, and implementing all administrative financial processing requirements for the educational agencies within San Bernardino County, the largest in the United States. In addition, the CIO also serves as the executive director of the California Educational Computer Consortium comprised of other California county offices of education, school districts and community colleges. The consortium, comprised of over 249 agencies, pools its financial resources for applications software development and services.

Over the years, Bob has served as professional consultant for a number of school districts across the United States in computer systems, budgeting, and networking. In addition, he has served in numerous professional development capacities and has had numerous articles published in educational journals.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me and our colleges in recognizing Dr. Bob Berry as he prepares for his latest professional challenge. To say the least, his fine work with the San Bernardino County School District will be greatly missed. I'd like to join County Superintendent, Barry Pulliam, and others in wishing Bob Berry the very best in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO ED VEGELY AND
LLOYD HOBBY

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 1998

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ed Vegely and Lloyd Hobby upon their retirement from Mariposa County High School. Ed and Lloyd have provided many years of dedicated instruction and coaching to the students of Mariposa County High School in Mariposa, California. I commend these exceptional educators for their dedication and commitment to our youth.

Ed Vegely has been teaching the youth of Mariposa County High School since 1965. He was born on December 28, 1936. Ed attended Merced High School, Modesto Junior College, and eventually completed his higher education at California State University, Fresno. He has been recognized as the Mariposa County High School "Teacher of the Year" three times. Ed served as the Mariposa County High School varsity football coach from 1965–1981. During that 16 year period, Ed Vegely was able to achieve a record of 95 wins, 56 losses, and five ties, and has taken the team to five league championships. He not only provided an exceptional service as a varsity football coach, but also served as the varsity basketball coach in 1966 and 1970–1996. During this time as the Mariposa County High School basketball coach, he achieved a record of 366 wins, 288 losses, and 13 ties, taking the team to six league championships.

Lloyd Hobby has been providing exceptional instruction to the students of Mariposa County High School since 1964. Lloyd attended Sonora High School and completed his higher education at Sacramento State University. He has served as the Mariposa High Varsity basketball coach for 30 years. During his time as the varsity basketball coach, he has achieved a record of 475 wins and 298 losses, taking the team to nine league championships. Lloyd is a four-time Mariposa County High School "Teacher of the Year" recipient and was recognized as the "Athletic Director of the Year" for the entire state of California in 1996.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I pay tribute to Ed Vegely and Lloyd Hobby upon their retirement from Mariposa County High School. Ed and Lloyd have both exhibited a dedication and care for the education and instruction of our youth. I applaud their many achievements and ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Ed Vegely and Lloyd Hobby the best of luck with any future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO TOBY KEELER

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 1998

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Toby Keeler, for his leadership and efforts to improve the quality of life in our community. Toby is a determined, hard working individual who has dedicated countless hours to the Las Virgenes Homeowners Federation and has enhanced the area in the process.

During his term as President of the Las Virgenes Homeowners Federation from 1995 to 1997, Toby repeatedly lobbied on behalf of those he represented.

First, Toby played an instrumental role in orchestrating the Las Virgenes opposition to a massive commercial development that threatened to destroy most of the natural area adjacent to the 101 Freeway. After this successful effort, Toby redesigned a controversial park center project, a move which ultimately guaranteed its construction.

Later in his term as President, Toby rallied support for a proposition that raised necessary funding to keep open several fire stations, and campaigned to increase land acquisition funding for the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.

In another display of his support for the environment, Toby organized opposition to the SOKA University project in the Santa Monica Mountains which would have allowed construction on protected lands.

Toby is also a former member of the Planning Commission for the City of Calabasas, and is the current President of the Old Topanga Homeowners Association, where he has continued in his role as a community leader.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, please join me in paying tribute to Toby Keeler. He has shown an unwavering commitment to the community and deserves our recognition and praise.

TRIBUTE TO HELEN DAVID

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 1998

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize the achievements of a very special woman, a dear friend, Mrs. Helen David. For sixty years, Helen David has been the owner of the Brass Rail, a unique bar in the heart of Port Huron. On June 15, 1998, community members and friends will join Helen at the Brass Rail to celebrate the sixtieth birthday of the Brass Rail.

Prior to June 15, 1937, the Brass Rail was a quaint ice cream shop named Hibble's Ice Cream Polar. The sweet shop was owned and operated by Helen's parents, Tony and Elizabeth Hibble. After the death of her father, Helen transformed the ice cream shop with the support of her mother and aunt. In 1939, Helen fell in love and married Sol David. Until his death in 1967, Helen and Sol worked side by side creating a popular Port Huron tradition.

In Port Huron, Helen is known not only as a smart business woman, she is recognized as a community leader and humanitarian. Throughout the years Helen has been a member of the Quota Club, an organization designed to help the hearing impaired. She has also been honored for her work with St. Jude's Children's Hospital by the North America Benefit Association. Recently Helen made a major contribution to the St. Clair County Council on Aging to help establish a new senior center in Port Huron.

In six decades, Helen David's warm personality, her commitment to her patrons and her involvement in the community have endeared

her to many people throughout St. Clair County. Very few people have the spirit and dedication to give to their community as Helen has given to hers. I would like to congratulate Helen as she celebrates her historic milestone of sixty years in business.

THE U.N. GENERAL ASSEMBLY
PLAN TO FIGHT DRUGS VERSUS
LEGALIZATION

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 1998

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, the U.N. General Assembly recently took up the problem of international drug production and trade as it moved forward with an emerging consensus that all of the nations of the globe must fight this scourge together, and stop the finger pointing.

The U.N. proposal that emerged was an ambitious yet doable plan to eliminate the production of cocaine and heroin in 10 years, although regrettably the means to finance this important proposal were not found.

In Monday's New York Times, columnist A.M. Rosenthal points out another battle in the war on drugs, the effort of many who favor "legalization" to discredit the U.N. anti-drug efforts and to camouflage their own worldwide cause to foster legalization by the use of nice sounding phrases like "harm reduction."

Mr. Speaker, I ask that Mr. Rosenthal's informative column be reprinted herein. It points out the nature of this legalization campaign which reflects a sense of failure, lack of political will, and submission to the evils of illicit drugs that few Americans, or others around the globe support, or would ever subject their children and future generations to under the guise of such a misdirected solution.

[From the New York Times, June 12, 1998]

(A.M. Rosenthal)

POINTING THE FINGER

The three-day meeting on fighting drugs was one of the more useful United Nations conferences in decades. It was well led by Pino Arlacchi, the Italian Mafia-buster, drew chiefs of state and narcotics specialists from every part of the world, and wound up with a plan to eliminate the growing of illegal heroin and cocaine in 10 years—certainly difficult but certainly doable.

So, months before the opening Monday, a campaign to attack the conference was planned. It was worked out by Americans who devote their careers and foundation grants not to struggling against narcotics but legalizing them under one camouflage or another.

Before the first gavel, they were ready with advertisements writing off the conference, had rounded up American and European signatures denouncing the war against drugs as a failure, and had mobilized their network of web sites.

They convinced one or two convincing journalists that people opposed to the anti-drug effort had been banned from talking at meetings of specialists and organizations. That's strange, because at the very first forum I attended there were as many legalizers as drug fighters making statements and asking questions.

The propaganda was professionally crafted. Hundreds of well-known people and wannabes signed an opening-day two-page

advertisement in The Times. It had no proposals except for a "dialogue," which already has gone on a half-century.

The word "legalization" was not used. Legalizers and their financial quartermasters know Americans are 87 percent against legalization. So now they use camouflage phrases like "harm reduction"—permitting drug abuse without penalty, the first step toward de facto legalization.

One signer told me that she did indeed favor legalization but that in such campaigns you just don't use words that will upset the public.

I have more respect for her, somewhat, than for prominent ad-signers who deny drug legalization is the goal. And for signers who, God help us, do not even know the real goal, here's a statement by Dr. Ethan Nadelmann, now George Soros' chief narcotics specialist and field commander, in 1993 when he still spoke, unforked, about legalization:

"It's nice to think that in another 5 or 10 years . . . the right to possess and consume drugs may be as powerfully and as widely understood as the other rights of Americans are." Plain enough?

The conference is finished, legalizers are not. Hours after publication of this column, masses of denunciatory E-mail letters to the editor will arrive at The Times. Judging by the past, the web-site chiefs will announce gleefully that virtually all the letters The Times printed supported them, and how much that publicity would have cost if they had to pay for it. Anti-drug letters will arrive too late.

Now, I have a problem. Knowing that Americans are so against legalization and the multiplication of addition, crime and destroyed souls it will create, I ask myself why I write about legalizers at all. They live by publicity, which can mean more millions from Mr. Soros and a few other backers.

But the legalization minority includes many intellectuals, academics, journalists and others with access to lecture rooms, print and TV. So consistently do they spread their falsehood that the drug war has failed that even some Americans who want to fight drugs believe there's no use trying. America still suffers agonizingly from illegal drugs, but as President Clinton told the U.N., overall U.S. drug use has dropped 49 percent since 1979, cocaine use has dropped 70 percent since 1985, crime usually related to drugs has decreased five years in a row.

Yet the anti-drug movement has never rallied to tell Americans about the legalizers, identities and techniques. Washington and the U.N., including Mr. Arlacci, have even softened their language—such as not using the phrase "drug war" anymore.

