EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTRODUCTION OF THE AGRICULTURE EXPORT ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 1998

HON. THOMAS W. EWING

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 1998

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce the Agriculture Export Enhancement Act of 1998. Farm exports have soared over the past several years and foreign exports present great opportunities for American farmers and ranchers. However, too many trade barriers prevent billions of people from buying our products. Our trade negotiators need to focus their attention on eliminating tariffs, subsidies, and other foreign regulations that limit what we sell overseas. This legislation would establish these negotiating objectives.

This legislation identifies current foreign laws and regulations that limit U.S. farm exports and requires the Executive Branch to make their elimination a priority in upcoming trade negotiations. It calls for a date-certain for the elimination of tariffs on farm exports and of subsidies that distort the international prices of agricultural commodities and requires countries to reform the activities of state trading enterprises (STEs) that hamper agricultural exports.

With 40% of American agriculture commodities and products being exported. The American farmer is more reliant on international markets than any other sector of the U.S. economy. That is why it is so important that the U.S. layout specific agricultural trade negotiation objectives.

THE SESQUICENTENNIAL OF MARQUETTE TOWNSHIP

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 1998

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, Marquette Township in my northern Michigan district is celebrating its Sesquicentennial this year. Although my House colleagues and most other Americans may not recognize Marquette Township by name, this community on the shore of Lake Michigan has played an important role in the development of the U.S. steel industry and in the improvement of highway traffic safety.

A theme of Marquette Township on the occasion of its 150th anniversary might be its blending of old and new, and this theme is reflected in the topography of the township itself. The iron-rich hills that rise to become small mountains on the southern Lake Michigan shore are made up of some of the oldest rock formations on Earth, but they have been scoured and shaped by the great glaciers that covered North America only yesterday, geologically speaking.

Two important resources, iron ore and timber, drew settlers to this region. The old days of the boom in both mining and lumbering, however, are now merely part of the region's lore. Lumbering on a massive scale ended when virgin forest were cut, and the economies of steel production and shipping brought an end to the early ambitious steel mills and mines. In these new days, lumbering is a managed and planned enterprise, conducted with an eye toward reforestation and preservation of the environment, and new mining techniques, which allow iron ore to be shipped as pellets, has allowed mining to find new life in the region.

Marquette Township and the surrounding communities enjoyed for years the economic benefits of K.I. Sawyer Air Force Base, one of the airfields which served as a staging area for U.S. strategic bombers. The area was devastated by the closing of this base, but the enterprising nature of the people of this region has permitted this base to find new life as a center for economic development.

It's clear, Mr. Speaker, that the people of Marquette Township can celebrate their sesquicentennial with confidence that those elements of their social and economic lives which have had value will be preserved and renewed.

K.I. Sawyer Air Force Base was named for a former Marquette County Road Commission Superintendent, Mr. Kenneth Ingalls Sawyer, who in 1917 performed a singular act in Marquette Township that has led to his being recognized in the Michigan Highways Hall of Honor. Mr. Sawyer went out to a dangers curve in the township, called ''Dead Man's Curve,'' on part of what later became U.S. 41 and painted a strip in the center to help drivers stay in their own lanes. Successful in Marquette Township, the practice was adopted for all Marquette County's roads in 1918, and eventually across the entire nation.

Marquette Township has a complicated history as a political entity, because as the region has developed the township has grown and shrunk, seen its township lines shifted, and has watched as the city of Marquette was carved from its holdings. Much of its history, therefore, now lies outside the current township lines.

But, Mr. Speaker, there is located in Marquette Township an old gold mine. I probably shouldn't reveal its exact location, and it is currently not in use, but the mine is probably an excellent symbol of this rural community as it reflects on its 150-year history. The real treasury of the area is not the gold or the iron ore or the timber that people have found there. The treasures are the people, the families, the quality of life, and the rich heritage and tradition that is revealed when residents begin the process of researching their roots.

That is the real importance and value of Marquette Township's Sesquicentennial. I ask my colleagues to join me in praising the local organizers of this event for their efforts, and in wishing the Marquette Township a future as rich and interesting as its past.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL RONALD H. MARKARIAN FOR HIS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 1998

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Major General Ronald Markarian for his distinguished service and dedication to the California Veterans Board. The California Veterans Board advises the Governor, Legislature and Department of Veterans Affairs on veterans issues.

Major General Ronald H. Markarian was appointed by Governor Pete Wilson to the California Veterans Board in 1994. General Markarian has served as state director of the selective service system since 1987. Governor Wilson appointed Ron Markarian as Commanding General of the California State Military Reserve and promoted him to the rank of Major General in July 1990. He retired as a Colonel in the United States Air Force in 1980, after serving 30 years.

Major General Markarian flew 116 combat reconnaissance missions in the Vietnam War. Several commendations were awarded, including the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star and Meritorious Service Medal. His assignments have included: air crew duties in B–47 and B–52 strategic bombers; strategic nuclear planning with the Joint Strategic Planning Staff in Nebraska; Strategic Reconnaissance Operations at Headquarters, Pacific Command in Hawaii; Chief of Air Reconnaissance Operations at HQ USMACV in Southeast Asia; six years at the Pentagon where he served as Chief of Air Reconnaissance Systems and Director of the Intelligence Reserve Forces.

Major General Markarian is a graduate of the Air Command Staff College, Air War College, National Defense University, Industrial College of the Armed Forces, Defense Intelligence School, United Kingdom School of Service Intelligence, the Federal Emergency Management Institute and the Foreign Service Institute. He also holds a Masters Degree in Public Administration from George Washington University in Washington, D.C. and a B.A. from California State University, Fresno.

Major General Ronald H. Markarian has been an active member in the Republican Party and several military associations including the Air Force Association, California State Military Reserve Officers Association, Civil Air Patrol and the National Guard Association of California. He has served as the regional president and is a member of the National Council of Trustees for the Association of the U.S. Army and a past national president of the National Sojourners. His local community involvement have included membership in the American National Red Cross, the California Emergency Services Association and the Fresno County Chambers of Commerce.

Major General Ronald H. Markarian's dedicated service to his community, the State of California and the United States Air Force are an example of a life devoted to duty, honor and country. He has been an important voice for veterans and has provided profound insight and guidance on important veteran issues. General Markarian's service and expertise has been very influential in providing sound advice to the Governor and Legislature of California.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to pay tribute to Major General Ronald H. Markarian for his service to the California Veterans Board and the California Department of Veterans Affairs. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing General Markarian many more years of success.

A TRIBUTE TO LARRY DOBY

HON. BOB FRANKS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 1998

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a real American hero. In 1947, Larry Doby became the first black man to play in the American League, and the second African-American to cross the color barrier in professional baseball. For young people today, it's probably hard to imagine a time when the color of your skin could keep you from fulfilling your dream of playing professional baseball. But for Larry Doby, pursuing that dream in Jim Crow America meant breaking down age-old barriers and changing the face of baseball.

A native of Paterson, New Jersey, Larry Doby began his baseball career in 1942 with the Negro American League's Newark Eagles. When World War II broke out, Doby joined the armed forces and fought for this country. He returned in 1946 to lead the Newark Eagles to the Negro World Championship. In 1947, one year later, he became the second African-American to cross the color barrier in professional baseball when he signed with the Cleveland Indians.

Larry Doby's first lonely steps into the Cleveland Indian locker room required a courage and bravery beyond what most of us will encounter in a lifetime. Doby stood fast and determined amidst the cold and quiet stares, the spitting fans and the bigoted ball players who spiked him with their cleats. It was the ''Strength from God'' that helped him stand tall and show the world what a great baseball talent he really was.

Eventually, the world could no longer ignore the rare athleticism and strength of character that Doby possessed. In 1948, fans and ball players alike celebrated Doby's World Series-clinching home run with an outpouring of genuine affection, praise, and respect. ''It had to be done from the inside,'' Doby remembered. ''It had to be done without thinking about the color of a person's skin.''

Over the course of his career, Larry Doby hit 253 home runs and 969 RBI's, amassing a career batting average of .283. He was a seven-time All-Star outfielder, who was also the first nonwhite person to play in a World Series, hit a home run in a World Series, and win a league home run title. For this and for his heroism, Larry Doby won his place in the Professional Baseball Hall of Fame.

Mr. Speaker, Larry Doby's accomplishments are an inspiration to us all. He gave us faith that the human spirit can triumph over life's most imposing obstacles. His legacy will forever live in the faces of the young boys and girls who dream of becoming a professional athlete or of achieving, in some other way, their own special place in history.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 1998

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, on July 20, 1998, I requested and was granted a leave of absence from the House of Representatives due to personal illness. Consequently, I missed the roll call vote on H. Con. Res. 301, which reaffirms our longstanding commitment to Taiwan. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of H. Con. Res. 301.

Taiwan has been one of our oldest and closest friends in Asia since 1949. The people of Taiwan live in a free, democratic society.

I was extremely disappointed by President Clinton's recent endorsement of mainland China's views on Taiwan. Before the President left for China, the House unanimously passed H. Con. 270, urging him to seek a public renunciation by the People's Republic of China of any use of force, or threat of use of force, against Taiwan.

In light of the President's actions, Congress must send a strong message to the People's Republic of China and the world that we intend to stand by our friends and allies. The United States must dispel any notion on the part of China's leaders that we will tolerate the use of force in determining the future of Taiwan. The people of Taiwan must be responsible for determining their own future in a peaceful and democratic fashion.

H. Con. Res. 301 reaffirms the importance of the Taiwan Relations Act and reaffirms our commitment to the people of Taiwan.

FEDERAL RETIREMENT COVERAGE CORRECTIONS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BILL ARCHER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 1998

Mr. ARCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3249, the ''Federal Retirement Coverage Corrections Act''. H.R. 3249 seeks to correct errors in the retirement plan classifications of thousands of Federal workers. Without H.R. 3249, these unfortunately misclassified Federal employees may lose their retirement benefits through no fault of their own. I support prompt passage of H.R. 3249.

Since H.R. 3249 involves issues related to the retirement benefits of Federal employees, it was initially considered by my colleagues on the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight. That Committee approved the bill with strong bipartisan support.

The Committee on Ways and Means, considered H.R. 3249 because it raised issues relating to taxation and social security. The Ways and Means Committee also approved H.R. 3249 with bipartisan support on March 5, 1998, and filed its report today (H. Rept. 105–625, Part 2).

The revenue provisions approved by the Ways and Means Committee, would provide that: (1) retirement plans would not lose their ''qualified'' Federal tax status by making the corrections required by H.R. 3249, (2) participants whose retirement accounts were adjusted in accordance with H.R. 3249 would not incur Federal income tax liability, and (3) amounts transferred in accordance with H.R. 3249 would not be subject to employment taxes.

The Social Security provisions approved by the Committee would provide that: (1) retroactive earnings would be credited and the Social Security Trust Funds would be made whole in situations where individuals change to one of the retirement systems that provides Social Security coverage, (2) necessary conforming changes would be made to the coverage provisions of the Social Security Act, and (3) the Commissioner of Social Security would have the authority to receive necessary information from agencies, notify the Secretary of the Treasury to transfer taxes paid as a result of elections under H.R. 3249 to the Social Security Trust Funds, and to correct earnings records.

To allow the misclassified Federal employees to receive their much deserved retirement benefits, I support the prompt approval of H.R. 3249.

TRIBUTE TO JIM AND KRISTIE DOCHEFF

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 1998

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate two of my constituents, Jim and Kristie Docheff, for their environmental stewardship. Jim and Kristie, along with their children, Chisum, Joshua and Meghann own and operate the Diamond D Dairy in Weld County, Colorado. The Docheff's turn their cattle's manure into valuable, organic compost which they sell to gardeners and vegetable growers across Colorado. They discovered this innovative waste management strategy quite by accident when they were unable to have their manure hauled away for fertilizer as they would normally do. Piled up during a wet spring, ammonia and bacteria diligently heated and transformed the accumulated manure. The heat sterilizes pathogens and kills plant seeds to eventually produce a fine, dry compost with the consistency and smell of rich earth.

Rather than paying thousands of dollars annually to have farmers remove the waste to spread on their fields, the Docheff's now spread the waste into long windows, which they periodically turn with a newly purchased tractor and compost turner. Depending upon the season, the process takes between six weeks and four months.

