

recognize, though, that true justice demands that the net be cast further than the one person most responsible.

As a supporter of the Tribunal, I believe it is critical that the Tribunal take a proactive stance in Kosovo that could serve as a possible deterrent against a new round of war crimes in the Former Yugoslavia. In the case of Bosnia, the Tribunal could only react to crimes that were mostly committed before and during its formation. In Kosovo, however, crimes could perhaps be deterred, if the Tribunal is vigorous and visible in its investigation of ongoing activity.

Mr. Speaker, we saw a couple of days ago the reports of a major massacre in three villages in Kosovo, where women, children and the elderly were slain and, in some instances, their bodies mutilated by the Serbian security forces. These scenes are all too familiar and, absent determined action, will be repeated over and over again. The Helsinki Commission has received disturbing reports from Senator Bob Dole and Assistant Secretary of State John Shattuck who formed a fact-finding mission to Kosovo. They told us about men being separated from women and children and simply taken away, perhaps to lengthy detention or maybe their execution. There are also reports, again of the mass rape being used as a weapon of war.

Mr. Speaker, as a cosponsor of H.R. 4660, I believe adoption of this legislation will underscore the continued commitment of the United States to see that those responsible for the war crimes and other serious violations of international humanitarian law are held accountable for their actions. While it is unlikely that the offer of rewards alone will lead to the arrest or conviction of all of those responsible for war crimes in the Former Yugoslavia, even if one war criminal is brought to justice as a result of our action today, the modest investment would have been worth the effort.

#### ELECTRICITY DEREGULATION

### HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 8, 1998*

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, today, together with my Ways and Means colleague, Mr. NEAL, I have introduced a bill setting forth the Administration's approach to legislation addressing the tax consequences of electricity deregulation upon tax-exempt bonds issued by municipally owned utilities for the generation, transmission and distribution of electricity. As my colleagues may recall, the Administration unveiled a comprehensive electricity deregulation proposal on March 24, 1998, which included a section dealing with the tax issues associated with deregulation.

The 105th Congress did not have an opportunity to take up this or other proposals on electricity deregulation this year. However, despite the lack of Federal legislation in this area, 18 states have already gone forward and begun to deregulate electricity at the state and local level. My own home state of California has deregulated much of its market already. The era of competition has already started for the utilities operating in these states.

Municipally-owned utilities have operated up to now under a strict regime of Federal tax

rules governing their ability to issue tax-exempt bonds which were enacted in an era that did not contemplate electricity deregulation. These so-called "private use" rules limit the amount of power that municipal or state-owned utilities ("public power") may sell to private entities through facilities financed with tax-exempt bonds. For years, the private use rules were cumbersome but manageable. As states deregulate, however, the private use rules are threatening many communities that are served by public power with significant financial penalties as they adjust to the changing marketplace. In effect, the rules are forcing public utilities to face the prospects of violating the private use rules, or walling off their customers from competition, or raising rates to consumers—the precise opposite of what deregulation is supposed to achieve. The consumer can only lose when this happens.

The Administration proposal that I am introducing today would protect consumers by grandfathering already outstanding bonds, continue to permit public utilities to issue tax-exempt bonds for facilities involved in the distribution of electricity in the future, but eliminate their ability to issue tax-exempt debt in the future for facilities involved with the transmission or generation of electricity.

In addition, because the restructuring of the electric utility industry is affecting the investor-owned utilities as well as public utilities, the Administration proposal includes a provision intended to address a tax problem that a number of the investor-owned utilities face in a deregulated world. Specifically, under present law, the amount of contributions to a qualified nuclear decommissioning fund a utility is entitled to deduct is the lesser of "cost-of-service" amount or the "ruling amount." In a restructured market, if a nuclear power plant is no longer subject to cost-of-service ratemaking, it could be determined that the amount of decommissioning costs included in cost-of-service would be zero. To eliminate this possibility, the provision would change the present law limitation on the amount of the deduction by limiting the deduction solely by reference to the "ruling amount"

I am introducing this legislation at this time in order to give affected parties, including consumers, an opportunity to review the bill and provided us in Congress with input on its provisions. With this input, we will be in a position to address this important issue more capably in the 106th Congress. I am certainly aware that there are other approaches to the private use problem, some of which have been introduced this year in the House and others in the other body. There are numerous policy and technical issues to be resolved in designing a fair and workable solution to this problem.

The bill does not resolve all of those problems, and indeed, is intended to be a starting point for the consideration of the tax issues involved with electricity deregulation. Other approaches, for instance, providing an election for public utilities to live within the current private use regime or opt into a regime without the ability to issue tax-exempt bonds except for distribution and transmission, merit serious review and discussion.

