

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PHRMA'S CAMPAIGN TO KILL MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG LEGISLATION FOR AMERICA'S SENIORS

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 27, 1999

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, poll after poll shows the American public strongly supports adding a drug benefit to Medicare. Unfortunately, the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America has mounted a silly, sleazy \$20-\$30 million campaign featuring an actress named Flo to oppose comprehensive prescription drug coverage for America's seniors. They use a phony front name, Citizens for Better Medicare.

Perhaps a better name for this campaign-to-deceive-seniors would be: Corporations for Beaucoup Money . . . or Companies for Bundling Money (to trick the public into thinking that the Rx debate is about big government instead of comprehensive Medicare drug coverage) . . . or Corporations for Bigger (Profit) Margins.

PhRMA is apparently convinced that if Congress adds a prescription drug benefit to Medicare, their member companies won't be able to continue pricing drugs at the stratospheric levels many do today. Those pricing strategies are so distorted that Medicare beneficiaries who have no drug insurance are being charged more than twice as much, on average, as prices paid by enrollees of large group health plans. And for the limited number of drugs that Medicare currently covers—generally those administered by physicians—Medicare is being overcharged by billions of dollars. This was made painfully clear in a report issued last year by the HHS Inspector General, which found that Medicare paid \$1 billion more in 1997 than the VA did for the same 34 drugs.

Individual seniors are being harmed by artificially inflated drug prices, too. Last year's stunning 18% growth in drug spending means that fewer elderly people—who need and use pharmaceutical medications more than any other age cohort—will be able to fill the prescriptions their doctors order this year. After all, the median annual income of seniors in this country was about \$21,000 in 1997.

In contrast, the average compensation for CEOs among PhRMA's top 12 companies last year was nearly \$28 million. Stock options for U.S. pharmaceutical pharaohs were worth far more: \$103 million on average in 1998.

Major drug companies also spend billions every year on campaigns to influence which drugs doctors prescribe. This spring, a Florida physician mailed me a sample of the invitations he received from pharmaceutical companies for the week of April 25. Here they are:

Sunday: The doctor and his colleagues are invited to a Niaspan-sponsored Afternoon-at-the-Races event at Tampa Day Downs, which includes use of a private suite, plus an expensive lunch and open bar from noon to 3 p.m.;

Wednesday: The doctor and his colleagues are invited to a Pfizer-sponsored complementary dinner at Landry's Seafood, an upscale restaurant where no entree is under \$25 per person;

Thursday: It's a tough choice: Hoechst Marion Roussel is picking up dinner at Charley's Steak House . . . but across town, Pfizer is paying for dinner at Alfano's;

Friday: What a bonanza! Free tickets for the docs, their spouses and children to watch the Tampa Bay Devil Rays play the Seattle Mariners.

That's not all. "In addition to these free meals," the physician writes, "I have been invited to a second baseball game at Tropicana Field, plus our office has been served three lunches for 25 people this week by the pharmaceutical companies."

In 1998, pharmaceutical companies spent an amazing \$7 billion in these and other promotions designed to influence which drugs doctors prescribe to their patients. Advertising to consumers is climbing too: spending on direct-to-consumer advertising last year rose to \$1.3 billion.

It is important to remember that "Flo" is just another advertising gimmick created by PhRMA. Her ads oppose big government when it comes to discussion of a Medicare drug benefit. What they don't say is that PhRMA vigorously supports big government R&D tax credits, barriers against cheap imports, patent extensions and generous funding of medical research.

The fictitious "Flo" will soon fade from the public's memory. But the plight of real seniors in America who desperately need access to prescription drug coverage will not. It is those seniors we are trying to help by adding a prescription drug benefit to Medicare.

INTRODUCING THE HASS AVOCADO PROMOTION, RESEARCH AND INFORMATION ACT OF 1999

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 1999

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Hass Avocado Promotion, Research & Information Act of 1999. This legislation will provide California's 6,000 avocado growers—who produce all of the Hass avocados in the United States—with a new self-help mechanism to enhance their national marketing efforts.

The Hass Avocado Promotion Act will allow avocado growers to fund and operate a coordinated marketing effort to expand domestic and foreign markets. The maintenance and expansion of existing markets, and the development of new markets, is critical to preserving and strengthening the economic viability of the domestic Hass avocado industry.

This legislation will not be funded by taxpayer dollars—the bill would simply create a

mechanism for Hass avocado growers to assess themselves. In addition, importers of Hass avocados into the United States would be assessed. Thus, importers would pay their fair share in helping to expand the consumer market that they share with domestic growers. At present, the national marketing of avocados is paid entirely by California avocado growers through assessments collected by the California Avocado Commission. Therefore, this bill offers a win-win proposition for domestic growers and importers to work together to increase the market for avocados and avocado products.

The bill contains an up-front referendum, giving avocado growers a voting process to formally decide whether to implement this new national promotion program. In this referendum, growers and importers will determine whether or not they choose to assess themselves 2.5 cents per pound to fund a national promotion program. The funds generated will be administered by an 11-member Hass Avocado Board that would be comprised of domestic grower and importer representatives.

I am happy to offer this bipartisan legislation, with my colleague from the Agriculture Committee, Representative CONDIT, aimed at helping our Hass avocado producers and importers help themselves.

I ask my colleagues for their support in advancing this vital legislation for Hass avocado growers and California agriculture.

TRIBUTE TO THE CALDWELL-LYON ASSOCIATION OF MISSIONARY BAPTISTS

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 1999

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of the Caldwell-Lyon Association of Missionary Baptists, composed of 38 Missionary Baptist churches in Caldwell, Lyon, and Hopkins counties in the First Congressional District of Kentucky.

The Caldwell-Lyon Association of Missionary Baptists will celebrate its 75th Anniversary on September 27, 1999 at the Princeton First Baptist Church where its first meeting was held on September 24, 1924. The mission of the Association is to enliven missions at home base by providing fellowship, mission activities, and support to assist churches in carrying out the Great Commission (Matt. 28:18-20).

Mr. Speaker, the Caldwell-Lyon Association of Missionary Baptists was organized under the leadership of O.M. Shultz, pastor of the Princeton First Baptist Church, C.B. Barnes, pastor of the Fredonia First Baptist Church, Rudolph Lane, pastor of Walnut Grove Baptist Church, and Reed Rushing, pastor of the Donaldson Baptist Church. During the past 75

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

years, seven pastors have served the Association as missionaries. They are: Gus Marshall, Olen Sisk, Rudolph Lane, Raymond Stovall, George Park, Ralph Tomek, and Harold Greenfield. These individuals and many others have dedicated their lives to furthering the spiritual life of their communities and spreading the message of Christianity throughout the world. Recently, a 12-person team from the Caldwell-Lyon Association joined a 24-member team from Kentucky to spread the gospel of Christ in Mombassa, Kenya.

Mr. Speaker, we are a Nation founded on Christian principles. As President Andrew Jackson so eloquently declared, "The Bible is the Book upon which this Republic rests." It is with pride and admiration that I submit this statement in recognition of the spiritual leadership provided by the Caldwell-Lyon Association of Missionary Baptists on their 75th Anniversary.

MARK SALO: 25 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP AT PLANNED PARENTHOOD

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 1999

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mark Salo on his 25th anniversary with Planned Parenthood of San Diego and Riverside Counties in California—the second largest affiliate of Planned Parenthood in the Nation.