Washington's big new anti-drug ad campaign will be useful, but not very, unless it not only urges parents to talk to children, but parents to talk to other parents, about the legalizers, in or out of camouflage.

Surely it is time for the President to dissect America's legalizers and publicly point the finger at them. If he is too delicate, or politically fearful, the rest of us will have to do the job of denying them acceptability or cover; it's worth the space.

THE U.S. CATHOLIC BISHOPS ON
HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO
CUBA

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 1998

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I am attaching for my colleagues' review a recent joint

statement from the United States Catholic Conference and the Catholic Relief Service regarding humanitarian assistance to Cuba. Few organizations have done more to help the Cuban people in these times of intense shortage on that island nation. I call your attention to the references to U.S. policy toward Cuba, particularly as expressed in a recent release by the Bishops of Cuba.

USCC—CRS STATEMENT ON HUMANITARIAN
AID TO CUBA: JUNE 6, 1998

Just one year ago, June 6, 1997, we bishops, representing the United States Catholic Conference's Committee on International Policy and the Board of Catholic Relief Services, wrote to President Clinton urging the resumption of direct flights from the United States to Cuba, especially for the delivery of humanitarian aid. On March 20th of this year, the President finally lifted the ban on direct flights, allowing Catholic Relief Services once again to send shipments of medicines and other humanitarian aid to the Cuban Church's relief and development agency, *Cáritas Cubana*. We applaud these actions.

We are intensely proud of the close relationship of solidarity and cooperative action that has developed between the Church here and in Cuba. The most concrete expression of this solidarity is the provision of critically needed medicines, medical supplies and equipment and other goods, donated by private individuals and corporations in this country, delivered Cuba by Catholic Relief Services, and distributed there by *Cáritas*. Although these efforts can meet only a fraction of the needs experienced by many in Cuba today, the Church in both countries is committed to doing all it can to alleviate suffering and give hope in a time of discouragement.

There are legislative proposals in the U.S. Congress seeking to address the problem of the dire shortage of many things in Cuba. Some call for an end to the U.S. restrictions on the sale of food and medicines, others propose grants of money or matériel by our government to the needy in Cuba, through the instrumentality of non-governmental groups such as the Catholic Church and its agency *Cáritas*. We welcome these efforts to reach out to our Cuban brothers and sisters in need. The Cuban Bishops' Conference, however, in a statement issued last month, has made clear its firm intention of avoiding any politicization of its humanitarian role in the present crisis and has thus indicated that it will not receive or distribute aid coming from governments. This has been the policy of the Cuban Church in the past and will continue to be so for the foreseeable future.

The position of the U.S. Catholic Conference and Catholic Relief Services is identical with that of the Bishops of Cuba. We pledge to do all we can to encourage private contributions of medicines and other needed goods to Catholic Relief Services for distribution by *Cáritas Cubana* to help lessen some of the suffering brought on in recent years. As we stated following the January papal visit, "ending the restrictions on the sale of food and medicines, as legislation currently in both houses of the U.S. Congress calls for, would be, in our view, a noble and needed humanitarian gesture and an expression of wise statesmanship on the part of our elected leaders."

Just a few days ago, on Pentecost Sunday, the Cuban Bishops issued an important pastoral statement, "The Spirit Desires to Breathe in Cuba," recalling the urgent plea issued by the Holy Father during his visit that the world open up to Cuba and Cuba to the world. The bishops observe that "at this time the world is opening up to our homeland, we reject any economic siege against

our country, as well as any attempt to isolate it." The Cuban Bishops call equally for Cuba to open up to the world, for "an internal opening of the Cuban society," requiring that "human rights . . . be fully respected." We pray that the government of Cuba and the government of the United States will reverse those policies of each that have contributed, in very different ways, to the suffering of the Cuban people.

Most Reverend Theodore E. McCarrick,
Archbishop of Newark, Chairman,
USCC Committee on International Policy;
Most Reverend John H. Ricard,
SSJ, Bishop of Pensacola, Chairman,
CRS Board of Directors.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
RAOUL WALLENBERG

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 1998

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, this Sunday, June 14, the Committee to Honor Raoul Wallenberg in Parsippany, New Jersey will gather to dedicate a sculpture in honor of the Swedish Diplomat. The statue is located in Smith Field Park, and will serve as a daily reminder to all of the legacy of the "Angel of Budapest."

The statue by artist Edward Adams, titled "Courage and Compassion," is a monument to the life and work of Rodney Wallenberg, a Righteous Gentle whose courage and selfless action saved the lives of over 100,000 Hungarian Jews during World War II.

I was honored to be a part of this project since its start, and to be able to help make this statue a reality. I want to commend the hard work and dedication of Murray Lauicht, the President of the United Jewish Federation of Metro West. He first wrote me three years ago, inviting me to participate in this important effort. He and many others gave generously of their time and their efforts to complete this memorial. I also want to commend Harry Ettlinger, the co-chairman of the Committee, for his work in putting the ceremony together.

Raoul Wallenberg was a man of rare courage and selflessness who recognized the outrage, injustice and evil acts being waged on Jewish people living in Nazi-dominated areas of Europe. He risked his life to save the lives of strangers. His actions during the waning days of World War II, in the face of a Nazi Party that was growing ever more desperate and brutal, make him an example for us and for future generations.

Raoul Wallenberg's ingenuity and creativity was the key to his success in saving over 100,000 Hungarian Jews. His tactics ranged from the traditional (building 30 "Swedish houses" which served as a safe haven for Jewish families) to the illegal (using bribes, threats and extortion to provide passes to Jews in the ghettos, on the death march and on the trains to concentration camps).

In an age where courage is often a forgotten virtue, Raoul Wallenberg is a model for all of us. When faced with adversity, he responded nobly. When called to help his fellow man, he gave willingly of his time. We all benefit from the legacy of Raoul Wallenberg. We can all learn from his example of courage, strength and righteousness.

It is my hope that the statue will serve as a daily reminder that, in a world where evil exists, there are among us the good and the just fighting for all our salvation and freedom.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. JOHN
CANTIUS CHURCH, WINDBER, PA

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 1998

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute before the U.S. House of Representatives to the St. John Cantius Parish in Windber, Pennsylvania, as it celebrates its 100th Anniversary today.

The St. John Cantius was the first Catholic Church in Windber, from which sprang all the other Catholic Parishes serving the Windber area today.

St. John Cantius, originally established in 1898 as the Immaculate Conception Parish, has a fascinating early history that classically demonstrates how immigrants from many different countries who came to America—and particularly to our area of western Pennsylvania—at the beginning of this century were united by their faith. The church was the central entity that helped bind these people together, overcoming different cultural backgrounds, language barriers, and traditions to create a strong, cohesive community. Even the clergy themselves came from different countries and spoke different languages. This strength and unity served these faithful people well as they struggled to make their way in America, overcoming the hard realities of the grueling daily worklife in the farming and coal mining regions that built and fed this country.

The St. John Cantius Church has not only endured, but has thrived and multiplied, increasing the numbers of its parishioners as well as parishes and preserving the tradition of devotion to family and faith for succeeding generations. In addition, it has provided its community with strength and support throughout all the trials and tribulations of this century, from the hardscrabble days of the Industrial Revolution, when the area's miners and steelworkers endured long work hours, low pay and abysmal working conditions, even through the Great Depression. It supported and comforted the people of the community through many wars that saw many of its young men head off to distant lands to defend their country and its ideals of freedom, sometimes never to return. It has held its community together through more modern struggles—the decline of the steel industry that brought lasting economic hard times and crippling unemployment. Through it all, the St. John Cantius Church has been a constant in the lives of the people of Windber—a source of support and sustenance, spiritually and in many other ways.

I am deeply honored to join in celebrating this wonderful occasion with the parishioners and clergy of St. John Cantius. May the church as well as the community it serves continue to grow and prosper for another one hundred years.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID L. HOBSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 1998

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, I was detained on June 10 for rollcall vote 225. As a supporter and cosponsor of earlier bankruptcy reform legislation, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

IN HONOR OF THE HISTORICAL
EXHIBIT OF OLD YORKVILLE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 1998

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay a respectful tribute to Zion-St. Mark's Lutheran Church, the last German-speaking church in the Yorkville area in my district.

The church has organized an historical exhibit of old Yorkville to commemorate the history of the area which used to be known as "German Town." It was formed as a middle and eastern European melting pot. As more and more high-rises and other large buildings have been built in recent decades, the character of the area has changed and some of the old-world charm has been lost.

Also to be prominently featured at this exhibit is a commemoration of the Slocum Disaster, the most lethal fire in American history and one of the world's greatest maritime tragedies. On June 15, 1904, the parishioners of St. Mark's church on 6th Street in Manhattan held their annual picnic. Since the festivities included a boat ride on the General Slocum, 1,446 members of the congregation boarded for a trip to Locust Grove on Long Island. Tragically, the boat caught fire. According to reports, the loss of life was disproportionately high because the boat's life vests and life boats were old or useless and there had been no fire-drills. 1,021 people died.

Because this disaster took such a heavy toll, the Lower East Side's German community was suddenly greatly reduced in number. Many of those remaining were too saddened to stay, and decided to move uptown, to Yorkville. The members of the St. Mark's congregation eventually merged with the Zion Church on East 8th Street. The church is now known as Zion-St. Mark's Lutheran Church.

