

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

FINANCIAL LITERACY PROGRAMS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2001

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, most of us learned our first money management lesson when watching our parents pay bills, earning our first allowance, or getting that first job. But in a fast changing world, parents and young adults could use a little help in life's money lessons. As we move more toward an e-commerce world, it is important that our young people are able to manage their money and have the skills it takes to plan, invest and save in a fast-paced transaction culture.

Traditionally, education has been based on the three R's—reading, writing, and arithmetic—but recent surveys show that parents are ready to add a fourth pillar to basic education: financial literacy. According to a survey recently released by Visa, 82 percent of parents say that teaching practical money skills in schools is very important. In addition 93 percent of parents said that high school students should be required to take a class in practical money skills, yet 69 percent say that their children have not taken any such classes. Similar results have been seen in research conducted by JumpStart Coalition for Financial Literacy and consumer groups, including Americans for Consumer Education and Competition headed by our former colleague, Susan Molanari.

As policy makers and parents, we need to bring basic financial facts and skills to young adults across America. It is true that providing an educational framework for financial literacy is easy to say, but more complex to accomplish. Yes, financial maturity does initially begin at home, as it should, but it would be very beneficial to extend into the classroom. To that end, we should do our best to provide teachers with the necessary tools needed to integrate financial literacy into their curriculum in order to ensure that today's young adults grow up with financial know-how.

Some states such as Wisconsin and Delaware have already passed legislation that would incorporate financial literacy into their curriculums and many others are planning similar legislation. Lawmakers on both the state and national levels recognize the importance of integrating personal-finance management courses into the daily lessons of our education system and work with educators and parents to bring it into our local schools.

A number of companies have added their support to these efforts. I would like to commend Visa U.S.A. for working with the teachers and parents to help teach young adults basic economic and personal money management through their Practical Money Skills for Life program. Unfortunately, many young adults are never taught the basic principals of personal finances and have to learn money management through the school of hard knocks. Therefore, I am pleased that Visa,

U.S.A. has created the practical Money Skills for Life curriculum, calculators and interactive games available to everyone, free of charge, over the Internet, making its ability to reach students unlimited.

Practical Money Skills for Life is an online educational resource for personal financial education tools to help parents and educators teach young adults personal financial responsibility. It lets teachers use the Internet as an educational solution and, because it is an Internet based program, parents can also access the curriculum from their homes. It gives students the basics like budgeting, saving, and investing—the essentials for a healthy and prosperous future.

Students are learning how to balance a checkbook, avoid irresponsible spending, understand the importance of a good credit history, and most importantly: how to make and live by a budget. The Practical Money Skills For Life program actually makes it fun for students to learn about finance.

With an understanding that many schools are suffering from a digital divide, Visa takes their program one step further by donating computer labs to high schools in need across the country. Coupled with teacher training on their financial literacy curriculum, this contribution to our nation's schools, teachers and students is invaluable.

In addition to free curriculums and tools being offered by Visa, there are many other organizations that are raising awareness about the importance of educating the youth on personal finances. Two such groups that I would like to recognize is the JumpStart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy, and Americans for Consumer Education and Competition.

The JumpStart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy, is a nonprofit organization based in Washington, DC whose goal is to ensure that students have skills to be financially competent upon graduation from high school. They work with a number of organizations to work to raise awareness of the need for financial literacy for our young people.

Americans for Consumer Education and Competition (ACEC), chaired by my former colleague from the State of New York Susan Molinari is another group working to improve financial literacy skills. Ms. Molinari has been working with state legislatures to introduce financial literacy curriculum into the education system.

We recognize that more still needs to be done. We can all do our part to ensure that parents, teachers and students have tools they need to become financially savvy. Practical Money Skills for Life and curriculums like it, are a step in the right direction.

IN HONOR OF OUR DIVERSITY

HON. CHRIS CANNON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2001

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, Hispanic Americans throughout our nation's history have sig-

nificantly influenced our culture and strengthened our democratic society. The Hispanic community in the Southwest has particularly deep roots that have shaped our traditional way of life for centuries. But that community is also one of our most vibrant and dynamic elements today. During my term as the Congressman for the Third District of Utah, the number of residents claiming Hispanic or Latino decent or ethnicity has grown by 138 percent.

Our economy is sustained and revitalized by the contributions of Hispanic Americans. These individuals tirelessly enhance our society by their examples of pride and their drive to succeed. Hispanic Americans routinely establish themselves as pillars of our communities and demonstrate unwavering determination to provide a better life for themselves and their families.

I encourage all Americans to celebrate the cultural and ethnic diversity in our communities. Living among and associating with people from various backgrounds is the best opportunity for all of us to learn greater tolerance, acceptance and appreciation for the unique abilities of all individuals. On this occasion, I rise to specially recognize and commend the Hispanic Americans who live in the Third District of Utah and their many examples of hard work and dedication to family. On behalf of all my constituents, I wish to express my gratitude to these unique Americans whose contributions have helped to establish the blessed, prosperous, and thriving country we all enjoy today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2001

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I was detained from the House floor during last night's vote on H.R. 1140, the Railroad Retirement and Survivors' Improvement Act of 1002. As a cosponsor of this legislation, I would have voted "aye" on this bill.

H.R. 1140 was carefully crafted to reduce railroad employee plan cost while improving benefits to retirees, widows, and widowers. It has the endorsement of railroad management and almost every rail labor organization. With nearly 600 active rail employees and more than 2,300 railroad retirement beneficiaries in my congressional district, I am glad that H.R. 1140 passed by such a wide margin, and look forward to Senate action on this much-needed legislation.

• 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.

IN HONOR OF MAYOR AND MRS. AL CAPPUCILLI ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY, AUGUST 11, 2001

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2001

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my dear friends, Al and Tavi Cappuccilli, on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary.

I have been impressed by a number of the Cappuccilli's accomplishments and achievements, but none reflects more highly upon them than the love and success of their five children and seven grandchildren. I have observed the affection and time Al and Tavi have spent and spend with their children, and how confident and well rounded they are as a result. The Cappuccilli's now delight in lavishing the same kind of attention on their grandchildren. Al and Tavi have done such a superb job of making their family their most important priority, that now the Cappuccilli children and grandchildren come home every Christmas Eve, without fail, to celebrate "the real Christmas".

I am pleased to say that the Cappuccilli's have not confined their magnanimity to their children and family. Al and Tavi have faithfully and dutifully supported the Monroe community in a myriad different ways. For 23 years, Al was the Executive Director of the Monroe County United Way, where he was instrumental in establishing the Monroe County Food Bank in the early 1980s. Most recently, as Mayor, Al has presided over 10 years of growth and considerable progress.

Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, August 11, 2001, Al and Tavi Cappuccilli will return to the same church in which they were wed, and to which they have continued to belong, to renew the wedding vows they made to each other 50 years ago. On this momentous occasion, I wish to express my heartfelt esteem and congratulations to a wonderful couple who stand as a loving example for an entire community.

TRIBUTE TO FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ATLANTA STUDENT CHOIR

HON. JOHNNY ISAKSON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2001

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to welcome the First Baptist Church of Atlanta, Celebration Student Choir to our Nation's Capital.

Tomorrow, in the Cannon caucus room, the choir will perform for the House of Representatives Bipartisan Prayer Breakfast. The Celebration Student Choir consists of one hundred members, ranging in age from 13 to 18. The student choir is under the directorship of Reverend Chester Whisonant.

The First Baptist Church of Atlanta has enjoyed the teaching and leadership of its current pastor Dr. Charles Stanley for 32 years. Dr. Stanley's TV ministry, "In Touch" can be seen in virtually every country of the world. We are indeed honored to have this renowned

choir perform for the members of the United States House of Representatives.

**HUMAN CLONING PROHIBITION
ACT OF 2001**

SPEECH OF

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2001

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, this Congress can and should outlaw the practice of human cloning. No pressing need exists to allow such cloning, and I believe it is appropriate for Congress to make the practice illegal.

However, I cannot support the overbroad approach taken by H.R. 2505. This legislation goes beyond banning reproductive cloning to ban research in somatic cell nuclear transfer. The result is that the bill would cut off scientific developments that are granting new hope to millions of Americans who have been told there is no cure. Without the use of nuclear transfer, these stem cell developments will likely remain in the laboratory and will not be used to help patients.

If H.R. 2505 were to pass into law in its present form it would be difficult, if not impossible, for our nation to benefit from stem cell research that is currently ongoing or that would take place in the future. This is because the only practical means of developing breakthroughs in stem cell research into treatments is through the use of somatic cell nuclear transfer. The bill prohibits the importation of safe and effective medical treatments, and it would use criminal law to interfere with the scientific progress.

Almost every Member of Congress, including myself, agrees that human cloning is unsafe and unethical and should be prohibited. However, I believe the manner in which H.R. 2505 is written would extend the bill's prohibitions far beyond the goal of banning human cloning and would prevent our citizens from benefitting from ongoing or prospective scientific discoveries.

HISPANIC RECOGNITION AWARDS

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2001

Mr. FRANK. Mr. Speaker, I was delighted to be given a chance to send my congratulations to the winners of the Hispanic Recognition Awards which are going to be held on August 3 in North Dartmouth, Massachusetts. The Hispanic Recognition Awards Committee has assembled a very diverse and valuable group of individuals and institutions to receive well merited recognition for their work in helping preserve Latino culture and values in the framework of our national unity. I am delighted to have a chance to share with my colleagues the work of this important organization and I ask that the names of the award winners be printed here so that they may get the recognition to which they are entitled.

HISPANIC RECOGNITION AWARDS

INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS TO BE
HONORED AT THE EVENT

Organization of Latinos in Action—For their dedicated work educating the Latino

Community in leadership and citizen's participation.

Brockton Hispanic Festival—For their years of service in the cultural arena.

Sabor Latino Car Club—For their enthusiasm and dedication to the youth and community issues.

Poder 1110 Radio Station—For their dedication and service in communications to the Latino Community.

New Bedford Housing Authority—For their services, support and dedication to provide quality-affordable housing to Hispanics and the very estimable support to Latino organizations.

YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts—For their services, support and dedication to provide education to Hispanics and their very estimable support to Latino organizations.

Rev. Miguel and Mary Gonzalez—For their years of service as leaders, teachers and role models for all the citizens of New Bedford.

Benjamin Cruz—For his dedication and leadership in favor of the Latino Community of Brockton.

Jose Torres—For his dedication and leadership in favor of the Latino Community of Taunton.

Jarrett T. Barrios—For his demonstrated leadership and support in favor of the Latino Community.

Officer Osvaldo Alers—For his service as police officer and a role model.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF RANDY JURADO ERTL

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2001

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my Communications Director, Randy Jurado Ertll, who is leaving today to resume his work on immigration and community issues in the Los Angeles area.

Randy, who was born in the United States and spent his early years in El Salvador, moved to the Los Angeles area as a young boy. After graduating from Occidental College, Randy returned to El Salvador to research the Salvadoran economic system and find ways to promote financial stability amongst the countries' small businesses.

Once he returned to the United States, Randy continued to promote the well-being of the Salvadoran community by co-founding the Salvadoran American Political Action Committee. The PAC seeks to endorse and support candidates for political office who will promote the political and economic well-being of the Salvadoran American/Latino Community in the United States.

In 1996, Randy joined the California League of Conservation Voters as a new voter organizer, working to increase Latino voter turnout and educate new voters on environmental issues. He also became a regular editorial contributor on educational, environmental and political dealings to La Opinion, the largest Spanish newspaper in the United States.

After gaining considerable experience with the Southern California media industry, Randy joined my staff last year as the Communications Director. Given his personal knowledge with immigration issues, he also tackled this important issue for my Congressional office, including serving as my staff liaison to the Congressional Hispanic Caucus.

For the past eight months, Randy has helped to ensure that immigrants in the 31st Congressional District are afforded the rights to which they are entitled. He has also worked to make sure that all of the residents of my district are informed about the important work that we do here in Washington, D.C. Now, I wish him the best of luck as he returns to Los Angeles, to his community and to his dear fiancée.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN MEZZALINGUA
AND CENTRAL NEW YORK BASED
PPC ON ACHIEVING SIGNIFICANT
MILESTONES

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2001

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, this month, one of the pioneering firms in the field of telecommunications equipment productions, PPC, will celebrate the completion of its 60th year in operation and its owner and founder, John Mezzalingua, will celebrate his 97th birthday on August 30th.

As an infant, John Mezzalingua immigrated to Central New York with his mother from Italy. At the age of 17, Mr. Mezzalingua began to work in an iron foundry with his father and soon expanded the family greenhouse and floral business to include a trucking service. During the Great Depression, Mr. Mezzalingua saved enough money to purchase automatic machinery and headed a production products company known as PPC. It grew to become one of the world's largest producers of cable connector products.

When the Magnavox Corporation purchased PPC, Mr. Mezzalingua retired. When the Netherlands-based North American Philips Corporation bought Magnavox in 1974, it decided to exit the connector business. Mr. Mezzalingua, nearing the age of 80, and his son Dan repurchased the company to keep its jobs in Central New York.

Today, John Mezzalingua Associates, Incorporated, the parent company of PPC, is headquartered and operates three plants in Central New York where it designs and manufactures connectors, traps and filters, and fiber optics products for telecommunications firms worldwide. It has additional manufacturing plants in Denmark and St. Kitts and maintains research operations in Switzerland.

On behalf of the people of New York's 25th Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate Mr. John Mezzalingua on his 97th birthday and PPC on its 60 years in Central New York. We wish the very best for Mr. Mezzalingua, his family, and his company.

CONGRATULATING SAM AND SHIRLEY SHEFTS ON THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2001

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Sam and Shirley Shefts as they celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary.

Sam was born in 1929, in the midst of the Great Depression in the Bronx, New York. At the age of 19, he married the beautiful girl next door, Shirley Yshoel. Both having been raised in poverty by immigrant parents, their marriage started out with nothing but love and the traditions of family.

Together they built a life of countless successes. Sam served in the National Guard for 12 years. Shirley maintained a warm and nurturing home, first in the Bronx, then in East Meadow, NY as they raised their three daughters, Janet, Mindy and Nancy. They both taught the girls, mostly by example, the values of hard work, religion, education, charity and appreciation of the goodness of life and nature. Though they could not afford to attend college themselves, they made it possible for all three of the girls.

Working side by side with his brothers, Sam provided for the family in the business and craft of carved glass. The "Shefts" signature could be found on glass murals throughout the country, including fine restaurants such as Tavern on the Green and the Russian Tea Room in New York City and the Old Ebbitt Grill in Washington DC. Once the children were grown, Shirley worked at an art gallery. She also was a volunteer with honors with the United Order of True Sisters, an organization that provides support to families affected by cancer.

Now living in Boynton Beach, Florida, Shirley and Sam Shefts continue to be active and vibrant members of their community and their synagogue. This year, their daughters and son-in-law will proudly honor their golden anniversary with a party, bringing together their brothers and sisters, nieces & nephews, cousins and dear friends in a wonderful celebration of their 50 years together.