Mark has been active in the family planning movement since the late 1960's, beginning as a volunteer counselor with the Seattle-King County, Washington Family Planning Program. He graduated from the University of Washington in 1970 and, since 1974, has served as the president and CEO of Planned Parenthood for San Diego and Riverside Counties. In this capacity, he oversees the management of 15 family planning centers.

Mark and his fellow Planned Parenthood staff members and volunteers are dedicated to providing a complete spectrum of reproductive medical care and educational programs to families in the San Diego and Riverside areas. Through a unique partnership with the Pro Salud family planning organization in Tijuana, 30,000 of our Mexican neighbors are also receiving these services.

Mark Salo is regarded as a national family planning leader and has received recognition for his impact on family planning, both locally and nationally. He was the recipient of the 1989 Ruth Green Award, an award presented by the National Executive Directors Council to an outstanding Planned Parenthood director, chosen for his remarkable record in board development in public affairs, fund raising and planning, and service to Planned Parenthood of America.

His other professional and volunteer activities include serving as a member of the Foundation Committee of Rotary International and of the board of trustees of the Museum of Man in San Diego, treasurer of the San Diego AIDS Project, and a graduate of L.E.A.D. of San Diego, which trains a select group of the

leaders of our city's volunteer and nonprofit organizations.

Mark has said that his family did not believe in government intrusion in private life. "We believed firmly that people are fit to make moral decisions independent of government interference." His life and work with Planned Parenthood have put his words into action.

I am pleased to take this opportunity to sincerely thank Mark Salo on the 25th anniversary of his service to Planned Parenthood and to the greater San Diego and Riverside communities. I want to recognize his dedication to the fundamental right of each individual to voluntary reproductive self-determination and his belief that such self-determination will enhance the quality of life, family relations, and population stability.

RECOGNIZING VIE-DEL COMPANY

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Vie-Del Company and Dianne S. Nury CEO/President of the company for their success in the grape product industry. Vie-Del is located in the heart of the San Joaquin Valley and is a family owned business. It is one of the oldest and has been consistently among the largest suppliers of grape products to the wine, spirits, food and beverage industries.

Vie-Del Company was founded on August 6, 1946 as a winery, distillery and fruit juice processor. Vie-Del is a major producer of wine, brandy, grape juice concentrates and a variety of other fruit products for bulk sale to the wine, spirits, food and beverage industries. Vie-Del produces only in bulk, with no labeled/retail products. Vie-Del operates two facilities, one located in Fresno and the other in Kingsburg. The total cooerage is approximately 50 million gallons. The warehouse facilities incorporate approximately 350,000 square feet in the Fresno plant alone.

Vie-Del's concern for quality and service has grown the company to the level it is at today. They work closely with their customers in meeting product needs.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Vie-Del Company on their achievement as an established supplier of grape products to different industries. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Vie-Del Company many more years of continued success.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE RONALD W. TOCHTERMAN

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 1999

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to Judge Ronald W. Tochterman. He is retiring as judge of the Superior Court in Sacramento, CA. As Judge Tochterman is honored by his many friends and associates, I ask all of my

colleagues to join with me in saluting his remarkable career.

Judge Tochterman was born April 27, 1938. An avid reader and sports enthusiast, he also enjoys teaching night law classes. He and his wife Linda have been married for 38 years, have two adult sons, Joel and Jeffery, and two grandchildren, Isabella and Leo.

After receiving his bachelor of arts degree in general curriculum from the University of California, Berkeley in June, 1959, he went on to receive a L.L.B. from U.C. Berkeley's Boalt Hall School of Law. Here, he was a recipient of the Bancroft-Whitney Prize for Excellence in Evidence.

Before coming to the bench, from May 1967 to October 1979, Judge Tochterman served in the capacity of Deputy District Attorney, Supervising Deputy District Attorney, and Assistant Chief Deputy District Attorney for Sacramento County. In 1979, the California District Attorneys' Association named him "Prosecutor of the Year". Prior to that, he spent 1 year in private law practice with Friedman & Collard, 2 years as a Law Clerk to U.S. District Court Judge Thomas J. McBride, and 1 year as Deputy Legislative Counsel with the State of California.

Judge Tochterman has been on the faculty of the California Center for Judicial Education and Research since 1985 and the California Judicial College in Berkeley from 1981-1984. He has been an Adjunct Professor in "Advanced Criminal Procedure" since 1986 and an Instructor at University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law, and Lincoln University Law School. He has lectured at the University of California, Davis, School of Law and worked as an instructor for the Sacramento Police Academy.

In addition to his achievements as a lawyer and professor, Judge Tochterman has authored several papers and articles. His works include several articles regarding the insanity defense and the role of psychiatrists in criminal cases. Several of his other articles focus on prosecution ethics, search and seizure, discovery, grand jury, plea-bargaining, death penalty, and psychiatric defenses and are published in various prosecution journals.

He is also a member of several prestigious organizations including the California Judges Association, and the Sacramento County Bar Association's Criminal Law Committee and Committee on Liaison with the Judiciary. Several of his former memberships include the California District Attorneys' Association, California State Bar's Committee on Criminal Law and Procedure, and Attorney's Ad Hoc Committee to Support California Rural Legal Assistance.

On a more personal note, he is an active member of our community as a member of the Board of Directors for the Jewish Federation of Sacramento, WEAVE, Inc., and Stanford Settlement, Inc. He is also in the Advisory Committee for the Curbstone Youth Service Center.

Mr. Speaker, as Judge Ronald Tochterman is honored by his many friends and colleagues, I am honored to pay tribute to one of Sacramento's most outstanding citizens. His devotion to the law and tireless contributions to the Sacramento area are commendable. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in wishing him continued success in all his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 1999

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, yesterday evening, September 27, I was unavoidably detained and thereby absent for votes on rollcall Nos. 448, 449, 450, 451, and 452. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 448, "yea" on rollcall No. 449, "yea" on rollcall No. 450, "yea" on rollcall No. 451, and "yea" on rollcall No. 452.

IN RECOGNITION OF ELIJAH M. HUTCHINSON, EAGLE SCOUT

HON. NYDIA M. VELAZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 1999

Ms. VELAZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my sincerest congratulations to Elijah M. Hutchinson, Boy Scout, from Greenpoint, Brooklyn who will be honored on October 10, 1999, for his attainment of Eagle Scout.

Boy Scouts are awarded the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout based on their faith and obedience to the Scout Oath. The Scout Oath requires members to live with honor, loyalty, courage, cheerfulness, and an obligation to service.

The rank of Eagle Scout is the highest honor a Scout can earn. Each Eagle Scout must earn 21 merit badges, 12 of which are required. The merit badges an Eagle Scout must earn range from First Aid to Camping to Citizenship of the Community, Nation, and the World. What's more, each Eagle Scout must demonstrate leadership in the community, and must complete an Eagle Project that he must plan, finance, and execute. Elijah has accomplished all this and more.

In receiving this special recognition, Eagle Scout Elijah M. Hutchinson will, I believe, guide and inspire his peers toward the beliefs of the Scout Oath. I am proud to offer my congratulations to Elijah on this exceptional accomplishment.

