

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PRIVATIZE AMERICAN EDUCATION

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 1995

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, the public education system in America, having been infiltrated by Federal regulations, has significantly diminished fundamental learning opportunities that should be available to all students.

Since the Department of education was established in 1980, curriculum standards, as well as the incentive for students to succeed have plummeted. What many people do not recognize is that future social stability and adequate education run parallel—when one rises, the other will follow.

It is obvious that quality education in America's schools, mainly public, needs to be resurrected. The fundamental step in reforming public school systems begins with decentralization. The power to reduce the standard curriculum, held by the Department of education, should never have been created. There is no benefit no bureaucratic control over our Nation's learning institutions. It literally threatens the level of competence that future adults will possess.

Dr. Milton Friedman, a senior research fellow at the Hoover Institution in Stanford, CA, and a recipient of the Nobel Prize in 1976, introduces the benefits of a voucher system within privatized schooling. In his article, "Public Schools, Make Them Private," he illustrates how the voucher will eventually boost student performance and help low income families pay for school without raising taxes.

I commend to the attention of my colleagues the following article written by Dr. Friedman in the hopes that we can correct the flaws in American education.

[From the Washington Post, Feb. 19, 1995]

PUBLIC SCHOOLS: MAKE THEM PRIVATE
(By Milton Friedman)

Our elementary and secondary educational system needs to be radically reconstructed. That need arises in the first instance from the defects of our current system. But it has been greatly reinforced by some of the consequences of the technological and political revolutions of the past few decades. Those revolutions promise a major increase in world output, but they also threaten advanced countries with serious social conflict arising from a widening gap between the incomes of the highly skilled (cognitive elite) and the unskilled.

A radical reconstruction of the educational system has the potential of staving off social conflict while at the same time strengthening the growth in living standards made possible by the new technology and the increasingly global market. In my view, such a radical reconstruction can be achieved only by privatizing a major segment of the educational system—i.e., by enabling a private, for-profit industry to develop that will provide a wide variety of learning opportunities and offer effective competition to public schools. Such a reconstruction cannot come about overnight. It inevitably must be gradual.

The most feasible way to bring about a gradual yet substantial transfer from government to private enterprise is to enact in each state a voucher system that enables parents to choose freely the schools their children attend. I first proposed such a voucher system 40 years ago.

Many attempts have been made in the years since to adopt educational vouchers with minor exceptions, no one has succeeded in getting a voucher system adopted, thanks primarily to the political power of the school establishment, more recently reinforced by the National Education Association and the American Federation of Teachers, together the strongest political lobbying body in the United States.

(1) THE DETERIORATION OF SCHOOLING

The quality of schooling is far worse today than it was in 1955. There is no respect in which inhabitants of a low-income neighborhood are so disadvantaged as in the kind of schooling they can get for their children. The reason is partly the deterioration of our central cities, partly the increased centralization of public schools—as evidenced by the decline in the number of school districts from 55,000 in 1955 to 15,000 in 1992. Along with centralization has come—as both cause and effect—the growing strength of teachers' unions. Whatever the reason, the fact of deterioration of elementary and secondary schools is not disputable.

The system over time has become more defective as it has become more centralized. Power has moved from the local community to the school district to the state, and to the federal government. About 90 percent of our kids now go to so-called public schools, which are really not public at all but simply private fiefs primarily of the administrators and the union officials.

We all know the dismal results: some relatively good government schools in high-income suburbs and communities; very poor government schools in our inner cities with high dropout rates, increasing violence, lower performance and demoralized students and teachers.

These changes in our educational system have clearly strengthened the need for basic reform. But they have also strengthened the obstacles to the kind of sweeping reform that could be produced by an effective voucher system. The teachers' unions are bitterly opposed to any reform that lessens their own power, and they have acquired enormous political and financial strength that they are prepared to devote to defeating any attempt to adopt a voucher system. The latest example is the defeat of Proposition 174 in California in 1993.

(2) THE NEW INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

A radical reconstruction of our educational system has been made more urgent by the twin revolutions that have occurred within the past few decades: a technological revolution—the development, in particular, of more effective and efficient methods of communication, transportation and transmission of data; and a political revolution that has widened the influence of the technological revolution.

The fall of the Berlin Wall was the most dramatic event of the political revolution. But it was not necessarily the most important event. For example communism is not dead in China and has not collapsed. And yet beginning in 1976, Premier Deng initiated a

revolution within China that led to its being opened up to the rest of the world. Similarly, a political revolution took place in Latin America that, over the course of the past several decades, has led to a major increase in the fraction of people there who live in countries that can properly be described as democracies rather than military dictatorships and that are striving to enter open world markets.

The technological revolution has made it possible for a company located anywhere in the world to use resources located anywhere in the world, to produce a product anywhere in the world, to be sold anywhere in the world. It's impossible to say, "this is an American car" or "this is a Japanese car," and the same goes for many other products.

The possibility for labor and capital anywhere to cooperate with labor and capital anywhere else had dramatic effects even before the political revolution took over. It meant that there was a large supply of relatively low-wage labor to cooperate with capital from the advanced countries, capital in the form of physical capital, but perhaps even more important, capital in the form of human capital—of skills, of knowledge, of techniques, of training.

