

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

STATEMENT ON THE INTRODUCTION OF THE BUSINESS METHOD PATENT IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2000

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2000

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, in recent months, substantial concern has been expressed over the patenting of Internet and business strategies and techniques. Both the quality and appropriateness of a number of recently granted patents have been questioned.

My primary concern in this issue is the protection of intellectual property, which I believe is critical both to innovation and to the economy—and in that context, I want to make sure that the quality of U.S. patents is the highest possible.

As the breadth of patentable subject matter grows, it is incumbent upon Congress to consider two questions. First, are the Patent and Trademark Office and the courts properly interpreting the scope of what should be patentable? Second, is the process for patenting appropriate for the subject matter we allow to be patented?

It is clear from my conversations with those who are developing the Internet, those financing Internet ventures, individuals conducting business and those in the patent community—and the public at large—that the patenting of Internet and business strategies and techniques is controversial and deserves serious examination. Some believe that “business method” patents should simply not be allowed. They argue, by analogy, that a toaster should be patentable but the idea of toasting bread should not. Others argue that business methods should remain patentable, but the PTO should apply much greater scrutiny when it examines such patent applications. To extend the analogy: we have been toasting bread for a long time and if you are going to patent a method of doing so, the PTO better make sure that it has never been done in just that way before. Some note that people have received patents on activities that have been undertaken for decades and even centuries, and argue that merely placing an activity on the Internet does not make for novelty. Finally, there are a number of strange examples that lend themselves to questions about whether such common human activities deserve patent protection at all. Surely, the patent system is functioning in a curious manner when patents have been issued on a technique for measuring a breast with a tape to determine bra size (Pat. No. 5,965,809), methods of executing a tennis stroke (Pat. No. 5,993,366) and swinging a golf club (Pat. No. 5,616,089), an architect’s method of eliminating hallways by placing staircases on the outside of buildings (Pat. No. 5,761,857), and a method for teaching custodial staff basic cleaning tasks (Pat. No. 5,851,117). Others have noted with suspicion the patent for a method of exer-

cising a cat using a laser light as a tease (Pat. No. 5,443,036).

Other patents, granted to more serious endeavors, have also have been roundly criticized. With regard to patenting Internet adaptations of brick-and-mortar businesses, questions have arisen about patents granted for a method of selling music and movies in electronic form over the Internet (Pat. No. 5,191,573), a method of developing a statistical “fantasy” football game using a computer (Pat. No. 4,918,603), a method of allowing car purchasers to select options for cars ordered over the Internet (Pat. No. 5,825,651), a method of rewarding online shoppers with frequent flyer miles (Pat. No. 5,774,870), and an arguably very broad patent on managing secure online orders and payments using an “electronic shopping cart” to purchase goods on the Internet (5,745,681).

In lay terms, the basic question in each case is whether the patent owner merely adapted a well known business activity to the Internet in a straight forward manner. In patent parlance, the question is whether any of these activities are truly new and would not be obvious to one skilled in the relevant art. Other questions that may be relevant are whether others in the United States had known of the invention or had used it, and whether the invention was used or sold in public prior to the filing for a patent.

I am not asserting that any of these patents should be invalidated. However, patents are becoming a critical factor in valuing many new economy businesses, and that means they are significant to the health of the economy. If business method patents are indeed being issued based on insufficient information about the relevant inventions that preceded the patented invention or if a patent is issued on the basis of insufficient “prior art,” there is substantial risk to the inventor that those who know of the “prior art” could step forward at any time, invalidating the patent. This uncertainty means that investors cannot be confident that businesses will in fact reap the returns they expect on the patented inventions.

In the context of the Internet, many argue that rather than spurring innovation, patents interfere with innovation; that fierce commercial competition, as opposed to patent monopolies, has driven innovation; and that a culture of open sharing of innovation has been the key to the Internet’s rapid growth. Whether this is true or false, an invention that is tied up because of an inappropriate grant of patent is problematic and may interfere with the advancement of technology. If a patent is granted for an invention that is not truly novel or one which is obvious to an expert in the field, it may then become unavailable for competitors to exploit. Such a patent may also open the user of the prior invention to an infringement lawsuit.

The U.S. patent system, created under the specific authority of the Constitution, grants for a limited time a statutory monopoly over one’s inventions. An inventor should have an incentive to create—a monopoly for a limited time

allows an inventor the opportunity to appropriately benefit from his creativity, and at the same time, reveal in detail the invention to allow others to build on his advances. Historically, the concept of invention was limited to the physical realm, a machine or process by which a product is produced. Over the years, however, the courts and the PTO have expanded the scope of patentable subject matter. In fact, the Patent and Trademark Office is of the view that it is operating under Supreme Court instruction to patent “anything under the sun made by man.” To that end, they have allowed the patenting of business methods.

Three events have contributed to the rapid growth in the number of applications for business method patents:

In the 1998 ruling in *State Street Bank v. Signature Financial Group*, the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, (which has exclusive jurisdiction over patent appeals) concluded that methods of doing business implemented using a computer are patentable. Some interpret the opinion as not even requiring computer implementation, and thus more broadly affirming the patenting of any business method. *State Street* was notable because it resolved a question where there had previously been divergent opinions among the lower courts. Some courts were of the view that there was a “business method exception” to patentability dating back to at least 1868. In resolving this issue, the court opened the flood gates for business method patents.

The second key event has been the explosive growth of the Internet. As businesses move to the Internet, they either adapt methods of doing their ongoing brick-and-mortar business or they invent new and innovative methods to take advantage of the unique qualities of the Internet.

Finally, business executives and entrepreneurs alike are gaining a better understanding of the economic value of intellectual property and patents, and are pursuing ways to take advantage of these opportunities.

Given this growth in patent applications, has the quality of patents suffered? There are several reasons identified for the lessening of the quality of patents in this area. In the view of some, the existing patent corps does not have the expertise to examine these “new tech” and “business” patents. The PTO needs more resources to enhance their examiners’ expertise and increase the size of the examiner corps in the relevant areas of art. Also, as a result of industry practices, there is a dearth of “prior art” data, the evidence of preexisting inventions, available in the areas of the Internet and business methods.

