unique and caring men and women who as the Sikeston Standard Democrat noted, ''accomplish good deeds quietly. (Who) never sought/(seek) the spotlight—though are/(were) proud when projects are/(were) successful.''

Mr. Speaker, the author of this article had it right, ''Leroy's reward was a smile on a kid's face. And he brought ample smiles through the years.'' Thank you Leroy—for the lives you touched—then and today.

IN HONOR OF EDDIE BLAZONCZYK

HON. ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH

OF ILLINOIS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 1998

Mr. BLAGOJEVICH. Mr. Speaker, my colleague, Mr. KUCINICH, and I rise today to honor Mr. Eddie Blazonczyk for his contributions to the American polka tradition. He was recently recognized for his achievements by the National Endowment for Arts during a White House ceremony where he was presented with the prestigious 1998 National Heritage Fellowship Award. Mr. Blazonczyk is a bandleader who has set the standard for Chicago-style polka, a sound that defines ''polka'' music for millions of Americans.

Born in 1941, Mr. Blazonczyk was raised surrounded by the sounds of polka. His mother directed a Gorale, a southern Polish music and dance ensemble, and his father played the cello for that group. His parents also owned a banquet hall where he was exposed to some of the great polka musicians of that time. Influenced by his childhood experiences with the Polish heritage, he decided to form his own polka band, the Versatones. He worked to forge a new polka sound that incorporated more raucous, ''honky'' sounds.

Throughout his career, Mr. Blazonczyk has developed quite a following, not only among the tens of thousands of polka dancers in Polish-American communities, but also among younger musicians in Polish polka bands. His interpretation of old folk music and his ideal singing voice for Polish songs have made him a star in the polka music community. He has appeared more than 4,800 times since he began his band in 1963, and he still keeps a schedule with over 175 performances a year. His tireless zeal for his art was recognized when he received a Grammy for the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences in 1986.

My fellow colleagues, please join us in congratulating Mr. Eddie Blazonczyk for receiving the 1998 National Heritage Fellowship Award in recognition of his revolutionary and outstanding contributions to polka music. His singing and more than 50 recordings will be enjoyed by polka lovers for years to come.

SALUTE TO JACK CORRIGAN: MR. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

HON. SHERWOOD H. BOEHLERT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 1998

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, July 13, 1998 it was my privilege to share in a special retirement ceremony for one of the finest, most decent, most caring, sharing individuals I have ever known.

On that day, in Philadelphia, local, state, and national leaders joined in honoring Jack Corrigan upon the occasion of his retirement after Nearly 30 years of distinguished service in the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration.

There is so much to be said about Mr. Corrigan's superb public service. It can best be summed up by noting that in 1995 he received the Lifetime Achievement Award for excellence in the field of economic development from the National Council on Urban Economic Development for his innovative economic development, thought, and leadership.

One of the old pros in the economic development field is a long-time good friend, Dave Rally, currently Legislative Advisor to the Public Works and Economic Development Association.

When I mentioned to Mr. Rally that I would be participating in the salute to Jack Corrigan, he immediately recalled what he termed ''one of the best speeches ever'' on the subject of economic development. Guess who gave it? Jack Corrigan. Mr. Rally was so impressed by the speech that he kept it at the ready and quickly retrieved it more than three years after it was given.

I, too, was greatly impressed, so much so that I append it here to my remarks with the thought that a reading of this ''insider's look'' at the role of the Federal Government—an historical perspective—will be enlightening, instructive and inspiring for all.

Jack Corrigan brings credit to the title public servant. His dedication and good work enriched the lives of literally hundreds of thousands of Americans and helped transform areas of distress into zones of opportunity. What a magnificent legacy!

EDA AND THE FEDERAL ROLE IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT—AN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

(Address by John E. Corrigan, Director, Philadelphia Regional Office, Economic Development Administration, EDA Regional Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, February, 1995)

This year marks the thirtieth anniversary of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (PWEDA). Yet what should be a year to celebrate the effectiveness and contribution of the Economic Development Administration (EDA) may become a year when EDA faces the most serious threat to its very existence. In the weeks and months ahead there will be a national debate that will challenge the validity of concepts that are the reasons why EDA was created and sustained for the past 30 years.