Mr. Speaker, I know that all of my colleagues in this House join me in paying tribute to this wonderful couple on this happy occasion.

IN HONOR OF DR. JIM D. ROLLINS

HON. ASA HUTCHINSON

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2001

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Jim D. Rollins, the Superintendent of the Springdale Public School District in Springdale, Arkansas.

On August 23, 2001, the Springdale School District will hold its annual back-to-school celebration and rally. This year's celebration is particularly special as it will commemorate the beginning of Dr. Rollins's 20th year as Springdale Schools Superintendent.

Dr. Rollins has a long and distinguished career working to educate the youth of Arkansas. He began teaching science to students at Ridgeroad Junior High School in North Little Rock, Arkansas. Eventually, he moved across town to take the helm as Principal of Lake-wood Junior High School. Years later, he accepted a position in Springdale as Director of Secondary Education, before becoming Superintendent, a position he has held since the early 1980's.

Along with the aforementioned accomplishments, Dr. Rollins has held executive positions in a number of professional organizations in-

cluding the Arkansas Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development and the Board of Directors of Northwest Arkansas Education Service Cooperative. He was selected to be a member of the Arkansas Governor's Task Force on Youth at Risk and received the Arkansas Superintendent of the Year Award in 1992.

I congratulate Dr. Rollins for his 20 years of dedication and service to the students of the Springdale School District. I am confident that he will continue to be successful in molding the lives of our nation's future.

A PROCLAMATION CELEBRATING
THE MARRIAGE OF MICHAEL
AND ROBYN SHAHEEN

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2001

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I commend the following article to my colleagues:

Whereas, on June 30, 2001 Robyn Horner and Michael Shaheen joined together into the blessed union of holy matrimony, and;

Whereas, they began on that day, witnessed by God, a journey together that will lead them to the path of all of life's joys,

Therefore, I ask my colleagues to join with me in congratulating them and wishing them the very best that life has to offer.

THE EIGHTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE BIRTHDAY OF DR. ANDREI
SAKHAROV

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2001

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, on May 21 of this year human rights advocates in Russia and all over the world marked the 80th anniversary of the birth of celebrated scientist and human rights advocate, Dr. Andrei Sakharov.

As a Soviet scientist and citizen of the world, Andrei Sakharov combined a brilliant intellect with a deep concern for humanity. He was the youngest member of the USSR Academy of Sciences. After World War II, Sakharov worked as a theoretical physicist and received the Soviet Union's highest award three times for his scientific accomplishments in the field of thermonuclear weapons development.

By the late 1960s, however, his protests against nuclear testing and calls for greater intellectual freedom had made him a pariah to the Kremlin. The publication of his seminal essay, "Progress, Coexistence, and Intellectual Freedom," brought him international attention and respect. In 1970, Sakharov and fellow activists Valery Chalidze and Andrei Tverdokhlebov founded the Moscow Human Rights Committee to help Soviet citizens secure the rights theoretically granted to them under the Soviet Constitution. As journalist David Remnick wrote recently, "his modest apartment on Chkalova Street in Moscow seemed the moral center of an immoral empire."

In 1975, as a result of his human rights advocacy and his work toward genuine detente

between the West and the Soviet bloc, Dr. Sakharov was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. In the words of the Chairman of the Nobel Committee:

Sakharov's fearless personal commitment in upholding the fundamental principles for peace between men is a powerful inspiration for all true workers for peace. Uncompromisingly and with unflinching strength Sakharov has fought against the abuse of power and all forms of violation of human dignity, and he has fought no less courageously for the idea of government based on the rule of law. In a convincing manner Sakharov has emphasized that Man's inviolable rights provide the only safe foundation for genuine and enduring international cooperation. In this way, in a particularly effective manner, working under difficult conditions, he has enhanced respect for the values that rally all true peace lovers.

True to form, Moscow would not allow Dr. Sakharov to travel to Oslo to receive the honor. Dr. Elena Bonner, his energetic wife and partner in the human rights struggle, accepted the prize in his stead and delivered his Nobel lecture, "Peace, Progress, and Human Rights." Ironically, on the same day that Dr. Sakharov was receiving by proxy the Noble Peace Prize, December 10, 1975, the recipient himself was in Vilnius, Lithuania attending the political trial of Sergei Kovalev, a fellow scientist and colleague in the struggle for human rights.

By 1980, the Kremlin and KGB had decided that this soft-spoken scientist who kept talking about human rights violations and political prisoners, as well as criticizing the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, could no longer be allowed to speak his mind freely and to meet with foreign journalists. He was picked up on the streets of Moscow and, without a shred of judicial process, sent into "internal exile" in the city of Gorky about 300 kilometers east of Moscow. Even at this distance he could not be silenced, although the KGB did its best to harass him. Through Dr. Bonner, Dr. Sakharov continued to appeal for justice for the victims of human rights violations and to call on the international scientific community to work together for peace and disarmament.

By the late 1980's, however, Soviet authorities understood that the Soviet system could not compete with the rest of the world by repressing its best minds and criminalizing dissent. In December 1986, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev called Dr. Sakharov and invited him to return to Moscow "to resume his patriotic work." What Gorbachev had in mind is unclear. Nevertheless, in April 1989, in the first genuinely contested national elections since Lenin dissolved the Constituent Assembly in 1918, Sakharov was elected to the Congress of People's Deputies where he resumed his "patriotic work" advancing the ideas of liberty and human rights for the Soviet people.

Mr. Speaker, at one point during a session of the Congress of People's Deputies, General Secretary Gorbachev turned off Dr. Sakharov's microphone in an effort to silence his arguments against the privileged position of the Communist Party under the Soviet Constitution. At that time, as Co-Chairman of the Helsinki Commission, I compared Dr. Sakharov's actions with those of former President John Quincy Adams who, as a Member of the United States House of Representatives, absolutely refused to be silenced on the subject of slavery despite the existence of the so-called "gag rule."

Tragically, Dr. Sakharov succumbed to a heart attack on December 14th, 1989, eight months after his election to the Congress of People's Deputies.

Some 50,000 people, along with foreign dignitaries and fellow members of the Congress of People's Deputies, gathered at the Palace of Youth to say farewell to their hero and colleague. And, yes, the KGB was also in attendance. Chairman Kryuchkov filed a report to the Party leadership that can now be found on the Internet.

Mr. Speaker, through the kindness of Dr. Elena Bonner, today Dr. Sakharov's papers are available to researchers and the public at the Sakharov Archive at Brandeis University in Waltham, Massachusetts. This archive is an invaluable contribution to world literature on human rights and international peace, and I hope that it will find generous support from the American people.

May Dr. Sakharov's example inspire us in the years to come.

A SPECIAL PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2001

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, the Italian American community in this nation remains deeply interested in tracing and maintaining their family connections in Italy. Each year, family members of all ages visit the small towns and villages where their loved ones lived before emigrating to the United States.

I recently became aware of one such trip by the grandson of one of the more prominent and successful Italian American families in our country: the Pope family. Paul David Pope, a successful businessman and philanthropist who lives in Florida, traveled to Italy in June to honor the memory of his grandfather, Generoso Pope Sr. While doing so, he rekindled the spirit of benevolence which his grandfather had bestowed on the villages of Pasquarielli, Terranova and Arpaize in the southern province of Benevento.

In 1906, at the age of 15, Generoso Pope left his poor farming village and arrived in New York City with little money and a dream of success. He labored in the sand pits of Long Island for five years while going to night school. Following that, he went to work for the newly formed Colonial Sand and Stone Company and by 1926 he was the company President.

In 1928, Pope purchased *Il Progresso Italo-Americano*, the nation's largest Italian language daily newspaper. He later bought 3 other large Italian language newspapers in New York and Philadelphia.

Generoso Pope became an advocate and a champion for the new Italian immigrants who came to the United States. A patriot who helped to raise funds for the Allies War effort, Pope urged his readers to learn English, become citizens and vote. Pope later became the sponsor of the now world famous Columbus Day celebration in New York.

In 1929, Pope returned to Arpaize, Italy, with his wife and sons. He paid for a municipal power plant to bring electricity to the poor and isolated community, and in subsequent years, helped other local villages construct buildings

like churches, schools and municipal structures. He also financed scholarships for worthy students.

More than 70 years later, Paul Pope followed his grandfather's path home to Arpaize, to learn more about his grandfather's impact on the small towns where he lived. Paul also emulated his grandfather by making a significant contribution to fund several urgently needed civic improvements in the town. The emotional highlight of the trip occurred when town leaders and citizens honored Paul Pope with a magnificent Festa. It came 65 years after a similar Festa was held for his grandfather. Mayor Armando Cimmino bestowed Honorary Citizenship on Paul Pope for his work and philanthropy on behalf of Arpaize. Paul Pope also received the prestigious Magna Grecia Award by the International Association of Magna Grecia and an award from the International Association of Marguttiani. Paul Pope concluded his historic visit with a private mass with His Holiness Pope John Paul II.

While in Italy, Pope announced the establishment of the Pope Medal to be presented annually to an individual who makes significant contributions in promoting their cultural initiatives, as well as his intention to sponsor an annual conference on the Italian-American experience, dedicated to the memory of his grandfather. The annual conference will be held under the auspices of the Calandra Institute of Queens College, City University of New York. The first conference will be held in 2002 and will focus on the Italian language press in America from its origins in the 19th century through today. Mr. Paul also hopes to hold additional forums at selected American colleges and universities with leading Italians in business, government, education and the arts.

Paul Pope's experience proves once again that the ties between the United States and Italy are strong and enduring. I salute Paul Pope and the distinguished Italian Americans from New York who accompanied him on the trip including New York State Supreme Court Justice Dominic R. Massaro; Monsignor George J. Cascelli, Director Italian Apostolate of the Archdiocese of New York; Dr. Joseph Scelsa, Vice President for Institutional Development at Queens College; Maria Fosco, President of the Italian Welfare League; and Joan Migliori, Assistant Director of the City University of New York Italy Exchange Program. Paul Pope has made an important contribution to furthering cultural interactions between the United States and Italy, and I commend him for his leadership, commitment and vision.

ARTICLE BY LANCE SIMMENS AND PAMELA CONLEY ULICH

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2001

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following insightful and poignant article, by Lance Simmens and Pamela Conley Ulich, from the *Loyola of Los Angeles Entertainment Law Review*, for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

"Bye, Bye Miss American pic, drove my Daimler to the movies to see a foreign-

made flic; And good old actors were drinking whiskey and beer, singing this is the day we're unemployed here, this will be the day we're unemployed here."

I. INTRODUCTION

Globalization profoundly impacts traditional ways of conducting business, and the entertainment industry is not immune from the new economics drastically changing the world. Could Hollywood become "Hollyhasbeen"? Will television and theatrical motion pictures shot in the United States go the way of the American car and American-made clothing?

Runaway production has caused serious labor issues, including the dislocation of thousands of workers and jobs. In 1998, twenty-seven percent of films released in the United States were produced abroad, and an estimated 20,000 jobs were lost to foreign countries. Lower exchange rates, direct government subsidies and lower labor wages enticed American production companies to film in foreign locales. In 1998, the direct economic loss of runaway production was \$2.8 billion. When coupled with the loss of ancillary business, the losses likely totaled \$10.3 billion for 1998 alone. These losses juxtapose with the issues of free trade versus fair trade in an uneasy balance.

This article considers why many television and theatrical motion pictures targeted primarily at U.S. audiences are not made in America. It also examines the economic impact resulting from the flight of such productions. Finally, it considers possible solutions in an effort to reverse the trend.

II. THE HISTORY OF "RUNAWAY PRODUCTION"

Runaway production is not a new phenomenon. In December 1957, the Hollywood American Federation of Labor ("AFL") Film Council, an organization of twenty-eight AFL-CIO unions, prepared a report entitled "Hollywood at the Crossroads: An Economic Study of the Motion Picture Industry." This report addressed runaway production and indicated that prior to 1949, there were an "insignificant" number of American-interest features made abroad. However, the report indicated a drastic increase in productions shot abroad between 1949 and 1957. At that time four major studios—Columbia Pictures, Inc. ("Columbia"), Twentieth-Century Fox, Inc. ("Fox"), Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer ("MGM") and United Artists, Inc. ("United Artists")—produced 314 films. Of these films, 159, or 50.6 percent, were shot outside the United States. It also revealed runaway films were shot primarily in the United Kingdom, Italy, Mexico, France and Germany. The report further identified factors that led producers to shoot abroad: 1) authentic locale; 2) lower labor costs; 3) blocked currencies; 4) tax advantages and 5) easy money and/or subsidies.

On December 1, 1961, H. O'Neil Shanks, John Lehnert and Robert Gilbert of the Hollywood AFL Film Council testified regarding runaway productions before the Education and Labor Subcommittee on the Impact of Imports and Exports on American Employment. Shanks explained to the subcommittee: "Apart from the fact that thousands of job opportunities for motion picture technicians, musicians, and players are being 'exported' to other countries at the expense of American citizens residing in the State of California, the State of New York, and in other States because of runaway production this unfortunate trend . . . threatens to destroy a valuable national asset in the field of world-wide mass communications, which is vital to our national interest and security. If Hollywood is thus permitted to become 'obsolete as a production center' and the United States voluntarily surrenders its po-

sition of world leadership in the field of theatrical motion pictures, the chance to present a more favorable American image on the movie screens of non-Communist countries in reply to the cold war attacks of our Soviet adversaries will be lost forever."

John "Jack" L. Dales, Executive Secretary of the Screen Actors Guild ("SAG"), and actor Charlton Heston also testified before this subcommittee. Dales stated: "We examined and laid out, without evasion, all the causes [of runaway production] we knew. Included as impelling foreign production were foreign financial subsidies, tax avoidance, lower production costs, popularity of authentic locale, frozen funds—all complex reasons. We urged Congressional action in two primary areas: 1) fight subsidy with subsidy. Use the present 10 percent admissions tax to create a domestic subsidy; 2) taxes . . . We proposed consideration of a spread of five or seven years over which tax would be paid on the average, not on the highest, income for those years."

Despite these impassioned pleas, runaway production has continued to grow in importance, scope and visibility. Today it ranks among the most critical issues confronting the entertainment industry. The issue received increased attention in June 1999, when SAG and the Directors Guild of America ("DGA") commissioned a Monitor Company report, "The Economic Impact of U.S. Film and Television Runaway Production" ("Monitor Report"), that analyzed the quantity of motion pictures shot abroad and resulting losses to the American economy. In January 2001, concerns over runaway production were addressed in a report prepared by the United States Department of Commerce. The eighty-eight page document ("Department of Commerce Report") was produced at the request of a bipartisan congressional group. Like the Monitor Report, the Department of Commerce Report acknowledged the "flight of U.S. television and cinematic film production to foreign shores." Both reports quantify the nature and depth of the problem and warn of further proliferation if left unchecked.

Additionally, the media is bringing the issue of runaway production to the attention of the general public. Numerous newspaper articles have focused on the concerns cited in the Monitor Report.