To be patentable, an invention has to be novel, useful, and not obvious to an expert in the field. Novelty is judged by comparing the invention with both patented and non-patented inventions. Determining whether an invention existed before the patent application was filed—or whether the invention is obvious—is an extraordinarily difficult task in the realm of business methods and the Internet. Core Internet tools such as the Amazon.com “1-click”,

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

may have been in use prior to the filing of Amazon's patent application. Priceline.com's "buyer-driven sales" over the Internet arguably may have been "obvious" to an expert in the field of auctions.

I do not know whether these patents should or should not have been granted (and ongoing litigation will inevitably make that determination), but it is clear that the review of business method patent applications is impaired by the lack of documentation capturing the history of innovation in the Internet or the development of business techniques and methods.

By contrast, in the fields of engineering or science (two areas in which many patents are sought), inventions and innovations are meticulously documented and published. With these publications at hand, an examiner has easy reference to existing inventions. But very little published information exists with Internet and hi-tech practices . . . and most of what does exist is analogous to "folk knowledge", handed from person to person orally or in chat rooms or by e-mail. Where developments are documented, there is no common organizing scheme. Where business plans are involved, they are usually closely held as trade secrets. Since an examiner can reject a patent application only on published "prior art", informal communications are excluded.

As to obviousness, it is usually up to the patent examiner—using his own expertise and research of "prior art"—to assess whether an expert in the field would think to come up with the applicant's invention. In the area of business method patents, the endeavors for which patents are being sought are very new to the PTO. It has been only five years since the Internet became a tool of business, and only two years since the court clearly established the rule that a business method is patentable in the United States. Unfortunately, although PTO is taking strides to develop expertise in the appropriate fields, there must be improvement in how experts can submit information to the PTO regarding specific patent applications.

Many of the changes needed can be met only by legislative action. It is critical that we create new mechanisms to get "prior art" into the system and make it available to applicants and the PTO. We must enhance the deference given the PTO in rejecting patent applications on the basis of all of the provisions of subsections 102(a) and (b) of title 35 by allowing examiners to rely on evidence of knowledge, use, public knowledge or sale in the U.S. that may not be documented in published references.

I am today introducing with Mr. BOUCHER a bill that will enhance the quality of Internet and non-Internet business method patents by increasing the opportunity for expert input into the patenting process. These improvements will provide patent owners and investors alike with greater confidence in the quality of their patents. The bill requires the PTO to publish business method patent applications and give the members of the public an opportunity to present "prior art" they believe may disqualify the application. Members of the public may also petition the PTO to hold a hearing to determine whether an invention was known, used by others, or in public use or on sale in the U.S. prior to the filing of the application. The bill also establishes an expeditious administrative "opposition" process by which a party will be able to challenge a business method patent. The opposition process provides par-

ties with substantial evidentiary tools but will be much less costly and more efficient than litigation. The opposition process must be invoked within 9 months of the granting of a patent, and must be concluded within 18 months thereafter. Thus, we assure that within 27 months after the granting of the patent, a patent owner will either have enhanced confidence in the quality of their patent—something akin to quiet title—or will know the patent has been invalidated. The procedure will be presided over by an Administrative Opposition Judge who has substantial patent expertise and will have the responsibility to assure efficient review.

In regard to adaptations of business methods to the Internet, the bill establishes that where an invention only differs from "prior art" in that it is implemented using computer technology, such an invention shall be presumed obvious and therefore not patentable (this presumption can be overcome if a preponderance of the evidence shows that the invention was not obvious). Finally, the bill lowers the burden of proof for a challenge to a patent from "clear and convincing evidence" to "a preponderance of the evidence"—an appropriately lower standard where the difficulty of producing evidence is complicated by the traditions and practices of the industries.

In introducing this legislation I am not taking a final position as to whether business methods should be patentable—I tend to think they should be, but I could be persuaded otherwise. I am not wed to any particular provision of this bill itself But I do believe that we need to be sure that the Patent and Trademark Office is well equipped to consider these patents, that there are adequate means to get good information into the system describing prior inventions, and that there are the appropriate standards and processes in place to assure the quality of the patents that are actually issued. There should be no question that the U.S. patent system produces high quality patents.

This bill is a work in progress, and one that will likely generate great debate. As I have noted, there are some who believe that "business methods" should not be patentable at all. Others who are certain to argue that current law "ain't broke", so there is no need for Congress to fix it. Still others believe that, to the extent there may be a problem, the Patent and Trade Mark Office will address it administratively. My intent with this legislation is to stimulate the dialogue. We need to air these issues and ultimately (and hopefully quickly) find the proper solutions.

TEACHING ABOUT CONGRESS

HON. TIM ROEMER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2000

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, I highly recommend the following speech recently given by our distinguished former Indiana colleague Lee Hamilton. Lee has devoted his career as a public servant to improving public understanding of Congress, and I found his remarks quite timely and informative. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following remarks into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

TEN THINGS I WISH POLITICAL SCIENTISTS WOULD TEACH ABOUT CONGRESS—REMARKS BY THE HONORABLE LEE H. HAMILTON, PI SIGMA ALPHA LECTURE, AMERICAN POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING, AUGUST 31, 2000

INTRODUCTION

My purpose this afternoon is to offer some thoughts on the role that you, as political scientists, can play in improving public understanding of the U.S. Congress.

I do not know what each of you teaches about the Congress—but I do know—on the basis of several thousand public meetings over three decades—that the lack of public understanding about the institution is huge.

That lack of understanding among ordinary Americans concerns me deeply because it increases the public's suspicions and cynicism about the Congress, weakens the relationship between voters and their representatives, makes it harder for public officials to govern, and prevents our representative democracy from working the way it should.

