

purposes—can they be exempt? We have a number of clients who provide dysfunctional sexual counseling services. Will that be an exempt medical expense?

7. Lastly, for our interstate gambling clients, will there be a source tax? For example, if a bettor in Virginia wins at a New York track, will his bookie have to withhold for New York State taxes?

Thank you for your help and guidance on these questions. Like other Americans, we will probably have more as we think through your proposal.

Sincerely,

DEWEY CHEATEM, Esq.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 16, 1995

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, Wednesday, I missed several rollcall votes in order to attend my son's graduation ceremony in Buffalo. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on Roll Calls 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, and 377, and "no" on Roll Calls 378 and 379.

SUPPORT EFFORTS FOR A JUST PEACE IN GUATEMALA

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 16, 1995

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I would like to urge the administration and my colleagues in Congress to support important efforts which are underway to establish a just peace in the friendly Central American Republic of Guatemala. This country has suffered through 34 years of a prolonged terrorist campaign, conducted by elements of the communist URNG, which has provoked violent military responses to its attacks and assassinations. Approximately 100,000 Guatemalans have been killed by both sides during this period. Even a former U.S. Ambassador, Gordon Mein, and a number of United States and other foreign embassy personnel have been assassinated by terrorists groups.

The disappearance of the U.S.S.R., the electoral demise of the Sandinistas and the impoverishment of Castro have left the guerrillas with little financial support other than Norway and a lame cause which has never commanded a popular following in Guatemala. The URNG has agreed to negotiations with the Government following its signing of a Comprehensive Human Rights Accord in 1994. Considerable progress has been made, and Guatemala's respected former Human Rights Ombudsman, Ramiro Leon Carpio, has become the nation's President, with a strong commitment to peace. He has sustained the peace talks and signed six agreements with the URNG since January 1994. These have included agreements on the protection of human rights, the establishment of a historical clarification commission to address past human rights abuses by both sides once the peace has been finalized, as well as agreements to protect Guatemala's Indian people, refugees and other displaced persons who have been victims of this bloody and protracted conflict.

To prove good faith, the Guatemalan Government has implemented its Human Rights Agreement and has agreed to the presence of a United Nations Peace Mission to Guatemala. I know of no other nation which has been so forthcoming about improving its human rights situation absent a peace agreement and in the face of on-going URNG provocation—police assassinated, numerous kidnappings.

As a society, Guatemala still suffers from residual violence and societal problems which prolonged conflict and unequitable wealth distribution have sustained since colonial times. Nevertheless, as a country, I believe that Guatemala has come farther, from a semi-feudal, conflict-torn and institutionally violent land, ruled by the military in the 1970's and 1980's, to a strong sustained effort toward democratic status. Against all expectations, Guatemala has sustained two democratic elections, which included transfers of power between political parties in 1986 and 1990, and elections of a fully empowered, multiparty legislative branch.

The largest remaining and unresolved Guatemalan problem remains the need for a better legal and police system. Impunity or corruption of the legal branch and untrained and susceptible police, has restrained the advancement of complete democratic process in Guatemala. Yet, in spite of the progress which I have only been to sketch out for you here, Guatemala now faces substantial threats including one from the United States.

The source of this extraordinary problem is an American woman who has become the public affairs front for the URNG. Jennifer Harbury, the widow of URNG Commandante Bamaca, has blitzed the United States for the URNG against Guatemala and has pilloried it in the court of media opinion, over the torture and death of her spouse who appears to have been killed in 1992. Now Harbury and a growing chorus of former supporters of the Sandinistas, and the El Salvadorean FMLN, are clamoring for a cut off of United States aid. What makes this implausible situation even worse is the fact that the terrorist URNG controls no territory, has fewer than 500 men under arms, and lives on war taxes extorted from kidnappings and intercepting local farmers and persons on busses going to market. Harbury has so focussed world opinion on past violent measures used by the Guatemalan armed forces in the face of terrorist assault, that the URNG has continued on its violent course today, with apparent impunity.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that you will join me in calling for the United States to refrain from the short-sighted actions called for by those seeking to cut off assistance to Guatemala at this pivotal time in its history. They would have us break with the Guatemalan armed forces, thereby aligning ourselves with the terrorist URNG in the peace process. The United States must assist Guatemala in the development of civilian controlled and staffed alternatives to the armed forces for law enforcement, and in the reform of a residually corrupt and discredited legal system. These are small items in the balance of a 34 year struggle, and of the Guatemalan people's wish for democracy and freedom from violence.

The United States can offer Guatemala invaluable and inexpensive assistance and constructive criticism, but the media driven opposition to needed democratization-related aid, and demonization of the country and of its

government are driven by Harbury's effective campaign. The fact speak for themselves and loudly in favor of the peace process and the restraint of Guatemala's government. I hope the special treatment accorded to Harbury can be postponed until the peace accord has been signed, and all of the victims or casualties of this horrible episode can be accounted for.

We must do what can to encourage a just and lasting peace in Guatemala. This will enable that government to complete its remarkable transition to full democracy, implementing needed internal reforms necessary to create a system of justice that will bring criminals to justice.

TRIBUTE TO IRWIN WEINBERG

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 16, 1995

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, this summer Irwin Weinberg of Wilkes-Barre, PA, an internationally known stamp collector and dealer, is celebrating 50 years in philately. At one point in his splendid career he owned the most expensive stamp in the world, the British Guiana one-cent magenta of 1856. He toured the world to exhibit this stamp and later sold it for a record setting sum. Christies in New York regularly asks him to provide stamps for consignment to enhance certain of their auctions. This is a man who has reached the highest level of success in his field.

But it is not his unparalleled success in philately that I as his Congressman and friend would like to celebrate today. It is the philosophy of this man that I commend you, the philosophy of this constituent who with his wife, Jean, lives in Kingston, PA, a town neighboring mine.

In this day when to call oneself a liberal is to be under attack from many sides, when even the term itself is used as an epithet, Irwin Weinberg is proud to call himself a constitutional liberal. Since childhood he has been interested in liberal causes, especially civil rights. I had the honor of taking him as my guest to the White House to meet Nelson Mandela, the great liberator of South Africa, a man whom Irwin counts along with Martin Luther King and Ghandi, as his hero.

As Irwin describes himself, being a constitutional liberal means coupling the defense of human rights as understood by President John Kennedy with the conservative strictures of the Ten Commandments, the Sermon on the Mount, and the American Constitution. And not just understanding and loving these precepts, but living by the truths and codes of conduct they demand of us.

To deal in stamps is to traffic in history. Each stamp is a distillation of a single, significant moment, a freezing of time to mark it for mankind. Irwin Weinberg has collected stamps since he was 12 years old. When he was 18 he issued his first weekly price list which he still publishes the same way, on an old mimeograph machine. He is a sole practitioner, handling each transaction without the aid of a computer, a copier, a fax machine or even a secretary. In this business he is respected throughout the world. Not unlike the delicate stamps themselves, Irwin Weinberg has maintained the integrity of the moment. It is an honor for me to celebrate him.