

THE SPIRIT OF RURAL AMERICA

HON. GEORGE R. NETHERCUTT, JR.

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 1996

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, the first 2 months of 1996 brought the Pacific Northwest bitter cold, heavy snow, torrential rains, and disastrous floods.

I had the opportunity to witness some of the worst flooding in our State in 30 years. Railroads have been washed out, highways are crumbling, and homes have been carpeted with river mud. However, outside of the heavy mud rose a spirit from eastern Washington that lightened the hearts of everyone who was touched by this force of nature. Without phone calls, whistles, or an official call, the eastern Washington community has come together to work day and night to take their town back from overflowing rivers. Working as one, they created an awe-inspiring relief team. This effort is a tribute to the strength and capability of the people of the Pacific Northwest.

Nothing tears at the fabric of a community like a natural disaster and nothing else can bring out the best in human beings. The people of Dayton, Walla Walla, Waitsburg, Pullman, Colfax, Elberton, Palouse, and all surrounding towns should be commended for what they have endured and how they have welcomed their neighbors' help with open arms.

The employees of FEMA, the Red Cross, Corps of Engineers, and the Small Business Administration must be congratulated as well. Working among disaster areas and dealing with human concerns day after day challenged public and private citizens alike. My visit to these towns to view the damage was not only inspiring but an encouraging opportunity to observe Federal employees at work. These agencies have received high marks in Washington State and our residents thank their personnel for what they have done to assist.

When spring arrives in the Pacific Northwest, the scars will remain visible, but the work will continue. Crops will be replanted and roads will be repaired. As a Member of Congress, I will be doing my best to help our small towns get back on their feet, back in their homes, and their lives back to normal. It will all take time and it will also preparation to avoid flood damage in the future.

America's small towns must be preserved. Rural communities are certainly a window into our past and, I hope, a picture of what America can be. We are faced with daily reports of bad news about the condition of our society, but the citizens of Dayton, Waitsburg, Palouse, and all the other affected towns in eastern Washington give me hope. Community leaders like Waitsburg Mayor Tom Baker, Columbia County Commissioner Jon McFarland, and Walla Walla County Commissioner David Carey have given so much to their constituents under adverse circumstances. John Vachal, the mayor of Dayton, has done an excellent job coordinating his responsibilities to the town and contending with the damage to his own neighborhood. Great commitment and leadership has also been recognized in Columbia County Commissioners George Touchette and Charles Reeves, Colfax Mayor Norma Becker, Palouse Mayor Bruce Baldwin, and Pullman Mayor Mitch Chandler, to name only a few.

Countless families have endured this winter's heartbreaking events, like the Marshall family of Starbuck, whose living room was flooded with 3 feet of water. Flint and Megan Gilbertson were both moved to tears, not simply because they nearly lost their home, but because their community opened hearts and wallets and donated needed money to the family. Nevertheless, few complain and everybody works for the good of the community. I believe Darlene Burrill of Walla Walla said it best. "May each one find hope and encouragement in knowing that there are many people who care."

I will do all that I can to make recovery proceed as smoothly as possible for the people of the Fifth Congressional District. America has much to learn from my part of the country, and I have a renewed respect and a continuing deep appreciation for the spirit of rural America and eastern Washington.

IRAN OIL SANCTIONS ACT OF 1996

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 1996

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce H.R. 3107, a bill that would impose sanctions on companies that provide key oilfield equipment and technology and investment to Iran and Libya. The Iran Oil Sanctions Act of 1996 will ensure that these terrorist states will have more limited access to outside capital and technology. It will be a major deterrent to their efforts in attracting new investment and luring European and Asian firms into developing Iranian offshore oil resources.

The Iran Oil Sanctions Act of 1996 imposes sanctions on persons exporting key oilfield goods of technology or making investments of \$40 million or more that would enhance the ability of Iran and Libya to develop their petroleum resources.

The measure would require the President to impose two or more penalties on a sanctioned person. These penalties include a denial of Exibank assistance; a denial of specific licenses for the export of controlled technology and a prohibition on imports from that company; a prohibition on a sanctioned financial institution from serving as a primary dealer in U.S. Government debt instruments; a prohibition on any U.S. financial institution from making any loan to a sanctioned person over \$10 million a year; and a ban on any U.S. Government procurement of any goods or services from a sanctioned person.

The legislation allows the President to delay imposition of sanctions for 90 days to pursue consultations with the Government of the sanctioned person to terminate the sanctionable activities. An additional 90-day delay is provided if that Government is in the process of terminating these activities. The President may waive any of the sanctions if he determines that doing so is in the U.S. national interest.

The adoption of a companion bill in the Senate on December 22, 1995, as well as the prospect for the enactment of a more comprehensive sanctions regime contained in this bill has already had a deterrent effect on potential investors and oilfield suppliers in Iran and Libya.

The bombings and slaughter of innocent civilians in Israel over the past several months demands an immediate and concrete plan to punish those states providing financing and other support to the perpetrators of these unspeakable crimes.

While the convening of an antiterrorism summit in Egypt earlier this month was a laudable step in fighting the challenge of state-supported terrorism around the world, much more needs to be done in focusing the spotlight directly on states such as Libya and Iran. Adoption of this measure would be the first step in developing such a plan.

It can be the cornerstone in the foundation of our policy of cutting off the key sources of funding to those regimes aiding and funding these acts of terrorism and actively developing weapons of mass destruction.

In my view, the most effective way to advance the goals of the antiterrorism summit is to adopt a comprehensive policy designed to stop the flow of oilfield technology and investments to Iran and Libya. This bill accomplishes this objective by sanctioning any company providing goods or the capital to develop the oil resources of these rogue regimes.

To our trading partners in Europe and Japan who have expressed reservations about our approach in this bill, I would only ask them to examine the actions and public statements coming from Teheran and Tripoli, including their continued support for terrorist activities throughout Europe, their advocacy of the destruction of Israel, their efforts to develop chemical and nuclear weapons of mass destruction, their characterization of the murder of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin as "divine revenge", and their unwillingness to extradite those responsible for the murder of the passengers of the Pan Am 103 flight.

I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to send a strong message that future trade and investment in the petroleum sector in Iran and Libya will restrict a company's access to the United States economy. I ask you to join me in supporting this very important legislation which will be considered later this week by the International Relations Committee.

TRIBUTE TO MSGR. JOHN PATRICK CARROLL-ABBING

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 1996

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of Lou Marsh, a close friend and constituent. Mr. Marsh is the Florida chairman of the national board of the Boys' Town of Italy as well as its tireless advocate. It is through his commitment that I have become familiar with the Boys' Town of Italy and how I come to pay tribute to the humanitarian efforts of Msgr. John Patrick Carroll-Abbing and this year's Boys' Town honorees.

The monsignor's work has spanned the course of the last half-century and has served to establish and preserve the Boys' Town of Italy. In 1945, Monsignor Carroll-Abbing founded his first Boys' Town 45 miles from Rome. The purpose of the town was simple, to give orphaned or abandoned children a home. The Boys' Towns were run completely by the children. They shared in the work responsibilities and learned to respect one another.