Even within the approach the Administration has taken in this bill, there are issues that might be decided differently. For instance, the legislation somewhat arbitrarily defines "distribution property" as output facilities that operate at 69 KV or lower. It is our understand-

ing that this definition does not pick up all facilities used for distribution, and that a more flexible definition may be necessary. We welcome input on this issue.

In addition, the legislation ties the relief in the bill to enactment of a Federal electric deregulation bill, which, of course, has not yet been enacted. Because states like California have already deregulated, public power consumers need this relief now. An alternate effective date tied to state deregulation activities would be appropriate.

Another example of an important issue that might be addressed differently is the refunding of bonds. The legislation permits only current refundings of tax-exempt bonds within the grandfather of existing debt, but it also permits the maturity of the bonds to be extended for a limited period. On the other hand, it does not permit advance refundings. The legislation could be drafted to permit either approach to refunding, or advanced and current refundings without extension of the maturity term. I urge affected parties to comment on which is the more appropriate rule.

Another complex issue on which we seek comment is whether public utilities should be able to issue bonds for generation and transmission where the proceeds of the bonds are used just to repair or make environmental improvements to existing facilities and are not used to expand significantly current capacity. The bill as introduced does not address this issue.

Mr. Speaker, we plan to work with all interested parties including American consumers to ensure that we end up with the fairest, most reasonable solution to this complex problem. We want electricity deregulation to be a good deal for everyone involved, especially the American consumer who certainly deserves the lower electric bills that a competitive marketplace is supposed to provide. I urge my colleagues to review this legislation carefully over the coming months and welcome their input, as well as that of all affected parties.

#### STATEMENT RECOGNIZING SYRIA'S LIBERAL POLICY OF JEWISH EMIGRATION

### HON. TOM CAMPBELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 8, 1998*

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to recognize with commendation that the country of Syria followed through on its promises regarding Jewish emigration over the past 6 years.

Beginning in 1992, without fanfare, Syria eased its strict travel and emigration policies on its Jewish community. Numbering around 100,000 at the turn of the century, the Syrian Jewish community numbered only approximately 5,000 by 1992. Up until 1992, Syrian Jews could only travel outside of the country individually, and only if family members remained behind. Between April and October of 1992, however, approximately 2,600 of this 5,000 were allowed to emigrate from Syria.

In October of 1992, Syria temporarily suspended this eased emigration policy. However, in December of 1993, Secretary of State Warren Christopher visited the country, and in a goodwill gesture during this visit, President

Assad informed Secretary Christopher that all remaining Jewish families were free to leave Syria. The liberal Jewish emigration procedures soon resumed, and the Department of State informs me that all but 118 Jewish individuals have been granted exit visas and left Syria. The majority of these families decided to resettle in the United States, specifically in Brooklyn, where a thriving Syrian Jewish community of about 35,000 exists. The State Department reports none of these remaining Syrian Jews have reported Syrian government persecution, and that many plan to emigrate soon.

I was first made aware of Syria's emigration policy toward its Jewish community when I met with President Assad this past June in Damascus. In discussion, President Assad referenced this emigration policy as an example of Syria's continuing good faith effort to propel forward the Middle-East peace process. He did not, but some in the Syrian government did, observe that no statement of acknowledgment of Syria's following through on its emigration commitment had ever been entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. I wish to correct that oversight now.

Emigration is a basic human right that all responsible nations respect and allow. I commend President Assad for joining the community of nations that seek to guarantee this human right. In an attempt to create a conducive atmosphere toward fostering the peace process, President Assad allowed Syrian Jews to emigrate. Six years have passed since this policy began. It is time that recognition and approbation be properly given.

STATE SENATOR J. DOYLE  
CORMAN, A STATESMAN FOR  
THE PEOPLE

**HON. BUD SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 8, 1998*

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of the great statesmen from my District. Sir Walter Scott, one of Scotland's great historical authors and poets, wrote in *The Lady of the Lake* of "[t]he will to do, the soul to dare." No phrase is more attributable to Pennsylvania State Senator J. Doyle Corman. For the last 21 years, Doyle Corman has served as State Senator to the 34th District which includes Centre, Juniata, Mifflin and Perry Counties. During this time, I have had the distinct pleasure of representing these counties as part of the Ninth Congressional District and working hand-in-hand with Doyle to help improve the lives of our mutual constituents.

