

Last month, the Special Counsel issued a report highly critical of Lurita Doan, the GSA Administrator. The Special Counsel found that during a briefing for certain GSA employees by the White House Deputy Director of Political Affairs, the Administrator encouraged her subordinates to engage in partisan political activity.

Here's what the Republican-appointed Special Counsel had to say about this incident: The GSA Administrator displayed no reservations in her willingness to commit GSA resources, including its human capital, to the Republican Party. Her actions, to be certain, constitute an obvious misuse of her official authority and were made for the purpose of affecting the result of an election. One can imagine no greater violation of the Hatch Act than to invoke the machinery of an agency, with all its contracts and buildings, in the service of a partisan campaign to retake Congress and the Governors' mansions.

Currently, the Special Counsel is investigating whether Karl Rove and other White House officials violated the Hatch Act by holding numerous other political presentations at over 20 Federal agencies across government.

Now, this amendment would take \$1,000,000 from the Office of the Special Counsel. I have had serious disagreements with the Special Counsel in the past, but I have never proposed cutting the budget of this small agency. The Office only has a budget of about \$16 million, so a cut of this magnitude could have a devastating effect.

We need more enforcement of the Hatch Act and more protection of Federal whistleblowers—not less.

I urge my colleagues to oppose the Davis amendment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, on June 25, 2007, I missed rollcall votes numbered 549, a Resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that a "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day" should be established and 550, a Resolution to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Asheville, North Carolina, as the "Charles George Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center."

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes numbered 549 and 550.

HONORING ST. SYMPHOROSA PARISH ON ITS 80TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor St. Symphorosa Parish in Chicago, IL. Two weeks ago, I had the privilege of participating in the 80th anniversary celebration mass at this distinguished parish, which has been a pillar of faith and service in Chicago since 1927. I am especially proud to thank St.

Symphorosa for providing me with a strong moral and academic education in church and at the parish grammar school.

The Archbishop of Chicago established St. Symphorosa to provide a multi-ethnic, American parish for the Clearing neighborhood on Chicago's southwest side. Under the leadership and guidance of Father J. Leo Sharp, the new parish celebrated its first Sunday Mass on June 19, 1927.

Without a church of its own, the parish initially met in the Clearing Town Hall until construction of a new church could be completed in September 1928. Once the building complex was completed, St. Symphorosa School opened under the guidance of four Benedictine sisters. The parish and school have since changed locations, but the school remains open, educating and serving the community's youth.

The parish rendered noble service during the Great Depression. Although forced to sell some of the parish's land to keep the church open, Father Sharp and the Benedictine sisters ministered to needy families by collecting and distributing clothing. In 1943, the parish received a new pastor, Father Anthony Harte, who presided over the parish's expansion in the wake of World War II. By the time Father Harte retired in 1967, St. Symphorosa had added five buildings to the parish property, the parish population had tripled, and the school had over 1,600 students.

Father Francis Maniola became the parish's third pastor, and brought the changes of the Second Vatican Council to St. Symphorosa. To strengthen the parish's ability to serve its members and the community, Father Maniola added new programs to the parish that included the Super Club, the Altar & Rosary Sodality, and Widows and Widowers. His successors, Father John McNamara and Father Marc Pasciak, encouraged lay participation in the parish and established a parish council and staff.

Today, St. Symphorosa Parish is as vibrant as ever, and the parish continues to serve the worship needs of over 2,400 families in Clearing and surrounding communities. The St. Symphorosa Family Fest, its major celebratory event, has grown into one of the largest parish festivals in the Chicago Archdiocese.

It is my honor to recognize St. Symphorosa on the occasion of its 80th anniversary. The parish has fulfilled Father Sharp's vision of a proud community that works together, learns together, and worships together. With its legacy of remarkable pastors and committed parishioners, the parish has truly become a "Family Celebrating Faith."

TIME TO FOSTER GREATER COLLABORATION FOR OUR REGIONAL SECURITY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Joint Statement issued by the Bush Administration and the Caribbean Heads of State at the conclusion of the CARICOM summit. I cannot underscore enough the importance of a consistent and progressive relationship between the United

States and the Caribbean. I am pleased with the success of the Conference on the Caribbean held in Washington DC, last week with the members of the Caribbean Community, CARICOM. To hold such a historic meeting during Caribbean-American Heritage Month speaks to the understanding of the administration to the importance of maintaining a fruitful partnership with our neighbors in the Caribbean.

During their visit to the United States the heads of states of CARICOM requested to meet with Members of the U.S. House of Representatives with whom they have worked on issues affecting the Caribbean and Members who sit on committees with jurisdiction over issues affecting the region. Fourteen members of the delegation, including the President of Guyana, Vice President of Suriname, Prime Ministers and Foreign Ministers of Antigua & Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago met with members of the House Ways and Means Committee for an Executive Session that I organized. Among the topics we discussed during this executive session were the Caribbean trade preferences expiring next year and their possible extension, as well as the provision of enhanced assistance of the U.S. Government to the CARICOM Secretariat for capacity building to implement its single market.

In order to expand economic opportunities at home and in the Caribbean, there is a need to update and expand the Caribbean Basin Initiative. President Bush stated his intentions to work with Congress to extend the reach of the Caribbean Basin Trade Promotion Act as well as the 1991 Trade and Investment Framework Agreement, TIFA.

Expanding the TIFA to include services benefits our Caribbean neighbors in light of services being the backbone of CARICOM economies. At the forefront of the services offered by many CARICOM countries are professional financial services. Our support for recognizing the regulatory and transparency compliance of CARICOM countries—10 of which are listed alongside 34 nations in current tax haven legislation—should be addressed. By investigating and recognizing the compliance of these nations, in line with the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development, OECD, definition of tax havens, legislators can remove their names from current bills that could prove detrimental to developing Caribbean economies if passed.

In addition to the House Committee on Ways and Means, the heads of states met with the House Foreign Affairs Committee and the Congressional Black Caucus. During the meeting with the Congressional Black Caucus, House Speaker NANCY PELOSI reiterated the commitment of the House leadership to address the challenges facing the nation of Haiti.

Having shared values and interests in regional security, the Caribbean Community and the United States can best achieve democratic aims by fostering regional understanding and accountability. Greater support for regional security goes beyond sharing resources and ideas to protect our borders, but it also encompasses the threat of HIV/AIDS. After Sub-Saharan Africa, the largest population of HIV/AIDS infected individuals resides in the Caribbean. In Congress, we continue to provide funding to assist nations in the region address