During recent months controversy has surrounded animal feeding operations. The EPA has stringent regulatory guidelines for certain concentrated animal feeding operations, Or (CAFOs). Environmental groups are leading the charge for more federal involvement and tougher regulations on agriculture run-off. But,

as the Docheff's have demonstrated, a little initiative can do more than a lot of regulation.

Their innovation, ingenuity and hard work has turned what many perceive as an environmental problem into a valuable product and a thriving new business. Mr. Speaker, I applaud Jim and Kristie Docheff for their efforts and I am happy to say that many other dairies and producers are following their good example. I commend the efforts of National Hog Farms, Longmont Foods, and Morning Fresh Farms, and many others to continue providing services of tremendous value to Colorado while promoting environmental stewardship through voluntary, market-based measures.

A TRIBUTE TO JOHN M. FISHER

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 1998

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, one of the most rewarding aspects of my career on Capitol Hill has been serving as the Administrative Co-Chairman of the bipartisan National Security Caucus (NSC). The Caucus includes 275 lawmakers and it is the largest Congressional Member Organization. The NSC focuses on a wide range of foreign policy, defense and international economic issues and it is through the Caucus that I have come to know John M. Fisher.

He is the Chairman of the American Security Council and the National Security Caucus Foundation and he is being honored today at a luncheon at the Heritage Foundation. John Fisher has long been a leader in the national security community and he has spent a lifetime pursuing the principles of peace through strength.

It is thanks to the tremendous yeoman labor of John Fisher that the United States was not stuck in a posture of strategic vulnerability in the 1970s. In 1978, he helped organize the National Security Caucus, a bipartisan alliance of Members of Congress who agreed on a resolution listing the principles of a national strategy of peace through strength.

In 1984, the American Security Council worked with experts, 240 Members of Congress, 96 national organizations and 514 universities and colleges in preparing the study "A Strategy for Peace Through Strength," and over 400,000 copies of this study were distributed across the nation. President Reagan declared one week in September 1984 as "Peace Through Strength Week." A documentary film was created and shown by 187 television stations nationwide, and more than 50 rallies were held across the U.S.

Our national security policy has always involved military and economic considerations, but now it must also reflect a world integrated by telecommunications and trade. At John's urging, my colleagues in the National Security Caucus are now working on a new strategy for global peace and prosperity.

The military balance was restored in the 1980s and John Fisher is entitled to significant credit. His predictions of Peace Through Strength have come true. The Russians saw the strategic and conventional modernization program as a sign the U.S. was prepared to use its technological superiority to trump their military power, their one claim to superpower status.

The American Security Council, under John Fisher's guidance, led the fight against the nuclear freeze, for INF deployment and the Reagan Doctrine, which put American arms and money behind a worldwide anti-communist guerrilla campaign on three continents. The combination of INF, SDI, the Reagan Doctrine, and the defense build-up made it clear to the Marxist/Leninists that they were facing a future they could only lose.

The 1970's have been called the Decade of Disarmament, and from 1975 to 1980 an independent nation fell to communism every year. A great deal of credit must be given to leaders like John Fisher who finally convinced Jimmy Carter to raise the defense budget to help arm the Mujaheddin in Afghanistan, place an embargo on Soviet grain, and cutting off aid to the Sandinistas. The peace through strength policies advocated by John Fisher and adopted by Ronald Reagan and George Bush helped to create the stability we know today.

George Washington once said "To have peace, prepare for war." These words from our first Commander-in-Chief are engraved at the American Security Council's Congressional Conference Center. They are as applicable today as they were 200 years ago. John Fisher believes in these words and has spent his lifetime devoted to the maintenance of peace and freedom for the American people.

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE A. MANESS FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE CALIFORNIA VETERANS BOARD

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 1998

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to George A. Maness for his dedicated service to the California Veterans Board. The seven-member Board advises the Governor, Legislature and Department of Veterans Affairs on veterans issues.

George A. Maness retired in 1982 after 23 years as a teacher, R.O.T.C. instructor and administrator with the Tulare Joint Union High School District. He served as a noncommissioned officer in the United States Air Force from 1950 to 1958; both in active and reserve duty. Mr. Maness obtained a bachelor's degree in 1958 from Western State College in Colorado and a master's degree in 1976 from Clayton University in Missouri.

George Maness is a member of several professional and community organizations, including the American Legion, AMVets, the Air Force Sergeants Association, Lions Club, Elks Club and Salvation Army Advisory Board.

Mr. Maness is a dedicated member of the Republican Party and was the Co-chairman of Veterans for Pete Wilson campaign for Governor of California. He also served as Co-chairman for California Veterans for Bush-Quayle in 1992.

George Maness was re-appointed to the California Veterans Board in 1994 by Governor Pete Wilson. Mr. Maness was confirmed by the California State Senate and served until January 1998. The California Veterans Board advises the Governor, Legislator and the California Department of Veterans Affairs. George Maness provided great insight and guidance to the board and was an influential advocate for veterans issues.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to pay tribute to George Maness for his dedicated service to the California Veterans Board and the California Department of Veterans Affairs. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing George Maness many more years of success.

THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF KINGSFORD, MICHIGAN

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 1998

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, there is an energetic community in my northern Michigan district that in its own unique way played a role in fulfilling the dream of Henry Ford to produce automobiles that would suit the budgets and lifestyles of ordinary Americans.

Kingsford celebrates its 75th Anniversary on July 31, 1998, its diamond jubilee. Mr. Speaker, this is an excellent opportunity for all Americans to join with the people of Kingsford, who even call their high school football team the "flivvers," to honor and celebrate those early, heady days of the development of wheeled transportation, including the Flivver automobile.

As late as 1920 the population of the area that would become Kingsford was about 40 people, mostly miners working in the nearby Menominee Iron Range. Some mines were still active—would be so until the early 1980s—but the days of the great iron ore boom were clearly in the past, just as the days of the great logging boom were by this time only a memory.

The presence of resources of both ore and wood, however, was attractive to one of America's premier industrial pioneers. Henry Ford had been interested in Michigan's Upper Peninsula as the location of a manufacturing facility for a number of years, and by 1919 the automaker was ready to build a plant.

It was no coincidence that Ford looked at this area along the Menominee River in the south-central U.P. One of the people he enlisted to find a site for his plant was Edward G. Kingsford, the husband of Ford's cousin Minnie Flaherty and both a real estate agent and Ford dealer. Ford's holdings in the region would grow eventually to 400,000 acres of iron and timberlands in seven northern Michigan counties in my district. Of this total, 350,000 acres were hardwood.

As one might surmise from the size and importance of this project, there was much politicking and competition among communities for the plant. Once all the land purchase agreements were completed, the plant was established, employing as many as 8,000 people by 1925 in the production of wooden parts for the famous Ford Model T in Kingsford, Michigan.

Progress in the design of the American automobile adversely affected this plant. Almost as famous as the Model T, the model A went into production using fewer wooden parts, and employment at the Kingsford Ford plant declined. In the early 1940s the production of woodsided station wagons provided work for the northern Michigan site, and by 1942 the KIngsford Ford plant had made the switch to war production, producing gliders that would become so important to Allied victory.

After the war the importance of the Kingsford plant had diminished further, and the facility was closed in 1951. Ford was gone, but an interesting legacy continued. The famous Kingsford-brand charcoal briquets, a by-product of wooden automobile part production, continued to be made in this U.P. community.

As a small city, Mr. Speaker, the population of Kingsford is now about 5,500. Although the community is no longer a part of the Ford family of assembly plants, the transportation revolution wrought by these affordable Ford automobiles on the lives of ordinary Americans meant that tourism would become a new national industry, one that would benefit the Kingsford area. People now can travel from anywhere in the country to visit this area of gently rolling hills with thousands of lakes and hundreds of miles of rivers and streams. Hunting and fishing and the simple enjoyment of the vibrant colors of autumn means that tourism now vies with paper-making as the basic elements of the area's economic well-being.

I am proud of the people of Kingsford and their struggles to survive and even thrive through periods of economic change, and I invite all my colleagues in the U.S. House to join me in paying tribute to this resilient and energetic community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 1998

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, July 20, 1998, I requested and was granted a leave of absence from the House of Representatives due to personal illness. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of adoption of the following amendments during consideration of H.R. 2183, the Bipartisan Campaign Integrity Act:

The Wicker amendment to the Shays amendment in the nature of a substitute, debated on July 14, that prohibits the use of White House meals or accommodations for political fundraising (greed to by a recorded vote of 391 ayes to 4 noes, Roll No. 301);

The Stearns amendment to the Shays amendment in the nature of a substitute, debated on July 14, that prohibits noncitizens from making contributions to candidates for Federal, state, or local elections (agreed to by a recorded vote of 267 ayes to 131 noes, Roll No. 302);

The Smith of Michigan amendment to the Shays amendment in the nature of a substitute, as modified, that establishes a prison term for 10 years and a fine not to exceed $1 million as penalties for violation of the foreign contribution ban (agreed to by a voice vote);

The DeLay amendment to the Shays amendment in the nature of a substitute that expresses the Sense of Congress that Federal law clearly demonstrates that ''controlling legal authority'' prohibits the use of Federal property to raise campaign funds (agreed to by a recorded vote of 360 ayes to 36 noes, Roll No. 304);

The McInnis amendment to the Shays amendment in the nature of a substitute that prohibits acceptance or solicitation to obtain access to Air Force One, Marine One, Air Force Two, Marine Two, the White House or the Vice President's residence and institutes a fine or imprisonment for violation for up to one year (agreed to by a recorded vote of 391 ayes to 7 noes, Roll No. 305);

The Hefley amendment to the Shays amendment in the nature of a substitute that requires the national parties to reimburse the Federal government for the use of Air Force One for political fundraising (agreed to by a recorded vote of 222 ayes to 177 noes, Roll No. 307);

The Northup amendment to the Shays amendment in the nature of a substitute that prohibits campaign from providing currency to individuals for the purpose of encouraging turnout on the date of election (agreed to by a recorded vote of 284 ayes to 114 noes, Roll No. 308);

The Snowbarger amendment that establishes mandatory imprisonment for not fewer than 1 year and not more than 10 years for criminal conduct (agreed to by a voice vote); and

The Whitfield amendment that bans the coordination of soft money for issue advocacy by presidential candidates receiving public financing (agreed to by a voice vote).

NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK BILL

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVE WELDON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 15, 1998

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in full support for H.R. 59, the National Right to Work Act.

I am from a Right to Work state and I know first-hand that employee freedom and prosperity go hand in hand.

Figures from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics show that workers in forced union dues states are losing thousands of jobs as well as their freedom.

Just listen to the advantage that Right to Work States have had over forced union dues states between 1997–1996:

Non-agricultural employees in Right to Work states have increased by nearly 70% while the increase in forced union states was 35%.

Manufacturing employment in Right to Work states have increased by almost 15% while there was nearly a 15% decrease in forced union states.

Construction employment in Right to Work states increased by almost 50%, nearly 15% higher than in forced union dues states.

Manufacturing production workers in Right to Work states increased by almost 10%, while decreasing by 20% in forced union dues states.

Manufacturing establishments in Right to Work states increased by 20%, while decreasing by .3% in forced union states.

Personal income in Right to Work states has increased by 405%, 82% higher than in forced union dues states.

Hourly earnings by manufacturing employees in Right to Work states have increased by 135%, 13% higher than forced union dues states.

The average weekly earnings of manufacturing production workers in Right to Work states have increased by 145%,15% higher than in forced union dues states.

Mr. Speaker what do these numbers translate into Jobs. Between 1983 and 1993, Right to Work states created over 500,000 jobs, while forced union states lost almost 900,000.

Mr. Speaker, not only are residents of forced-unionism states paying in lost jobs, they are also paying for the cost of compulsory unionism out of their wallets.

Invariably, compulsory unionism leads to union official-inspired strikes, slowdowns, inefficient work rules, featherbedding, and a ''hate-the-boss'' mentality which substantially increase the cost of goods, services, and state and local taxes.

The result is the ''Right to Work boon.'' The average urban family living in a Right to Work state has an after-tax, cost of living-adjusted household income of $36,540—$2,852 more than a family in a forced-unionism state.

As said by former United States Senator Sam Ervin in his autobiography Preserving the Constitution, ''Right to Work laws remove the motive of the union to subordinate the interests of the employees to its wish, and, thus, leave it free to conduct negotiations for the sole purpose of obtaining an employment contract advantageous to the employees.''

