as in the case of the Iran-contra affair. Some have inadvertently provided trading opportunities for others. By and large, this potpourri of U.S. measures has not altered the fundamental positions of Iran.

These measures have, however, helped to push Iran toward international isolation and accelerated the pace of its mostly self-inflicted social and economic ills. Even a policy of critical cooperation, advocated by Germany with French support, has not had the desired effect.

Now that the Clinton administration and the new Republican majority in Congress appear to agree on placing Iran high on the agenda of U.S. foreign policy, is it not time to address the Iranian dilemma at its roots? The United States may hold to its current course of isolating Iran, but it has to reckon with all the international forces at work on this issue. Russian and Chinese nuclear agreements, and German and Japanese debt refinancings, give evidence of the fragility of the administration's approach.

This appears to be a propitious time for a different approach and it is, therefore, worth considering how relations between the United States and Iran might be set on a new course.

Iran is now facing mass unemployment, double-digit inflation, falling productivity and massive foreign debt. The value of the Iranian currency, the rial, dropped from 75 to the dollar in 1977 to 6,000 at one point. Iran's GNP per capita is now less than half its 1977 level.

Iran is also feeling the weight of diplomatic isolation. Sixteen years after the revolution, the only Western head of state to have paid a visit to Tehran is Kurt Waldheim, the former Austrian president.

Economic and governmental disorder have unleashed political forces beyond the control of the radical clergy. In recent months, Iran has faced a number of industrial strikes and anti-government demonstrations. Important social groups, including lawyers, doctors, bazaar merchants, retired military officers, writers and journalists, have publicly challenged the government and its policies.

Even the Shiite Muslim clergy, initially the backbone of the revolutionary regime, has asserted its independence. Some senior ayatollahs have said publicly that they would support new policy makers and policies capable of turning the economy around and ending the nation's diplomatic isolation.

The constant theme of these dissenting voices is a call for a new political course, one freely chosen by the Iranian people. As the level of dissent rises, there is reason to believe that even some of the more extreme elements of the regime, their customary rhetoric notwithstanding, may now be inclined to consider a plan that would address the country's economic disorder and diplomatic isolation. General elections are scheduled in 1996 and presidential elections in 1997. A workable plan, properly monitored and performance-related, could have a positive effect on these two crucial events.

Such a plan should let the people of Iran normalize the state of the nation. At home, it should aim for democracy, respect for human rights and an agreeable quality of life. Abroad, it would need to restore the image of Iran as a responsible member of the United Nations, ready to live in peace with all other nations.

In the first phase of such a plan, Iran would have to take appropriate steps, in keeping with its constitution, to dismantle the bureaucracy it created to cope with the problems of the early years of the Islamic revolution. These steps should include the rehabilitation of those unjustly deprived of their civil rights on the basis of their political beliefs, the repeal of laws and regulations that discriminate on the basis of sex, race, ethnicity and faith, and the removal of restrictions, often unconstitutional, on freedom of expression, association and election.

The normalization of political life in Iran would facilitate the no less complex task of bringing the country's foreign policy into line with its international obligations. This would, of necessity, include measures to dispel any notion that Iran supports international terrorism and the assassination of dissidents abroad. Iran would also need to cease its campaign against the Middle East peace process, adhere to the now renewed version of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and take steps to make credible its announced decision not to acquire nuclear weapons.

Iran could also facilitate visits by the International Committee of the Red Cross to prisons where it is alleged that prisoners of conscience and members of religious and ethnic minorities are being held, often without charges being filed. It should allow international human rights organizations access to its officials and open itself to the international media in the normal manner.

Linking its response to Iranian performance, the United States would need to give evidence of its own willingness to make positive contributions. First steps would include establishing a timetable for the final settlement of all outstanding claims between the two countries and for the release of the remaining Iranian assets, setting up a procedure in which sanctions against Iran would be lifted in stages and normalizing visa requirements for Iranian nationals visiting the United States.

The United States could encourage the formation of a Council on Trade and Economic Cooperation with Iran with the participation of the leaders of the U.S. business community. The United States might also form an appropriate body to advise on various aspects of U.S.-Iranian relations. While policies are obviously formulated by governments, this could help mobilize private resources in the services of the new set of foreign policy objectives as containment gives way to rapprochement.

In the next phase, Iran would resume its quest for democracy that started almost 100 years ago. The Iranian people would be given the opportunity to return to the electoral process and the organization of presidential and parliamentary elections in line with the provisions of Iran's constitution. These elections should be open to political parties of all denominations and conducted in a verifiably fair fashion.

The last phase of the plan would thus begin in an atmosphere of stability, without which all attempts at reviving Iran's economy through domestic and international cooperation will remain tentative and fragile. At this point, the Council on Trade and Economic Cooperation with Iran, having completed its initial studies, would be in a position to sponsor a series of conferences designed to help Iran reintegrate into the world-economy and to realize its economic potential, estimated to reach $100 billion in annual trade and economic opportunities.

