

Rodriguez Schiff Weller  
Schaefer, Dan Schumer Young (FL)

Hamilton McDermott Salmon  
Hansen McGovern Sanchez  
Hastert McHale Sanders  
Hastings (FL) McHugh Sandlin  
Hastings (WA) McNinis Sanford  
Hayworth McIntosh Sawyer  
Hefley McIntyre Saxton  
Hergner McKeon Scarborough  
Hill McKinney Schaffer, Bob  
Hilleary McNulty Scott  
Hilliard Meehan Sensenbrenner  
Hinchey Meek (FL) Serrano  
Hinojosa Meeks (NY) Sessions  
Hobson Menendez Shadegg  
Hoekstra Metcalf Shaw  
Holden Mica Shays  
Hooley Millender-Sherman  
Horn McDonald Shimkus  
Hostettler Miller (CA) Shuster  
Houghton Miller (FL) Sisisky  
Hoyer Minge Skaggs  
Hulshof Mink Skeen  
Hunter Moakley Skelton  
Hutchinson Mollohan Slaughter  
Hyde Moran (KS) Smith (MI)  
Istook Moran (VA) Smith (NJ)  
Jackson (IL) Morella Smith (OR)  
Jackson-Lee Murtha Smith (TX)  
(TX) Myrick Smith, Adam  
Jefferson Nadler Smith, Linda  
Jenkins Neal Snowbarger  
John Nethercutt Snyder  
Johnson (CT) Neumann Solomon  
Johnson (WI) Ney Souder  
Johnson, E. B. Northup Spence  
Jones Norwood Spratt  
Kanjorski Nussle Stabenow  
Kaptur Oberstar Stark  
Kasich Obey Stearns  
Kelly Olver Stenholm  
Kennedy (RI) Ortiz Stokes  
Kennelly Owens Strickland  
Kildee Oxley Stump  
Kilpatrick Packard Stupak  
Kim Pallone Sununu  
Kind (WI) Pappas Talent  
King (NY) Parker Tanner  
Kingston Pascrell Tauscher  
Klecza Pastor Tauzin  
Klink Paxon Taylor (MS)  
Klug Payne Taylor (NC)  
Knollenberg Pease Thomas  
Kolbe Pelosi Thompson  
Kucinich Peterson (MN) Thornberry  
LaFalce Peterson (PA) Thune  
LaHood Petri Thurman  
Lampson Pickering Tiahrt  
Lantos Pickett Tierney  
Largent Pitts Torres  
Latham Pombo Towns  
LaTourrette Pomeroy Traficant  
Lazio Porter Turner  
Leach Portman Upton  
Levin Price (NC) Velazquez  
Lewis (CA) Pryce (OH) Vento  
Lewis (GA) Quinn Visclosky  
Lewis (KY) Radanovich Walsh  
Linder Rahall Wamp  
Lipinski Ramstad Waters  
Livingston Rangel Watkins  
LoBiondo Redmond Watt (NC)  
Lofgren Regula Watts (OK)  
Lowey Reyes Waxman  
Lucas Riley Weldon (FL)  
Luther Rivers Weldon (PA)  
Maloney (CT) Roemer Wexler  
Maloney (NY) Rogan Weygand  
Manton Rogers White  
Manzullo Rohrabacher Whitfield  
Markey Ros-Lehtinen Wicker  
Martinez Rothman Wise  
Mascara Roukema Wolf  
Matsui Roybal-Allard Woolsey  
McCarthy (MO) Royce Wynn  
McCollum Rush Yates  
McCrery Ryun Young (AK)  
McDade Sabo

Rodriguez Schiff Weller  
Schaefer, Dan Schumer Young (FL)

□ 1733

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, On roll call votes 40 and 41 had I been present, I would have voted yes.

