

end the use of steel jaw leghold traps in the United States. The majority of Americans believe this measure is long overdue. I hope this House will debate and pass it as soon as possible.

Steel jaw leghold traps slam with bone-crushing force upon their victims. These devices are completely nonselective. They threaten small children, cherished pets, and endangered species. Less cruel trapping alternatives exist for the 2,100 Americans that earn their living by hunting or trapping.

A recent survey demonstrated that three out of four Americans believe the trap should be prohibited. This past November, Colorado and Massachusetts joined New Jersey, Florida, and Rhode Island in outlawing the use of these traps; several other States are considering similar laws. The American people want the traps outlawed now. The best way to accomplish that is by passing my legislation.

Let me add, Mr. Speaker, that it's not just the American people that oppose the use of these traps. Eighty-eight nations have already banned the use of these inhumane traps. The belief in this ban is so strong in Europe that the European Parliament adopted a law prohibiting the importation of furs from nations that continue to use these devices. When this law is implemented, the United States will no longer be able to export furs to Europe—unless we pass this bill.

Mr. Speaker, in the 104th Congress, more than 90 Members cosponsored H.R. 1404, which is nearly identical to the bill Congressman SHAYS and I are introducing today. As news of this legislation spreads, I expect we will gain even more congressional support.

I hope we can hold hearings on the issue quickly, and then bring this bill to the floor. I invite all of my colleagues to join me in pushing for the elimination of these cruel and unnecessary traps once and for all.

REPORT FROM INDIANA—IMPACT
YOUTH CENTER

HON. DAVID M. McINTOSH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 21, 1997

Mr. McINTOSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give my Report From Indiana. All across Indiana, my wife Ruthie and I have met so many wonderful, kind and caring people. These are people who strive day and night to make a difference. In my book, these individuals are Hoosier Heros. Heros in every sense of the word, because of their commitment to others.

I would like to share with you a story from Edinburg, IN, a little town in Johnson County, about true commitment driven by faith. A young couple, whose devotion to God and the community, have inspired them to open a place for young people to come develop a better relationship with Christ. Mike and Tammy Tetrick started the IMPACT youth program, which stands for Informing Many People About Christ.

Their mission began 2 years ago where they held their first meeting in their living room with 20 children. As the meetings progressed so did the number of young people who came to the Tetrick's door in hope of finding their faith. They knew that they could no longer hold everyone and had to find a place where

they could fit all those who were eager about getting to know Christ. So, with the help of the community, the Tetricks were able to purchase a local church and converted it into the IMPACT Youth Center.

Today, over 150 young people join Mike and Tammy in celebration. The IMPACT center has had a tremendous response. At their meetings, local pastors like pastor Larry McCormick, of the First Assembly of God Church, come to teach these young men and women. Afterward, the center provides a place where young people can come together. Some join together for further prayer. Others enjoy the video games. Games donated by Dwayne Mottia of Mottia Amusements.

The youth center provides a positive outlet for these youngsters. The IMPACT youth center has effected these young people in an extraordinary way. Since the center has opened the enthusiasm of the community has grown. Just last week, the young men and women took the initiative to rid themselves of cigarettes, pornographic magazines, and CD's with explicit language. These young Hoosiers had decided they had grasped onto something more meaningful in their life.

Today I recognize those involved with the IMPACT youth center for their celestial effect on the community. The IMPACT center has also strived at helping local organizations. The young members raised a money to purchase gifts for those in the Franklin Juvenile Center. They are currently in the process of collecting a 1,000 pounds of food for the victims of the floods in southern Indiana. This type of commitment is not only commendable but truly amazing.

These are the lessons we must all strive to teach our young people; so that they will have the values necessary to become good citizens and tomorrow's leaders.

The IMPACT youth center also organized a band consisting of Mike Tetrick, Gobel Brockman, James Burton, Allen Burton, Tim Burton, Tammy Tetrick, and Jim and Tracy Burton. This band enthusiastically plays at drug centers, mission and juvenile centers throughout the surrounding community. Their faith and effort give others hope. It gives us all hope.

So today I commend each and everyone involved in with the IMPACT youth center and encourage them to continue with their mission. They truly are Hoosier Hero's.

Mr. Speaker, that concludes my report from the Second District of Indiana.

Names to be entered into the RECORD: Pastor Jamie Vance, Pastor Mike Whited, Pastor Tim Dillingham, Youth Pastor Nick Whited, Youth Pastor Rodney Burton, Pastor Byron Fritz, Youth Pastor Ron Strieval, and Youth Pastor Tim Barrett.

