EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 1999

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, as many of my colleagues may be aware, October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. In my home State of North Dakota, as well as across the Nation, citizens have already participated in numerous activities, such as candlelight vigils, ''Take Back the Night'' rallies, and other forms of demonstration aimed at raising public awareness of this national tragedy.

Domestic violence is one of our Nation's most prevalent, yet misunderstood, tragedies. Recently, North Dakota's Attorney General released a report on domestic violence for 1997, and the statistics should cause us all to take notice. To cite just a few of the facts: in 1,450 incidents reported through the North Dakota Uniform Crime Reporting Program, there were 1,638 victims involved; 39 percent of all reported physical violence cases across the State were incidents of domestic violence; and among reported victims of domestic violence, 74 percent were women and 19 percent were juveniles.

These figures are even more sobering when you consider that domestic violence is one of the most severely underreported crimes. We may not be able to estimate the number of victims who, living in fear or denial, do not come forward; however, the National Crime Victimization survey, administered by the Department of Justice, reports that victims of all types of violence, including domestic, report only about half of their victimizations to the police.

Unfortunately, attitudes are slow to change, especially on such an intimate issue as domestic violence. No longer can we sit idly by, as the cycle of violence not only goes on, but oftentimes worsens. No longer can we claim that what goes on in another person's private life is none of my or your business. No longer can we blame the victims saying that they ''asked for it.'' No longer can we make excuses.

During this month of awareness, therefore, I am proud to also mark the fifth anniversary of one of the most important stands Congress has ever taken against domestic violence: the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). Through programs that bolster prosecution of sexual assault and domestic violence, increase victim services, and step up education and prevention activities, VAWA has gone far to protect individuals from sexual offenses and domestic abuse. I am proud to support reauthorization of all these programs as a cosponsor of H.R. 357, the Violence Against Women Act of 1999.

Congress, however, cannot act alone. The House of Representatives cannot pass a law to ban domestic violence. The Senate cannot force attitudes to change. It is up to all of us to take action—through greater participation and awareness—to end this national tragedy, Advocates should not have to fight alone, and victims should not have to suffer alone. This is one issue on which the old adage holds true: If we're not part of the solution, we're part of the problem.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL ZIEGLER AND PRIDE INDUSTRIES

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 1999

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to Michael Ziegler and PRIDE Industries. On November 5, 1999, the United Cerebral Palsy Association of Sacramento is presenting their most prestigious Humanitarian Award to Mr. Ziegler. As friends and associates of Mr. Ziegler and the United Cerebral Palsy Association gather to celebrate, I ask all my colleagues to join me in saluting this special occasion.

The United Cerebral Palsy Association's Humanitarian Award is given annually to ''individuals or organizations who have displayed a passion for life and a sincere desire to work toward enhancing the lives of others.'' Those who receive this award have fulfilled their passion and desire through extensive community involvement.

As president and chief executive officer of PRIDE Industries, Michael Ziegler has exemplified that passion and desire. He has been the guiding force behind PRIDE Industries' mission to offer employment to an ever-expanding number of individuals with disabilities. While maintaining a successful business, Mr. Ziegler has been able to significantly increase the employment rate of handicapped people in the Sacramento area.

Under the leadership of Michael Ziegler, PRIDE Industries has strived to meet four core values: mission, people, customers, and culture. Through their mission of creating good jobs for people with disabilities, they are working toward creating a challenging and rewarding environment. Energized by the fact that their efforts make a positive difference in the community, Mr. Ziegler is committed to establishing PRIDE Industries as a competitive and thriving company.

The road to success for PRIDE Industries has spanned several areas. Over the years, it has gone from a non-profit organization to a government-funded agency and finally to a privately-funded corporation. Mr. Ziegler has enabled PRIDE Industries to become one of the fastest-growing private companies in Greater Sacramento with mostly disabled employees.

As a result of increased demand for its manufacturing and service contracts, PRIDE Industries expects to add nearly 200 employees over the next 12 months. The company has service contracts in such areas as custodial work, groundskeeping, recycling, building maintenance, and various other service contracts for Air Force bases.

In addition to service contracts, PRIDE Industries has thrived in electronic contract manufacturing. It makes printed circuit boards, assembles and repairs electronics products, and even manufactures its own brand of snowshoes.

Mr. Ziegler has built PRIDE Industries into a thriving business recognized around the world for its success and direction. He has brought self respect and hope to many people with disabilities while maintaining and operating a successful business.

Mr. Speaker, as the United Cerebral Palsy Association convenes to present Michael Ziegler with their Humanitarian Award, I am honored to pay tribute to one of Sacramento's most outstanding citizens. His contributions to disabled people and the community of Sacramento are commendable. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in wishing Mr. Ziegler and PRIDE Industries continued success in all their future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO LENORE PAQUIN

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 1999

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, on November 12, 1999, Ms. Lenore Paquin will retire after twenty-seven years of service to the Town of North Attleboro as the Public Health Nurse.

In addition to her role as Public Health Nurse, Ms. Paquin was especially well known for her many community and charitable works. She has been on the Board of Directors of the Visiting Nurses Association, Versa Care, New Hope, Attleboro Area Community Council and Hillside Adult Care, where she was also a founder. She has been honored by individuals and organizations too numerous to mention.

It has been said that whenever there was a need, Lenore stepped in and offered her assistance. She organized a kitchen where she distributed food to the families who were going without and arranged Thanksgiving and Christmas campaigns to alleviate the problems that families encounter during the holiday season.

When you mention the name Lenore in the Town of North Attleboro and the surrounding area, it is not necessary to mention her last name because everyone knows her and her work. A number of years ago when the Attleboro Area Business and Professional Women honored her, she spoke about the difference in taking care of patients in a hospital setting and in her role as a Public Health Nurse. She stated—''In a hospital setting you never know what happens to them when they leave. Here you walk along with them. I kind of like that . . .''

The people in the Town of North Attleboro and the surrounding area are indeed fortunate to have a person like Lenore in their midst.

TRIBUTE TO CLENTE FLEMMING

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 1999

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Clente Flemming for nearly 30 years of service in the banking industry. Through dedication and hard work, Mr. Flemming rose through the ranks to become Senior Vice President overseeing Personnel for Bank of America in North and South Carolina. At the end of this year, he retires from that impressive career to launch a new consulting venture in which I am sure he will enjoy similar success.

Clente Flemming began his career in 1970 as a third shift clerk at what was then Bankers' Trust. From there he quickly became a shift supervisor and then moved into the auditing department in 1974. But Mr. Flemming realized that to further his career he must pursue academic achievements beyond his work at Palmer Junior College. He enrolled in the University of South Carolina and earned a B.S. in Business Administration in 1979.

After that, his career with the bank took off. He joined the personnel department and became Vice President of Employee Relations. With that move, Mr. Flemming became the bank's first African American Vice President. In 1990, he was elevated to Senior Vice President Carolinas Personnel Executive, a position he will hold until the year's end.

Mr. Flemming has utilized his position to hire and train other talented African Americans. When he joined the banking industry, it was not very diverse. However, he has been in a position to serve as a mentor and expand the ranks of minorities at all levels.

Once officially retired from Bank of America, Mr. Flemming plans to use his expertise in personnel matters to help small businesses with their personnel policies and benefits. As a consultant he plans to help others achieve success. In addition to those efforts, Mr. Flemming has plans to open an employment agency focused on finding jobs for the underemployed.

Clente is married to the former Ojeta Irving and they have a daughter, Joy, and a son, Eric.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join with me and my fellow South Carolinians as we pay tribute to Clente Flemming for 30 years of blazing a trail for African Americans through the banking community. He is an excellent role model and we all wish him continued success in his new ventures.

COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO

HON. JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 1999

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the fifth-largest private institution of higher education in Illinois, Columbia College Chicago, as it starts the 1999–2000 school year. Columbia College Chicago is an undergraduate and graduate college in downtown Chicago whose principal commitment is to provide comprehensive education in the arts and communication within the context of enlightened liberal education.

Founded in 1890, Columbia continues its dedication to communication arts as well as to media arts, applied and fine arts, theatrical and performing arts, and management and marketing arts. More than one-third of Columbia's 8,500 students are minorities—the largest enrollment of any arts and communications institution in the country.

Dr. John Duff, President of Columbia College continues to develop the foundations of a Columbia education which includes small class sizes that ensure close interaction with a faculty of working professionals who bring the working world into the classroom. The College provides a sound liberal arts background for the developing artist or communicator and supports students' employment goals through a full range of career services.

Outside the classroom, students participate in activities that include the College's student newspaper, radio station, electronic newsletter, two student magazines, cable television, three theaters, dance center, photography and art museums, and film and video festival.