The stage could thus be set for the Middle East to open a chapter in regional economic cooperation—possibly including Central Asia, which hungers for peace and development—an enterprise that could foster opportunities not dissimilar to those in the Pacific Rim nations. Moderate Arab nations too would be helped to accelerate the pace of their social and economic transformation, and the way would be paved for a more constructive relationship between the West and the world of Islam as a whole.

Is this farfetched? It is no more farfetched than the thought of a visit to Jerusalem by President Anwar Sadat of Egypt in the aftermath of the Yom Kippur War or the thought in the mid-1980s that the Berlin Wall could be brought down before the end of that decade. The Middle East has always dealt with logjams that block the normal course of its politics through courageous steps that have defied conventional wisdom. History belongs to those who do not merely contemplate the sour aspects of present reality, but labor with persistence to give birth to new possibilities of hope.

OCTOBER IS MENTOR MONTH

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 17, 1995

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Montgomery County (Maryland) Task Force on Mentoring. The task force will be sponsoring a mentor training workshop on Saturday, October 21, 1995 in celebration of their theme, ''October is Mentor Month.''

The Montgomery County Task Force on Mentoring was established by the Montgomery County Human Relations Commission in response to a study of the plight of young black males in the county. In 1991, the commission hosted a conference on ''Young Black Males: Is Mentoring a Solution?'' At that conference, it became apparent that several mentor programs were in operation in the county unaware of each other's existence. It was obvious at that conference that an umbrella organization was needed to provide support for mentor activities in Montgomery County.

In Homer's ''Odyssey,'' Mentor was the man to whom Odysseus entrusted the care and education of his son, Telemachus, when Odysseus embarked on his travels and adventures. The word ''mentor'' has come to mean ''a trusted friend or teacher.''

Mentoring has evolved into a time-honored tradition that smooths the path for newcomers to get ahead and allows seasoned-professionals to leave a legacy for the future. A mentor is someone who consciously serves as a career role model for students. A mentor can increase the confidence and self-esteem of students and provide the inspiration needed to persevere during the early stages of career development. Studies show that people who have been nurtured in their careers by mentors achieve more than individuals with equal talent who have not had an advocate encouraging their success.

Mentors often combat the isolation and fragmentation experienced by teenagers who lack guidance from adult role-models. Mentors have been especially important for single mothers who need encouragement to aspire to professional growth and higher-paying jobs. In many instances, mentors help their proteges overcome persistent barriers in the workplace.

Through their workshop on October 21, the Montgomery County Task Force on Mentoring hopes to assist young people who need adult guidance in their lives. Information and materials will be available to organizations interested in developing mentor programs.

Mr. Speaker, it is a proud moment for me to applaud the task force for providing organizations in the Montgomery County community with the technical assistance and support services they need to promote mentoring. I

wish the winning combination of task force members, interested citizens, county agencies, community organizations, and students continued success as they embark on future odysseys in mentoring.

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

HON. BARBARA F. VUCANOVICH

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 17, 1995

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. It is time to remember the 46,000 women who died last year, and the 182,000 women who will be diagnosed with breast cancer this year. I know the hard cold facts because I am a breast cancer survivor.

Women must play a vital role in the war against breast cancer by performing a monthly breast-self-examination, visiting a physician and obtaining an annual mammogram. Since there is no cure for breast cancer, early detection is the key to survival.

However, early diagnosis of breast cancer is of no use if the patient cannot get proper treatment once a tumor is discovered. The treatment for 50 percent of all breast cancers is limited to one drug, yet current law does not permit Medicare coverage.

Today I am introducing legislation which provides coverage of this drug under Medicare. Without this coverage, breast cancers are left untreated, and women are left to suffer.

Remember the women during Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Become a cosponsor of this life-saving legislation.

TRIBUTE TO CWO DENNIS ST. CLAIR

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 17, 1995

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to CWO Dennis St. Clair, a dedicated public servant who will soon retire from the Ohio Army National Guard after over 41 years of distinguished service.

Dennis St. Clair began his service at the Camp Perry Training Site, located near Port Clinton, OH, on July 22, 1954. Since that time, CWO St. Clair has distinguished himself as a man of dedication, innovation, and personal accomplishment. During his tenure, CWO St. Clair's expert management was instrumental in a comprehensive building program which included the construction of four new barracks, a new beach tower, a new troop medical clinic, new officers quarters and new motel units.

As the full-time Operation and Plans officer for the Camp Perry Training Site, CWO St. Clair developed one of the most comprehensive range safety programs in the country. His legacy is an outstanding range safety record at Camp Perry.