PETE GRANILLO—THCC's 1999 HISPANIC BUSINESSMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 1999

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding Hispanic leader in the Tucson community, Mr. Peter Alonso Granillo. Because Mr. Granillo has had such a positive impact on the business environment for Hispanics and because he has generously supported many charities within the Hispanic community, he has been named the 1999 Hispanic Businessman of the Year by the Tucson Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Granillo has been a recognized leader within the Hispanic business community for many years. His concern for improving the business opportunities available to minority contractors led him to found the National Association of Minority Contractor's Southern Ari-

zona Chapter. His work with this group has helped it grow into one of the most important business networks for Hispanics in Arizona. He currently serves as its President. Mr. Granillo's local success with the organization has brought him to national prominence and he currently serves as the third Vice-President to the National Association of Minority Contractors (NAMC)—National Chapter.

In addition to Mr. Granillo's own successful business activities and the success he has generated for the NAMC, he has been instrumental in expanding the influence and success of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and the South Tucson Business Association. Both of these organizations have benefited greatly from his leadership and business acumen. Mr. Granillo has also encouraged Hispanic businessmen and businesswomen to work within the already established business networks. He has led the way in joining and in developing relevant membership opportunities within the Tucson Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and in the American Subcontractors Association.

Fortunately for many charities, Mr. Granillo's business commitments have not taken all of his time and energies. He has been a member, supporter and contributor to the Old Pueblo Optimist Club, the Knights of Columbus and the South Tucson Weed & Seed Committee. His work with the South Tucson Weed & Seed Program, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice, has helped the program achieve recognition as possibly the best Weed & Seed Program in the nation. Aside from his efforts with established community service organizations, Mr. Granillo has a personal project that he organizes each Christmas: a bicycle drive for the low income children of South Tucson. Through this drive, he obtains up to 100 new bicycles and then delivers them to the children on Christmas Day.

Mr. Granillo is a citizen worthy of national recognition for his many contributions to his community, his state and his country. I applaud his efforts to organize and address the concerns of minority business people, especially minority business contractors. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing one of our most enterprising and committed Hispanic business leaders, Mr. Peter Alonso Granillo.

REPUBLICAN BUDGET FOR MEDICARE DESTROYS PROGRAM'S ABILITY TO SERVE PUBLIC, FIGHT FRAUD, AND PROTECT NURSING HOME PATIENTS

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 1999

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, the HHS appropriations bill slashes Medicare's administrative budget. To quote from the Committee: "The bill makes available \$1,752,050,000 in trust funds for Federal administration of the Medicare and Medicaid programs, which is \$390,785,000 below the fiscal year 1999 comparable level and \$264,077,000 below the Administration request."

The Administration had requested about \$200 million worth of user fees, which have no hope of passing in this Congress. As a result, the Appropriations Committee action is a devastating blow to the Nation's seniors and disabled.

If these figures were to become law, our ability to fight Medicare fraud, waste and abuse will be crippled. Our ability to visit nursing homes and other providers to check on quality and protect vulnerable seniors will be 40% of the amount requested by the Administration. It is no exaggeration to say that this budget will lead to the unnecessary death of older citizens.

Speaker Gingrich must still be here. He is the one who said: "HCFA will wither on the vine." This budget achieves that goal—it destroys our ability to administer a compassionate and effective Medicare program.

TRIBUTE TO KARL BOECKMANN

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 1999

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Karl Boeckmann, who will be presented with the prestigious Nelle Reagan Award for Distinguished Community Service by the Olive View-UCLA Medical Center Foundation for his tireless efforts to better his community.

President Kennedy once said, "For of those to whom much is given, much is required." The Nelle Reagan Award was established to honor outstanding individuals, those who have exemplified leadership, volunteerism, and service. For over twenty years, Karl has generously committed his time and resources to many philanthropic causes, such as the John Wayne Cancer Institute, Goodwill Industries, and New Directions for Youth. He has been honored with the William Shatner Partners with Youth Award, the 1996 Humanitarian Award from New Directions for Youth, and the Ellis Island Award.

As a fellow Certified Public Accountant, I know how important honesty, accuracy, and integrity are to Karl.

He exemplifies these characteristics, and reaches out on a daily basis to work toward the empowerment, education, and care in the development of our children.

Coupled with his own efforts to better his community, Karl's wife, Thyra, shares with him active commitments to ChildHelp, USA, where Thyra has served as a Los Angeles board member and executive vice-president, as well as a member of the Coordinating Council national board. Karl credits Thyra as his source of inspiration for his many humanitarian efforts.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, please join me in honoring Karl Boeckmann, a citizen who has shown an unwavering commitment to the betterment of his community and is deserving of our recognition and praise.

HONORING CAMPOS BROS. FARMS

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Tony and Fermin Campos for

making Campos Bros. Farms into a worldwide operation. Campos Bros. Farms provide almonds of tremendous quality, guided by traditional values of dedication, integrity and personal attention.

Campos Bros. Farms is located in the heart of California's fertile San Joaquin Valley, in the small farming village of Caruthers. Fermin and Tony Campos moved to Caruthers from Spain in 1955. Almond growers the world over know of its almond paradise.

Campos Bros. Farms maintains strict standards for each almond's color and size, and any defects are effectively removed. The Campos Bros. maintain their own testing facility for yeast, mold, aflatoxin and other quality issues affecting the international sale of their almonds. Campos Bros. Farms exceed every standard established by the United States and California Departments of Food and Agriculture, and has been recognized for its excellence in technical quality control.

Quality almonds are the result of ideal growing conditions, timely harvest and careful handling. From the front office to their state-of-the-art almond processing facility, Campos Bros. Farms is a family-run business that's clean, orderly and organized. Campos Bros. Farms takes great pride in the fact that it has never missed a shipment, or even been late with one.

Campos Bros. Farms has been an active supporter of Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Fresno, Boys Town of Italy, Central Valley Public Television and the surrounding elementary and high schools.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Tony and Fermin Campos, the founders of Campos Bros. Farms, for their outstanding service to the community with quality almonds. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Campos Bros. Farms many more years of continued success.

TRIBUTE TO THE MURRAY,
KENTUCKY LIONS CLUB

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 1999

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of the 60 years of service performed by the Murray, Kentucky Lions Club located in the First Congressional District of Kentucky.

The Murray Lions Club was founded on September 14, 1939. On September 28, 1999 the Lions will celebrate their 60th Anniversary with a reception and banquet at Murray State University. The program will highlight the Club's six decades of service to the citizens of Murray and Calloway County, including but not limited to providing thousands of eye glasses to children, diabetic supplies, scholarships at Murray State University, and medical equipment to the Murray-Calloway County Hospital Blood Bank.

Mr. Speaker, the Lions also will celebrate the charter night for the Murray State University Lions Club. This new organization sponsored by the Murray Lions Club will compliment the rich history and deep tradition of service to community above self by recruiting university faculty, staff and students as Lions Club members dedicated to the service of others.

Mr. Speaker, the concept of people helping people has been one of the distinguishing characteristics of the American experience and of our nation's greatness. It is with appreciation and admiration that I submit this statement in recognition of 60 years of service to community performed by the Murray Lions Club.

LISTEN TO THE MIAMI HERALD
ON AGRICULTURE SPENDING

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 1999

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call to your attention the following insightful editorial, which recently appeared in the Miami Herald. I believe they make an excellent case as to why financed sales to the Cuban dictatorship would not benefit the Cuban people.

FOOD SALES TO CUBA WILL BENEFIT ONLY THE
REPRESSIVE REGIME

The idea of allowing U.S. firms freely to sell food and medicine to Cuba seems unsailable from afar, a humanitarian gesture toward deprived people, as well as good business for American farmers.

But that's a huckster's pitch being promulgated by U.S. business interests that either misunderstand the way Cuba's politically regimented economy works, or that are trying to break the U.S. trade embargo. Congress shouldn't fall for the pitch to legalize unrestricted food and medicine sales to Cuba.