Columbia is an integral part of its community, sponsoring and working with over two dozen diverse organizations, ranging from the African Film Festival to the Chicago Jazz Ensemble. Dozens of other independent organizations are involved regularly with one or another program or department of Columbia. This nurturing of diversity is Columbia's hallmark.

Today, Columbia remains secure in its mission and traditional commitments to opportunity, diversity and career-cognizant arts and media education in a liberal arts context. Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Columbia College Chicago, a unique Chicago institution, which draws both its strength and identity from the city and its students.

IN HONOR OF JIM CRAVENS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jim W. Cravens as he is honored as Veteran of the Year by the Lincoln Post No. 13 Polish Legion of American Veterans for his outstanding service and dedication.

Jim Cravens began his career of service in the Air Force in February of 1959 as a draftsman and served until 1961. During his retirement he joined the Local Junior Chamber of Commerce and pursued his lifelong hobby of derby racing by working with the local youth in building racers. His youthful enthusiasm has truly been inspiring to everyone he has encountered.

In 1963, Jim Cravens began his work with the Cleveland Board of Education in the Architectural Department. Later, because of his community and political involvement, he was elected president of his neighborhood group and the Local War Democratic Club. In 1979 he was elected to the Cleveland City Council and in 1982 Jim Cravens started his work with the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections.

Jim Craven's participation with the Polish Legion of American Veterans began in 1992 when he was a social member, then was later asked to take the position of 2nd and 1st Commander and now he holds the position of commander. As commander, Jim Cravens has worked hard to pay off old death benefits, improve the post both inside and out, and put it back on sound financial ground while taking care of other duties. In addition to his service to the Polish-American veterans, Jim was a member of the Polish Americans Inc, the Polish American Congress, the Amateur Athletic Union USA, and is still serving as ward leader of Cleveland Ward 12 as well as vice president of the Merchant Guild of the Slavic Village.

My fellow distinguished colleagues, please join me in honoring Jim W. Cravens as he is honored by the Polish Legion of American Veterans as Veteran of the Year.

TRIBUTE TO EDUARDO CASTELL

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 1999

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize the achievements of Eduardo Castell, a resident of the Park Slope neighborhood in Brooklyn, New York.

''Eddie'', as he is known amongst his colleagues and friends, has committed himself to a life of public service. Even as an honor student at Connecticut College, he served on that College's Board of Trustees as a Student Representative. He later joined the staff of our colleague, the late Congressman Ted Weiss, where he was instrumental in the passage of legislation that required credit reporting agencies to list delinquent child support payments on individuals' credit reports. This law, strongly supported by women and children's advocacy groups, has been instrumental in identifying and correcting the abusive practices of ''dead beat dads''.

He joined the staff of Congresswoman NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ where he rose from the position of Legislative Director to Chief of Staff. During his tenure with Congresswoman VELÁZQUEZ, Eddie drafted legislative proposals on education, housing, banking, and insurance including a ''hate crimes'' initiative which funds organizations education and prevention in schools. He was also instrumental in bringing nearly $20 million in Federal monies for economic development to Brooklyn.

Currently, Eddie is Special Assistant to William C. Thompson, Jr., President of the New York City Board of Education, a position he has held since 1997. In this capacity, he advises President Thompson on education policy and administrative oversight of the nation's largest school system. Eddie has led efforts to expand minority procurement and contracting and to explore alternatives for building new schools. He was also involved in the passage of a citywide school uniform policy.

Never one to limit his community activism, Eddie serves on the Board of Directors of Neighbors Helping Neighbors, a Brooklyn-based not-for-profit housing and business development organization. He is a former Advisory Board member of the Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation. He and his wife, Jennifer, have one son, Carlos.

I salute Eddie Castell for his commitment to a career of public service.

HONORING VISIONONE

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor VisionOne, Inc. for being an economic force that attracts high-tech skills and companies to the Fresno area, as well as delivering the most affordable e-business solutions and Internet technologies to the region. I had the privilege of attending VisionOne's ribbon cutting ceremony on July 8, 1999 as they officially opened their new Fresno location.

VisionOne is a privately held international corporation that was founded in 1998, with United States headquarters in Fresno, and additional offices in Switzerland, Mexico, Germany, Chile, and Brazil. The specialty of VisionOne lies in their ability to provide user-maintainable e-business solutions and Internet technologies. Their mission is to help clients in various industries conduct cost-effective and successful online business. With a focus on e-business solutions and Internet technologies, VisionOne is strategically positioned as a force that will attract high-tech skills to the Central Valley.

VisionOne is a creative company with a high-tech gut. Their philosophy is to never lose sight of the fact they are developing technology for users, not users for technology. The solutions VisionOne offers derive value to the extent they simplify lives and overcome business challenges.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor VisionOne for its commitment to the financial prosperity of Fresno and the Central Valley. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing VisionOne many more years of continued success.

TRIBUTE TO MR. GEORGE B. SALTER

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 1999

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of Chicago's unsung heroes, the late George B. Salter. His untimely death on October 24, 1999, will truly leave a deep void in our community.

Mr. George B. Salter was born in Hickory, MS on October 13, 1916 to the union of Sallie Johnson Salter and Frank Salter. Mr. George B. Salter later married his high school sweetheart Louise Lucille Salter. To this union two daughters were born, Brenda Yvonne Salter and Henrietta Louise Salter.

A Navy veteran, Mr. George B. Salter committed a part of his life to protect the freedom of Americans and to further the fight for the freedom of others around the world. While in the Navy Mr. George B. Salter was a member of the prestigious Navy band playing the Trumpet while stationed in Earl, NJ.

Mr. George B. Salter was employed by the Chicago Burlington and Quincy Railroad (presently Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad) where he rose in the ranks and became the first African-American to be appointed to the position of crew supervisor. Mr. George B. Salter was a steadfast believer that with the proper amount of work anything was possible.

Mr. George B. Salter took an active part in his community. This was seen in his utmost commitment to his vocation as God's faithful servant. As a senior usher in charge of the balcony at Liberty Baptist Church, George B. Salter enjoyed helping Liberty's official greeters bring their children to the steps. Mr. Salter brought hope and optimism to ordinary folks whose lives he touched so deeply never holding anyone at arm's length.

Mr. George B. Salter was a relentless community builder, a loving father, and a doting grandfather, completely unselfish in all of his endeavors. Mr. Salter leaves behind this devoted wife of 58 years Louise, his daughter Brenda Salter Jones married to James Jones Jr., Henrietta Salter Leak married to Spencer Leak Sr., and four beautiful grandsons James Jones, Spencer Leak Jr., Stephen L. Leak and Stacey R. Leak. The man they called ''Papa'' will surely be missed.

My fellow colleagues please join me in honoring the memory of Mr. George B. Salter, a true beacon of the Chicago community.

CONDEMNING THE ASSASSINATION OF ARMENIAN LEADERS IN ATTACK ON PARLIAMENT

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 1999

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness and shock that I rise to mourn the loss of Armenian Prime Minister Vazgen Sargsian, Speaker of the Parliament Karen Demirchian, and the Members of Parliament who were killed in the legislature on Wednesday, October 27, 1999. Their exemplary leadership contributed immensely to the bold political and economic reforms that are transforming Armenia into a vibrant democracy. Their dedication helped Armenia evolve toward transparency, peace and stability. It is painful that the attack takes place at such a hopeful time in the Nagorno-Karabakh peace talks, and only one month after the Prime Minister's successful trip to the United States.

As a member of the Congressional Caucus on Armenia, I condemn these acts of terror. It would be an injustice to the memory of these courageous leaders to let an assassin's bullets disrupt their important work. I join the President, the Vice President and my colleagues in extending my deepest condolences to the families of the victims, President Kocharian, the Armenian people, and their friends in America. Our thoughts and prayers are with them doing this difficult time in their history.

URGING AN END OF THE WAR BETWEEN ERITREA AND ETHIOPIA

SPEECH OF

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 26, 1999

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, Ethiopia and Eritrea have been at war since May 1998. Despite repeated and ongoing efforts of the Organization of African Unity, the United Nations, the United States, and other countries, the prospects for peace remain dubious.

Although a border dispute is cited as the proximate cause of the conflict, I have come to learn that tensions between these countries were building for some time, and some grievances between them precede their existence as national governments.

Both countries are governed by ex-liberation movement parties with a Marxist ideological background. The populations of both countries are highly mobilized, with more than half a million men and women currently under arms, in trenches and bunkers, across a 1000-mile border. Each country has waged a scathing propaganda campaign against the other. Many of the Members of this Congress have been subjected to that propaganda for the past 17 months.