BIRTH DEFECTS PREVENTION ACT OF 1997

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. EMERSON). The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and passing the Senate bill, S. 419.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 419, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 405, nays 2, not voting 23, as follows:

[Roll No. 42]

YEAS—405

Abercrombie Canady Duncan  
Ackerman Cannon Dunn  
Aderholt Cardin Edwards  
Allen Carson Ehlers  
Andrews Castle Ehrlich  
Archer Chabot Emerson  
Armey Chambliss Engel  
Bachus Chenoweth English  
Baesler Christensen Ensign  
Baker Clay Eshoo  
Baldacci Clayton Etheridge  
Ballenger Clement Evans  
Barcia Clyburn Everett  
Barr Coble Ewing  
Barrett (NE) Coburn Farr  
Barrett (WI) Collins Fawell  
Bartlett Combust Fazio  
Bass Filner Foye  
Bateman Conyers Foley  
Becerra Cook Forbes  
Bentsen Cooksey Ford  
Bereuter Costello Fossella  
Berman Cox Fowler  
Berry Coyne Fox  
Billbray Cramer Frank (MA)  
Billirakis Crane Franks (NJ)  
Bishop Crapo Frelinghuysen  
Bliley Cubin Frost  
Blumenauer Cummings Gallegly  
Blunt Cunningham Ganske  
Boehlert Danner Gejdenson  
Boehner Davis (FL) Gekas  
Bonilla Davis (IL) Gephardt  
Bonior Deal Gibbons  
Borski DeFazio Gillmor  
Boswell DeGette Gilman  
Boucher Delahunt Goode  
Boyd DeLauro Goodlatte  
Brown (CA) DeLay Goodling  
Brown (FL) Deutsch Gordon  
Brown (OH) Diaz-Balart Goss  
Bryant Dickey Graham  
Bunning Dicks Granger  
Burr Dingell Green  
Burton Dixon Greenwood  
Callahan Dooley Gutierrez  
Calvert Doolittle Gutknecht  
Camp Doyle Hall (OH)  
Campbell Dreier Hall (TX)

Johnson, Sam

Barton  
Blagojevich  
Brady  
Buyer  
Davis (VA)  
Doggett

NAYS—2

NOT VOTING—23

Fattah  
Furse  
Gilchrist  
Gonzalez  
Harman  
Hefner  
Inglis  
Kennedy (MA)  
McCarthy (NY)  
Poshard  
Riggs

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mrs. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, March 10, I missed rollcall vote Nos. 40, 41 and 42, as I was unavoidably delayed at the airport en route to the Hill. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall No. 40, "aye" on rollcall No. 41, and "aye" on rollcall No. 42.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

CELEBRATING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Speaker, as we continue to celebrate Women's History Month, today we have gotten together, both my colleague and friend, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. KELLY) and I, who are cochairs of the Women's Caucus on Women-Owned Businesses, to come tonight to speak on women-owned businesses. I am pleased that such a strong showing of Members will be coming forth to speak on this issue.

The gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. KELLY) and I, in cochairing the Women-Owned Businesses Caucus, had, for the first time ever, a women's caucus hearing on woman-owned businesses on September 25 of last year. In that hearing, a lot of things were revealed. We delved into the problems facing women-owned businesses and explored the obstacles that these women continue to face in trying to obtain contracts with the Federal Government.

Current procurement rates to women-owned businesses is 1.8 percent. The Federal goal is 5 percent. This was a concern of ours, and as we began to probe, we wanted to get down to the real issue as to why women, who are making up the largest growth of jobs and growth of businesses, were unable to get the Federal procurement goal of 5 percent.

The hearing further brought up the problems of the lack of access to the Federal contracting process, the bundling of contracts, the need for more outreach to women business owners, poor and incomplete feedback provided to businesses when their bids are not accepted, and frustration in the certification process.

The certification process was one particular concern of ours. Thus, our introduction of House Resolution 313. This resolution was introduced so that we can begin to recommend to agencies that they make a part of their outreach information on contracting practices and opportunities readily available to women-owned businesses and recommend the "Rule of One" where at least one woman-owned business is solicited on all competitive acquisitions.

We would also like to mention that the Clinton Administration supports doubling the funding from \$4 million to \$9 million for SBA women's business centers, and then, in addition to that, funding the Census Bureau's Survey of Women-Owned Businesses. We must ensure that women-owned businesses get the type of support that they need in order for their growth as well as their opportunities to expand.

