his wife Susan, and children Jennifer, Sarah, and Kevin, ''Fair Winds and Following Seas'' as they begin their next voyage.

NEW ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROVISIONS IN THE UNITED STATES-PUERTO RICO POLITICAL STATUS ACT

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 1997

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I am an original cosponsor of United States-Puerto Rico Political Status Act, chairman of the subcommittee which had original jurisdiction over this legislation, and an advocate of English as the official language of the United States. In this capacity I want to clarify statements which are being circulated outside of and within Congress based on incorrect and outdated information that contradicts the English language provisions of the legislation as recently amended.

This remarkable bill sponsored by Resources Committee Chairman BILL YOUNG, Speaker, NEWT GINGRICH, Resident Commissioner CARLOS ROMERO-BARCELÓ of Puerto Rico, and some 90 others, provides a three-stage self-determination process to resolve the United States century-old political status problem with Puerto Rico by the year 2010. The United States citizens of Puerto Rico and all U.S. taxpayers deserve no less.

Since the United States-Puerto Rico Political Status Act was first introduced in the 104th Congress, extensive English language provisions and requirements have been added to build upon the 100-year tradition of English as an official language of Puerto Rico. The new and amended English language provisions are directed at the existing status of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico as a territory under United States sovereignty, and alternatively, the transition of Puerto Rico to a State, depending on the outcome of the legislation's congressionally authorized referenda.

Thus, the United States-Puerto Rico Political Status Act, H.R. 856, provides an informed self-determination process for the United States citizens of Puerto Rico and clearly addresses the language issue from several vantage points, without violating constitutional limits affecting the people and State government. The language provisions of the bill as amended and approved with virtual unanimity by the Committee on Resources on May 21, 1997, follows:

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROVISIONS IN H.R. 856, THE UNITED STATES-PUERTO RICO POLITICAL STATUS ACT

Language Policy [Section 3(b)]—

''English shall be the common language of mutual understanding in the United States, and shall apply in all of the States duly and freely admitted to the Union.''

''The Congress recognizes that at the present time, Spanish and English are the joint official languages of Puerto Rico, and have been for nearly 100 years.''

''English is the official language of Federal courts in Puerto Rico.''

''The ability to speak English is a requirement for Federal jury service.''

''Congress has the authority to expand existing English language requirements in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.''

''In the event that the referenda held under this Act result in approval of sovereignty leading to Statehood, English language requirements of the Federal Government shall apply in Puerto Rico to the same extent as Federal law requires throughout the United States.''

Statehood Ballot Definition [Section 4(a)(C)(7)]—

''English is the official language of business and communication in Federal courts and Federal agencies as made applicable by Federal law to every other State, and

''Puerto Rico is enabled to expand and build upon existing law establishing English as an official language of the State government, courts, and agencies.''

Transition Plan [Section 4(b)(C)(i)]—

''In the event of a vote in favor of Statehood, the president shall include in the transition plan proposals and incentives to:

''Increase the opportunities of the people of Puerto Rico to learn to speak, read, write, and understand English fully, including but not limited to, the teaching of English in public schools, fellowships, and scholarships.''

''The transition plan should promote the usage of English by the United States citizens of Puerto Rico, in order to best allow for—

''The enhancement of the century old practice of English as an official language of Puerto Rico,

''The use of language skills necessary to contribute most effectively to the Nation in all aspects, including but not limited to Hemispheric trade,

''The promotion of efficiency and fairness to all people in the conduct of the Federal and State government's official business; and

''The ability of all citizens to take full advantage of the economical, educational, and occupational opportunities through full integration with the United States.''

MAKING AIRLINE TAXES PALATABLE

HON. STEVE C. LaTOURETTE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 1997

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I call to my colleagues' attention the attached editorial that appeared in the Cleveland Plain Dealer on Thursday, July 17, 1997. As the editorial accurately states, under H.R. 2014, ''fees for using the tax-supported airways would be more evenly distributed among the airlines, whatever their size. And the airline's (Continental) numbers support this contention.''

Than you, Mr. Speaker for allowing me this opportunity to raise this important issue which will significantly impact consumers and our Nation's airline industry.

[From the Cleveland Plain Dealer, July 17, 1997]

MAKING AIRLINE TAXES PALATABLE

U.S. airline passengers can expect to be squeezed to help pay for a range of congressional tax cuts.

New taxes on air travel are inevitable, whether a Senate or House version of a revenue-raising measure is adopted. But the latter offers fliers a better and fairer deal.