Many accounts have been written of the terrible Slocum Disaster. This exhibit will allow people to remember the many fine contributions of the German-American community before and after this horrible event wiped out so much of their population. It will commemorate the victims, honor the survivors, and highlight some of the history of Germans in New York City. Finally, the exhibit will recall the days of old Yorkville, from the 18th Century through the 20th. This area was once a landmark section of New York and has quite a story to tell.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues rise with me in this tribute to the congregation of Zion-St. Mark's Lutheran Church, to the Ladies Aid Society, and to Kathryn A. Jolowicz.

TRIBUTE TO JACK PARTON

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 1998

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to commend Jack Parton, of Hebron, Indiana, for his exemplary service to Indiana's First Congressional District. Since 1982, when Jack was serving as the District 31 Director of the United Steelworkers of America, he has organized an annual golf outing to raise money for the National Kidney Foundation. This year, in honor of his great efforts and activities on behalf of the Kidney Foundation, Jack was honored by the foundation during the Cadillac Invitational Golf Tournament, on June 15, 1998 at the Broadmoor Country Club in Merrillville, Indiana.

The 16th annual 'Kidney Days Golf Outing' fundraiser for the National Kidney Foundation will be held on August 21, 1998. The event will take place at five golf courses in Northwest Indiana and is expected to include almost one thousand participants. Profits will be given to the Kidney Foundation to help the ailing and needy, with expected proceeds to be in excess of \$4,000. In the previous 15 years of this event, over \$100,000 has been raised and donated to the National Kidney Foundation.

A strong leader of the United Steelworkers of America, Jack first joined in the union in 1959 as a member of Local 1014 at U.S. Steel's Gary Works, where he served two terms as its President. Jack was elected Director of District 31 in 1981, and he was subsequently re-elected in 1985, 1989, and 1993. In 1995, District 31 was re-organized into District 7, which now encompasses all of Illinois and Indiana, and Jack served as its first director. In March of 1998, Jack was installed once more as the District 7 Director. Dedicated to the union, Jack has assumed numerous important responsibilities, including chairing contract negotiations with Inland Steel, Ryerson, Acme Steel, Northwestern Steel & Wire, and LTV Steel, where he serves as Secretary of negotiations. In addition, Jack established the District 7 Labor/Management Safety and Health Conference, which was the first district-level conference of its type in the USWA. In 1996, Jack served as the Secretary of the 1996 Convention Officers' Report Committee.

Jack, while deeply committed to his work, is also dedicated to his family. He often travels back to Virginia to visit his mother and spend time with his other relatives. His future plans include working to facilitate the unification merger of the United Autoworkers and the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers with the United Steelworkers of America. Together with other union leaders, Jack will ensure that the membership of these three unions unites to form one comprehensive, united, and strong voice for working men and women. This newly invigorated union will be dedicated to serving, protecting, and aiding its membership.

Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to ask you and my distinguished colleagues to join me in paying tribute to one of the region's true humanitarian leaders, Jack Parton. Jack's service to his community, co-workers, and union is worthy of the highest praise and emulation. Northwest Indiana is lucky to have such

a incredibly altruistic, dedicated, and upright individual.

TREASURY-POSTAL FUNDING BILL
AMENDMENT—LANGUAGE PRO-
HIBITING SEX TRAINING
COURSES FOR FEDERAL EM-
PLOYEES

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 1998

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow I will support an amendment to the Treasury-Postal Appropriations Bill that will cease the use of taxpayer dollars for sex technique training courses. Federal workers should not have to endure this treatment, and tax dollars should not be funding it!

I first learned of this training during an Appropriations Transportation Subcommittee hearing a few years ago. I have never heard more disturbing testimony in all my years in Congress. The inappropriate nature of the training was reiterated as employee after employee came before the subcommittee recounting horrifying incident after incident.

Mr. Speaker, nobody should be required to participate in "How To" sessions addressing sexual techniques or devices, such as "how to properly use a condom," or AIDS/HIV training on "how to properly shoot-up." Taxpayer dollars should not be wasted on despicable training techniques like tying together two individuals of opposite genders and requiring them to eat, sleep and bathe together for 24 hours!

Mr. Speaker, we must not overlook the need to protect the dignity of federal employees and the integrity of the use of taxpayer dollars. This radical agenda must be stopped from rearing its ugly head.

TRIBUTE TO THE "SOCIEDAD
CULTURAL MAYAGÜEZANA, INC."

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 1998

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great joy that I rise today to pay tribute to the "Sociedad Cultural Mayagüezana, Inc." a non-profit civic and cultural organization dedicated to uniting the people from my birth town of Mayagüez, Puerto Rico in the United States and Puerto Rico.

This year I had the honor to march with members of the "Sociedad Cultural Mayagüezana, Inc." and other representatives from Mayagüez during the National Puerto Rican Parade, which was celebrated on June 14, in New York City. The Parade, on its 41st year of history, is the most popular event held in commemoration of the contributions of the Puerto Rican community in the United States.

The "Sociedad Cultural Mayagüezana, Inc." was established in 1965 in New York City by a group of people who saw the need to educate our community about Mayagüez's historic legacy.

Under the leadership of its president, Mr. Andres Irizarry Falto, the organization has been at the forefront developing educational

programs on Mayagüez's folklore, history and traditions.

Among its many activities, the "Sociedad Cultural Mayagüezana, Inc." has kept alive the tradition of the "Three Kings Day" in our community. The organization collected gifts which were distributed to low-income children on January 6, the "Three Kings Day."

In addition, young girls from the community are encouraged to learn about the traditional "danza" and how to dance this classical music from Puerto Rico.

The organization also offers educational seminars. Among their many guest speakers, a descendant from the Indian people of Mayagüez, the Chief or "Cacique Cibanacan" talked to the community about our Indian roots.

Mayagüez was founded in 1760 by Spaniards. Its first inhabitants, before Christopher Columbus arrived in 1492, were Indians known as the "Tainos", which means good or noble. Today Mayagüez has a population of 200,000 people. The town, which lies in the southwestern part of Puerto Rico, is also known as "Sultana del Oeste".

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the "Sociedad Cultural Mayagüezana, Inc." for their tireless efforts in educating our community and in bringing together the people from my birth city, Mayagüez.

CHILD PROTECTION AND SEXUAL
PREDATOR PUNISHMENT ACT OF
1998

SPEECH OF

HON. RON KLINK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3494) to amend title 18, United States Code, with respect to violent sex crimes against children, and for other purposes:

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Chairman, I think this is good legislation that will protect our children and I urge my colleagues to support it.

I am pleased that the problem of pedophiles using the Internet to prey upon innocent children is finally receiving the attention it deserves.

I first became concerned about this issue when, as a television reporter in Pennsylvania, I discovered that the police were pursuing a well-organized, high-tech ring of computer pedophiles. This pedophile ring had compiled information on techniques and locations for preying on children in cities all across the country.

Since my election to Congress, I have been working to protect children on the Internet. My Pennsylvania colleague, JOHN MURTHA and I met with local and State law enforcement officials, the Department of Justice Child Exploitation Division, and representatives of family groups to discuss what to do about this growing problem.

In particular, I remember meeting with Al Olsen, a police chief from Warwick Township, PA, one of the few people in the country working on the problem of Internet pedophiles at that time. He told us about a California man

who used computer bulletin boards to lure youthful rape victims to his home. This same man was using the Internet to brag about what he was doing.

It was clear to us that pedophiles had evolved from preying on children at the school yards and playgrounds to preying on them on the Internet and that law enforcement needed new tools to catch up.

Finally, this legislation moves against that threat. It makes it a Federal crime to use the Internet to contact a minor for the purpose of illegal sexual activity. This is stricter than current law, which requires prosecutors to prove that the victim was persuaded.

The bill also makes it a Federal offense to use the Internet to knowingly transport obscene material to a minor, whether within a State or across State lines.

These new provisions will provide law enforcement with much-needed tools to combat the growing problem of pedophiles on the Internet.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3494.

A TRIBUTE TO AMERICA'S POLKA
KING: FRANK YANKOVIC

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 1998

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Frank Yankovic on his 50th anniversary as America's Polka King. On June 8th, 1948, in the Milwaukee Auditorium in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Frank Yankovic was crowned "America's Polka King" before 7000 screaming fans. Fifty years later, he is still "The King" to polka fans around the country, spurring a movement by Congress to award him a National Medal of Arts.

Yankovic's contributions to the popularity of polka music are legendary. But Frank's beginnings were rather modest, playing Slovenian songs on a button box for neighbors and boarders at his parents' home. At age 19, Yankovic's interest turned to the piano accordion, which upset his father because he felt Frankie could never make a living playing it. Secretly, Frankie's mother bought him a piano accordion, which he practiced at his sister's house until he played it well enough to play in front of his dad. After hearing Frankie play, his father put his arms around him and said, "If you're going to play it, play it well."

And play it well he did, as he and his friends became one of the most popular bands in town, getting exposure on Doctor James Malle's Sunday Slovenian radio program, and cutting several records under the name of the Solvene Folk Orchestra. In 1941, the day before Pearl Harbor, Frankie opened his own bar, which quickly became a popular hangout for musicians. But World War II took him overseas, where he nearly lost his life in the Battle of the Bulge, suffering from frost bite so severe in his hands and feet that gangrene had set it and doctors planned to amputate. But Frankie wouldn't let them, and after a long course of penicillin and drugs, he began to regain the use of his hands and feet. For therapy, the doctors gave him an old accordion to play. Soon he was entertaining the whole hospital.