Before the political revolution came along, this international linkage of labor, capital and know-how had already led to a rapid expansion in world trade, to the growth of multinational companies and to a hitherto unimaginable degree of prosperity in such formerly underdeveloped countries in East Asia as the "Four Tigers." Chile was the first to benefit from these developments in Latin America, but its example soon spread to Mexico, Argentina and other countries in the region. In Asia, the latest to embark on a program of market reform is India.

The political revolution greatly reinforced the technological revolution in two different ways. First, it added greatly to the pool of low-wage, yet not necessarily unskilled labor that could be tapped for cooperation with labor and capital from the advanced countries. The fall of the Iron Curtain added perhaps a half-billion people and China close to a billion, freed a least partly to engage in capitalist acts with people elsewhere.

Second, the political revolution discredited the idea of central planning. It led everywhere to greater confidence in market mechanisms as opposed to central control by government. And that in turn fostered international trade and international cooperation.

These two revolutions offer the opportunity for a major industrial revolution comparable to that which occurred 200 years ago—also spread by technological developments and freedom to trade. In those 200 years, world output grew more than in the preceding 2000. That record could be exceeded in the next two centuries if the peoples of the world take full advantage of their new opportunities.

(3) WAGE DIFFERENTIALS

The twin revolutions have produced higher wages and incomes for almost all classes in the underdeveloped countries. The effect has been somewhat different in the advanced countries. The greatly increased ratio of low-cost labor to capital has raised the wages of

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

highly skilled labor and the returns on physical capital but has put downward pressure on the wages of low-skilled labor. The result has been a sharp widening in the differential between the wages of highly skilled and low-skilled labor in the United States and other advanced countries.

If the widening of the wage differential is allowed to proceed unchecked, it threatens to create within our own country a social problem of major proportions. We shall not be willing to see a group of our population move into Third World conditions at the same time that another group of our population becomes increasingly well off. Such stratification is a recipe for social disaster. The pressure to avoid it by protectionist and other similar measures will be irresistible.

(4) EDUCATION

So far, our educational system has been adding to the tendency to stratification. Yet it is the only major force in sight capable of offsetting that tendency. Innate intelligence undoubtedly plays a major role in determining the opportunities open to individuals. Yet it is by no means the only human quality that is important, as numerous examples demonstrate. Unfortunately, our current educational system does little to enable either low-IQ or high-IQ individuals to make the most of other qualities. Yet that is the way to offset the tendencies to stratification. A greatly improved educational system can do more than anything else to limit the harm to our social stability from a permanent and large underclass.

There is enormous room for improvement in our educational system. Hardly any activity in the United States is technically more backward. We essentially teach children in the same way that we did 200 years ago: one teacher in front of a bunch of kids in a closed room. The availability of computers has changed the situation, but not fundamentally. Computers are being added to public schools, but they are typically not being used in an imaginative and innovative way.

I believe that the only way to make a major improvement in our educational system is through privatization to the point at which a substantial fraction of all educational services are rendered to individuals by private enterprises. Nothing else will destroy or even greatly weaken the power of the current educational establishment—a necessary precondition for radical improvement in our educational system. And nothing else will provide the public schools with the competition that will force them to improve in order to hold their clientele.

No one can predict in advance the direction that a truly free-market educational system would take. We know from the experience of every other industry how imaginative competitive free enterprise can be, what new products and services can be introduced, how driven it is to satisfy the customers—that is what we need in education. We know how the telephone industry has been revolutionized by opening it to competition; how fax has begun to undermine the postal monopoly in first-class mail; how UPS, Federal Express and many other private enterprises have transformed package and message delivery and, on the strictly private level, how competition from Japan has transformed the domestic automobile industry.

The private schools that 10 percent of children now attend consist of a few elite schools serving at high cost a tiny fraction of the population, and many mostly parochial non-profit schools able to compete with government schools by charging low fees made possible by the dedicated services of many of the teachers and subsidies from the sponsoring institutions. These private schools do provide a superior education for a small fraction of the children, but they are not in a po-

sition to make innovative changes. For that, we need a much larger and more vigorous private enterprise system.

The problem is how to get from here to there. Vouchers are not an end in themselves; they are a means to make a transition from a government to a market system. The deterioration of our school system and the stratification arising out of the new industrial revolution have made privatization of education far more urgent and important than it was 40 years ago.

Vouchers can promote rapid privatization only if they create a large demand for private schools to constitute a real incentive for entrepreneurs to enter the industry. That requires first that the voucher be universal, available to all who are now entitled to send their children to government schools, and second that the voucher, though less than the government now spends per pupil on education, be large enough to cover the costs of a private profit-making school offering a high-quality education. If that is achieved there will in addition be a substantial number of families that will be willing and able to supplement the voucher in order to get an even higher quality of education. As in all cases, the innovations in the "luxury" product will soon spread to the basic product.

For this image to be realized, it is essential that no conditions be attached to the acceptance of vouchers that interfere with the freedom of private enterprisers to experiment, to explore and to innovate. If this image is realized, everybody, except a small group of vested interests, will win; parents, students, dedicated teachers, taxpayers—for whom the cost of the educational system will decline—and especially the residents of central cities, who will have a real alternative to the wretched schools so many of their children are now forced to attend.

The business community has a major interest in expanding the pool of well-schooled potential employees and in maintaining a free society with open trade and expanding markets around the world. Both objectives would be promoted by the right kind of voucher system.