I believe you can improve public understanding of Congress by teaching several basic, and rather simple, lessons about this sometimes puzzling institution.

If Americans leave high school and college with a solid understanding of Congress, they will be better able to contribute to our nation's political life and will help make our representative democracy work better.

TEN THINGS TO TEACH ABOUT CONGRESS

First, I'd like you to teach that Congress is the most important link between the American people and their national government.

Many Americans have little appreciation for the basic function and role of Congress in our political system. I want you to help them understand that Congress is the institution whose job it is to seek consensus out of the many and diverse views of the American people. I want you to explain that Congress performs the extraordinary task of legislating and overseeing the government in the interest of more than 275 million Americans.

For all its deficiencies—which I will get to later—Congress has three great strengths:

Congress is, by far, the most representative institution in the United States. We live in a complicated country of vast size and remarkable diversity. Our people are many; they're spread far and wide; and they represent a great variety of beliefs, religions, and ethnicities. It isn't easy for such a country to live together peacefully and productively. Although Congress does not perfectly mirror the demographics of the American people, it does help bind us together by representing the country's great diversity.

Congress is also accessible—much more so than any other part of the federal government. Congress is the primary "listening post" of the people. If an ordinary American has a complaint or suggestion about the government, he cannot reach the President, or the Vice President, or a cabinet secretary—or even a deputy assistant secretary. He can reach his Representative or Senator.

And Congress is our nation's chief deliberative body. It is the place where the many views and interests of the American people on all manner of subjects get thrashed out. It remains the central forum for vigorous public debate, consensus building and decision making on the most important issues of the day.

Second, I'd like you to explain that Congress has a major impact on people's everyday lives.

Many Americans believe Congress accomplishes little and is simply irrelevant to their daily lives. I'd like you to help correct that misperception.

While Congress is no longer the most powerful institution in the national government—as it was at the beginning of the 19th

century—it is still an important shaper of national life.

Americans pay more attention to Congress as they understand the impact congressional decisions have on the fabric of their lives. When Congress funds basic research in science, it's helping create the future cures for deadly diseases. When it raises the minimum wage, it's enabling people to rise out of poverty. When it protects national parks, it's preserving our natural heritage.

I want Americans—I want your students—to appreciate that nearly every aspect of their lives is touched by the decisions of Congress.

It's remarkable how quickly we forget that Congress has been involved in some big things in recent years: Erasing the federal deficit; Overhauling the welfare and public housing systems; Rewriting telecommunications laws; Approving billions to improve roads and bridges; and Liberalizing international trade.

Although we may not all like what Congress did on each of these issues, after debating policy options and gauging public sentiment, it acted.

Third, I'd like you to emphasize that Congress was not designed to move quickly and efficiently.

One of the most common complaints about the Congress is that it's always arguing and bickering. I must have heard the complaint a hundred times: "Why can't you guys ever agree?"

This perception is a major factor in the public's lack of confidence in the institution.

Why is it so difficult for Congress to reach agreement? Part of the answer involves politics. The struggle for partisan or personal advantage, particularly in an election year, can stall the work of Congress substantially.

But there is much more to it than that. Our system of government was intentionally set up with many checks and balances to prevent hasty action. Legislative dispute and delay, while frustrating, are not necessarily signs of democracy in decay.

The task of achieving consensus is made especially difficult today because the issues before Congress are so numerous, complex and technical, and they come at Members with staggering rapidity.

In the *Federalist Papers*, Madison wrote that a Member of Congress must understand just three issues: commerce, taxation and the militia. To a Member today, that observation is a bit quaint, to say the least.

Take the ten most difficult issues facing our country and you can be sure that Congress will take each of them up in some form over the coming year.

People misunderstand Congress' role if they demand that Congress be a model of efficiency and quick action. Congress can work quickly if a broad consensus exists in the country. But such a consensus is rare—especially on the tough issues at the forefront of public life today. Usually, Congress must build a consensus. It cannot simply impose one on the American people.

The quest for consensus can be painfully slow, and even exasperating, but it is the only way to resolve disputes peacefully and produce policies that reflect the varied perspectives of our diverse citizenry.

Fourth, I'd like you to highlight the great dynamism and complexity of the legislative process.

When I visit with students in American government classes, I make a point of flipping through their textbooks to see the diagram illustrating "How a Bill Becomes a Law". The diagram usually explains that a piece of legislation, once introduced, moves through subcommittee and committee, then to the House and Senate floors, then to a House-Senate conference, and finally to the President for his signature or veto.

In a technical sense, of course, these diagrams are generally accurate. But my reaction to them is: "How boring! How sterile!" They fail to convey the challenge, the hard work, the excitement, the obstacles to overcome, the political pressures, the defeats suffered, and the victories achieved to enact legislation. They give a woefully incomplete picture of how complicated and untidy the legislative process can be, and they barely hint at the clash of interests and the multitude of difficult things a Member must do to shepherd an idea into law.

One of the most important and time-consuming aspects of the legislative process is conversation: the scores—even hundreds—of one-on-one talks that a skillful Member will have with colleagues to make the case for a particular bill, to learn what arguments opponents will use to try to block it, and to get a sense of what adjustments might be needed to move it along.

These conversations end up posing difficult dilemmas to a Member pushing a bill. For instance, should the Member alter the proposal to broaden its appeal, or keep the bill as it is and hope to defeat the opposition?

How should the Member use the media—to rally public support behind the measure, put pressure on opponents, and advance the legislation?

The increased size and scope of individual bills today makes the legislative process still more complicated. Almost half of the major bills are referred to more than one committee in each chamber. Ad hoc caucuses are sometimes created to address new concerns. As the number of actors involved proliferates, the possibilities for conflict over a bill increase.

All of this adds up to a process that is extremely dynamic, unpredictable and messy. There are ways for astute Members to get around nearly every stage in the traditional model of the process.

Even for Members, it can be difficult to know when and where the key decisions on a bill will be made.

Fifth, I'd like you to teach that what this country needs is more, not fewer, politicians.