Yankovic came home from the army and went back to his bar, which was more popular

than ever. In 1946, Columbia offered Frankie a recording contract with a two year option. That contract lasted for 26 years. In December of 1947, Yankovic heard a song called "Just Because" which he felt could be a hit, but Columbia would not record it, until Frankie offered to buy the first 10,000 records himself. That song bridged the barrier between popular music and polka and launched Yankovic into the national spotlight. And there he stayed, with hits like "Blue Skirt Waltz" and "Just Because", which both became gold records. Frank won the first Grammy ever given for polka music, and was one of the first men inducted into the "International Polka Hall of Fame" in Chicago. But through it all, Frankie Yankovic has remained dedicated to his fans, and his enthusiasm for entertaining has never waned.

Frankie Yankovic is and always will be, "America's Polka King."

BANKRUPTCY REFORM ACT OF 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 10, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3150) to amend title 11 of the United States Code, and for other purposes:

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank my colleague Dr. PAUL for introducing his amendment at this time. Dr. PAUL is one of the foremost scholars on the issue of credit. His amendment emphasizes the heavy burden which federal taxation places on American families. Dr. PAUL, certainly is correct in pointing out that, together with credit expansion, gambling, health care costs, etc., the federal burden is a contributing factor to bankruptcies and his foresight in bringing up this important topic is to be commended. I believe we should indeed focus further study on these concerns and make sure that future legislation in this area is mindful of this important fact.

Moreover, I want to thank Dr. PAUL for being east to work with and for his understanding of our concerns in ensuring that this landmark legislation is passed, and for his actions to that end. However, I am currently opposed to this amendment due to time constraints and the fact that I am not sure of its implications. I look forward to working with you in the future on this language and on other issues concerning taxes and bankruptcy.

TRIBUTE TO DICK CABLE

HON. VIC FAZIO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 1998

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Dick Cable, a friend to all and a fixture on the local broadcasting scene for over 30 years. This month, the Sacramento Safety Center, a group of community organizations, is honoring Dick for his efforts on behalf of a number of children's charities.

Dick Cable, a professional broadcaster since 1958, has been with KXTV-10 since

January, 1969. He spent his first 8 years in radio, in Colorado, Wyoming and Idaho. He made the transition to television in Boise, Idaho, 1966 and in 1968 was named "Outstanding Young Man of the Year" by the Boise Jaycees.

Since joining KXTV-10, Dick has become the first-ever Sacramento newscaster to win an Emmy. This award winning piece was in 1973 for a special on the problems of female alcoholics. In 1988, his piece "Drop-puts: We All Pay the Price" was named Best News Series by the California School Boards Association. Dick Cable has been KXTV's "For Kids Sake" spokesperson since the station launched the project in 1992. In this capacity, Dick is the primary on-air personality for "For Kids Sake" messages which promote child and family issues such as self-esteem, parenting, and education.

Dick is very active in community events such as "Coats for Kids Sake," "Walk America For Kids Sake," "Sacramento Reads," and countless others. He is also Honorary Mayor of Safetyville, U.S.A. Dick is a frequent guest in classrooms throughout the area. He loves to read to children, and also participates in other self-esteem building projects. He serves on the board of Child Abuse Prevention Council of Sacramento, and is a board member of the Greater Sacramento Area United Way including it's citizen committee on funding for Children-At-Risk programs. Dick is a frequent speaker to community organizations throughout the Central Valley of California. His speechless focus primarily in support of child and family issues such as decision making and the need to get involved in our children's lives.

Dick and his wife Berta live in the Sacramento area. Dick has five children and eight grandchildren.

For 30 years, Dick has been an outstanding representative of his profession. He's been a paragon of honest and fair reporting and his professional ethics will serve as a model for future broadcast journalist.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring Dick Cable and I personally extend my sincere appreciation for all he has done for the community of Sacramento during his many years of dedicated service.

COMMEMORATING 100 YEARS OF RELATIONS BETWEEN PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES AND PEOPLE OF THE PHILIPPINES

SPEECH OF

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 1998

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I support H. Res. 404, which commemorates the friendship which the United States and the Philippines have shared over the last century. I am proud that the San Francisco district I represent has a large Filipino-American community which has contributed greatly to the city's diversity. The friendship of the United States and the Philippines will only continue to grow as we move into the 21st century.

One century ago, the Philippine's gained its independence from Spain, which had ruled

over the Filipino people ever since Magellan claimed the islands for Spain in 1541. That day in 1898 was truly historic, for it marked the beginning of the close and wonderful relationship between the Philippines and the United States.

Our relationship has always been mutually beneficially. During World War II, as the Japanese were conquering much of Asia, the Philippines became an historic turning point in the Pacific theater. History remembers General MacArthur's promise of "I will return" upon surrendering the Philippines to the Japanese only to keep that promise and retake the Philippines in one of the defining moments of the relationship both countries share.

Soon after the war, the Philippines gained full independence from the United States and became a key strategic ally throughout the cold war.

Today, the Philippines is one of the few true democracy's in Asia. In 1986, the world was captivated when Corazon Aquino's "People Power" revolution brought her into office. And just last month, the Philippines held peaceful elections resulting in their country's third democratically elected president in 12 years.

As we enter the next century, we must work together to address new challenges. In moving forward though, we must embrace and reconcile past discrepancies. I therefore urge my colleagues to rectify a broken promise made during World War II. Fighting under the flag of the United States, many Filipino soldiers were promised full veterans benefits by the United States only to see that promise withdrawn after the war was won.

I ask my colleagues, what better tribute to our relationship with the Philippines than to honor this promise as we end the 20th century. We must demonstrate, as General MacArthur did, the importance of keeping promises. Then we can work closely to address the problems of the next century.

TRIBUTE TO THE NATIONAL PUERTO RICAN PARADE: 41 YEARS OF HISTORY

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 1998

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great joy that I rise today to pay tribute to the National Puerto Rican Parade on its 41 years of history. The parade, which was held on June 14 in New York City, is the largest celebration of Puerto Rican culture in the United States.

Throughout its history, the parade has grown into a national event under the leadership of its President, Ramón S. Vélez. The event attracts thousands of Puerto Ricans from across the nation and from Puerto Rico, as well as many other individuals, their families and children, from all ethnic backgrounds.

As a Puerto Rican, a New Yorker, and a Member of Congress, every year it is an honor to participate in this national event, in which thousands of individuals march along Fifth Avenue, in Manhattan, in celebration of our Puerto Rican heritage and our achievements in this nation. This year I had the honor to march with members of the "Sociedad Cultural Mayagüezana, Inc." and other representatives from my birth town of Mayagüez, Puerto Rico.

Mayagüez was founded in 1760 by Spaniards. Its first inhabitants, before Christopher Columbus arrived in 1492, were Indians known as the "Tainos", which means good or noble. Today Mayagüez has a population of 200,000 people. The town, which lies in the southwestern part of Puerto Rico, is also known as "Sultana del Oeste".

This year's parade honored the life of Luis Muñoz Marín, the first Governor of Puerto Rico elected by the people in 1947. Muñoz Marín is credited with implementing the new economic reforms which resulted in raising the standard of living on the island to one of the highest in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The parade has served as a national landmark in which people from all ethnic groups unite to commemorate our nation's glorious immigrant history. Among many other accomplishments, Puerto Ricans have been instrumental in transforming New York City into a great bilingual city.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Luis Muñoz Marín and the National Puerto Rican Parade, in its celebration of our Puerto Rican legacy, and the many contributions made by the sons and daughters of Puerto Rico to the greatness of this nation.

HONORARY U.S. CITIZENSHIP FOR
LEIF ERICSON

HON. MARTIN OLAV SABO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 1998

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce a resolution to grant honorary United States citizenship to the Norse navigator and explorer, Leif Ericson.

Leif Ericson played a vital role in the European discovery of our continent. It is a role that, over the years, has not been widely recognized. Within the past 30 years, new historical evidence has surfaced to show that Leif Ericson landed in North America around 1000 A.D., almost 500 years prior to Christopher Columbus' arrival in the New World.

Leif Ericson was born around 970 A.D. in Greenland, son of the famous warrior, explorer, and discoverer of Greenland, "Eric the Red." There are two traditional accounts of Leif Ericson's discovery of America. However, the one that is best upheld by recent evidence states that a contemporary of Leif's, Bjarni Herjolfsson, chanced upon America after drifting off course. Bjarni did not land in the New World, but upon his return to Greenland, he described his course to Leif. Following Herjolfsson's course, Leif later landed in North America. He named the new land "Vinland," after the plentiful supply of grapes he found there. He built a small settlement and spent the winter in Vinland before he returned to Greenland.

At the end of his career, Leif Ericson settled on his father's estate in Brattahlid, Greenland, where he lived until he died. It is rumored that he is buried in an unmarked grave in the Brattahlid cemetery.

I offer this resolution as a tribute to the pioneering spirit of Leif Ericson, and as a symbol of the virtues of courage and perseverance we all must embody in order to accomplish our goals.