This isn't about humanitarianism: Selling supplies to the totalitarian regime responsible for so much human misery in no way ensures that any benefits would trickle down to the people of Cuba. This is about money—including money for the regime's repressive machinery.

In Washington this week, the U.S. farm lobby is bringing to a climax its orchestrated campaign against trade sanctions in general and to open Cuba to grain sales specifically. Dreaming about yearly sales that they think could reach \$2 billion within five years, farm groups appear eager to extend plenty of credits and take Cuban sugar or rum in barter. Listen to David Frey, the Kansas Wheat Commission administrator: "With Cuba's stressed economic situation, we are talking about a long-term deal before they are paying cash for a lot of wheat. There will be a time when they will be able . . . to pay cash."

Mr. Frey and his allies are deluding themselves if they believe that selling wheat to a government with no hard currency and a history of stifling business partners is going to save America's farmers. Equally deluded are those well meaning people who think that selling such materials will alleviate the suffering of the average Cuban.

Remember that this is the regime that ruined Cuban agriculture and other industry in the first place. While Cuba's fertile soil and waters no longer produce enough to feed its ration-card weary people, the regime serves lobster to tourists. While Cuban children can't get asthma medication on any given night, foreigners paying for surgery get first-world medicines.

Measures to allow licensed sales of food and medicine were attached to an agriculture appropriations bill by the Senate last month. U.S. Reps. Lincoln Diaz-Balart and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, both from Miami, helped kill the deal by attaching a provision

that would make such sales contingent on Cuba having free elections.

That should end it. Better access to food and medicine isn't going to solve Cuba's biggest problem. Ridding itself of an odious state will.

TRIBUTE TO BOB MATTSON

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 1999

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and acknowledge Bob Mattson. He passed away after 38 years of service and contribution as athletic director and coach at Hollister High School.

Bob was born in Oakland, CA, on November 29, 1925. He served 2 years in the U.S. Navy in World War II and earned a bachelor of arts degree in education from Stanford in 1950. Bob then completed his teaching credential at San Francisco State and a master's degree from San Jose State. Mr. Mattson moved to Hollister in 1953 as a teacher, coach, department chairman and athletic director. He retained those responsibilities until 1983 and then worked as part-time athletic director until full retirement 3 years later. Bob and his wife of 47 years, Diane, are the parents of two children, Bo and Maureen.

Bob had a distinguished career as athletic director and coach of the basketball, wrestling and football teams at Hollister High School. Devoted and well respected, Bob Mattson was an "intense coach of high moral character and he tried to instill that in his players" (Principal Larry Williams, Hollister High School). As a member of the Hollister Rotary Club and a Paul Harris Fellow, Bob enjoyed local and district involvement. He served on a variety of club committees including being appointed to the San Benito County Board of Education as a representative, vice president, and president. Bob had also been appointed to the South County Regional Occupational Program Liaison and devoted several years of service to the community. Bob contributed greatly to our community through serving 25 years as a director for the Root-Hardin Youth Fundraising. On January 1, 1994, Bob was honored with the dedication of the Mattson Gym at the High School.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me and our colleagues in recognizing the valuable contributions of Bob Mattson, spanning 38 years, to our community. His leadership and commitment as a role model, teacher and coach as well as an involved member of the community is certainly worth noting. Bob's presence as athletic director will be missed and his years of achievement and devotion will not be forgotten.

CIVIL AVIATION RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORIZATION
ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 1551) to authorize the Federal Aviation Administration's civil aviation research and development programs for fiscal years 2000 and 2001, and for other purposes:

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank the Chairman of the Science Committee, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Ranking Member HALL, and Representative MORELLA for their work on this important issue.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to speak today on H.R. 1551, the Civil Aviation Research and Development Authorization Act of 1999.

My concern with the Federal Aviation Administration is the lack of consistency in its criteria for judging which airports are deserving of radar.

I have trouble understanding how some airports are deemed deserving of a radar tracking system, and some are not. It appears to be arbitrary.

H.R. 1551 is a very important bill about aviation research and development. It seeks to fund the Federal Aviation Administration's civil aviation R&D programs for FY 2000 and 2001. This bill has the capacity to assist the many small- to medium-sized airports that do not have radar capability by demonstrating conclusively how much more effective a radar system is over visual guidance. I'm very concerned about the numerous busy small airports in America that do not have radar capability, and believe there is a real need for a pilot project to effectively illustrate the need for radar in such facilities.

A radar system is desperately needed for Cherry Capital Airport in Traverse City. Out of the top eleven airports in Michigan, Cherry Capital ranks third in the number of flight operations per hour, yet of these eleven airports, Cherry Capital is the only one not served by local radar. Located next to Lake Michigan, weather conditions at this airport can change in seconds, reducing visibility to zero. It is unbelievable that the airport with the third most operations per hour in Michigan and adverse weather conditions still has controllers in the tower landing planes with binoculars! It is a matter of luck that there has never been a mid-air collision at this airport.

The committee report accompanying H.R. 1551 expresses great concern over inclement weather conditions at our nation's airports.

I quote "The Committee recognizes that weather is the single largest contributor to delays and a major factor in aircraft accidents and incidents." I agree.

As one might imagine, weather plays an extremely prominent role at the Traverse City airport due to its proximity to Lake Michigan. Sudden and severe snow and ice storms are commonplace. The potential for accidents would be immeasurably reduced by the use of radar.

Along with severe weather, we must also factor in pilot error. On July 4, 1998 a Czech-made jet trainer aircraft went down over Lake Michigan, taking with it two men. This aircraft was never recovered.

The closest radar facility was in Minneapolis, and was unable to accurately pinpoint the location where the plane went down. If Cherry Capital had a radar, the outcome of the search and rescue could have been very different.

THE CHILDREN'S PROTECTION AND COMMUNITY CLEANUP ACT

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 1999

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2956, the Children's Protection and Community Cleanup Act, which challenges the whole premise of Superfund reform. Too many bills have been written on the premise that we have been doing too much to clean up our environment. Today, we make clear that we think we're doing too little.

Are people worried that their water is too clean, or too dirty? Are they worried that there is too little E coli in hamburgers, or too much? And do you think people sit around and wish there was more *pfisteria* in the water killing more fish? The answers are self-evident. People want to clean up their water, clean up their food, and clean up toxic waste dumps in their community that are threatening their health.

Last year, the movie, *A Civil Action*, told the story of a group of parents in the city of Woburn in my District. These parents discovered that far too many of their children were dying of leukemia, and linked it to the water they used, which smelled and corroded the water pipes. But for years they could not get anyone to listen to them, to do a rigorous public health assessment to find out whether they were at risk. The Children's Protection and Community Cleanup Act will require a public health assessment to be conducted at every Superfund site, and will allow communities to get Federal grants to conduct their own health assessments and take their own soil and water samples. It will require a cleanup that protects drinking water for future generations, instead of just building a fence around the toxic waste and hoping it won't leak out.

In addition, people don't want to pay tens of millions of taxpayer dollars to corporate polluters who are responsible for dumping tons of chemicals into our environment. They want to see the responsible parties pay for the damage they cause. The Children's Protection and Community Cleanup Act would ensure that the polluters responsible for the messes they made have to pay for them. In addition, it will place all nuclear facilities under the same Superfund laws that control chemicals, and it will ensure that when the responsible polluter was the Federal Government, that the same high cleanup and liability standards are applied as to the civilian sites.

