

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 reim-

bursement 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 indicting 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.