I also offer this resolution in recognition of the Leif Ericson Millennium Committee (LEMC), a non-profit organization whose founder and president, Ivar Christensen, has devoted his life to gaining recognition of Leif Ericson's voyage and Viking settlements in North America around 1000 A.D. Since its inception, the LEMC has enlisted several Honorary Members, established a "working" Board of Directors, trademarked a logo, gathered preliminary information on Viking Celebrations throughout North America, and is now planning how to realize the objectives for the Millennium Celebration.

Finally, I also offer this resolution to honor all Americans of Scandinavian descent. For generations, they have proven themselves brave and loyal Americans, carrying on the tradition of courage and exploration started by their Norse ancestors, including Leif Ericson.

It is only appropriate that we recognize the importance of Leif Ericson by making him an honorary citizen of the United States, a small tribute for his contributions to our society.

HONORING THE PONTIAC CENTRAL
DELPHI FIRST TEAM

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 1998

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to your attention the remarkable efforts and achievements of the Pontiac Central/Delphi Interior and Lighting Systems FIRST Robotics Team. This dedicated partnership has resulted in national recognition and a renewed commitment to excellence in science and technology.

For three years now, the fine students from Central High School located in Pontiac, MI, and the staff of Delphi Interior and Lighting of Troy, MI, have been competing in the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) national competition. As a rookie team in 1996, their efforts resulted in the national competition rookie All Star award. In only their second year of competition they were honored with the competition's highest award, the Chairman's Award for overall excellence. This year they placed first at the Southwest Regional Championship, New England Championship, and Great Lakes Regional Championship.

The Pontiac Central faculty includes: Dr. Willie B. Aldridge, Birta Allen, Michael Martus, Michael McIntyre, Lorene Phillips, Jamie Schutt, and Arthur Williams. The Pontiac Central students include: Tanea Andrews, Ben Arroyo, Stephanie Bonner, Phuong Bui, Danta Cabello, Steven Carpenter, Armand Collins, Lenwood Compton, Jose Diaz, Tabitha Durham, Alia Garrison, Glynn Gooch, Regina Grifin, Janine Harper, Hmong Her, Tawanda Hilliard, Travis Hilliard, Chris Jackson, Yvette Johnson, Albert Lee, Alva Liimatta, Myder Ly, Ilea Lyons, Koua Moua, Ronnitrea Pilgrim, Denneen Russell, Scottie Spencer, Austin St. Peter, Cary Xiong, Bob Yang, Lisa Yang, Mary Yang, Pa Yang, Peter Yang, Yang Yang, John Youngquist, and Timothy Youngquist.

Members of the Delphi Interior and Lighting Systems engineering team include: Dr. Barbara A. Sanders, Hassan Anahid, Mike Aubry, Craig Blanchard, Robert Brooks, Michael

Caivaglia, Joe Cranston, Dan D'Addario, Brian Deplae, Jeremy Husic, Joseph Johnson, Marvin Lewis, Sandra Marion, Jane Maselli, Shannon Moore, Mark Nicholas, Amanda Offer, Joe Otenbaker, Tom Osborne, Chantell Parentea, Joe Picciurro, William Priest, Vijay Srinivas, Mark Steffe, Angelica Tasker, Ronald Wilde, Kimberly Will, Kevin Wright, and Joe Zwolinski.

Mr. Speaker, in order for our nation to remain a leader in the global economy we must recognize the importance of science and technology education. For three years, teachers, volunteers, sponsors and participants of the Pontiac Central/Delphi Interior and Lighting Systems FIRST Robotics team have been committed to ensuring that our nation's future doctors, engineers, and scientists have the skills necessary to succeed in the 21st century.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL ON
FINANCIAL DERIVATIVE

HON. JAMES A. LEACH

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 1998

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, over the past several years, financial engineers in our great banks and securities houses have come up with scores of new products that have kept the United States far in the lead as the world's preeminent financial market place.

None of these new-age products has been more successful than derivative financial instruments, which, as the name suggests, derive their value from the worth of an underlying product, such as a precious metal, the interest rate of a government bond or stock index. Derivatives enable banks, corporations, mutual funds, pension funds—indeed, anyone with a substantial portfolio—to mitigate risks from volatility in interest rates, commodity prices and equity values. There is hardly anyone in America today who has physically touched, but who has not been indirectly touched by financial derivative instruments.

Banks pioneered the over-the-counter derivatives markets and, though other important financial institutions have followed suit, banks still account for more than two thirds of the business in swaps and other O-T-C instruments. That market today has a so-called notional value of several trillion dollars, and the American share of it has added to the health of our financial services sector.

Our fragmented and antiquated financial laws and regulations, however, threaten American leadership in that sector of the industry. The fact that new financial products don't easily fit definitions that were written long before these products were invented has produced legal uncertainty in some critical areas like swap contracts and trades in hybrid instruments—uncertainty that some regulators may have exacerbated by a drive to enlarge bureaucratic turf. As a result, some of this home-grown financial business has moved out of our great financial centers—to place like London, where counterparties to a swap agreement can be certain that the sanctity of their contract is secure and not, as it might be here, vulnerable to the whims of a regulator insufficiently apprised that people don't like to do

business in markets where the sanctity of their contracts may be in doubt.

Technology has transformed the financial services industry in the last few years, and the onrush of change continues. If the gaps and ambiguities in our statutes are not corrected, and corrected soon, our financial markets may lose even more business.

There must be consistency, coordination and clarity in our regulations of derivative instruments. Our laws and regulations must be harmonized so that regulatory turf battles can be lessened and regulatory arbitrage eliminated.

I have not been impressed with the activities of our current coordinating bodies, like the President's Working Group of Financial Markets, which are supposed to sort out conflicts among financial regulators and produce decisions balancing public and private interests. In Congressional testimony last week, Chairman Brooksley Born of the CFTC said the President's Working Group simply doesn't do much, and that it's up to each agency to act within its own statutory authority. But I'm not impressed either by the efforts of one agency unilaterally to gain control of over-the-counter markets.

Effective regulation of derivatives markets has profound consequences on consumers and industry alike. The public needs fair and efficient markets, markets in which it can have complete confidence. Financial institutions need sensible regulation that will neither impair its ability to innovate nor burden it with onerous requirements. And both public and industry need regulations and regulators who can keep up with the pace of technological change without driving market participants to less prudential foreign markets.

The bill I am introducing today would create a study group to bring the laws and regulations of over-the-counter markets up to date. The Working Group on Financial Derivatives will be chaired by the Secretary of the Treasury and include the principal banking and financial market overseers. They will be asked to devise changes that will clarify and, I hope, simplify and rationalize our current crazy quilt of regulations and regulators. They will have one year to make their recommendations to Congress.

Mr. Speaker, it isn't only the United States which needs clarity in financial regulation. The financial business is a global business, and it can, and does, shift from one market to another almost on a moment's notice in response to regulatory pressure. If we are to end regulatory arbitrage—the practice in which business moves to the most lightly regulated markets, and regulators compete for business by offering the lightest regulations—we must approach this multinationally.

My bill would ask the Administration to enter into negotiations with the objective of establishing comparable regulation in the world's principal financial centers. Markets here and abroad should be efficient, transparent, and fair to their customers. The safety and soundness of the world financial system depends on it.

Below is the financial derivatives bill:

H.R. —

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Financial Derivatives Supervisory Improvement Act of 1998".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds as follows:

(1) There should be consistency, coordination, and clarity in the regulation of derivative instruments used by financial institutions.

(2) Banks and their affiliates developed, and remain the principal participants in, the derivatives markets.

(3) Regulation of the derivatives markets directly affects the liquidity, efficiency, capital position, and safety and soundness of the banking industry and the safety and soundness of the Federal deposit insurance fund.

(4) Regulation of the derivatives markets has profound consequences for the continued effectiveness of the bank supervisory process, including the capital provisions of the Federal banking agencies.

(5) Statutes and regulations governing use of financial derivatives by depository institutions in the United States, including over-the-counter and exchange-traded derivatives, should be brought up to date to reflect the rapid evolution of the markets in recent years, framed so as to keep pace with changes in the markets brought on by the onrush of technological advances, and formulated in a manner that enhances the legal certainty of derivatives transactions.

(6) The Congress desires interagency cooperation to harmonize, to the maximum extent possible, United States rules and regulations related to the derivatives markets.

(7) Regulatory arbitrage is a fact of commerce, with market participants having the tendency to move to the weakest regulator.

(8) The stability of the international financial system and the competitive position of United States financial institutions are jeopardized if foreign markets are regulated less prudently than United States markets.

SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF WORKING GROUP ON FINANCIAL DERIVATIVES.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT; COMPOSITION.—There is established the Working Group on Financial Derivatives, which shall consist of—

(1) the Secretary of the Treasury;

(2) the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System;

(3) the Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission;

(4) the Chairman of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission;

(5) the Comptroller of the Currency;

(6) the Director of the Office of Thrift Supervision;

(7) the Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation; and

(8) the President of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

(b) CHAIRMANSHIP.—The Chairman of the Working Group on Financial Derivatives shall be the Secretary of the Treasury.

(c) DESIGNATION OF OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES.—The members of the Working Group on Financial Derivatives may, from time to time, designate other officers or employees of their respective agencies to assist in carrying out the duties on the Working Group on Financial Derivatives.

(d) ESTABLISHMENT OF ADVISORY COMMITTEES.—In the development of recommendations related to derivative products, the Working Group on Financial Derivatives shall consult, to the widest extent possible, with market participants, and may establish advisory committees accordingly.