CONCLUSION

Right to Work states offer an economic environment free from much of the Big Labor's imposed ''featherbedding,'' and work rules which reduce the value of employees' wages by driving up production costs. Ultimately, this only serves to reduce the number of jobs in their state.

Mr. Speaker, no one should be forced to join a labor union as a condition of employment, and every American should be given the same economic opportunities shared by most employees in 21 states.

I urge you to schedule a roll-call vote on HR 59, the Nation Right to Work Act.

NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK BILL

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 15, 1998

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman for yielding, and I would also like to thank him for his commitment and hard work on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I have personally received hundreds of petitions from constituents urging a roll-call vote on H.R. 59, and I am proud to be able to speak here tonight in defense of those constituents.

I certainly agree with the gentleman from Virginia. H.R. 59 is about individual liberty.

Members, particularly from the other side of the aisle, and the union officials down the street in their fortress they call the ''Marble House'', built by forced dues, like to purport that the National Right to Work Act is an attempt to silence workers. To the contrary, Mr. Speaker, the National Right to Work Act is about giving workers a voice.

As the gentleman from Virginia stated, this bill does not add one single word to federal law. It simply amends the National Labor Relations Act and Railway Labor Act by striking the forced-dues provisions from federal law. That is it.

The National Right to Work Act would leave the following language completely intact: ''Employees shall have the right to self-organization, to form, join or assist labor organizations to bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing and to engage in other concerted activities for the purposes of collective bargaining or other mutual aid or protection and shall have the right to refrain from any or all such activity''.

Mr. Speaker that is where the Right to Work Act would put the period. I want to make it clear, the National Right to Work Act maintains employees' rights to join or assist a labor organization. The National Right to Work Act maintains employees' rights to bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing.

What the National Right to Work Act removes is the following four lines and its supporting lines. ''Except to the extent that such right may be affected by an agreement requiring membership in a labor organization as a condition of employment.''

That is what opponents of the National Right to Work Act object to, Mr. Speaker. Eliminating the right currently held by union officials to force workers to pay union dues as a condition of employment.

Opponents of this bill object to allowing individual workers the right to decide for themselves whether or not they wish to join or pay dues to a labor union.

Mr. Speaker, what opponents of this bill object to is taking away the power union officials currently have to tell America's workers to either pay up or get fired.

Mr. Speaker, why are opponents of this bill afraid to give a voice to workers? It is because union officials know that their agenda is different than their workers.

As President Clinton's former Labor Secretary said: ''In order to maintain themselves, they have to hold their members to the mast, hold their feet to the fire.''

The Right to Work principle affirms the right of all Americans to work where they want and for whom they want without coercion of any kind to join or not join or financially support labor unions.

Mr. Speaker, One of America's great founding fathers, and U.S. President, Thomas Jefferson, once wrote: ''To compel a man to furnish contributions of money for the propagation of opinions which he disbelieves is sinful and tyrannical.''

Mr. Speaker, today millions of Americans are being forced to contribute money for the propagation of opinions that they do not believe in.

It is time to have a vote on the National Right to Work Act. It is time to let the American people know if their Representatives support individual liberty or compulsion.

SUBCHAPTER S REVISION ACT OF 1998

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 1998

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, today over 2 million businesses pay taxes as S corporations and the vast majority of these are small businesses. The S Corporation Revision Act of 1998 is targeted to these small business by improving their access to capital, preserving family-owned businesses, and lifting obsolete and burdensome restrictions that unnecessarily impede their growth. It will permit them to grow and compete in the next century.

Even after the relief provided in 1996, S corporations face substantial obstacles and limitations not imposed on other forms of entities. The rules governing S corporations need to be modernized to bring them more on par with partnerships and C corporations. For instance, S corporations are unable to attract the senior equity capital needed for their survival and growth. This bill would remove this obsolete prohibition and also provide that S corporations can attract needed financing through convertible debt.

Additionally, the bill helps preserve family-owned businesses by counting all family members as one shareholder for purposes of S corporation eligibility. Under current law, multi-generational family businesses are threatened by the 75 shareholder limit which counts each family member as one shareholder. Also, nonresident aliens would be permitted to be shareholders under rules like those now applicable to partnerships. The bill would eradicate other outmoded provisions, many of which were enacted in 1958.

The following is a detailed discussion of the bill's provisions.

TITLE I—SUBCHAPTER S EXPANSION

SUBTITLE A—ELIGIBLE SHAREHOLDERS OF AN S CORPORATION

SEC. 101. Members of family treated as one shareholder—All family members within seven generations who own stock could elect to be treated as one shareholder. The election would be made available to only one family per corporation, must be made with the consent of all shareholders of the corporation and would remain in effect until terminated. This provision is intended to keep S corporations within families that might span several generations.

SEC. 102. Nonresident aliens—This section would provide the opportunity for aliens to invest in domestic S corporations and S corporations to operate abroad with a foreign shareholder by allowing nonresident aliens (individuals only) to own S corporation stock. Any effectively-connected U.S. income allocable to the nonresident alien would be subject to the withholding rules that currently apply to foreign partners in a partnership.

SUBTITLE B—QUALIFICATION AND ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS OF S CORPORATIONS

SEC. 111. Issuance of preferred stock permitted—An S corporation would be allowed to issue either convertible or plain vanilla preferred stock. Holders of preferred stock would not be treated as shareholders; thus, ineligible shareholders like corporations or partnerships could own preferred stock interests in S corporations. A payment to owners of the preferred stock would be deemed an expense rather than a dividend by the S corporation and would be taxed as ordinary income to the shareholder. Subchapter S corporations would receive the same recapitalization treatment as family-owned C corporations. This provision would afford S corporations and their shareholders badly needed access to senior equity.

SEC. 112. Safe harbor expanded to include convertible debt—An S corporation is not considered to have more than one class of stock if outstanding debt obligations to shareholders meet the ''straight debt'' safe harbor. Currently, the safe harbor provides that straight debt cannot be convertible into stock. The legislation would permit a convertibility provision so long as that provision is substantially the same as one that could have been obtained by a person not related to the S corporation or S corporation shareholders.

SEC. 113. Repeal of excessive passive investment income as a termination event.—This provision would repeal the current rule that terminates S corporation status for certain corporations that have both subchapter C earnings and profits and that derive more than 25 percent of their gross receipts from passive sources for three consecutive years.

SEC. 114. Repeal passive income capital gain category—The legislation would retain the rule that imposes a tax on those corporations possessing excess net passive investment income, but, to conform to the general treatment of capital gains, it would exclude capital gains from classification as passive income. Thus, such capital gains would be subject to a maximum 20 percent rate at the shareholder level in keeping with the 1997 tax law change. Excluding capital gains also paralles their treatment under the PHC rules.

SEC. 115. Allowance of charitable contributions of inventory and scientific property—This provision would allow the same deduction for charitable contributions of inventory and scientific property used to care for the ill, needy or infants for subchapter S as for subchapter C corporations. In addition, S corporations would no longer be disqualified from making ''qualified research contributions'' (charitable contributions of inventory property to educational institutions or scientific research organizations) for use in research or experimentation. The S corporation's shareholders would also be permitted to increase the basis of their stock by the excess of deductions for charitable contributions over the basis of the property contributed by the S corporation.

SEC. 116. C corporation rules to apply for fringe benefit purposes—The current rule that limits the ability of ''more-than-two-percent'' S corporation shareholder-employees to exclude certain fringe benefits from wages would be repealed for benefits other than health insurance. Under this bill, fringe benefits such as group-term life insurance would become excludable from wages for these shareholders. However, health care benefits would remain taxable to the extent provided for partners.

SUBTITLE C—TAXATION OF S CORPORATION SHAREHOLDERS

SEC. 120. Treatment of losses to shareholders—A loss recognized by a shareholder in complete liquidation of an S corporation would be treated as an ordinary loss to the extent the shareholder's adjusted basis in the S corporation stock is attributable to ordinary income that was recognized as a result of the liquidation. Suspended passive activity losses from C corporation years would be allowed as deductions when and to the extent they would be allowed to C corporations.

SUBTITLE D—EFFECTIVE DATE

SEC. 130. Effective date—Except as otherwise provided, the amendments made by this Act shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 1998.

TITLE II—SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES RESOLUTION

SEC. 201. The House would go on record in opposition to the President's Fiscal Year 1999 budget proposal to treat the conversion of ''large'' C corporations to S corporations as taxable liquidations, for this would be harmful to the business community and would effectively prohibit many businesses from making S elections in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. FRANK RIGGS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 1998

Mr. RIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the House of Representatives on Monday, July 20, 1998, pursuant to a leave of absence. During my absence, I missed a number of votes.

Had I been present, the following is how I would have voted:

Rollcall No. 297 (H.R. 3874): ''Aye.''

Rollcall No. 298 (H. Con. Res. 208): ''Aye.''

Rollcall No. 299 (H. Res. 392): ''Aye.''

Rollcall No. 300 (H. Con Res. 301): ''Aye.''

Rollcall No. 301 (Wicker amendment): ''Aye.''

Rollcall No. 302 (Stearns amendment): ''Aye.''

Rollcall No. 303 (Pickering amendment): ''Aye.''

Rollcall No. 304 (Delay amendment): ''Aye.''

Rollcall No. 305 (McInnis amendment): ''Aye.''

Rollcall No. 306 (Paxon amendment): ''Aye.''

Rollcall No. 307 (Hefley amendment): ''Aye.''

Rollcall No. 308 (Northrup amendment): ''Aye.''

CHILD NUTRITION AND WIC REAUTHORIZATION AMENDMENTS OF 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 1998

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3874, the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Bill, which makes changes to the federal child nutrition programs and the Women, Infants, and Children Supplemental Feeding Program, known as WIC.

The WIC program is a key part of our efforts to reduce infant mortality rates and assure that children in this nation are born healthy and are fed a nutritionally sound diet in the early formative years. This is accomplished through the provision of special food packages to approximately 7.5 million low-income women, infants and children each month. In my home state of Hawaii the WIC program serves over 35,000 individuals.

H.R. 3874 makes some important changes to the WIC program by providing more flexibility to States in administering the program and including provisions designed to protect the integrity of the WIC program.

H.R. 3874 continues to encourage the breast-feeding program under WIC and provides additional incentives by allowing WIC agencies to use their nutrition account, rather than administrative account, to purchase breast pumps for breast-feeding women.

I am pleased that it also includes my amendment which is designed to assure that working parents on WIC and their children are able to continue services. The bill includes a new requirement that children participating in WIC be physically present during recertification. WIC participants are required to be recertified every six months.

My amendment included in the bill provides authority to local agencies to waive the physical presence requirement for children of working parents, if the children were present at the initial certification, and if their presence at recertification would be a barrier to participation.

Requiring working mothers to bring in all of their children could pose a severe hardship on the mother and children. It would mean extra transportation time for working mothers, for example a mother with 2 or more children may have to pick up her children at different locations, one at day care the other at school. This may require mothers to take an entire day off of work as opposed to half a day or a couple of hours if they can go by themselves.

The amendment does not exempt all children with working parents from the requirement, but those that have such difficult circumstances that the requirement may actually serve as a barrier to participation in the program, such as a working mother with transportation problems.

Currently about 28% of WIC eligible mothers work during the first two months following the birth of their children, increasing to roughly 30% when the child turned one (Mathematica Research).

The flexibility provided in my amendment will become increasingly important as more and more mothers on welfare (TANF) will be required to work under the 1996 Welfare Law. With 30% of WIC eligible women also receiving welfare the number of working mothers on WIC is likely to increase as a result of the 1996 law. We must assure that these working mothers have every opportunity to continue their jobs and retain WIC eligibility.

I also am pleased that the Committee concurs with my support of the Department of Agriculture's efforts to provide guidelines to local WIC agencies regarding cultural and ethnic foods. This support was expressed in the Committee Report. Participation in WIC can be greatly enhanced by the use of appropriate cultural foods. I know in Hawaii we have many nutritious foods that are a part of our local diet which are not included in the WIC food package such as tofu and poi. These guidelines will make it easier for our State WIC agency to incorporate such foods into the WIC package.

The Committee also included language in its report which I suggested on the coordination of WIC blood work requirements with the other periodicity schedules such as those by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Centers for Disease Control. Conforming with these schedules will help to improve enrollment, recertification and testing efficiencies in the WIC program.

