

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 25, 1998

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to celebrate the activities of Hispanic Heritage Month. Governor O'Bannon has designated September 15 through October 15, 1998, Indiana's Hispanic Heritage Month. This proclamation is in recognition of the efforts Indiana's Hispanic-American population has consistently displayed to improve the State of Indiana, as well as Indiana's First Congressional District.

In Northwest Indiana, you will find a vibrant, active, and proud Hispanic community. Thriving organizations such as the Latin American Community Alliance for Support and Assistance (LACASA) of NWI, Inc., Northwest Indiana Hispanic Coordinating Council, Hispanic Women's Forum of NWI, Union Benefica Mexicana, Puerto Rican Parade and Cultural Organization, Sociedad Mutualista Mexico, Raza de Bronze, Northwest Indiana Latino Historical Society, the Hispanic Catholic Center, National Association of Hispanic Nurses-Indiana Chapter, National Council of LaRaza affiliate, U.S. Hispanic Leadership Institute affiliates, National Council of Puerto Rican Women (NaCoPRW), League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), Indiana University Northwest's ALMA Latino student organization, Purdue University Calumet's Los Latinos student organization, Calumet College of St. Joseph's Los Amigos Latino student organization, Ivy Tech State College's Latino student organization, Valparaiso University's LIVE Latino student organization, to name a few, provide an effective avenue for promoting Hispanic interests and their shared cultural heritage.

Active in every aspect of community life from labor organizer, police chief, and Federal district court judge to educators, Labor President, and clergy, the citizens of Northwest Indiana have a multitude of Hispanic-American role models to emulate. Indeed, as an increasingly important segment of the Northwest Indiana community, Hispanic-Americans are making many valuable contributions to our state and region. These valuable contributions have come not only culturally, but also in the areas of law, religion, agriculture, education, architecture, and technology. Without the contributions of Hispanic-Americans, the rich, diverse, ethnically flavored culture of Northwest Indiana would be incomplete.

Mr. Speaker, Hispanic-Americans strive to earn and enjoy the promise and benefits that America, at its best, extends to all. I am proud to serve as the Representative in Congress for Northwest Indiana, with its diverse multicultural heritage, and I encourage my distinguished colleagues, and all citizens, to participate and enjoy events commemorating Hispanic Heritage Month.

SUPPORT FOR H.R. 4283, THE
AFRICA: SEEDS OF HOPE BILL**HON. LEE H. HAMILTON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 25, 1998

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to the attention of our colleagues a letter from the Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman in support of H.R. 4283, the Africa: Seeds of Hope bill.

Doug Bereuter and I introduced the bill on April 1, 1998. The bill currently has 103 cosponsors. The purpose of the bill is two-fold. First, it supports sustainable agriculture development and food security in Sub-Saharan Africa. And, second, the bill enhances our ability to respond to humanitarian crises by replacing the Food Security Commodity Reserve with the Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust. It also helps American farmers by giving the Department of Agriculture the ability to buy commodities for the Trust when prices are low.

Secretary Glickman notes in his letter that the bill would have a very positive impact on our ability to manage the Food Security Commodity Reserve.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,

Washington, DC, September 22, 1998.

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON,
Ranking Democratic Member, Committee on International Relations, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR LEE: This is in response to your request for the views of the Department of Agriculture (USDA) concerning H.R. 4283, a bill "To support sustainable and broad-based agricultural and rural development in sub-Saharan Africa, and for other purposes" (Seeds of Hope Act). The bill is designed to focus on development activities that will provide assistance to the poor, especially women and children, throughout sub-Saharan Africa.

H.R. 4283 would enhance the Administration's "Partnership for Economic Growth and Opportunity in Africa," as well as Congress' proposed legislation, "The African Growth and Opportunity Act." The Seeds of Hope Act will help build a stronger and longer-term partnership between the United States and the countries of sub-Saharan Africa.

There are two proposals contained in H.R. 4283 that would have substantial positive impact on managing the Food Security Commodity Reserve (FSCR), which this bill would rename the "Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust." The first major change authorizes holding reserves in the form of cash, as well as commodities. The holding of reserves in the form of cash or commodities permits flexibility in managing the trust and could result in reduced storage and handling costs for the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC). The second major proposal included in this legislation provides for more flexibility in replenishing the trust. Current authority provides for replenishing the FSCR through the purchase of commodities using funds appropriated in advance for this purpose or with existing, uncommitted CCC stocks. This legislation proposes allowing CCC to replenish the trust using funds appropriated for use in carrying out Pub. L. 83-480 activities that related to repaying CCC for the prior release of commodities from the trust.

H.R. 4283 could increase direct spending; therefore, it is subject to the pay-as-you-go requirements of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990. The Office of Management and Budget's preliminary scoring estimates of this bill are zero.

The Office of Management and Budget advises that from the standpoint of the Administration's program there is no objection to the presentation of this report.

USDA supports the passage of H.R. 4283. Thank you for the opportunity to share with you the Department's views. I am sending a similar letter to Representative Doug Bereuter.

Sincerely,

DAN GLICKMAN,
Secretary.

IN HONOR OF DR. ROBERT RUBEN

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 25, 1998

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Robert Ruben on the occasion of his retirement as Chair of the Montefiore Medical Center Department of Otolaryngology. Tonight, Montefiore Medical Center is holding a gala salute in honor of Dr. Ruben's distinguished career. The gala will benefit hearing restoration research.

Dr. Ruben has had a long and impressive career in medicine. He received his undergraduate degree in psychology from Princeton University and his M.D. from the John Hopkins School of Medicine.

Although he is retiring from the post of Chair of the Department of Otolaryngology, Dr. Ruben will continue his dedicated work on behalf of people with hearing disorders at Montefiore Medical Center and the Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

When making his decision to retire from the position of department chair, Dr. Ruben took into consideration the time he will now have to continue his work on the protection, repair and regeneration of dead and damaged hearing cells. In his own words: "The more effort, resources and time that we devote to understanding hearing disorders, the sooner we will enable communicatively deprived people to reach their full potential."

Over the course of Dr. Ruben's career he has received numerous honors and distinctions that date back to his teenage years. As a high school student, Robert Ruben received an honorable mention in the Westinghouse Talent Search. He is the recipient of the American Academy of Ophthalmology & Otolaryngology Research Award, the Schreiber Gold Medal of the National Association of the Deaf, an Honorary Professor and Advisor to the Peking Institute of Otolaryngology of the People's Republic of China, and recipient of the Presidential Citation, AAO/HNS, among others.

His work on behalf of children and the disabled is extensive. He has served on the Head Start Medical Advisory committee, the National Task Force on Mentally Retarded Deaf, the National Institute of Health Advisory Council, the Advisory Council of the National Institute of Deafness & Other Communication Disorders, and as the director of the American Board of Otolaryngology, to name a few.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud and honored to bring to your attention the important work Dr. Robert Ruben has done for communicatively deprived people and the field of Otolaryngology. Montefiore Medical Center and the Albert Einstein College of Medicine are privileged to have such an outstanding man on their staff.