For more than a decade under Republican administrations, EPA stood for nothing more than "Every Polluter's Ally". Superfund sites languished with no cleanups. But today more than half of non-Federal Superfund sites have completed construction activities. Where cleanups are not complete, two-thirds of the required work is underway or finished. The Children's Protection and Community Cleanup Act will ensure that the EPA can build on that record of achievement.

RESOLUTION ON POTENTIALLY LETHAL FOOD ALLERGIES

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 1999

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce an important resolution that expresses the sense of the House regarding strategies to better protect the millions of Americans whose lives are at risk because of potentially lethal food allergies.

The majority of the 5.2 million people who have serious and potentially fatal allergic reactions to foods such as peanuts, fish, shell fish, and tree nuts are children. These children will never outgrow their allergies, and there is no vaccine to prevent these deadly allergic reactions. All that these children can do is avoid eating or coming in contact in any way with peanuts, fish, shell fish, or tree nuts.

Even a small trace of peanuts or shell fish can produce a severe allergic reaction. Many children spend their day at school in fear, afraid to touch a doorknob or a desktop that might have a smear of peanut butter.

While it would be difficult to control the school or work environment, there are some steps that can be taken to protect children and adults from severe allergic reactions to food. For instance, major commercial food processors and producers should produce products on separate, dedicated manufacturing lines. Allergies in foods should be identified in terms that are clear and understandable to the average citizen.

Most consumers have no idea that products labeled with ingredients such as "natural flavors" contain peanuts or that shrimp extract is used to enhance the flavor of frozen beef teriyaki. Any food product that lists "natural flavors" as part of the ingredients should specify on the package that the product includes peanuts. Foods which are common, life-threatening allergens should not be added gratuitously to products where their taste is negligible.

Industry, consumer, and scientific groups should voluntarily work together on initiatives to better educate food industry workers and the public on issues of food allergy safety, and after one year, an assessment should be made of the success of these initiatives.

Mr. Speaker, every year, about 125 people die from fatal allergic reactions to food in the United States, and every year the number of people who have potentially fatal allergic reactions to food is increasing. This resolution will increase awareness of the serious impact of severe food allergies on the American people, and the need to address this very important health problem.

HONORING CARL SCHULTZE

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 1999

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to commend a constituent of mine, Carl Schultze, for his many years of service to the Collinsville community in Illinois.

Known to many as "Mr. Collinsville," Carl has devoted much of his life to community

service through volunteer activities and club memberships. His involvement includes memberships to the Sunrise Kiwanis, Collinsville Building and Loan Board, Collinsville Chorale and Holy Cross Lutheran Church, and the Collinsville Progress Board.

Carl's dedication to the community was formally acknowledged on August 16, 1999 when Collinsville Mayor, Stan Schaeffer, proclaimed the following week as Carl Schultze Week.

I would like to thank Carl for his commitment to public service. He is an inspiration, and it is a true privilege to have him as a part of our community.

IN OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED TAX INCREASE ON ASSOCIATION INVESTMENT INCOME

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 1999

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, as the fiscal year draws to a close, I think we can be grateful for some of our accomplishments, including good ideas that were implemented and bad ideas that were stopped in their tracks.

One of those bad ideas was the administration's proposed tax increase on the investment income of tax-exempt 501(c)(6) organizations. I and several of my colleagues on the Ways and Means Committee expressed our bipartisan opposition to this misguided proposal, and the Ways and Means Committee heard excellent testimony as to why this idea should be rejected.

As Congress continues to consider tax measures, I thought it would be worthwhile to remind my colleagues why this proposal would be harmful to people in my home State of Minnesota and throughout the country who are served by America's trade and professional organizations.

I urge my colleagues to heed the excellent words that follow, written by my friend and former constituent, Ralph J. Marlatt.

AN ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE SPEAKS OUT ON THE ADMINISTRATION'S PROPOSED TAX INCREASE

The Clinton Administration's fiscal year 2000 budget calls for a massive tax increase on associations exempt from tax under section 501(c)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code. The Administration's proposal would tax so-called "investment" income of 501(c)(6) associations—income that associations receive from interest, dividends, rents, capital gains and royalties. Under the plan, the first \$10,000 that an association earns from these sources will not be taxed, however, all income earned over \$10,000 will be subject to the unrelated business income tax (UBIT).

As Past President of the Minnesota Society of Association Executives and former President and CEO of the Insurance Federation of Minnesota, I have first-hand knowledge of the devastating effect this would have on the more than 800 associations in the state of Minnesota.

Associations put the synergistic power of a group to work in solving mutual problems and attaining mutual goals. More than 300,000 Minnesota individuals and firms support the activities of associations through membership and take advantage of the many benefits and services offered by associations. Thousands of Minnesotans are directly engaged in the management of voluntary non-

profit trade, professional and educational associations and societies.

Contrary to assertions made by the Clinton administration, this levy would hit thousands of small and mid-sized trade associations and professional societies exempt from tax under Section 501(c)(6). Under this proposal, most associations with an annual operating budget of \$200,000 or more would be taxed on the income they receive from interest, dividends, capital gains, rents, and royalties.

Unlike other corporations, the money associations receive from investment income, royalties and rents do not go into the pockets of shareholders, individuals or other corporations. Rather, these funds go into the associations' operating budgets to help further their exempt purposes—such as improving industry safety, training individuals to adapt to the changing workplace, and providing continuing adult education.

According to a Hudson Institute Report on the Value of Associations, associations spend more on product standards and safety than the U.S. Government. Associations spend more on education than all the states except California. Community service and volunteerism provide 330 million hours valued at \$3.3 billion annually.

Associations and professional societies annually contribute nearly \$10 million directly into Minnesota's economy and nearly \$50 billion nationally. As a Board Member of the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE), and a 29-year veteran of the association business, I join my colleagues in opposing this negative tax on associations.—

Ralph J. Marlatt, CAE, Executive Vice President, Olson Management Group, Inc.

IN HONOR OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF CUDELL IMPROVEMENT, INC.

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Cudell Improvement, Inc., on their 25th anniversary. They will be marking this anniversary with a celebration on September 29, 1999.

Cudell Improvement, Inc., founded in 1974 as a neighborhood-based improvement association, has grown over the past 25 years into a sophisticated community development corporation in the city of Cleveland. They have developed, or played a significant role in the redevelopment of, over \$8 million in real estate.

In addition to Cudell Improvement's real estate achievements, the firm has established programs and services designed to enhance the quality of life and revitalize the community as well. They have implemented a summer and after-school program for thousands of area youth. Cudell Improvement has also been responsible for the continuous implementation of the county's first citizen-based crime prevention program. Throughout their 25 years, Cudell Improvement, Inc., has brought thousands of residents and business persons together to foster communication, achieve community improvements and instill civic pride.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the members of Cudell Improvement, Inc., on their anniversary and salute them for 25 years of

civic service. I wish Cudell the very best wishes in their continued dedication to community improvement.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. ROBERT ALLAN LINDEN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 1999

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize a man who has contributed an incredible amount to his community of Alamosa, Colorado. Dr. Linden has recently been honored by an election to the position of Fellow of the American College of Physicians—American Society of Internal Medicine. This is a great honor because it is given by one's peers. And, Dr. Linden is very deserving of this honor.

Robert Allan Linden graduated from the University of Southern California, Los Angeles in 1969. He then went on to medical school right here at Georgetown University, School of Medicine. He completed his residency at UCLA-Harbor General Hospital in Torrance, California. From there he went on to a medical career that has certainly proven that this honor was earned, not bestowed, and well deserved.

