

ceilings, loft balconies, hardwood floors, fireplaces, two-story living rooms, above-ground English-style basements, and rooftop decks. When completed, Tremont Ridge will total 60 units, including townhouses and scattered sites. Emily Holan's commitment not only beautifies the city, but also allows neighborhoods to benefit from the project, with homeowners able to apply for interest-free loans to rehabilitate their own homes.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in honoring Emily Lipovan Holan for her service to the community in maintaining a beautiful historical site.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4578) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes:

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the amendment being offered by Representatives SLAUGHTER, HORN, and JOHNSON. I commend them on their continued commitment to arts funding and I urge my colleagues to vote to increase funding for the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

After suffering major budgetary cuts in 1995, these three vital organizations have been forced to endure level funding for the last 5 years. It is time, in this period of budget surpluses, to devote more resources to arts and culture.

Art education plays an important role in the development of our youth. Brain research is showing that the stimuli provided by the arts—pictures, song, movement, play acting, are essential for the young child to develop to their fullest potential. These activities are the “languages” of the child, the multiple ways in which he or she understands and interprets the world. Active use of these forms also paves the way for the child to use verbal language, to read and to write—critical skills our children need to become productive members of society.

Arts education improves life skills including self-esteem, teamwork, motivation, discipline and problem-solving that help young people compete in a challenging and high-tech workforce. According to the College Board, students who study the arts for four years score

an average of 89 points higher than non-arts students on the Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT).

Research conducted between 1987 and 1998 reveals that when young people work in the arts for at least three hours three days each week throughout the year, they show heightened academic standing, a strong capacity for self-assessment, and a secure sense of their own ability to plan and work for a positive future for themselves and their communities.

The results of art education do not just build self confidence but deter crime as well. The U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention found in its YouthARTS study that arts programs designed to deter delinquent behavior of at-risk youth dramatically improved troubled youths' academic performance, reduced school truancy, and increased their skills of communication, conflict resolution, completion of challenging tasks, and teamwork.

The effects that an education enriched with art instruction can have on our youths is invaluable. Whether assisting in the development of our children or acting as preventative measures, increased funding for the NEA, and NEH, and the IMLS is in the best interest of our children and their future. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the amendment.

DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE,
JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDICIARY,
AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 23, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4690) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes:

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Chairman, I support Congressman TOM CAMPBELL's amendment to the Commerce-Justice-State Appropriations bill, H.R. 4690, to prohibit funds being used for the use of secret evidence. Moreover, I strongly support the Secret Evidence Repeal Act of 1999 introduced by Representative BONIOR, Representative CAMPBELL, Representative BARR, and Representative CONYERS. Recently, both Representative BONIOR and Representative CAMPBELL, offered testimony at a congressional hearing in the House Judiciary Committee. At that hearing, my colleagues Mr. CAMPBELL and Mr. BONIOR offered convincing testimony to the unconstitutional use of secret evidence. Representative TOM CAMPBELL last year introduced an amendment to the Com-

merce-Justice-State Appropriations Bill to stop the funding for the use of secret evidence by the Immigration Naturalization Service. I supported his effort last year on the House floor and I support his effort now. The use of secret evidence is wrong.

In 1996 an amendment was added to the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act, authorizing the INS to use secret evidence in barring or deporting immigrants as well as denying benefits such as asylum. However, this law restricts two rights Americans hold very dear: (1) the right to due process and (2) the right to free speech. This country has always and must continue to value the right to a fair trial and the freedom to hold and practice personal beliefs.

However, allowing the use of secret evidence undermines the rights and liberty of both citizens and legal aliens alike because it lessens the constraints of both Constitutional considerations and conscience on INS cases. The case of the Iraqi six clearly illustrates the flawed use of secret evidence.

Six Iraq individuals were among the many Iraqi Arabs and Kurds who were part of a CIA-backed plot to overthrow Saddam Hussein. While attempting to gain political asylum in the United States after their work in Iraq with 1,200 other Iraqis, these six individuals were singled out and detained by the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service on the claim that they were a risk to national security. These six individuals, who had worked with the U.S. in opposition to Saddam Hussein, were now seen as threat to our national security based on secret evidence. Evidence that no one was allowed to see. Not the 6 Iraqis. And not their attorneys. Evidence that could be used to deny them asylum and deport them back to Iraq where they would surely meet their death.

After much pressure, 500 pages of this so-called secret evidence was released. Closer examination revealed the evidence was tarnished due to its faulty translations, misinformation and use of ethnic and religious stereotyping. There have been about 50 cases where secret evidence was used to detain and deport individuals. This is un-American. The cornerstone of our judicial system is that evidence cannot be used against someone unless he or she has the chance to confront it. The INS is relying more and more on the use of secret evidence. If we continue to use secret evidence against non-citizens, it will soon be used against American citizens too. There will be no limit to its use.

As a member of Congress it is my duty to uphold the Constitution. As members of Congress, we must all continue to maintain and defend the civil rights of all citizens living in the United States under the U.S. Constitution. We can do this by voting in favor of this amendment. I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on the Campbell amendment.