

She began attending workshops on non-violence and soon found herself involved in lunchcounter sit-ins that eventually spread across the South. Beginning on New Year's Day 1960 in Greensboro, N.C., and Nashville, the civil rights activists targeted the lunch counters of Woolworth's Walgreen's and Kresge's and other local restaurants. By that summer, Nashville became the first city in the South to desegregate its lunch counters. Another victory for nonviolence—and good organization.

Nash went on to help form the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and in 1961 helped to organize the first Freedom Ride from Birmingham, Ala., to Jackson, Miss., in which blacks and whites rode the bus together in violation of state laws.

"Riders were beaten repeatedly at the various stops, and buses were set ablaze," Nash later recounted. "The riders were considered so dangerous that many gave sealed letters to be mailed in the event of their deaths."

Nash went to jail for her efforts to integrate interstate bus travel and went on to serve on a Presidential committee that made recommendations for what was to become the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

History teaches us many things, but the most important lesson we can learn from Johnny Carr, Daisy Bates and Diane Nash and their struggle for civil rights is that through courage, commitment, and a willingness to work together, each and every one of us can overcome our most difficult and sometimes seemingly insurmountable challenges.

Let me close with an excerpt from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s last sermon, the one he gave in Memphis on April 3, 1968, the night before he was murdered:

Let us rise up tonight with a greater readiness. Let us stand with a greater determination. And let us move on in these powerful days, these days of challenge to make America what it ought to be. We have an opportunity to make America a better nation. . . .

In this House of Representatives I am pleased to serve with 13 women of color who are also helping to shape our great America. Working together, we can envision and realize that America.

REMARKS ON ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

HON. MARK FOLEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, last week a man was forced to mourn the loss of his wife, not once, but twice in one week.

After believing that he had buried his wife Michaelle—who was one of the victims of the ill-fated boat of Haitian refugees that sunk off the coast of Florida March 5—Mr. Edner Doirin was informed that the morgue originally gave him the wrong body. So he had to endure a second burial to lay his wife to rest.

This is tragic in itself. But what makes it intolerable is that Mr. Doirin's wife should never have had to be buried at all.

She should be alive and well. Instead, she is one of the many victims of an illegal smuggling operation that treats human beings like cargo.

The March 5 disaster that left as many as 40 people dead is one of the most historically deadly smuggling incidents ever off of our South Florida shores.

And it came on the heels of a similar tragedy in mid-December, when as many as 13 people drowned in another illegal smuggling attempt.

Mr. Speaker, the United States is clearly on the brink—again—of an illegal immigration crisis. In the short period between January 1 and March 10, there have been a total of 45 illegal landings, 31 interdictions and 34 identified smuggling activities, resulting in over 400 illegal alien entrants by sea.

These are part of an effort by smugglers to take advantage of desperate, innocent people living in rapidly deteriorating conditions in Haiti, Cuba, and other impoverished or politically repressive countries.

We have heard the Clinton Administration say that it is "doing everything it can" to address this situation and that—even after this recent tragedy—there is no need to change its policies or to target additional resources.

I strongly, strongly disagree.

I do not believe that this Administration has truly committed itself and the resources that Congress has given it to adequately addressing the problem of illegal immigration and alien smuggling.

President Clinton has reportedly ignored his own immigration officials. He also has ignored the 1996 law that we passed in Congress that both provided funding and required that 1,000 new Border Patrol agents be hired each year from 1997 to 2001.

They call this decision to intentionally ignore the law a decision to—quote—"take a breather."

Recently, INS Commissioner Doris Meissner testified before a Senate subcommittee that the Administration decided to "take a breather"—and say no—when she and Attorney General Reno both requested funding for the 1,000 new agents.

And while the Administration is "taking a breather," people are drowning off the coast of Florida.

What angers me even more is to see my own state of Florida becoming the weak link and the focal point of current illegal smuggling efforts.

While the number of immigration control agents has more than doubled during the past five years—to over 8,000—Florida hasn't seen an increase of agents in 10 years.

In Florida, 52 Border Patrol agents are trying to stop an estimated 12,000 illegals who come into Florida by sea each year. Because of their few numbers, the Border Patrol and Coast Guard together are only able to catch a mere 10% of them.

Not only are there huge gaps in our Border Patrol, but the mechanisms designed to nab the illegal aliens that slip in are also failing.

The INS has now decided to change their enforcement tactics and has suspended most surprise workplace inspections that would identify illegal workers and the employers who hire them.

These once-successful tactics are not only being eliminated in Florida, but across the country. And the switch sends a clear message to illegal aliens and smugglers that they're OK unless they get caught committing a crime.

I think it's unbelievable that our enforcement standards are going down just when illegal immigration is on the rise.