President Clinton once held up the leaders of Eritrea and Ethiopia as shining examples of Africa's ''New Generation of Leaders.'' He correctly pointed to their governments' lack of corruption and their genuine desire to advance the development of the rural poor. Regrettably, these ''new'' leaders appear to have a few stubborn flaws of their own.

Ethiopia, for example, has been stalling the OAU mediators and Special Envoy Tony Lake to avoid moving forward on the same peace agreement that they once vigorously embraced. They have become paranoid about the power and intentions of their neighbor to the north. It now appears likely that Ethiopia is going to renew the military conflict even if it means international condemnation and a new generation of Ethiopian widows. Their sovereignty, they claim, must not be compromised.

Eritrea's government also deserves scrutiny. It continues to act at times as if it were still a leadership cell within a liberation movement. The press in Eritrea is tightly controlled, local NGO's who gain too much foreign support come under suspicion and are frequently shut down by the government, and the sole political party raises revenues through national and international front companies. Eritrea's leadership has cut deals with Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi and made highly personal attacks on senior United States officials. When asked why they agreed to the peace agreement only after Ethiopia militarily pushed them back well into Eritrea from one area they'd occupied, they say that it was a matter of ''national sovereignty.''

This resolution is, in my opinion, an extremely mild expression of the deep frustration and disappointment that many of us feel. We are dismayed that two countries with extraordinary human capital, a firm commitment to nation-building, and a rich international base of support have chosen to reenact World War I's Battle of the Somme with modern weaponry.

What a terrible waste.

I support this measure and urge my colleagues to do likewise.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. JOHN SPARKMAN OF HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 1999

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a long-standing citizen of my district, Mrs. Ivo Sparkman, widow of U.S. Senator John Sparkman. Mrs. Sparkman passed away last week, 2 weeks after celebrating her 100th birthday.

During their 62 year marriage, Senator and Mrs. Sparkman made their way from Albertville, Alabama all the way to Washington, D.C. and then settled in downtown Huntsville.

In later years, Mrs. Sparkman discovered a real artistic talent, painting, and she produced several colorful paintings for family and friends. She also possessed a true love for nature enjoying gardening and bird-watching.

As the wife of a longtime U.S. Senator, Mrs. Sparkman exhibited a keen interest in politics and hosted many dignitaries at her home through the years. The Sparkman's time in Washington proved very beneficial to my district as Huntsville's space program began to thrive under their leadership.

Alabama and the nation displayed their affection for Mrs. Sparkman at her October 6th birthday party. Former U.S. Senator Howell Heflin attended the party, held on ''Ivo Sparkman Day'' as proclaimed by Mayor Loretta Spencer and Governor Don Siegelman. Letters poured in from all over including special notes from Lady Bird Johnson and Annie and John Glenn.

I believe this is a fitting tribute for one who has dedicated many years to serving the nation and Alabama. I send my condolences to the Sparkman family. On behalf of the people of Alabama's 5th Congressional District, I join them in celebrating the extraordinary life and honoring the memory of a wonderful lady, Mrs. Ivo Sparkman.

OPPOSITION TO THE CONFERENCE REPORT ON FISCAL YEAR 2000 COMMERCE-JUSTICE-STATE APPROPRIATIONS, H.R. 2670

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 1999

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, my statement in opposition to the Commerce, State, Justice Appropriations Conference Report on the Fiscal Year 2000 Commerce-Justice-State appropriations bill was inadvertently left out of the RECORD. The following is the statement I had prepared.

I have the greatest respect for the Chairman and Ranking Members of this Subcommittee and am, therefore, disappointed in the need to oppose the Conference Report, however it is deficient in several critical ways, particularly in not paying our UN debt, in not including the Hate Crimes Prevention Act, and in under funding the Community Oriented Policing Service (COPS) program.

First, this Conference Report does not provide the needed funds to address one of our greatest and most immediate current foreign policy needs. The Conference Report does not provide the funding to pay our United Nations dues.

Great nations pay their bills. It is a travesty and a very poor reflection on this institution that the United States has fallen more than $1 billion behind in our payments to the U.N.

Today, we could and should be solving this problem. However, the Republican leadership has chosen, instead, to allow this important international obligation to be held hostage to the domestic politics of the far-right by continuing the connection between U.N. dues and the unrelated issue of restrictions on international family planning.

There are many consequences to the U.S. not paying its UN bills. Most immediately, if we do not pay a significant portion of our arrears this year, we will automatically lose our vote in the General Assembly. I cannot believe that this Congress could even consider allowing such a step to occur—but, unfortunately, it has done so repeatedly in the past few years and there is a real possibility that it will again this year. In light of the majority's recent rejection of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty in the Senate, not paying our UN dues marches this Congress further down the path of neo-isolationism.

We used to be told by our colleagues who oppose the UN that their objections to UN funding were based on concerns about inefficiencies and bureaucracy at the UN. Those issues have been and continue to be addressed. The UN is reforming. We use our leverage to continue those reforms when we continue as a deadbeat in our dues.

Now, of course, our U.N. dues have not been paid because they are being held hostage to a totally unrelated matter—the Mexico City gag rule and the politics of the religious right on the other side of the aisle. It is long past time for this to stop and for the United States to live up to its international obligations.

The people of San Francisco, who I am honored to represent here in Congress, understand the importance of the United Nations. Our great City is the birthplace of the UN—the UN's Founding Charter was signed in San Francisco over 50 years ago. San Francisco's interest in the UN goes well beyond our historical connections to the institution. San Franciscans take seriously the principles and the ideals behind the UN, including the belief that a multinational institution can play a valuable role in conflict resolution and the promotion of peace.

I believe that the U.S. has a national interest in a reformed United Nations that functions effectively and efficiently. We must provide it with the needed resources.

The second major problem with this Conference Report is the removal by the Conference Committee of the Hate Crimes Prevention Act.

One year ago, many of us spoke on this floor about the tragic and brutal murder of Matthew Shepard, a gay college student. Matthew was courageously willing to be open about who he was. He suffered because of who he was. This is simply wrong.

Unfortunately, Matthew is not alone. According to the National Coalition of Anti-Violence programs, in 1998, 33 Americans were murdered because they were gay or lesbian. In the United States last year, there were at least 2,552 reports of anti-gay or lesbian incidents. The number of serious assaults in which victims sustained major injuries grew by 12%.

Hate crimes take many forms and affect many different kinds of victims. We all remember the horrible murder last year of James Byrd, Jr., an African-American man in Texas. We all remember earlier this year, when a gunmen opened fire at a Jewish Community Center and then singled out an Asian American and shot him. How many more deaths, how many assaults on the personal integrity of people, need to happen before this Congress will see the need for hate crimes legislation?

The Hate Crimes Prevention Act would provide law enforcement officials with needed tools to fight these crimes, and would serve as a lasting tribute to the lives of Matthew Shepard, James Byrd, Jr., and the others who have been victimized by hate crimes. The Hate Crimes Prevention Act would not end all violence against people because they are gay, or African-American, or Jewish, or come from another country. Nonetheless, this legislation would allow the federal government to investigate and punish crimes motivated by hate. If this law prevents one hate-driven death, it will be justified.

The murder of Matthew Shepard is the manifestation of the enduring bigotry that still prevails in our society. The Hate Crimes Prevention Act should be included in the Commerce, Justice, State Appropriations bill.

I also believe that this Conference Report is deficient because it provides only $325 million for the Community Oriented Policing Service (COPS) program. This funding level is a cut of $1.1 billion below last year's funding and $950 million below the President's request. This cut is wrong. The COPS program has been successful in adding officers to local law enforcement agencies and has had a real impact on preventing crime and promoting neighborhood and community safety.

Because the CJS Conference Report does not pay our UN debt, because it does not contain the Hate Crimes Prevention Act, because it inadequately funds the COPS programs, and for other short-comings in important programs, I urge my colleagues to oppose the Conference agreement.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND EDWARD R. SHERRIFF

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 1999

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to Reverend Edward R. Sherriff. On October 20, 1999, Reverend Sherriff was stabbed to death in his home in Sacramento. A memorial service will be held on November 7 at River City Metropolitan Community Church's Cathedral of Promise in Sacramento. As the community mourns his loss, I ask all my colleagues to join with me in saluting the career and efforts of this exceptional person.

Reverend Sherriff was born in Serdro-Wooley, Washington and raised in Northern California on the Hupa Reservation. He began preaching locally at age seventeen. This childhood interest grew into a career. He was the pastor of several congregations and coordinated churches in the Northwest U.S. and in Canada. In 1965, he was dismissed as a result of his sexual orientation, and he did not enter another church for 19 years.