I would also like to congratulate the SBA for launching a new initiative for women entrepreneurs, the On-Line Women's Business Center, which helps women start and expand their businesses.

Mr. Speaker, the statistics are really exciting. In California, from 1987 to 1996, the number of women-owned businesses have grown by 78 percent, employment has increased by 255 percent, and sales have grown by 313 percent. California ranks first out of 50 States in the number of women-owned businesses, first in employment and first in sales.

So as my colleagues can imagine, we are excited about women-owned businesses and are really eager to ensure that the women get their rightful 5 percent Federal contract procurement, procurement contracts, so that they can continue to expand and grow as we look at women who are coming off of welfare-to-work and are in need for strong support from women-owned businesses for entrepreneurship and other ventures that they might enjoy.

There are now approximately 8 million women-owned businesses providing jobs for 15.5 million people and generating nearly \$1.4 trillion in sales. We are absolutely ahead of the game in ensuring that women-owned businesses are out there to ensure that jobs are created for women and to provide the type of leadership that is necessary for women to go into business.

In the 37th District of California, women-owned businesses are generating \$105 billion in sales in the Los Angeles-Long Beach metropolitan area. This area ranks second out of the top 50 metropolitan areas in the number, employment and sales of women-owned businesses.

#### GENERAL STATISTICS

There are now approximately eight million women-owned businesses, providing jobs for 15.5 million people and generating nearly \$1.4 trillion in sales. Women-owned businesses now employ 35% more people in the U.S. than the Fortune 500 companies employ worldwide.

Between 1987 and 1996, the number of minority women-owned businesses increased by 153%, which is three times the rate of overall business growth in the U.S. The rate of employment by minority businesses grew by 276% and revenues rose by 318%.

Between 1987 and 1996, women-owned businesses grew by 171% in construction; by 157% in wholesale trade; by 140% in transportation/communications; by 130% in agriculture; and by 112% in manufacturing.

Between 1987 and 1996, minority women-owned businesses grew by 319% in construction; by 276% in wholesale trade; and by 253% in transportation/communications/public utilities.

#### ORGANIZATIONS YOU COULD COMMEND

Small Business Administration—Aida Alvarez.

Office of Women's Business Ownership within SBA—Sherrye Henry.

National Women's Business Council—Amy Millman.

National Association of Women Business Owners—Susan Peterson.

Women's Business Enterprise National Council—Susan Bari.

#### ORGANIZATIONS HELPING WOMEN BUSINESS OWNERS IN/NEAR THE 37TH

Women's Business Exclusive in Torrance.

Association of Black Women Entrepreneurs in Los Angeles.

Los Angeles County Office of Small Business.

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, in honor of Women's Month, to pay tribute to the contribution that women-owned businesses make to our economy.

Carolyn Sanchez Crozier founded CSC Consulting six years ago. An Hispanic American, she employs over 25 people—mostly women and people of color. She has won recognition from the Small Business Administration (SBA) and the Entrepreneur of the Year Award.

Deborah Sawyer, African American founder of a multi-million environmental engineering company, employing over a dozen women and people of color, was just inducted into the Entrepreneurial Hall of Fame. And Ida Hinman, publisher of *Minority Entrepreneur*, was just named the SBA Minority Advocate of 1998.

What do these businesses have in common?

They are all women business owners, vitally involved in the fastest growing segment of our U.S. economy, AND they are clients and supporters of the Women's Business Development Center (WBDC) in Chicago, IL.

Over 2,000 women a year have benefitted from the programs of the Women's Business Development Center in Chicago. And tens of thousands of women business owners have grown and thrived with the advocacy support of the National Women's Business Council and local women's business assistance programs like the WBDC.

Based in Chicago, the WBDC successfully serves women starting and expanding their companies with counseling, training, financial assistance, certification, procurement and advocacy on women's economic empowerment. The programs of the Chicago-based Center are effective, and benefit a diverse group of women and their families. The programs em-

phasize micro enterprise development for women transitioning off welfare, as well as business development and expansion and job creation for growing businesses.

