

Louise Fréchette has had a distinguished diplomatic career in her native country of Canada. Prior to her appointment as Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations, Mme. Fréchette served as the Deputy Defense Minister of Canada and played a particularly important role in Canada's participation in a number of United Nations peacekeeping operations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that Mme. Fréchette's speech be included in the RECORD, and I urge my colleagues to give it careful and thoughtful attention.

DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL STRESSES UNITED NATIONS DUTY TO TRANSLATE INTO PRACTICE ORGANIZATION'S COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS

I would like, at the outset, to extend the appreciation of all of us in the United Nations system for the commendable work of the Human Rights Caucus in focusing the attention of Congress on human rights and violations of those rights around the world.

In this fiftieth anniversary year of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, that focus has never been more important. The world is changing: modern technology, communications and open borders have led to a movement and exchange of ideas on a scale never seen before. Those nations which fail to uphold basic principles of acceptable behavior can no longer hide behind their borders.

For the United Nations, that makes all the more compelling our duty to translate into practice our commitment to human rights. For decades, the primary focus in human rights was on establishing international norms and standards. That work was largely successful.

In the 1990s, the emphasis has shifted to implementation. Human rights monitors are often attached to peacekeeping operations. We run advisory services to strengthen the judiciary. Special rapporteurs are investigating torture, child labor and child prostitution, religious intolerance and violence against women. I am pleased to report that we now have more staff working on human rights in the field than at Headquarters.

And, of course, the United Nations provides global leadership on human rights in the person of Mary Robinson, who, as High Commissioner for Human Rights, has raised the profile of the issue around the world.

Hand in hand with human rights come issues of democratization and good governance. Increasingly across the world, it has become an established norm that military coups by self-appointed juntas against democratically-elected governments are simply not acceptable. The United Nations is receiving more requests for electoral assistance than ever before. In the past five years, we had no fewer than 80 such requests. The United Nations helps teams of international observers assess the legitimacy of an electoral process and its outcome. We guide, monitor and sometimes run elections in various countries.

The Declaration of Human Rights is not a legally binding document. Yet, it has been a fundamental source of inspiration for national and international efforts to protect and promote human rights and freedoms.

The main principles of the Declaration have inspired the constitutions of many countries which have become independent since it was written. Conceived as a "common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations" the Declaration has become a yardstick by which to measure the respect for, and compliance with, international human rights standards.

The first article of the Declaration is quite simple. Let me quote it to you "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood."

Nobody personified that spirit of brotherhood better than Raoul Wallenberg. That fact was acknowledged here in Washington 17 years ago yesterday, when Wallenberg became the third foreigner to be given honorary citizenship of this country—thanks to legislation written by you, Congressman [TOM] LANTOS.

Wallenberg's life and achievements highlighted the vital difference an individual can make amidst conflict and suffering. His intervention gave hope to victims, encouraged them to fight and resist, to hang on and bear witness.

Remembering his life should be an inspiration for others to act; for future generations to act; for all of us to act.

Congressman LANTOS, I know that you owe much to Raoul Wallenberg. But I also know we owe much to you, to your indefatigable work in the cause of human rights and in keeping his legacy alive. You, like him, provide an example to us all.

And the work of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus provides an invaluable example of what can be achieved when we join forces to achieve common goals. Such partnerships strengthen immeasurably the work of governments and the United Nations.

For although the United Nations is an association of sovereign States, the rights it exists to uphold and defend belong to people.

It follows that people everywhere have a responsibility to speak up for those rights, whenever they see them threatened, wherever they know them to be violated. For your work in that regard, I thank you all.

#### INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION

### HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 9, 1998*

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that will restore the dream of homeownership to middle-and low-income families.

Mr. Speaker, the sight is all too familiar in urban and rural America: boarded-up homes, abandoned lots, blighted communities. These sights demonstrate that the dream of homeownership is fleeting for some and that these dreams can become nightmares when financial hardship occurs. But what often goes unspoken in discussing this issue is the fact that some of these abandoned properties were purchased under federal mortgage programs intended to help middle-and low-income Americans. This leads us to ask: what improvement can we make to federal mortgage assistance programs so that people can keep their homes and live the American dream?

This is the goal of my legislation, the Homeowners Emergency Mortgage Assistance Act. This bill makes needed changes in the way the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) administers its mortgage guarantee program and will keep the dream of homeownership alive for people facing temporary financial difficulties. Under the bill, property owners who fail to pay their mortgage for two months, due to no

fault of their own, would not be subject to immediate foreclosure. Often, homeowners cannot honor their mortgage payments because of factors beyond their control. For example, the FHA does not require inspections on homes it guarantees. After a home is purchased, serious structural dilapidation may be uncovered. In such cases, the home may be falling apart and the homeowner will not be able to both repair the damage and pay their mortgage. The home becomes unlivable and is foreclosed. This further blights the neighboring area and ends the homeowners's dream.