We, the true believers, must not simply dismiss those who see no reason for our existence as simply mean spirited heretics but rather in the coming months we must engage them in a discussion of ideas. As Peter Drucker observed: ''Every person and institution operates on the basis of a theory whether they realize it or not.'' EDA is a response to a specific theory about development. Those who seek our elimination have a very different theory of development.

There is little disagreement in the United States that the existence within our country of hundreds of areas of very low income and of persistently high unemployment is a national concern. The question which is in dispute is whether the Federal government ought to make efforts to alter the productive structure of such areas so that they may maintain their level of population, balance their trade with competing regions, and achieve a rate of growth in their per capita incomes which approximates the national rate by making those areas more competitive. There are two quite distinct theories on this. Proponents of the National Demand approach, also known as the Market approach, assert that over the long term the competitive forces of the market do create an optimal spatial distribution of economic activity. The private sector will locate where costs are least and profits greatest. Therefore if any area does show persistent symptoms of severe distress this should be interpreted as a clear warning that the nation has a declining need for this particular part of national space. We can let it deteriorate. The alternative thesis, which can be called the theory of Planned Adjustment, assumes that local economic problems persist precisely because competitive forces do not create an optimal spatial distribution of economic activity. Thus the lagging regions suffer not only because of the internal misuse of their resources but also because external investors, who are unaware of the favorable opportunities for investments in such areas, continue to pour funds into the overexpanded metropolitan areas within growing regions. These areas are lagging, in part, because they are not able to invest in infrastructure, both human and physical, which would make the area economically profitable to the private sector. Such deficiencies in the market system, it is argued, can be overcome by planning for the adaption of the supply characteristics of the lagging regions (investing in infrastructure, including capacity as well as bricks and mortar) so that they become self-sustaining, retain their population, and attract investment from the oversized metropolitan areas.

Because he believed in the first theory of development, the National Demand model, the Market model, President Nixon in 1972 called for the termination of EDA and stated boldly: ''There is no need for a national development policy''. And in 1980, President Jimmy Carter's White House Conference on Balanced National Growth and Economic Development, much to our surprise, recommended that the solution to the problem of distressed areas was for the federal government to provide assistance so that citizens could move to more prosperous areas reflecting clearly a belief in this first theory of development—vote with your feet. And President Reagan after recommending the elimination of EDA in this State of the Union message in January 1981, explained his position further by stating: ''The administration intends to deal with economic development at the subnational level by improving the national economy.''

In response we need to loudly proclaim that this theory of economic development espoused by President Nixon, by President Carter's Balanced National Growth Conference and by President Reagan is wrong, that it has no historic basis in fact and that it has not been our national economic policy for the past 150 years.

In a Senate Speech in 1981, defending EDA, Senator George Mitchell outlined that history.

In 1850, when it became apparent that the success of the Eastern States in building their rail networks promised an increase in wealth for the entire eastern seaboard, Congress enacted the Railroad Land Grant Act—truly landmark legislation—to encourage, by Federal subsidy, the expansion of the rail network in the South and West. And for 21 years thereafter, Congress continued to grant rail land rights. One Hundred Thirty One million acres to land were granted for that purpose—a Federal subsidy for Western

and Southern economic development whose worth cannot be calculated at today's prices. Beginning in the 1880's, hydroelectric power was aggressively developed with federal aid.

By 1902, 30 years of homesteading acts had not been enough to encourage the settlement of the arid parts of the West, so Congress enacted the Reclamation Lands Act of 1902, a regional economic program which has changed the face of the country. Under the Reclamation Act water projects were built in 17 Western States to irrigate arid land. Some of our great cities—Phoenix, Denver, Los Angeles—could not exist without that water. The Imperial Valley in California, the most productive farmland in the Nation could not produce without it. And, as one result, Western lands with less than 9 inches of rainfall each year now produce and agricultural product worth $4.4 billion. All based on the theory of the importance of the Federal role in economic development.