For example, in *The Washington Post*, Lorenzo di Bonaventura, Warner Bros. president of production, explained the runaway production issue as follows: "For studios, the economics of moving production overseas are tempting. The Matrix cost us 30 percent less than it would have if we shot in the United States. . . . The rate of exchange is 62 cents on the dollar. Labor costs, construction materials are all lower. And they want us more. They are very embracing when we come to them."

Di Bonaventura indicated Warner Bros. received \$12 million in tax incentives for filming *The Matrix* in Australia. This is a significant savings for a film that cost approximately \$62 million to produce.

III. CAUSES OF RUNAWAY PRODUCTION

In the Department of Commerce Report, the government delineated factors leading to runaway film and television production. These factors have contributed to the "substantial transformation of what used to be a traditional and quintessentially American industry into an increasingly dispersed global industry."

A. VERTICAL INTEGRATION: GLOBALIZATION

Vertical integration is defined by the International Monetary Fund as "the increasing integration of economics around the world, particularly through trade and financial flows." The term may also refer to "the

movement of people (labor) and knowledge (technology) across international borders."

Consequently, companies must now be productive and international in order to profit. Because companies are generally more interested in profits than in people, companies are often not loyal to communities in which they have flourished. Instead, they solely consider the bottom line in the process of making business decisions.

Columbia is an excellent example of the conversion from a traditional U.S.-based company to a global enterprise. Columbia began in 1918 when independent producer Harry Cohn, his brother Jack and their associate Joe Brandt, started the company with a \$100,000 loan. In 1926, Columbia purchased a small lot on Gower Street in Hollywood, California, with just two sound stages and a small office building. In 1929, Columbia's success began when it produced its first "talkie" feature, *The Donovan Affair*, directed by Frank Capra, who would become an important asset to Columbia. Capra went on to produce other box office successes for Columbia such as *You Can't Take It With You* and *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington*.

In 1966, Columbia faced a takeover attempt by the Banque de Pan's et de Pays-Bas, owner of twenty percent of Columbia, and Maurice Clairmont, a well-known corporate raider. The Communications Act of 1934 prohibited foreign ownership of more than one-fifth of an American company with broadcast holdings. The Banque de Pan's could not legally take over Columbia because one of Columbia's subsidiaries, Screen Gems, held a number of television stations. In 1982, the Coca-Cola Company purchased Columbia.

In 1988, Columbia's share of domestic box office receipts fell to 3.5 percent and Columbia registered a \$104 million loss. In late 1989, Columbia entered into an agreement with Sony USA, Inc., a subsidiary of Japan's Sony Corporation, for the purchase of all of Columbia's outstanding stock. This acquisition apparently did not violate the amended Communications Act.

Following in Columbia's footsteps, other studios have globalized through foreign ownership. Universal Studios, Inc. ("Universal"), previously the Music Corporation of America, was acquired by the Japanese electronics company Matsushita in 1991, and four years later was purchased by Seagram, a Canadian company headquartered in Montreal. In 1985, Australian media mogul Rupert Murdoch acquired a controlling interest in Fox, and Time, Inc., a publishing and cable television giant, acquired Warner Bros. in 1989.

As studios become multinational, their loyalty to the community or country in which they were born wanes. The international corporations are no longer concerned with the ramifications of moving production outside of their community or country; they are instead concerned only with bottom-line profits. Columbia exemplifies globalization. Columbia no longer owns a studio lot, let alone its humble beginnings on Gower Street. The Studio simply rents office space in a building in Culver City, California. Not surprisingly, global corporations think globally, not locally. Shooting abroad is not only acceptable, but preferable to companies who are not loyal to any one country.

B. RISING PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION COSTS AND DECREASING PROFITS

By the end of the 1990s, studio executives began to alter their business methods. Despite aggressive cost-cutting, layoffs, strategic joint ventures and movement of production to foreign shores, rising production and distribution costs have consumed profits over the last decade. Production costs rose from an average of \$26.8 million to \$51.5 million. Distribution costs for new feature films

more than doubled. In 1990, the average motion picture cost \$11.97 million to distribute, and by 1999, the costs rose to \$24.53 million. At the same time, profit margins dropped. For example, Disney Studio's profits decreased from 25 percent in 1987 to 19 percent in 1997, and Viacom's profits dropped from 13 percent in 1987 to less than 6.5 percent in 1997. Additionally, both Time Warner and News Corporation, parent of Fox, showed declining profits as well.

C. TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES

According to the Department of Commerce Report, "New technologies and tools may well be contributing to the increase in the amount of foreign production of U.S. entertainment programming." Ten years ago, even if a foreign country had lower labor costs, it would have been prohibitively expensive to transport equipment and qualified technicians to produce a quality picture abroad. However, new technology is defeating that obstacle. Scenes shot on film must be transferred or scanned into a videotape format; this process creates what is referred to as dailies. However, many foreign production centers are unable to instantaneously produce dailies from film. Nevertheless, technological advancement has led to the creation of high definition video, which, like dailies, offers immediate viewing capabilities approximating the visual quality of film. As the quality of high definition video continues to improve, producers will be free to shoot abroad regardless of whether the country offers film processing centers.

D. GOVERNMENT SWEETENERS

Canada is extremely aggressive in its application of both Federal and provincial subsidies to entice production north of the border: At the federal level, the Canadian government offers tax credits to compensate for salary and wages, provides funding for equity investment, and provides working capital loans. At the provincial level, similar tax credits are offered, as well as incentives through the waiving of fees for parking, permits, location, and other local costs.

These enticements equal a sizeable economic benefit. According to the Monitor Report, "U.S.-developed productions located in Canada have been able to realize total savings, including incentives and other cost reducing characteristics of producing in Canada, of up to twenty-six percent." The Department of Commerce Report carefully delineates a plethora of incentives employed by a host of countries. It concludes the undeniable impact of these programs is to weaken the market position of the U.S. film-making industry and those who depend on the industry for employment.

E. EXCHANGE RATES

Because the U.S. dollar is stronger than Canadian, Australian and U.K. currencies, American producers have more purchase power when they opt to film abroad. As a result, producers are tempted to locate where the dollar has the most value. The Canadian, Australian and U.K. currencies have all declined by fifteen to twenty-three percent, relative to the U.S. dollar, since 1990.

IV. THE IMPACT OF RUNAWAY PRODUCTION

A. THE ECONOMIC IMPACT

In total, U.S. workers and the government lost \$10.3 billion to economic runaways in 1998. According to the Monitor Report, "\$2.8 billion in direct expenditures were lost to the United States in 1998 from both theatrical films and television economic runaways." For example, if a theatrical picture is shot in New York, then carpenters are employed to make the set, caterers are employed to prepare and serve food, and costume designers are hired to provide ward-

robe. As the Department of Commerce Report explains, "Behind the polished, finished film product there are tens of thousands of technicians, less well-known actors, assistant directors and unit production managers, artists, specialists, post-production workers, set movers, extras, construction workers, and other workers in fields too numerous to mention."

This fiscal loss ripples through the economy affecting peripheral industries. In addition to the direct economic loss discussed above, the Monitor Report calculated an additional \$5.6 billion lost in indirect expenditures. Indirect expenditures include real estate, restaurants, clothing and hotel revenues, which are not realized. In addition to these private industry losses, the government lost \$1.9 billion in taxes to runaway production. As opposed to the \$10.3 billion lost in 1998, the study estimated those figures will be between \$13 and \$15 billion in 2001.

B. THE U.S. PRODUCTION DROUGHT

The Monitor Report stated that between 1990 and 1998, U.S. film production growth fell sharply behind the growth occurring in the top U.S. runaway production locations of Canada, Australia and the U.K. It stated that Australia "is growing 26.4 percent annually in production of U.S.-developed feature films, or more than three times the U.S. growth rate." Similarly, "Canada is growing at 18.2 percent annually in production of U.S.-developed television projects, more than double the U.S. rate." During the same period, annual growth rates in the United States were 8.2 percent for feature films, and 2.6 percent for television.

C. JOB LOSS

Runaway production also impacts the U.S. labor market. It is estimated there are 270,000 jobs directly tied to film production. It is further estimated that 20,000 jobs were lost in 1998 alone due to runaway production. However, these statistics do not fully reflect the impact of economic runaway production on employment. They fail to account for spin-off employment that accompanies film production. It is estimated by the Commerce Department that the ripple effect of secondary and tertiary jobs associated with the industry might easily double or triple the number of jobs dependent upon the industry.

Regardless of the understated nature of the economic impact, the Commerce Department acknowledges that at least \$18 billion in direct and indirect export revenues and \$20 billion in economic activity are generated by the industry annually.

D. LOSS OF PENSION AND HEALTH BENEFITS

Performers and others who work on foreign productions may lose valuable pension and health benefits. As provided in the SAG collective bargaining agreements, performers are entitled to receive pension and health contributions made to the plans on behalf of performers when they work on productions. Although SAG does allow for some pension and health reciprocity with the Canadian performers union, performers must negotiate this term into their contracts. More often than not, performers are unable to negotiate this benefit for work performed in Canada.

E. CULTURAL IDENTITY

In 1961, Congress was warned that the trend of runaway production threatened to destroy a valuable "national asset" in the field of worldwide mass communications. As H. O'Neil Shanks, John Lehnert and Robert Gilbert of the Hollywood AFL Film Council testified in 1961, if Hollywood became "obsolete as a production center" and the United States voluntarily surrendered its position of leadership in the field of theatrical motion pictures, the chance to present a more favorable American image on the movie

screen would be forever lost. Although the Cold War is no longer a reason to protect cultural identity, today U.S.-produced pictures are still a conduit through which our values, such as democracy and freedom, are promoted.

V. SOLUTIONS

A. THE FILM CALIFORNIA FIRST PROGRAM

California remains a leading force in the industry, and last year took a legislative step to remedy the problem of runaway production. The state passed a three-year, \$45 million program aimed at reimbursing film costs incurred on public property. The Film California First ("FCF") program is specifically geared toward increasing the state's competitive edge in attracting and retaining film projects. To accomplish this goal, the legislation provides various subsidies to production companies for filming in California, including offering property leases at below-market rates. This legislation should serve as a model for other states, as they too struggle with an issue of increasing economic importance.

B. WAGE-BASED TAX CREDIT

A possible solution could be patterned after a legislative proposal offered, but never advanced, in the 106th Congress. Specifically, this proposal called for a wage-based tax credit for targeted productions and provided: (1) a general business tax credit that would be a dollar-for-dollar offset against any federal income tax liability; (2) a credit cap at twenty-five percent of the first \$25,000 in wages and salaries paid to any employee whose work is in connection with a film or television program substantially produced in the United States and (3) availability of credit only to targeted film and television productions with costs of more than \$500,000 and less than \$10 million.

C. FUTURE SOLUTIONS

To rectify the problems of runaway productions, legislation at the local, state and federal levels is paramount. Over the past thirty years, the film industry has expanded beyond California to become a major engine of economic growth in states such as New York, Texas, Florida, Illinois and North Carolina. To achieve effective legislative remedies, it is critical to examine the successful programs implemented by other nations.

Maybe it is the inexorable result of a changing world. Regardless, the proliferation of foreign subsidies for U.S. film production, which is occurring at an increasing rate worldwide, raises troubling questions of fairness and equity. From a competitive standpoint, it appears as though the deck is stacked against a class of workers who seek to derive their livelihood from this industry but find their jobs have moved overseas. It is understandable that producers will take the opportunity to film abroad when the reduction in costs is as much as twenty-five percent. Consequently, the only remedy for America's workforce is to pass legislation that provides commensurate benefits in the United States.

It is apparent that a laissez-faire, market-oriented approach has failed the American worker. Unemployment is extraordinarily high within the creative community, leading to seventy percent of SAG's 100,000 plus members earning less than \$ 7,500 annually. This economic hardship is exacerbated by runaway production. Thus, it is abundantly clear that legislative remedies attempting to more adequately level the playing field must be pursued. Amid encouraging signs that a tax bill of significant consequence is likely to pass Congress in the coming months, it is imperative that the creative community take a proactive position to ensure that the

tax bill provides incentives for domestic film production. It must use all resources to cure the concerns presented in the two reports outlined in this Article. Organizations, such as SAG, must work with Congress to develop a proposal that is acceptable in terms of cost and other political considerations.

While it seems unlikely that there is the political will or desire to match the incentives offered by many of our competitors, it is conceivable to the authors that an effective approach can be designed to substantially close the gap on cost savings without eliminating them. Thus, the approach advocated involves identifying the level where cost savings of filming abroad are minimized so as not to be the determinative location factor. An appropriate level may be in the range of ten percent cost savings versus the twenty-six percent cost savings now common in some Canadian locations.

It is important to note the strategy used to fashion a remedy is just as important as the relief sought. The industry should be willing to approach the tax-writing committee staff with the afore-mentioned concept and work closely with them in designing a legislative remedy. This strategy represents a holistic approach to a global problem. It is important to remember the United States risks losing its economic advantage in a vital industry which carries with it enormous economic consequences. As noted in the Department of Commerce Report:

If the most rapid growth in the most dynamic area of film production is occurring outside the United States, then employment, infrastructure, and technical skills will also grow more rapidly outside the United States, and the country could lose its competitive edge in important segments of the film industry.

VI. CONCLUSION

Politics represents the art of the possible. The approach advocated in this Article should find a receptive ear in the halls of Congress if for nothing else than its simplicity. Timing is crucial. Left unchecked, the only certainty is continuing runaway production with the attendant economic costs, lost jobs, and diminished tax revenues at all levels of government. In a time of waning economic growth and warning signs of dwindling surpluses and future economic weakness, including production incentives into any upcoming tax relief is essential to preserving the U.S. workforce in the American entertainment industry.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS COUNCIL OF THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2001

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Virgin Islands Council of the Boy Scouts of America, (VIBSCA) for their long-standing service to the people of the U.S. Virgin Islands and on the occasion of their being recognized by the organizers of the 29th Annual Open Atlantic Blue Marlin Fishing Tournament, popularly known as the "Boy Scouts Tournament," held each year on St. Thomas. Considered the best of its kind, the contest attracts top anglers from around the globe.

Scouting in the United States Virgin Islands can be traced as far back as 1914. After the transfer of the islands in 1917 from Denmark

to the United States, there was scouting of a sort that for all intent and purposes was open only to children of the military. However, it was not until February of 1930, just three years after Scouting was established in Puerto Rico, that the first official Boy Scout Troop was formed in the United States Virgin Islands.

Mr. Speaker, history was made twice on the first of January 1965 when the Virgin Islands got their own Boy Scout Council and Mr. Samuel B. King became the first black council executive in the entire Boy Scout movement in the United States.

During the last thirty-six years, the VIBSCA have sent leaders to Wood Badge Courses in Puerto Rico and to the U.S. mainland and in 1983, the first leadership Wood Badge course was held at Howard M. Wall on St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands. Wood Badge, very similar the U.S. Army's Basic Training regimen, is the highest training offered to selected male and female leaders to enable them to better serve the youth. The VIBSCA has participated in eight National Jamborees, one World Jamboree, nine Caribbean Jamborees and many trips to Philmont Scout Reservation in Cimmaron, New Mexico as well as many training courses locally and on the mainland for both leaders and Scouts.