H.R. 1143

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 21, 1997

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I introduced a private bill on behalf of Ms. Mary Mertz, a constituent and employee of the U.S. State Department. In 1988, Ms. Mertz received a reimbursement check for moving expenses, as she had just transferred to a new

foreign post. Ms. Mertz endorsed the check for deposit only and enclosed it in a diplomatic pouch for deposit in her credit union in the United States.

In nearly any other circumstance, this would be the end of the story. In this case, the diplomatic pouch arrived at its destination in the United States, but Ms. Mertz's check was no longer in the pouch. It remains unknown to this day how the pouch was tampered with, or how the check was removed. Ms. Mertz rightfully expected the pouch to be a safe means of depositing her payment to her bank.

After some time the check was traced, for if it had been merely lost it could have been canceled and replaced. It turns out the check was falsely deposited in a foreign bank, and by the time this was discovered the bank had gone out of business with no successor named for its debt. There was no recourse against this foreign institution, no recourse against the State Department for losing the check, no recourse against the Treasury which had paid once, albeit incorrectly, on that check. After years of research and contact with her representatives in Congress, it is clear there is no recourse under current law for Ms. Mertz. It is equally clear that the last known location of the check was in U.S. Government possession, and no explanation has been offered as to how this check ended up in the hands of the criminals who illegally deposited it in a foreign institution.

Since all other avenues of recourse have been attempted and my constituent has not recovered her funds, I introduced this legislation for relief to address these issues and allow Ms. Mertz to receive the reimbursement she is due.

TRIBUTE TO ANDREW STEVENS

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 21, 1997

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Andrew Stevens, a dear friend, a fellow Californian, and a prominent businessman and civic leader. Andrew was presented the Golden Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Hungary by the Hungarian Consul General in Los Angeles, Mr. Imre Helyes, at a recent ceremony in Los Angeles.

In his letter informing me that Andrew Stevens would be honored, Mr. Helyes explained why the decision was made to grant this award. In particular, the Hungarian Government wanted to recognize Andrew's courageous actions during the Holocaust:

In spite of his youth, Mr. Stevens' courage and bravery drove him enthusiastically to become a "rebel with a cause." He took part in a number of broad-ranging, life-saving activities in Budapest under the masterful guidance of the famous and heroic Swedish Diplomat, Raoul Wallenberg. Without concern for his own safety, Mr. Stevens rescued a large number of our persecuted countrymen from almost certain death towards the last period of the Second World War. Fortunately, some of these individuals are still alive and attested to the dangerous feats undertaken by Mr. Stevens.

Mr. Speaker, I most enthusiastically welcome the presentation of this well-deserved

honor to Andrew. It is an appropriate tribute for his remarkable efforts during those harrowing and darkest of days in Budapest during 1944. Andrew repeatedly risked his own life to save the lives of others. He was motivated not simply by the instinct to survive and to preserve himself, but by the drive and the passion and the commitment to help others, and that is what makes Andrew unique.

For all of these reasons, Mr. Speaker, it is most appropriate and meaningful that Andrew Stevens has been honored by President Goncz of Hungary and by the people of Hungary in presenting to him this high honor. It is also a tribute to the Government and people of the newly democratic Hungary that they have chosen to honor Andrew Stevens.

Mr. Speaker, the people of the United States are fortunate to have as an honored citizen of our Nation a man of integrity, compassion, and commitment such as Andrew Stevens. America is richer for his life and for the contributions he has made to his adopted country.

It is my sincere hope, Mr. Speaker, that the awarding of this honor to Andrew will strengthen the ties of mutual friendship between the United States and Hungary. I invite my colleagues in the Congress to join me in paying tribute to Andrew Stevens.

WORKING FAMILIES FLEXIBILITY
ACT OF 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 1997

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1) to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide compensatory time for employees in the private sector:

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Chairman, I wish to express my opposition to the so-called Working Families Flexibility Act, H.R. 1. While skillfully titled, this legislation will not, in fact, help today's working families cope with the struggles they face. Instead, this legislation will make life harder for those who toil each week to provide for their families. Perhaps it is unintentional, but unfortunately this bill represents yet another proposal put forth by the majority which will increase the strain on working families and jeopardize our Nation's basic workplace protections. The Democratic substitute that I support, on the other hand, offers employees the work schedule flexibility they desire while ensuring that the choice for compensatory time off rather than overtime pay is truly voluntary.