In the 1930's, when the great depression was at its worst, Federal funds were poured into regional efforts to help provide employment and economic growth in the West and South. The massive Bonneville hydro project on the Columbia River was built to provide employment in the Pacific Northwest. Today, a potato processing plant in Washington State pays one-fifth the rate of electricity that a similar plant pays in the East because of Bonneville power and the other Federal hydro projects in Washington.

The greatest of the regional development programs, the Tennessee Valley Authority, is still benefiting its seven-State area. Its series of dams, reforestation projects, power plants and fertilizer plants have lifted a region which was in the depths of poverty in 1933—its people then earned 45 percent of the national average income—to a thriving and economically productive region today.

This massive Federal assistance to the South and the West over the past century has given those areas a basis from which today's rapid rate of economic development flows. It was grounded in the recognition that not all regions of the country have identical needs, that they do not move forward in lockstep, and that help is needed at different times by different parts of the country.

Then in 1956, at the urging of the Eisenhower Administration, Congress passed The Federal Aid Highway Act which began the largest Economic Development project in human history. The project resulted from extensive national and regional planning and the total cost of the system is estimated at $129 billion. Its effect was to open the way for development in our suburbs, exurbs, and outlying rural areas.

No need for a national development policy—no need for federal intervention? The history of our country belies those statements.

Thus EDA owes its existence to the second theory—That of Planned Adjustment—which has been a national policy since 1850. However, politically, EDA exists as a result of a National debate that took place after the Second World War concerning the need for a targeted development program.

Some of you may remember as I do that the way that debate was framed in the 1950's was in the form of a question: ''If we can assist all of those countries in Europe with a Marshall Plan, shouldn't there be a Marshall Plan for our distressed areas?''

In Congress, Senator Paul Douglas of Illinois was the champion of such an approach and legislation was drafted and passed and twice vetoed by President Eisenhower. But support for such a program was building and legislation creating The Area Redevelopment Administration (ARA) was the first bill that passed the Senate and was signed by the newly elected President John F. Kennedy in May 1961. President Kennedy was enthusiastic about the program having experienced the depths of rural poverty when campaigning in West Virginia and other parts of Appalachia in the Primary race against Hubert Humphrey. During its four year history ARA obligated $350 million for projects authorized by its enabling legislation and another $851 million for public works projects under the Public Works Acceleration Act of 1962.

During 1965 a consensus was reached in Congress that the ARA approach was valid but that it needed to be refocused. Thus on August 26, 1965, President Johnson signed the Public Works and Economic Development Act. The new legislation reaffirmed the ARA mission of permanently alleviating conditions of substantial and persistent unemployment and underemployment in distressed areas and emphasized the related goal of stemming outmigration from such places. PWEDA also stressed the need to encourage expanded development in the natural growth centers of depressed areas and the importance of long-range economic planning.

In sending the EDA legislation to Congress for enactment on March 25, 1965, President Lyndon Johnson said: ''The conditions of our distressed areas today are among our most important economic problems. They hold back the progress of the Nation, and breed a despair and poverty which is inexcusable in the richest land on earth. We will not permit any part of this country to be a prison where hopes are crushed, human beings chained to misery, and the promise of America denied.''

Those words ring true today as they did 30 years ago.

EDA's advance over ARA and its originality is that it seeks to generate a process of economic development in specific areas of the country. The focus from projects to process was a key change from ARA to EDA. The Overall Economic Development Program, although not always properly implemented remains today a major contribution to economic development practice.