To resolve this unfortunate situation, my bill would provide temporary mortgage assistance to homeowners in needed for a period no longer than 36 months. The assistance would have to be payed back to the FHA and would not be offered if FHA officials deem that the homeowner would be able to honor their mortgage obligations and pay back the emergency assistance after this time period.

Saving people's homes in this manner is a win-win proposition for the government, for the homeowners, the lenders and for the adjacent communities. As you know, the FHA guarantees 100 percent of mortgage loans provided by private lenders to middle- and low-income families under the National Housing Act. Yes, 100 percent. When a home is foreclosed, the FHA has to pay the lender the entire cost of the mortgage. As you can imagine, this is tremendously costly. It can also be avoided in many cases.

In such cases, temporary assistance can make all the difference for homeowners, allowing homeowners to pay for repairs and honor their mortgages. The FHA saves money because the temporary assistance they provide is far less costly than paying the full cost of the mortgage. In addition, the temporary assistance must be payed back thus recouping additional taxpayers' dollars. The lenders are equally satisfied because they are receiving their monthly assessments. And the community is preserved from blight that would otherwise reduce property values throughout the area. The Homeowners Emergency Mortgage Assistance Act is a solution that restores the dream of homeownership for everyone concerned.

The program has also been "battle-tested." My legislation is based on a very successful program in Pennsylvania. More than 24,000 Pennsylvania families faced with possible foreclosure have received help from the state's Homeowners Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program (HEMAP). Pennsylvania's Republican Governor Tom Ridge and Democratic leaders throughout the state have hailed the program as a cost-efficient means to prevent homelessness. In Pennsylvania, 90 percent of assistance payments have been payed back and only eight percent of HEMAP loans have resulted in foreclosure. This record of success should be duplicated at the federal level.

Saving homes, money and neighborhoods is what government programs should work to achieve. The Homeowners Emergency Mortgage Assistance Act will accomplish these vital goals. I urge my colleagues to co-sponsor this legislation and work with me to maintain the dream of homeownership for middle-and low-income Americans.

AUTHORIZING THE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY TO INVESTIGATE WHETHER SUFFICIENT GROUNDS EXIST FOR THE IMPEACHMENT OF WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF

**HON. VITO FOSSELLA**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 8, 1998*

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to support this resolution. I say this not as a Republican, not as a New Yorker, but as a person who loves this great country and all it represents.

Earlier today, the gentleman from New York, Mr. NADLER, stated in essence: "This matter will be the most divisive issue this nation has faced since Vietnam. While I do not question the gentleman from New York's belief that he believes this to be true, I do take exception to the comparison and respectfully disagree. Here is why—during the Vietnam War, as has been the case with every war or military conflict since our Nation's birth, men and women were sent overseas with a willingness to die for freedom, liberty and to defend the rule of law. In the case before us, the President of the United States has been charged with violating the rule of law that so many Americans have died for and are still willing to die for at a moment's notice all over the globe. The same rule of law that we must ensure applies equally to every single American, including the President of the United States.

This matter goes to the very heart and soul of what America is all about. This matter will determine whether we defend the Constitution, or destroy it. I hope and pray that each distinguished Member of this body places America first and that each Member sees through the clouds of rhetoric to uphold the rule of law.

It is the rule of law that unifies this country. It is the rule of law that allows each American the opportunity to enjoy and to pursue what our Founding Fathers and every generation of Americans since have always hoped for—that each American be entitled to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. If we, indeed, cherish the notions of personal freedom and individual liberty granted to every single American, then we will seek to vindicate the rule of law and proceed with this matter with all deliberate speed and an unbreakable bond with each other toward fairness, equity and justice for each party involved, including the President of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, too many Americans have died to defend these principles we hold so sacred. Too many generations of Americans have given so much to wish reluctantly that this matter just disappear. Just as important, Mr. Speaker, with the Almighty blessing, generations of Americans yet unborn will look back to this day and claim this to be one of America's finest hours, not as a sideshow that some are trying to depict this as.

Each Member of this body still must maintain an obligation and responsibility to be bound to our oath of office. The same oath of office voluntarily taken by the President of the United States. Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, I support this resolution.

THE GOOD FRIDAY TRADE AND INVESTMENT ACT

**HON. JIM McDERMOTT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 9, 1998*

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that targets a trade and investment initiative toward Northern Ireland and the border counties of the Irish Republic. My view is that using existing trade and investment tools to stimulate economic hope and opportunity in the Irish region is the best chance we have for ensuring the Good Friday Peace Agreement is fully implemented.