His life in ruin, Reverend Sherriff borrowed money to buy a restaurant. This venture eventually expanded to five extremely successful eateries. During this time, he also financed a homosexual hotline in Spokane, Washington, taught nursing for the state of Washington, and volunteered his time to help the needy and hungry.

In 1983, Reverend Sherriff attended a service at Emmanuel Metropolitan Community Church in Spokane, Washington. Because of this open and caring environment, he was convinced to rejoin the ministry.

Reverend Sherriff briefly served as a pastor of the MCC church in Boise, Idaho, and he served as District Coordinator of the Northwest District, Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches from 1987–1992. From 1990 to 1992, Reverend Sherriff served as Executive Director of the Hope House, a low-rent residence facility operated by Loaves and Fishes.

Edward Sherriff began his tenure as Associate Pastor of River City Metropolitan Community Church in Sacramento in 1987. His office was located in the church building in Oak Park, a multicultural community in a depressed area of Sacramento. He made a practice of inviting cold and hungry people off the street to come in for a cup of hot coffee. As the news spread, more and more people began to flock to the Reverend's door.

Due to his nursing background and interest in feeding the needy, nutritional concerns were of utmost importance in formulating his outreach to the community. In 1990, he began cooking a pot of soup for the 10 or 20 hungry people who had nowhere else to go for a warm meal.

In the early 1990's Reverend Sherriff and MCC began the Samaritan Center to provide held for the needy regardless of religious affiliation, race, creed, sex, or sexual orientation. The Samaritan Center used volunteers and the church's kitchen to prepare the meals and used the church's social hall to serve the meals. The number of hungry people continued to grow, and in 1992, Reverend Sherriff resigned his District Coordinator position and dedicated his time to the Samaritan Center.

In 1994, MCC's Activities Building, which housed the Samaritan Center, burned to the ground. At the time, the Samaritan Center was providing about 400 hot meals per day. As a result, the center was promptly moved to a new location and continued the services to the community. In September of 1999, the Samaritan's Food Bank program, together with Reverend Sherriff's coffee shop, had helped feed over 4,200 people.

Mr. Speaker, as the community of Sacramento gathers to mourn the loss of one of its finest citizens, I am honored to pay tribute to Reverend Edward R. Sherriff. His tireless service to the community and people of Sacramento will be dearly missed. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in mourning his loss and celebrating his achievements.

HONORING WWI VETERAN, JOHN STRONG

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor World War I veteran, John Strong, Mess Attendant 3rd Class, U.S. Navy. The Government of France has approved Mr. Strong for the award of The National Order of the Legion of Honor.

The National Order of the Legion of Honor is the highest honor France bestows on its citizens and foreign nationals. It is presented in gratitude for the American valor in France during World War I and in recognition of the 80th anniversary of the signing of the Armistance on November 11, 1918.

John Strong is 101 years old, and a long time resident of Fresno and the San Joaquin Valley. He served as a Mess Attendant 3rd Class with the U.S. Navy in World War I. He left for Brest, France on the U.S.S. *Passtora* and served aboard a submarine in France. John Strong vividly remembers surviving a torpedo missile attack by the Germans. The torpedo landed three or four feet away from the submarine that he was on and many sailors were killed as a result of the attack. Mess Attendant 3rd Class Strong was one of the few fortunate sailors to survive and he has never forgotten this incident. He was honorably discharged from the U.S. Navy on September 25,1919.

John Strong has since been a minister of the Gospel of the Jesus Christ Church. He entered into the ministry in 1929 and over the years has pastored in five churches. He was an active minister until 1998.

Mr. Speaker, I want to honor the Reverend Strong for his dedication to the U.S. Navy. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing John Strong many more years of continued success in life.

TRIBUTE TO WINSOME McLEAN-DAVIS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 1999

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to my colleagues' attention the achievements of Ms. Winsome McLean-Davis.

Ms. McLean-Davis is currently the administrator for the Bishop Henry B. Hucles Episcopal Nursing Home which is a 240-bed skilled nursing facility in the Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn. Through her leadership and pioneering spirit, the facility opened an adult day care program in April of this year. The Episcopal Nursing Home has also received a deficiency-free assessment from the Department of Health.

Winsome's contributions to our community go beyond her accomplishments in the successful operation of this nursing facility. As Vice President of her local block association, Winsome has focused on improving her community. In an attempt to develop community support groups, Winsome organized a summer program for children and youth. Currently, Winsome also serves as the Vice President of the Black Long Term Care Administrators' Association (BLTCA).

Our community has greatly benefited from Winsome's strong moral commitments. She credits her father, Curlin Thomas McLean, a trade union leader in Jamaica with instilling in her the principle that ''investing in another's life is the real sign of true service.'' Her mother, Ruby, by example, continues to enforce these values. Winsome completed her undergraduate and graduate studies at the University of the West Indies and Howard University. She completed post-graduate studies in gerontology at the Brookdale Center on Aging of the City University of New York.

Winsome is married to Kenneth Davis and they have a five-year-old son, Andrew. Ms. McLean-Davis is truly an inspiration to her fellow administrators and a pillar in her community. I commend her to my colleagues as an outstanding example of a community leader.

TRIBUTE TO CLAUDE C. STEWART, JR.

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 1999

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Claude C. Stewart, Jr. Although he is no longer with us, his life stands as a testament to the value of hard work and a strong commitment to family. However, ''June,'' as he is fondly known, liked to believe that he led an ordinary life.

He was born on September 7, 1923 in Union County, South Carolina. He was the 18th child of Claude C. Stewart, Sr. and Janie Means Stewart. Other than a 22 month stint serving in the U.S. Army during World War II, June spent most of his childhood and adult life in Columbia.

For more than 40 years, he worked for Johnson's Funeral Home and Palmer Memorial Chapel. However, ''June'' is best remembered for his service to the Columbia, South Carolina, Fire Department. In 1953, he was selected one of the first eight African Americans to work at the department. Hard work and dedication enabled June to rise through the ranks and become the first black Engineer, Captain, Battalion Chief and Assistant Chief. In June 1989, he retired as Assistant Chief after 36 years of service.

Outside work, ''June'' was a dedicated member of Second Calvary Baptist Church were he served on the Deacon Board. He was also a member of Masonic Lodge #47 and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Until his death, June was married to Bertha Williams Stewart for 46 years. They had two children. Their son, Claude David, predeceased his father. Their daughter, Claudette, married Leonard Hampton and has one son, Terrance Claude Hampton, whom ''June'' affectionately called his ''Man.''

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join with me and my fellow South Carolinians from the Columbia area as we pay tribute to Claude C. Stewart, Jr. ''June'' showed us how to turn the glory in an ordinary life into the extraordinary. He will be sorely missed.

TRIBUTE TO ANN MELLON

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 1999

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of a great American, Ann Mellon, from my hometown, Worcester, Massachusetts. Ann was an amazing woman. She

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

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

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

CONSUMER ACCESS TO A RESPONSIBLE ACCOUNTING OF TRADE ACT

HON. TONY P. HALL

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 1999

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

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

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

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

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

Angola's seemingly endless war is another example. Rebels again are waging the war that has cost a million people their lives, has driven more than a million from their homes in the past year, and now threatens two million with famine. Their weapons, including land mines that make Angola the deadliest place in the world, are purchased with diamond revenues totaling nearly $4 billion this decade.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mr. Speaker, in the past decade our Nation has spent nearly $2 billion in humanitarian aid to people who live in the nations where ''conflict diamonds'' are fueling wars. Over the same period, at least three times that much was siphoned away from those same nations' diamond mines; too much of it was spent on weapons that cost millions of Africans their lives and limbs, and reversed years of economic progress their countries had made.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

TRIBUTE TO THE TORRANCE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. STEVEN T. KUYKENDALL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 1999

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

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

students and adults to help them to better understand and manage the conflicts they encounter in their own lives, as well as the challenges that they encounter in society. It also works to eliminate prejudices and further the practices of the nonviolent resolution of conflict.

It is programs like this one that are proactive in preventing the violence at our schools that we have become all too familiar with. It is clear that something must be done to prevent our youth from resorting to violence. Torrance Unified is committed to its students and creating a safer, more peaceful learning environment, as well as a safer community as a whole.

Torrance Unified was recently recognized by the Los Angeles Board of Supervisors, and it has also been featured at the World Congress on Violence and Human Coexistence in Ireland. This school district will continue to be a model for addressing the tough issues of conflict and youth violence. We need more programs like this one.