(e) SUNSET; REPORTS.—The Working Group on Financial Derivatives shall cease to exist upon the enactment of legislation authorizing appropriations for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission for any fiscal year after fiscal year 2000. The Secretary of the Treasury and the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System shall submit to the Congress every 6 months,

during the 4-year period beginning on the date of such cessation, a report on the progress of the implementation of the recommendations of the Working Group on Financial Derivatives.

SEC. 4. STUDY AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON REGULATION OF DERIVATIVES MARKETS.

(a) STUDY.—The Working Group on Financial Derivatives established under section 2—

(1) shall conduct a study on the regulation of the derivatives markets, including over-the-counter derivatives and exchange-traded derivatives, in which depository institutions, brokers or dealers registered under the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, foreign banks, or affiliates of a depository institution or a foreign bank, participate; and

(2) shall develop recommendations for modernizing and harmonizing statutes, regulations, and policies—

(A) to reflect changes in the markets described in paragraph (1);

(B) to improve their operations;

(C) to enhance legal certainty for all types of instruments related to such markets, including hybrid instruments and swap agreements; and

(D) to promote the harmonization of regulation of such markets worldwide.

(b) REPORTS.—

(1) INTERIM REPORT.—Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Working Group on Financial Derivatives established under section 2 shall submit an interim report to the Congress describing the working group's progress.

(2) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Working Group on Financial Derivatives established under section 2 shall submit a final report to the Congress describing the study conducted under subsection (a)(1) and containing the recommendations developed under subsection (a)(2).

(3) SEPARATE VIEWS.—The reports under paragraph (1) and (2) may include separately stated views of any member of the working group.

SEC. 5. PROTECTION OF INTERNATIONAL BANKING SYSTEM.

To protect customers, stabilize the international financial system, and underpin the safety and soundness of banking institutions in the United States and the banking system around the world, the Government of the United States and the Working Group on Financial Derivatives should make a high priority continual negotiations to ensure that foreign markets and regulatory bodies establish and maintain regulations comparably prudent to those applicable in United States markets.

SEC. 6. RESTRICTIONS RELATING TO HYBRID INSTRUMENTS AND SWAP AGREEMENTS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law—

(1) during the period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act and ending upon the enactment of legislation authorizing appropriations for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission for any fiscal year after fiscal year 2000, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission may not, without the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury, propose or promulgate any rule, regulation, or order, or issue any interpretive or policy statement, that restricts or regulates activity in a hybrid instrument or swap agreement—

(A) that is eligible for exemption under part 34 or 35 of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on January 1, 1998); and

(B) to which a depository institution, a broker or dealer registered under the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, a foreign bank, or an affiliate of a depository institution or a foreign bank, is a party; and

(2) a hybrid instrument or swap agreement described in paragraph (1) that is entered into before the period described in such paragraph shall not be subject to section 2(a)(1)(B)(v) of the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. 2a(a)(1)(B)(v)).

SEC. 7. DEFINITIONS.

For purposes of this Act:

(1) The term "depository institution" has the meaning given such term in section 19(b)(1)(A) of the Federal Reserve Act (12 U.S.C. 461(b)(1)(A)).

(2) The term "foreign bank" has the meaning given such term in section 1(b)(7) of the International Banking Act of 1978 (12 U.S.C. 3101(b)(7)).

CONGRATULATION TO THE VILLAGE OF ELK RAPIDS, MI

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 1998

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, a small village in my district, the 1st Congressional District of Michigan, is celebrating its sesquicentennial in 1998. In its 150-year history Elk Rapids, like so many small Midwestern cities and villages, has grown from the homestead of a single hardy pioneering family to a community with a rich and unique heritage.

Like other Midwestern communities, Elk Rapids has witnessed the lure of lumber and furs, has seen boom times and times of economic hardship, and has renewed itself through several generations with the same strength and courage demonstrated by its original settlers. Through research and recollection, the village leaders in a resolution marking their sesquicentennial have distilled those 150 years into a brief history, which I will relate to you, Mr. Speaker.

The community's story begins in the mid-1800s, when Abram Wadsworth, a government surveyor from Durham, Conn., came to the region to explore the Grand Traverse Territory in northwestern Lower Michigan. Mr. Wadsworth's task was to explore the Territory in general, and specifically to survey land in the section now known as Elk Rapids.

Mr. Wadsworth, on one of his visits, found a pair of elk horns in the rapids near the mouth of the Elk River and determined that this pristine and picturesque spot would be especially well-suited for the construction of a sawmill for the purpose of processing timber cut from the vast hardwood stands of Antrim County. He erected in 1848 the first permanent dwelling on the shores of Grand Traverse Bay in the general vicinity of the present Elk Rapids Township Hall.

This structure led to the eventual settlement and development of a town around that site, which has grown through the hard work and dedication of its citizens over the last 150 years to become the Village of Elk Rapids.

The village grew to a thriving community which based its livelihood on the lumber industry. The community sent out lumber and drew its local supplies via rail lines on the landward side and through docks on the Grand Traverse Bay side that drew steamers from Milwaukee and Chicago.

The population of the village grew to a bustling 1,800 by the year 1905, fell with the de-

cline of the lumber industry to 530 people by the year 1930, but has grown again to more than 1,600. With the natural attraction of the water and the moderate temperatures caused by its nearness to Lake Michigan, the village now bases its livelihood on fruit farming and tourism. Community leaders are optimistic about the future of Elk Rapids as it prepares for its next 150 years.

I am proud to be a participant in the events of Founder's Day, June 20, 1998, which has been officially designated as the day to spotlight this auspicious occasion.

Mr. Speaker, by proclamation of the Village of Elk Rapids, I encourage my colleagues, and I encourage all residents, business people and visitors to the village to recognize and celebrate this milestone in ways that heighten civic pride and inspire further preservation of the historical, cultural and natural characteristics that make Elk Rapids one of the most enchanting places on the face of the Earth.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 1998

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, on June 11th, I was unable to cast my vote in support of H.R. 466, condemning the brutal killing of James Byrd, Jr. The measure was not scheduled for the day's legislative business, and I had already committed to travel plans to reach my district that evening. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

BILL OF RIGHTS AND CAMPAIGN REFORM

HON. TOM DeLAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 1998

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, as we begin the debate on so-called campaign reform, my colleagues should take a moment to read the following column from Dennis Byrne of the Chicago Sun Times. He has it exactly right—reformers think the First Amendment is a "loop-hole" that must be closed.

[From the Chicago Sun-Times, June 10, 1998]

BILL OF RIGHTS NO OBSTACLE TO 'REFORM'

(By Dennis Byrne)

When the House last week defeated a constitutional amendment to strengthen religious freedom, its opponents argued that we shouldn't be messing around with the Bill of Rights.

House Minority Leader Richard Gephardt of Missouri joined many fellow Democrats in defeating the amendment based on the logic that the First Amendment already protects religious freedoms.

So, guess who has introduced an amendment to change the Bill of Rights? That's right, Gephardt. He would allow Congress to restrict the First Amendment by limiting what Americans can say about political candidates and issues. But as the debate is joined on campaign finance reform, a Gep-

hardt spokeswoman said he would vote "present" on his own amendment. Democrats charge that Republicans are calling for a vote now on the amendment to embarrass the Democrats.

They should be embarrassed.

It was bad enough that many Democrats, along with a few Republicans, were pushing a version of campaign finance "reform" that would fly in the face of Supreme Court rulings limiting how much Congress can restrict Americans' political speech as expressed through their campaign contributions. Now their favorite bill, McCain-Feingold, is being topped by a worse version, Shays-Meehan (HR 3526), backed by President Clinton, Common Cause and the League of Women Voters.

Get a load of some of its proposals, according to an analysis by the National Right to Life Committee:

It would impose year-round restrictions on what incorporated citizens advocacy groups that are not political action committees can say about issue and candidates. They wouldn't be allowed to publish anything that mentions a lawmaker in connection with judgment about his actions or beliefs. For example, a community organization would not be able to note approvingly that Rep. Rod Blagojevich (D-Ill.) opposed the recycling of napalm in East Chicago.

Any group that "coordinated" with a candidate, even to the point of having the same printer, would be banned during the year from even naming a candidate "for the purpose of influencing a federal election," a test that is so vague as to be unconstitutional. Such a group couldn't issue any communication having "value" to the candidate, even if the candidate isn't named.

"Coordination" also would include the common practice among groups of sending a written questionnaire to candidates and then disseminating the results. It also would include "policymaking discussions" with a "candidate's campaign," which could rule out lobbying.

Within 60 days of a congressional primary campaign, such groups couldn't mention the name of a candidate, even in ads that alert citizens to upcoming votes in Congress. Groups could obtain an exception for putting out materials about voting records and positions, but the information must be presented "in an educational manner"—another unconstitutionally vague test.

There's more, but this is as much as I can take.

The meaning of the First Amendment is clear: In the interest of hearty debate, government can't restrict the people's right to talk about the government. Instead, campaign finance "reformers" would have government decide what people are allowed to say about their elected officials (read: their government).

The answer to campaign finance abuse is to enforce the laws we already have—would that Attorney General Janet Reno ask for an independent counsel to investigate presidential fund-raising shenanigans.

The constitutional answer is to strengthen free speech by removing the arbitrary restrictions now imposed on campaign donations, while requiring complete, clear and immediate disclosure.