I am proud to represent this segment of my constituency—the VIBSCA—because they have shaped and molded the minds and bodies of thousands of Virgin Islands youth over the past seventy-one years. As a result of their work and service to the Virgin Islands community, today many of these former scouts hold positions of influence and stature still contributing to the betterment of a rich and flourishing Virgin Islands society.

On behalf of a grateful Virgin Islands community, my family, staff and myself, I wish to congratulate the Virgin Islands Council of the Boy Scouts of America, its members, both past and present, for their many contributions to our community and for so generously giving of themselves and their values to generations of Virgin Islands youth over the years.

May God continue to bless the Virgin Islands Council of the Boy Scouts of America and scouts all over our blessed Nation. Best wishes for an eventful, fulfilling "Boy Scouts Tournament."

BILL TO AMEND THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986 TO CLARIFY THE TREATMENT OF INCENTIVE STOCK OPTIONS AND EMPLOYEE STOCK PURCHASE PLANS

HON. AMO HOUGHTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2001

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to solve a problem that has been facing a number of companies during the past year who grant stock options to their employees.

Many companies use stock options as an incentive to attract and motivate employees. Companies give their workers the right to purchase company stock, at a small discount from the listed price, through Employee Stock Purchase Plans and Incentive Stock Options. Employee stock ownership motivates workers

and can create a positive relationship between management and workers, where both reap rewards for successful company performance.

For nearly 30 years the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has taken the position that the income from these stock options is not subject to employment taxes. However, recent audits and rulings on specific companies have raised the troubling prospect that the IRS now believes that employment taxes should be withheld from the paychecks of individuals who exercise stock options under these plans.

Employee Stock Purchase Plans and Incentive Stock Options were created by Congress to provide tools to build strong companies and encourage greater employee ownership of company stock. It was not the intent of Congress to dilute these incentives by requiring employment tax withholding when the stock is purchased.

While I am pleased that the IRS currently has in place a moratorium so that no employment taxes will be assessed on stock options, I believe Congress needs to clarify existing law to prevent any future attempts to change past policy on stock options. The current moratorium extends until January 1, 2003, and unless Congress adopts the proposed legislation, companies and workers will face uncertainty as to whether options are subject to withholding taxes.

The legislation I am introducing would clarify that the difference between the exercise price and the fair market value of stock offered by the Incentive Stock Option or Employee Stock Purchase Plan is excluded from employment taxes. In addition, wage withholding is not required on disqualifying dispositions of Incentive Stock Option stock or on the fifteen percent discount offered to employees by Employee Stock Purchase Plans.

I urge my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring this legislation.

CLOSE FINGER LAKES NATIONAL FOREST TO DRILLING

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2001

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to proposals to drill for natural gas within the Finger Lakes National Forest located in Hector, New York between Seneca and Cayuga Lakes. This proposed drilling will have catastrophic effects on wildlife, recreation in the area, and tourism vital to the region's economy.

The Finger Lakes National Forest is the smallest national forest in the country and draws 46,000 recreational visitors each year who hunt, fish, camp, and hike on the 16,000-plus acre reserve. Any drilling in national parks, including the proposed drilling in the Finger Lakes National Forest which would utilize 130 foot rigs and pipelines, will cause irreparable damage to the landscape and environment.

Recently, my office has been flooded with letters from concerned neighbors across Upstate New York. I have referred their correspondence to Dale Bosworth, Chief of the United States Forest Service, to be included as part of the record on this issue.

In addition, I have expressed my concern to Congressman CALLAHAN, Chairman of the

House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development. I encourage Mr. CALLAHAN and my fellow Appropriations Committee colleagues to support language recently added to an accompanying Senate Appropriations bill that would ban all oil and natural gas exploration in the forest. Our House Energy and Water Development conferees have the ability to retain the Senate version's language when the spending package is considered in conference later this year.

My father, former Rep. William F. Walsh, represented this area in Congress in the 1970's. During that time, he fought hard to ensure this pristine wilderness area would be protected for future generations. In our current attempts to construct a sound and responsible national energy policy, it is my hope that this body recognizes the need for continued environmental stewardship to protect these national treasures for the generations that follow.

I urge my fellow members to support my call to ban drilling in the Finger Lakes National Forest.

RECOGNIZING AN OUTSTANDING
FRIENDSHIP AND PARTNERSHIP
BETWEEN TWO CITIES,
IRWINDALE, CA, AND
SALVATIERRA, GUANAJUATO,
MEXICO

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2001

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an international friendship that began many years, has withstood the test of time and continues to grow as each year passes.

The Sister City Partnership between the City of Irwindale, California, in the 31st Congressional District and the City of Salvatierra, Guanajuato, Mexico, began 36 years ago. Through this partnership, both communities have realized cultural and humanitarian benefits.

For example, the City of Salvatierra has received donations from Irwindale of much-needed equipment such as a fire engine, ambulance, street sweeper and optical instruments to improve the quality of life for its citizens.

In addition, Irwindale has experienced firsthand the benefits of cultural exchange and good will through the bi-annual visits of its residents to Mexico. In fact, a local park in Salvatierra, Mexico, was named after the City of Irwindale.

I am privileged to recognize these two exemplary cities, Irwindale and Salvatierra, for their friendship and exchanges that benefit residents in both cities.

CONGRATULATIONS TO COUNCIL
OF KHALISTAN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2001

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, the Council of Khalistan, led by my friend Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, recently completed 15 years of service

and I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Council of Khalistan. Dr. Aulakh is a well-known presence around here. He has been working these halls for 15 years, advocating the cause of freedom for the Sikhs of Punjab, Khalistan, who are being subjected to brutal tyranny by the Indian government.

The Sikhs and other minorities like the Christians, Muslims, Dalit "untouchables," and others have been killed by the tens of thousands, held as political prisoners in large numbers—over 52,000 Sikhs alone, according to a recent report from the Movement Against State Repression—and subjected to other atrocities like violent attacks on religious institutions like Christian churches and schools, the Golden Temple, and the Babri mosque, attempts to burn down a Gurdwara and some houses, the Staines murder. In the face of these atrocities democratic India does nothing.

It is because of the efforts of activists like Dr. Aulakh that these matters come to light. He is a major leader in the human-rights movement and the leader of the Sikh community. I salute him for his tireless efforts and submit the following articles.

CONCERN AT NEW THREATS TO RELIGIOUS
FREEDOM

[The following statement was issued in New Delhi and Hyderabad on Sunday, 29th July 2000 by All India Christian Council President Dr Joseph D'Souza and Secretary General John Dayal in the wake of reports of draconian changes in the Foreign Contributions regulation act, the Private members Bill in the Lok Sabha against freedom of faith, the incidence of Vishwa Hindu Parishad goons "arresting" Christian workers in Varanasi, the forcible "re-conversion" of Orissa Christians under the combined pressure of the VHP and the Orissa Police.]

The All India Christian Council calls upon Civil Society, the national Human Rights Commission and fellow citizens to take united action to counter a series of recent incidents in several Indian states by Fundamentalist extremists of the Sangh Parivar, as well as by police forces acting at their behest, in which the civil rights of Christian individuals and groups have been violently attacked. The Council is deeply concerned that the central and state governments, instead of taking urgent steps to restore confidence among the terrorised minorities, have seemingly condoned such actions. The Centre is in fact, according to media reports, bringing forward legislation that will further and more seriously affect religious minorities in the country and their work, and injure Constitutional guarantees.

The Council has declared it will extend all legal assistance to the victims who have been terrorised, specially in the states of Orissa, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.

The most ominous incident has taken place in Varanasi in the state of Uttar Pradesh, where the state government controlled by the Bharatiya Janata party has condoned military training with firearms provided to elements of the Sangh Parivar in recent months. In that city on 24th July 2001, a Christian religious worker was among five persons "detained" by self styled vigilantes of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad. The five men had come to the city to attend a meeting. The City Superintendent of Police, who had the five men released, admitted they were innocent of the charges of conversion levied against them. The police have however taken no action against the VHP goons who terrorised the Christian group.

VHP groups are also terrorising the inmates of an ashram in Kota district of

Rajasthan which is home to over 1,500 destitute and orphaned young people from various parts of the country. Death threats have been made against Bishop M A Thomas and officials of the Ashram. Many other similar cases have been reported from other states.

In Orissa, ruled by a coalition in which the BJP is a partner, the police have looked on while Tribal Christians are being coerced into "reconverting" to Hinduism. The Police have evoked the infamous and ironically named Freedom of Religion Act selectively against the Christians but not against their tormentors. As the media has reported, 17 adult persons had some time ago become Christians, and had told the police they had done so of their own free will, without any duress or allurement. The police, acting at the behest of local religio-political goons, however, chose to prosecute them and registered cases against them. Emboldened by this, the local fundamentalist elements intimidated the Christians, organising social ostracisation against them. Reports suggest that the authorities tacitly supported the "reconversion." The council has deplored the blatant religious partisanship of the local police and civil administration.

It is quite clear that these elements are getting strengthened by the attitude of the Central government. The minority communities, specially Christians are alarmed, at the failure of the Central government to denounce a Private Members bill moved by one of their party members in the Lok Sabha, the lower house of Parliament, which seeks a ban on religious conversions, which in effect means a ban on freedom of faith. This bill evoked dark memories of a similar Hitlerian OP Tyagi Bill in the late Seventies which the government, of which the current Bharatiya Janata party was a part, had extended its support.

The council has also strongly criticised the government's reported plan to enact new laws to strangle foreign donations and grants to minority, specially Christian, institutions and organisations. The existing Foreign Contributions Act, FCRA, is already being used as a weapon by the BJP government to target Christian groups and to stifle all protest. We fear the proposed laws are being designed to entirely curtail the educational and public welfare work of the Christian church in India. Christian groups have been thoroughly investigated in the law two years and have been found innocent, and yet extremist groups as well as ruling political parties have persisted a hate campaign against us using disinformation, half truths and malicious lies.

We call upon Civil Society, the national Human Rights Commission and all fellow citizens to unite in fighting this erosion of civil liberties and constitutional guarantees.

HAVE YOU DONE ENOUGH???

The anti-Christian Bill is in the Parliament. This is a place where even very sensitive Bills have been passed by manipulations, ignorance and negligence. Pandemoniums are created to pass Bills by voice votes. Bills become Acts in a second as opposition stages a walkout.

Have you heard your representative opposing the Bill? Have you heard the Christian MP's forum responding? Have you read about the Bill in your newspaper? Have you heard any of the church leaders speaking out? Now the burden is upon you. Do you know that it is the Sikh leader Gurmit Singh Aulakh who dedicates all his energies to bring up the issue of Christian persecution before the American legislative bodies?

How many Indian Christians have you seen lobbying against the persecution of Christians at the UN organisations or the US Committees?

Do you know that it is dalits, atheists and even moslems who have taken up the issue of the present Bill which is bound to affect the Christians the most? Dr. Satinath Choudhry is one of the earliest to respond. The objections to the Bill have appeared before the secular and dalit E-fora even before the head of any Church has even taken note of the Bill. Fascism is here and now. The very rights of individuals are at stake. Have you done enough???

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2001

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 298 and 299, final passage of H.R. 2647, Legislative Branch Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2002 and the approval of the Journal, I was detained at the White House in a meeting on World Conference Against Racism. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on both.

TRIBUTE TO RUTH HYMAN

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2001

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call the attention of Congress to an event on Thursday, August 16 in New Jersey. The Jewish Family and Children's Service of Greater Monmouth County is holding a dinner and tribute at Temple Beth El of Oakhurst to honor Ruth Hyman. Ruth will have the distinction of being honored for her work as a philanthropist and her support of Jewish causes in the area, as well as in Israel.

Ruth, a close friend of mine, was born in my hometown of Long Branch, New Jersey into a family of four boys and four girls. She says that her parents' direction and teachings of *tzedakah*, *menschlichkeit*, and the Torah guided her to be the person that she is today.

Ruth's teachings as a child can well be seen in her community involvement. She is a life member of Daughters of Miriam, charter and life member of the Central Jersey Jewish Home for the Aged, founder and past chairperson of the Federation Women's Business and Professional Division, benefactor and board member of the Jewish Community Center, and an active member of B'nai Brith, AMIT, and Congregation Brothers of Israel. For the past twenty-five years Ms. Hyman has been the Chairperson of the Women's Division of Israel Bonds, and for the past twenty-six years she has been the president of the Long Branch Hadassah.

This is not the first time that Ruth has been honored for her service to the community. Ruth has received the Service Award from the Jewish Federation Women's Campaign, Woman of Valor of the Long Branch chapter of Hadassah, Israel Bonds Golda Meir Award and the Ben Gurion Award, Lay Leader of the

Year by the Jewish Federation, and the Hadassah National Leadership Award. The community cannot express the debt that we owe to my friend Ruth who has shown us all that selflessness will never go unrecognized.

I want to personally thank Ruth Hyman for being a leader of the Jewish community and an excellent role model for our youth.

HONORING CONNEE GARTLAND ON HER 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2001

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I would like my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in honoring a very special person, Mrs. Connee Gartland, on the occasion of her 80th birthday. Family and friends will gather this weekend in Dennisport, Massachusetts to celebrate this milestone.

Constance Doris Fischer Gartland was born on August 7, 1921 in Boston, Massachusetts to Alfons and Louise M. Fischer. She earned a B.S. Degree in Education from Salem State College in 1943 and a Master's in Business from Boston University in 1945. During her distinguished career as an educator, she held the position of Business Education Teacher at Mary Brooks School and Academie Moderne, both in Boston; and Weston High School in Weston, Massachusetts.

On October 7, 1950 Connee married Edward V. Gartland, Jr. They became the proud parents of four children: Susan, Pamela, Deborah and Edward V. III and eventually the proud grandparents of five grandchildren; Brian and Kevin Anderson, Delaney and Riley Cruickshank, and Edward V. Gartland IV. They lived in Newton, Massachusetts and spent summers in their home in Dennisport.

With warmth and generosity, Connee and Ed opened their hearts and home over the years to neighbors and friends of all ages and from all parts of the country. There was always lively and enjoyable conversation in their home because of their many interests and activities.

During the winter, Connee now lives in Fort Myers, Florida where she is a member of the Development Committee at her church. Other memberships include the Women's Club, the 9-Holers Golf League, where she held the position of Treasurer; and the staff of the Lake Fairways Newsletter, *The Informer*.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in sending our congratulations to a wonderful person, Connee Gartland, who has touched so many lives as a former educator, parent, grandparent, and friend. Let us extend our best wishes for a Happy 80th Birthday and continued health and happiness.

U.S. RELATIONS WITH PERU

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2001

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, U.S. relations with Peru have recently become a matter of concern due to the shoot-down of the U.S. missionary plane, with the death of two U.S. nationals, a mother and her child, and the continued imprisonment of Lori Berenson. At the same time, we have been witnessing the growing accusations of corruption and human rights abuses stemming from the arrest of former Peruvian spy chief Vladimiro Montesinos. The fact that Berenson was arrested and convicted at a time when Montesinos virtually controlled the country's judiciary system is enough to arouse suspicion over the country's ability to have fairly administered justice.