He began his medical career in Alamosa in 1977 when he first became associated with Valley-Wide Health Services. He has been an active member of the San Luis Valley Regional Medical Center in the area of general internal medicine. He is also the senior internist at the Community Health Center group practice. He serves as Utilization Review Director for Evergreen Nursing Home, Medical Director and Co-chair of Interdisciplinary Utilization Review Team for Hospice del Valle, and physician advisor for the Alamosa Ambulance District. Dr. Linden has also been an Aviation Medical Examiner for the last 16 years. He served as Chief-of-Staff at SLV Regional Medical Center for a one year tenure in 1995–1996. In addition, he had previously served as chairperson of the Hospital Executive Committee, trustee on the Board of Directors of the Hospital Governing Board, and a member of the Quality Assurance Committee and Strategic Planning. Currently he serves as a member of the Hospital Staff Emergency Department and ICU Committee.

Some of the numerous honors he has received are: Hospice Appreciation Award in 1993 from the Interdisciplinary Utilization Review Team for Hospice del Valle; Outstanding Clinical Faculty Award for Medical Student Teaching at University of Colorado, School of Medicine, in 1989; and the Most Valuable Preceptor Award from the University of Colorado, School of Medicine, in 1997.

When he has spare time, Dr. Kinden and his wife, Maureen Orr, enjoy the Colorado outdoors. He enjoys hiking, backpacking, organic gardening, and even plays in an eclectic rock group "Lucky La Rue". He is a man who has dedicated his career to helping others and his life to Colorado. He deserves to be commended.

SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION RESEARCH PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 27, 1999

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2392, the Small Business Innovation Research Program Reauthorization Act of 1999. Working with our colleagues on the Small Business Committee, we have crafted an authorization bill, which preserves the programs strengths. In addition, H.R. 2392 provides for a study of the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program. It is our hope to incorporate the results and findings of this study in the next reauthorization cycle.

The SBIR program is an important element in making the unique capabilities of small high-tech business available to the Federal government. Initiated in 1982, the SBIR program was built upon an existing NSF pilot program and now includes the ten federal agencies with the largest external research budgets. When the program was conceived, it was clear that small business had much to offer federal agencies, but were not receiving a proportional share of federal research contracts. In essence, they were shut-out of the federal research awards process. Through the SBIR we have guaranteed that at least 2.5% of agencies' external research dollars are awarded to small businesses. This set aside has created progress towards achieving the SBIR programs two major goals; providing small high-tech businesses the opportunity to meet federal research needs and increasing the number of technology based commercial products developed by small business.

As in any program, however, there is room for improvement. We need to ensure that an increasing percentage of SBIR winners go on to be commercial successes. And we need to build a better record in helping the best SBIR participants join the ranks of federal contractors. I will continue to work with my colleagues to address both of these concerns.

In closing, I would like to say that it has been a pleasure working with Chairman SENSENBRENNER, Chairwoman MORELLA, and Ranking Member HALL as well as our colleagues on the Small Business Committee in developing this consensus legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2392.

LIFE AND TIMES OF OSEOLA McCARTY

HON. RONNIE SHOWS

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 1999

Mr. SHOWS. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to take a minute to tell my fellow colleagues and the American People about Oseola McCarty. Ms. McCarty recently passed away and it is important that we pause to remember this remarkable Mississippian and American.

Oseola McCarty spent her life washing and ironing the clothes of others in Hattiesburg,

Mississippi. Her life was one of meager and simple means concerning the material things many deem important. Her spirit and faith, though, was large and full. Her capacity to give and care and love exceeded all boundaries. Ms. McCarty was a great American and we all need to know and learn from her story.

The Bible teaches us about the widow's mite; that lady who gave less than others but all she had and was called great for her more profound sacrifice. Friends, Ms. McCarty gave us all the widow's mite.

Her meager income over the years provided just enough for her to put away a little in savings each month. Over these 75 years this grew and in 1995 she gave the University of Southern Mississippi \$150,000 to help the poor go to school. This was a gift to all of us. Certainly to those who have and will benefit from a college education. But also Ms. McCarty gave us all the gift of love and generosity. She taught us that integrity in life and belief in God and others, when put into action, changes lives.

I am indebted to Oseola McCarty for her example. My Alma Mater, the University of Southern Mississippi, is indebted to her for her gift and inspiration. And everyone, all of us, is indebted to Ms. McCarty because she helped remind us that we all matter and what we do matters to all.

Many beautiful and great words will be said the next several days about Ms. McCarty. And, great things should be said. But, let's honor her the way she would want . . . let's give ourselves. Let's give to others, like Ms. McCarty.

PROGRESS IN THE GAMBIA

HON. EARL F. HILLIARD

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 1999

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, I wish to express my satisfaction with the course of certain events relating to The Gambia, in West Africa. Some of our colleagues may, or may not, be aware that due to the tireless efforts of President Yahya Jammeh, The Gambia continues to play a pivotal role in peacemaking and peacekeeping. Specifically, The Gambia has participated in peace efforts in three regions of conflict of West Africa—Guinea-Bissau, Sierra Leone, and the Casamance region of Senegal.

During the 21st summit of the sixteen-member Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), hosted by The Gambia in October 1998, President Jammeh was successful in bringing the two protagonists in the Guinea-Bissau conflict to the negotiating table for their first face-to-face meeting since fighting erupted earlier that year. Although the peace accord, which was signed by Guinea-Bissau President Joao Bernard Vieira and rebel leader Ansumane Mane was subsequently broken, President Jammeh continued to work toward a peaceful resolution of the conflict. For his efforts, President Jammeh was congratulated by other heads of state for being the first leader in the sub-region to send a delegation in search of a peace resolution to the crisis.

Similarly, in the conflict in Sierra Leone between President Kabbah and the Revolu-

tionary United Front (RUF), led by Foday Sankoh, Gambian President Jammeh was the first leader to make an international offer to mediate, and urge for peace in the country, as well as the entire sub-region. In June 1999, Banjul was again the scene of peace negotiations when the Senegalese government and separatist rebels from the Casamance province accepted President Jammeh's offer to facilitate peace in the troubled province.

Gambian President Yahya Jammeh has offered all possible assistance in order to facilitate the permanent return of peace to the West African region. On the occasion of President Jammeh's first visit to the United States as a head of state, I would like my colleagues to join me in honoring and commending President Jammeh for his commitment to peace and unity in West Africa.

THE HASS AVOCADO PROMOTION, RESEARCH AND INFORMATION ACT

HON. GARY A. CONDIT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 1999

Mr. CONDIT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support for legislation offered with Representative KEN CALVERT to create a new national promotion program for Hass avocados. This bill, the Hass Avocado Promotion, Research and Information Act, provides a vehicle for both domestic producers and importers to work together to increase the demand for avocados.

The California avocado industry has benefited from an innovative, state grower-funded program administered by the California Avocado Commission. The means that 6000 Hass avocado growers in California currently assess themselves to pay for the national promotion of avocados. In recent years, however, imports are supplying an increasing share of the U.S. consumer market. In 1998, for example, import levels reached 100 million pounds, an amount equal to nearly one-third the size of U.S. avocado production. Given this trend, Congress should provide a mechanism for importers to share in the state commission's efforts. This bill will do just that, by providing tools to expand consumer markets for avocados at a time when supply is increasing.