After a stellar career in service to his country and his friends and neighbors, Doyle has decided to retire. His resume speaks for itself: Army veteran, Centre County Commissioner, president of SEDA-COG, State Committeeman, president of Corman Associates, Inc., Republican Chairman of the State Senate Transportation Committee, Republican Policy Chairman, Majority Caucus Administrator, member of the State Transportation Commission, PHEAA board member, and member of the Local Government, Games & Fisheries, and Rules and Executive Nominations committees. The recipient of many honors and

awards, Doyle's success as State Senator leaves behind a powerful legacy to everyone who knows him.

For many years Doyle and I have worked on numerous projects to enhance the safety of our constituents and overall improve our region. One such notable example is the PA Rt. 322 "Missing Link" project in Mifflin County, Pennsylvania. Responsible for numerous fatalities, this deadly stretch of two-lane highway was a problem that could only be solved by replacing it with a modern four-lane corridor. Doyle tirelessly worked with the Pennsylvania State Legislature and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation to secure the necessary state funding while I acted in a similar capacity on the federal level. Today, I am happy to report that, as a result of our combined efforts, the "Missing Link" is under construction and nearing completion. I can honestly say that without the benefit of Doyle's support and diligent guidance this critical project would still be only a concept.

It has been truly a great honor to work with such a distinguished individual as Doyle, and I am sad to see him go. I congratulate him on a magnificent career and hope he enjoys the best retirement he has to offer. In the words of Walter Lippmann, a noted journalist, "The final test of a leader is that he leaves behind him in other men the conviction and the will to carry on." I know for a fact that Doyle has accomplished this task. I am one of the "other men" who will work hard to continue Doyle's legacy.

Even though he is retiring, I know that we have not heard the last from Doyle Corman. As his history has proven, I am sure Doyle will continue to offer his knowledge and expertise when needed. Mr. Speaker, I am sure you will join me in celebration of State Senator J. Doyle Corman's extraordinary service to the State of Pennsylvania. He is truly a great man, a great leader, a great American, and I wish him well in private life.

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH  
OF SAN MATEO

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 8, 1998*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor for me to invite my colleagues in the Congress to join me in recognizing the Community Baptist Church of San Mateo, which is celebrating its 50th Anniversary on October 11, 1998.

The Community Baptist Church was originally dedicated as the San Mateo Chinese Baptist Community Center in 1948. The primary purpose of the church was to bring Christianity into the lives of Chinese Americans throughout the Peninsula. But what has evolved from this mission is a second purpose which is similarly special and valuable—to provide a community cultural center where the heritage, language, and customs of Chinese Americans are preserved for future generations.

Mr. Speaker, the Community Baptist Church of San Mateo was the product of a mission program established by Mother Margarita Garton and the First Baptist Church of Bur-

lingame, California. Community Baptist Church spent many years establishing itself in and contributing to the community, growing and thriving to meet the needs of its rapidly expanding membership. The church's increasing significance was evidence in 1963 by the construction of a sanctuary on its current site on South Humboldt Street in San Mateo. Three years later, Sunday School classrooms were added to the building, and during the 1980's a multi-storied Conference Center and Nursery were erected.

The Community Baptist Church has endeavored to meet the needs of the expanding population of Cantonese-speaking Chinese Americans in San Mateo County. In 1990 the Community Baptist Church initiated full dual ministries in both English and Cantonese, with strong pastoral leadership serving both segments of a unified church. Since 1995, the church has provided the community with weekly classes in the Cantonese language, which have awakened interest in and informed students about their Chinese heritage.

As Community Baptist Church was the product of a mission program, it has continuously supported the American Baptist Mission Program, and the church has been recognized numerous times by the American Baptist Churches, USA for its contributions to this cause.

The church has also served for many years as a learning facility for the Minister-in-Training program for graduate seminary students. These students have gone on to serve as pastors of their own churches or as staff members of the American Budget Churches of the West.

Most notable of its numerous achievements, the Community Baptist Church has developed into a close-knit and supportive family. Many of its young members have grown into strong church and community leaders who now serve throughout California and across our nation.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize and thank the Reverend Norman Owyang and his congregation at the Community Baptist Church for their outstanding contributions to the people of San Mateo and the Peninsula. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Reverend Owyang and the Community Church of San Mateo another half century of prosperity and continuing service to our community.

PROTECTING ISRAEL

**HON. TOM DeLAY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 8, 1998*

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I worked with Mr. SAXTON and Mr. SALMON to introduce a resolution calling on the President to clarify American policy with respect to a unilateral declaration of an independent Palestinian state. I did this because I feel the administration's policy regarding Israel and the Middle East process has been confusing and misleading not only for the American people, but for the international community at large, and especially for the parties to the peace process itself.

The United States has never endorsed the creation of a Palestinian state. After the signing of Oslo accords, the United States made it clear that all questions of sovereignty and statehood were a matter of negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians. However,