

leadership, his example, and his many contributions, and to wish him a very happy birthday.

REVIEWING THE TRAVEL BAN ON
LEBANON

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 21, 1995

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, the Secretary of State decided on February 28 to renew the ban on the use of U.S. passports to travel to Lebanon. This decision followed United States-Lebanese security discussions in Washington earlier last month. While the State Department acknowledges that the security situation in Lebanon has improved in the past few years, it maintains that there continue to be significant threats to the security of American citizens in that country.

I have recently spoken to several prominent Lebanese Americans who have visited Lebanon. They are very persuasive in arguing that the current travel ban impedes their legal ability to visit their families. I also believe that American businesses are losing the opportunity to compete for contracts to rebuild Lebanon. I have urged the Secretary of State to review the travel ban and to consider options for revising it in light of the changing conditions inside Lebanon.

Given the importance of this matter for the Lebanese-American community, I request that my exchange of letters with the Department of State be entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS,

Washington, DC, February 16, 1995.

Hon. WARREN H. CHRISTOPHER,
*Secretary of State, Department of State, Wash-
ington, DC.*

DEAR MR. SECRETARY: It is my understanding that the Department of State is currently reviewing the travel ban on Lebanon because the current six-month extension of the ban expires later this month.

I urge the Department to review the present total ban carefully and consider options to revise the ban and take steps in the direction of a combination of partial ban and partial travel advisory.

I am persuaded that Lebanon has taken a series of steps to improve security in the country. I also believe that further steps are needed. In this situation, however, I believe it is in our national interest and in the interest of encouraging further steps by Lebanon to take steps ourselves to match action by Lebanon.

The report by several prominent Lebanese Americans on their trip to the country as well as the recent visit here by a Lebanese Security delegation suggest changes are warranted. American businesses are currently locked out of many reconstruction efforts in the country and Lebanese Americans are legally unable to travel to Lebanon for family reunification purposes.

I appreciate your consideration of this matter and I am available if you want to discuss this matter further.

With best regards,
Sincerely,

LEE H. HAMILTON
Ranking Democratic Member.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, DC 20520.

Hon. LEE H. HAMILTON,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. HAMILTON: I am responding to your letter of February 16 to Secretary Christopher regarding the restrictions on travel to Lebanon by U.S. citizens.

On February 28, Secretary Christopher exercised his authority to extend the restriction on the use of U.S. passports for travel to, in, or through Lebanon. A careful and thorough review of the security situation in Lebanon led the Secretary to conclude that there remained significant threats there to the safety of American citizens.

In meetings here in Washington February 6-7, the Governments of the U.S. and Lebanon engaged in frank and useful discussions of the security situation in Lebanon and our continuing concern for the safety of Americans in Lebanon. We were pleased with the level of expertise the Government of Lebanon brought to these discussions and its avowed commitment to serious and effective action. We expect this dialogue to be an ongoing process leading to significant improvement in the security situation in Lebanon and a reduction in the dangers to American citizens.

We have acknowledged that there has been some improvement in Lebanon's security situation over the past few years. We commend the Lebanese Government for its efforts to diminish terrorist threats and to establish the role of law throughout the country. More needs to be done to address these problems, however, and we look forward to working with the Government of Lebanon on taking the necessary steps to do so.

We will continue to review the passport restriction and other administration measures affecting travel to Lebanon. Our review will be based on a careful evaluation of our own information and the steps the Lebanese government takes to address these issues.

The Department will carefully consider options short of lifting the passport restrictions. In considering these steps, however, the Department will have as its first consideration the safety and security of U.S. citizens.

The Secretary appreciates both your interest and your offer to continue a dialogue with the Department on this issue. The goal remains the removal of these restrictions when security conditions permit us to do so and the return to a mutually beneficial and improved bilateral relationship.

I trust that this information has been responsive to your inquiry. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you believe we may be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

WENDY R. SHERMAN,
*Assistant Secretary,
Legislative Affairs.*

RISK ASSESSMENT AND COST-
BENEFIT ACT OF 1995

SPEECH OF

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 27, 1995

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1022) to provide regulatory reform and to focus national economic resources on the greatest risks to human health, safety, and the environment through scientifically objective and unbiased risk assessments and through the consider-

ation of costs and benefits in major rules, and for other purposes:

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 1022, the Risk Assessment and Cost Benefit Act.

H.R. 1022 is not a regulatory reform bill as the new Republican leadership claims. It is an attempt by supporters of the Contract On America to destroy environmental protections which the American people fought for long and hard. Landmark environmental legislation such as the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, and the endangered Species Act will be superseded by H.R. 1022, leaving our air, water, and wildlife unprotected.

Under H.R. 1022, 12 Federal agencies including the Environmental Protection Agency, the Energy Department, and the Interior Department will be required to follow a single set of new, government-wide principles for risk assessment activities in order to carry out their regulatory responsibilities. This one-size-fits-all approach to risk assessments will prevent Federal officials from developing sound public policy. Instead, H.R. 1022 will lead to long delays of important environmental protection programs, and more red tape.

Mr. Chairman, this bill will impact not only our nation's environment, but our nation's taxpayers as well. The Congressional Budget Office estimated that risk assessment proposals similar to H.R. 1022 would cost affected federal agencies \$250 million annually. H.R. 1022 does not contain provisions to offset the bill's potential costs. Therefore, it will result in increasing the deficit or cutting desperately needed funds for education and other social programs.

Mr. Chairman, it seems that lawyers are the only ones who benefit from H.R. 1022. The bill opens up numerous new pathways for litigation, and it gives lawyers interested in holding up valuable environmental regulations a powerful new tool to prolong agency actions.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to oppose the Republican leadership's efforts to hamper the government's ability to protect the environment. Vote no on H.R. 1022. Thank you.

ED ROBERTS

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 21, 1995

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to sadly note the passing of one of the great people of our time, Ed Roberts, the former secretary of rehabilitation of the State of California, the cofounder of the Center for Independent Living, and the founder of the World Disability Institute.

I knew, admired, and worked closely with Ed Roberts throughout my entire adult life, in Sacramento, and as a Member of the House of Representatives. Ed was as dedicated, insightful, determined, and skilled as any person I have ever met in public life, and his singular contributions to the disabled community throughout America is, simply stated, unparalleled.

Ed deeply understood the need for the law, and for government, to defend the rights of those who had neither power nor influence. And he forced dramatic changes that broke