

most other industrialized nations. Any disparity enhances the ability of foreign competitors to engage in a wider range of financial activities than U.S. companies.

In closing, making this provision a permanent part of the law would provide for an equitable and stable international tax regime for the U.S. financial services industry. We hope that this legislation will receive every possible consideration.

MAKE SUBPART F LAW
PERMANENT

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 3, 2001

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to join Representative JIM MCCRERY and a majority of the Ways and Means Committee in introducing legislation to make permanent the exclusion from Subpart F of the Internal Revenue Code for active financial services income of U.S. businesses operating in foreign markets. This provision permits American financial services firms doing business abroad to pay U.S. tax on their foreign earnings only when those earnings are returned to the U.S. parent. The provision expires at the end of this year.

This rule for active financial services is the same rule that applies to most other types of U.S. companies, and is the general rule in most of the industrialized world. Most competitors of U.S. financial institutions operate under tax regimes that generally do not tax currently active financial income earned outside their home countries. Making the Subpart F rule for active financial services permanent means that U.S. financial services companies will be on a level playing field throughout the life of the contract for which they are competing when they seek to compete in overseas markets with foreign-based financial services companies. While taxes are clearly not the only factor in determining the competitiveness of U.S. financial companies abroad, they do make a difference. In an increasingly global world with increasingly sophisticated competition, we cannot afford to put our financial services companies at such a disadvantage any longer.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues and I believe it is vital to make the active financing provisions of current law permanent, to provide stability to our American service industries and all who work for them.

A TRIBUTE TO SHERYL BOYCE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 3, 2001

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sheryl Boyce of Canarsie, for her many years of leadership in the civic and religious communities.

Ms. Boyce believes that to live in the community it is important to serve your community as well. For this reason she has spent nearly two decades as an active community resident. She has been an active member of the Bay

View Tenants Association, serving as the financial secretary, recording secretary, and editor of the Association Newsletter. In addition, she organized the Association's first clean up day. Ms. Boyce has taken a particular interest as a mentor, serving as a Girl and Boy Scout Leader and a chaperon on numerous youth outings.

Sheryl is also an active member of St. Albans' Episcopal Church. She is on the Altar Guild and serves as a treasurer of the Episcopal Church Women. She has been elected to the Vestry for the third time and serves as a mentor to the altar girls and boys.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Sheryl Boyce is a woman of deep religious conviction who has served her community and her church with the same level of dedication. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today, and I hope that all of my colleagues will join me in honoring this truly remarkable woman.

FREEDOM OF THE MEDIA IN
RUSSIA

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 3, 2001

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I participated recently in a Congressional delegation to Russia, led by my friend CURT WELDON, where we met with government officials and others to assess the economic and political situation in that country and the state of U.S.-Russian relations. As Co-Chairman of the Duma-Congress Study Group on which I serve with Mr. WELDON, and as former Chairman and Ranking Member of the Helsinki Commission, I have traveled to Russia and the former Soviet Union frequently since the early 1980s.

We are encouraged by Russia's continued progress, however tentative it may appear at times, towards becoming a democratic state that guarantees the inalienable rights, including religious freedom and respect for human rights and the rule of law, of all its citizens. That is why it is disturbing to see an important tenet of democracy—freedom of the media—being threatened by federal government actions and by local officials as well.

The seriousness of this problem has been addressed by both the Clinton and Bush Administrations and has received widespread attention in the Western press, including recent editorials in *The Wall Street Journal* and *The Washington Post*. In Moscow, we were briefed by Ambassador Jim Collins, who told us about the threats to the media, particularly NTV and its holding company, Media Most, and we also met with Evgeny Kiselev, head of NTV—the only independently operated television station in Russia—who described incidents of harassment and intimidation directed against himself and other NTV personnel.

Moreover, as we have seen in the past, journalists in Russia are under threat of physical attacks, even murder, at the hands of unknown assailants if they offend the wrong people with their reporting.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues the State Department's Country Report on Human Rights Practices-2000, just sent to the Congress by the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, as required by law. It is a valuable doc-

ument that assesses human rights conditions, country by country, around the world and has proven a reliable source of information for Members to better understand how individual governments treat their own citizens.

The section on Russia, which covers 45 pages, states that the government "generally respected the human rights of its citizens in many areas," but that "serious problems remain, including independence and freedom of the media. . . ." The report goes on to state "Federal, regional, and local governments continued to exert pressure on journalists by: initiating investigations by the federal tax police, FSB, and MVD of media companies such as independent Media-Most. . . ."

The report also provides an account of the government harassment of and threats to Mr. Vladimir Goussinsky, founder and chairman of Media-Most, which owns NTV, and his arrest and detention in a Moscow prison. Today, Mr. Goussinsky is confined in Spain, awaiting the disposition of a Russian prosecutor's request for extradition, as Kremlin authorities have been engaged in a series of actions to shut down the country's only privately owned television station, or have it taken over by a government-controlled company.

Sadly, Mr. Speaker, these efforts have come to fruition today. Press reports indicate that, in an apparent boardroom coup, the current NTV board, including Mr. Goussinsky, was ousted by the Russian gas firm Gazprom, which says it owns a controlling stake of the station. Mr. Kiselev has been replaced by an associate of the Gazprom directors. Russia's only two other nationwide television stations, ORT and RTR, are already controlled by the government.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the government of the Russian Federation to strengthen democratic institutions and the rule of law by guaranteeing and supporting media pluralism and independence in Russia. Clearly, the foundation of a free and democratic society is a well informed citizenry. That foundation crumbles when freedom of speech and freedom of the media are suppressed. I also urge my colleagues to review the State Department's report on human rights conditions, particularly the section on Russia.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DEPOSIT
INSURANCE FUNDS MERGER ACT
OF 2001

HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 3, 2001

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce legislation that merges the FDIC's Bank Insurance Fund (BIF) and the Savings Association Insurance Fund (SAIF) on January 1, 2002. I am joined by Representative MAXINE WATERS as an original cosponsor. A merger of the BIF and SAIF would clearly benefit the deposit insurance system by creating a single, more diversified fund that is less vulnerable to regional economic problems.

In addition, a merger of the funds would more accurately reflect the reality of today's financial services industry, in which over 40 percent of the SAIF deposits are held by commercial banks and FDIC-regulated state savings banks. In fact, the funds have lost their