Berenson's recent sham retrial, under Peru's current provisional government, has served to bolster those suspicions. As a result of the judiciary's long ties to the country's corrupt political system, Berenson's second trial before a civilian judge, which sentenced her to twenty years in prison, marked only a slight improvement over the original 1996 military trial in which a hooded judge sentenced Berenson to life imprisonment.

On the eve of a potential new era of politics in Peru, the time to act on the Berenson case is now. On July 28th, president-elect Alejandro Toledo will be sworn in as Peru's new president and the country, which had been gripped by autocracy for the last ten years under now-disgraced former President Alberto Fujimori, will be given a genuine opportunity to break with its corrupt past. President Bush and the U.S. Congress should do all that they can to assist President Toledo and the whole of Peru in their recovery from ten years of corrupt leadership, if the new administration ensures that Lori Berenson be granted justice. Regarding the Berenson case, we would like to know if the State Department did enough to protect this U.S. national and what exactly were the ties between this country and Montesinos, and did we do enough to publicize the villainy of this man. I'm afraid the answers to these questions may prove embarrassing.

Beyond the moral obligation to intervene on Berenson's behalf, the President has a legal obligation to seek Berenson's release. Under U.S. Code 22 Section 1732, the President must do everything in his power, short of acts of war, to obtain or effectuate the release of a U.S. citizen wrongfully incarcerated by a foreign government.

The following press memorandum was authorized by Mariah Freark and Sabrina Blum, Research Associates at the Washington-based Council on Hemispheric Affairs (COHA), an organization that has been long-committed to addressing issues associated with democracy and human rights throughout the hemisphere. COHA's researchers have often spoken out about controversial issues regarding U.S. relations with Latin America. The attached press memorandum addresses information concerning Lori Berenson and Peru, and should serve to enlighten us.

[From the American Prospect, May 25, 2001]

OUR MAN IN LITTLE HAVANA

THE SECRET COLD WAR HISTORY OF OTTO JUAN REICH, GEORGE W. BUSH'S FRIGHTENING NOMINEE FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE OF WESTERN HEMISPHERE AFFAIRS

(By Jason Vest)

It was the summer of 1985 and John Lantigua, then The Washington Post's Nicaragua stringer, discovered he had a new nickname, at least among American right-wingers: "Johnny Sandinista."

For many senior politicians in the Reagan Administration, Nicaragua was a black and white issue. If you weren't pro-Contra and anti-Sandinista, you were a dupe of two malevolent forces: What one senior official euphemistically called "the source" of evil in this hemisphere—Cuba—and the power behind Cuba that then Director of Central Intelligence William J. Casey held was the center of all world terrorism and subversion: the Soviet Union.

John Lantigua's reporting didn't reflect such a Manichean worldview, and for that, the Administration would try to smear him and others who didn't "come on-side." In a "report" produced by the far-right "media watchdog" group Accuracy in Media, Daniel James—identified only as a "Latin America expert," but, in fact, a longtime CIA contract propagandist—reported that, according to unnamed U.S. government officials, Lantigua was being furnished with live-in female Sandinista sex slaves in exchange for penning Sandinista agitprop.

To those who covered Central America, the charges were absurd: Not only was Lantigua living with his American fiancée, but he was in the middle of a freeze-out by the Sandinistas, who, along with the Reagan Administration, sometimes found Lantigua's reporting to be inconvenient. Lantigua got a kick out of the item, assuming that it had originated with Otto Reich, a particularly ideological State Department official who Lantigua and his Newsday colleague Morris Thompson had met for lunch when Reich had made a brief visit to "Venezuela's foreign policy does not depend on the ambassadors in Caracas." Eventually the U.S. prevailed on Venezuela to honor Reich's diplomatic credentials, though he wasn't an entirely beloved figure in Caracas: In 1989, for instance, the newspaper *La Republica* reported, with some umbrage, that Reich had turned the U.S. Embassy into something of a support base for the Panamanian Civic Crusade, an anti-Noriega group backed by the CIA.

In the view of Larry Birns, the head of Washington's Council on Hemispheric Affairs, the combination of Reich's hard-line views, current business connections, and Iran-Contra past would make him a disastrous choice to be the United States' point person for Latin America. "It would be of interest to anticipate the violent polemical struggle between Fortune 500 U.S. multinationals, most of whom denounced Helms-Burton for interfering with trade with Cuba, and the State Department's Latin American office under an ideologically driven Reich." (Birns is also alarmed at the prospect of Roger Noriega, another Jesse Helms favorite, being named Ambassador to the Organization of American States.)

"If confirmed, [Reich's] tenure will inevitably be littered with hemispheric vendettas, abusive run-ins with strong-willed regional leaders, and a cheerful indifference to state department rules and regulations," Birns says. "During his years in the public sector, Reich seemingly has found it against the very marrow of his personality and basic nature to be able to walk down a straight path. If [Secretary of State Colin] Powell con-

tinues to maintain that Reich and Noriega are the best qualified candidates to fill the vacancies, then the Secretary of State can expect to soon be hearing from Saturday Night Live."

[From the News Mexico, Jan. 20, 2001]

FAREWELL TO CLINTON, WELCOME TO BUSH
BUSH SEEN AS MAN WHO CAN DO BUSINESS WITH MEXICO

(By Krista Larson)

WASHINGTON—Throughout his campaign, the former Texas governor who will become the 43rd president of the United States on Saturday emphasized his experience leading a border state with strong economic ties to its southern neighbor. He even demonstrated his Spanish in stump speeches.

As George W. Bush is inaugurated, experts say there appear to be new opportunities for improved bilateral relations between neighbors, but that potential obstacles also lie ahead.

"Obviously Mexico is going to be predominate on the radar screen, and that can result in more activity," said Armand Peschard-Sverdrup, director of the Mexico Project at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. "With the more activity, chances are you could also have points of tension."

There is an image that Bush will be a "bigger ear in Washington" for Mexico-U.S. relations than in the past, said Larry Birns, director of the Council on Hemispheric Affairs.

"It may not easily play out in specific policies, but certainly in lingo and rhetoric the White House is going to refer to its relations with Mexico as being all-important," Birns said.

Bush's experience in Texas was cited by Peschard-Sverdrup as significant. "The border is definitely the frontline of the relationship," he said. "With Bush being a former border governor, he definitely has first hand experience of managing the relationship at the state level, and I think that's going to give him a better perspective than someone from a state that obviously doesn't have as much interaction with Mexico."

Bush has already met with President Vicente Fox when Fox traveled to the United States shortly after his July 2 presidential victory.

"The good thing is at least at the level of the presidency, there's an affinity toward each other's country and they personally seem to get along," Peschard-Sverdrup said. "Once you have that type of engagement at the presidential level, you would expect that would then transcend down to the Cabinet."

During his campaign, Bush said he had a vision for the two countries and declared that the United States is "destined to have a special relationship with Mexico, as clear and strong as we have had with Canada and Great Britain." He pledged in August to look south "not as an afterthought, but as a fundamental commitment of my presidency." And he said he'd "fulfill the promise of hemispheric free trade" by building on the North American Free Trade Agreement and other regional trade initiatives.

That doesn't mean the new administrations won't be without potential disagreements. "There are disruptive issues out there," said Birns, noting there will be pressure to address the certification process that has been an irritant to Mexicans for years. "Republicans are much less likely to eliminate the drug certification process than the Democrats would have been."

BUSH ON KEY ISSUES

Trade: Bush wants to restore fast-track negotiating authority and said his priorities will include expanding free trade "within our own hemisphere." Also plans to "vigorously

enforce" anti-dumping and laws to combat unfair trade practices.

Immigration: While Bush is strongly opposed to illegal immigration, he has said more should be done to welcome legal immigrants. He supports expanding temporary agricultural workers program and increasing the number of high-tech worker visas. He favors a six-month standard for processing immigration application and would encourage family reunification. He has said he would support legislation to divide the immigration and Naturalization Service into separate agencies for naturalization and for enforcement. He has also pledged that "with expanded patrols, we can make our borders something more than lines on a map." Wants to hire more agents and focus a reformed INS "on the job of defending our border."

Drugs: Bush has said that the United States is the market that sustains the narcotics trade and has pledged to improve interdiction. His "Southwest Border initiative" would provide 5 million dollars annually to reimburse border counties for prosecuting federal drug cases and would appoint a coordinator responsible for working with federal and local agencies.

[From the New York Times, May 6, 2001]

NEW CHALLENGE TO THE BOGOTÁ LEADERSHIP
POOR REGION'S GOVERNORS UNITE TO OPPOSE DRUG PLAN AND SEEK AID

(By Juan Forero)

IBAGUE, Colombia—Normally, Guillermo Jaramillo, governor of a poor and debt-ridden province, could expect to be ignored by Colombia's highly centralized government in far off Bogotá.

It has been this way since colonial times, with the capital, high in the Andes, dictating policies as it sees fit, often regardless of the wishes of local officials.

But these days, Mr. Jaramillo and five like-minded governors—all from southern provinces mired in civil conflict and where most of the country's illicit drug crops are grown—have not only attracted the attention of Bogotá but also angered entrenched politicians who frown on insolent regional leaders.

The reason is that the governors, all of whom won office last October, have organized into a formidable political bloc that has harshly criticized the central government for everything from the handling of finances to the drug war.

That has embarrassed officials in Bogotá and highlighted the lack of support in rural Colombia for an American-financed program that largely relies on aerial defoliation to stamp out drug production.

Indeed, the governors have gone as far as Europe and Washington to criticize the program, which has destroyed coca fields across southern Colombia but displaced and alienated farmers.

The governors instead propose their own voluntary eradication program of coca and heroin poppy fields, and have sought out foreign governments for financing and technical expertise.

Most troubling to Bogotá, some of the governors have expressed the desire to hold their own talks with insurgencies that have been at war for years, leftist rebels and right-wing paramilitaries. Some in Bogotá, however, see such a proposal as nothing short of treason, since peace negotiations are held under the sole mandate of President Andrés Pastrana.

"This is a threat against the Constitution and against the peace process," said Robert Camacho, a Bogotá congressman.

Some Colombia experts say that the governors' efforts, while understandable in a

country whose rural regions have long been forgotten, could prove damaging to the country as a whole.

The governors' movement, called the southern bloc, has stirred enough concern that new life has been injected into proposed congressional legislation that would sanction local officials who are seen as meddling in the peace process. The bill was first proposed last fall, before the governors took office.

"These governors are popularly elected, and they are realizing a program contrary to their duties: dividing the state," said Fernando Giraldo, dean of the political science department at the Javeriana University in Bogotá.

Because of the southern bloc, said Mr. Giraldo, Colombia is "before the international community displaying a fragmented voice, the president on one side and the governors on the other."

In interviews, the governors said their goal is not to destabilize. Rather, they said, the aim is simply to draw attention to their region's problems and to obtain resources for regional public projects and agricultural development programs seen as alternatives to defoliation.

If the aid comes from Bogotá, so be it, the governors say; but they say they will continue to appeal to foreign governments, too. The southern bloc's proposals are still in the planning stages, and little financial support has gone their way.

"What we want for the regions, for the provinces as well as the towns, is the possibility to express ourselves," said Mr. Jaramillo, speaking in his office overlooking a public square here in Ibagué, the capital of the province of Tolima. "That is why we've gone out to explain our ideas, and present what we think is a bit different from the national government's concepts."

The governors said that they supported Mr. Pastrana's peace efforts and respected his authority when it came to negotiating, but they said they wanted the particular concerns of their provinces to be aired by local officials in those talks with the insurgencies.

The governors and other provincial officials also hinted, as many local officials in Colombia do, that the government should open dialogue with paramilitary groups, something Mr. Pastrana's government has refused. Recently, in fact, Mr. Jaramillo met with the paramilitary leader, Carlos Castaño, and also paid a visit to the rebels.

"What we've said is we cannot sign a peace pact, but we can do a peace process," said Floro Tunubalá, the governor of Cauca. "And to do a peace process means talking."

The southern bloc is a mixture of traditionalists and upstarts. They include Parmenio Cuéllar of Nariño, a former senator and minister of justice, and Mr. Jaramillo, a pediatric heart surgeon who has operated on 1,200 children.

"This is something that can jeopardize the country's well-being," added Mr. Camacho, who in recent speech said the governor's bloc is akin to a secessionist movement. "It is about war and peace and too delicate for them to do what they want."

The group also has the most unlikely governor in Colombia, Mr. Tunubalá a Guambiano Indian who won office in a province well known for discrimination and social inequality. Mr. Tunubalá's political movement—composed of Indians, union leaders, poor farmers, intellectuals and others outside the province's circle of power—has already angered some people in Cauca and prompted death threats.

The other governors, longtime local politicians, are from Huila and the two provinces where most of Colombia's coca grows, Putumayo and Caquetá.

The governors acknowledge that local officials have more control since the country's 1991 Constitution gave regional leaders more decisionmaking powers and resources.

But revenue is still raised by the central government. The six provinces, the size of Kansas and with a combined population of six million, also remain desperately poor and rural in a largely urban country.

The region also contains three-quarters of the country's coca crops and nearly all the poppy fields, employing 335,000 people in all.

The very fact that an alliance exists is "essentially a cry for help, a collective petition for the government to do something," said Larry Birns, a Colombia expert and director of the Council on Hemispheric Affairs in Washington. "These are governors that, because they come from peripheral states, have been neglected."

The issue that most unites the governors is their opposition to defoliation, which they warn alienates their constituents without resolving the problems, that lead farmers to cultivate illegal crops.

Juan de Jesús Cárdenas, governor of Huila, said regional leaders across the south believed that defoliation would simply drive farmers to cultivate coca and poppies in other regions.

"That is what has happened with defoliation of Putumayo, with the movement of displaced people into Nariño," said the governor, whose province serves as a corridor for drugs and rebels.

The governors want to replace illicit crops by prodding farmers to eradicate in exchange for subsidies and markets for their products. The Colombian government, with American money and expertise, is running such a program, but the governors said they were working to tailor their own programs to meet the needs of farmers in their provinces.

"We need gradual eradication," said Mr. Tunubalá. "We need to put in new crops, and we need to look for markets nationally and internationally."

That was the reason for Mr. Jaramillo's recent trip to a mountainous rebel-controlled region in southern Tolima. There, Mr. Jaramillo meet with farmers to urge them to participate in the eradication program financed by the Americans. It was not easy. Most had felt ignored by a central government they view as inept and unresponsive.

Several farmers, after meeting with Mr. Jaramillo, said they would not have agreed to meet with or participate had it not been for the governor, whom they view as independent from Bogotá. Leftist rebels who showed up uninvited—and had the power to quash any government plan in the region—allowed farmers to move forward in part because of Mr. Jaramillo's involvement.

"He from these lands," said one farmer, Ramiro Pérez, 38 standing on a steep mountain where he grows poppies. "We've seen him here. He has worked hard to get here. Maybe that means good news."