Finally, as in every other area in which there has been extensive privatization, the privatization of schooling would produce a new, highly active and profitable private industry that would provide a real opportunity for many talented people who are currently deterred from entering the teaching profession by the dreadful state of so many of our schools.

This is not a federal issue. Schooling is and should remain primarily a local responsibility. Support for free choice of schools has been growing rapidly and cannot be held back indefinitely by the vested interests of the unions and educational bureaucracy. I sense that we are on the verge of a breakthrough in one state or another, which will then sweep like a wildfire through the rest of the country as it demonstrates its effectiveness.

To get a majority of the public to support a general and substantial voucher, we must structure the proposal so that (1) it is simple and straightforward so as to be comprehensible to the voter, and (2) guarantees that the proposal will not add to the tax burden in any way but will rather reduce net government spending on education. A group of us in California has produced a tentative proposition that meets these conditions. The prospects for getting sufficient backing to have a real chance of passing such a proposition in 1996 are bright.

LEGISLATION TO AUTHORIZE CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR POSTHUMOUSLY TO BREVET BRIG. GEN. STRONG VINCENT

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 1995

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to authorize the Congressional Medal of Honor be given posthumously to Brevet Brig. Gen. Strong Vincent for his actions in the defense of Little Round Top at the Battle of Gettysburg.

General Vincent's heroic leadership was responsible for the speedy placement of his brigade and tenacious defense against overwhelming odds. General Vincent directed the men defending Little Round Top to "hold against all hazards."

Without the leadership of Gen. Strong Vincent the Confederate Army would have taken Little Round Top, enabling them to place their artillery at the top of the hill and attack the flank of the Union Army. If Little Round Top would have fallen, the Battle of Gettysburg would have had a different ending.

Gen. Strong Vincent was mortally wounded while rallying the 16th Michigan Regiment to reorganize and hold their ground. General Vincent acted above and beyond the call of duty and saved the day for the Union Army at the Battle of Gettysburg.

For these important reasons, I am pleased to offer this bill to the House.

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 1995

SPEECH OF

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 23, 1995

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4) to restore the American family, reduce illegitimacy, control welfare spending and reduce welfare dependence:

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to remind my colleagues of the most critical aspect of this welfare reform debate—the effect this legislation will have on poor children in our Nation.

Child poverty is an enormous drain on the Nation's economy. Every year of child poverty will end up costing billions of dollars in lower future productivity, special education, crime, foster care, and teenage pregnancy.

We must create long-term solutions for this shameful problem of child poverty in our country. Yet this Republican welfare reform bill seeks to solve this problem by punishing our Nation's children simply for this misfortune of being born to a family without means or resources.

This bill punishes children born out of wedlock, born to an unmarried teenage mother, born to a welfare family, or born without established paternity.

Poor young children in working families are victims of this bill. Twenty six percent of children under 6 years old live in poverty, nearly

twice the number of poor adults over 18. Yet the Republican proposal would reduce Federal funding for child care by 20 percent over 5 years. Child care assistance is often the key to whether families can move from welfare to work. How can reform succeed if this need is not sufficiently addressed?

Disabled children are victims of this bill. The Republican proposal would cut SSI benefits to disabled children by \$10.9 billion over 5 years. Within 6 months, 250,000 of the 900,000 severely disabled children now receiving benefits would lose them. These children already face difficulties in coping with the world, only to be met with more challenges in these cuts.

Abused and neglected children are victims of this bill. Incidents of child abuse number up to 3 million a year, yet child welfare and protection programs, including foster care and adoption assistance, will be replaced with a block grant, cutting \$2.7 billion in funding over 5 years.

Hungry children are victims of this bill. The School Breakfast and Lunch programs and the WIC program will be replaced with nutrition block grants. Funding for these block grants is set below the funding which would have occurred under the current programs, yet the number of families in need of these programs continues to rise.

We are responsible for our children's future. When our children are neglected, our Nation will suffer. President Harry Truman said that nothing is more important in our national life than the welfare of our children. If you believe this as I do, you will join with me in opposition to this legislation that will undeniably harm our most valuable resource.

DELEGATION DETAILS HUMAN RIGHTS CONDITIONS IN TURKEY

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 1995

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month members of a Parliamentary Human Rights Foundation delegation returned from a fact-finding mission to Turkey. The human rights situation in that country has significantly deteriorated in recent years despite assurances otherwise by Turkey's leaders.

At present, internal tensions have reached new heights, threatening to tear apart the multiethnic fabric of Turkish society while destabilizing the entire region. Turkey's campaign against the Kurdish Worker's Party [PKK] has been used to justify the recent invasion of Northern Iraq as well as sweeping restrictions on pro-Kurdish expression and peaceful political activity. And, while the PKK continues to operate and gather support, Turkey's democratic credentials are increasingly questioned.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I ask that the report of the Parliamentary Human Rights Foundation delegation, which outlines many of the human rights problems in Turkey and offers constructive recommendations on how Turkey's Government might better address such problems be printed in the RECORD.

REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS CONDITIONS IN TURKEY, MARCH 2, 1995

I. SUMMARY

The Parliamentary Human Rights Foundation (formerly the Congressional Human

Rights Foundation) organized a human rights fact-finding mission to Turkey (2/25-3/1/95). The delegation was led by the Honorable J. Kenneth Blackwell, a Member of the Board of Directors and former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Human Rights Commission (UNHRC). The delegation also included David L. Phillips, President of the Foundation. The purpose of the trip was to investigate reported human rights violations committed by the Government of Turkey, particularly the abuses against its citizens of Kurdish origin. The delegation also investigated violations by the PKK, a separatist organization committed to armed struggle. Based on the delegation's findings, a report has been submitted to officials in Geneva, Members of the U.S. Congress, the European Parliament, and National Assemblies in Europe.

II. PROGRAM

The delegation visited Istanbul, Diyarbakir, and Ankara. In order to consider a broad range of views, the delegation spoke with Turkish officials from the Office of the Prime Minister, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Turkish Grand National Assembly, the Governor and Deputy Governor of the Emergency Region, and Turkish Army personnel. The delegation also met with representatives of the Turkish Human Rights Association, the Turkish Human Rights Foundation, the Diyarbakir Bar Association, HADEP officials, a DEP Parliamentarian, lawyers representing the DEP MPs, former MPs of Kurdish origin, and Kurdish citizens.

Our official request for meetings with Layla Zana and Ahmet Turk, imprisoned parliamentarians and members of the Foundations Interparliamentary Human Rights Network (IPN), was declined. Despite assurances from the Governor of the Emergency Region, our travel to Kurdish villages outside of Diyarbakir was blocked at military checkpoints. The office of the Diyarbakir Human Rights Association was closed and four members were arrested within 24 hours of the delegation's meeting with representatives of the Association.

III. SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS

Turkish authorities are systematically violating the rights of Turkish citizens, including those of Kurdish origin. The Anti-Terror Act and the State of Emergency provide legal sanction for gross human rights violations, particularly in Southeast Turkey.

Turkish authorities state that their objection is to the non-combatants terrorism. However, many civilian non-combatants suffer human rights violations as a result of the struggle between Turkish authorities and the PKK. The PKK is an extremist, militant organization responsible for acts of terrorism in which Turkish military and police personnel are targeted, as are Kurdish civilians. It should be noted, however, that the PKK has recently called for a "civilian solution" to the Kurdish question and has recognized Turkey's borders.

The Government of Turkey believes all persons who seek political and cultural expression for the Kurds are "separatists" and PKK sympathizers. Suspected by Turkish authorities as bases for PKK operations, more than one thousand Kurdish villages have been destroyed. Human rights monitors report instances of arbitrary detention, torture, extrajudicial killing, and restrictions on freedom of expression. In addition, democratically elected parliamentarians of Kurdish origin have been jailed and convicted for disseminating "separatist" propaganda and supporting an "armed band" while, in reality, they were merely representing the interests of their constituents. There are seri-

ous shortfalls in Turkey's administration of justice.

IV. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The Interior Ministry indicates that 1,046 villages in the emergency region have been evacuated; human rights monitors say several thousand villages have been destroyed; homes and their claimed inhabitants have been burned; use of chemical agents and poison gas are reported. The Government acknowledges that 940 combatants have been killed; however, other reports claim that thousands have died. The population of Diyarbakir has doubled to more than 1.2 million as internally displaced persons have sought refuge in the city.

The DEP parliamentarians were convicted in proceedings many observers labelled a "show-trial." The Government of Turkey indicates that 8,682 persons have been sentenced under its Anti-Terror Act, which permits arbitrary arrest. Many of those known to be arrested, as well as persons who have disappeared, were just attempting to peacefully exercise freedoms of speech, association, or other internationally recognized human rights. The Turkish Human Rights Association reports instances of extrajudicial killings and torture of persons held in incommunicado for political crimes. There are 250 cases/appeals presently before the European Court of Human Rights and the European Commission on Human Rights.

The Constitutional Court of Turkey has no right of review for "decrees with the force of law" issued under the state of emergency. The Anti-Terror Act, adopted in 1991, restricts many civil liberties, including attorney access to, as well as the rights of, persons in detention. The Anti-Terror Act and state of emergency provisions also restrict freedom of expression. Government agencies harass and imprison human rights minors, journalists, lawyers, and professors. The Act's broad and ambiguous definition of terrorism, particularly Article 8, has led to widespread abuses of innocent civilians.

In addition, the Constitutional Court has banned the DEP party, a vehicle for the expression of Kurdish cultural identity and full citizenship rights. In the past two years, 26 DEP and HADEP members have been killed. In the run-up to recent elections, the DEP headquarters was bombed. The press law permits banning of publications with a court order and states that "responsible editors" bear responsibility for the content of their publications; 19 journalists have been tried under the Anti-Terror Act. On December 3, 1994, a journal reputed to be pro-PKK, the "Izgur Ulke" was bombed. There are no independent Kurdish language newspapers, television, or radio. Regarding cultural expression, the Constitution does not recognize Kurds as a national, racial, or ethnic minority. Two hundred Kurds were arrested during Newroz New Year celebrations in Diyarbakir.

It is important to note that the PKK, itself, is responsible for gross human rights violations by targeting village officials, guards, informants, teachers, and young men who refuse to take up arms against the authorities. By the admission of its own representatives, the PKK has recently killed 179 village guards, 66 collaborators, and police officials. The well-being of almost every Kurd is adversely affected by the conflict.