But if "reformers" get their way, the rules will become so complex and arcane that Americans first will have to consult their lawyers to find out what government allows them to say about government. The answer will be: Not much.

Dennis Byrne is a member of the Sun-Times editorial board.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE PORT WASHINGTON YOUTH ACTIVITIES 8TH ANNUAL HALL OF FAME DINNER

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 1998

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize three individuals who will be honored on Friday, June 19th, 1998, for their dedication and support of youth activities in the town of Port Washington, New York. Julius Picardi, Frank Giordano and Jack Sommerville will be so honored by induction into the Port Washington Youth Activities Hall of Fame at the PYA's eighth annual affair. They will join a select group of twenty others who have been previously recognized by the PYA.

Mr. Picardi has been a dynamic force in the growth of the PYA during the 1980s serving as coach, organization treasurer, officer and director for over fifteen years. Mr. Giordano is cited for his athletic achievements including collegiate lacrosse at the United States Military Academy in the early 1980s. Many of his skills and his dedication to excellence were developed in his active days as a youth in the PYA programs. Finally, Mr. Sommerville is remembered for his tireless dedication as coach and supporter of PYA baseball programs for more than ten years.

All three of these gentlemen are recognized for their individual and collective contributions to youth sports and all they embody. They are an excellent reflection upon themselves, their families, their community and the volunteer spirit of American organizations, such as PYA. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in recognizing these individuals who are most deserving of this honor, with special appreciation from their neighbors and friends.

THE ASSISTIVE AND UNIVERSALLY DESIGNED TECHNOLOGY IMPROVEMENT ACT FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 1998

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to introduce H.R. XX, the Assistive and Universally Designed Technology Improvement Act for Individuals with Disabilities. H.R. XX is the House companion bill to S. 2173 offered by my distinguished Senate colleague from Missouri, Mr. BOND.

Last July, my Technology Subcommittee held a hearing focusing on the transfer of federal technologies to meet the needs of those with disabled conditions. We learned from the hearing that these technologies, known as "assistive technologies" are being used to increase, maintain, and improve the functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities.

Assistive technologies is a device, whether acquired commercially, off-the-shelf, modified, or customized, that is used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities. Examples of assistive technologies, which provide for more independent, productive, and enjoyable living,

can be simple or complex. It ranges from: Velcro, adapted clothing and toys, computers, seating systems, powered mobility, augmentative communication devices, special switches, assisted listening devices, visual aids, memory prosthetics, to thousands of other commercially available or adapted items. As examples, it can be: a computer that can be used by an individual with Cerebral Palsy, a motor scooter, a hearing aid for an individual who is aging, or enhanced voice recognition for someone with Multiple Sclerosis.

Assistive technologies provide a disabled individual the means to function better in the workplace or the home. This technology, which aids Americans with physical or mental disabilities, improves the end users' quality of life and provides a means for acquiring a job. For the 49 million people in the United States who have disabilities, as well as for Americans who are able bodied, assistive technologies have yielded a tremendous number of quality of life enhancements.

These technology solutions improve an individual's ability to learn, compete, work and interact with family and friends. People use assistive technology to achieve greater independence and to enhance the quality of their lives.

A preliminary study on the impact and benefits of assistive technologies was conducted by the National Council on Disability in 1993. Surveyed were 136 individuals with disabilities to evaluate the costs and benefits associated with the use of different kinds of technology-related assistance. The individuals were from four age groups and the results indicate a significant impact of assistive technologies on many aspects of the respondents lives, including: the majority of infants with disabilities benefited by having fewer health problems; nearly 75% of school age children were able to remain in a regular classroom, and 45% were able to reduce their use of school-related services; 65% of working-age persons were able to reduce dependence on family members, 58% were able to reduce dependence on paid assistance, and 37% were able to increase earnings. Among elderly persons, 80% were able to reduce dependence on others, half were able to reduce dependency on paid persons, and half were able to avoid entering a nursing home.

As a result of our July hearing, the Technology Subcommittee was impressed with the need for a greater emphasis to develop assistive technologies. Yet, the area of assistive technology is greatly overlooked by the Federal Government and the private sector. While the importance of assistive technologies spans age and disability classifications, assistive technology does not maintain the recognition in the Federal Government necessary to provide important assistance for research and development programs or to individuals with disabilities.

The private sector generally lacks adequate incentives to produce assistive technologies and end-users lack adequate resources to acquire assistive technology. It is also believed that there are insufficient links between federally funded assistive technology research and development programs and the private sector entities responsible for translating research and development into significant new products in the marketplace for end-users.

H.R. — provides federally supported incentives in all areas of assistive and universally

designed technology, including need identification, research and development, product evaluation, technology transfer, and commercialization. These incentives achieve the goal of improving the quality, functional capability, distribution, and affordability of this essential technology. The legislation seeks to:

Improve the peer review process at the National Institute on Disability Research and Rehabilitation (NIDRR) at the Department of Education. These improvements would provide greater assistive and universally designed technology products to the marketplace, increase small business involvement in research and development, and assure research and development efforts would cover all disability groups including persons with physical and mental disabilities, as well as the aging and rural technology users.

Augment technology transfer by improving the role of the Interagency Committee on Disability Research (ICDR) to increase its authority, accountability and ability to coordinate. Provisions are included for the increased usage of the Federal labs to improve coordination with all Federal agencies involved in assistive and universally designed technology research and development and for providing public and private sector partnerships for assistive and universally designed technology research and development.

Increase the market for assistive technology by clarifying Title III of the Tech Act for the Microloan program. This microloan program assists disabled persons in obtaining assistive and universally designed technology.

Authorizes funding for the Interagency Committee on Disability Research to hire staff and for operating costs associated with issuing surveys and reports and to the National Institute on Disability Research and Rehabilitation to provide for assistive and universally designed technology research and development.

Increase access to assistive and universally designed technology by creating tax incentives to provide businesses a tax credit for the development of assistive technology, to expand the architectural and transportation barrier removal deduction to include communication barriers, and to expand the work opportunity credit to include expenses incurred in the acquisition of technology to facilitate the employment of any individual with a disability.

I am pleased that H.R. — already has the support of the United Cerebral Palsy Association, the Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America, the National Easter Seal Society, and The Association of Tech Act Projects.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important bill and I will work towards enactment of this worthy legislation.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL GREGORY G. BEAN

HON. HAROLD E. FORD, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 1998

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask that my colleagues in the House of Representatives pay tribute to Colonel Gregory G. Bean. Since 1995, Colonel Bean has served with distinction as the District Engineer of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Memphis District in Tennessee's Ninth Congressional District.

As a result of his outstanding leadership, technical competence and commitment to excellence, the Memphis District has effectively and efficiently executed its flood control, navigation and environmental missions. During his tenure, Colonel Bean managed a number of projects that will have lasting benefits for the people of Tennessee's Ninth Congressional District and the nation. These projects include the Nonconnah Creek Flood Control project, the Wolf River environmental restoration and flood control study, and flood control and navigation maintenance on the Mississippi River, the Wolf River Harbor and the McKellar Lake Harbor.

In addition to his accomplishments as an engineer, Colonel Bean also possesses considerable management-employee relations skills. After assuming his post, he worked hard to cultivate a relationship of mutual trust and respect among the employees and management of the Memphis District. As a result, Local 259 of the National Federation of Federal Employees nominated Colonel Bean for a Society of Federal Labor Relations Professionals award for having the most improved labor/management relationship. In May, Colonel Bean was selected from a large number of nominees for the award.

Although Colonel Bean will be missed by all who had the privilege to work or be associated with him, I am confident that his legacy will continue. In July, Colonel Bean will assume the post of Deputy Director of the Maneuver Support Battle Lab in Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring an individual who has throughout his career demonstrated through deed, courage and strong leadership that he is a professional soldier and an outstanding engineer.

AID FOR AMERICA'S NEEDIEST
FAMILIES

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 1998

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing legislation that would protect poor mothers and their children who have been victims of the so-called family cap-child exclusion provision used by 23 states including my own state of New Jersey.

Three years ago, I supported efforts to reform our nation's federal welfare system. However, I had grave concerns at the time about a provision in the House's version of welfare reform legislation that would have cut off cash assistance for any additional children born to a woman while she was on welfare, known as the family cap. I objected to this provision because I believed that it would encourage women to have abortions in their hour of greatest need or drive families farther into poverty.

The bill I am introducing today no longer allows states to implement their own version of a family cap if they desire to continue to receive their Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) block grant. My bill is very simple: a state will receive its TANF dollars as long as it does not impose a family cap upon America's neediest families.

In 1995, I tried to ban the family cap but failed. I admitted at the time that the family

cap-child exclusion proposal had enormous surface appeal, since people were fed up with abuse of the welfare system. As a result, I introduced an amendment which gave states the option to use a voucher system if they chose to do away with cash benefits as part of a larger family cap policy. My amendment passed overwhelmingly by a vote of 352 to 80.

The two most predictable outcomes of the family cap-child exclusion policy as implemented by twenty-three states are the likely increase in the number of babies aborted by indigent women—many of whom will feel financially trapped and abandoned—and the further impoverishment of children born to women on welfare.