I commend the Torrance Unified School District's commitment to conflict resolution and their efforts in creating a safer community for the people of the South Bay. I wish them continued success with this significant program.

CONGRATULATIONS TO JAMES ECKMANN

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 1999

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my constituent, Mr. James Eckmann. Mr. Eckmann just returned from a volunteer mission with the International Executive Service Corps in El Salvador. During his time Mr. Eckmann provided managerial and technical assistance to improve the lives of the people there.

Specifically, Mr. Eckmann volunteered with Dr. Francisco Jose Barrienjos and provided advice and assistance to Dr. Barrienjos' small law firm on various aspects of working with American law firms and representing American companies. Mr. Eckmann also gave suggestions on client communications, marketing, employee relations, accounting and administrative procedures.

Mr. Eckmann conducted this activity under the auspices of the International Executive Service Corps (IESC), an international management and business development organization. IESC has provided assistance to more than 21,000 projects during the last thirty-four years to business, government and nonprofit groups around the world.

James Eckmann deserves our congratulations for a job well done. I know that he is proud of his accomplishments, and I am proud to have him as my constituent.

ANTHONY SAPP—NFL TEACHER OF THE MONTH

HON. CHARLES H. TAYLOR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 1999

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Anthony Wayne Sapp, a mathematics teacher at Charles D. Owen High School in Black Mountain, North Carolina was named the NFL Teacher of the Month for the Month of September. The National Football League will grant a cash award of $2,500 to Mr. Sapp and $5,000 to Owen High School as part of this program.

Mr. Sapp has taught at Owen High School for 22 years, specializing in mathematics. In addition to his regular load of classes, Mr. Sapp also is the coach of the high school math team, which consistently represents the school well at competition and has produced many exemplary performances by its members. It was one of Mr. Sapp's former students, and an exemplary performer himself, who nominated Mr. Sapp for this honor: Quarterback Brad Johnson of the Washington Redskins.

Brad Johnson, a native of Western North Carolina, has been very active in community service with organizations such as Children's Miracle Network and the United Way of America. Of course, many would more likely know the work he has done to propel the Redskins back into the ranks of the elite in the National Football League. I am very proud of these two native sons of Western North Carolina who have proven time and again to be among the elite in their respective fields. And once again, I commend Anthony Wayne Sapp for his achievements.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2064, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 28, 1999

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, today we are considering the conference report on the so-called Labor-HHS FY2000 appropriation measure, even though this measure has not even been voted on by the House. Instead, this Republican leadership decided to pre-conference the Senate measure and attach it to the conference report of the DC Appropriations legislation.

This Labor-HHS appropriations measure is one of the largest and most important measures we take up in each year. It is a massive piece of legislation. The committee report itself numbers hundreds of pages. It covers some of the most important programs that this Government funds—our public education system, the National Institutes of Health, the Food and Drug Administration, and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. Yet, the Republican leaders decided this measure is too contentious for proper floor debate. So, they opted to pre-conference this measure with the Senate passed bill.

This process is deplorable. It flies in the face of the Constitution. Article I, Section 7 states that "all bills for raising revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives."

Mr. Speaker, the Constitution is not a rough draft. We cannot decide to ignore it because the bill will be too controversial for the floor and we are running out of precious time.

The bill must originate in the House of Representatives. We must be given the opportunity to debate and amend this measure. Only then can the Senate offer its amendments to this legislation.

All too often in recent years, we have faced similar situations where Congress has failed to enact its 13 separate annual appropriation bills in a timely manner. However, this does not mean we can fly in the face of the Constitution.

Today, we voted on a continuing resolution to keep the government running. Although adopting these bills through a series of continuing resolutions is very costly to the taxpayers, it provides us with time to debate and amend these measures properly and constitutionally.

We have now had three continuing resolutions in relation to the fiscal year 2000 appropriation bills. Three continuing resolutions! Yet, the Republican leaders have prevented this measure from being taken up by this House.

The Republican leadership has provided us with no opportunity to amend this measure. We are being denied the opportunity to offer an amendment on behalf of our constituencies.

I don't fault the Appropriations Committee. They have worked hard and reported the appropriations bills. We could long ago have acted upon these bills. The Appropriations Committee didn't hold up the bills. The Republican leadership held up this bill because they knew the cuts reported out of the House Appropriations Committee would not help their public image. So, they decided to bypass the House of Representatives!

Only now, are we getting to debate this measure. But what exactly are we debating? This conference report was only filed last night. We have not had an opportunity to review it and see what is really in this report.

What I know is bad enough. It includes an across-the-board cut of 0.97%, and it undermines the Administration's class-size reduction initiative by giving districts the option to use the money on any other use that improves academic achievement. I can only imagine what has been sneaked in behind closed doors.

But the worst part about this charade is the way that we have flaunted the Constitution.

"THE IMPORTANCE OF CBI LEGISLATION"

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 1999

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, as we approach consideration by the U.S. Senate of legislation to build a stronger trading and commercial relationship between the United States and the nations of the Caribbean Basin and Africa, it is good to be reminded by the leadership of the affected nations how critical this legislation is to their economic growth and development, while simultaneously aiding the United States by strengthening our export markets and creating new jobs.

The new President of El Salvador, Francisco Flores, wrote a persuasive opinion editorial which was published in the Journal of Commerce on Tuesday, October 19, 1999. He rightfully concludes, after analyzing the beneficial impact of the Caribbean Basin Initiative upon the Caribbean Basin since its enactment

16 years ago, that the trade and commercial relationship between the region and the United States is critical, even essential, to economic development and growth in the nations of the region and is a prerequisite to political and social stability in the region. President Flores says ''The enactment of CBI is the single most important thing that the United States can do to assist in the long-term development of Central America and the Caribbean region.''

I am pleased to submit President Flores' editorial for the RECORD.

THE CASE FOR CARIBBEAN TRADE ENHANCEMENT

(by Francisco Flores)

As early as this week, it is anticipated that the Senate will vote on passage of trade enhancement for the Caribbean Basin. This legislation has been pending before the U.S. Congress for five years.

Last month, the presidents of Central American countries, along with the president of the Dominican Republic and the prime minister of Trinidad and Tobago, visited Washington to advocate the passage of Caribbean Basin Initiative enhancement legislation.

We decided to visit Washington to meet with the U.S. government because enhanced trade with the United States has become critical to the region's ability to promote economic growth and maintain social and political stability.

As a region, we are urging Congress to approve legislation that enhances trade benefits to the CBI nations, so that regional exports that are currently excluded under CBI are able to enjoy quota-free and duty-free access to the U.S. market.

In simple terms, we are requesting that the trade playing field be leveled so that we can help ourselves. We regard CBI enhancement legislation as a stepping stone to the negotiation of a free-trade agreement between Central America and the United States.

Enhanced trade will create an expansion of economic opportunities that are urgently needed to preserve our region's stability by creating employment and encouraging international and domestic investment.

Conversely, a lack of trade benefits will postpone the prosperity of our region, and our democratic institutions could be threatened if governments fail to meet the expectations of the people.

An expansion of economic opportunities between the United States and Central America would provide an incentive to prevent Central Americans from emigrating outside the region to seek better jobs and living conditions. Hence, free trade will also constitute the best prevention policy against uncontrolled migration from the region that the United States can implement.

Enhanced trade between the United States and the region will also strengthen the positive trend that we have seen in trade between our two areas during the past decade.

U.S. exports to the CBI countries—among which exports to Central America are predominent—have more than doubled since 1989, going from $9 billion to $22.1 billion, creating almost 125,000 jobs in the United States.

CBI enhancement legislation will increase the region's purchasing power for all types of goods and services produced in the United States.

For each dollar exported to the rest of the world by the CBI countries, approximately 75 cents is imported in products from the United States. In marginal terms for each additional dollar in the CBI region's gross domestic product, 44 cents are imported from the United States.

Finally, enhanced trade opportunities for the region will bring a win-win situation for U.S. and Central American businesses.

Enhanced trade will benefit industries such as textiles and maquilas that have contributed to our economic dynamism. In addition, it will provide flexibility to U.S. industries, permitting them to remain competitive in an increasingly competitive marketplace.

In the area of textiles and apparel, extending CBI benefits to vertically integrated apparel production provides the region the best vehicle for attracting investment and creating jobs. We will not be able to compete with Asia and Mexico if we are relegated to a ''cut and sew'' operation.

In our view, therefore, meaningful CBI enhancement legislation should include:

Tariff treatment equivalent to the North American Free Trade Agreement to products currently excluded from CBI. In the case of sugar, CBI enhancement legislation should include provisions to monitor the effect of NAFTA on CBI countries' sugar access to the US preferential market, and if adverse, to take actions to ameliorate such effects.