Members of Congress are, first and foremost, politicians. Their number one objective is to get re-elected.

Yet the art of politics does not often get high praise these days. When the federal government was almost shut down a few years back, that was considered "politics". When Washington, D.C. was consumed by the impeachment of President Clinton, and the rest of the people's business had to take a back seat, that was attributed to "politics".

Showing skill as a "politician" has come to mean demonstrating the ability to raise campaign funds, to engage in the tit-for-tat exchange of negative advertising, to fudge your positions, or to jockey for public support based on polls and focus groups.

But the fact is that good politicians are vital to the success of our representative democracy. When I say "politician," I mean someone who knows how to practice the art of politics.

This art involves an assortment of important, but often underappreciated, skills. Good politicians must know how to listen—in order to find out what people want. They must be able to build support for their ideas with colleagues, constituents and key individuals. They must search for common ground across parties and among people with diverse interests. They must be able to compromise while preserving core beliefs. And they must get results—achieving passage of legislation that meets people's needs.

To avoid coming apart at the seams, our country needs people who know how to practice the art of politics. That is what good politicians do: they make democratic gov-

ernment possible in a nation alive with competing factions.

Politicians may not be popular, but they are indispensable to making representative democracy work.

That's why we need more politicians, not fewer.

Sixth, I'd like you to teach that Members of Congress behave better than people think.

The perception that Members are corrupt, or immoral, or enriching themselves at the taxpayer's expense, takes a serious toll on our system of government.

Americans of all stripes like to dwell on misbehavior by Members of Congress. People look at the latest scandal and assume they're seeing the real Congress. But they're not, not by a long shot.

Don't get me wrong. I'm not proposing my former colleagues for sainthood. But as the press lauds two vice presidential candidates—Republican Dick Cheney and Democrat Joe Lieberman—for their probity in Congress, we should remember that probity is the rule, not the exception.

Some Members, of course, do engage in improper conduct—and our system of financing elections degrades politician and donor alike—but my experience is that most Members are remarkable people who care deeply about our country and seek to better it through their public service. Most could make far more money on the outside, but choose to serve in Congress because they want to contribute to their country.

Moreover, the ethical standards in Congress are higher than ever before. When I entered the House, gifts and the use of campaign contributions for personal use were unrestricted; financial disclosure was not required of Members; there was no written code of conduct; and no standing House ethics committee existed to police the membership. All that has changed.

Certainly, Congress still has major strides to make in this area. The role of the House Ethics Committee, for instance, has not yet been fully worked out, and its performance has been disappointing over the last few years.

But the ethical climate at the Capitol is light years ahead of where it was a couple of decades ago. And, I might add, light years ahead of the common wisdom.

Seventh, I'd like you to teach that Members of Congress do pay attention to their constituents.

Often I hear that Members of Congress only pay attention to power brokers and big-time donors and don't care about ordinary citizens. That simply is not true.

Sometimes when I stood in front of a roomful of voters, I could feel a curtain of doubt hanging between them and me: I took the positions I did, they believed, because of this or that campaign contribution, not because I'd spent time studying and weighing the merits of issues. They had given themselves over to cynicism, and cynicism is the great enemy of democracy. It is very difficult for public officials to govern when their character, values, and motives are always suspect.

Of course, Members of Congress are influenced by special interests—often too much, in my view—but they are even more influenced by their constituents.

Members are—for the most part—very good politicians. They know what their constituents think. They hold numerous public meetings, poll their districts regularly, talk on the phone with constituents frequently, and answer hundreds of letters and e-mail messages daily. They are constantly helping to solve constituents' problems.

Members really do believe that constituent views are important; during all my years in Congress I never heard a Member say other-

My view, in fact, is that Members are sometimes too close to their constituents—particularly when they risk reflecting their constituents' views at the expense of their own judgment. It was Lincoln who said that the art of democratic government is to be out in front of your constituents, but not too far out in front.

Eighth, I'd like you to emphasize that citizens play an essential role in making Congress work.

The American people bear more responsibility for the success of our representative democracy than they realize. If people don't participate in the political process, their views cannot be effectively represented. This is not just a matter of voting. Our system depends upon open and trusting interaction between representatives and the people who elected them.

Let me give you an example of what I mean. Back in the late 1970s, I was meeting with a group of constituents in Switzerland County, a deeply rural, tobacco growing county in the far southern corner of Indiana. It was not a place I expected to come for enlightenment on international politics.

While talking with the group, though, the subject of the Panama Canal treaties came up. This was well before the media had focused on the issue, but a man I'd never met suddenly stood up and laid out the clearest, most evenly reasoned argument for ratification that I ever did hear on the matter—even after the treaty debate mushroomed into a raging national issue. I was flabbergasted, but took it as a humbling reminder that as a Member of Congress, you can always find constituents who can teach you a thing or two about an issue.

My constituent in Switzerland County understood that the relationship between a citizen and a representative requires more than a quick handshake, or a vote, or a moment's pause to sign a computer-generated postcard. He understood that there must be a conversation, a process of mutual education, between citizens and representatives.

Many Americans have given up on the conversation. They must understand that they need to get involved if they want our system to improve.

They need to know that the nature of this relationship between the representative and the represented—and the honesty of the exchange between the two—shapes the strength of our representative democracy.

Ninth, I hope you teach that Congress needs a lot of improvement—to make it more accountable, transparent, responsive and efficient.

I urge you to be unrelenting critics of the Congress—but in the context of everything else I've said so far.

I won't go into detail here because you are familiar with these problems.

The incessant money chase—to fund increasingly costly campaigns—diverts Members' attention from their important responsibilities and leads to a growing sense that access is bought and sold.

Many Members—especially Members of the House—operate today in a state of perpetual campaigning. Rather than trying to develop consensus and pass laws, they view the legislative session primarily as an opportunity to frame issues and position themselves for the next election.

It is extremely difficult to defeat incumbents in Congress. Their financial advantages are great and they use the redistricting process to create districts that are heavily partisan in their favor.