The country's major airlines say they are not opposed to such taxes in principle. After all, they should be intended primarily to guarantee a reliable funding source for the Federal Aviation Administration, which operates the national air traffic control system and other support services.

But the big carriers have lobbied vigorously against the Senate's proposal to retain the existing 10 percent excise tax on most domestic tickets—reduced to 7.5 percent on some rural segments—and place a similar charge on the domestic portion of an international flight.

Instead, they have embraced a plan by House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Bill Archer for a 7.5 percent domestic tax with an additional $2 charge for each segment of a flight.

Both bills call for increased taxes on international travel. The House version is steeper, but is expected to be modified in conference.

Texas Republican Archer's bill is favored by Continental Airlines, the largest operator at Cleveland Hopkins International Airport, among comparable carriers that charge a variety of fares on most of their routes. But Southwest Airlines and other discount carriers prefer the Senate plan.

Continental rightly argues that under the Archer plan, fees for using the tax-supported airways would be more evenly distributed among the airlines, whatever their size. And the airline's numbers support this contention.

Continental also complains that imposing a tax on the domestic portion of a one-stop international flight, as in the Senate version, would put U.S. flag carriers at a disadvantage against foreign airlines that operate nonstop from U.S. gateway cities. Cleveland's case for adding a London flight could be damaged if such a tax is introduced, Continental says.

Airline excise taxes have been around since 1941, when a 5 percent levy was imposed on most means of travel. Before 1978, the government set ticket prices. But with deregulation's variations in ticket prices, different passengers on the same flight can pay different amounts in taxes for the same use of the air traffic control system.

Continental and the other major airlines argue that the Archer plan beings the tax system closer in concept to a user fee, which they believe the public would support. But its bigger appeal, for now, is that it would not make such a dent in the pocketbook.

CONSUMERS' NUTRITION AND HEALTH INFORMATION ACT

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 1997

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce H.R. 2208—the Consumers' Nutrition and Health Information Act. I am pleased that my colleagues Representatives ED TOWNS, MARTIN FROST, and BOBBY RUSH are joining me in supporting this legislation as original cosponsors.

The Consumers Nutrition and Health Information Act is designed to increase consumers' access to timely, accurate information about the health benefits of foods and nutrients. It is very similar to the language on health claims contained in the Food and Drug Administration [FDA] reform bill reported with bipartisan support by the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee last month.

The bill would permit manufacturers to make health claims on food labels without having to go through the long, complex FDA preapproval process when claims were based on authoritative statements published by the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for

Disease Control and Prevention, and other Federal scientific organizations with official responsibility for public health protection or research relating directly to human nutrition. The manufacturer would be required to notify the FDA of the proposed claim 120 days before its introduction to the market and would have to provide the FDA with an explanation of the basis for the claim.

The need for this legislation is perhaps best demonstrated by history of the health claim for the nutrient folic acid. In 1992, the Public Health Service reported that about half the 2,500 neural tube birth defects such as those that result in spina bifida that occur in the United States each year are preventable with sufficient folic acid consumption among women of childbearing age. One of the most effective means of getting this information out to women would have been on food labels. But the FDA did not approve this claim for food labels until 1996, a 4-year lag.

By giving a presumption of approvability to health claims for foods based on official, authoritative statements by Federal agencies such as the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, this legislation will better ensure the public's timely access to this important information. And by retaining the FDA's right to review such claims for 120 days before they are made, the legislation protects against false or misleading claims going to market.

I encourage my colleagues to join Representatives TOWNS, FROST, RUSH and me in cosponsoring this bill. Your support will highlight the importance of this reform and ensure that it is a key element of any broader FDA reform effort that may be undertaken in this Congress.

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF TEXAS SENATOR FRANK MADLA

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 1997

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, in my hometown of San Antonio, TX, tomorrow, a close friend and colleague in the Texas Legislature will be honored for 25 years of extraordinary public service to our community and State. Texas State Senator Frank Madla started life on a family ranch in the small town of Helotes, TX. His career stands as a testament to his values: helping others, dedication to family, and hard work. I am proud to know him, his wife, Helen Cruz Madla, and his children Frank III and Marci Morgan.

First elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 1972, Frank Madla has distinguished himself as an advocate for improving our education system, protecting the public health, preserving our environmental resources, helping others with the ravages of alcoholism and drug abuse, and relieving the challenges of mental retardation. After 20 years of service in the Texas House, he moved to the Texas Senate in 1993. His accomplishments include authoring legislation to increase health care access in rural areas and for indigent women and children, facilitate the delivery of services to persons with disabilities, create a gifted and talented program for Texas schools, find solutions to avert a water crisis in central Texas, and strengthen the child abuse reporting system. These are but examples of his many endeavors to increase public safety, streamline the delivery of essential services, and bring health care to those without it.

Unlike the Federal legislature, service in the Texas Legislature requires outside employment. Senator Madla prepared himself well by securing a strong education. He graduated from my alma mater of St. Mary's University in San Antonio with a bachelor and masters of arts degrees in government. From Our Lady of the Lake University, another of my alma mater's, he received certification in public school administration. Senator Madla is a teacher. His first job out of college was teaching history and civics at Escobar Junior High School. Senator Madla, since the beginning of his legislative career, has shared his academic and practical knowledge as an instructor in government and political science at Incarnate Word College and St. Mary's University. Beyond the classroom, he has been a teacher to his friends and colleagues, instructing us in the positive values he embodies.

I am not the only one who thinks highly of Senators Madla. His list of honors is too long for me to recount here. But the variety of groups that has recognized his accomplishments speaks volumes. Organizations representing education, the medical community, law enforcement, and public employees have honored Senator Madla with Legislator of the Year and other outstanding accolades. As someone who served with him, I can state with confidence that these awards are well deserved and hard earned. Senator Madla has dedicated his life to public service, to helping those who cannot always help themselves, to create opportunities for diverse communities. A quarter century of service is in itself a worthy accomplishment, but when done with such dedication and commitment, it is an outstanding achievement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT A. WEYGAND

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 1997

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, on July 16, 1997, I was unavoidably detained and was not, therefore, able to vote on rollcall votes 279 and 280. Had I been able to vote, I would have voted ''yea'' on both votes.

During that time, I was hosting an interactive cable TV show with Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Donna Shalala, and the vice president for government relations for the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, Max Richtman. Secretary Shalala and Mr. Richtman joined me to discuss and take phone calls from my constituents on the current congressional and Presidential proposals aimed at repairing the ailing Medicare System.

Many of the programs contained in H.R. 2158, the Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development appropriations bill are of great interest to me. A great amount of the HUD housing in my district is section 202 and section 811 housing for elderly and the disabled. I am pleased therefore, that the bill passed by the House provides $839 million for these programs.

I am also pleased that the legislation included $30 million for the YouthBuild program. YouthBuild is a HUD-funded program that provides academic and skills training to at-risk young men and women. Several weeks ago, I visited the YouthBuild program in Providence, RI. On that visit, I met 18 of the 20 YouthBuild trainees on their first day in the program. I was pleased to learn yesterday that only one of the students I met with has since left the program. The rest are now spending half their time in the classroom, many preparing for their GED's, and the rest of their time learning important job skills as they rehabilitate a previously abandoned three-story home. At the end of their work, the students will have learned valuable skills and provided housing for a worthy family.

The legislation also provides $7.23 billion for the Environmental Protection Agency and its important programs such as the Brownfields Program are also of great concern to my district.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, the bill provides money for a wide range of programs that support science and space exploration. The National Science Foundation, which funds a wide variety of research projects at Rhode Island's universities, received more money than last fiscal year and more than requested in the President's budget. In addition, several NASA programs survived budget cutting. We have been reminded over the last few weeks of just how valuable NASA's work is to our Nation and the world. The drama associated with the difficult conditions faced by two Russians and an American on Mir has attracted worldwide concern. Farther away, the triumphs of a balloon-encased spacecraft and its breadbox-sized companion on the surface of Mars has piqued the interest of people worldwide about huge Martian floods and the prospect that our world may not be as unique as we once thought. Remarkably, at the same time, the space shuttle lifted off from Kennedy Flight Center, conducted important yet risky experiments and returned to Earth with hardly a notice.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. MAX SANDLIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 11, 1997

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill H.R. 2107, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes:

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to thank Representative SIDNEY YATES and Representative LOUISE SLAUGHTER for their efforts to save the National Endowment for the Arts [NEA] and the National Endowment for the Humanities [NEH], and for raising the awareness of the importance of both agencies to education.

The cost to fund both the NEA and the NEH is less than $1 per taxpayer per year, and the return from both agencies is immeasurable. Small grants of a few thousand dollars