Quota-free and duty-free treatment for originating textile and apparel products that comply with the ''yarn-forward'' rule of origin, including 807–A and 809 programs and those made with regional fabrics formed with regional yarns.

The enactment of CBI is the single most important thing the United States can do to assist on the long-term development of Central America and the Caribbean region.

It is our hope that the Senate will move swiftly to pass CBI enhancement legislation, and that the House and Senate conferees will work to provide the most comprehensive and meaningful trade package for the region.

RECOGNITION OF THE CROATIAN GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO HOLD WAR CRIMINAL DINKO SAKIC ACCOUNTABLE FOR HIS CRIMES

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 1999

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to invite my colleagues to join me in commending the Croatian Government's vigorous prosecution of Dinko Sakic, the commander of the notorious Jasenovac concentration camp during World War II and one of the worst war criminals alive today. On October 4, Sakic was found guilty in a Zagreb court of crimes against humanity and sentenced to twenty years in prison—the maximum allowable penalty under Croatian law. I welcome and applaud this verdict.

Tens of thousands of Jews, Gypsies, Serbs, and anti-fascist Croats were murdered at Jasenovac, called the ''Auschwitz of the Balkans.'' Mass executions, random killings, torture, and starvation took place there and at other concentration camps run by the pro-Nazi Ustashe regime during World War II. According to evidence presented during his trial, Sakic not only supervised these atrocities, but also took part in many of them himself.

At the end of World War II Sakic fled to Argentina, where he lived for over half a century under his real name. When he was finally deported to stand trial in Croatia last year, Sakic responded to his critics by defending the genocidal policies of the Ustashe dictatorship. ''I am proud of all I did,'' he said. ''I regret that we hadn't done all that is imputed to us, for had we done that then, today Croatia wouldn't have had problems, there wouldn't have been people to write lies!''

In addressing his personal responsibility for the atrocities that occurred under his watch at Jasenovac, Sakic asserted the defense made famous by Goering, von Ribbentrop, and other Nazi leaders at Nuremberg: He was simply following orders. ''I wasn't making decisions,'' Sakic declared, despite overwhelming information to the contrary, ''but I obeyed the orders consciously because they were in accordance with my convictions of national interests and the efforts to preserve the biological survival of the Croatian people.'' During the trial, Sakic laughed at camp survivors who testified against him and claimed that he has ''no guilty conscience whatsoever.'' Based on the appalling account of his unspeakable crimes, he certainly should have a guilty conscience.

Mr. Speaker, the Croatian Government's timely and public efforts to hold Dinko Sakic accountable for his crimes merit the appreciation of all who care about international justice and human rights. It is imperative that Croatia's leaders continue to confront the country's World War II past as they have done so effectively with the prosecution of Dinko Sakic and that the Croatian government aggressively oppose World War II and Holocaust revisionism. It is my hope that other newly democratic nations in Central and Eastern Europe will follow the example of the Sakic trial, and that they will work to honor the memory of the millions who lost their lives during the Holocaust.

CELEBRATING THE SUCCESSES OF THE INDUSTRIAL AREAS FOUNDATION AND THE METROPOLITAN ORGANIZATION

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 1999

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my congratulations to the Industrial Areas Foundation Southwest Network and especially to one of their member organizations from Houston, The Metropolitan Organization, for their twenty-five years of service to the disadvantaged and underprivileged communities in the Southwestern United States. During their November meeting in San Antonio, the Industrial Areas Foundation will begin planning a ''Domestic Policy Summit'' to be scheduled in the Spring of 2000. We wish them success and look forward to their continued involvement in the issues important to our cities.

For 25 years, grassroots organizations in communities across seven states have been working with the IAF Southwest Network to make a difference in the lives of hundreds of thousands of people. The list of accomplishments is a lengthy one, and touches on many aspects of everyday life. In my home state of Texas, IAF Southwest Network has been involved in convincing municipalities to raise the minimum wage to a living wage; in improving the conditions in the communities along the Texas-Mexican border, the so-called ''colonias,'' many of which were without power,

water or sewer services; fighting to bring health care coverage to the working poor; convincing the Texas Legislature to match federal dollars the Children's Health Insurance Program, ensuring that children in families up to 200% of the poverty line would have access to health care; securing millions of dollars in funding for after-school enrichment programs that keep children learning in safety instead of roaming the streets; providing job training for workers that lead to good jobs at good wages; and assisting eligible immigrants in acquiring English skills as well as assistance in preparing their application to become citizens.

The Metropolitan Organization in Houston has been at the forefront of these efforts. They have participated in voter registration drives that helped register record numbers of new voters. They have also worked tirelessly to obtain funds for street improvements, parks and recreational centers, and libraries in low-income neighborhoods. Moreover, they have provided aid for those seeking to become homeowners, encouraging people to put down roots and contribute to the revitalization of their communities.

Mr. Speaker, it is organizations like The Metropolitan Organization and the Industrial Areas Foundation Southwest Network that make our nation great. I commend them for their twenty-five years of hard work, and wish them success in their continuing effort to make democracy work for all citizens of our Nation.

RECOGNITION OF THE NEW LEADERS

HON. HAROLD E. FORD, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 1999

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of an organization that is vitally important to our society as a whole. The New Leaders is an organization committed to empowering the African American community. Many challenges lie ahead in addressing the concerns of people of color. This organization brings young professionals together to tackle the social, economic, and political problems facing people of color. For five years, this organization used the collective resources of these young professionals to shape public policy.

Using fresh and innovative perspectives that we as policy makers desperately need, this organization has become a part of several youth education and training partnerships. The New Leaders has worked continually to increase African American leadership opportunities and to foster an environment of youth empowerment. As a member of their generation, I realize the importance of looking at our young people as assets and resources.

The New Leaders have made significant strides in this area by designing a leadership development program for middle school students, providing scholarship money to students, and sponsoring the highly successful and effective Take a Youth To Work Day.

Not only are The New Leaders ahead of the curve in advocating youth empowerment they also support a fair and accurate census. Historically, minorities have been under-counted and The New Leaders are committed to Census 2000 in order to ensure equal representation and ample funding to combat some of the growing concerns in the African American community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and our House colleagues to join me in recognizing the efforts and the achievements of The New Leaders. I also submit a position paper presented to The White House by The New Leaders for the RECORD.

THE NEW LEADERS

1999 POSITION PAPER ON YOUTH, LEADERSHIP AND THE CENSUS IN THE AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY

PRESENTED TO THE WHITE HOUSE, SEPTEMBER 18, 1999

The New Leaders (TNL) is a non-profit, non-partisan organization committed to empowering the African American community. For the last five years, TNL has been comprised primarily of Black professionals dedicated to addressing the social, economic and political issues facing people of color. We believe by leveraging our combined resources with a fresh, innovative perspective, our goal of shaping public policy will result in the organization attaining a value-added level of influence in this country.

Building upon the success the Clinton Administration has had in fostering mentoring, expanding investments in youth education and training, and creating the GEAR-UP initiative, TNL recognizes that several partnership opportunities lie ahead. Therefore, TNL recommends that the Administration put forth initiatives that further promote our young people to become actively involved in leadership and government. Additionally, these initiatives will help remedy the misrepresentation of Blacks that resulted from previous under-counts of minorities in past national census counts.

OBJECTIVE FOR INCREASING AFRICAN AMERICAN LEADERSHIP REPRESENTATION

TNL encourages the Clinton Administration to expand existing initiatives and/or create a new initiative design to invest in the development of governmental leadership within African American communities across this nation. To formulate a model that could be duplicated, TNL proposes the development of a demonstration project that creates a leadership institute to train and prepare African Americans to take an active role in government.

CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES OF BLACKS IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS

Extreme apathy exists among a massive pool of untapped voters across this country. This apathy is prevalent in the Black community, especially among our youth. While reasons vary as to why eligible young voters are so far removed from the political process, we must find a way to reengage these individuals. Our failure to successfully address this issue will result in continued inadequate resources for undeserved minority communities.

TNL'S COMMITMENT TO YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

Over the past few years, TNL has touched the lives of thousands by addressing the social, political and economic state of the African American community. One of TNL's primary interests has been and continues to be our youth—equipping and instructing them to assume responsibility for their own lives and the future of their communities.

TNL has made significant strides in this area by designing a leadership development program for middle school students, providing $88,000 in scholarship moneys through Texas Southern University (TSU), and most importantly, sponsoring our annual Take a Youth to Work Day. Every year this milestone event pairs African American males between the ages of 13 and 18 with professional Black men for a day of mentoring. By partnering with the current administration, TNL seeks to expand our outreach efforts. We will achieve this through continued advancements in technology, creation of charter organizations, and drawing upon the expertise of African American leaders both past and present.