The U.S. economy is strengthened by the expansion of women's business development nationally. In the Chicago metropolitan area, women-owned businesses represent 37 percent of all firms and employ 22 percent of all workers. During 1996, over 225,000 women-owned firms generated more than \$96 billion in sales in the Chicago area.

With funding from the U.S. SBA Office of Women's Business Ownership and other public and private sector support, the WBDC and women's business assistance centers throughout the United States continue to make a vital contribution. These programs serve my constituents by offering quality programs that leverage scarce resources into successful job creation, new business startups, and business expansion. These Centers are dedicated to promoting economic self-sufficiency programs.

Women business owners are making history in the United States. It is appropriate that we salute and pay honor to them during Women's History Month.

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay special tribute to a woman business owner in my district who is a shining example of the dramatic impact that women business owners are having on our economy. In the state of Connecticut there are approximately 104,000 women-owned businesses. This female entrepreneurship accounts for 35 percent of all firms in the state of Connecticut, employing 23 percent of all Connecticut workers.

In June 1985, Betsy Perkins and her husband Jack opened the doors of Perkins Travel. Betsy, a former executive in American Express' travel division, had always wanted to be a business owner. She found herself ready to take the plunge into entrepreneurship when all of her children went off to college. One of her sons had unknowingly provided her with this golden opportunity when he chose to attend the Naval Academy. His decision gave his parents the financial flexibility to strike out on their own, and Perkins Travel was born.

While Betsy maintained close ties to her old company, Perkins Travel struggled in its early years. Betsy called on many corporate executives who were concerned that her new company could not handle their \$3 million dollar a year travel budgets. But, Betsy saw a need in the community and set out to fill it with determination. Perkins Travel created a niche serving small- and medium-sized companies that the large travel agents were not serving. By offering an unprecedented level of service, such as ticket deliveries 7 days a week/24 hours a day, she enticed clients and became essential to their business.

However, Betsy remained committed to working with the community and developed a division to work with senior citizens and school groups to promote culture and the arts. Most recently, she was contacted by a local high school drama club. A teacher wanted to take his students to New York to see a Broadway show on a shoestring budget. Once again, through Betsy's determination, she was able to make this opportunity a reality for the drama club.

One of the greatest testaments to Betsy's success is the stability that her business has brought to her workforce. Perkins Travel now

has 17 employees, 4 of which were with her when the business opened its doors in 1985. Indeed, since that time only 2 employees have left to pursue other opportunities. Over the years, Betsy has also lent her support to other business owners by counseling and mentoring innumerable men and women about starting a business. Some have gone on to open successful businesses while some decided entrepreneurship was not for them. Unfortunately, Betsy notes that she has watched many of the women go on to struggle the way she did in her early years.

When I asked Betsy what drove her to be an entrepreneur, she replied "I didn't want to leave the earth wondering if I could do it." I applaud her pioneering spirit and that of the 8 million women business owners who have taken risks to secure the financial future for themselves, their families and the American economy. These women deserve our tribute during Women's History Month because they are actively shaping the world for our daughters and granddaughters.

#### INTERNATIONAL WORKING WOMEN'S DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. KELLY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, today as we celebrate International Working Women's Day, I think it is fitting that we also celebrate the impressive presence of women-owned business owners in our Nation. Women business owners are impressive, wonderful people who are out there helping to generate small businesses that are vital to the well-being of our economy.

As a former small business owner, I wholeheartedly believe that we must support these women-owned businesses as an integral part of the well-being of our economy. Nationally, women-owned firms make up approximately 36 percent of all U.S. firms in America. We employ more people than the Fortune 500 companies combined. We will own 50 percent of all businesses in America in the 21st century.

In fact, in my State of New York, which was ranked third out of the 50 States in the number of women-owned firms, there are more than 527,000 women-owned firms in New York. They account for 36 percent of all New York firms. These women-owned firms employ nearly 1.4 million people and generate \$205.8 billion in sales. Between 1987 and 1992, the National Foundation for Business Owners estimated that the number of women-owned firms in New York increased by 70 percent, and employment in women-owned businesses has grown by 141 percent with their sales rising by 180 percent.