Another unique characteristic of EDA is the role of the Economic Development Representatives (EDRs). There is no other position like it in the Federal Government. The EDR heads a one person office in charge of one or more states. Because the EDRs are close to the economic problems of their areas and close to the people involved in them is a reason why they are so effective and important to EDA. Also the EDR reports to the Regional Director who reports to the Assistant Secretary. That flat organizational structure has resulted in many instances where an EDR talks to the Regional Director who talks to Headquarters and in a matter of hours an application is invited or a problem is solved. No other Federal program operates that way.

Now what shall we say about our collective experience in EDA—almost 30 years and $16 billion later. Let us review some of the highlights of our proud heritage.

We know that jobs spring from ideas and EDA showed the way and responded to need in dozens of initiatives. Who could count the jobs that have resulted. Is three million jobs an inflated number? Probably not.

EDA showed the way in 1967 with the designation of the first Economic Development District and today 315 Districts testify to the wisdom of a regional strategic planning approach.

EDA showed the way in 1969 in responding to the closing of the Brooklyn Navy Yard and made substantial investments in its rehabilitation for industrial and commercial use. That defense adjustment initiative continued through the 70's and 80's and 90's and continues today with $120 million of our FY 1995 budget dedicated to Defense Conversion.

EDA showed the way in 1969 in its prompt response to the ravages of Hurricane Camille in Mississippi and set in motion a role that continues in this fiscal year in our efforts in Georgia, Alabama and Florida in response to Tropical Storm Alberto, and in many major natural disasters in recent years, in Florida after Hurricane Andrew, the 1993 midwest flood, in California after the January 17 Northridge earthquake and in New England coping with the depletion of the fish stock. EDA showed the way in long term disaster recovery because we could deliver in ways that no other agency could.

EDA responded in 1974 by promptly administering a $500 million Title X program.

EDA was also a leader in 1974 with amended legislation creating the state and urban planning program and promoting the idea of linking the planning with the budget cycle and both to the executive decision making process.

EDA led again in 1975 with the introduction of the Title IX program. Twenty years later the RLF program alone has approved $400 million and leveraged $2.4 billion in private lending. And who could count the jobs?

And EDA did the job in 1976–77 with the Local Public Works Program (LPW). Over a thousand projects were approved and $6 billion obligated in twelve months. All 10,000 projects were processed in 60 days or less. We will never forget the 12 hour days and the countless Saturdays, but EDA did it.

Although physically and emotionally exhausted, EDA employees again responded in 1977 when a drought devastated parts of the country, especially in the Southwest and EDA processed an additional $175 million in water projects. In that program projects were processed and approved on average within seven working days after receipt of the application. Many projects arrived on a Monday and were approved that Friday.

EDA responded in 1978–79 when it administered $100 million dedicated to the XIII International Winter Olympic Games in Lake Placid, New York. EDA was the principal federal agency associated with the games and projects under EDA's supervision were built on time and within budget.

EDA also responded in 1983 and administered $140 million for the Emergency Jobs Act.

In 1993 in response to the declining timber harvests in the Northwest, EDA was the lead federal agency in providing resources to hire local staff in Districts and counties so that all communities in the region had the capacity to respond to the crisis and develop a strategy for investing in the locally established priorities.

During the 30 years of our history EDA was recommended for zero funding in the President's budget for 16 of those years and yet during all of those 30 years EDA has been a leader.

EDA provided the investment for the first publicly funded incubator building in this country.

EDA provided Competitive Communities type funding for one the first federally assisted Employee Stock Ownership Plans (ESOP) in the country, South Bend Lathe in Indiana.

EDA popularized RLF's when many questioned the concept.

What is the proudest achievement of all? It is that EDA created the Economic Development Profession. Thirty years ago there was no such thing. But EDA has created the profession through its funding of District staff and the early days of the 302(a) program when we funded an economic development staff in virtually every state and every major city in the country. Because of that, most of them, for the first time, had an economic development capacity.

Thirty years ago there were virtually no graduate courses in economic development

in this country and hardly any articles in professional journals. Through EDA's Research and Technical Assistance programs, we have funded the thinkers and theorists who are developing the idea that will influence tomorrow's national development process.