THE HISTORICAL UNDER-COUNT IN THE PAST CENSUS & THE IMPACT ON AFRICAN AMERICANS

Since the inception of the census count, Blacks have been consistently under-counted. As a result, the Black community has been grossly misrepresented and ample funding has not been secured. One area of vital importance is health care. In this area, a new generation of African Americans continue to lead in the disparity of diseases such as: infant mortality, diabetes, cancer screening and management, heart disease, AIDS and immunizations (diseases identified by the Administration's initiative to end racial and ethnic health disparities). As we move towards a new millennium, an under-count in Census 2000 will have an enormous impact on the reapportionment efforts in this country. These efforts in turn could jeopardize minority political representation on the local, state and federal levels.

REMEDYING PAST UNDER-REPRESENTATION OF AFRICAN AMERICANS

It is the contention of TNL that one glaring example of the apathy and distrust of government deals with the under-count of Blacks in the census. While it is understood that federal moneys have been set aside to actively outreach underserved communities, TNL believes that additional steps are needed to address this long standing problem.

TNL recommends that the White House introduce an initiative similar to the one introduced by the Kennedy Administration that encouraged Americans to join the Peace Corps. This initiative would focus on training and empowering young people to become active in government. TNL believes that such an initiative will not only address the issues of inadequate reapportionment, but also concerns regarding reparations as well as the equitable treatment of Black Americans caught up in this nation's burgeoning criminal justice system.

CONCLUSION

In their purest form, true leaders empower the constituency they represent, they take control of adverse circumstances, and they assume the responsibility for a better way of life. The best way to instill this ideology is to train and equip individuals that have been consistently and systematically denied the liberties this country has afforded other citizens.

Therefore, TNL believes that the most effective way to tackle these issues begin with empowering every African-American to become motivated and actively engage in the principals of democracy. If we can accomplish this, we will balance the scales of justice, ensuring fairness and equitable treatment for all, irrespective of race, creed, or color.

A new era. A new America. The possibilities are endless.

FORMER SENATOR PAUL SIMON COMMENTS ON MEDICAL RESEARCH FUNDING

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 1999

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following article for the RECORD.

[From Parade Magazine, Sept. 12, 1999]

''I HAD NO SYMPTOMS OF HEART ATTACK . . .''

(By Paul Simon)

As I look back on my 22 years in the House and Senate, I realize I would like to change a few of the votes I cast. Most people—and politicians probably more than most—hate to admit they are wrong. I was wrong though, and that was brought home to me recently in a most dramatic way.

It started when I happened to read a magazine article on a new device for measuring blockage of the heart arteries. The device takes a type of picture of the heart and coronary arteries (called a ''heart scan,'' something like an X-ray) that can pick up hidden problems. I had no symptoms of heart trouble, such as chest pain or shortness of breath, but the article noted that about 20 percent of those over 60 (I am 70) who have a heart attack or stroke have no advance warnings.

I set up an appointment for a heart scan at Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Medical Center in Chicago on Nov. 10 last year. The scan took 10 minutes, but the results were startling: I was headed for a heart attack or stroke. As a result, last Jan. 5 I had a six-way heart bypass operation.

Today, I'm doing fine. It turns out that the heart scan—developed as a result of research done by Douglas Boyd at the University of California at San Francisco—probably saved my life. Sadly, I had to admit to myself that supporting funds for medical research was not something I devoted much time or effort to when I served in the Congress. I felt other issues were more important. Now I know how wrong I was. All around me are others—former colleagues and friends—who have benefited from medical research:

The TV talk-show host Larry King, who has had serious heart problems and undergone bypass surgery, often says, ''Because of research, I'm alive today.''

Sen. Ted Stevens (R., Alaska) and former Sen. Bob Dole (R., Kan.) had successful surgery for prostate cancer thanks to the benefits of medical discoveries.

U.S. Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D., Conn.) has been successfully treated for ovarian cancer.

But I also think of those who lost their battles or still struggle because not enough research has been done:

Jay Monahan, husband of the Today host Katie Couric, died at age 42 from colon cancer, because we don't yet have enough weapons against that disease.

Rep. Morris Udall (D., Ariz.) died of Parkinson's disease, another illness for which we're still seeking a cure. I watched Udall—a brilliant legislator with a great sense of humor—gradually decline in health. What a waste of talent that could have been prevented with more research!

My first memories of Christopher Reeve are of a dynamic, vibrant actor interested in public affairs. He is still vibrant and dynamic but more focused in his public-affairs interest as he presses with an understandable zealotry for research in spinal-cord injuries.

Rachel Mann, a marvelous young woman and family friend, had cystic fibrosis, the largest genetic killer of children. Because of her, I did push for additional funds for research into this disease when I was in Congress, but she ultimately lost her battle at age 25.

WE CAN DO BETTER

A century ago, the average U.S. citizen lived to be 48. Now we live to an average of 76—thanks in large part to medical research. Pharmaceutical companies do an excellent job in research, and they increased their research spending from $2 billion in 1980 to $20 billion in 1998. But we can't rely on them for basic research efforts. That's why funding for the National Institutes of Health, which does basic research that can benefit us all, is so important. Its funding has doubled in the last 15 years—to $15 billion. But while $15 billion is a sizable sum, it is inadequate when compared to what we spend on legalized gambling ($638 billion in 1997), alcohol ($95 billion) and cigarettes ($50 billion). Two-thirds of Americans agree that funding for medical research should be doubled, according to a poll taken last year by the nonprofit advocacy group Research! America. Yet, for the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1, President Clinton has asked for just a 2.1 percent increase—barely above the inflation rate.

That's not nearly enough. We must do more. Greater focus on research would be a marvelous gift to future generations of my family and of yours. I know. It already has been a marvelous gift to me.

MATTYDALE, N.Y. SCHOOL CELEBRATES ''VETERANS AWARENESS WEEK''

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 1999

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to the attention of the House of Representatives today the patriotic and noble intentions of students at St. Margaret's School in Mattydale, New York, in my home district. These young people, by way of Ms. Kimberly Arnold's Social Studies class, have taken it upon themselves this year to institute a new celebration honoring veterans of U.S. military service.

On November 8, 1999 the students will celebrate the first Veterans Awareness Week. The program will include patriotic songs by the school choir, essay contest readings, distribution of ribbons and special recognition by children to veterans in their immediate families.

This is a remarkable and worthy celebration of the sacrifices made by veterans in the United States. Worthy, because of the great service veterans have given our nation and the free world. Remarkable, because these young people have taken the initiative to recognize veterans in a time of peace. That their young lives include sensitivity to the fact that freedom is not free is wonderful tribute to our armed forces, past and present, and to the Founders of the United States of America.

THE SAINT GEORGE SOCIETY: A POSITIVE INFLUENCE ON BAY COUNTY

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 1999

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Saint George Society who has served the citizens of Bay City, Michigan, since 1887. One does not often find, in our relatively young country, an organization with a continuous history of serving their fellow citizens for 112 years. The Saint George Society, however, has consistently carried out their mission to serve their community without hesitation and with much devotion.

Members of the Saint George Society have always vigorously upheld their pledge to aid the sick and needy among them. Although jobs were scarce and times were difficult in the early years of the society, they successfully raised money in order to help those in need. As their membership grew, the society was able to both rent space for their meetings at Pulaski Hall and continue to help the community in many significant ways.

In the early 1920's, the Society gave 25 dollars to returning war veterans who had been members of the organization before leaving for the War. Also, as a result of the Society's exclusively Polish membership, they made substantial efforts to buy Polish War Bonds in order to aid Poland. By 1959, the Society had weathered the great depression, two wars and a changing world. In spite of this, by the end of the year they were able to expand their services to care for mentally disabled children. On August 23, 1981, they opened the doors of a new facility which allowed them even greater opportunity to serve and be a part of the community.

On July 11, 1999, the Saint George Society celebrated many years of accomplishment by burning the mortgage on their property. As you can imagine, this was a very meaningful event for this organization which has given so much to Bay City. For them, burning this mortgage was more than just destroying a piece of paper, but was an event that represents many years of accomplishment, dedication, sacrifice and commitment.

Mr. Speaker, the Saint George Society has been a source of strength and pride for many years in the Bay City area. I know that they will continue to be a vital part of Michigan's Fifth District. For that reason, I urge you and my colleagues to join me in wishing the Saint George Society many blessings for the future.