Over the past few months, my thoughts, hopes, and concerns have fixed upon the Irish region. From the peaks of the Good Friday Peace Agreement and election of the first local government in Northern Ireland in over twenty five years, to the valleys of Drumcree, the arson deaths of three young brothers in Ballymoney, and the horrors of the Omagh bomb, my hopes for that troubled land have twisted and turned with events seemingly beyond our ability to impact or entirely understand.

Northern Ireland needs our nation's support and assistance at one of its most critical stages along the path to lasting peace and consensual self government. On the very edge of undertaking their governmental duties and offices as set forth in the Good Friday Peace Agreement, the political leaders face one final fence—the decommissioning issue—that stands between them and the promise of a democratic and prosperous government for both communities. Time is short and a clear sign of support from Congress could help lift the parties over the last hurdle.

As you know, Irish free trade legislation has been slowed by resistance from the European Union, which considers a free trade agreement between the U.S. and Northern Ireland and the Border counties as a threat to their customs union. As member states of the EU, both Ireland and Britain have viewed free trade legislation with some trepidation.

Faced with continued resistance to the Irish free trade legislation, I concluded that a fresh attempt to fashion legislation that could address European reticence while quickly delivering meaningful trade and investment assistance to Northern Ireland was in order.

I have developed legislation that targets existing trade and investment tools such as the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) to assist Northern Ireland's exporters to grow their economy and job base. The legislation also ensures that the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) generates private sector focus and interest in Northern Ireland and the Border area and makes sure that women entrepreneurs have meaningful access to that funding. I have additionally utilized the International Fund for Ireland as a channel to increase funding for projects that will create rapid job growth in the private sector. Finally, I have targeted five projects for funding and support that will provide both immediate and mid-term job generating growth.

While there are few days left before adjournment, I am determined to advance this new bill as far as the legislative schedule and the leadership will allow. I ask for your help, assistance, and cosponsorship. A clear, seri-

ous and solid signal of support to the parties in Northern Ireland is crucial for their continued forward progress. For your information, I have attached an executive summary of the bill and some recent news items which illustrate the need for a reinvigorated effort on our part.

GOOD FRIDAY TRADE AND INVESTMENT ACT

(1) Statement of policy/findings:

a. Economic growth and stabilization of Northern Ireland (NI) and Irish Republic Border Counties (IR) are key to full implementation of the Good Friday Peace Agreement.

b. The Omagh bombing is a clear example of a small town that desperately needs immediate relief and assistance for reconstruction. The pace and scale of aid and investment in Omagh and other towns recently bombed—Banbridge, Markethill, and Newtownhamilton—could determine whether the Agreement holds.

c. The International Community, including the European Union and the World Trade Organization (WTO), has a strong record of responding to historic political and economic circumstances. It has fought for and approved WTO waivers, such as transitional measures to take account of German Unification and the Treaty of Lome, that allow necessary international flexibility and cooperation to enhance trade and investment and stabilize economically deprived and politically revitalized regions.

d. The U.S. can continue its crucial role in the peace process by creating and promoting economic growth through trade and investment in the region's severely economically deprived areas. In addition to promoting trade and investment in NI and IR, the U.S. should consider grant assistance to aid communities suffering terrorist attacks.

e. Fair employment practices in Northern Ireland are an essential element for an expanding full employment economy. Congress notes with approval the constant efforts undertaken by the Northern Ireland Fair Employment Commission and Employment Tribunal to achieve this end. Congress is also aware that the Good Friday Peace Agreement established an Anti-discrimination Committee to augment the work done by the Committee and Tribunal. Congress believes their continuing efforts constitute persuasive evidence that economic justice principles contained herein are being effectively safeguarded, secured and promoted for all communities. (Assistance in legislation is contingent on MacBride principles as agreed to in H.R. 1757 conference report).

f. The strengthening of a police force acceptable to both communities in Northern Ireland is essential for the formation and success of a peaceful and prosperous civil society. The Congress notes the Independent Commission on Policing is to report on the policing problems in Northern Ireland. The President, taking into consideration the recommendations of the Commission, shall report to Congress on a bi-annual basis how the United States can assist in the establishment of an acceptable policing force in Northern Ireland with the highest level of professionalism.

(2) OPIC directive: OPIC shall establish \$300 million in equity funds for infrastructure and business development in NI and IR. Funds should emphasize investment in severely economically deprived counties in NI and IR as well as emphasize the role of women.

a. Women into Business Fund: No less than 20% of the equity fund should be dedicated to encourage investment by women entrepreneurs and should be targeted to ventures headed or owned by women.