This legislation is tailored to fit the special characteristics of Hass Avocado production, which is unique to California and several foreign countries. The creation of a national checkoff at no cost to the nation's taxpayers will allow US avocado growers and importers to fund and operate a coordinated marketing effort. This bill is designed to: (1) create a industry-based, international board to administer the program; (2) authorize promotion, research, and educational activities; (3) direct the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct a referendum 60 days prior to implementation of the program; and (4) designate the initial rate of assessment on Hass avocados at 2.5 cents per pound, capped at five cents per pound. In addition to promotional and consumer information, this legislation allows producers to research issues important to avocado production and sales, such as market development, food safety, avocado uses, quality, and nutritional value.

For these reasons, I join my colleague on the Committee on Agriculture from California, Mr. CALVERT, in introducing this legislation, the Hass Avocado Promotion, Research and Information Act.

ARBITRARY DECISIONS BY INS
ARE ROADBLOCK TO AMERICAN
DREAM

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 1999

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I read with great interest the story of Ms. Sherol Boles in an op-ed by Anthony Lewis in today's New York Times. It is a heart-wrenching story about a woman who is battling for her right to remain in this country with her children and her husband. Tragically, she may be deported at any time due to arbitrary decision making by the Immigration and Naturalization Service and the harshness of the 1996 immigration law.

Mrs. Boles' story is not an isolated incident. Since taking office, I have personally heard INS horror stories from many immigrants, legal residents, and citizens who write, call, and visit my office seeking assistance. Ninety percent of casework in my district office is related to immigration issues. Many of the problems stem from a clear lack of inefficiency and unpreparedness in the INS office in Chicago.

During my visit to the Chicago INS office earlier this year, I witnessed first hand this inefficiency and unpreparedness. Even worse, I also witnessed the mistreatment of customers, the lack of respect for individuals, the complete disregard of common decency and the hostile environment many must face.

The culture of the "Customer is Always Wrong" at the INS must change. Customers at the Chicago INS must receive the quality service they deserve. These legal residents are customers who pay high fees and they deserve to be treated with respect.

The Chicago INS responded to my concerns and those of my colleagues by taking steps to improve the quality of service.

However, we must work to ensure that those steps taken by the Chicago INS remain in place and that additional improvements are made. Finally, we must translate our local efforts to the national stage so people like Sherol Boles are given the chance to live the American dream.

[From the New York Times, Sept. 28, 1999]

BALANCE OF HARDSHIPS

(By Anthony Lewis)

BOSTON—Dickens gave us the classic picture of official heartlessness: the government Circumlocution Office, burial ground of hope in "Little Dorrit." It would take his savage wit to tell, properly, the story of Sherol Boles and the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Mrs. Boles is a 33-year-old woman from Barbados. In 1996 she married Michael Boles, an American who served 12 years in the U.S. Marines. They have 2-year-old twins, born three months prematurely weighing less than two pounds each; they were hospitalized for months and are still under medical treatment.

The I.N.S. has ruled that Mrs. Boles's marriage entitles her to permanent residence

here: a green card. But for reasons in the past she is legally deportable, and the I.N.S. says she must be deported. If she is, it may be as long as 10 years before she can enter the United States again.

Mrs. Boles wants to have her deportation case reopened, so account can be taken of her now-established right to a green card and her children's fragile health. If she is deported alone, her husband could not possibly take care of the twins by himself. If she takes them with her, the medical care they need may not be available in Barbados.

But the case cannot be reopened without the consent of I.N.S. officials, and they refuse to give it. Why? I.N.S. lawyers explained in a brief, "She has not shown that she would suffer irreparable injury or that the balance of hardships tilt in her favor." Dickens could not have put more unfeeling words in the mouth of one of his fictional tormentors.

Mrs. Boles is still in the United States because her lawyer, Harvey Kaplan of Boston, sought and won a stay of deportation from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit. The I.N.S. is urging the court to withdraw the stay.

The past chapters of the story deepen its harshness. Mrs. Boles came to the United States in 1990, to Boston. Some years later she tried to obtain legal permanent residence by using the services of one Joseph Chatelain, who called himself an "immigration adviser." By 1995 Mrs. Boles and others realized they had been defrauded by Mr. Chatelain. She testified in full and agreed to be a witness against him, but he fled and has not been found.

In 1995, on the basis of her own statements, an immigration judge ordered her deported. He allowed her to depart voluntarily—legally advantageous—by April 1996 "or any extensions as granted" by the I.N.S. Immigration officials in Boston, citing her cooperation in the Chatelain case, extended the date successively to March 1998.

In the meantime Mrs. Boles had married and moved to her husband's home in Phoenix. In February 1997 Michael Boles filed an I-130 petition to get his wife permanent residence. The petition went to the I.N.S. Texas service center, covering Phoenix. It was then transferred to a California center, and from there back to the local I.N.S. office in Phoenix.

In May 1998, with the petition still pending and the date for voluntary departure just past, the I.N.S. office in Boston gave Mrs. Boles a year's stay of deportation. A year later she had still heard nothing about her green card. She asked an I.N.S. officer in Phoenix for a further stay. Denying it, he said the delay on the green card petition must mean that her marriage was fraudulent—in effect blaming her for the notorious inefficiency of the I.N.S.

"Based on a careful review of the facts of this case," an official wrote, "there do not appear to be any unusual humanitarian factors."

The petition for a green card was finally granted this past June, more than two years after it was filed. So far it has not helped Sherol Boles. If she is deported, she may come within provisions of the harsh 1996 Immigration Act that would bar her from this country for 5 or 10 years.

Tough as it is, the 1996 law gives the I.N.S. power to reopen this case. But the service seems determined in its refusal. In its First Circuit brief it argued that the court has no power to review its decision, right or wrong.

Why is the I.N.S. so adamant? It must want to establish the principle that nobody—not even a court—can make it pay attention to reason and humanity.

CONSOLIDATION OF MILK
MARKETING ORDERS

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1402) to require the Secretary of Agriculture to implement the Class I milk price structure known as Option 1A as part of the implementation of the final rule to consolidate Federal milk marketing orders.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Chairman, in 1996 Congress agreed the U.S. dairy pricing system was seriously flawed and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) should develop a more evenhanded pricing system. After three years of research and an exhaustive public comment period, USDA proposed a modest reform plan, and now the proponents of H.R. 1402 seek to violate the agreement made in the 1996 Farm bill by leaving in place a blatantly unfair Depression-era pricing structure that penalizes dairy producers based on their distance from Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

Few government programs are more complex and misunderstood than the USDA's milk marketing system. President Franklin Roosevelt established federal orders in the 1930s during the Great Depression to ensure an adequate supply of fresh milk nationwide. The primary goal of the system was to facilitate the flow of milk from surplus production regions to deficit regions. During the Depression, the Upper Midwest was the nation's center of dairy production. So to encourage the flow of milk from the region, the federal government required dairy processors to pay higher prices for fluid milk based on their distance from the Upper Midwest. This allowed our dairy farmers to recover the extra costs of transporting their product to consumer regions. Clearly, federal orders made sense sixty years ago.

The situation has changed. Dairy farms have sprung up in every corner of the country, especially in those regions farthest from the Upper Midwest where the government requires higher minimum prices. Federal orders no longer encourage the flow of milk from one place to another. Today, federal orders artificially encourage the production of milk by high-cost producers in certain regions at the expense of more efficient producers in the Upper Midwest. Geographically, the system favors milk production in high-cost regions such as the Southeast, Texas, and the Northeast at the expense of traditional dairy states such as Minnesota and Wisconsin.

