

negative effects of bilingual education first hand. I have introduced legislation that would end these misguided Government programs and shift our educational focus back to teaching new Americans English quickly and effectively. I hope you will join me in this effort by cosponsoring H.R. 739, the Declaration of Official Language Act.

I ask that the full text of Mr. Gonzalez' article appear in the RECORD at this point.

[From the Wall Street Journal, Oct. 18, 1995]

THE BILINGUAL ED TRAP

(By Michael Gonzalez)

The push to make English the official language of the U.S. misses the point. If proponents of such a constitutional amendment aim to prevent Balkanization and preserve the ideal of the melting pot, they would do far better to channel their efforts into radically changing bilingual education programs. Immigrants will learn English if the social engineers will only let them.

I know about bilingual education first-hand. When my family came to this country from Cuba via Spain more than 20 years ago, the New York City public school system, in its infinite wisdom, put me in a bilingual program, despite my family's doubts. The program delayed my immersion into English, created an added wedge between new immigrants and other students, and was sometimes used as a dumping ground for troubled Spanish-speakers more fluent in English.

When I tried to transfer to a regular class, the system threw roadblocks in my way. Administrators finally relented, though it took a lot to convince them. The process was an education in itself, but it wasn't one a 14-year-old should be asked to go through.

One year later, the students who had stayed in the bilingual class were still there, and their English-language skills were little improved. They were every bit as bright as I; it was the system that held them back. Sadly, this picture has not improved in the past two decades.

While a bilingual program of short duration that truly aims at quick immersion in the English-speaking culture would be of value, the lobbying groups that support bilingual education appear to have other aims in mind: chiefly, pushing the Spanish language as something in need of protection and creating a multicultural, multilingual nation.

Spanish is my native tongue, and it is the native tongue of every member of my family. I work hard at not losing it and speak it as often as I can, especially in the street. It is beautiful, melodious tongue, especially suitable for poetry and other forms of literature. It is not a waif that needs the help of some concerned administrator. The language is alive and duly celebrated in Spain and 18 countries in Latin America, as well as in any other country where individuals have chosen to add it to the particular inventory of the foreign languages they know.

Paul Hill, research professor at the University of Washington's graduate school of public policy, says one hidden agenda of bilingualism's proponents may be to create demand for teachers who speak a foreign language. He also suggests a more Machiavellian agenda: Instilling in a child a self-consciousness as a member of a separate group virtually ensures that he or she will never fully feel a member of the larger society and will be more vulnerable to claims of ethnic pride, or resentment, by politicians and marketers alike. I fear Prof. Hill may be right on target.

As a correspondent, I have witnessed countries such as South Korea and Japan use

unity of purpose to compete globally. I have also witnessed strife in countries that are multilingual and multicultural, such as Afghanistan and Cyprus. We should think twice before we toss out the corny goal of having a melting pot.

Yes, Americans, an English-speaking people, had better start learning foreign languages, such as Spanish, in order to better compete in the world. Yes, our diversity is a real strength: Americans of Eastern European, Asian and Latin American background are leading the charge in opening markets in those regions. But we cannot afford to become dissipated at the center—we have to understand one another, linguistically and culturally, back at the head office.

But if the liberals on one side confuse matters, the conservatives on the other side also send the wrong message with English-only drives. The first law that established English as the official language of a state, in Nebraska in the 1920s, restricted the learning of any other foreign language until secondary education. Any law that risks encouraging isolationism should be opposed. Globalism is real—anyone who doubts it should visit our business schools and see students grappling with how to overcome America's natural seclusion. In addition, if it's fair to speculate about the motives of bilingual-ed supporters, it is also legitimate to hypothesize that supporters of English-only may be animated by nativism, racism and ignorance.

Far from working toward union, making English an official language risks creating further divisions. It goes against the grain of how things have traditionally been done in this country, where there is no official religion nor family that represents the state. Reforming bilingual ed and restricting government literature to English does not require an official language. We've done without one for 219 years. We don't need one now.

TRIBUTE TO RABBI ARTHUR SCHNEIER

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 1995

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in paying tribute and expressing deep appreciation to a truly outstanding American, my good friend, the courageous and inspirational Rabbi Arthur Schneier.

Rabbi Schneier has earned his place among the great leaders in human rights of this century with his tireless efforts on behalf of the world's victims of ultranationalism, religious persecution, ethnic cleansing and intolerance. He has risen above religious differences to establish the Appeal of Conscience Foundation, which has, for 30 years, brought together Roman Catholic, Protestant, Greek Orthodox, Jewish, and Islamic religious and lay leaders to solve the problems that face our globe.

As a young man, Rabbi Schneier led a highly successful campaign to recruit young people at a time of religious disaffection in the 1960's to a program at the Park East Synagogue which eventually became a seven-story day school cultural center that continues to attract young people and currently educates 250 children.

This effort, begun in 1965, was the beginning of an extraordinary career in religious leadership for Rabbi Schneier. That year, he recruited and led a group of political and religious leaders for an Appeal of Conscience

rally protesting religious repression in the Soviet Union.

Rabbi Schneier then established the Appeal of Conscience Foundation, which continues to this day to provide effective and increasingly influential leadership on behalf of religious freedom and human rights throughout the world.

Just a few weeks ago, Rabbi Schneier met with Pope John Paul II to discuss the problem of radical nationalism around the world and its inevitably negative effects on human rights and religious freedom, particularly the prevalence of anti-semitism and xenophobia in troubled countries.

The Appeal of Conscience Foundation and Rabbi Schneier have been involved in a wide range of the world's most intractable problems and most egregious human rights violations. From meeting with Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev to discuss United States-Russian relations to meetings with the Presidents of Bosnia, Serbia, and Croatia to discuss a lasting peace in that troubled region, Rabbi Schneier has taken it upon himself to provide inspirational and effective leadership that has won him praise around the world.

Mr. Speaker, Rabbi Schneier is an inspiration to all Americans. He has taken his wealth of good will, tenacity and intelligence and brought his message to the forefront of international discussions. He has championed an issue that touches us all—the protection of the most basic human rights and the freedom to practice one's chosen religion. It is with the deepest appreciation and most heartfelt thanks that I invite my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Rabbi Arthur Schneier.

IN HONOR OF REVEREND DANIEL CORREA, JR., SENIOR PASTOR OF THE GOSPEL TABERNACLE

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 1995

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today before the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Rev. Daniel Correa, Jr., for his dedication, spiritual leadership, and tireless commitment to the communities of North Bergen, Union City, west New York. He will be honored by the Gospel Tabernacle on October 22, 1995, at their annual Clergy Appreciation Day. This day seeks to acknowledge the contributions of American religious leaders in the 1990's.

Rev. Correa, born in Mayaguez, PR, moved to the south Bronx in New York when he was 6 months of age. He received his first call to ministry at the age of 10, when he preached his first sermon. In adulthood, he became an associate pastor at the Glad Tidings Assembly of God in the north east Bronx for 7 years.

Two years ago, heeding to the call of God, he came to the Gospel Tabernacle in North Bergen where he currently serves as senior Pastor. At the beginning of his ministry, the congregation numbered 40 members. Under his leadership, the congregation has increased to more than 300 members.

Pastor Correa, about to receive his Masters in Theology, instituted several programs of great benefit to his congregation and the community. He established a full accredited Christian Training Academy, which provides a free