Now as we look at the present we should be gratified that for the first time in 30 years we have a Secretary of Commerce, Ron Brown, who has testified on behalf of EDA before our committees and who strongly supports EDA.

We have the leadership of Assistant Secretary Ginsberg who is developing a strategic vision for a new EDA—an EDA that will involve change—change which we must be prepared to embrace. He is the only Assistant Secretary EDA has had who is an economic development professional. Under his guidance, new programs are being developed. You will hear later about our Competitive Communities initiatives which will build a new economic base of globally competitive, high growth companies.

In addition, how thankful we all are for the actions of Assistant Secretary Ginsberg who announced on June 1, 1994 the delegation of grant making authority from Washington to the regions, eliminating duplicative and redundant procedures. How important that is for all of us.

The Assistant Secretary is also committed to making the agency more responsive to our clients though simplifying agency applications and by completing the review of applications in 60 days or less. We did it in LPW—we did it in the Drought program. We have done it in recent months in our Disaster recovery efforts—we will do it.

What else must we do? Assistant Secretary Ginsberg has given us a charge to mount an extensive outreach to articulate EDA's new role and its continuing importance to America's local communities. Our grantees are ready for that and they will respond.

Last month I asked each of my EDR's to prepare his or her own outreach plan to get the message out. Charlie Hammarlund, our EDR for Connecticut and Rhode Island, who incidentally is celebrating his 45th year of federal service, in this plan stated: ''I did not have to reach out to the economic development community in Connecticut and Rhode Island, they reached out to me. They were aware of our concerns and they told me what they were doing.''

I know all of you are involved in this outreach process and we must not simply depend on the vigorous commitment and work by our leaders in Washington. A few week ago I was discussing this outreach effort with the Public Works Chief in Denver, Charlie Lee, and he said: ''Jack, in our office we have discussed this and we believe that it we do not aggressively get the word out, our lack of action would be the very thing that causes EDA to die.''

There is great wisdom in this thought. Today, more than ever all of us in EDA must be sustained by the spirit of hope. Not a hope that is a distant wish. But a hope that is creative force—that is active—that makes things happen.

For example, if people in EDA would say, ''We've survived in the past—but this time the pressure is too great and we're not going to make it''—and I have heard those thoughts expressed by some of you—the very saying of those words repeated by enough people creates a life of its own and increases the change of failure. But if you say: ''Look at what EDA has done—look at all of the people who believe in us and depend on us. I am going to contact everyone of them and make sure that they let all of the EDA family (grantees and businesses, our beneficiaries) know how important EDA is,''—those very words have their own dynamic life and increase in a sure and real way EDA's continuing existence.

For it is the creative hope within us that makes a difference—that makes things happen. Finally, I would ask you to reflect on the words of Bobby Kennedy and make them your own. Shortly before he died he spoke to the students at Fordham University: ''Our future may lie beyond our vision but it is not completely beyond our control. It is the shaping impulse of America that neither fate nor nature, nor the irresistible tides of history, but the work of our own hands will determined our destiny. There is pride in that, even arrogance but there is also experience and truth. And it is the only way we can live.''

''It is the work of our own hands that will determine our destiny.''

RABBI STEVEN CARR REUBEN ON ROSH HASHANA

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 1998

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to bring to my colleagues' attention the wise words spoken by Rabbi Steven Carr Reuben on Rosh Hashana.

LASHON HA-HA—THE POWER OF THE TONGUE—ROSH HASHANA 5759/1998

(By Rabbi Steven Carr Reuben)

I think I agonized these past few weeks over tonight's sermon more than anything in years. I ran a HH Sermon Seminar for the So. Cal. Board of Rabbis this year—my advice to all of them 3 weeks ago was—''Don't talk about it.'' Since then almost daily someone has called or come up to me and asked, ''What do I tell my kids, Rabbi?'' ''Where are they supposed to look for moral leadership?''