On the child nutrition programs also included in this bill, I strongly support the expansion of the after-school nutrition programs through the Child and Adult Care Food program and raising the age limit for children eligible for the after-school snacks and meals from 12 to 18.

Provisions in this bill will also help streamline the administrative process for schools who serve after-school meals under the Child and Adult Care Food program. This will make it easier for schools to apply for the after-school funds.

The bill makes an important change in the Summer Food Program that will raise reimbursement rates for Hawaii, Alaska and the Territories. All other child nutrition programs allow the Department of Agriculture to increase the reimbursement rate for these States and Territories to account for the higher cost of food. However, the Summer Food program had no such authority. I am pleased that this bill will allow the increase in reimbursement rates to more accurately reflect the cost of food in my State.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3974 includes a provision that is very critical to my home State of Hawaii and the farmers who are struggling under our current economy. H.R. 3974 includes an amendment I offered at subcommittee which makes changes to the ''Buy American'' provision to assure that Hawaii would be required to buy American products if they are made in Hawaii.

Under current law, Hawaii has been exempt from the requirement that only U.S. products be used in the school lunch and breakfast program, except that Hawaii schools are required to purchase U.S. (Hawaii) grown pineapples. The amendment I included in H.R. 3874 revises this provision to require Hawaii to buy American where food products are produced in Hawaii in quantities sufficient to serve the Hawaii school lunch and breakfast program.

This provision will assure that the Hawaii school lunch program purchases such food products as bananas, pineapples and papayas that are grown here in Hawaii, but still has the flexibility to purchase other foods made outside of the U.S. if necessary. Federal programs should support our local economy. What better way to help Hawaii agriculture than to assure that our school lunch and breakfast programs purchase local grown food. The children will be getting better quality foods that are produced in their own state.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3874 will ensure that our important child nutrition programs continue, that they are more efficient, and that more children and families are served by these important programs. I urge the passage of this bill.

TRIBUTE TO JIRAIR S. HOVNANIAN

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 1998

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my constituent, Jirair S. (Jerry) Hovnanian, President of J. S. Hovnanian & Sons, Inc. as he celebrates 50 years in this great nation.

Arriving in the United States in 1948 to attend the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School, from which he graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration, he was then, and continues to be, a creative and inspirational individual who is widely respected, personally and professionally.

As Past President of the Home Builders League of South Jersey and a Life Director of the National Association of Home Builders, he was instrumental in the Uniform Building Code and the Municipal Land Use Law being enacted.

Jerry pioneered the concept of using state pension funds for home mortgages to maintain a healthy economy in our home state.

In recognition of his dedication and hard work on behalf of the housing industry, Mr. Hovnanian has received such coveted awards as the New Jersey Builders Association's ''Builder of the Year Award,'' and is a member of the Hall of Fame.

His civic activities include the Presidency and Chairmanship of the Burlington County United Way, charter membership in the Mount Laurel Rotary, Executive Board Membership of the Boy Scouts of Burlington County, Founder of the Armenian Sisters Academy, a Montessori private school, and Jerry serves as Arch Deacon of St. Gregory's Armenian Church in Philadelphia.

A ''golden'' anniversary is an accomplishment to be celebrated, and I congratulate Mr. Hovnanian on his fifty years in the United States of America.

TRIBUTE TO THE SUN VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 1998

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Sun Valley Chamber of Commerce, which is celebrating its 73rd year by gathering materials for a time capsule. I have been proud to represent Sun Valley for many years, and I am honored that the Chamber has asked me to contribute this Congressional Insert to the capsule.

It is only fitting that the Sun Valley Chamber of Commerce, one of the most historic organizations in the San Fernando Valley, is assembling a time capsule. The Chamber was formed in 1925 as the Roscoe Chamber of Commerce. One of the charter members was A. Louis Forsch, whose grandson, Gary, is still active in the Chamber today.

The Chamber shut down during the Depression and World War II, reopening in 1946. Within just a few years the Chamber was sponsoring parades, picnics and campaigns to beautify the community. In 1949, the Chamber spearheaded a successful drive to change the name of the area from Roscoe to Sun Valley. Three years later, Mrs. Florence Shea became the President of the Sun Valley Chamber of Commerce. According to the Chamber, Mrs. Shea was the first female president of any chamber in the United States.

Today the Chamber is a dynamic force in the San Fernando Valley. Along with providing essential help to local businesses and working closely with service agencies and government, the Chamber in recent years has been the driving force behind the huge and successful July 4 celebration at Hansen Dam.

I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the Sun Valley Chamber of Commerce, which is doing its part to ensure that the history of the San Fernando Valley will be available to future generations. I only wish I could be around to witness the unveiling of the time capsule.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE L.T. SIMES, II

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 1998

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a wonderful man. The kind of man that made this country the great nation it is today. I honor L.T. Simes, II as he should be honored. Judge Simes is one of those pillars of the community that, works hard every day, plays by the rules and does whatever is necessary to make this community successful. Judge Simes is the first African-American to serve as Chairman of the Arkansas Soil and Water Commission. He is also owner of the first African-American owned and operated radio station in eastern Arkansas. Judge Simes is also the first African American Circuit Judge from Phillips County, Arkansas. It is his tireless work for the community and the fifteen years he has spent with the radio station encouraging young people, for which we take time today to say thank you. We all hope that his example of high standards and good conduct will be followed by the generations to come. His sense of fairness and honesty is exceeded only by his great, good humor. Let us today pay tribute to a friend, role model, community leader, father, and Christian whose standard we should all follow.

CALLING FOR THE INDICTMENT OF SLOBODAN MILOSEVIC

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 1998

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing today a resolution which states our belief that the Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic is responsible for war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. The resolution also calls for action by our government—especially in providing information—that could lead to the indictment of Milosevic for these crimes by the International Criminal Tribunal in The Hague.

Those who have followed the course of Yugoslavia's violent disintegration know well how Slobodan Milosevic has stirred conflict in order to achieve, strengthen and maintain power during the early 1990s, the very years when all Europeans should have had the chance to celebrate newfound unity and freedom with the end of the Cold War and Communism's collapse. Threatened by democratic change, Milosevic played upon Serb grievance—some legitimate and some not—to encourage Serbs throughout former Yugoslavia to rally behind him and establish a ''Greater Serbia.'' He engaged in massive propaganda campaigns, spurring Serbs to hate Croats, Bosniacs and Albanians, or at least to view these neighboring peoples as threats. He put thugs into positions of power, ensuring support for his rule and a willingness to engage in the repression and ethnic cleansing. He supplied militants with heavy weaponry with which to bombard cities, towns, and villages throughout the region.

In testimony before the Helsinki Commission, which I co-chair with the primary Senate sponsor of this resolution, Alfonse D'Amato, many expert witnesses have testified to the deliberate nature of the attack on civilians in Croatia and in Bosnia. Mosques, hospitals, cultural institutions and even schools were specifically targeted for destruction. Intellectuals were targeted for incarceration and even execution. Women were targeted for the agony of being raped. Witnesses also told us of the systematic nature of the policy of ethnic cleansing. From valley to valley, region to region, the implementation of ethnic cleansing was so consistent that one can only conclude that it was directed and orchestrated by the political leaders.

There is only one person in such a position of power that he could have unleashed such devastation in Yugoslavia—Slobodan Milosevic. I believe that he is every bit as guilty of war crimes as the concentration camp guards, the snipers, and the rapists.

And now, Mr. Speaker, there is a new conflict in the former Yugoslavia, one in which Milosevic is again directly involved. In Kosovo, after years of repression of the largely Albanian population by Serbian authorities, there is now open conflict. With this conflict, innocent civilians are being killed, there are reports of detention centers, of rapes and the destruction of whole villages that indicate, at minimum, the open tolerance of such abuses by those in power in Belgrade, including Milosevic, if not the direction of such abuses. Last week we also received information indicating that distribution of basic food and humanitarian supplies has been hindered by Yugoslav and Serb officials. Mr. Speaker, using food as a weapon of war or intimidation can not be tolerated.

Of course, Mr. Milosevic remains in Belgrade, away from the scene of the crimes, and he denies association with those committing these crimes. He is a liar. In fact, he denied to me directly what I saw with my own eyes to be happening during the siege of Vukovar in Croatia. Unfortunately, he has escaped responsibility for the crimes by projecting himself as the ''peacemaker'', the one we supposedly need to achieve the Dayton Agreement which ended the Bosnian conflict, and the one with whom the Kosovar Albanians are being told to join at a negotiation table for dialogue. How many senior Administration officials have traveled repeatedly to Belgrade in order to cajole Milosevic to do this or to do that? He seems to be able to unravel progress if he wants. Does not our reliance on him as ''peacemaker'' help him maintain power at the expense of a democratic Serbia? Mr. Speaker, we can not overlook the criminal responsibility of a person like Milosevic, even when we find ourselves dependent on that person to implement policies the United States has set.

The resolution we are introducing does not address questions of United States policy towards Serbia; we plainly and simply call for justice. Mr. Speaker, I believe that indicating Milosevic is not only good justice; it is good policy. As long as Milosevic is in power in Belgrade and there is no democracy in Serbia, the Balkans will remain unstable. As long as we deal with Milosevic, we perpetuate his power.

I hope, Mr. Speaker, that this resolution will find broad, bipartisan support. I am pleased that I am joined by my colleagues Mr. HOYER, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. KING, Mr.

OLVER and Mr. MCGOVERN as original cosponsors. Who can argue against providing information that could lead to the indictment of a person who may have committed war crimes? Who can argue against supporting the tribunal which can bring needed justice to South-Central Europe? That is what this resolution does, and the measure deserves quick and positive action by the House.

TO HONOR DR. SCOT D. FOSTER, PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF NURSE ANESTHETISTS

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 1998

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, with gratitude, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable constituent of California's Ninth Congressional District, Dr. Scot D. Foster, the outgoing national President of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA). In my opinion, it is appropriate at this time to recognize the outstanding career of this distinguished individual.

Founded in 1931, the AANA represents over 27,000 certified registered nurse anesthetists, or CRNAs, across the country who provide over 65% of the anesthesia in the United States each year. They work in every setting in which anesthesia is delivered, and for all types of surgical cases including hospital surgical suites, obstetrical delivery rooms, ambulatory surgical centers, and the offices of dentists, podiatrists, and plastic surgeons.

As president, Dr. Foster was responsible for charting the policy and direction of the association from 1997–1998. Throughout his involvement with AANA, Dr. Foster has also held a variety of leadership positions prior to being elected President, including Treasurer and Vice President of the AANA.

A learned scholar and expert in his field, Dr. Foster began his studies at the University of Kansas, receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1972, a Bachelor of Science in Nursing in 1974, and a CRNA certificate in 1976. He attained a Master of Arts degree in Educational Administration in 1977, a PhD in Higher Education in 1984, and a Masters of Science in Nursing in 1994.

Dr. Foster currently is a Professor of Nursing at Samuel Merritt College in Oakland, California and is a former Associate Clinical Professor in the Department of Anesthesiology at the UCLA School of Medicine in Los Angles, California. Dr. Foster is widely published and speaks often before professional groups and societies, which has earned him the esteem and respect of his peers and others in all professions.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in recognizing Dr. Foster for his notable career and outstanding achievements. Congratulations, Dr. Foster, on a job well done.

RESTORING SALMON ON THE ELWHA RIVER

HON. RICK WHITE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 1998

Mr. WHITE. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to keep the process of restoring salmon on the Elwha River moving forward. It's important that we have a legislative proposal in the House and it is my hope that this bill will set the stage for negotiations that will lead to an agreement on removing the Elwha dams.

Over the past few years, I've been working with many Members of the House to secure funding for the Elwha River restoration project. I believe that the Elwha River is one place where we can invest our limited dollars and get a wonderful return on our investment. Currently we spend approximately $435 million every year on the Columbia and Snake Rivers and have little to show for it. In the case of the Elwha, a one-time payment of about $100 million will create a pristine river, and perfect salmon habitat, from glacier to salt water.

Since 1995, I have had the pleasure of working with the people of the Port Angeles community, Chairman REGULA, Senator GORTON, Congressman DICKS, and the Administration on this issue. When we started this process in 1995, there wasn't much interest in the Elwha project and Senator GORTON had strong reservations about moving forward.