Bitter partisanship and personal attacks have become all too common in Congress—poisoning the atmosphere and making it harder to meet the needs of the country.

Special interest groups have too much influence over Congress. They play an impor-

tant role by representing the views of different segments of the population, but they often have tunnel vision—advancing narrow interests at the expense of the national interest.

The committee system has been eroded and is close to collapse. Legislation is regularly drafted in informal settings outside the authorizing committees and brought directly to the House or Senate floor.

Congress devotes too little attention to some of the country's major long-range challenges. How can we ensure that we have adequate food, energy, and water supplies well into the future? How do we maintain a prosperous and open economy? What domestic and international environmental challenges will we face? Congress spends so much of its time struggling to pass its basic spending bills that these kinds of long-term issues are simply set aside and not dealt with.

Congress doesn't perform adequate oversight of government programs. Oversight of the implementation of laws is at the very core of good government. But congressional oversight has shifted away in recent years from the systematic review of programs to highly politicized investigations of individual public officials.

Current scheduling practices make it difficult for Congress to carry out its responsibilities. The 2 1/2 to 3 day legislative work-week makes it impossible for Members to attend all of their committee meetings and other official business.

There is a severe lack of accountability in the appropriations process. Congress increasingly turns to omnibus legislation—combining hundreds of different provisions into one huge bill, tacking on unrelated riders and wasteful earmarks, and allowing only one up-or-down vote on the entire package. Simply put, these bills are abominations.

The rules for the consideration of bills in the House are often too restrictive. Although there has been some improvement in the 106th Congress, the House leadership has tended over the years to design rules that sharply curtail debate, restrict the opportunity for the average Member to participate, and limit the amendments and policy options that can be considered.

The Senate regularly fails to consider presidential nominations for key judicial posts and cabinet positions in a timely manner. This practice blocks appointments that are critical for the effective functioning of our government.

Congress must take its own reform seriously. It should work on reform every year—not every ten years, as has been its pattern.

Finally, I'd like you to teach that in spite of these many problems with Congress, our representative democracy works. It may be slow, messy, cumbersome, and even unresponsive at times, but it has many strengths, and continues to serve us well.

Some say our institutions of government—including the Congress—create more problems than they solve. In the past decade, we experienced an intensified assault on government from some quarters, and "government" and "Washington, D.C." became bad words, symbols of the worst kind of corruption and waste. My hope is that we are now beginning to move away from that kind of extreme anti-government rhetoric. The more positive tone of the present presidential campaign would suggest that we are.

Representative democracy, for all its faults, is our best hope for dealing with our nation's problems. It works through a process of deliberation, negotiation and compromise—in a word, the process of politics. Politics is the way we represent the will of the people in this country. At its best, our representative democracy gives a system whereby all of us have a voice in the process and a stake in the product.

I don't for a moment agree with those who think that our representative democracy has failed or that the future of the country is bleak.

Just consider the condition of America today. In general I think it is a better place than it was when I came to Congress some 35 years ago.

Of course, our country still faces serious problems—from reducing economic inequality to improving access to health care to strengthening our schools—but overall we are doing quite well.

We must be doing something right.

Churchill's remark that "democracy is the worst system devised by the wit of man, except for all the others," still rings true.

I would hope that when each student leaves your class, he or she would appreciate that this representative democracy of ours works reasonably well.

RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL WALK OUR CHILD TO SCHOOL DAY IN HONOR OF JOHN LAZOR

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Wendy Lazor, Councilman Ed Fitzgerald, the Lakewood City Council, and the Lakewood Board of Education for their work in establishing the "International Walk your Child to School Day," in honor and memory of John Lazor.

The tragic loss of three-year-old John Lazor occurred on April 26, 2000, while on an innocent walk to the corner store with his day care provider. A pickup truck backed from across the street into the driveway which young John was standing in, killing him instantly. This tragedy emphasizes the importance of taking precautions and the need for children's safety education. John's courageous mother, Wendy Lazor, has decided to dedicate herself to the advocacy of pedestrian safety, especially children. Amazingly, she found strength in the midst of her loss to work as an advocate for the public good. She is the driving force behind Lakewood, Ohio's recent resolution to establish Wednesday, October 4, 2000, as National Walk Our Children to School Day.

Along with the help of the Lakewood Board of Education, City Council and Councilman Ed Fitzgerald, The Lakewood Early Childhood Professionals has decided to dedicate a special event, the National Walk Our Children to School Day, in John Lazor's honor. All of Lakewood can participate in this event, in which the purpose is to provide an opportunity for adults to teach children about pedestrian safety and choosing safe routes to school, and to help make our communities more safe for walking. Because Lakewood is a densely populated city, and one in whose children typically walk to and from school on a daily basis, the City Board of Education has decided to support and encourage participation in National Walk Our Children to School Day. The city's main event, honoring the memory of Wendy Lazor's son, John, will be held at his old school, Franklin Elementary.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my fellow colleagues to rise with me in recognition of the hard work

and dedication of Wendy Lazor, Councilman Ed Fitzgerald, and the rest of the City of Lakewood's Public and Educational Leadership for their support of the National Walk Our Children to School Day. And let us honor the memory of the young John Lazor, and the courage of his mother, Wendy, for striving to better the community even in the face of personal strife and distress. Her selfless compassion and triumph in the face of tragedy is inspirational to all.

COMMENDING THE AMARILLO
VETERANS AFFAIRS HEALTH
CARE SYSTEM

HON. LARRY COMBEST

OF TEXAS

HON. MAC THORNBERRY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2000

Mr. COMBEST. Mr. Speaker, I, along with my distinguished colleague, Mr. THORNBERRY, wish to congratulate the Amarillo Veterans Affairs (VA) Health Care System for receiving the Robert W. Carey Quality Award from the Department of Veterans Affairs. This annual award is one of the highest honors that a VA facility can receive. The Carey Award recognizes model organizations for their quality transformation efforts, organizational effectiveness, and improvements in performance service and satisfying customers. The Amarillo VA Health Care System, which provides medical assistance to veterans throughout the Texas and Oklahoma Panhandles and portions of Eastern New Mexico and Southern Kansas, received the 2000 Carey Award for the health care category.