Like most of you my mind has been on information overload this week. I felt like the woman who once wrote about an overwhelming day in her life. She said, ''The washing machine broke down, the telephone kept ringing incessantly, the mail carrier brought a bill I had to no money to pay. Almost to the breaking point, I lifted my one-year-old into his highchair, leaned my head against the tray, and began to cry.

Without a word, my tiny son took his pacifier out of his mouth . . . and stuck it in mine!''

I could have used that pacifier all week, as I kept thinking about something Rabbi Milton Steinberg, one of the great rabbis of the 20th century once said—''When I was young, I admired clever people. Now that I am older, I admire kind people.''

This has certainly not been a kind week—not for Ms. Lewinsky; not for the President or his wife or his child, not for the country; not for anyone. In fact, in many ways it seems to have brought out the worst of human nature—meanness of spirit, vindictiveness, derision, humiliation.

''The worst'' because as British philosopher Bertrand Russell once noted, ''Nobody ever gossips about other people's secret virtues.''

Parents tell me everyday that they are loath to open a newspaper, listen to the radio or watch the television for fear of what they might find. We have become victims of our own technological wizardry—caught up a whirlwind of sex, lies and videotape. A media feeding frenzy to have everything about everyone sent everywhere, instantly—it is the information age run amuck.

But I see this communal trauma we are going through as one of our nation's great ''teachable moments.'' There are so many truly important lessons that we can learn and teach our children if we are open and willing.

Lesson number one might be this: ''Just because we can, doesn't mean we should.'' I fear we are becoming a society without boundaries, without restraint, without respect, without a public moral sense of decency, or compassion or human dignity.

It's as if our hierarchy of values has been turned on its head—as if ''truth'' for its own sake is the highest value in life. And so on this Jewish New Year it is worth remembering, that the 4,000 years of Jewish ethical tradition teach something quite different.

For Judaism the highest value is not truth, it is the sanctity and dignity of human life itself. We ground our values in the commitment that human life is sacred—that the Torah teaches every human being is created in the divine image, with a spark of the divine within.

You see, in Judaism the way we fulfill our destiny as human beings, is to find ways of getting that divine light within each of us to shine brighter and brighter because of what we do or what we say.

And every time we do or say anything that diminishes that inner light in another human being, by trashing their image or reputation in the world, even if what we are saying is true, we are committing one of Judaism's gravest sins.

My God, look at the society we seem to have created—it's the tabloidization of America, where even Heraldo Rivera can't compete anymore with the daily sleaze of Jerry Springer, one of the most popular shows on television; and the Kings of the radio waves are shock jocks who specialize in personal attacks and public humiliation.

That is why I so desperately want us to seize this moment as an opportunity to remember who we are—who we can be—who we must be. To remember perhaps the core, fundamental ethical value of the Torah—for we have forgotten to teach our children and remind ourselves the all-important truth that what we say really matters.

It is written simply and powerfully in the book of Proverbs: ''Death and life are in the power of the tongue.''

Do you realize that in all of the Talmud, in all of Jewish ethics after taking a life, the most serious sin in our entire tradition is the public humiliation of another human being? (2 X)

It is what the Talmud calls, LASHON HARA—THE EVIL TONGUE, and it includes not only gossip and slander, but all words that are hurtful—any speech that damages the reputation or lowers the status of another. And it's the most widespread sin there is.

In a remarkable insight into the human psyche the Talmud teaches, ''Many are guilty of stealing, fewer are guilty of sexual misconduct, but everyone commits the sin of slander; of Lashon Hara to some degree almost every day.''

That's why Rabbi Yosi ben Zimra created a fictional lecture which God delivers to our tongues: ''What else could I have done to rein you in, to control you?'' God begs the tongue. ''Though all other human limbs stand up, you lie flat.'' Though all other limbs are external and visible, I hid you inside the body, I enclosed you behind two walls, one of bone and one of flesh and even so no matter I do you still do more damage than anything else I have ever created.''

Today is Yom Hazikaron the Day to Remember—remember what? Remember who we are. Remember that we think we are human beings having a spiritual experience,