

not seen since the civil rights era. Economic development is the arena where that response can be framed.

Let's talk specifics.

I am board chairman of the Carver Federal Savings Bank, in New York City. With some \$370 million in deposits and assets, Carver is the largest African-American managed bank in the Nation. Founded in 1948, it now has eight branches throughout the city, and is one of only a handful of African-American institutions that is publicly traded.

Carver was always there for the community, providing the black churches with loans when others wouldn't. Now the bank is beginning to take its place as a vital part of what has to be done.

It was recently approved to grant SBA loans and has just launched a credit-card service. Our main office on 125th Street, destroyed in a fire three years ago, has been rebuilt as a \$5 million four-story state-of-the-art banking facility that is one of the key elements in the revival of 125th Street.

A scholarship fund established in 1986 has already given out some \$320 million to college-bound kids in our communities.

Carver—and the creation and support of similar institutions across the Nation—are just the most obvious vehicles for stopping the cash hemorrhaging from our communities and providing the capital to create and support a vital small-business community. Such work should be a mandate if we want to create a foundation for the next round of struggles around politics, jobs, and education.

Another area that needs serious consideration is the fledgling development of enterprise zones. I serve on the board of the upper Manhattan empowerment zone and chair its economic and physical development committee.

As you know, the empowerment zone initiative is proceeding in eight cities. While not without its critics and with only limited dollars, there can be no doubt that the zone has already generated a substantial amount of investment interest in central Harlem.

A one-stop capital shop for small businesses, offering both loans and technical assistance, has just opened its doors. The first round of proposals, numbering in the hundreds, have been reviewed. They range from expanding funeral homes to creating a Harlem health club, night clubs, credit unions, and a new cable distributor.

So while it is too soon to declare victory, the concept—driven by many members of this caucus—plainly can provide a significant push to economic activity in our communities.

And for it to work, government has to play a role, too. The government at every level has to fulfill its commitment to be a partner in areas the private economy cannot provide. The Community Redevelopment Act forced banks to do community development, but there are no comparable requirements for check cashers, for instance. No community people own them. Making them reinvest in the community is something we can do easily.

And where jobs develop outside the community there has to be a decent transportation system to get people to those jobs. Even the latest projection by the Regional Plan Association, covering education and transportation needs, doesn't deal with how poor urban residents can realistically access jobs in suburban industrial parks.

Here's where government needs to play a role today. It lies in such areas as subsidizing work on a high-speed rail system so inner-city youths can access suburban jobs. It means a WPA for national infrastructure projects, putting needed services in place while training young people as a new class of

artisans. It means getting away from the childishness of left and right that says government and business have to fight each other. They have always collaborated; the question is—in whose interest?

We can make them work together for our community, and that is what self-reliance means. Community leaders must demand government programs—in education and skills development, in transportation, and in the transition from welfare to work—that ensure self-reliant traits can flourish.

But government won't provide unless it is pressured. That pressure has to come from organizations in our community, and particularly from members of this caucus. So what shape are the institutions in that protect African-American empowerment? Why haven't we been able to fund our own groups?

And what of the institutions that are supposed to be on the front lines? Even Kweisi M'Fume has said how difficult it is to raise money for the NAACP from inside our community. Plainly, we have work to do.

In closing: as the struggle for resources in America becomes more brutal, we had better have a serious discussion about how we can fund our own defenders. I mean the members of this caucus along with our civil rights, political, and social institutions. Keeping them alive and fighting is a major part of what makes economic development so critical today.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3610, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997, AND PASSAGE OF H.R. 4278, OMNIBUS CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. WILLIAM F. CLINGER, JR.

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, September 28, 1996

Mr. CLINGER. Mr. Speaker, I make these brief remarks to explain the provisions of section 631 of the Treasury, Postal Service and General Government Appropriations Act, 1997 which were incorporated in the Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Act, 1997 and which were made a part of that bill at my suggestion. At hearings held this spring before the committee I chair, the House Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, it was disclosed that several Federal agencies had engaged in significant lobbying activities, using appropriated funds, designed to affect the outcome of legislation pending before the Congress. It also became apparent that existing statutory restrictions on the use of appropriated funds for lobbying activities were ineffective in controlling agency lobbying. The conferees have, therefore, agreed to language which would apply a governmentwide limit on agency lobbying.

The statutory language contains two prohibitions on the use of appropriated funds. The first applies to grassroots lobbying in which agencies make both express and indirect appeals to the public to contact Members of Congress in support of or opposition to pending legislation. The second applies more broadly to the preparation, distribution or use of specified types of publications designed to foster support or oppose pending legislation. Following enactment of this prohibition, which is similar to prohibitions found for a number of

years in the Labor-HHS and Interior appropriations bills, all Federal agencies receiving appropriated funds will be subject to a uniform set of restrictions.

COMMEMORATING FREEDOM FOR THE HMONG REFUGEES IN THAILAND AND THEIR EXODUS FROM BAN NAPHO CAMP

HON. STEVE GUNDERSON

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 30, 1996

Mr. GUNDERSON. Mr. Speaker, I am proud that after a long and arduous process, the summary forced repatriation policy against Lao and Hmong refugees in Thailand was reversed this year. We are very fortunate that a small dedicated group of individuals persisted in their effort to end this policy.

Mr. Speaker, many of the Lao and Hmong refugees being forced back to the Communist regime in Lao they fled were former combat veterans. They fought as staunch allies alongside the U.S. military and Central Intelligence Agency during the Vietnam war.

Thousands of Lao and Hmong veterans and their families in the Ban Napo camp in Thailand have now been given political asylum in the United States. Some will join relatives in my congressional district in Wisconsin. Critical to the success of the policy battle were a number of key individuals who played a leadership role in the enormous and intense struggle to free the Lao Hmong refugees. In particular, I would like to cite the efforts of Maj. Gen. Vang Pao, Dr. Shur Vangyl, Stephen Vang, Pang Bliang Vang, Nhla Long Xiong, Pia Vang, and Kue Xiong of the Lao Veterans of America which has its Wisconsin chapter headquartered in my district. Likewise, Dr. Jane Hamilton-Merritt and Philip Smith helped spearhead the difficult battle in Washington, DC, and in Congress, to save the Lao and Hmong refugees. They worked very closely with my office to provide information and implement strategy.

In May 1995, I attended a human rights forum, at the University of Wisconsin-Stout. The forum was organized by Stephen Vang and Pobzeb Vang at the University of Wisconsin-Stout and was attended by many from Wisconsin and across the United States. It was essential in developing support for this important initiative.

Mr. Speaker, in tribute to the Lao and Hmong people, and their elaborate history, I request that my remarks from the University of Wisconsin-Stout conference be placed into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

You have before you many experts, more expert and certainly much more heroic than me to deal with this cause. Mr. Philip Smith and Dr. Jane Hamilton-Merritt can talk to you at length about the situation as it exists today and the reasons that we sent the congressional staff to the area over Christmas and New Years as well as the forced repatriation and other events that have occurred since that time. The purpose of the trip was not successful by its end result; the trip was successful by facts which I think it has established and the truth which I believe it has exposed. We will do our best to try and articulate those facts and the truth as we see it this week on the floor of the United States