Mr. Speaker, Dennis St. Clair is a remarkable individual whose 41 years personal competence, unwavering commitment and selfless sacrifice is a model for public servants. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating him for his service to the U.S. Army, the Ohio Army National Guard, and to the people of the State of Ohio.

As he begins his retirement, may he and his family fully enjoy the benefits of the freedom he has so ably defended for over four decades as a member of the Armed Forces of the United States.

MEDICARE SUBSTITUTE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 17, 1995

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I plan to offer a substitute for H.R. 2425, the Medicare Preservation Act of 1995 when it is debated in the House of Representatives on Thursday, October 19, 1995. My substitute is very simple. It is printed in its entirety in the amendments section of this RECORD. It contains three provisions.

First, my substitute would establish a bipartisan commission to develop recommendations to strengthen and improve the Medicare Program. The commission would be required to submit its recommendations to the Congress not later than May 1, 1997.

Second, my substitute would provide for $90 billion less in tax reductions than now contemplated by the budget resolution. This would be accomplished by an across-the-board limitation on all the tax reductions.

Finally, my substitute would transfer the additional revenues resulting from the limitation on the tax reductions into the Medicare Part A Trust Fund. This would extend the solvency of that trust fund until the year 2006.

Mr. Speaker, there is no reason to do irrevocable damage to Medicare and senior citizens by cutting $270 billion from the program over the next 7 years—unless you want to grant excessive tax cuts to the very wealthiest of our citizens. The trustees of the fund made it clear that an infusion of $90 billion into the Part A Trust Fund will assure solvency through 2006.

My substitute will solve any intermediate problems of the fund now, while creating a mechanism by which any long-term problems can be addressed in a thoughtful and reasoned manner.

By this substitute, we truly can preserve, protect, and strengthen Medicare for both present and future beneficiaries.

A VISION FOR AMERICA

HON. JOHN SHADEGG

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 17, 1995

Mr. SHADEGG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Miss Jacquelyn Clark, a student at Horizon High School and a resident of my district in Scottsdale, AZ. Miss Clark is the Arizona State winner of the Veterans of Foreign Wars' Voice of Democracy broadcast scriptwriting scholarship contest. The contest theme this year was "My Vision For America." I commend to you, Mr. Speaker, and all of my fellow Members of Congress, both in this House and in the other body, her words:

MY VISION FOR AMERICA

In 1783, a group of men had a vision for a country based on justice and liberty for all Americans. One of the most beautifully written documents in our nation's history was created, the United States Constitution.

My vision for America is that the people of our nation maintain a faith in the ideals held by our forefathers. The United States Constitution has proven itself worthy of our respect and allegiance. It has upheld its values with fortitude, and has stood the test of time by remaining true to its original principles.

James Madison, considered the "Father of the Constitution," believed that "in framing a system which we wish to last for ages, we should not lose sight of the changes which ages will produce." Our nation has undergone many remarkable changes since its beginning. We have spread the words of liberty across our entire continent, and to all people who call our great nation their home. Amazingly, our Constitution's words are as valid today as they were when first written. These words of hope have served as a guiding light for all men. No matter where our individual paths may lead us, we always know that the rights recognized to us in the Constitution are rights we realize from birth, and rights on which we can depend to shield us from civil injustice and oppression. Included, are the rights to share in our government, the right to worship God in one's own way, and the right to a full and happy life.

We must keep in mind, however, that with these rights come responsibilities, and how we invest in our country determines how we profit from it. A wise American once said, "ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country," This message remains true today. From its beginning, our Constitution has represented a belief in the future, but this belief must be maintained in the present.

My vision for America is the hope of a shared vision between all Americans, and that they would be dedicated to protecting our nation's heritage. Today's Americans must have the desire and initiative to educate our children. Our coming generations need to realize that great accomplishments grow from average people. Every day, men and women had hopes for a brighter future and ended up making our great country what it is today. When I see veterans standing proudly to salute the American flag while the National Anthem plays patriotically in the background, and when I see small children with their hands held over their hearts stumble through the Pledge of Allegiance, I feel such pride for our nation and the principles for which it stands. We need to remember that those who come before us cannot depend on those who come after us to maintain the spirit of our Constitution. The goal of our forefathers was to assure within the wording of this great document that our nation would remain strong and would be a land of opportunity for all who supported it. Our constitutional foundation will remain firm only as long as its holders continue to protect its principles. It is up to us, today's Americans, to cherish the beliefs of our fathers and keep them alive and safe for our children.

My vision for keeping this spirit alive is through a personal involvement in our government. Americans have a responsibility to its authors to not only teach the wording of the Constitution, but to demonstrate it's principles through our actions. We need to encourage all citizens to exercise their Constitutional privilege of suffrage, and to actively take part in the decisions that shape and mold our nation. By encouraging our children to participate in the KIDS VOTING