Recently, my worst fears regarding abortion and the family cap were confirmed by a Rutgers University draft study prepared for the state of New Jersey which estimated that New Jersey's abortion rate increased by 240 abortions per year as a result of the state's family cap. As a result, since 1993, nearly 900 abortions have occurred in New Jersey due to the family cap. Thousands of other children have also been left to fend for themselves because their parents are not allowed to receive assistance on their behalf. I led a broad-based coalition of groups opposing the state's original request for a waiver in 1992 to implement a family cap policy because we knew that the family cap would only drive women into greater depths of poverty and despair and consequently increase the likelihood that they would abort their child. Sadly, our concerns were confirmed by the Rutgers study.

We knew at the time that money—or more precisely the lack of it—heavily influences a woman's decision to abort her child. A major study by the Alan Guttmacher Institute, a research organization associated with Planned Parenthood, found that 68% of women having abortions said they did so because "they could not afford to have a child now." Among 21% of the total sample this was the most important reason for the abortion; no other factor was cited more frequently as "most important."

Demographers have pointed out that "young, poor, and minority women are more likely to have abortions than older, more affluent, and white women," even though "these same groups are also more likely to oppose the right to abortion. . . . Seven in ten (70 percent) women with incomes of less than \$25,000 disapprove of abortion, compared with 52 percent of more affluent women. [Yet] poorer women account for two-thirds (67 percent) of abortions." One expert observes: "Few would say an abortion is a good thing, but many women who believe that abortion is wrong find themselves unable to support a child when they become pregnant."

The family cap is likely to tip the balance for each poor woman who feels that society has no real interest in the survival of her baby. She will get a powerfully negative message—that her child has no value—especially from those states where Medicaid abortion is readily available.

Then one of two things will happen. The woman will have an abortion, or the family will descend further into poverty.

Mr. Speaker, the family cap/child exclusion might present a close question if the incremental payment for a new baby were really so high that it might encourage women and girls to get pregnant and have babies just to get

welfare. But this concern simply evaporates when we look at the facts.

The additional assistance per child varies from state to state, but the median is \$57 per month—fifty-seven dollars. Out of this the mother must pay for the child's clothing, shoes, diapers and other baby supplies, laundry, and bus fare for medical checkups. According to statistics compiled by Catholic Charities in 1994, the low-end costs for these items total \$88.50 per month. So the mother is \$31.50 in the hole even before she begins paying for the child's other expenses. We simply mislead ourselves when we assume that this constitutes an incentive to have more babies.

Mr. Speaker, there was much about the welfare system that needed changing in 1995—people were trapped in the cycle of poverty and despair. They needed a new program. They needed help and the bulk of our new provisions have been beneficial. But letting states pay to terminate the life of a child while the same state refuses to pay a mere \$64 a month for food and clothing for that child is unconscionable. Instead, if we want welfare to be temporary and to be a true safety net—a safety net against abortion under duress, a safety net against descent into deeper poverty, then we must ban the family cap.

One abortion is one too many. It is wrong for the government, whether it be federal, state, or local to embrace policies that would promote abortion and financial impoverishment. The family cap does just that. I encourage my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring my legislation.

TRIBUTE TO DR. EVELYN G.
LEWIS

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 1998

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, today I would like my colleagues here in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring a dedicated public servant, and a very special person, Dr. Evelyn G. Lewis, who is retiring after 35 years in Education with her most recent tenure as principal of University High School in Newark.

We in Essex County have been very fortunate to have a person of Dr. Lewis's talent and outstanding abilities, working on behalf of our children. In addition to her many achievements at University High School, Dr. Lewis also distinguished herself as a hardworking individual. She has served as Originator and Coordinator of the "Newark Business Skills Olympics". Organizer and Chairperson of Newark's Business Advisory Committee and Chair of the Curriculum Committees and the Textbook Review Committee.

On Friday, June 12, 1998 family, friends and colleagues of Dr. Lewis will gather to honor her for her many contributions to the youth of Essex County. Mr. Speaker, let us join in congratulating Dr. Lewis and wishing her all the best as she leaves public service and pursues new challenges.

CONDEMNING THE BRUTAL
KILLING OF MR. JAMES BYRD, JR.

SPEECH OF

HON. GLENN POSHARD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 1998

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be a co-sponsor of House Resolution 466, and I rise today to join my colleagues in expressing my deep sorrow and strong condemnation of the vicious, senseless murder of Mr. James Byrd, Jr., in Jasper, Texas. It is profoundly disturbing to me that such a heinous expression of racial hatred could still occur, but I hope that this shocking event can serve to bring us together in a renewed call for the justice, tolerance and harmony which have been so long in coming to this nation.

I would also like to express my heartfelt condolences to those who knew and loved Mr. Byrd. While all of us are feeling the pain that comes with realizing our society is not yet free of this kind of violence, it is Mr. Byrd's family and friends who are bearing the heaviest burden of all, and I hope they will feel our thoughts and prayers with them as they struggle with their loss.

I want to thank the Congresswoman from California, Ms. WATERS, for offering such a powerful resolution. I urge my colleagues and all Americans to take this tragedy and transform it into an inspiration to fight against the evil and hatred that could make such a thing possible. We must not allow ourselves to become complacent while there is still work to be done, for we will not be a truly great nation until racism and discrimination have become nothing more than relics of the past.

IN HONOR OF RICHARD ALBERT
McCULLOCK

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 1998

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen of the United States of America, Richard Albert McCulloch.

Mr. McCulloch was born in Bloomington, Illinois, on July 26, 1924. At the age of eighteen he joined the U.S. Army in the infantry, and later was transferred to the Engineers, 3rd Division. It was the beginning of World War II, and he was sent to the European theater where he fought during the D-Day Invasion of Normandy.

When he returned to the United States he met Marilyn Hedrick, and was married on June 7, 1947. The McCullochs have recently cele-

brated their 51st wedding anniversary. They have five children and twelve grandchildren.

The McCullochs have lived in Garden Grove, California, in the 46th Congressional District, for forty-four years. During that time, Mr. McCulloch has devoted his energies to some very important causes and issues. As a member of the Elks Lodge, he began a clown program to entertain youth at charitable events, and also began a program on American culture.

Mr. McCulloch's love for his country, and for the American flag, is very evident. The Garden Grove Elks are responsible for having a row of flags on both sides of Main Street in downtown Garden Grove. The Garden Grove City Council just approved the flags this June. This is due in large part to Mr. McCulloch's persistence and emphasis on the beauty and meaning of the American flag.

Mr. McCulloch comes into my office quite often, to order flags for Eagle Scouts or for other special occasions. He updates my staff on the correct flag protocol and has taught my staff a great deal about the history of the American flag. In a sense, he is the keeper of the flags, and insures that the American flag is flown outside my Garden Grove office for all to admire.

I ask you all to join me today to salute this fine American, who has served his country during its darkest hours, and who has protected and upheld our flag. He is a shining example of what it means to be American.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JOHN A MCCALL,
JR.

HON. JIM TURNER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 1998

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Dr. John A. McCall, Jr., of Crockett, Texas. On June 26, 1998, Dr. McCall will have the high honor of being inaugurated as president of the American Optometric Association at the AOA's 101st Annual Congress in Orlando, Florida.

Dr. McCall is a graduate of the University of Houston College of Optometry. He has served the AOA as a member of the board of trustees, as secretary-treasurer, as vice-president and as president-elect. He has also served on the board of directors of the Texas Optometric Association (TOA), and was president of the TOA in 1989. In 1982, he was named TOA's Young Optometrist of the Year, and in 1991 he was selected as the TOA's Optometrist of the Year.

Dr. McCall's accomplishments are impressive and extend beyond his profession. He served as the mayor of Crockett from 1989-1991, and was a member of the city council for six years. He also served as president of

the Crockett Rotary Club and Jaycees. He was honored for his service to those organizations with the Jaycee Distinguished Service Award and the Rotary Club Community Service Award.

Dr. McCall is a member of the medical staff at the East Texas Medical Center of Crockett, where he has been providing emergency room coverage for ocular trauma since 1984. He currently serves as secretary of the medical staff and is a member of the ER review committee.

Dr. McCall is in practice with his father, Dr. John A. McCall, Sr., O.D., but his ties to optometry run even deeper than that. The lineage of optometrists in his family extends to his wife, Anne, two of his uncles, his father-in-law and his brother-in-law. Not surprisingly, his daughter is currently in pre-optometric studies at Southern Methodist University.

Dr. John McCall has distinguished himself as an outstanding leader in his profession and his community. I am pleased to join his many friends and colleagues in congratulating him on becoming the 77th president of the American Optometric Association.

IN HONOR OF THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PATIENT/FAMILY PSYCHOEDUCATION GROUP

HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 1998

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise before my colleagues to commend the success of the Kings County Hospital Center's Patient/Family Psychoeducation Group, on their fifteenth anniversary. Since its founding in 1983, this group, geared mostly towards patients with Schizophrenia and Bipolar Disease, has been combating the rehospitalization of patients following their discharge from inpatient settings.

This program has yielded many positive effects, a record of which has been published in the March 1993 issue of the Journal of Psychosocial Nursing. The Psychoeducation Group has helped many patients who have been out of the hospital, to change a pattern of recidivism for consistent outpatient treatment.

The Psychoeducation Group consists of patients and families that are primarily, immigrants from the Caribbean nations. The program has been well received by this group, and the information sharing model has been very effective.

I would like to recognize the hard work and commitment that the Psychoeducation Group has exhibited throughout the past fifteen years. Its efforts have truly changed the nature of many lives