But as I introduce this bill today, I realize just how much has changed over the past few years. Thanks to the people of the Port Angeles community, who have been the driving force behind this project, as well as my colleagues in Congress, we've made considerable progress in securing some funding for the Elwha project. We started this process in 1996 by getting authorizing language in the fiscal year 1997 Budget Resolution recognizing the environmental benefits of restoring this unique river system. Since we started in 1995 we have been successful in securing $11 million in funding toward dam acquisition.

The legislation I have introduced today is meant to modify the proposal that is being considered in the Senate. Senator GORTON has included language in the fiscal year 1999 Interior Appropriations bill authorizing acquisition of both the Elwha and Glines dams and authorizing removal of both dams subject to the availability of appropriations. In the process, however, Senator GORTON made clear that the uses of the federal hydroelectric facilities on the Columbia and Snake Rivers would not be affected by actions on the Elwha. I agree wholeheartedly with the Senator's intentions.

But Senator GORTON and I haven't always agreed on the details. That is why I am introducing legislation today that is designed to perfect the approach he has taken in the Senate. My legislation will authorize acquisition of both facilities and the removal of the lower Elwha dam, subject to availability of appropriations. My bill also includes an independent scientific review on the benefits of removal prior to removal of the upper dam so that whatever decision we make is based on good, sound science.

I strongly share Senator GORTON's concerns that the actions taken on the Elwha dam set absolutely no precedent on dam removal on the Columbia or Snake River or their tributaries. For that reason, my bill specifically states that dam removal on the Elwha River will not set a precedent on the Columbia or Snake river systems. Finally, my bill provides that no hydroelectric facility can be removed or significantly modified structurally without Congressional approval.

I am very pleased that over the past few months Senator GORTON has indicated a willingness on the Elwha project. As we work out the final details on the Interior Appropriations bill, I encourage the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee to look at my legislation as a balanced solution to restoring salmon on the Elwha River.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ''WILCOX RANCH WILDLIFE HABITAT ACQUISITION ACT''

HON. JAMES V. HANSEN

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 1998

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce to you today the ''Wilcox Ranch Wildlife Habitat Acquisition Act''. This important piece of legislation, would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire a parcel of land located in eastern Utah, in the Range Creek drainage. I have been involved in many conservation projects throughout Utah and I can say this is one of the most important projects in the State. As I have mentioned, the Wilcox Ranch lies along Range Creek. This stream, which flows into the Green River, is home to many kinds of fish and may qualify as a blue ribbon trout stream. The Wilcox Ranch property provides access to over 75,000 acres of BLM lands and is home to an assortment of wildlife such as: Wild Turkey, Eagles, Hawks, Black Bear, Cougar, Elk, Mule Deer, Bighorn Sheep, and other mammal species.

Not only does this land harbor an abundance of wildlife, it also contains many cultural resources, such as Native American pottery, arrowheads, and rock homes constructed centuries ago.

Because this land controls access to so much public lands and contains a great portion of water rights in the Range Creek drainage, it is vital that we obtain this area for the public and the ecosystem.

DEPOSITION AUTHORITY NEEDED FOR THE TEAMSTERS INVESTIGATION

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 1998

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce a resolution which provides for deposition authority for the Teamsters Investigation.

The Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations is examining the failed 1996 election of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT) and related matters, including financial mismanagement at the union and possible manipulation of its pension fund.

Although the investigation has established a good foundation, its progress is increasingly

slowed by the obstructionist tactics of the IBT, including the refusal to allow interviews of relevant witnesses. The Subcommittee and the Chairman of the full Committee have been forced to issue subpoenas for documents to fourteen organizations, most of whom refused to voluntarily provide information to the Subcommittee at the direction of the IBT. Subpoenas have also been issued to seven witnesses to secure their testimony at the Subcommittee's public hearings. Furthermore, the IBT has steadfastly refused, on numerous occasions over the last four months, to allow Subcommittee investigators to interview current IBT employees and employees of its actuarial and accounting firms. The IBT has even objected to the Subcommittee interviewing former IBT employees.

To thoroughly and professionally investigate outstanding issues, the investigation needs the authority to have designated staff conduct depositions. There are up to three dozen witnesses whose testimony would substantially further the investigation and who may have to be deposed. Much of this would be lengthy, detailed questioning, which is not possible in a committee hearing. Some of it would also be very technical. Some of the depositions may have to be conducted after Congress adjourns for the year. All of it is needed if the investigation is to continue to make progress.

I want to assure my colleagues that the authority granted through this resolution has safeguards to ensure that it is used appropriately. First, the authority is granted to the Chairman of the Full Committee, and it may be used only in connection with the Teamsters Investigation. Second, information obtained under deposition authority is considered as having been taken in executive session by the Subcommittee. That makes the information confidential and subject to the protocol under which the investigation is being conducted.

Mr. Speaker, the Committee on Education and the Workforce will also adopt rules to ensure proper use of deposition authority. We will provide for bipartisan participation in depositions. The Ranking Minority member will receive three business days written notice before any deposition is taken, and all Members will receive three business days written notice that a deposition has been scheduled. Finally, our proposed committee rules provide for various rights for witnesses, including the right to counsel.

This resolution is well planned and will be implemented with care. Deposition authority is a tool that will enable the Teamsters investigation to unravel the improprieties associated with the 1996 IBT election so they do not recur. It will also help shed light on mismanagement and financial improprieties so that the International Brotherhood of Teamsters can become more responsive to its members.

AFFIRMING UNITED STATES COMMITMENT TO TAIWAN

SPEECH OF

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 1998

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the resolution introduced by Mr. DELAY affirming the United States commitment to Taiwan. I am pleased to be an original cosponsor of the legislation and I would like to thank Mr. DELAY for his willingness to consider my suggestions for improving the legislation. Mr. DELAY and his staff person, Tim Berry, worked in a cooperative and bipartisan manner to fashion a resolution which I urge all my colleagues to support.

This resolution expresses the United States continued commitment to the people of Taiwan and our interest in ensuring that the future status of Taiwan be resolved by peaceful means. It also affirms our strong support for membership for Taiwan in international financial institutions where appropriate.

In 1994 in response to the profound economic and political changes that had taken place both in China and in Taiwan, the Clinton Administration approved adjustments in our relationship with Taiwan. Among the changes approved were permission for high-level visitors, including cabinet officers; provision for Taiwan's president and premier to transit American territory, and active support for Taiwan's membership in international organizations accepting non-states as members. These were important changes in our policy which were responsive to Taiwan's emergence as a democratic country. Nor were they out of character with past behavior toward Taiwan. As a recent article in the Washington Post by Ambassador Harvey Feldman points out, even after being expelled from the United Nations in 1971, Taiwan remained a member of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund until 1980.

It is important to note that our policy towards Taiwan has not been immutable. It has changed in response to developments in Taiwan as long as those changes remain consistent with our overall objective of promoting peace in the region. Our relations with Taiwan and our policy has been governed by the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979 (P.L. 96–8), further articulated in three U.S.-China communiques of 1972, 1979, and 1982, and clarified at the request of Taiwan in the so-called ''Six Assurances'' in 1982. In 1982 the Reagan Administration was asked by Taiwanese officials to accept as guidelines concerning our policy towards Taiwan six points: (1) the United States would not set a date for termination of arms sales to Taiwan; (2) the United States would not alter the terms of the Taiwan Relations Act; (3) the United States would not engage in advance consultations with Beijing before deciding on U.S. weapons transfers to Taiwan; (4) the United States would not serve as mediator between Taiwan and the mainland; (5) the United States would not alter its position regarding sovereignty of Taiwan and we would not pressure Taiwan to engage in negotiations with the mainland, and (6) the United States would not formally recognize China's sovereignty over Taiwan. We accepted those points and they have conditioned our role between Taiwan and China ever since. This resolution, by reaffirming our interests in resolving the status of Taiwan through peaceful means, reinforces our continued adherence to the six assurances of 1982.

It is important that, as we attempt to build a more constructive relationship with China, we not do so at the cost of the people of Taiwan. This resolution makes clear our desire to maintain strong, productive and peaceful relations with both China and Taiwan. In his recent trip to China, President Clinton emphasized this point when he said ''a key to Asia's stability is a peaceful and prosperous relationship with the People's Republic of China and Taiwan.'' As the President noted, peace and prosperity ''has allowed democracy to flourish in Taiwan.'' I hope that the peace and prosperity which China now enjoys will lead as well to democracy in that great land.

IN HONOR OF CAPTAIN RICHARD WYSSBROD

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 1998

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a courageous man.

As an officer of the Helena Police Department, Capt. Richard Wyssbrod went to work each day to protect the people of Helena, Arkansas. On Tuesday, June 30, Capt. Wyssbrod was responding to a 911 call from a victim of domestic abuse when he was shot and killed.

Capt. Wyssbrod would have celebrated his 12th year with the Helena Police Department on July 1. He began his career with the Marvell Police Department where he served four years before being hired at Helena. He is being remembered as a model police officer by his peers—an honest man who enforced the law with a firm, yet fair, hand. Capt. Wyssbrod worked to establish neighborhood and community watch programs in Helena. He was actively involved in youth programs, speaking to children about the dangers of illegal drugs.

Capt. Wyssbrod will forever be remembered as a law enforcement veteran, but it is fitting that he also be remembered for the life he led when he was off-duty. Capt. Wyssbrod was a loving father and devoted grandfather. He was a kind man who was a friend to an entire town.

Capt. Wyssbrod is the first police officer to be killed in the line of duty in Helena. His name will soon be added to the National Law Enforcement Officers' Memorial here in Washington, D.C., but it is important that we remember our fallen police officers not as names on a wall, but for the lives they led as human beings. As an inscription on the wall states, ''It is not how these men died that made them heroes. It is how they lived.''

Mr. Speaker, with those words in mind, I ask that we remember Capt. Richard Wyssbrod not only as a police officer from Helena, Arkansas, but as one of America's heroes.

THE PATIENT PRIVACY ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 1998

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Patient Privacy Act, which repeals those sections of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 authorizing the establishment of a ''standard unique health care identifier'' for all Americans. This identifier

would then be used to create a national database containing the medical history of all Americans. Establishment of such an identifier would allow federal bureaucrats to track every citizen's medical history from cradle to grave. Furthermore, it is possible that every medical professional, hospital, and Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) in the country would be able to access an individual citizens' record simply by entering the patient's identifier into the national database.

As an OB/GYN with more than 30 years experience in private practice, I know better than most the importance of preserving the sanctity of the physician-patient relationship. Oftentimes, effective treatment depends on a patient's ability to place absolute trust in his or her doctor. What will happen to that trust when patients know that any and all information given their doctor will be placed in a data base accessible by anyone who knows the patient's ''unique personal identifier?''

I ask my colleagues, how comfortable would you be confiding any emotional problem, or even an embarrassing physical problem like impotence, to your doctor if you knew that this information could be easily accessed by friend, foe, possible employers, coworkers, HMOs, and government agents?

Mr. Speaker, the Clinton administration has even come out in favor of allowing law enforcement officials access to health care information, in complete disregard of the fifth amendment. It is bitterly ironic that the same administration that has proven so inventive at protecting its privacy has so little respect for physician-patient confidentiality.

Many of my colleagues will admit that the American people have good reason to fear a government-mandated health ID card, but they will claim such problems can be ''fixed'' by additional legislation restricting the use of the identifier and forbidding all but certain designated persons to access those records.

This argument has two flaws. First of all, history has shown that attempts to protect the privacy of information collected by, or at the command, of the government are ineffective at protecting citizens from the prying eyes of government officials. I ask my colleagues to think of the numerous cases of IRS abuses that were brought to our attention in the past few months, the history of abuse of FBI files, and the case of a Medicaid clerk in Maryland who accessed a computerized database and sold patient names to an HMO. These are just some of many examples that show that the only effective way to protect privacy is to forbid the government from assigning a unique number to any citizen.

The second, and most important reason, legislation ''protecting'' the unique health identifier is insufficient is that the federal government lacks any constitutional authority to force citizens to adopt a universal health identifier, regardless of any attached ''privacy protections.'' Any federal action that oversteps constitutional limitations violates liberty for it ratifies the principle that the federal government, not the Constitution, is the ultimate arbitrator of its own jurisdiction over the people. The only effective protection of the rights of citizens is for Congress and the American people to follow Thomas Jefferson's advice and ''bind (the federal government) down with the chains of the Constitution.''