The impact of this pricing system on the Upper Midwestern dairy farmer has been disastrous. Since 1955, Minnesota has lost nearly 60,000 dairy farms. Over one-quarter of Minnesota dairy farmers disappeared in the six-year period following 1993.

Mr. Chairman, I strongly oppose this misguided legislation that would continue an outdated dairy policy, and I believe that the USDA's reform plan should be implemented.

INTERNATIONAL PATIENTS' CARE

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 1999

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to address the time limitation placed on international patients and attending family members who remain in the United States while receiving medical treatment. I am grateful for the Texas Medical Center in Houston for bringing this important issue to my attention.

Many international patients who obtain pre-arranged care in the United States require long-term medical treatment and lengthy hospital stays. However, a provision in the 1996 Immigration Reform Act instituted a time limit on "voluntary departure" status that has restricted health care facilities from providing sufficient care to some patients.

Each year, hospitals and health care facilities across the United States provide pre-arranged treatment and health care assistance to more than 250,000 international patients, who come from many nations around the world. At the Texas Medical Center in Houston, more than 25,000 international patients are seen each year. These patients come to the United States because of the high quality health care that is the best in the world.

Since the 1996 immigration reforms were enacted, many medical patient visitors have entered the United States under the Visa Waiver Pilot Program, which allows a maximum 90-day stay. After 90 days, these patients and their attending family members are eligible to apply for voluntary departure, which allows an additional stay of 120 days. Upon completion of the 120 days, these individuals must request "deferred action" status, which allows them to stay in the United States for an extended period, but places them under illegal status. Consequently, these patients—whose lives are often dependent on return visits to the United States for further medical treatment—are barred from entering the United States from between 3 and 10 years.

After I brought this issue to the attention of the INS and the Department of State, each agency has worked to strengthen their staff knowledge of medical patients, and to better screen prospective international patients at U.S. embassies and during inspections. However, due to the relaxed rules governing participation in the Visa Waiver program, many patients have continued to come to this country unaware of its strict length-of-stay restrictions.

Mr. Speaker, I was a strong proponent of the immigration reforms passed by Congress and signed by the President in 1996. Overall, I believe these were tough, but needed reforms that cracked down on illegal immigration. I have worked closely with law enforcement authorities in my district to clamp down on illegal immigration, and I have supported legislative efforts to provide the INS with the resources to safeguard the integrity of our borders while also holding the agency to high professional standards of law enforcement. In this case, though, I believe it is entirely appropriate to make a concession to the small number of international patients who travel to the United States for life-saving treatment.

The bill I am offering today would authorize a 3-year pilot program allowing the Attorney

General to waive the voluntary departure 120-day cap for a very limited number of international patients and attending family members who enter the United States under the Visa Waiver program. It would implement a tough, restrictive process for these patients, to ensure that only those truly in need of long-term medical care could obtain such a waiver. This legislation would require these patients to provide comprehensive statements from attending physicians detailing the treatment sought and their anticipated length of stay in the United States. In addition, the patients would be required to provide proof of ability to pay for their treatment and the daily expenses of attending family members. This legislation would strictly limit the number of allowable family members and limit the total number of waivers to 300 annually. To safeguard against fraud and abuse, this legislation would require the INS to provide Congress with an annual status report detailing the number of international patients waivers allowed each fiscal year. Should the INS fail to release this data, Congress would be authorized to discontinue these waivers.

In drafting this legislation, I consulted with the Texas Medical Center to determine an accurate, workable number of annual waivers for this legislation. After contacting a number of medical institutions throughout the United States, the Texas Medical Center estimated that approximately 1000 annual waivers will be needed to meet the total number of international patients who fall out of legal immigration status due to long-term health care needs. Despite this estimate, I believe 300 annual waivers will provide an adequate starting point to address this situation, while providing an appropriate safeguard against fraud and abuse.

Mr. Speaker, I realize that there are many members who are hesitant to make changes to the immigration law Congress adopted in 1996. I know that I am loath to do anything more than a surgical fix to the underlying statutory scheme. However, I am convinced that the reforms enacted in 1996 were not intended to target nonimmigrant visitors who enter this country to receive preapproved, life-saving medical treatment. I believe we have an obligation to protect the status of legal, international patients who owe their lives to the high-quality medical care they receive in the United States. Working together, in a bipartisan manner, we have taken great strides in strengthening our immigration laws. We should not allow our hard work to be diminished by the unintentional consequences of otherwise highly effective immigration reforms.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important effort.

HONORING JACKIE WAITLEY

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jackie Waitley of Liff, CO, immediate past president of Colorado Cattle Women who recently was recognized for her leadership and hard work on behalf of the organization.

Jackie, born in Boston, MA, is a true westerner. Growing up in a Denver suburb, she ro-

manticized about living on a ranch riding and rodeoing. Meeting her husband Frank at Hastings College, both went to work for a short time as school teachers in Peetz, CO, but soon realized their shared dream of ranching and raising cattle and owning the Waitley Cattle Co. Today, the mother of four children and grandmother of five granddaughters, she says, "The city girl has learned that it takes hard work, knowledge, skill, and cooperation from mother nature to operate a cattle ranch today."

Jackie understands America must count on rural areas, not dismiss them. Statistics confirm the importance of rural settings. Agriculture is still America's number one employer providing more jobs and paychecks than any other sector of the economy.

Jackie recognizes that sound policy to offset the effects of Colorado's population boom should focus on Colorado's best stewards of the land—its farmers and ranchers. Besides supplying safe and inexpensive food for our tables, farmers and ranchers provide valuable open space and wildlife habitat.

In fact, most of this nation's wildlife survives and thrives on private lands. To preserve these valuable assets we need to protect water and property rights and make it easier for farmers and ranchers to pass their land on to succeeding generations.

While certain antiproperty rights groups fight for more regulation and government intervention, the future of agriculture depends on aggressive advocates like Jackie. Preserving farms and ranches is one effective way to mitigate Colorado's booming urbanization.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I agree with Jackie who is concerned for this nation's moral foundation. A nation launched by planters and preachers, America's founding strength was mustered and sustained by the moral character of rural people. Their values of hard work, honesty, integrity, self-reliance, and faith in God thrive in abundance today in the character of Jackie Waitley.

TRIBUTE TO DICK SPROD

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 1999

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this moment to recognize a man who has recently passed away. Mr. Dick Sprod died August 30th. He was born in Meeker, Colorado, in 1917 and lived there throughout most of his life. He graduated from the Meeker Public School system in 1935. He was drafted into the United States Army Air Corps six years later, in 1941, where he served for four years. He earned the rank of Master Sergeant as well as a bronze star during his time with the service.

He married Angela Nassau in Grand Junction in 1946. Together they made their home on his family homestead and raised their family while ranching. They had three children and have since been blessed with six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

During his time as a rancher Mr. Sprod was an active member of the St. James' Episcopal Church, a member of the Meeker Snowmobile Club, the Rio Blanco Cattleman's Association, and also served for 21 years on the White

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River Electric Board. In addition to all of his responsibilities, Dick loved to travel and participated in the athletic pursuits of all of his children and grandchildren. Most recently, he

was an avid supporter of his granddaughter's involvement in basketball at Mesa State College.

Dick Sprod will be greatly missed by all who knew him. He was an important part of the

ranching community and his community of Meeker as a whole. He will be remembered for many years to come