Florida Governor Jeb Bush wrote to Attorney General Reno following our most recent tragedy requesting additional efforts. I would like to call upon the Clinton administration to honor his requests:

He is asking—and I am asking—for:

More effective intelligence operations to detect immigrant smuggling—The recent tragedy was detected by commercial ship, not U.S. intelligence.

Greater interdiction efforts along the U.S. coast. More deaths could be prevented if boats of illegal immigrants were stopped at sea.

Increased federal resources to make the prevention of immigrant smuggling a top priority, with an increased focus on South Florida.

Expanded holding capacity for the Krome detention facility located in Miami-Dade county so that officials will be able to detain larger numbers of illegal aliens after raids.

The creation of a federal task force to focus on smuggling.

An aggressive public information campaign directed at smugglers.

Mr. Speaker, people are dying—dying just short of Florida's shores, of America's shores. The responsibility for preventing these tragedies lies solely with the Administration, who has been given the way by Congress to act—but apparently not the will.

I strongly urge President Clinton to mount an aggressive, relentless effort to put a stop to the insidious problem of illegal immigrant smuggling once and for all . . . before more lives are lost.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO ELIMINATE TAXES ON TIPS UP TO \$10,000

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce a bill that will benefit millions of Americans directly, substantially and quickly, including most notably single mothers and students. Furthermore, this legislation will lift some of the heavy burden of government off of thousands of small businesses.

My bill is very simple. It calls a tip what it is: a gift. All tips earned, not to exceed \$10,000 annually, would be tax-free. This puts hundreds of dollars a month back where it belongs, with the individual who earned it.

Those who work in the service sector, who rely principally on tips for their income, work in a system transacted largely in cash. Accounting for small amounts of cash for income tax purposes is not only unworkable, it is unenforceable even if a paperwork scheme could somehow be conceived.

Small amounts of cash, received through hundreds and hundreds of transactions, and almost never while standing behind a cash register, should not be taxable. Washington bureaucrats lack an understanding as to just how impractical the present system is to all those who labor so hard for their tips.

The system simply breaks down.

Tips cannot possibly be reported accurately, and law-abiding citizens who work for tips do not wish to be labeled cheaters by people who don't understand the realities of their work.

It is time to change that.

My bill caps the tax-free earnings of those who make waiting on tables a career in high-end restaurants and resorts, at \$10,000. But for the 95 percent of those in the service sector who work for tips, it's time to change the tax law covering income from tips.

Under current law, service employees who typically earn tips are assumed to have made at least 8 percent of their gross sales in tips. This tax is applied regardless of the actual level of the tip. Further, if the service personnel earns more than 8 percent in tips they are expected to report them accordingly. The end result for these employees, many of whose base salaries do not exceed minimum wage, is that they may have to pay taxes on income they didn't receive.

In addition, accounting for tips and gross sales is a burden on every restaurant, bar or other small business whose employees are regularly tipped. They are constantly under threat of an audit, where the IRS will hold their business responsible if the agency determines tip skimming to have occurred.

By putting in place a reasonable annual cap and strictly defining a tip, this tax relief bill is clearly focused on low- to middle-income households. According to the industries involved, most of the employees that will be helped are either students or single mothers. In addition, most of the employees are at the beginning of their careers.

Those in the service sector who rely on tips for their income are a special breed of people. Those who work for tips see a direct relationship between effort and reward like few others. Night after night, day after day, weekend after weekend, the millions of bell hops, valet parking attendants, coat checkers, taxi drivers, hairdressers, bartenders, waiters and waitresses are on the job, working hard and providing vital services to people of every walk of life.

Let us give a break to those who labor so hard for their living. Let's show them, for a change, that the Federal Government is not so out of touch, and has some understanding of life for so many, especially during their younger years in entry level jobs. I hope other Members will join with me in this common sense proposal that will help millions of hard-working Americans.

COMMENDING CITIZENS FROM CONNECTICUT FOR AIDING VICTIMS OF HURRICANE MITCH

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to call my colleagues' attention to the work of a number of people from Connecticut who are helping to make life easier for our neighbors in Central America.

Last October, Central America suffered the greatest natural disaster of this century when Hurricane Mitch roared through the region. In Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala and El Salvador, Hurricane Mitch caused more than 9,000 deaths, left millions homeless, and resulted in \$8.5 billion in damage to homes, hospitals, schools, roads, farms, and businesses. As these countries were consolidating the gains of democracy, this brutal natural disaster came along and wiped out years of progress.

I have attached an article that appeared this week in the *Hartford Courant* which illustrates that the people of Connecticut are going out of their way to alleviate suffering and restore a small ray of hope to the people of Honduras. The Honduras Relief Committee of Connecticut—led by Dario Euraque, Cynthia Hill and a number of other students at Trinity College—has raised \$30,000 for relief efforts and sent 50 tons of food, clothing and medical supplies to Honduras.