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS A. BUTTS, ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT FOR GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN'S WASHINGTON, D.C. OFFICE

HON. LYNN N. RIVERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 1999

Ms. RIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Thomas A. Butts, Associate Vice President for Government Relations and Executive Director of the University of Michigan's Washington, D.C. Office, who is retiring from the University after 35 years of distinguished public service.

Mr. Butts has served as the University's liaison to Congress and federal agencies for almost two decades. In addition to opening the University's Washington Office in 1990, he has logged thousands of miles commuting between Ann Arbor and Washington as together we've labored to strengthen higher education in the United States.

Mr. Butts' success as an advocate for higher education emanates from his great personal warmth, his many contacts in government and academe, and his professional expertise, particularly in the area of student financial aid. Over the years, Mr. Butts has contributed enormously to the deliberations resulting in reauthorization of the Higher Education Act. He

also championed the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program.

Prior to becoming a government relations officer, Mr. Butts served the University as an admissions counselor and assistant director of admissions in 1964–67, assistant director of the Educational Resources Information Center I Counseling and Personnel Services in 1969–71, director of Student Orientation in 1967–77, and director of Student Financial Aid in 1971–77.

He also worked as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Student Assistance with the U.S. Department of Education in the late 1970s. More recently, he has served as a member of both the National Commission on Responsibilities for Financing Postsecondary Education and of the Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance.

Mr. Butts earned a Bachelor of Science degree in English, economics, and secondary education from Eastern Michigan University in 1959, and a Master of Science degree in education in 1964 and Ph.D. doctoral candidate certification in 1974, both from the University of Michigan. He was a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army in 1960–63.

I applaud Mr. Butts' accomplishments and express my deep gratitude for his commitment to the well-being of students and to colleges and universities in Michigan and nationally. I congratulate Mr. Butts, a trusted adviser and friend, on this special occasion, and wish him a healthy and rewarding retirement.

THE COMMUNITY BANK TILT TO FINANCIAL MODERNIZATION LEGISLATION

HON. JAMES A. LEACH

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 1999

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, during every stage in its development, financial modernization legislation has had controversial elements for all of the parties concerned. Differences will always remain between and within the banking, insurance, and securities industries. But it should be clear that in the final analysis the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act which will be considered this week, relatively speaking, tilts in favor of the nation's community banks and the customers they serve.

Seven areas deserve particular mention:

1. Unitary Thrifts. While the financial modernization legislation provides for increased competition in the delivery of financial products, it repudiates the Japanese industrial model and forestalls trends toward mixing commerce and banking. The unitary thrift loophole which allows commercial firms to control smaller S&L charters has been closed. Not only will no new unitaries be chartered, but those in existence cannot be sold to commercial firms. This means that the signal breach of banking and commerce that exists in current law is plugged, which has the effect of both stopping the potential ''keiretzuing'' of the American economy and protecting the viability, and therefore the value, of community bank charters. As close observers of the process understand, at many stages in consideration of bank modernization legislative, powerful interest groups attempted to introduce legislative language which would have allowed large banks to merge with large industrial concerns—i.e., to provide that Chase could merge with General Motors or Bank of America with Amoco. Instead, this bill precludes this prospect and, indeed, blocks America's largest retail company from owning a federally insured institution, for which an application is pending. Federal Home Loan Bank System reforms.

2. The FHLB charter is broadened to allow community banks to borrow for small business and family farm lending. The implications of this FHLB mission expansion are extraordinary. In rural areas it allows, for the first time, community banks to have access to long-term capital comparable to the Farm Credit System, which like the Federal Home Loan Bank System is empowered as a Government Sponsored Enterprise to tap national credit markets at near Treasury rates. The bill thus creates greater competitive equity between community banks and the Farm Credit System and greater credit cost savings for farmers. With regard to the small business provision, the same principle applies. If larger financial institutions choose to emphasize relationships with larger corporate and individual customers, the ability of community banks to pledge small business loans as collateral for FHLB System advances will allow them to serve comprehensively a small business and middle class family market niche. Most importantly, if the present trend continues of American savers putting less money in banks and more in non-insured deposit accounts, such as money-market mutual funds, this FHLB reform assures community banks the liquidity—at competitive costs—they will need for generations to come.

3. Additional Powers. In recent years, sophisticated money-center banks have developed powers, under Federal Reserve and OCC rulings, that have allowed them to offer products which community banks in many states are frequently precluded from offering. This bill allows community banks all the powers as a matter of right that larger institutions have accumulated on an ad hoc basis. In addition, community banks for the first time are authorized the right to underwrite municipal revenue bonds.

4. Regulatory relief. The legislation provides modest regulatory relief for banks with assets under $250 million. Those with an ''outstanding'' Community Reinvestment Act rating will be examined for compliance only every 5 years, while those with a ''satisfactory rating will be reviewed every 4 years.

5. Special provisions. For a bill of the magnitude for this one, there are surprisingly few special interest provisions. The Congress held the line to assure that breaches of imprudent regulation were not provided to specific institutions, therefore protecting the deposit insurance fund, to which community banks disproportionately provide resources, and the public, which is the last contingency backup.

6. Prohibition on deposit production offices. The legislation expands the prohibition on deposit production offices contained in the Reigle-Neal Interstate bill to include all branches of an out-of-state bank holding company. This prohibition ensures that large multistate bank holding companies do not take deposits from communities without making loans within them.

7. Competition. The power under the act will provide community banks a credible basis to compete with financial institutions of any size or any speciality and in addition to offer, in similar ways, services that new entrants into financial markets, such as Internet or computer software companies, may originate.

In a competitive world in which consolidation has been the hallmark of the past decade, the framework of this bill assures that community banks have the tools to remain competitive. If larger institutional arrangements ever become consumer-unfriendly or geographically-concentrated in their product offerings, the powers reserved for community banks will ensure competitive viability and, where needed, incentivize the establishment of new community-based institutions.

What the new flexibility provided community banks means in that small businesses in the most rural parts of America will be provided access to the most up-to-date, sophisticated financial products in the world, delivered by people they know and trust. Without financial modernization legislation, the trend towards commerce and banking, as well as more faceless interstate banking, will be unstoppable. Community based institutions need to be able to compete with larger institutions on equal terms or growth and economic stability in rural America will be jeopardized.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, November 2, 1999 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

NOVEMBER 3

9:30 a.m.
Armed Services
To hold hearings on lessons learned from the military operations conducted as part of Operation Allied Force, and associated relief operations, with respect to Kosovo.
SH–216

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.
SD–430

Energy and Natural Resources
Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.
SD–366

10 a.m.
Governmental Affairs
Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.
SD–628

Environment and Public Works
Fisheries, Wildlife, and Drinking Water Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine solutions to the policy concerns with respect to Habitat Conservation Plans.
SD–406

Aging
To hold hearings to examine the qulity of care in the nation's nursing homes.
SD–562

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe
To hold hearings on the Chechen crisis and its implications for Russian Democracy.
2226, Rayburn Building

10:30 a.m.
Foreign Relations
Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.
S–116, Capitol

2:30 p.m.
Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine issues in promoting United States interests.
SD–419

NOVEMBER 4

9:30 a.m.
Indian Affairs
To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Resources on S. 1586, to reduce the fractionated ownership of Indian Lands; and S. 1315, to permit the leasing of oil and gas rights on certain lands held in trust for the Navajo Nation or allotted to a member of the Navajo Nation, in any case in which there is consent from a specified percentage interest in the parcel of land under consideration for lease.
Room to be announced

Armed Services
To hold hearings on the nomination of Alphonso Maldon, Jr., of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense; and the nomination of John K. Veroneau, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.
SR–222

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings on local phone competition, examining how to increase consumer choice in local telephone markets.
SR–253

10 a.m.
Aging
To hold hearings on certain initiatives to improve nursing home quality of care.
SD–562

Judiciary
Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.
SD–226

10:15 a.m.
Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine issues relating to Chechnya.
SD–419

11 a.m.
Judiciary
To hold hearings on issues relating to the MCI Worldcom/Sprint merger.
SD–266

2:30 p.m.
Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine the future United States policy with Nigeria.
SD–419

NOVEMBER 5

11 a.m.
Foreign Relations
International Economic Policy, Export and Trade Promotion Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine issues relating to the International Monetary Fund, focusing on lessons learned from the Asian financial crisis.
SD–419

NOVEMBER 9

9:30 a.m.
Governmental Affairs
Investigations Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the vulnerabilities of United States private banks to money laundering.
SD–628

NOVEMBER 10

1 p.m.
Governmental Affairs
Investigations Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the vulnerabilities of United States private banks to money laundering.
SD–628