As a result of the conflict, Turkey's citizens of Kurdish origin have become bereft of many democratic rights and are denied effective political and cultural expression. The

resulting radicalization of the Kurds is contributing to a worsening security situation throughout the country. An increasing number of Kurds are turning to the pro-Muslim Welfare Party.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS

The international community should promote improvement in human rights conditions in Turkey by encouraging a dialogue between Turkish authorities and legitimate representatives of Kurdish interests. To this end, amnesty should be provided to convicted DEP parliaments so that they can participate in a dialogue concerning the reduction of tensions and the normalization of relations between Turkish authorities and Turkey's citizens of Kurdish origin.

Within the competence of the UNHRC, the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, and the Special Rapporteurs on Torture and Freedom of Expression should investigate human rights conditions in Turkey. The Government of Turkey has "invited" the Special Rapporteur on Summary Executions to visit Turkey. A suitable itinerary and near term date should be finalized.

Efforts should be made by the U.S. and the E.U. to establish mutual reinforcing restrictions on the sale of military equipment which might be used against civilian populations. The US and EU should also coordinate the extension and/or relaxation of tariff and trade privileges based on Turkey's overall human rights performance.

Technical assistance programs in the rule of law should be undertaken among Members of the Turkish Grand National Assembly, European Parliament, and U.S. Congress in order to strengthen democratic institutions and assist in constitutional and legislative reform. The Anti-Terror Act should be amended so that the rights of Turkish citizens are safeguarded, as is the right of the state to protect its territorial integrity. Electronic computer networks should be established between the TGNA and parliamentary bodies in other countries.

These recommendations are provided so that the international community can become fully seized by the worsening human rights conditions in Turkey. The authors of this report hope for reconciliation through dialogue so that peace, prosperity, and democracy may flourish for all citizens of the Turkish Republic.

CONGRATULATIONS TO CANTIGNY POST 367 ON ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 1995

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, today, I congratulate the Veterans of Foreign Wars Cantigny Post 367 in Joliet, IL, as it celebrates its 75th anniversary and thank them for their hard work and dedication to the community and our country.

For the past 75 years and more, the veterans have given their time, and in some cases their lives, and their service to America. Today we show our appreciation.

Thank you for your lifelong devotion to democracy.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars was organized in 1899 and is composed of Army, Navy, and Marine veterans—all of whom share a comradeship and a distinct allegiance to both country and each other. Perhaps the objectives listed for the VFW organization de-

scribe its purpose best. "To preserve and strengthen comradeship among its members; to assist worthy comrades; to perpetuate the memory and history of our dead, and to assist their widows and orphans; to maintain true allegiance to the Government of the United States of America."

On March 28, 1920, the Chateau Cantigny Post No. 367 in Joliet was formed. Its name was derived from the men who served with the 1st Division and saw action at the Cantigny Woods. John Baron served as the first commander of the post which had 38 charter members.

Since that day, Cantigny Post 367 members have contributed greatly to the community. They dedicate their time and energy to assisting hospitalized veterans through raising funds for Hines VA Hospital, Danville VA Hospital, North Chicago VA Hospital, the VFW National Home and the Veterans Home in Manteno, IL. The post also presents flags to high schools, ROTC groups and other civic organizations.

It is a distinct pleasure to have such an honorable and patriotic group in the 11th Congressional District and I applaud your efforts. Congratulations on your 75th anniversary and please continue your hard work—it is truly appreciated.

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 1995

SPEECH OF

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 1995

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4) to restore the American family, reduce illegitimacy, control welfare spending and reduce welfare dependence:

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the Talent amendment. The Republican welfare reform plan is weak on work, and this amendment does not solve that problem.

This amendment provides neither enforcement of its work requirements or resources to meet them. This amendment has no guarantees that those who get work will make a living wage.

The Talent amendment would not lift people out of welfare and into work. It would create an even large class of working poor in this country than we have now.

Real welfare reform should emphasize self-sufficient employment that provides a liveable wage, that can create a long-term solution to the crisis of poverty.

The Talent amendment does not strengthen the work requirements in the Republican bill or provide real job opportunity. I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on the Talent amendment.

ENDING DISCRIMINATION

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 1995

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, one does not solve discrimination with discrimination. Affirm-

ative action represents nothing more than a Government-designed racial spoils system. Equal treatment, not preferential treatment, should be the standard. Equal opportunity, not equal results, must be the goal.

For the past 30 years, Government quotas and guidelines have promoted a society that treats some Americans differently from others. Government dictates how varying ethnic groups will divvy up jobs, promotions, contracts, and college admissions. Affirmative action promotes opportunity based on race and creed not merit. This premise promotes the false idea that minorities cannot compete without special favors. Simply put, it implies inferiority.

Affirmative action pits group against group, stirring envy and resentment while eroding the value of individual worth. You do not raise yourself up by holding others down. Government-imposed favoritism demeans the genuine achievements of those it is supposed to help.

Mr. Speaker, in the twisted game of affirmative action, quantity takes precedence over quality allowing discrimination to pose under the guise of fairness. We must not confuse equal opportunity with equal results any longer. The more equal the opportunity the more diverse the results. It is time to end affirmative action. We need to promote fair competition in our society, not Government quotas and favoritism.