[From the Berkshire Eagle, Sept. 2, 2000]

SOME AMERICAN STRUGGLES

(By Mark Miller)

PITTSFIELD—This week, the president of the United States spent part of a day in Cartagena, Colombia, talking about the drug trade and democracy. The president of Peru announced a new trial for an American serving a life sentence as a convicted terrorist. Venezuela's politics were eclipsed by reports of lawsuits over defective Firestone tires there. Nicaragua continue to be absent from our news while, as usual, we Americans could walk into a discount store and get bargains on back-to-school clothes stitched in Nicaragua.

WASHINGTON REPORT ON THE HEMISPHERE

Washington Report on the Hemisphere is a biweekly newsletter from the Council on Hemispheric Affairs that keeps a sharp eye on the rest of the Americas outside the United States. The Aug. 7 and 16 issues (COHA is no slave to the calendar) both lead off with updates on the exploits of Hugo Chavez, Venezuela's immensely popular though unconventional president. I'd forgotten he had engineered the renaming of his nation the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, after Simon Bolivar, the Venezuelan leader in early 19th-century South American struggles for independence from Spain.

Chavez "made a healthy start on his campaign promise to weed out the systematic corruption infesting the ranks of the bureaucracy, by sacking hundreds of judges from all layers of the country's notorious judiciary that was plagued by unabated nepotism and inefficiency. His next move was to bring about some badly needed new management to this state oil company (Petroleos de Venezuela) that, as stated in the new constitution, will forever be insulated from privatization."

Business investors are unenthusiastic about Chavez. Note is made (crediting an Economist Intelligence Unit report) of "the rapid rate at which foreign firms are packing up and leaving over concerns of an increasingly hostile business climate. Historically, foreign investment has been an Achilles heel for Venezuela, averaging a mere 2 percent of its [gross domestic product] over the past decade."

Chavez has visited Cuba five times since 1998, recently praising Fidel Castro's "visionary work," and has been cultivating leaders in "oil-exporting hubs including Libya, Iraq and Iran in an effort to convince these OPEC nations to sustain the high price of gasoline . . ." Chavez has been criticized within his own country for his bold moves to freely associate himself with rogue nations, thereby going out of his way to damage relations with the U.S., which remains the largest importer of Venezuelan oil."

[From the New York Times, Dec. 18, 2000]

LATIN AMERICA IS PRIORITY ON BUSH TRADE AGENDA

(By Anthony DePalma)

He may not be comfortable discussing unrest in East Timor, or pronouncing the name of the leaders of Turkmenistan, but President-elect George W. Bush considers the rest of the Western Hemisphere "our backyard" and will have several opportunities in his first year in office to make Latin America a trade and foreign policy priority.

During the campaign, Mr. Bush said he would kickstart the stalled process of getting a free trade agreement of the Americas signed by 2005. The agreement would build on the North American Free Trade Agreement, which went into effect in 1994, and would unite 34 of the countries in North, Central and South America into what President Clinton once said would be "the world's largest market."

The first order of business would be a bruising battle in a divided Congress over fast-track authority, the legislative tool that Mr. Bush will need to negotiate a comprehensive trade deal. Under fast track, trade deals are brought to Congress for approval only when complete. Congress then votes on the agreement without having the chance to add amendments that suit the needs and wishes of individual members.

"I'd expect that within the first 100 days in office he'll propose approval of fast-track authority," said Sidney Weintraub, an economist at the Center for Strategic and International Studies and a former deputy assistant secretary of state for international finance and development.

Even though Republicans narrowly control the House of Representatives, Mr. Bush will need to reach across the aisle to Democrats for help in getting fast-track authority approved. Mr. Weintraub expects that the need for bipartisan cooperation will provide Democrats an opportunity to attach environment and labor standards to the bill, although Mr. Bush has made it clear that he does not support such standards if they are too rigidly drawn.

In negotiating a trade deal, Mr. Bush would also have to heed strongly voiced opposition to such side agreements from some Latin American nations, led by Brazil, that fear that labor and environmental standards attached to a trade deal could be used as protectionist shields by American businesses that feel threatened by Latin American competition.

In a campaign speech in Miami in August, Mr. Bush said the Clinton administration dropped the ball on Latin America after losing the legislative battle to win fast-track authority. In the speech, he said that by the time the third Summit of the Americas meets, a fast-track bill will already have been introduced in Congress.

"When the next president sits at the Americas Summit in Quebec next April, other nations must know that fast-track authority is on the way," he said during the campaign.

Although Mr. Bush criticized President Clinton for stalling the drive for a free trade agreement of the Americas, the process has actually been chugging along, though largely out of sight. Negotiating teams have continued to work on technical details, and when trade officials gather in Quebec, a substantial framework for the trade negotiations leading to a 2005 deal will be in place.

"The 2005 date was set at the first Americas Summit in Miami in 1994 and reconfirmed at the second in Santiago," said Richard E. Feinberg, a former senior director of the National Security Council's Office of Inter-American Affairs under President Clinton and now a professor at the graduate school of international relations at the University of California in San Diego. "All the major players remain committed to the 2005 date."

During the campaign, Mr. Bush talked about developing a "special relationship" with Mexico, which is one of the few foreign countries he has ever visited. Referring more broadly to all of Latin America, he said he would "look south, not as an afterthought but as a fundamental commitment of my presidency."

As governor of a border state, Mr. Bush has had a front-row seat on the expansion of international trade, and the effect on Texas has been substantial. According to a recent study by the Council of the Americas, Texas exports to Mexico have more than doubled since Nafta came into force in 1994.

Mr. Bush will not have to worry about union opposition to new international trade deals as much as Vice President Al Gore would have, but there is a segment of the Republican Party that has become increasingly protectionist and could complicate any trade deal. That could force Mr. Bush to take a page from Mr. Clinton's playbook and cast increased trade in political and strategic terms, as Mr. Clinton did in winning a trade vote on China.

Mr. Bush had promised to meet with Mexico's president, Vicente Fox Quesada, even be-

fore Mr. Fox was inaugurated on Dec. 1, a signal that the administrations of both countries, starting at roughly the same time, would work in tandem to resolve common problems like illegal immigration, illicit drugs and environmental pollution. Because of the extraordinary delays in the American election, the meeting never took place, but Mr. Bush sent a congratulatory message to Mr. Fox on the day of his inauguration.

Mr. Fox has already taken a preemptive lead on some of these areas. During the summer he visited Mr. Clinton and both presidential candidates, and talked freely about his ideas for deepening Nafta and taking measures to reduce barriers that prevent Mexican workers from entering the United States to find work.

Mr. Fox's ideas were not warmly embraced by either Democrats or Republicans, and a close relationship with him and Mexico could put Mr. Bush into a difficult position with members of his own party.

"He will, as he said, have a 'special relationship' with Mexico, but the question now is what kind of relationship will it be," said Larry Birns, director of the Council on Hemispheric Affairs in Washington, who supported Mr. Gore. "Here is where a Bush presidency might run into real trouble."

[From the Miami Herald, May 30, 2001]

GIVING HAITI A CHANCE

(By Larry Birns and Sarah Townes)

Haiti's seemingly eternal malaise is, if anything, worsening as a result of disruptive local politics, shrill rhetoric and the near elimination of overseas assistance.

Even though President Jean-Bertrand Aristide (who last November again won the presidency by a huge margin) agreed to a number of mischievous conditions for U.S. aid to resume, Washington has given no indication that it would be forthcoming. The U.S. campaign of economic asphyxiation and political isolation is not only unseemly, but also gravely damaging to U.S. interests.

If this policy continues unaltered, it could bring added turmoil to the island, inevitably followed by renewed efforts of desperate Haitians willing to risk the dangerous 800-mile voyage to Florida.

Such an exodus would greatly embarrass the Bush White House, just as it did the Clinton administration, particularly as the interdiction pact has now lapsed.

The "Democratic Convergence," a 15-party coalition of mainly micro-factions that vehemently reject Aristide's legitimacy based on charges of electoral fraud in last May's senatorial balloting, has named Gerard Gourgue "Provisional President." This is bringing chaos closer. Gourgue called for the return of the commanders of Haiti's repressive armed forces, expelled by the U.S. military in 1994.

Despite its modest popular standing, the convergence effectively has been awarded a crippling de facto veto by Sen. Jesse Helms, Aristide's relentless avenger, with U.S. policymakers also insisting that it is the democratic alternative.

The convergence is the main obstacle to negotiations and the resumption of aid. Aristide first met with its leaders in February to discuss possible solutions to the stalemate. Regrettably, his offer to include some convergence leaders in his government and appoint a new impartial electoral body were peremptorily rejected. Aristide's call for initiating a dialogue also was rejected by the convergence, though he has offered to move up the next round of legislative elections.

The State Department and National Security Council always have viewed Aristide as a liability rather than as the island's principal political asset. Allegations against him routinely understate his wide support. Aristide towers over potential alternatives and has worked hard to cooperate with Washington's often arrogant demands.

In December, the Clinton administration agreed to restore aid once the Haitian leader adopted eight conditions that addressed electoral and economic reforms along with narcotics smuggling, illegal migration and human-rights violations. Later, Aristide agreed to all of them.

After several requests by Haiti for help in addressing the election issue, the Organization of American States belatedly decided to dispatch a delegation to discuss election reforms. Since Washington largely determines OAS Haiti policy, its initiative's bona fides will require scrutiny.

LITTLE SUPPORT

There is a danger here, which comes far less from the fact that relatively few Haitians have any respect for the opposition coalition. Any outside imposed government and revitalized military, as hinted by Gourgue, could destroy the country's fragile human-rights situation, its enfeebled judicial system and its lame democratization process.

The Bush administration would do well to honor the commitments made by President Clinton.

Failing to display some basic amity to Haiti's population will only add more yellowed pages to the profoundly jaundiced and mean-spirited links to Port-au-Prince, which historically have been characterized by condescension rather than respect.

[From the Columbia, Missouri, Tribune Online, July 8, 2000]

CITIZENS OF PERU LEFT TO FIGHT FOR NATION'S DEMOCRACY

Editor, the Tribune: Scores of women, clad in black and carrying coffins symbolizing the death of democracy in Peru, Marched through the streets of Lima on June 28m demanding new balloting in protest of President Alberto Fujimori's scandal-ridden reelection. As the march headed toward the hotel hosting the Organization of American States delegation, the women faced a barrage of tear gas from the security forces. The OAS, much like the United States, has been largely ineffective in trying to promote democracy in what has become Fujimori country. Like a couple of ill-whelped dogs, the OAS and the United States have skulked away from the indignant attitude of "El Chino" and left the Peruvian people to be the sole defenders of the nation's democracy.

Even with the recent OAS proposal to reform the system, there are no guarantees that the government will follow the guidelines. In fact, Fujimori has amply shown that he has nothing but contempt for both OAS secretary-general César Gaviria and the Clinton administration, but as the police attack on the women's march reveals—and as Bastille Day approaches—he does indeed have good grounds to fear the citizenry who will no longer tolerate his false claims to power. Where else can change begin but at home? Hopefully, the recent mass demonstrations will spark positive change toward democratic reforms even if a feckless OAS is unable to mandate new elections.

HOLOCAUST VICTIMS INSURANCE
RELIEF ACT**HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2001

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing H.R. 2693, the Holocaust Victims Insurance Relief Act, a bill to require all companies operating in the United States to disclose the names on Holocaust-era insurance policies. The legislation would also enable survivors to access to this information by establishing a Holocaust Insurance Registry at the National Archives.

At its core, this is a moral issue. Insurance companies holding Holocaust-era policies have a responsibility to disclose any information that will help survivors finally reclaim their policies with dignity and equity. In many cases, company archives contain the only existing files related to the countless policies that were stolen from victims of Nazi ghettos and death camps.

Just one year ago, on July 17, 2000, the United States and Germany signed an Executive Agreement establishing the German Foundation "Remembrance, Responsibility, and the Future," a \$5 billion fund to settle all Holocaust-era claims, including slave and forced labor, banking, and insurance. During the preceding ceremony, U.S. Holocaust Envoy Stuart Eizenstat said, "It is critically important that all German insurance companies cooperate with the process established by the International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims, or ICHEIC. This includes publishing lists of unpaid insurance policies and subjecting themselves to audit. Unless German insurance companies make these lists available through ICHEIC, potential claimants cannot know their eligibility, and the insurance companies will have failed to assume their moral responsibility."

Unfortunately, little progress has been made since then and the urgency of this issue grows as Holocaust survivors are dying every day. Although the ICHEIC was established in 1998 to expeditiously resolve unpaid Holocaust-era claims, more than 84% of the over 72,675 claims inquiries filed remain unresolved because the claimants cannot identify the company holding their assets.

Furthermore, it is outrageous that regardless of their level of compliance with ICHEIC rules insurance companies that contribute to the Foundation fund are given a minimal \$150 million cap on all liabilities, virtual legal immunity in U.S. courts, and an arbitrary January 31, 2002 expiration of their obligation to accept claims.

The insurance companies must be held accountable. H.R. 2693 will ensure that Congress will not stand by and allow them to shirk their obligation.

This bill also expresses congressional support for states seeking to adopt and enforce their own laws to address the issue of unpaid Holocaust-era policies, and recognizes the efforts of legislatures in California, New York, Florida, Washington, and Minnesota. I also understand that similar efforts are underway in the legislatures of Texas, Illinois, and Massachusetts.

California led the nation in enacting a Holocaust insurance reporting statute at the state

level, and it has provided the insurance companies with a powerful incentive to comply with the law. It is time for us to extend this relief to survivors across the country.

I would also like to thank my colleague Representative ENGEL, who is an original cosponsor of this bill and who was instrumental in introducing similar legislation in the 105th and 106th Congresses.

Less than six months from today, the ICHEIC deadline for accepting claims will expire. We must act swiftly to make sure that survivors have the necessary information to file their rightful claims. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and I hope we can bring it to the floor for a vote in the near future.

TRIBUTE TO GITTA NAGEL

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2001

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to a dedicated champion of Jewish affairs and public service, Mrs. Gitta Nagel of California, who will soon be receiving an Honorary Doctorate degree from Bar-Ilan University in Israel. Mrs. Nagel has continually strived to ensure a brighter, more cohesive future for the Jewish community by encouraging stronger academic programs and an everlasting remembrance of the Holocaust.

As a young child living in Amsterdam during the Holocaust, Gitta saw first hand the destructive force and brutality of the Nazi regime, an experience that would continue to drive her throughout her life as a philanthropist. After the war, she emigrated to the United States where she attended UCLA and met her future husband, Jack Nagel.

Through her efforts to promote a stronger Jewish community, Gitta Nagel has held leadership roles in numerous organizations including the United Jewish Communities, the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations, and Israel Bonds. In addition, she was a founding member of the Golda Meir Club, an organization that supports the State of Israel through her annual purchase of \$5,000 worth of Israeli government bonds. Gitta also started a chapter of Bnei Akiva, a testament to her unwavering support for Zionism and the State of Israel.