The Amarillo VA Health Care System serves a population of 75,000 veterans and houses an acute care facility, nursing home, two community-based outpatient clinics, and four contractual primary care clinics. Over 25,000 patients are treated annually, including 3,300 inpatient and over 200,000 outpatient visits. They have implemented a wide variety of innovative measures, from moving the Substance Abuse Program to an outpatient setting to restructuring Primary Care and to establishing a safety program to reduce employee accidents. Through the use of employee teams, the hospital now administers a Bar Code Medication Administration, which uses computer technology to track and monitor patient medications. In addition, they have established a pilot program of the Computerized Patient Record System, enabling the hospital to coordinate patient information so that all aspects of the health care system may be utilized.

The mission of the Veterans Health Administration and the Amarillo VA Health Care System is to improve the health of the served population by providing primary, specialty, and extended care, and related social support services through an integrated health care delivery program. As a learning organization, the VA Health Care System continually raises the standard for VA facilities nationwide. By focusing on trust, teamwork, and continuous improvement, the Amarillo VA has been able to greatly reduce the costs of primary care, increase the quality of health care available and

improve employee relations. These combined efforts have built a facility that provides an invaluable service to thousands of veterans.

It is with pride that we recognize the doctors, nurses, administrators, volunteers, and other staff who have contributed to this outstanding accomplishment. Thanks to their tremendous efforts, West Texas is home to an outstanding veteran health care provider. We wholeheartedly extend our congratulations to the Amarillo VA Health Care System for receiving the 2000 Robert W. Carey Quality Award.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2000

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, because I was unavoidably detained, I missed Roll Call Votes #503, 504 and 505 yesterday.

Had I been present, I would have voted "Yea" on each bill.

HONORING KATARYNA CHOMIK

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2000

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I am happy today to recognize the accomplishments of a woman who has unselfishly worked to improve the quality of life for our citizens. On Tuesday, October 10, members of Flint, Michigan's International Institute will gather to present to Mrs. Kataryna Chomik its prestigious Golden Door Award, given annually to an immigrant who has made a positive impact on the greater Flint community and the Institute itself.

Born in February of 1920, in the Western Ukraine, Irena, as she has come to be known, grew up with her parents and seven sisters. As a child, Irena promised to never leave her home or family. However, several family tragedies, including the death of her father, prompted Irena's mother to send her away to work as a companion and nursemaid to Maria Lewicka, the daughter of a Ukrainian priest who was recovering from a spinal injury. Although Irena's strong faith had been forged early in her life, this experience strengthened her beliefs and her commitment to service.

At the beginning of World War II, Irena was sent to a school for kindergarten teachers, and upon graduation, managed a village program. The war progressed and headed in the direction of Irena's town. Ukrainian churches were being destroyed and the clergy exterminated, but Irena continued to work to preserve her heritage. As a result, she was sentenced to ten years of hard labor by a Soviet war court, but was later retried and released. After this, Irena fled on foot, finding refuge in a Czechoslovakian convent, where the Sisters bought her a plane ticket to Belgium.

It was in Belgium that Irena met Nicholas Chomik, who would later become her husband. On Christmas Eve 1950, the Chomiks, along with their daughter, Olga, were welcomed to their new life in the United States by a sight that told them that all their struggles

had not been for naught—the Statue of Liberty. After living on the East Coast for a year, the Chomiks moved to Flint, where Nicholas found employment with General Motors, and Irena worked as a seamstress. During this time, the Chomiks were blessed with two more daughters, Mary and Daria.

It was during this time that Irena began a long-standing relationship with the group that greatly helped her when she first came to America, the International Institute. Irena was always on hand volunteering on various committees, and participating in activities such as international dance exhibitions, parades, and her annual Ukrainian Easter Egg workshops.

Mr. Speaker, I am truly fascinated by stories such as Kataryna Chomik's. Through tremendous adversity, she has been able to live the true American dream. She is truly an inspiration to all who come into contact with her. I ask my colleagues in the 106th Congress to please join me to congratulate and wish Irena the very best.

A TRIBUTE TO THE MINORITY
ARTS RESOURCE COUNCIL

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2000

Mr. BRADY. Mr. Speaker, today I honor the Minority Arts Resource Council as it sponsors the Third Annual African American Rodeo in the First Congressional District. The rodeo focuses on the important contributions of African American Western pioneers. It also offers the opportunity for thousands of inner city school children to view a part of American history that has been left out of history books.

The African American Rodeo is a real life exciting spectacle that spotlights the role African Americans played in the settling and shaping of the American West. It tells the stories of the legendary Black heroes of the old West, including Bill Pickett, who invented the sport of bulldogging or steer wrestling. If he had not been banned from competing with white rodeo contestants, Pickett may well have become one of the greatest rodeo record setters.

Therefore, I proudly support the African American Rodeo and I thank MARC for its efforts to showcase the contribution of the Black cowboy so that our children can learn about an important American story that for too long has gone untold.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2000

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, September 25, 2000 I was unavoidably detained in my district. During my absence, I missed roll call votes 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, and 492.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on each of the motions.

SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION RESEARCH PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 25, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I stand in support of H.R. 2392 which would reauthorize the Small Business Innovation Research Program (SBIR). The current SBIR authorization is due to sunset on October 1, 2000. H.R. 2392 would extend the SBIR authorization into the next decade and provide a mechanism for federal agencies to contract with small business for research and development projects. This important program is critical for the support of small high-tech companies and fosters technical innovation which results in the nation's economic growth. The commercialization of research and development results in major economic benefits to the nation; the creation of long-term jobs with subsequent generation of increased income, spending and economic growth.

