

was known throughout the community as mother to all those in need, loving all children no matter whose they were.

Working with Catholic Charities she served as a foster mother to over 116 children whom she loved with all her heart and being. It is my opinion that the whole world is a better place because of her work.

A loving wife and mother, Ann was a nurse and caregiver to all those who needed care. She gave enduringly of herself, always with compassion and most of all love. She was a happy person, always laughing with the children she loved so dearly. Her door was always opened to the hungry. She was always able to provide them with a meal, a laugh, and a good dose of the best medicine of all, the medicine of the heart. Mr. Speaker, today I join her family and friends, as well as the entire Worcester community, in mourning her passing.

CONSUMER ACCESS TO A RESPONSIBLE ACCOUNTING OF TRADE ACT

HON. TONY P. HALL

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 1999

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Consumer Access to a Responsible Accounting of Trade Act of 2000.

This bill aims to give Americans the same information about diamonds that they have about other products they buy. I believe it is information that may be of increasing interest to them, as attention focuses on some regions' reliance on diamonds to fuel wars there. This link between dirty diamonds and war is at the root of much evil in Africa today.

Mr. Speaker, I want to make it clear that war—and not diamonds—is the root of these evils. Botswana went from the poorest country in the world to become one of Africa's greatest success stories—a success built on the careful investment of diamond revenues in the nation's people. In Namibia and South Africa, too, diamonds have been the fuel for tremendous progress.

Sadly, and especially so for those of us who have hoped and worked for a brighter future for all Africans, fighting is again overshadowing prospects for progress in several other African nations. In two—Liberia and Sierra Leone—peace agreements have stopped most of the fighting; in the Democratic Republic of Congo, a fragile cease-fire is holding so far; and in Angola, war threatens to drag on for some time. In all four countries, revenues from diamond mining have fueled these wars and made their continuation possible.

Sierra Leone is a dramatic example: Rebels there went from a rag-tag bunch of 400 soldiers, to a formidable force numbering more than 20,000. The revenues from the diamond mines they seized ensured they never wanted for the best in weapons or gear, and they enabled these butchers to cut off the hands and arms of civilians in punishment for casting ballots. In all, \$200 million a year in diamond exports funded the bloodshed that killed 50,000 people in Sierra Leone this decade.

Angola's seemingly endless war is another example. Rebels again are waging the war that has cost a million people their lives, has

driven more than a million from their homes in the past year, and now threatens two million with famine. Their weapons, including land mines that make Angola the deadliest place in the world, are purchased with diamond revenues totaling nearly \$4 billion this decade.

Through their greed and craven brutality, rebels and dealers in dirty diamonds risk tarnishing the appeal of diamonds to consumers, and their promise to impoverished African nations. I believe the CARAT Act will help protect these democracies from the shame that these outlaws are bringing to the diamond trade.

The information my bill provides to consumers can be given without hesitation by those trading in diamonds mined in Botswana, South Africa, Namibia, Canada, Australia, and Russia. It will reassure Americans that the symbols of love and commitment they cherish were never darkened by the shadows of machetes or land mines, and that their investment was not used to buy guns or bombs.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the efforts of Global Witness, a coalition of human rights organizations working to draw worldwide attention to the link between the illicit trade in diamonds and wars in Africa. The "Fatal Transactions" campaign they have launched is a responsible effort, one that aims to shield those engaged in legitimate trade from public outrage. That is very important, because activists will play a crucial role in shaping public opinion about the diamond trade. If diamonds go the way of fur—if they become a pariah product in the eyes of many consumers—democracy in Southern Africa could be shaken, and regional stability put at risk. I am heartened that Global Witness' member organizations are exercising greater caution to ensure this does not happen. I hope that, by giving consumers information they can use to understand this issue, my bill will provide another safeguard.

I also hope this legislation will support work on this issue by policymakers, and I commend to our colleagues' attention the efforts of our State Department, of Secretary Albright, of Britain's Robin Cook, of Canada's Robert Fowler, and of the many experts in government, non-government, and business organizations working to sever the link between war and gems.

The supply-side approach they are taking offers the promise of a global solution, and I hope they succeed. In the meantime, however, the United States can play a bigger role in this noble effort. In fact, the way to have the most constructive impact might be by exercising our purchasing power wisely.

Mr. Speaker, Americans buy 65 percent of the gem-quality diamonds sold worldwide, making us a force the market must reckon with. Insisting that our consumers are informed of the original source of diamonds sold to them will send a wake-up call to the diamond industry. It will encourage countries and businesses in Africa to use their influence to end the wars that wreak so much havoc on that continent before those wars give diamonds a bad name. And it will help protect the democratic nations that are using their diamond revenues for the good of their people.

Mr. Speaker, in the past decade our Nation has spent nearly \$2 billion in humanitarian aid to people who live in the nations where "conflict diamonds" are fueling wars. Over the same period, at least three times that much was siphoned away from those same nations'

diamond mines; too much of it was spent on weapons that cost millions of Africans their lives and limbs, and reversed years of economic progress their countries had made.

Where would these nations be without those wars? The contrast between Botswana, which invested its diamonds in its people, and Sierra Leone, which invested them in war, is striking.

Africans in Botswana live to age 52, on average; in Sierra Leone, they die at age 35.

In Botswana, 7 in 10 people can read; in Sierra Leone, 7 in 10 cannot.

In Botswana, annual per capita income is nearly \$6,000; in Sierra Leone, it is just over \$600.

Mr. Speaker, as Members of Congress we have a civic responsibility to invest our taxpayers' money wisely. We also have a moral duty to help those who Scriptures call "the least of these." Neither allows us to ignore the root cause of the terrible suffering that this legislation seeks to address. We should not rush into enacting any ill-advised sanctions; but neither should we continue to look away from a problem we could do so much to eliminate.

In this decade, we have had no opportunity to get to the root of this evil like the one we have today. The hideous war in Sierra Leone has ended; Liberia is rebuilding its economy and society; and United Nations sanctions block the sale of diamonds by UNITA rebels in Angola. Only in the Democratic Republic of Congo do illicit sales of diamonds threaten peace. Now is the time to take preventive action to sever one of the key lifelines of war in Africa.

In preparing this bill, I have learned that diamonds are judged by what experts call "the four C's"—cut, color, clarity, and carat weight. I believe the day is coming when diamonds also are judged by a fifth C—their country of origin. The CARAT Act will ensure consumers know all five C's, and help them—if they choose to do so—use their purchasing power to support those who are using diamond revenues to wage war against their people.

My bill is a simple one, Mr. Speaker. It simply requires gem-quality diamonds imported into the U.S. market to be accompanied by a certificate listing where they were mined. But it will also remind those who depend on our business that Americans are powerful and responsible consumers. It will protect the democratic nations in Africa that depend on diamond revenues. And it enables American consumers to choose not to support the oppressors of African people who have paid too dearly, and for too long, the price of war.

TRIBUTE TO THE TORRANCE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. STEVEN T. KUYKENDALL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 1999

Mr. KUYKENDALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Torrance Unified School District. This school district has taken the initiative in addressing youth violence by implementing a systemwide program for conflict resolution.

Highlighting themes of compassion, respect, and character, this program works with the