For those who claim that the Patient Privacy Act would interfere with the plans to ''simplify'' and ''streamline'' the health care system, under the Constitution, the rights of people should never take a backseat to the convenience of the government or politically powerful industries like HMOs.

Mr. Speaker, the federal government has no authority to endanger the privacy of personal medical information by forcing all citizens to adopt a uniform health identifier for use in a national data base. A uniform health ID endangers the constitutional liberties, threatens the doctor-patient relationships, and could allow federal officials access to deeply personal medical information. There can be no justification for risking the rights of private citizens. I therefore urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Patient Privacy Act.

TRIBUTE TO DR. GENO SACCOMANNO

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 1998

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize an individual, who for the past 50 years, has donated his life to the ongoing fight against cancer. Dr. Geno Saccomanno, a cytologist from Grand Junction, CO, is a simple, dedicated man with a personal history that rivals most in accomplishment and commitment. Some of his most notable achievements both professionally and philanthropically, include his groundbreaking and world-renowned cancer research methods, his two popular cytology texts, his scholarship fund for underprivileged high school graduates, his St. Mary's Saccomanno Education Center, and the Catholic school and church that will be built on land he recently donated near his home. As you can see, Dr. Saccomanno is a man who works for the good of all people, in every area of his life.

When Dr. Saccomanno arrived in Grand Junction as a pathologist in 1948, he was the first to pay appropriate attention to the most pressing local cancer issue. As he had noticed in some of his doctoral studies at St. Louis University, Dr. Saccomanno saw correlations between cancer incidence and the coal mines working in Western Colorado and Eastern Utah. His analysis of this issue set the stage for a long life in lung cancer research and diagnosis.

Considered today by colleagues and professionals worldwide as one of the world's foremost pioneers and prophets in lung cancer research, Saccomanno's research techniques are considered a standard in laboratories around the world. His first method of cell separation to detect mutation utilized his wife Ginny's blender and a few simple medical tools. Through the years, his techniques have grown and developed with the aid of technology so much that his research methods are widely praised and world renowned. In fact, the American Cancer Institute is currently attempting to duplicate his processes with a computer.

Dr. Saccomanno has won several well-deserved awards and published a myriad of medical reports during his 50-year career, all that have led to a considerable reputation among a wide range of people. He is revered by everyone, from his colleagues at St. Mary's to VIP's at the Department of Energy to his friends at the National Cancer Institute.

Today, the 82-year-old Dr. Saccomanno continues his work in the field he has grown to love. Each morning he makes the daily trek from his home to the lab where he continues to look at his vast collection of tissue samples, lung X-rays, and secretions searching for a clue that would someday lead to a cure for cancer. Dr. Saccomanno's obvious dedication to his life's work and the medical field is something that is admired by all.

I would like to take a moment today to thank Dr. Saccomanno for both his efforts in finding a cure for cancer, as well as for all that he has done for his community. He is an excellent example of how important dedication and perseverance are in one's personal and professional life. He sets a standard that we should all strive to emulate. It is an honor for me to count Dr. Saccomanno as one of my constituents and to represent him in Congress.

HONORING DOUGLAS M. BARRETT

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 1998

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of a resident of Nashua, New Hampshire, Mr. Douglas M. Barrett, on the occasion of his retirement from Sanders, a Lockheed Martin Company. Mr. Barrett's 41 years of dedication to improving our Nation's security, and his devotion to his community, set a standard of commitment and excellence for which we should all strive.

Since beginning his employment at Sanders Associates in 1957, Mr. Barrett has been an integral part of the development and fielding of intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance systems that have been critical to keeping the peace when possible and prevailing at war when necessary. His devotion to getting the best possible technical solutions into the hands of our soldiers, sailors and airmen in the shortest periods of time, and at the best value to the government is to be greatly commended.

As the Vice President and General Manager of the Surveillance Systems Business Area of Sanders since 1982, Mr. Barrett has been instrumental to the growth and stability of the economy in and around Nashua through the creation of jobs. He has also played a major role in providing educational opportunities for the citizens of the greater Nashua area as a board member and past president of the Adult Learning Center.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join with me in recognizing the unwavering commitment and total dedication of Mr. Douglas M. Barrett to his company, community and country.

''LET'S GET TOUGH ON DRUGS''

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 1998

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask if the Clinton Administration has any defined position on casual drug use and any

specific strategy to fight drug abuse in our schools, our workplaces and our homes.

A few weeks ago, I was pleased to hear the White House drug policy chief Barry McCaffery's harsh words of criticism for the liberal drug policies he observed while traveling through Europe. General McCaffery strongly criticized the approach of the Netherlands, where marijuana and other drugs are legal, and called the result of their policies ''an unmitigated disaster.''

Mr. Speaker, there is absolutely no doubt that legalizing marijuana would have disastrous results for any society. General McCaffery pointed that there are now over 1200 ''pot clubs'' in Holland alone. Crime has risen and the state is now responsible for thousands of heroin addicts that now require extensive methadone treatment.

According to today's Washington Post, General McCaffery has once again modified his remarks and is now calling the drug policies of countries like Holland ''very impressive.'' Mr. Speaker, I know General McCaffery is tough on drugs. We've heard his 'zero' approach time and time again and I applaud him for that. However, I believe General McCaffery was right when he first offered his opinion on policies of nations like the Netherlands when it comes to drugs.

Mr. Speaker, this Administration continues to send mixed signals on casual drug use. Meanwhile, children all over America are faced with the temptation to try drugs every day.

Those nations that choose to tolerate recreational drug use are going down a very dangerous path. The statistics of drug-related health problems and death in those countries can not be disputed. Mr. Speaker, it's time for this Administration to stop worrying about criticizing our friends in Europe and start worrying about the protection and welfare of our own children.

[From the Washington Post, Tues. July 21, 1998]

DRUG CHIEF MITIGATES SLAP AT DUTCH

AFTER TOUR, MCCAFFREY SOFTENS HIS CRITICISM OF DRUG POLICIES

By Michael Grunwald

Less than two weeks ago, White House drug policy chief Barry R. McCaffrey sparked an international stir by attacking Dutch drug-fighting policies as ''an unmitigated disaster.'' Yesterday, he offered a new description of their efforts: ''very impressive.''

McCaffrey is still no fan of the permissive Dutch attitude toward marijuana, and he was appalled by a ''heroin provision'' experiment for addicts he saw during a one-day dash through the Netherlands last week. But he said he was pleasantly surprised by aggressive Dutch efforts to rein in drug smuggling, ''drug tourism'' and drug-related violence.

He even said that the United States could learn a great deal from the expansive Dutch approach to funding drug treatment, especially methadone programs for heroin users.

''I am envious of their ability to deliver drug treatment and health care to heroin addicts,'' said McCaffrey, director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy. ''Our program is inadequate in coverage.''

It was quite a change of tune for McCaffrey, who made front-page news in the Netherlands with his ''unmitigated disaster'' comment during a July 9 appearance on a CNN talk show. McCaffrey said on the program that Dutch acceptance of marijuana as a harmless ''soft drug'' has fueled dramatic increases in crime and warned that official toleration of nearly 1,200 ''cannabis clubs'' in the Netherlands was setting a terrible example for Europe. The Dutch ambassador to the United States, Joris Vos, responded that he was ''confounded and dismayed'' by McCaffrey's remarks.

McCaffrey, a four-star general who served with distinction in the Vietnam War and the Persian Gulf War, has courted controversy since President Clinton named him to lead America's war on drugs in 1996. He was a bitter critic of needle exchange programs, then muted his criticism somewhat after Clinton endorsed them as a useful tool against AIDS. He praised Mexico's top anti-drug official, Gen. Jesus Gutierrez Rebollo, as ''an honest man,'' then professed shock when Gutierrez was arrested in a corruption sting after just 10 weeks in office.

Yesterday, in a news conference about his week-long swing through six European countries, McCaffrey acknowledged that he had overstepped with his ''unmitigated disaster'' criticism of the Dutch. ''In a more balanced vein, I'd suggest that there are areas of agreement and areas of disagreement,'' he said. ''Friends can disagree with friends.''

Dutch officials yesterday said they welcomed his more conciliatory tone. ''I think he made a good visit and learned a lot,'' said embassy spokeswoman Madelien DePlanque. ''He doesn't agree with everything we do, but he's entitled to an opinion.''

McCaffrey visited a methadone program in Amsterdam and said he came away impressed by the ease with which Dutch heroin addicts can get treatment. In America, he said, methadone clinics are few and far between, and addicts who do find them often face a maze of bureaucratic obstacles; only 115,000 of the estimated 800,000 U.S. heroin addicts currently get methadone.

McCaffrey also said he now believes that the Dutch are doing an ''excellent job'' cracking down on serious drug crimes and getting though with ''drug-daze'' foreign tourists who visit the country for its marijuana-selling ''coffee shops.''

But McCaffrey is not quite ready for America to go Dutch when it comes to drug abuse. He criticized the toleration of cannabis clubs as ''legal hypocrisy.'' He distributed statistics indicating dramatic across-the-board increases in crime and drug-related deaths in the Netherlands since 1978. He said he was disturbed by his visit with Rotterdam scientists who are dispensing heroin to 750 addicts. And he warned that ''this beautiful, clean, quiet little country'' has become a production and distribution hub for much of the European drug trade.

''They just haven't connected their problems to their attitudes towards drug abuse,'' McCaffrey said. ''They seem to think marijuana is benign. It's not benign.''

McCaffrey refused to visit a cannabis club, explaining that he already knows what people look like when they smoke pot. But he's done calling Dutch policy an ''unmitigated disaster.''

''You can say it's a mitigated disaster,'' he said.

RELATING TO THE IMPORTANCE OF JAPANESE AMERICAN RELATIONS

SPEECH OF

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 1998

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to urge support for H. Res. 392, relating to the importance of Japanese-American relations and the urgent need for Japan to more effectively address its economic and financial problems. I am an original cosponsor of this resolution as Ranking Member on the Asia and Pacific Subcommittee of the International Relations Committee.

One reason for this resolution was our appreciation of the vital contribution Japan makes as the world's second largest economy, to global economic growth, especially to the Asian Pacific region. The importance of maintaining the vitality of our security relationship with Japan in all its dimensions—economic, political, and military—is critical to American policy in the region. When Japan suffers, we suffer. When Asia is sick, Japan becomes ill too.

Curing one means helping both. We need that cure for our economic benefit. As one witness before the Subcommittee, Robert Grondine of the American Chamber of Commerce in Japan, pointed out, the Chamber represents over one thousand American companies doing business in Japan. It is in our economic self-interest to see a growing Japanese economy.

For many years, Japanese prosperity has permitted it to evade the need for the profound economic reforms which have been so obvious to both Japanese and foreign observers.

While there has been much discussion about the need for economic stimulus which will accelerate consumer demand, I am more interested in seeing the type of structural reform which will result in lasting economic change in Japan. Reform of the financial sector and greater market access for foreign competitors are particularly important.

I am confident that Japan will surmount its difficulties. The resilience and capability of the Japanese people have been proven through many times of trial.

In introducing H. Res. 391, Mr. BEREUTER and I hope that we will further the constructive economic dialog between our two countries in a way that deepens our ties.

NORTHERN IRELAND VISA FOR PEACE AND RECONCILIATION

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 1998

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the Friends of Ireland and member of the Ad-Hoc Committee for Irish Affairs, I am inviting all of my colleagues to join us as cosponsors of the Northern Ireland Visa for Peace and Reconciliation.

Over the last few weeks, the world has witnessed events symbolizing both the hope for the future in Northern Ireland and the tragedy of its past. The politics of the gun has been replaced with the politics of the ballot box. A majority of men and women on all sides of the conflict have given their overwhelming support for the Good Friday Agreement and stood together in condemnation of last week's violence and murder. This initiative is aimed at helping those who are working for a new beginning.

In May, the Speaker of the Irish Dail, Mr. Seamus Pattison, led a delegation to Washington for a meeting of the U.S.-Ireland Interparliament. During those meetings, the Irish

continually raised the idea of a new U.S. transitional visa program designed to support the implementation of the peace agreement.