However, as we celebrate these women and their accomplishments, it is necessary that we also recognize that inequities exist. I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues the fact that America's largest purchaser of goods and services is Uncle Sam, but Uncle Sam dispenses a mere 1.8 percent of all Federal procurement

contracts to women-owned businesses. This sad underutilization of women-owned businesses is most unfortunate.

I recently learned of a startling statistic that puts this inequity into perspective. On the heels of the exciting news that NASA appointed its first woman shuttle mission commander, it came to my attention that of the total of 516 shuttle astronauts, 40 have been women. This makes up 13.56 percent of our shuttle astronauts to date. It is shocking to think that with respect to their field, women have greater access to space travel than obtaining a Federal Government procurement contract. It is time for us to open government contract opportunities to women-owned businesses.

For this reason, I have introduced House Resolution 313 with my colleague, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD). The resolution is designed to highlight problems in the Federal acquisition system, but more importantly, it makes concrete recommendations for Federal agencies striving to achieve the unmet goal of having at least 5 percent of Federal contracts awarded to women-owned businesses.

My commitment to improving Federal procurement access for women-owned businesses will not waiver until such access is assured. The time has come to open the doors for women business owners, level the playing field, and create real competition among our Nation's businesses. This will only be achieved when every Federal agency commits to improving access for women-owned businesses. House Resolution 313 helps set us on this path, and I believe its passage is a critical first step for women and for our country's economic prosperity.

#### HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN KOSOVO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, in recent weeks we have seen a seemingly new conflict begin to emerge in the Balkans with fighting in Kosovo. I say seemingly because it is really a conflict that has been around for quite some time.

As the co-chairman of the Helsinki Commission in the mid-1980s, human rights violations were the first issue regarding the former Yugoslavia with which I and the Commission was confronted. In April 1990, 2 years before Bosnia would enter our foreign policy debates, I and other Members of the commission traveled to Kosovo and witnessed firsthand the repression which was building in Kosovo as the basis for Slobodan Milosevic's rise to power.

During the Croatian and Bosnian conflicts, Kosovo no longer became a leading concern, as the Serbian regime directed its nationalist ambitions to-

ward the north, and the Kosovar Albanians attempted to avoid bloodshed through a highly commendable passive resistance to Serbian rule. Even at that time, the Commission had focused on Kosovo in hearings and briefings as a potential site for spillover of the conflict.

Finally, in the post-Dayton period the Commission has seen that Kosovo remains explosive, as indicated in a Commission visit and report in the summer of 1996. So for me and for other Members, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL), the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN), the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. KELLY), and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), Kosovo is not new.

Despite the complexities of the Balkans, the simple fact is that the regime of Slobodan Milosevic has fermented hatred between the peoples of the former Yugoslavia as a means to maintain power and ward off democratic development in Serbia itself.

In 1989, Milosevic unilaterally revoked Kosovo's previous autonomy. He made discrimination against ethnic Albanians, who constitute 90 percent of the population of Kosovo, official policy, especially in terms of employment. His police force in Kosovo, which is, in effect, more of an army, has arbitrarily harassed, detained, tortured, and yes, even murdered innocent Albanians on a regular basis.

The front page of the Washington Post shows an Albanian mother and her small child, victims of this Serbian onslaught.

□ 1800

On a regular basis, when students protest the lack of a university education, they announce it in advance and make clear their desire is to do so peacefully. The response to the exercise of freedom of assembly and expression? They are beaten.

The recent fighting in central Kosovo can be traced to a few Kosovar Albanians who have formed a Kosovo liberation army and seek to fight repression with terrorism. They are wrong and their actions should be condemned.

That said, and I say it strongly, the presence of these individuals cannot and must not be the pretext to justify further human rights violations by the Milosevic regime. The attacks on several Albanian villages which left dozens dead and many others injured or displaced is absolute and undeniable contravention of the standards for the behavior of governments as stated in the Helsinki Final Act and other documents of the OSCE. They are to be condemned by this country and all freedom-loving peoples.

At a high-level meeting of the contact group yesterday, at which Secretary of State Albright represented the United States, there was agreement to take action, as we must. In particular, I would like to focus on three of them which I, along with the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr.