

Ohio, Mr. PORTMAN, and his desire to protect tropical rainforests worldwide, I wish to again go on record in strong opposition to H.R. 2870, the Tropical Forest Conservation Act.

As you know, I voiced my opposition to this when it passed the House International Relations Committee by voice vote, and voted "no" again when the House approved it by a vote of 356-61 on March 19, 1998.

Mr. Speaker, my concerns are simple. Foremost is the cost of this legislation. Specifically, the bill wastes more than \$300 million in existing resources over three years to facilitate "debt-for-nature" swaps with foreign countries.

This measure in effect forgives U.S. debts which are unlikely to be repaid fully by less developed countries. In exchange, these countries promise to protect their tropical forests. Common sense tells us a country that claims to lack the financial resources to repay its debts is unlikely to have the financial resources to restore and preserve their rain forests. More importantly, why should America pay another sovereign nation to do what is clearly their responsibility and in their own best interest? This "pay me or I'll shoot myself" scheme makes little sense.

As a businessman who survived the Texas recession in the 1980's and watched our local banks address the difficulty of non-performing loans, my other concern is a basic one: Is this the best and highest return for American loans financed by the hard-earned tax dollars of working families who struggle to make ends meet each month? The answer is no.

Loans made in good faith by United States taxpayers should be repaid in full, or in unique situations worked out for the highest and best return for the dollar. H.R. 2870, while well intentioned, is "feel good" legislation that leaves American taxpayers holding an empty bag and, I predict, will do little to preserve the world's rain forests.

SHARING SOLUTIONS

HON. JIM GIBBONS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 1998

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, last week, the President invited people to the White House so he could share his concerns on school violence.

Once again, however, I'm afraid the President is headed in the wrong direction.

He has called for a federal manual on school violence—to be created here in Washington, D.C.—and directed at our local teachers, parents, and communities.

Well, Mr. Speaker, Nevadans have a better idea. Recently, we held a "Town Summit on School Violence" in Reno Nevada to gather local input on possible solutions. Local solutions that we would then send back here to Washington, telling the President how we want to solve our own problems.

Like most states, Nevadans are tired of the Washington borne, "Washington knows best," "The Washington way or the highway," attitudes here.

Local problems require local solutions and I commend all Nevadans who supported and participated in this important event.

I would encourage all members to hold similar events throughout their districts and to

share their solutions with us—the safety and future of our children demand no less.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 1998

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall vote No. 284, I was unavoidable detained on official business. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

RECOGNIZING VICTOR WALTERS

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 1998

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of 8-year-old Victor Walters of Limon, Colorado who was recently named National Second-Grade Handwriting Champion. This is the second consecutive year he has received this national honor. The contest was sponsored by Zaner-Bloser, a manufacturer of pens and publisher of educational handwriting texts. Victor is the son of Ronald and Roberta Walters.

Walters, who received his award and a \$500 savings bond in a surprise ceremony at Limon Elementary School, was able to dash off the winning entry with a handicap. Victor's mother reported that the morning of the contest, his finger felt sore, but he decided to carry a Band-Aid in his backpack rather than wearing it on his hand for fear that it might hinder his writing style.

The penmanship awards won by Limon Elementary School Students have prompted the University of Colorado at Denver to conduct a research project at Limon to look at the link between good penmanship and overall academic performance.

As a Member of Congress representing the Fourth District of Colorado, I am proud of the accomplishments of this young man. Victor Walters has demonstrated his commitment to excellence and I congratulate him on his success.

Mr. Speaker, I hereby submit for the RECORD a copy of an article about Victor which recently appeared in the Denver Post.

BOY HANGS TOUGH, NAILS DOWN 2ND
HANDWRITING WIN
(By Nancy Lofholm)

Not even a hangnail can stop a national handwriting champ.

Victor Walters, an 8-year-old from Limon, once again topped 125,000 other penmanship pupils across the country and was named National Second-Grade Handwriting Champion today. The contest was sponsored by Zaner-Bloser, a manufacturer of pens and publisher of educational handwriting texts.

Walters, who will receive his award and a \$500 savings bond in a surprise ceremony at Limon Elementary School this morning, was able to dash off the winning entry with a handicap.

His mother, Roberta Walters, said he had a sore finger the morning of the competition and was afraid he wouldn't be able to write

well. He opted to carry a Band-Aid in his backpack rather than putting it on his finger, where it might hinder his writing style.

"He was worried, but when he came home he was real excited. He knew he did real well that day," said Walters. "He didn't have to erase very often."

What he didn't know until this morning was that he had won the award for the second year in a row. His parents and teachers in the Eastern Plains town of 2,500 wanted to keep the award under wraps until Victor could be honored in front of his 350 fellow students.

"He's been real antsy waiting to hear," said his dad, Ronald Walters.

Ronald, a case manager at the state correctional facility in Limon, said his son's talent—one he doesn't believe was inherited—has affected his own on-the-job script.

"My writing's not too good," Ronald said. "I find myself scribbling, and I think of my son and try to bring myself back into line again."

Victor's back-to-back achievements, as well as Limon student Bethany Head's win at the state level in her first-grade class three years ago, have also affected the school.

Principal Valerie Bass said the University of Colorado at Denver will be doing a research project at Limon to look at the link between good penmanship and overall academic performance. "We're very proud. A lot of our students have good penmanship," Bass said.

Someday, Victor may be doing his bit to carry on that tradition. He wants to be a teacher. His parents said he plays school every day with his 5-year-old sister, Ashley, and penmanship is one of the favorite play-school subjects.

Zaner-Bloser gives out the penmanship awards annually to promote good penmanship and also to publicize the pitfalls of messy writing. The company has compiled statistics showing that 38 million letters go undelivered annually because of illegible addresses, 58 percent of information on hospital charts is illegible and 66 percent of teachers say schools should place a higher priority on handwriting.

PATIENT PROTECTION ACT

HON. DAVID L. HOBSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 1998

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the House Republican Health Care Proposal, the Patient Protection Act. I believe this bill strikes a good balance between protecting patient rights without the heavy hand of big government. I am excited about many of the large protections in this bill, like giving patients a better and quicker appeal process when the HMO denies their claim, lifting any gag orders on physicians to ensure that patients are better informed, and providing greater access to specialists for women and children. I am equally excited about how this bill addresses the frustrating problems that upset so many people about their HMOs.

I am sure that many of you are like me in that every week I get a letter or call from someone upset because the HMO decides that the plan will no longer cover a specific prescription drug. Our bill will require HMOs to give at least 30 days notice before the HMO can remove a drug from the coverage list. These 30 days are essential in the care of the

patient, and for the physician-patient relationship. With the 30 day notice a physician can work with the patient and the local pharmacist to determine which drugs are suitable alternatives. It will also give the physician the opportunity to educate the HMO plan when he has a patient that has shown little or no progress with any of the alternatives on the plan's approved drug list.

I want you all to understand that this can be a life saving decision. Just last week I learned of a cancer patient that was experiencing great success with a drug that shrinks tumors. After paying for three treatments, the HMO arbitrarily removed the drug from their coverage list without any warning to the patient or physician. Because traditional treatments had not worked, by the time the appeal process was completed the patient was dead. Let's not allow this tragedy to repeat itself—support the Patient Protection Act.

TRIBUTE TO THE CITY OF
CHOWCHILLA

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 1998

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to The City of Chowchilla. This year marks the 75th Anniversary of the founding of Chowchilla, a thriving community in the County of Madera. Chowchilla is a productive and progressive community leading the way into the 21st Century.

In 1912, Chowchilla began to emerge from a cattle ranch of 108,000 acres to what would become a busy community rich in agriculture and commerce. In 1913, the conversion of the vast cattle ranch to diversified farming began. It was at this time when the first bank was started, the first school building was erected, and the first church was organized. A community newspaper was established and water was brought forth from 33 artesian wells.

The year 1914 brought further growth to the city and its facilities when the Chowchilla Pacific Railroad was completed. Electroliers were installed on two streets for a distance of a mile. Shortly there after, the community held its first fair, founded the Woman's Improvement Club and organized the first baseball team.

Today, The City of Chowchilla has grown to a population of 4,500 people and is a thriving agriculture and manufacturing community whose grain, cotton and dairy products make the city a vital element of California's economy.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I pay tribute to the City of Chowchilla on its 75th Anniversary. Chowchilla is a flourishing agricultural and commercial community leading the way into the 21st Century. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing the City of Chowchilla many more years of success.

RECOGNIZING ROBERT "BUDDY"
LOCHRIE UPON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 1998

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to bring to the attention of my colleagues the distinguished career of a friend, fellow Floridian and outstanding community leader. I am speaking of Robert "Buddy" Lochrie, Jr., who will retire from his position as Vice Chairman of Sun Trust, South Florida, N.A., at the end of the month.