The Northern Ireland Visa for Peace and Reconciliation creates a non-immigrant, temporary working visa category targeted at individuals from disadvantaged areas in Northern Ireland and Border Counties of the Republic. It would allow young unskilled people from disadvantaged areas a brief period of time to learn a craft, get a temporary job and experience the diversity of the United States. After their visit, they would return home ready to share the benefits derived from working in the world's greatest economy.

In the past several years, we have seen 800 years of Irish history take a dramatic shift toward peace. We believe this Visa program will further cement that progress. I hope all Members will join us in supporting this low-risk, low-cost, high-return investment in support of peace in Northern Ireland.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 1998

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, on July 20, the House considered several measures under suspension of the rules. On rollcall votes 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, and 308 had I been present I would have voted ''yea.''

On this date, I was representing the Subcommittee on Courts and Intellectual Property at a meeting of the National Music Publishers Association. I had committed to participating in this event prior to the scheduling of votes.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 1998

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I was unavoidably detained and missed four rollcall votes (297, 298, 299 and 300). If I had been present, I would have voted ''aye'' on all four votes.

PRESENTATION TO THE CONSTITUTION SUBCOMMITTEE, COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY, U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 1998

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following for the RECORD.

STATEMENT BY CONGRESSMAN JOSEPH R. PITTS ON LETHAL DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION ACT, (H.R. 4006), JULY 14, 1998

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of H.R. 4006, the Lethal Drug Abuse Prevention Act of 1998. This bill will prohibit the dispensing or distribution of a controlled substance in order to cause or assist suicide or euthanasia.

Mr. Chairman, I strongly believe that we can and must do better for our disabled and ill citizens than kill them. You cannot solve problems by getting rid of the people to whom the problems happen. When a teenager says her life is not worth living because she has lost her boyfriend, we don't say, ''Well, that's her choice.'' We recognize it as a cry for help, as a view that can and will be changed.

Statistics show that of those who attempt suicide and are stopped, less than 5% have gone on to kill themselves five years later. What a tragedy it would be for the more than 95% who survived if we had turned our backs and not tried to stop them from taking their lives. Sadly, that is exactly what opponents of H.R. 4006 seek to do.

I know that it will be said it is different for those who are terminally ill. But a study published in the American Journal of Psychiatry found that of the 24% who are terminally ill who said they wanted to die, all were suffering from clinically diagnosable depression. Depression is an illness, and it distorts judgment. We should treat it in terminally ill individuals as much as in others.

Let no one suppose, however, that this is an issue that applies only to the terminally ill. Authorizing assisted suicide for those with terminal illness is only the tip of the iceberg. We can see what happened in the Netherlands. In 1981, a Dutch court said that under certain conditions, a doctor could assist a terminally ill person's suicide. In 1982, another court extended that to elderly people who were not terminally ill, but in chronic bad health, a decision upheld by the Dutch Supreme Court in 1984. In 1986, the Dutch Supreme Court said that people with disabilities could be killed.

In 1989 Holland moved from voluntary assisted suicide to nonvoluntary euthanasia when the Supreme Court said that doctors could give lethal injections to children born with Down syndrome. In 1991 a Dutch court legitimized killing a 25 year old woman with mental illness, and in 1994 the Supreme Court said that a woman, with no physical illness or disability, but who was depressed because of the death of her last remaining child, could be killed.

Once you accept the view that death is a solution to human problems, it becomes very hard to draw lines. Gradually, it will be seen as an answer to more and more problems, for less and less weighty reasons. We in America must not start down that road.

My colleagues from Oregon argue that Congress has no business in this area, that it should be left entirely up to the state of Oregon. They miss the point that we are talking about federally controlled drugs. Under existing federal law, it is generally illegal to dispense or distribute these drugs unless you have a special license or ''registration'' from the federal government. If you are a medical practitioner or pharmacist, you are granted that federal registration to prescribe certain of these federally controlled substances for a legitimate medical purpose.

Congress passed the Controlled Substances Act in the first place because drug abuse is a national problem. A state cannot nullify the federal law if it chooses, as a matter of state law, to legalize the use of heroin or LSD. The same Attorney General who overturned the ruling of the professionals at the federal Drug Enforcement Administration on this matter has successfully gotten injunctions to close cannabis clubs in California that were selling marijuana for supposed medicinal purposes as authorized by a California referendum.

Mr. Chairman, you can't have it both ways. If my distinguished colleagues from Oregon really want to assert states' rights, they should be pushing for the complete repeal of the federal Controlled Substances Act. But while it is in effect, for the federal government to permit the dispensing of otherwise prohibited federally controlled drugs to kill patients means the federal government is affirmatively facilitating assisted suicide.

The American people don't want this to happen, by a margin of more than 2 to 1. A Wirthlin Worldwide poll in March found that 65% oppose allowing the use of ''federally controlled drugs for the purpose of assisted suicide and euthanasia.''

Mr. Chairman, the Declaration of Independence describes life as something that is ''inalienable''—a right so fundamental that it cannot be given away even voluntarily. The principal author of the Declaration, Thomas Jefferson, wrote in 1809 that ''The care of human life and happiness, and not their destruction, is the first and only legitimate object of good government.''

Our country stands at a crossroads between the way of death and the way of life. I urge that this subcommittee lead us in the life-affirming direction by reporting out the Lethal Drug Abuse Prevention Act of 1998.

TRIBUTE TO KELLY RITTER

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 1998

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Kelly Ritter of Darlington, South Carolina, on the fiftieth anniversary of his involvement in the tobacco business. Mr. Ritter is a well-known figure in the South Carolina tobacco community, and the State has greatly benefitted from his commitment to improving both the quality of our fields and the well-being of the persons whose lives revolve around tobacco crops.

Originally from North Carolina, Mr. Ritter attended North Carolina State University. He entered the United States Army Corps following college, and joined the troops headed to fight in World War II. Just as he was finishing his last bombing missions in Germany, Mr. Ritter was shot down in his plane. He was captured by the Germans and held as a Prisoner of War for 485 days.

After the war, Mr. Ritter moved from Lumberton, North Carolina, to Darlington, South Carolina. He became very involved in the local community, serving as an elder in the Presbyterian Church in Darlington, where he is still a Member. President of the South Carolina Tobacco Warehouse Association, Mr. Ritter acted as a liaison between tobacco companies and farmers, and he worked diligently to improve the tobacco industry and help those involved in it. He has also served on a number of other federal and state tobacco committees.

In addition to his demonstrated commitment to the tobacco industry, Mr. Ritter is also a dedicated husband and father. He has been

married to the former Bess Stallings for 52 years. Together, they have raised four children: Kelly, Jr., William Keith, Eliza, and Susan.

Mr. Ritter is well-known in the Darlington area because of his many years of service from the dual perspectives of farmer and tobacco warehouse agent. he has supported his field and his community in numerous capacities with persistence and hard work. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Kelly Ritter, Sr., on the fiftieth anniversary of his involvement in the tobacco business in Darlington County, South Carolina.

TROPICAL FOREST CONSERVATION ACT OF 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN R. KASICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 15, 1998

Mr. KASICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2870, the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998. First, let me commend the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) for his leadership on this bill. Because of the diligent efforts of the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HAMILTON), and the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), we have a good bill to solve the problem of rainforest depletion at its source.

The preservation of tropical forests is essential for countries all over the world. Tropical forests provide a habitat for a diversity of plants used for life-saving medicines and the treatment of disease. Tropical forests also help to stabilize global rainfall, vital to the health of agricultural crops and coastal communities. This bill provides an economic incentive to stop the rapid deforestation and degradation of this important ecosystem.

Most tropical forests are located in developing countries. Burdened by debt and desperate for capital, many developing countries have sacrificed tropical forests to logging or agricultural development. Some of the countries where rainforests are located owe millions of dollars to the United States which are unlikely to be repaid. This bill establishes a system to rechannel developing nations' financial resources to tropical forest preservation and provide relief from crippling debts.

This bill expands the Bush administration's Enterprise for the Americas Initiative (EAI) which established debt-for-nature swaps with Latin American countries. H.R. 2870 offers debt relief to countries with important resources beyond the Americas. Through debt-for-nature swaps, the United States would forgive or restructure debt for qualifying developing countries with threatened tropical forests. In exchange, countries would make payments to an independently administered fund used to conserve and restore tropical forests. This bill also permits a debt buyback mechanism to allow third parties to purchase debt for a beneficiary country or permit the debtor country to repurchase its debt at a fair market value. Furthermore, this bill is fiscally sound. Any funds spent as a result of this bill are fully offset in the appropriations process.

Again, I would like to thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) for his hard work in bringing this to fruition. In conclusion, this is a creative and pragmatic solution to benefit tropical forest conservation as well as the economic prosperity of developing nations. I ask my colleagues to support this bill.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF DR. BURL AND REBA PFANDER

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 1998

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, the greatness of America, in large part, depends on the goodness of its families. The course of our nation is not steered so much by media personalities, or intellectuals, or politicians, as much as it is set by husbands and wives committed to each other, to their children, and to their communities. Dr. Burl and Reba Pfander, of Springfield, Missouri, are such a couple.

On September 5th, Burl and Reba will be celebrating their fiftieth wedding anniversary. When a young World War II veteran married his attractive bride in 1948, they made a lifelong commitment to each other. In an age when many people have entered and exited marriages with startling rapidity, Burl and Reba Pfander have kept their promise. They have stood as an example of what marriage should be: a solemn commitment, a life-long partnership, and a relationship of love and honor. As a result, their marriage has enriched their own lives and the lives of their family beyond measure.

The commitment of Burl and Reba to family and to the future is reflected in their son, Michael. Michael has become a veterinarian, continuing his father's private practice of thirty-eight years. Michael has gone on to form his own family; he and his wife, Jeanne, are the parents of Burl and Reba's granddaughter, Meghan Michelle. Burl and Reba Pfander have raised a son that any family would be proud of, with the type of values every son should have. The most important obligation of each generation is to pass on a set of values to the next generation. The Pfanders have met that obligation.

Outside of their family, Burl and Reba's marriage has benefited an entire community. The Pfanders have been involved with local youth organization for many years. Reba has been named an honorary farmer of the Nixa, Missouri, chapter of the Future Farmers of America. Burl has supported the FFA, 4–H, and the Missouri Junior Polled Hereford Association. Both Pfanders are active members of their local church, and they serve as volunteers for community-wide events.

The Pfanders have also shown a strong commitment to giving young people opportunities to advance themselves through higher education. They have endowed an annual scholarship in memory of Reba's brother, Wallace Lanz, who was killed in World War II. The scholarship is given to support local high school seniors as they enter college. Burl and Reba also counsel aspiring veterinarians about their applications to veterinary colleges. Burl and Reba Pfander understand the importance of giving back to their community.

Fifty years ago, few people may have recognized the significance of the wedding of Burl Pfander to Reba Lanz, but today few people in their community can escape it. The Pfanders have remained committed to each other; they have been good parents and passed on their values to a son who has followed in his parents' path; they have been model citizens; and they have given of themselves to those around them. I am glad to give my congratulations to Dr. Burl and Reba Pfander on their fiftieth wedding anniversary.

PROTECTING IMMIGRANT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 1998

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, in 1994, we passed the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) with overwhelming support. VAWA contained provisions that were vital to the protection of abused immigrant women and children. We passed this legislation to ensure that abused spouses and children could flee violent homes, gain legal protections from ongoing violence, and cooperate in the criminal prosecution of their abusers.

Prior to VAWA the system ensured that abusive U.S. citizens and permanent residents maintained complete control over the immigration status of their spouses. Battered women could not file for lawful permanent residency without the assistance of their abusive spouses, and many abusive spouses maintained this control by refusing to participate in the petitioning process. Having no other options, these abused immigrant women and their children were forced to stay in violent homes enduring abuse and unable to appeal to law enforcement agencies, shelters, or courts for protection.

The immigration provisions of VAWA helped to solve these problems by giving battered immigrant women and their children some control over their own immigration status. VAWA created a self-petitioning procedure for battered immigrants that did not require the cooperation of their abusive spouses. Self-petitioners could acquire their green cards while remaining in the U.S. where our laws protected them. VAWA also allowed those abused immigrant women who had been placed in deportation proceedings to file for suspension of deportation, regardless of their marital status, so long as they had resided in the United States for three years.