MRS. VIRLIN MILLEE WATSON FOR HAVING REACHED HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JAY DICKEY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 1995

Mr. DICKEY. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to pay tribute to Mrs. Virlin Millee Watson. Mrs. Watson was born on March 25, 1895, to the late James William Millee and Sarah Jane Long Millee in Sebastian County, AK, near the town of Fort Smith, where she lived until 1906 when her family moved south to Pine Bluff, AK.

Mrs. Watson graduated from Pine Bluff High School and began work in June 1915 for Schober-Martin Dry Goods Co. as a pattern clerk and also answered the telephone. She studied bookkeeping in night classes at a privately-run school in Pine Bluff and in 1916 was hired by Joe Hankins & Co. cotton buyers as a bookkeeper. In 1919 she became bookkeeper for Pine Bluff Produce and Provision Co. and worked in that position until her marriage. During this time she was an active member of the Ohio Street Baptist Church and also enjoyed an active social life.

On November 15, 1922, she was married to Clarence Watson. Mr. Watson was employed in the administrative office of the Cotton Belt Railroad. After the marriage, she joined the First Baptist Church and, in addition to church

activities, was a dedicated homemaker and a member of several social clubs composed of young matrons of the city.

On May 9, 1931, she gave birth to Clarence Watson, Jr., and in November of that same year the Watsons moved to a new house at 3003 Cherry Street, where Mrs. Watson would live for some 59 years thereafter. On June 2, 1951, Mrs. Watson began a second career. Mr. Watson's failing health contributed to the need and desire for Mrs. Watson to once again enter the work force. She was placed in charge of the tuberculosis unit of the Jefferson County, AK, health unit. She remained employed in that position until her retirement in January 1958. Mr. Watson died September 11, 1958.

Mrs. Watson continues to maintain interest in the affairs of her church as well as city, State, and national affairs. She also remains a devoted Arkansas Razorback football and basketball fan. In late 1993 she moved to Trinity Village but continues to maintain her Cherry Street home for occasional use. Her son, C.E. Watson, and his wife Frances live in San Diego, CA. She has two grandchildren, Kevin Scott Watson, of California, and Leslie Claire Watson, of Florida.

In short Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Watson is an extraordinary woman whose life can be looked at as an example of what America is all about. Through the good times and the bad times she has shown love and dedication to her family and community, and by so doing has made this world a better place in which to live.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Mrs. Virlin Millee Watson as she and her loved ones celebrate the reaching of yet another milestone in her life.

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT
OF 1995

SPEECH OF

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday March 23, 1995

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4) to restore the American family, reduce illegitimacy, control welfare spending and reduce welfare dependence:

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the Deal substitute to the Personal Responsibility Act.

The Deal alternative, unlike the legislation before us, was crafted to make good on the promise of moving people from welfare to work. It ensures the welfare recipients will be better off economically by taking a job rather than staying on welfare.

While the Republican welfare proposal offers no real resources for able-bodied recipients to find work, the Deal substitute engages each AFDC recipient in an individual responsibility plan detailing the ways in which he or she can find work and how the State can assist in this goal.

This morning, the front page of the Washington Post told us that the Congressional Budget Office estimates that none of the States will be able to meet the Republican welfare proposal's work requirements. We see

now that the Republican majority has given us a bill that is not only mean, but also completely unworkable.

The Deal substitute works in partnership with State and local governments to ensure that special situations receive adequate resources and flexibility and that the goal of getting people off welfare into work can be met.

Individuals can begin a job search with the assistance of a Work First program and resources for child care. They have the option of starting or continuing education. This plan acknowledges that, in order to get people to work and to keep working, we must assist them with their individual needs. No one situation is the same, and this substitute addresses that dilemma.

Further, the Deal substitute explicitly states that all savings from the bill will be applied to deficit reduction, not to pay for tax cuts for the wealthy.

And most importantly, the Deal substitute does not in any way attempt welfare reform at the expense of poor children.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support the Deal substitute. It is a realistic and responsible means by which to end the cycle of welfare dependency by focusing on work.

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF RICH
PRODUCTS CORP.

HON. JACK QUINN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 1995

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 50th anniversary of Rich Products Corp., the Nation's largest family-owned frozen foods manufacturer founded and headquartered in Buffalo, NY.

Rich Products has had a long-standing tradition of teamwork, innovation, and a commitment to excellence.

This all began in 1945 when Robert E. Rich, Sr., founder and chairman of the board, directed a laboratory team to find a vegetable-based replacement for whip cream from the new source known as the soybean. They discovered that the soybean substance could be frozen, thawed, and whipped.

This new, revolutionary product was named Rich's Whip Topping and served to open and define the new world of nondairy products to the frozen food industry. It also made Rich Products the leader and innovator in the industry.

Since this time, Rich's Products Corp. has introduced innovative products like Coffee Rich, the Nation's first nondairy creamer. It is the only nationally distributed creamer on the market that is truly 100 percent cholesterol free and low in saturated fats.

Rich Products continued to expand both in size and its product line. Frozen baked goods were soon added to Rich's lineup. This was followed by the additions of frozen dough, frozen seafood specialties, soup bases, gravy mixes, powdered coffee creamers, frozen Italian pasta and meat, frozen fruit and barbecue and specialty meat products.

Rich's also opened a new area in the industry with another innovation known as freeze flo. This is an all natural process that allows foods to remain soft while frozen.

Rich Products Corp. now employs over 7,000 people nationally and internationally with manufacturing sites and field offices throughout North America and the world. Rich's is headquartered on the banks of the Niagara River in Buffalo, NY with sales now exceed \$940 million annually.

Throughout all its history, Rich Products Corp. has maintained a strong commitment to the western New York community. Rich's and its president, Robert E. Rich, Jr., demonstrated this with their effort to keep baseball in Buffalo. Bob Rich took a failing franchise and brought it to the forefront of professional baseball in many ways including breaking the million mark in attendance for 5 straight years. Bob Rich, Jr., also serves on numerous boards throughout the western New York community.

Rich Products Corp. is also the parent company for Rich Communications which runs two radio stations in the western New York broadcast market.

Robert E. Rich, Sr., has also demonstrated his commitment to the community by serving on the boards of over 30 organizations in western New York including the University of Buffalo, Buffalo General Hospital, and the United Fund of Buffalo and Erie County just to name a few.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor the Rich Products Corp.; the chairman of the board, Robert E. Rich, Sr.; and the president, Robert E. Rich, Jr. I salute their 50-year history and the lifelong commitment of both these citizens to the western New York community. I wish them continued success into the next century.

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF
SCRANTON PREPARATORY SCHOOL

HON. JOSEPH M. McDADE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 1995

Mr. McDADE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Scranton Preparatory School, the high school founded by the Society of Jesus in Scranton, PA.

Scranton Prep has achieved great success in providing a value-oriented education to young men and women. Its curriculum, based on the Jesuit tradition of classical studies, is intended to prepare students for the challenges of the modern world.

Besides traditional academic pursuits, Scranton Prep fosters cooperation, respect, and responsibility through community service and opportunities for personal religious growth. One of the ways in which Scranton Prep aids in the fulfillment of these goals is through summer volunteer service projects in Mexico and Appalachia.

The importance of academic excellence at Scranton Prep is evinced by the fact that 99 percent of its graduate go on to college. Students are prepared for their college careers through advanced placement classes and a strong emphasis on classical education including the study of Latin and Greek.

I have had the great pleasure of witnessing the growth of this school from its original student body of 120 young men into an accredited institution which now enrolls 790 young women and men from throughout the region.

As the school has grown, it has remained motivated by the Jesuit ideals of Christian humanistic education.

Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to count myself among the proud alumni of Scranton Preparatory School and I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring my alma mater as we observe this landmark anniversary.

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT
OF 1995

SPEECH OF

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 1995

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4) to restore the American family, reduce illegitimacy, control welfare spending and reduce welfare dependence:

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to oppose this welfare reform bill. It contains provisions which discriminate against legal immigrants by denying them access to programs that they have paid for with their taxes and their contributions to the Social Security and unemployment insurance systems.

This extreme Republican legislation would bar legal immigrants from receiving Medicaid, Food Stamps, disability aid, and other critical programs which provide a safety net to citizens and noncitizens alike.

Mr. Chairman, it seems un-American to deny legal residents access to programs that they have already paid for through taxes and payroll deductions.

Indeed, it should be noted that legal immigrants pay far more in taxes than they receive in benefits. According to the Urban Institute, legal and undocumented immigrants pay approximately \$70.3 billion per year in taxes, but receive only \$42.9 billion in services such as education and public assistance.

Mr. Chairman, like the other bills in the Republican contract, this bill targets the weak and defenseless.

This bill punishes those who came here legally and waited years to obtain legal residency, played by the rules, paid their taxes, and contributed to the Social Security and unemployment insurance systems.

I urge my colleagues to vote no on this bill.

THE TUITION ACCOUNT
ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1995

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 1995

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Tuition Account Assistance Act of 1995. It is my sincere hope that this legislation will help clarify the middle-class benefits of capital gains tax reduction.

This legislation would enable parents or guardians to save for their children's education through a State college tuition-savings program without tax penalties. This legislation would also encourage States to adopt tuition savings programs if they do not currently have

them, and States who do would benefit from an additional incentive for participation. It is time to quite penalizing families who are trying to save for their children's education.

In September, 1993, my home State of Pennsylvania started a program to provide for the advance purchase of college tuition credits. Tuition credit prices are set annually based on current tuition prices, expected tuition inflation and the expected earnings of the fund. The program allows the credits to be used anytime after they mature. Unfortunately, any increase in the value of the credits are subject to Federal income taxation. The purchaser will incur a tax liability when the credits are used, or in the event of a refund.

While Pennsylvania's program is new and participants are not yet able to use the credits, when they do, they will be met with a huge tax burden. Other States who have this type of program are all too familiar with the disincentive this liability is to the program, and States who are contemplating starting a program are thinking twice.

For these important reasons, I am pleased to offer this bill to the House.

A TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM R.
McCLAIN

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 1995

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. William R. McClain, who retires as the vice president, government and international operations for E-Systems on March 31. Bill has had a long and distinguished career in the service of our country, including 4 years in the Air Force, 30 years at the Federal systems division of IBM, and the last 8 years with E-Systems. During his years of service, Bill has been involved with many sensitive defense, intelligence, and space programs affecting the security of our Nation. The sheer number of programs he has been associated with over such a long career is impressive, but the diversity of those programs is remarkable. Included in his portfolio have been the Titan rocket, AWACS, global positioning system, the space shuttle, and the RC-135 and U-2 aircraft programs, to name a few.