Buddy is the third generation of a prominent family in Broward County, Florida. His grandfather, John Lochrie, began annual visits in 1917, built a home in 1923 and developed several citrus groves west of Fort Lauderdale and Fort Pierce. In 1928 he joined the group which organized the Broward Bank and Trust Company and became its first president, a position he held until his death in 1937.

Buddy's father, Robert B. Lochrie, was a director of the bank for forty-two years, and a founder and director of each affiliate bank. He was one of the founders of Broward Bancshares, Inc., of which he served as chairman from 1970 to 1976. Both John Lochrie and Robert B. Lochrie served as officers without compensation, other than regular directors' fees.

Buddy was elected to the boards of three affiliated banks in the Broward group in 1968, while serving as assistant to U.S. Congressman Paul G. Rogers in Washington, DC. In 1970, he was asked to join the company to handle regulatory, governmental and community affairs. Subsequently, he served as Executive Vice President, Treasurer and as a member of the board. After the merger with Sun Banks of Florida in 1983, he became Chairman and CEO of SunBank, South Florida and Vice Chairman when this bank and the Palm Beach SunBank merged.

During his career, Buddy has served as Chairman of the Florida Bankers Association Federal Legislative Committee and a director of the American Bankers Association Political Action Committee, as well as chairman of the Banking Division of the state association.

Statewide activities have included serving on the boards of the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation, the Judicial Nominating Commission and the Florida Christopher Columbus Commission, as a Trustee of the Florida State Ringling Museum of Art.

From 1993 to 1996, Buddy served on the Board of Community Health Purchasing Alliance (CHIPA), District 10, at the request of the Governor of Florida. CHIPA was set up by the State Agency for Health Care Administration to expand health insurance coverage to small business owners and their employees.

Buddy has been Chairman of the Broward Center Performing Arts Foundation since its inception more than twelve years ago. During his tenure, the Foundation has raised more than twenty-three million dollars to support the Center and its programming. This achievement set a new milestone in the amount of money raised for a single purpose building campaign in Broward County.

Buddy's local community involvement also includes: Chairman of Fort Lauderdale Downtown Development Authority, Chairman of the

Broward Chapter of the National Conference of Christian and Jews, Vice Chairman of the South Florida Community Television Foundation (Channel 2), Broward Chair of the Archbishop's Charities Drive, Vice Chairman of the Broward Workshop, Board Member of the Urban League of Broward, Board Member of the United Way of Broward County, Board Member of Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce, Board Member Florida Philharmonic Orchestra, Board Member of South Florida Sports Authority, Board Member of Museum of Art, Member of the Opera Guild, Member of the Port Everglades Association.

Buddy is married to Susan Fry of Fort Lauderdale, and this year they celebrated their thirty-first wedding anniversary. They have three children. Two sons, Robert and Glenn, were born in Washington, DC, and a daughter, Katherine (Kate), was born in Fort Lauderdale. All three children have made Broward County their permanent home. Susan and Buddy share many of the same civic interests. Susan is a guidance counselor at Central Park Elementary and was recognized in 1997-1998 as Guidance Counselor of the Year for Broward County.

This is indeed a record of outstanding achievement and community involvement. I wish Buddy and his family much happiness and success in the future.

UNFAIRNESS IN TAX CODE:
MARRIAGE TAX PENALTY

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 1998

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight what is arguably the most unfair provision in the U.S. Tax code: the marriage tax penalty. I want to thank you for your long term interest in bringing parity to the tax burden imposed on working married couples compared to a couple living together outside of marriage.

I would also like to commend the leadership of House budget Chairman Kasich for including elimination of the marriage tax penalty as a top priority in his budget resolution. The Republican House Budget Resolution will save a penny on every dollar and use those savings to relieve families of the marriage penalty and restore a sense of justice to every man and woman who decides to get married.

Many may recall in January, President Clinton gave his State of the Union Address outlining many of the things he wants to do with the budget surplus.

A surplus provided by the bipartisan budget agreement which: cut waste; put America's fiscal house in order; and held Washington's feet to the fire to balance the budget.

While President Clinton paraded a long list of new spending totaling at least \$46-\$48 billion in new programs—we believe that a top priority should be returning the budget surplus to America's families as additional middle-class tax relief.

This Congress has given more tax relief to the middle class and working poor than any Congress of the last half century.

I think the issue of the marriage penalty can best be framed by asking these questions: Do Americans feel its fair that our tax code imposes a higher tax penalty on marriage? Do