She has also shown a perpetual commitment to a prosperous future through her support of education. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, it is no surprise that Gitta is an original founder of Yeshiva Yavneh of Los Angeles High Schools. She had lent her support to Bar-Ilan University through an endowment for immigrant students, doctoral fellowships, research grants, and numerous other academic programs.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to Gitta Nagel's unwavering support for Jewish organizations, I would like to both emphasize and commend her work to preserve the memory of the Holocaust. Gitta has selflessly worked to secure a special place in history for Holocaust victims. She has given incredible amounts of time, energy and resources to make sure that the atrocity of the Holocaust is never forgotten.

The Nagel's are founders of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., and are members of the Board of Trustees of

the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles. In 1985, Gitta spoke before the Federation of Humanities in Stockholm, Sweden in a ceremony recognizing the 40th anniversary of the disappearance of Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat responsible for saving the lives of over 100,000 Jews during the end of World War II, including my wife Annette and me. She was also a featured speaker before the Austrian Parliament during the celebration of the 90th birthday of Simon Wisenthal.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in Congress to join me in recognizing Gitta Nagel's contributions and commitments to Jewish affairs and community service worldwide. She has had a major impact in strengthening the ties of the Jewish people and ensuring that the Holocaust will never be repeated. I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating Gitta Nagel for her very deserved honor.

TRIBUTE TO KOREY STRINGER

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2001

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I am deeply saddened to share the news of the passing of Korey Stringer.

Fans of football, the Minnesota Vikings, and the community of the greater St. Paul and Minneapolis area have suffered a great loss. All-Pro Offensive Tackle Korey Stringer was more than a great athlete; he was a great American.

This native of Warren, Ohio has his life cut short while training for the game he loved. However, in that short life Korey contributed much to the teams he played for and communities he lived in. While in high school at Warren Harding High School, in my district, Korey personally achieved status as an all-Ohio player twice and was a unanimous All-American his senior year. As a senior, Korey recorded an incredible 52 tackles as a defensive tackle and was named Ohio Division I Lineman of the Year. These accomplishments are impressive, but Korey was always more proud of Warren Harding's undefeated season that led to a state title his junior year. Korey was a player that was consistently concerned with those around him and made every effort possible to aid them.

Many players with impressive high school accolades never quite make it in college, but this was not the case for Korey Stringer. After doing a fine job representing his hometown, Korey did an excellent job representing the entire state while playing for Ohio State University. In his first year, Korey was selected as Big Ten Freshman of the Year. The awards continued for Korey as he was named Big Ten Offensive Lineman of the Year for both 1993 and 1994, Ohio State's Most Valuable Player in 1994, and two time All-American.

After being drafted as the 24th overall selection in the 1995 draft, Korey joined the Minnesota Vikings. He played with dedication to the game, the fans, and his teammates as he only missed three games in six seasons. Last season was a breakout year for Korey as he was named to the All-Pro team and helped Robert Smith set the team records for single-season and career rushing total. Playing as an offensive lineman, it is hard to assess the

achievements of the individual. With Korey, it is much easier because his achievements came both on and off the field. While on the field, the Vikings, Robert Smith, and every quarterback to play since 1995 have succeeded. Additionally, the Vikings have been one of the most successful teams in the NFL, reaching the NFC Championship game several times. Off the field, Stringer has contributed to the community with the "Super Viking Challenge" at local schools and libraries.

My heart and my prayers go out today to Korey's wife Kelci, his son Kodie Drew, and his extended family. My thoughts also go out to the players on the Minnesota Vikings with whom Korey played. Korey was a great American and superb football player. He will be deeply missed.

INTRODUCTION OF THE AMERICAN
CITIZENS' PROTECTION AND WAR
CRIMINAL PROSECUTION ACT OF
2001

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2001

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, this afternoon I joined with Senator CHRISTOPHER DODD of Connecticut in introducing the "American Citizens' Protection and War Criminal Prosecution Act of 2001."

This bicameral legislation seeks to reaffirm the U.S. commitment to bringing war criminals to justice, while ensuring that U.S. servicemembers and civilians are not put at risk of unwarranted prosecution before the International Criminal Court or other foreign tribunals.

I am pleased to be joined in introducing the House bill by the gentleman from New York, Mr. HOUGHTON, and the gentleman from California, the ranking member of the House International Relations Committee, Mr. LANTOS.

As my colleagues know, the United States initially withheld its support for the Rome Statute. President Clinton signed it last year only after securing numerous changes that ensure a fair trial for the accused and protect U.S. servicemembers and civilians from arbitrary assertions of jurisdiction by the ICC.

The American role was pivotal in negotiating these concessions, and it remains so today, as negotiators continue to work to improve the rules and procedures under which the ICC will operate.

But some have urged that the U.S., rather than seek improvements, withdraw from this process altogether. The measure introduced by the senator from North Carolina (Mr. HELMS) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), and recently passed by this body as an amendment to the Department of State Authorization bill, would effectively end U.S. participation in negotiations and forbid U.S. cooperation with the ICC.

I believe the concerns that caused this House to take that action should be fully addressed before the President and the Senate consider further steps to ratify the Rome Statute. But this can be accomplished only through engagement, not retreat. At a time when the United States is increasingly perceived as "going it alone," this is not the moment to abdicate our responsibilities by aban-

doning our historic commitment to the rule of law.

Our legislation seeks to reaffirm that commitment while ensuring in no uncertain terms that U.S. servicemembers and civilians are not placed at risk. The bill would protect Americans from prosecution before the ICC in two ways. First, it would require that whenever a U.S. citizen is accused by a crime under the Rome Statute, the U.S. government must investigate or prosecute the case itself—unless the President determines that it is not in the national interest to do so.

Second, the bill would prohibit the extradition of any American citizen if the U.S. is investigating or prosecuting the crime under U.S. law. It would also bar extradition if the individual has been tried and acquitted of the crime or, after an investigation, no reasonable basis has been found to proceed with a prosecution.

If, notwithstanding these protections, a U.S. citizen were ever to come before the ICC, the bill would require the President to take steps to ensure that the defendant receives legal representation and every benefit of due process.

The bill would also encourage active diplomatic efforts to address continuing U.S. concerns with provisions of the Rome Statute. And, whether or not we eventually become a party to the Statute, the bill would authorize the President to provide support and assistance to the ICC in the prosecution of accused war criminals—particularly those accused of committing atrocities against U.S. servicemembers or civilians, or citizens of friendly nations.

The President must have this authority to defend our citizens and protect our national interests. And through our cooperation, to demonstrate our unfailing commitment to the cause of justice throughout the world.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in both chambers and with the Administration to ensure that the United States continues to play its proper role in fostering a more just and peaceful world.

TRIBUTE TO CAMP CHEN-A-WANDA

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2001

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Camp Chen-A-Wanda on their annual visit to Washington. Every year, many youngster from Long Island, specifically from my district (NY-2) attend this summer camp located in Pennsylvania.

Camp Chen-A-Wanda prepares our young adults to become leaders in tomorrow's society. It encourages campers to express themselves as individuals by offering a wide variety of athletic, artistic, and other recreational activities.

This prestigious institution has provided hundreds of children in the New York area with the opportunity to explore their creative, academic, athletic and spiritual nature in a nurturing and motivating atmosphere.

Although one may leave Camp Chen-A-Wanda just after a few weeks, the camp experience never leaves the camper. By the end of the summer, campers have forged new friend-

ships, achieved new goals, and are confidently prepared to start the upcoming school year.

I would like to congratulate Camp Directors Caryl and Morey Baldwin of Dix Hills, Long Island; and Marcy and Craig Neyer of Montville, NJ, on their good work. I wish them the best of luck in the future.

And most important, I would like to see many of the campers of Camp Chen-A-Wanda, return to Washington, D.C. as interns, legislative staff, and future Legislators.

CRAZY FOR KAZAKHSTAN

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2001

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of my colleagues to the Op Ed article "Crazy for Kazakhstan—Asian nation of vital interest" by former Secretary of Energy Bill Richardson published in "The Washington Times" on July 30, 2001. Mr. Richardson has been working with countries of Central Asia, particularly with oil rich Kazakhstan, for a long time and has an extensive expertise in the region. I think we can rely on his assessments. In the article he outlines achievements of Kazakhstan and defines this country one of the promising "of all the countries rising from the ashes of the Soviet Union".

Indeed, Kazakhstan, despite the difficulties of its transition period, has carried out large scale economic and political reforms, especially when compared to the rest of the newly independent states.

Kazakhstan is a young country located in a critically strategic region with "rough" neighbors and it is crucial for the U.S. to work with this country both politically and economically to ensure their security, independence and progressive development.

This year is the 10th anniversary of Kazakhstan's independence and during this period Kazakhstan has shown its commitment to work with the U.S. in many areas, including sensitive ones, and has proven to be our reliable partner.

Mr. Speaker, I agree with Mr. Richardson that this key Central Asian country is of great importance to U.S. interests. Kazakhstan in many ways should be seen as our natural ally in the region. The time has come for the U.S. to pay closer attention to this country and be more engaged with it. For this reason I co-sponsored the legislation (H.R. 1318) that would grant permanent trade relations to Kazakhstan.

I submit the full text of this article from "The Washington Times" to be placed in the RECORD.

[From the Washington Times, July 30, 2001]

CRAZY FOR KAZAKHSTAN

(By Bill Richardson)

As secretary of energy and ambassador to the United Nations during the Clinton administration, I traveled three times to Kazakhstan to underscore the importance of this key Central Asian country to U.S. interests. Of all the countries rising from the ashes of the Soviet Union, few offer the promise of Kazakhstan. In terms of both economic potential and political stability, Kazakhstan is critical to the long-term success of the Central Asian nations. The Bush

administration should continue our policy of engaging Kazakhstan to ensure that this key country moves towards the Western orbit and adopts continued market and political reforms.

From its independence from the Soviet Union in 1991 to the Present, Kazak leaders have made the difficult and controversial decisions necessary to bring their country into the 21st century. In May 1992, President Nursultan Nazarbayev announced that Kazakhstan would unilaterally disarm all of its nuclear weapons. In the aftermath of the Soviet Union's collapse, Kazakhstan was left with the fourth-largest nuclear arsenal in the world, a tempting target for terrorists and other extremists. Mr. Nazarbayev's courageous decision to disarm in the face of opposition from Islamic nationalists and potential regional instability was one of the fundamental building blocks that have allowed Kazakhstan to emerge as a strong, stable nation and a leader in Central Asia. Then-President George Bush hailed the decision as "a momentous stride toward peace and stability."

Since that time, Central Asia has become an increasingly complex region. Russia is re-emerging from its post-Soviet economic crises and is actively looking for both economic opportunities in Central Asia as well as to secure its political influence over the region. China is rapidly expanding its economic power and political influence in the region. Iran, despite recent progress made by moderate elements in the government, is still a state sponsor of terrorism and is actively working to develop weapons of mass destruction. Many of the other former Soviet republics have become havens for religious extremists, terrorists, drug cartels and transit points for smugglers of all kind.

In the center of this conflict and instability Kazakhstan has begun to prosper by working to build a modern economy, developing its vast natural resources and providing a base of stability in a very uncertain part of the world. With the discovery of the massive Kashagan oil field in the Kazak portion of the Caspian Sea, Kazakhstan is poised to become a major supplier of petroleum to the Western World and a competitor to Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). It is critical that we continue to facilitate western companies' investment in Kazakhstan and the establishment of secure, east-west pipeline routes for Kazak oil. This is the only way for Kazakhstan to loosen its dependence on Russia for transit rights for its oil and gas and secure additional, much needed, oil for the world market.

American policy in the region must be based on the complex geopolitics of Central Asia and provide the support required to enable these countries to reach their economic potential. We must continue to give top priority to the development of Kazakhstan's oil and gas industries and to the establishment of east-west transportation corridors for Caspian oil and gas. We must also remain committed to real support for local political leadership, fostering rule of law and economic reforms and to helping mitigate and solve the lingering ethnic and nationalistic conflicts in the region. Only through meaningful and substantial cooperation with Kazakhstan, will we be able to realize these goals.

There are many challenges ahead for Kazakhstan, but there are enormous opportunities for economic and political progress. Mr. Nazarbayev has taken advantage of Kazakhstan's stability to begin transforming its economy from the old Soviet form giant, state-owned industries and collective grain farms into a modern, market-based economy. We have much at stake in this develop-

ment. Will Kazakhstan become a true market-oriented democracy, or will it slip into economic stagnation and ethnic violence like so many of its neighbor? The stability of Central Asia and the Caucasus depends on how Kazakhstan chooses to move forward. The United States must do its part to enhance U.S.-Kazakhstan cooperation and encourage prosperity and stability for the entire region.

REMOVAL OF SIGNATURE FROM DISCHARGE PETITION

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2001

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to request that my signature be removed from discharge petition number 0002. This petition moves to discharge the Committee on Rules from the consideration of H. Res. 165, a resolution providing for the consideration of the bill H.R. 1468.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC) recent action to expand price restrictions imposed in California on wholesale electricity to cover 10 other Western states. Though FERC could have exercised its statutory authority to set "just and reasonable" wholesale rates several months ago, I hope that the Commission's June 19 Order will soon achieve the intended goal of "correct[ing] dysfunctions in the wholesale power markets operated by the Independent System Operator [ISO] and California Power Exchange [PX]."

In response to FERC's June 19 Order, Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN [D-CA] and GORDON SMITH [R-OR] stopped advocating consideration of their legislation [S. 764] that would force FERC to follow its statutory mandate to set "just and reasonable" wholesale power rates. I agree with Senator SMITH that FERC's action renders S. 764 "substantially moot."

In light of FERC's recent actions and the decision by Senators FEINSTEIN and SMITH not to push for consideration of their legislation, I believe that House action on this matter is no longer warranted at this time. The House needs to exercise patience and wait for a period of perhaps a few months to see if FERC's June 19 Order exerts downward pressure on wholesale prices.

INTRODUCTION OF THE VACCINES FOR CHILDREN LEGISLATION

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2001

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be joined by many of my colleagues in introducing legislation today to improve children's access to immunization. Our bill will correct a technicality that now denies children enrolled in some State Children's Health Insurance Programs (SCHIP) free vaccines through the Vaccines for Children Program.

Today is a fitting day to introduce this bill because it is the first day of "National Immunization Awareness Month." Immunization is the first stage in a lifetime of good health. Dis-

eases such as polio, measles, and whooping cough have been virtually eradicated in the United States through widespread immunization. But access to needed vaccines can be severely constrained by the cost of \$600 per child for the recommended schedule of immunizations. Federal programs such as Vaccines for Children were created to help ease the financial burden of vaccinations on poor families—we need to make sure that these vaccines continue to go to those who need them most.

The Vaccines for Children and the SCHIP were both designed to improve the health of children—we must now guarantee that they work well together. Because of a ruling by the Department of Health and Human Services in 1998, in states that chose to offer children insurance through non-Medicaid programs, children enrolled in SCHIP lost their eligibility for free vaccines. In California, this affected almost 580,000 children, and it costs the state \$18 million a year to fill the gap left by the lack of coordination between these two programs. Children in 32 other states are similarly affected.