H.R. 1 attempts to offer workers a choice between overtime pay and compensatory time off when they work more than 40 hours per week, a goal which many of us would agree is reasonable. However, the bill does not assure that the employer-employee agreements on this subject will be truly voluntary. Under the bill, employers who wish to offer compensatory time rather than overtime retain authority to impose this choice on their employees. Today's workers, who face a climate of reduced job security and corporate downsizing, will find it difficult to reject their employers

stated preference for time off rather than overtime pay. For example, employers could screen job applicants or assign overtime to employees according to their willingness to accept comptime.

Another flaw with H.R. 1 is that it gives employers too much authority over when an employee could take the comptime he or she has earned. Employers would have the power to deny an employee's request for comptime on the grounds that it unduly disrupts their business operations, or they could deny the request for the day requested and instead offer another day which suits the employer's schedule. With employees thus having insufficient say over when their earned comptime can be used, the goal of providing flexibility for workers to attend to family matters has not been achieved.

By reducing opportunities for overtime pay, H.R. 1 is particularly damaging to the many workers in today's economy who depend on overtime to maintain a decent standard of living for themselves and their families. Fully two-thirds of the workers who earned overtime in 1994 had a total family income of less than \$40,000. For these many workers at the low end of the wage scale, the extra dollars earned from overtime can mean the difference between family self-sufficiency and government dependence. At a time when we are rightly demanding that people move from welfare to work, we must not remove a basic safeguard—overtime pay for hours worked in excess of 40 per week—that has allowed low-wage workers to stand on their own.

Unlike the majority's bill, the Democratic substitute ensures that the choice for comptime will be exclusively the employee's so that those who depend on overtime pay to make ends meet will not be forced to abandon this important source of income. In addition to requiring that it be the employee who requests comptime, the Democratic substitute also requires employers to offer comptime to all employees who are similarly situated. The majority's bill, on the other hand, would allow employers to pick and choose which employees will be offered comptime. The Democratic substitute also exempts from the comptime provisions certain segments of the work force that are particularly dependent on overtime wages, including part-time, temporary, and seasonal workers, and those in the garment, construction, and agriculture trades.

Mr. Chairman, the overtime provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act have served this Nation well. They protect workers from demands for excessive work, reward—in a financially meaningful way—those who put in extra time for their employer, and—by requiring premium pay for overtime—provide an incentive for businesses to create additional jobs. Thus, we must proceed carefully when enacting legislation which makes changes to our overtime laws, even for the laudable goal of giving employees greater flexibility with respect to their work schedules. Unfortunately, H.R. 1 does not demonstrate the requisite legislative caution. It weakens the Fair Labor Standards Act's overtime provisions while giving employers additional authority over the work schedules of their employees. This is not the way to help today's working families. Instead, we should pursue the course laid out in the Democratic substitute—offer flexibility to employees while protecting absolutely their ability to choose overtime rather than comptime.

IN HONOR OF THE PARISHIONERS
OF THE CHURCH OF ST. LEO THE
GREAT ON THEIR 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 21, 1997

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the dedication and achievement of the parishioners of the Church of St. Leo the Great of Cleveland, OH, on their 25th anniversary.

Approximately 120 members have assisted the pastor and associates with a multitude of volunteer work. They have performed the important functions of acolytes, readers, and eucharistic ministers. They have contributed a portion of their earnings to the Vincent De Paul Society, which looks after the poor of the parish. They have visited the sick and aged at hospitals and nursing homes. They have sung in the choir and they have helped families in their times of mourning.

St. Leo's volunteers give of themselves, and in doing that, they make Cleveland a better place.

BOB DORNAN'S DAY

HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 21, 1997

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, if Bob Dornan had appeared in the well during the recent St. Patrick's period, he would have recited the following, which he described as coming from an Irish voice.

We appreciated Bob Dornan's wonderful flights of history and rhetoric and we do this in his stead and in his honor.

The article follows:

I arise today
Through a mighty strength, the invocation
of the Trinity,
Through belief in the threeness,
Through confession of the oneness
Of the Creator of Creation.
I arise today
Through the strength of Christ's birth with
his baptism,
Through the strength of his crucifixion with
his burial,
Through the strength of his resurrection
with his ascension,
Through the strength of his descent for the
judgment of Doom.
I arise today
Through the strength of the love of Cheru-
bim,
In obedience of angels,
In the service of archangels,
In hope of resurrection to meet with reward,
In prayers of patriarchs,
In predictions of prophets,
In preaching of apostles,
In faith of confessors,
In innocence of holy virgins,
In deeds of righteous men.
I arise today
Through the strength of heaven,
Light of sun,
Radiance of moon,
Splendor of fire,
Speed of lightning,
Swiftness of wind,
Depth of sea,