However, subsequent legislation, including the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act (IIRAIRA) of 1996 and the Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act (NACARA) of 1997, erased some of the protections we created for battered immigrant women and their children.

Expiration of Section 245(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) forces many battered immigrant women, with approved INS petitions, to leave the U.S. to obtain their green cards. Expiration of Section 245(i) is contradictory to the intent of VAWA. Those women who have approved VAWA self-petitions have already shown INS that they would face ''extreme hardship'' by being forced to leave the country. Traveling outside the United States deprives these women of the protections provided by legislation, court orders, custody decrees, and law enforcement agencies.

Many battered women would be separated from their children for an undetermined amount of time if forced to leave the U.S. Often these women are the sole caretakers of their children. There may be no one with whom the child could stay or they would, might remain in the custody of the abuser. If a battered mother leaves the country, taking her children with her, she could lose custody of the children to the abuser under the Parental Kidnapping Prevention Act (PKPA). Forcing these battered immigrant women and mothers to leave the country places their lives and the lives of their children in danger.

We should reinstate our protection of battered immigrant women by allowing them to adjust their status to lawful permanent residency while in the U.S. in the same manner we allow immediate relatives of U.S. citizens to adjust their status. This provision would provide battered immigrant women and their children with approved VAWA self-petitions to acquire their green cards while remaining in the U.S.

Other immigration provisions drastically altered battered women's access to VAWA's suspension of deportation/cancellation of removal in two ways: it changed the way INS counts the number of years an immigrant has been in the U.S. and applies these changes retroactively to cases already filed, and it places a ''cap'' on the number of immigrants who are allowed to receive green cards through suspension of deportation/cancellation of removal.

To apply for suspension of deportation/cancellation of removal, a battered immigrant or child must have been in the U.S. for three years. Recent changes only count an immigrant's time in the U.S. up to the moment that INS becomes aware of their presence, regardless of how long they remain in the United States for deportation proceedings to conclude. This is especially detrimental to battered women immigrants because in most cases the abuser controls all mail and telephone correspondence addressed to the battered spouse. These battered immigrants may never know that INS had placed them in deportation proceedings. Suspension of deportation/cancellation of removal is an important tool for these women who are unable to file self-petitions for permanent residence because their self-petitions have been sabotaged by spouses who divorce them or who report them to the INS. Suspension of deportation/cancellation of removal is often the only remedy available to battered immigrant women in this situation.

We must restore the original manner of counting years in the U.S. for battered immigrants only. Additionally, we should stop the retroactive application of this new counting and reopen old deportation cases for VAWA-eligible battered immigrants.

Four years ago we passed VAWA strongly believing that battered immigrant women should have access to legal protections, be able to flee violent homes, and control their own immigration status and lives. Let us stand by that position.

IN MEMORY OF EVERETT W. HANNON, SR.

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 1998

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it is with great regret that I inform the Members of the House of the passing of Everett W. Hannon, Sr., a councilman from Lexington, MO, on July 17, 1998.

Mr. Hannon was a native of Lexington and a graduate of Douglass High School. He entered the United States Army in 1952, and was honorably discharged in 1954. He served on the Lexington City Council for over 20 years, and was also employed with Allied signal as a Cost Reduction Representative for 25 years, until his retirement in May of 1993.

Mr. Hannon was an active member of the Lexington community. In addition to serving on the city council, he was Chairman and Treasurer of the Lexington Park Board, Board and Executive Board Member of Missouri Valley Human Resource Development Corporation, and a member of the American Legion, the Lion's Club, and the Second Baptist church of Lexington.

Mr Hannon is survived by his wife Marjorie, three sons, two brothers, three sisters, an aunt, and seven grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Everett Hannon played many important roles in the Lexington community, and he will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

TRIBUTE TO OFFICER CANDIDATE SCHOOL GRADUATE, SANDRA BERNAL

HON. STEVE R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 1998

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Sandra Bernal, on her recent graduation from Officer Candidate School (OCS). I am especially proud that Ms. Bernal, a resident of Teaneck, NJ, was awarded the Deputy Adjutant General Honor Graduate commendation upon her completion of the program. Ms. Bernal's accomplishment is a credit to her commitment to excellence and to her family and community.

As a commissioned officer in the Armed Forces of the United States, Ms. Bernal will be contributing her considerable skills and talents to enhance our Nation's defense. Those same attributes that gained her a commendation during her OCS training will now, thankfully, be brought to bear during her service in the New Jersey Army and Air National Guard.

For her service to our Nation, her dedication to America's liberty and freedom, I applaud Ms. Bernal's achievement. In the finest sense, she represents the best of America.

TRIBUTE TO FATHER TOM RUSH

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 1998

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my dear friend Father Tom Rush, pastor at Mary Immaculate Catholic Church in Pacoima. Father Rush is leaving Pacoima for a leadership position in the international order of Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate. Father Rush will be sorely missed in the Northeast Valley. He is a figure beloved by people of all religious and ethnic backgrounds.

I have had the good fortune of being with Father Rush on many occasions. One of the most memorable was earlier this year when I attended dedication ceremonies for the rebuilt Mary Immaculate Church, which was destroyed in the Northridge Earthquake of 1994. The sanctuary was overflowing with church members and others who wanted to share the special day with Father Rush. That day I realized as never before how much Father Rush means to our community. He has touched countless lives through his spiritual guidance, commitment to social justice and dedication to helping at-risk youth.

Father Rush came to the Northeast Valley in 1973, when he became priest at Santa Rosa Church in San Fernando. In between other assignments he spent 13 years at Santa Rosa, before moving over to Mary Immaculate in neighboring Pacoima in 1992. At both Santa Rosa and Mary Immaculate, Father Rush, who is of Irish descent, established an extraordinary rapport with his overwhelmingly Latino congregants. It is entirely accurate to call Father Rush a leader in the burgeoning Latino community of the Northeast Valley.

In recent years, Father Rush has been a courageous and outspoken supporter of immigrant rights. Four years ago he carried an American flag in a demonstration against Proposition 187. In 1995 he was part of a group that met with Richard Rogers, District Director of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, to demand a speedier citizenship process. Rogers promised he would try.

Father Rush's pending departure has cast a pall over our community. Though we wish him the best, we also know that he is irreplaceable.

I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Father Tom Rush, a man of warmth, compassion and remarkable energy who has brought joy and hope to many.

ISSUES FACING YOUNG PEOPLE TODAY

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 1998

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to have printed in the RECORD these statements by high school students from my home state of Vermont, who were speaking at my recent town meeting on issues facing young people today. I am inserting their statements in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD as I believe that the views of these young persons will benefit my colleagues.

STATEMENT BY ISAAC EVANS-FRANTZ AND ALINA LYON REGARDING GAY-STRAIGHT ISSUES

ISAAC EVANS-FRANTZ: Growing up gay, lesbian or bisexual can be very difficult in the society that we live in. Many gay teenagers are subjected to homophobia every day of their lives. 93 percent of Vermont educators reported that homophobic name-calling takes place with great frequency and intensity in their schools. We can assure you that these educators are absolutely correct.

Gays are frequently harassed at school, and many drop out as a result. Those kids who hide their sexual orientations because of fear sometimes suffer just as much. It is not surprising that suicide is the leading cause of death among gay youth. An overwhelming percent of gay and lesbian youth experience severe social isolation. It is often difficult for these students to find the resources and support that they need within their schools.

The silence about homosexuality not only affects gays, but affects our entire society. We are caught in a cycle of fear and hatred, which comes from ignorance. It is obvious that the bigoted remarks about gays that are so prevalent in our hallways are the result of an education we have not had.

ALIANA LYON: Prism, Brattleboro's Gay-Straight Alliance, was started two years ago as the answer to an urgent need of support for gay, lesbian and bisexual youth. The Gay-Straight Alliance is open to all who wish to attend, and sexual orientation is not discussed unless initiated by the students. The Alliance plays two major roles—it acts as a support group and an activist group.

Our group is composed of about twenty students and is supported by trusted faculties and community members. Prism is a comfortable atmosphere of caring people where issues of harassment, sexuality, homophobia and personal fears are freely discussed. When we are not sharing stories or concerns, we are planning our next project to make people aware of homophobia in our school or society.

We started working within our school first. We led discussions on homophobia in the freshman health classes, trying to create an awareness of our group's existence and the social issue. To involve the community, we showed an educational video called 'It's Elementary.'' It discusses homosexuality with elementary school children, asking them what they think the definition of gay, lesbian or bisexuality means. It is followed by a sharing of experiences, ideas and information.

We have visited other gay straight alliances in Vermont and Massachusetts to inform each other of events happening, along with difficulties and successes of having an alliance in public schools. Statewide, Prism has visited the Vermont State House twice for Teen Day at the legislature. The second visit, we facilitated a workshop in how to start an alliance, and how to find the support needed to sustain an alliance. We are not funded by the school for any of these activities, and we have paid for our own expenses by grants and donations.

ISAAC EVANS-FRANTZ. There are still many schools that provide little assistance for gay, lesbian and bisexual students. We feel that this support is important to their social and academic well-being. We would like to see our governments—local, state, and national—provide financial backing for schools to initiate gay-straight alliances.

Massachusetts has done just that. In 1992, the Governor and Lt. Governor established a commission to research problems affecting gay and lesbian youth. As a result, the Massachusetts government offered monetary incentives for schools to start groups for gay and lesbian and straight students. Hopefully, the work of Massachusetts will serve as a model for Vermont and the country.

Our state has made progress towards making schools safer for gay students. In March, our Governor and Commissioner of Education wrote a letter to Vermont school principals urging them to stop the harassment of gay and lesbian students. He reminded schools that Vermont law requires every school to maintain a policy prohibiting the harassment, including harassment of homosexuals.

We hope that one day, gay and straight alliances will no longer be necessary. Until then, we ask that our schools, our state, and our nation take an active role in making our schools places where all students are safe, valued, and respected.

Congressman SANDERS: A very good job.

STATEMENT BY SCOTT RADIMER REGARDING THE E.U. AND FREE TRADE

SCOTT RADIMER: Good afternoon, for those of you that are left.

I would like to take this chance today to talk about something that I found most people don't know about, which is the European Union, 15 countries in Europe, including England, Germany, Italy and France, along with others who are joining together—this has been in the works for the last 40 years, I think, moving towards one market, one currency, and becoming one economic power.

As this has gone along, it has become one of the biggest markets in the world. The gross domestic product of the European Union in 1992 was higher than that of the United States or Japan. The reason that this is important, it is not affecting us right now, but it will be affecting us in years to come, when I am in the work force, when the rest of us are, is that we are going to have to compete with Europe. Many people talk about Japan and trying to compete with Japan, and this is going to be even bigger.

There are a few things that we can do. We could try and expand things, such as NAFTA, whereas Europe is moving more together, and North America could try and do similar things. We could also try and work just within the United States, or just Canada, or the rest of the parts of the world. The important things is not necessarily that we find a solution right now, but that we are at least aware that this exists and it is something we are going to have to deal with. It is better to start looking at these things now, before we have a huge trade deficit with a country now, instead of later.

Thank you.

Congressman SANDERS: Scott, thanks very much.

STATEMENT BY DANIEL NELSON REGARDING TROUBLED TEENS

DANIEL NELSON: Thank you, Mr. Sanders, fellow youth. I apologize, I have a little bit of a cold I'm getting over.

An issue that has been big on my mind is a lot of young people that are placed under state's custody. Young people that aren't necessarily troublemakers are getting into trouble and have troubles at home. I was one of those young people. I am still young, but not in that position anymore. I was placed in a group home, not in a foster home, but there are problems with both.

A lot of the times, young people are taken out of a home environment that might not necessarily be good. They can escape from physical abuse, but they don't escape mental abuse. There are a lot of restrictions put on these young people, when, really, they don't need restrictions; they need to be encouraged, shown that they can succeed, and that they do have potential. That is the last thing these young people get in group homes and a lot of foster homes.

I am not a person that likes to whine about things; I like to do things and make changes. This is something I don't know how to change myself, at least at this point in my life. After college, I hope to try and do that. But my suggestion would be if there is some way that these group homes and foster homes could be evaluated more effectively. These people that are condescending, say mean, hurtful things, and impose restrictions that are really not necessary, that they be removed from these environments. They are damaging young people that could be very effective in society, and I think would like to, if given the opportunity.

And that is about all I have to say.

Congressman SANDERS: Thank you.