Our legislation would add children enrolled in State Children's Health Insurance Programs to the list of children eligible for Vaccines for Children, regardless of the way SCHIP is delivered in their state. These children received free vaccines when they were uninsured, and would receive vaccines were they enrolled in a Medicaid SCHIP program in another state. We must now fill the promise of better health care that came with the passage of SCHIP in 1997, and include these children in Vaccines for Children as well.

HUMAN CLONING PROHIBITION ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2001

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the article entitled, "Cloning's Big Test" for the RECORD.

[From the New Republic, Aug. 6, 2001]

CLONING'S BIG TEST

(By Leon R. Kass and Daniel Callahan)

Everyone has been arguing for weeks about whether President Bush should authorize funding for research on human embryonic stem cells. But few have noticed the much more momentous decision now before us: whether to permit the cloning of human beings. At issue in the first debate is the morality of using and destroying human embryos. At issue in the second is the morality of designing human children.

The day of human cloning is near. Reputable physicians have announced plans to produce a cloned child within the year. One biotech company (Advanced Cell Technology) just announced its intention to start producing embryonic human clones for research purposes. Recognizing the urgent need for action, Congress is considering legislation that would ban human cloning. Last Tuesday the House Judiciary Committee approved a tough anti-cloning bill, H.R. 2505, the Human Cloning Prohibition Act of 2001. Introduced by Republican Dave Weldon of Florida and Democrat Bart Stupak of Michigan, and co-sponsored by more than 120

members from both parties, the bill is scheduled for a vote on the House floor as early as this week. But the House is also considering a much weaker "compromise" bill that would ban reproductive cloning but permit cloning for research. It is terribly important that the former, and not the latter, passes. First, because cloning is unethical, both in itself and in what it surely leads to. Second, because the Weldon-Stupak bill offers our best—indeed, our only—hope of preventing it from happening.

The vast majority of Americans object to human cloning. And they object on multiple grounds: It constitutes unethical experimentation on the child-to-be, subjecting him or her to enormous risks of bodily and developmental abnormalities. It threatens individuality, deliberately saddling the clone with a genotype that has already lived and to whose previous life its life will always be compared. It confuses identity by denying the clone two biological parents and by making it both twin and offspring of its older copy. Cloning also represents a giant step toward turning procreation into manufacture; it is the harbinger of much grizzlier eugenic manipulations to come. Permitting human cloning means condoning a despotic principle: that we are entitled to design the genetic makeup of our children (see "Preventing a Brave New World," by Leon R. Kass, *TNR*, May 21).

So how do we stop it? The biotech industry proposes banning only so-called reproductive cloning by prohibiting the transfer of a cloned embryo to a woman to initiate a pregnancy. But this approach will fail. The only way to effectively ban reproductive cloning is to stop the process from the beginning, at the stage where the human somatic cell nucleus is introduced into the egg to produce the embryo clone. That is, to effectively ban any cloning, we need to ban all human cloning.

Here is why: Once cloned embryos exist, it will be virtually impossible to control what is done with them. Created in commercial laboratories, hidden from public view, stockpiles of cloned human embryos could be produced, bought, and sold without anyone knowing it. As we have seen with *in vitro* embryos created to treat infertility, embryos produced for one reason can be used for another: Today, "spare embryos" created to begin a pregnancy are used—by someone else—in research; and tomorrow, clones created for research will be used—by someone else—to begin a pregnancy. Efforts at clonal baby-making (like all assisted reproduction) would take place within the privacy of a doctor-patient relationship, making outside scrutiny extremely difficult.

Worst of all, a ban only on reproductive cloning will be unenforceable. Should the illegal practice be detected, governmental attempts to enforce the ban would run into a swarm of practical and legal challenges. Should an "illicit clonal pregnancy" be discovered, no government agency is going to compel a woman to abort the clone, and there would be understandable outrage were she fined or jailed before or after she gave birth. For all these reasons, the only practically effective and legally sound approach is to block human cloning at the start—at producing the embryonic clone.

The Weldon-Stupak bill does exactly that. It precisely and narrowly describes the specific deed that it outlaws (human somatic cell nuclear transfer to an egg). It requires no difficult determinations of the perpetrator's intent or knowledge. It introduces substantial criminal and monetary penalties, which will deter renegade doctors or scientists as well as clients who would bear cloned children. Carefully drafted and limited in scope, the bill makes very clear that there is to be no interference with the sci-

entifically and medically useful practices of animal cloning or the equally valuable cloning of human DNA fragments, the duplication of somatic cells, or stem cells in tissue culture. And the bill steers clear of the current stem-cell debate, limiting neither research with embryonic stem cells derived from non-cloned embryos nor even the creation of research embryos by ordinary *in vitro* fertilization. If enacted, the law would bring the United States into line with many other nations.

Unfortunately, the House is also considering the biotech industry's favored alternative: H.R. 2608, introduced by Republican Jim Greenwood of Pennsylvania and Democrat Peter Deutsch of Florida. It explicitly permits the creation of cloned embryos for research while attempting to ban only reproductive cloning. But that's not something it is likely to achieve. It licenses companies to manufacture embryo clones, as long as they say they won't use them to initiate a pregnancy or ship them knowing that they will be so used. It therefore guarantees that there will be clonal embryo-farming and trafficking in clones, with many opportunities for reproductive efforts unintended by their original makers. And the bill's proposed ban on initiating pregnancy is, as already argued, virtually impossible to enforce.

There are further difficulties. The acts the Greenwood-Deutsch bill bans turn largely on intent and knowledge—hard matters to discern and verify. The confidentiality of the called-for Food and Drug Administration registration of embryos-cloning means that the public will remain in the dark about who is producing the embryo clones, where they are bought and sold, and who is doing what with them. A provision preempting state law would make it impossible for any state to enact any other—and more restrictive—legislation. A sunset clause dissolving the prohibition after ten years would leave us with no ban at all, not even on reproductive cloning. Most radically, the bill would create two highly disturbing innovations in federal law: It would license for the first time the creation of living human embryos solely for research purposes, and it would make it a felony not to ultimately exploit and destroy them. The Greenwood-Deutsch legislation reads less like the Cloning Prohibition Act of 2001 and more like the "Human Embryo Cloning Registration and Industry Protection Act of 2001."

It is possible that embryo-cloning will someday yield tissues derivable for each person from his own embryonic twin clone, tissues useful for the treatment of degenerative disease. But the misleading term "therapeutic cloning" obscures the fact that the research clone will be "treated" only to exploitation and destruction and that any future "therapies" are, at this point, purely hypothetical. Besides, we have promising alternatives—not only in adult stem cells but also in non-cloned embryonic stem-cell lines—that do not open the door to human clonal reproduction. Happily, these alternatives will not require commodifying women's ovaries in order to provide the vast number of eggs that would be needed to give each of us our own twin embryo when we need regenerative tissue. Should these alternatives fail, or should animal-cloning experiments someday demonstrate the unique therapeutic potential of stem cells derived from embryo clones, Congress could later revisit and lift the ban.

The Weldon-Stupak bill has drawn wide support across the political spectrum; feminist health writer Judy Norsigian and liberal embryologist Stuart Newman joined Catholic spokesman Richard Doerflinger and political theorist Francis Fukuyama in testifying in its favor. Health and Human Services Sec-

retary Tommy Thompson, a proponent of research with embryonic stem cells, has endorsed it. Thoughtful people understand that human cloning is not about pro-life versus pro-choice. Neither is it a matter of right versus left. It is only and emphatically about baby design and manufacture, the opening skirmish of a long battle against eugenics and the post-human future. Once embryonic clones are produced in laboratories, the eugenic revolution will have begun. Our best chance to stop it may be on the House floor next week.

DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. EVA M. CLAYTON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the the Union had under consideration the bill. (H.R. 2620) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes,

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Chairman, I want to bring to the attention of my colleagues an important issue affecting communities across the country, especially low-income communities with limited resources. Current Federal programs provide cleanup money for the worst sites. The Federal Government should help States provide funds for sites that have significant contamination but aren't the worst. Federal funding for redevelopment goes mainly to urban areas because private sector participation is more readily available. Rural and Environmental Justice communities have non-commercial needs. Environmental justice programs do not provide funding for cleanup.

Superfund was established to address the worst sites. Sites that don't qualify for the National Priorities List may still require cleanup. Typically the State provides 10 percent of the cleanup cost and the Federal Government provides 90 percent of the cleanup cost.

All costs were recovered for the original Superfund site, the PCB spill along the road-sides of North Carolina that resulted in the Warren County problem.

EPA's Brownfields Program Provides money for site assessments and revolving loan programs. It does not provide money for actual cleanup. Economic redevelopment is key component. Most are located in urban areas.

Environmental Justice Programs provide funds to address EJ concerns and issues and to increase involvement by the people in areas where environment injustice has occurred. It does not provide funds for cleanup activities.

Areas where environmental justice has occurred are typically low-income areas where it is difficult to obtain the private sector interest in economic redevelopment.

EJ communities have many needs other than economic redevelopment.

Warren County is one of the poorest counties in North Carolina. The site of the detoxification and redevelopment project is rural and

not suitable for commercial redevelopment. The county needs recreational and community facilities. They cannot obtain grants for these facilities until the site is cleaned up.

The Environmental Justice Program can not provide funds for the cleanup in Warren County, the birthplace of the environmental justice movement,

States have Voluntary Cleanup Programs. These programs have limited funds. In North Carolina, the program looks at sites that have serious problems but did not qualify for Superfund and provides oversight for their cleanup. Principal Responsible Parties are sought to participate. If they do not voluntarily participate the state may cleanup the site if funds are available.

Federal agencies other than EPA provide cleanup funds if their waste is part of a Superfund Cleanup; 10 percent of the material for the Warren County project came from Ft. Bragg and they have indicated that they will not participate.

The detoxification and redevelopment project in Warren County is not a part of North Carolina's voluntary cleanup program. However, the State of North Carolina has provided over \$10 million to date for the project. The estimated total cost is \$17.5 million. Based on this the state has provided over 50 percent of the funding rather than the 10 percent they would provide for a Superfund project.

NAGORNO-KARABAKH PEACE PROCESS

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2001

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I submit for the RECORD the following letter on Nagorno-Karabakh Peace Process:

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 4, 2001.

Hon. COLIN POWELL,
*Secretary of State, Department of State,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR SECRETARY POWELL: I would like to extend my congratulations to you on your appointment earlier this year as our nation's new Secretary of State. Your expertise in international affairs and your prestige among world leaders will undoubtedly serve as an asset to the office and our country.

As a representative of the largest Armenian community outside of Armenia, I am very interested in the recent developments in the Nagorno-Karabakh peace process, as well as U.S. recognition of the Armenian Genocide, and the economic well being of the Republic of Armenia.

Your personal attendance at the talks on Nagorno-Karabakh in Key West, Florida is an indication of the Administration's interest in the region.

I fully agree with your statement expressing our country's commitment to facilitating a mutually acceptable settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. While a lasting peace will serve as a stabilizing force in the Caucasus, I sincerely hope that the history of this region will be an important factor in determining outcomes.

In his attempt to fortify his iron grip over a multiethnic and multicultural society that was the Soviet Union, Joseph Stalin redrew the map of the region to weaken the indigenous populations by carving up ethnically homogeneous republics into unrecognizable autonomous and semi-autonomous regions, such as Nagorno-Karabakh, Nakhichevan and Javakh, all historically Armenian.

The Nagorno-Karabakh peace talks may be our opportunity to correct one of the many historical injustices committed by Stalin.

As a member of the House International Relations Committee, I would greatly appreciate an opportunity to meet with you in the near future to discuss the Administration's policy vis-a-vis the Caucasus. I look forward to hearing from your office regarding a meeting and look forward to working with you on foreign policy issues in the years to come.

Sincerely,

ADAM B. SCHIFF,
Member of Congress.

WORLD CONFERENCE ON RACISM

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2001

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, as we speak an intensive two week effort is underway in Geneva to finalize plans for the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance.

The World Conference, to be held in Durban, South Africa on August 31st, is expected to be the most important international meeting on racism ever held.

Given America's tragic history of racial oppression, racism and inequality and the bloody struggles required to end slavery, lynching, Jim Crow, discrimination in employment, education, health care and public accommodations one would assume that America would have some important lessons to share with the international community.

Given the heavy price the world has been forced to pay as a result of the slave trade one would assume that America would be sensitive and responsive to an attempt to clarify that history and examine means of redressing the wrongs of slavery and racism.

Given the ongoing conflicts, and the heritage of conflict, as a result of the exploitation of the third world by the U.S. and other developed nations largely driven by American slave system, driven by the lingering aftereffects of the slave trade one would assume that America would be sensitive and responsive to an attempt to clarify that history and examine means of redressing the wrongs of slavery and racism.

Given the contradictions arising from the international debt crisis, from the process of globalization and trade driven by the great inequalities between the rich nations and the poor nations, one would assume that America would be sensitive and responsive to an attempt to clarify that history and examine means of redressing the wrongs of slavery and racism.

And one would assume that America would feel a powerful sense of responsibility to share

those experiences, because we understand the immense human, social and economic costs associated with the evils of racism and discrimination.

Unfortunately, if one were to make those assumptions, one would be wrong . . . our State Department has indicated that the United States will not attend the World Conference unless two items are struck from the proposed agenda: the characterization of Zionism as racism and the issue of reparations for slavery and colonialism.

In international forums from Ireland to the Mideast, from Southern Africa to the Indian sub-continent America has always insisted that problems cannot be solved, that differences cannot be narrowed if we refuse to discuss them.

Suddenly America has become the loner in world diplomacy, insisting that it is our way or no way.

The Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, the Germ Warfare Treaty the Kyoto Global Warming Treaty and now the World Conference on Racism.

What kind of super-power are we?

Are we about democracy, about democratic process, about transparency and mutual self interest.

Or are we about imposing our will on international consultations, about insisting on pre-determining the outcomes of discussions between nations?

Only those who fear the outcome of fair and open discussion have reason to refuse to engage in debate and discussion.

I believe we have nothing to fear in openly and honestly exploring history and repudiating racism.

It's time to come to grips with racism and the legacy of racism. It's in our national interest and our international interest.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan has corrected defined the problem: we need to "find way to acknowledge the past without getting lost there; and to help heal old wounds without reopening them."

If American is serious about its affirmation that racism and democracy are fundamentally incompatible, and I think that we are serious about it, then America must be at the table in Durban, South Africa on August 31st.

If I might paraphrase the words of Abraham Lincoln: America was conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men and women are created equal. Now, we are being tested as to whether this nation, or any nation, so conceived and so dedicated can long endure.

Mr. Speaker, I am optimistic that America, and the world, are firmly on the road to ending racism and resolving the lingering and persistent after effects of this great distortion of all human, civil and economic rights.

Mr. Speaker if we are to continue down that road, we must not, we cannot fail this great test.

Mr. Speaker, in the interests of all mankind let us hope and pray that America will not turn its back on the World Conference on Racism.