Mr. Speaker, it is unfortunate that Congress has failed to provide desperately needed assistance to the hurricane-ravaged nations of Central America. I commend the people of Connecticut are helping to fill this void by providing assistance directly to the people of Central America. This kind of assistance is vital to alleviate suffering. Moreover, it also deepens the bonds of friendship between the people of the U.S. and the people of Central America. This will pay dividends for years to come.

AMBASSADOR OUTLINES NEEDS OF HONDURAS

(By Cynde Rodriguez)

The Honduran ambassador to the United Nations asked for continued global and financial support Saturday as the country begins to rebuild after being devastated by Hurricane Mitch last fall.

The ambassador, Hugo Noe Pino, told a small crowd at Trinity College that, several months after the natural disaster, Honduras is looking for financial help to rebuild roads, bridges, homes and schools. While Honduras received millions of dollars in emergency food and supplies right after the hurricane, Pino said there is still a lot of work to be done.

Hurricane Mitch killed more than 9,000 people and caused about \$7 billion to \$10 billion in damage.

New maps of Honduras are now being drawn to reflect rivers that have taken new courses and villages that were forced to relocate.

Pino said there is a big concern that Honduras will be forgotten in the coming months, that developed countries in the position to help may turn their attention and dollars elsewhere.

"In the emergency part, one month after the hurricane, international help was very important and opportune to prevent hunger. The most important need now is to rebuild," Pino said. "After six months, people forget about what happened and there's a problem in another part of the world and the attention goes there."

In an effort to prevent that from happening, the Clinton administration recently asked Congress for an emergency package of \$956 million to rebuild Central America. The money would be in addition to the \$300 million already provided for immediate disaster relief.

Locally, the Honduras Relief Committee of Connecticut continues to raise money and supplies, said Dario Euraque, director of international studies at Trinity and the committee's treasurer. Since November, the committee has raised \$30,000 and has sent 50 tons of food, clothing and medical supplies to Honduras.

Trinity senior Cynthia Hill will be one of three students to go on a relief mission in June. Hill and the others will use a \$2,000 donation from Trinity to buy food and medical and housing supplies for Hondurans while they are there.

An anthropology major who graduates in June, Hill said she was compelled to help with the relief effort because "the devastation was so all-consuming."

"Every aspect of the country was hit," said Hill. "I see it as they have a right to be rebuilt. . . . It was a natural disaster. It just

happened to be Honduras, but it could've been any of us."

COMMENDING SIX AFRICAN AMERICAN LEADERS FOR THEIR VITAL ROLES

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the efforts of six African American leaders in Denver who fulfill vital roles in their communities. It is to commend these outstanding citizens that I rise to honor Rev. Paul Martin, Gloria Holliday, Rev. James Peters, Jr., Menola Neal Upshaw, Rev. Jesse Langston Boyd, Jr., and Arie Parks Taylor.

Reverend Paul Martin is the Chair of the Denver Urban League and also Senior Pastor at Denver's Macedonia Baptist Church. In conjunction with his church, he has laid the groundwork for a senior citizen's manor and remains active in creating and finding more housing for seniors. He has not only protected the interests of the elderly, but in conjunction with the Urban League, he has ignited the dreams of youth as well. Another example of this commitment is his work to open the Redeemer Alternative School for pre-kindergarten through 8th grade age children in Los Angeles, CA.

Currently, Reverend Martin is on the frontlines of a movement to redevelop neglected Denver neighborhoods. Through his work with the Stapleton Development Corp., he has helped take strides in the redevelopment of the old Stapleton airport site in central Denver. The Reverend is also working conscientiously to revitalize Northeast Denver. It comes as no surprise to me or any other member of our community that Reverend Martin was recently presented with the Humanitarian Race Relations Award by the city and county of Denver.

Gloria Holliday has amassed a long history of hard work on behalf of the African American community. In the 1960's, she served as secretary to legendary civil rights activist, Medgar Evers. Working with Evers on voter registration and integration, she organized the first economic boycott of racist business merchants in Jackson, MS, and fought valiantly to desegregate hotels in Atlanta, GA. Her desegregation efforts continued in Denver when she confronted and helped integrate retailers like King Soopers, Safeway and Denver Dry Goods Co.

Gloria has been a long time Democratic Party activist. She now serves on the Board of the Regional Transportation District (RTD) where she has been instrumental in creating an ad wheel that won the highest American Public Transit Association award. She also won the Black Women for Political Action's Award for Politics based on her work for RTD and her own personal endeavors. Not surprisingly, Gloria is also known for her outstanding work with youth. For young and old, she is a pillar in the community.

Reverend James D. Peters, Jr. also has a long history of civic leadership. This commitment has earned him several notable honors,