Bill had been successful for many reasons, the most important being his lovely wife Flo and their four children. Among the other important reasons for his success have been his ability to reduce complex technical problems or situations to their simplest terms, and to then apply clear and precise solutions. Over the years, Bill's consummate skill in the area of marketing resulted in significant business opportunities for both IBM and E-Systems. This resulted in high quality products for the U.S. Government, high quality jobs for U.S. workers, and added leverage for U.S. competitiveness in the international arena.

As Bill and Flo retire in their lovely home on a beautiful golf course in North Carolina, they can enjoy what they have worked hard for all these years. They can also enjoy knowing that they have made a positive contribution to the security of our great Nation.

Good luck and best wishes Bill and Flo, and remember to keep your head down and follow through.

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT
OF 1995

SPEECH OF

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 24, 1995

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4) to restore the American family, reduce illegitimacy, control welfare spending and reduce welfare dependence:

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of the Mink substitute to the welfare reform legislation. The Mink plan is a straightforward proposal for reform which can effectively accomplish what the Republican proposal simply will not do—move welfare families from dependency to self-sufficiency through work.

The emphasis is on the poor finding work and keeping it. Through a self-sufficiency plan individualized for each participant in the JOBS program, welfare recipients can work to identify their goals and needs and achieve them.

The Mink substitute retains the entitlement status of AFDC, child care programs, nutrition programs, and child welfare programs to insure that poor families are protected while they try to break out of the prison of poverty.

Most importantly, the Mink plan protects our most valuable resource and the innocent victims in the welfare reform debate—our children. It does not include requirements to deny benefits to children of teenage mothers of children born to families already on AFDC. It provides critical resources necessary to obtain a job, such as education, job training, and child care.

The Mink plan also does not discriminate by denying benefits to legal immigrants, very few of whom come to the United States seeking public assistance.

Mr. Chairman, the Mink substitute seeks a positive and realistic long-term solution to the problem of welfare dependency. I support this amendment, and urge my colleagues to do the same.

A TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL D.
FRANCIS FOR OUTSTANDING
COMMITMENT AND ACHIEVEMENT

HON. DICK ZIMMER

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 1995

Mr. ZIMMER. Mr. Speaker, one of the most remarkable people I know, Michael D. Francis, is being presented with the American Jewish Committee's Institute of Human Relations Award on March 29, and I would like to tell my colleagues why he so richly deserves this award.

The Institute of Human Relations Award is given only to those who stand apart both in their professional achievements and in their

service to their community; and Mike Francis has surely met both criteria.

Few people have devoted as much time or energy as Mike in the work he has undertaken in both the private and public sectors. Despite enormous career demands as chief executive officer of Planned Building Services, Inc., and Planned Building Security, Inc., he has given 100 percent to those who have needed his help. As a result, Mike has become an indispensable part of New Jersey's community fabric, lending his assistance and expertise to numerous institutions and organizations over the years, from the Newark Beth Israel Medical Center and the American Institute of Life Threatening Illness and Loss to his local United Way campaign.

As chairman of the board of the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority, he has provided that vital agency with strong and visionary leadership. Mike's commitment applies as well to his efforts on behalf of the alumni associations of the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and Rutgers University School of Law.

Mike is enormously respected in New Jersey by business, industry, and community leaders alike—and for good reason. It is an honor to count him as a friend, and a pleasure to see him recognized for his outstanding achievements. I can think of none more deserving of the American Jewish Committee's Institute of Human Relations Award.

I wish all the best to Mike, his wife Marjorie, and their children, Lauren and Robert.

TIME TO CLOSE THE BOOKS ON
THE LAKE CHAMPLAIN BASIN
PLAN

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 1995

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, in 1990, Congress enacted the Lake Champlain Special Designation Act and authorized \$25 million for a 5-year environmentalist study of a region encompassing over 8,000 square miles, including much of the Adirondack-North Country area.

I opposed this undertaking at the time out of a genuine concern that it was setting in motion a process which would almost inevitably produce an imbalanced plan. Now that a draft basin plan has been released for public reaction, it turns out that my concerns were very well founded.

In reading and analyzing this complex and far-reaching document, I am profoundly struck by several overriding and preconceived notions which place the entire effort in enormous doubt:

A rush to recommend policies, mandates, and potential regulations based on generally inconclusive studies and information.

Unfunded mandates on everything from municipal treatment facilities to farmers to the owners of all paved areas in the region.

A total failure to assess and consider economic impacts and jobs as part of developing the plan's recommendations, with a very inadequate and attempt at economic analysis.

Numerous recommendations aimed at increasing the size and complexity of Government in an era when we need to all be working on making Government smaller and simpler.

Many recommendations or suggestions which have troubling implications for the rights of property owners in a region where these rights have already been greatly compromised.

These critical concerns emanate not just from one or two of the plan's recommendations, which would be fixable, but from virtually every chapter, revealing a process and approach which was clearly misdirected from the start.

Mr. Speaker, I have asked my colleague and friend, BOB LIVINGSTON, chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, to close the books, once and for all, on this ill-advised and dangerous scheme.