I know that technological advancement is a key driving force of our national economic growth. The revolution in telecommunications is one example of the effects of technical progress in the growth of the national economy, and also an increase in our standards of living. Technical advances drive the economic growth in several ways; it contributes to the creation of new jobs, new services, new industries and new capital formation. In the past major technological innovation was provided by major corporate research centers. Today small, entrepreneurial companies are playing increasingly important roles in our technological advancement and economic growth. These small high-tech companies create new products and services, develop new industries, and are major factors in driving both technological change and growth in our national economy. The SBIR program is critical to the continuation of the critical involvement of small businesses in our technological advancement. I support H.R. 2392 because it will contribute to the growth of jobs and promote technological innovation.

CONGRATULATING CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2000

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Congregation B'nai Israel in Toms River, New Jersey for its 50th anniversary. Established in 1950, Congregation B'nai Israel has provided a number of important services to the Toms River community. These services are, but not limited to, study of the Torah, a nursery school, a variety of summer programs, numerous youth activities, and adult education programs. Also, important to note is the fact that the congregation has continually provided volunteer services to Caregivers, an interfaith coalition whose mission is to train volunteers to provide home care services the frail elderly, the disabled and the homebound.

Such services are indispensable to the Toms River community.

Since 1950, Congregation B'nai Israel has grown exponentially. Today, the congregation consists of 500 families, which makes it the largest synagogue between Monmouth County and Atlantic City.

It is important to recognize the totality of Congregation B'nai Israel's contributions to the entire Toms River community. Simply put, Congregation B'nai Israel offers the needed atmosphere, environment, and dedication to promote and enrich the lives of each synagogue member.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Congregation B'nai Israel for their upcoming 50th anniversary of their founding. May your gala dinner and dance at the synagogue be joyful.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2000

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to strongly urge the Senate to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). Last week, the House passed VAWA by a vote of 415-3.

VAWA's authorization expired on September 30, 2000. This means that the funding for these programs is scheduled to run out this month.

This law has provided battered women and their children, a safe haven, and the support necessary for their physical and emotional security.

VAWA has given a second chance to these women as well as saved many of their lives.

Violence against women should not be tolerated.

This legislation provides greater protections to all women who have been victimized and abused.

I join my colleagues in urging the Senate to pass the reauthorization bill now.

The women and the children of this nation are depending on the passage of this important piece of legislation to help stop violent crimes against women.

LITTLE FLOWER MANOR MARKS 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2000

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to Little Flower Manor of Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, a nonprofit skilled nursing home which is celebrating its 25th anniversary of compassionate, loving care and service to the community. The Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm operate Little Flower Manor under the auspices of the Diocese of Scranton.

This exceptional facility opened its doors in 1975, a living tribute to the vision, dedication and persistence of the Most Reverend J. Car-

roll McCormick, the late Bishop of Scranton, and the generosity of the faithful of the Diocese.

This dedication to provide service to the aged continues under the leadership of the Most Reverend James C. Timlin, the present Bishop of Scranton. At Little Flower Manor, each resident is given the attention required to enable him or her to maintain personal dignity, individuality and independence.

A 25th Anniversary Gala will be held Nov. 3, 2000, at the Woodlands Inn and Resort with Judge Peter Olszewski as guest speaker. Sister Jeanette D. Lindsay, administrator and chief operating officer of Little Flower Manor, will present the inaugural Crystal Rose Award. The honored recipients are Mr. and Mrs. John D. McCarthy and the late Bishop McCormick.

Jack and CeCe McCarthy have been outstanding supporters of the values, commitment and mission of Little Flower Manor, practicing stewardship by giving unselfishly of their time, talents and treasure.

Mr. Speaker, I send my congratulations and best wishes to the McCarthys, the Carmelite Sisters, the Diocese of Scranton, and everyone who plays a part in Little Flower Manor's continued service to its residents.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UKRAINIAN-AMERICAN YOUTH ASSOCIATION

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Ukrainian-American Youth Association's 50 years of distinguished service to Greater Cleveland's Ukrainian youth population.

The Ukrainian-American Youth Association, a group which educates the young about traditional Christian and patriotic values, embodies the very values it pledges to teach. Guided by the principles of organizing, nurturing, and educating youth under the ideals of "God and Ukraine," the Youth Association promotes Christian ethics and pride in their Ukrainian national heritage. Our community has been gracefully elevated due to the work of this dedicated organization which encourages tomorrow's leaders to step forward into positions of leadership in the Ukrainian-American community, as well as the larger local, national, and global communities.

A debt of gratitude is owed to the Ukrainian-American Youth Association. The young, who have been touched by the caring, "spirit invoked" ideals taught there, have grown to become the model citizens and leaders in our community who we are always eager to welcome. Mindful of the role of the citizen in his or her respective locality, the Ukrainian-American Youth Association instructs its youth about the duties and responsibilities of good citizenship, always encouraging and challenging them to become leaders within their Ukrainian culture and their communities-at-large. The firm foundation of educating the Ukrainian youth about the value of freedom should not be underestimated. Rather, it is the very basis for the continuing engagement of our all-too-often apathetic youth, and therefore, the basis of the improvement of our society in both the near and distant future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues rise with me today in celebration of the Ukrainian-American Youth Association's 50 years of service to the Ukrainian-American youth population. Many young persons have surely benefited from the work of this tireless group, and our nation has surely benefitted from the Youth Association's instruction on the virtues and responsibilities of good citizenship and the value of freedom. Let us honor this distinguished group and let us wish them 50 more years of fantastic service to our population.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2000

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, due to the death of my father, I did not attend the session of June 28, 2000 and June 29, 2000. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows on the roll call votes indicated:

#352—yes, #353—yes, #354—yes, #355—no, #356—yes, #357—no, #359—no, #360—no, #361—no, #362—no, #363—yes, #364—no, #365—yes, #366—no, #367—no, #368—no, #369—no, #370—no, #372—yes.

REPUBLIC OF CHINA'S NATIONAL DAY

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2000

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, Taiwan is a free democratic nation in the Pacific and a shining example of economic success and total democratization. Taiwan's accomplishments are too numerous to mention here, but I do want to note that Taiwan's success is directly attributable to its people's industriousness and its leader's wisdom. Today nearly everyone in Taiwan is middle class, and is enjoying the country's many amenities—such as good food, adequate housing, a good transportation system, excellent schools and crime-free neighborhoods. Politically, people can freely express their opinions and elect their leaders at every level. Press freedom and human rights are also guaranteed by Taiwan's constitution.

Therefore, to my friends in Taiwan, I want to go on record stating that you have done a wonderful job and congratulations on your 89th National Day.

HONORING THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY FAMILY SERVICES

HON. JOSEPH M. HOFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2000

Mr. HOFFEL. Mr. Speaker, today I congratulate Family Services as they celebrate 100 years of exemplary service in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. This organization was established when three local non-profit organizations merged. Family Services

of Pottstown, the Lower Montgomery County Service Society, and the Main Line Neighborhood united to provide the community with outstanding social services.

The 13th Congressional District of Pennsylvania benefits from many programs implemented by Family Services. The services provided by this group address a variety of needs including counseling, access to housing, medical care, delivery of meals, identifying peer support systems, and locating resources to prevent future problems.

Family Services works on many programs that have become an integral part of our community including: Meals on Wheels; Project HEARTH (Helping Elderly Adults Remain in Their Homes); Project HOPE, which provides HIV/AIDS Prevention and Support Services; Families and Schools Together; and Safe Kids. Family Services also provides workshops and seminars such as "Family Violence Prevention", "Dating Violence Prevention", and "Partnerships for Community Building", which help families confront many of today's challenges.

It is an honor to recognize the remarkable impact this organization has on the community. Family Services has enhanced the quality of life for many of my constituents and it is a privilege to represent such an extraordinary organization.

IN HONOR OF RITA CESTARIC

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to Rita Cestaric who has been an outstanding citizen of my district and our state. Rita Cestaric's entire life has been one of devotion to her family, her friends and her community. Her passion for service to community helped to encourage the involvement of many people in public life, including myself. She was ever the activist, prodding and pushing, moving mountains on behalf of her city and her nation. She was a civic and political force for decades in North Olmstead, Ohio.

The home of Rita and her devoted husband, John Cestaric, was always a hub of activity in the community. With John's patient support, the Cestaric household was an important stop in any political campaign. Her children, Rita, Carole and John were always in amazement at the endless stream of activity which characterized the Cestaric home. They saw firsthand the impact of their mother's dedication and understood how significant her help was to so many people.

Public officials came to the Cestaric home not only to meet the people of the neighborhood, but they were drawn to Rita. She gave wise counsel to generations of public servants who sought her assistance. She always had a sense of what was in the public interest. Her wisdom was the wisdom of the people and when she spoke you always knew that hers was unmistakably the voice of many. She was an exemplar of the power of women in politics. She was a singular force for encouraging many women to become involved in the civic life of their communities.

Rita Cestaric was an optimist. She faced all challenges in life with equanimity. She suf-

fered the loss of her dear husband John, and still she moved ahead to continue her contributions of her time and her efforts. And when she at last faced her most serious personal challenge to her health, she did so without complaint, but with great inner strength and beauty.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that Members of the House of Representatives of the United States of America join with me in paying tribute to the life of Rita Cestaric, and expressing gratitude for her love of country and her service to community.

TRIBUTE TO MR. AND MRS. WILLIE MCCOY

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2000

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to Willie and Agnes McCoy on the occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary. Sixty years of marriage is an accomplishment that is worthy of recognition, and I'd like to add my wishes for a happy 90th year to Mr. Willie McCoy. He celebrated his 90th Birthday on the 4th of September.

In June of 1940, Willie McCoy and Agnes Green met in Jacksonville, Florida. After an instant connection and brief courtship, Willie and Agnes were married on November 16, 1940. They were wed in the home of a friend by Rev. H.H. Robinson, whose words to them were "always respect each other, and never be too proud to say I'm sorry." Upon this foundation of respect and humility, coupled with love, honesty, and trust, an exemplary marriage was forged.

Throughout their many years together, they have been blessed with seven children, sixteen grandchildren, many great-grandchildren, and a number of wonderful nieces, nephews, and close friends. One of their children, Willie, is a very good friend to me and my family.

To each other, they are gifts from God. To us, they are an example of true love and friendship. Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. and Mrs. Willie McCoy on their 60th wedding anniversary, and Mr. Willie McCoy on his 90th birthday.

RECOGNITION OF YOUTH CIVIC LITERACY MONTH AND THE IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTIONS OF WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY'S CIVIC LITERACY PROJECT

HON. DEBBIE STABENOW

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2000

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the Youth Urban Agenda/Civic Literacy Project of Wayne State University. As a result of their efforts to encourage youth participation in the political process, the month of October 2000 is being recognized as Youth Civic Literacy Month in Wayne County Michigan.

The Youth Urban Agenda/Civic Literacy Project started at Wayne State University in 1986 in an effort to promote programs to

teach students about civic responsibility and provide them with the tools they need to build a real political agenda. This month the Project will convene an international telecommunications event entitled "A Youth Urban Agenda in the New Millennium." The event will be held in Detroit, Michigan with the participation of students and teachers from one hundred twenty middle schools, high schools, adult education programs and post-secondary institutions in Southeast Michigan. They will be linked with teachers and students from major U.S. and non-U.S. cities.

In an era when so many people have become disillusioned with the political process and have stopped participating, it is vitally important that we energize our young people to become involved. It is my pleasure to acknowledge and commend Wayne State University and the Youth Urban Agenda/Civil Literacy Project for its leadership and vision in preparing young people to fully participate in the political process.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2000

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent yesterday, Monday October 2, 2000, and as a result, missed roll call votes 503 through 505. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on roll call vote 503, "yes" on roll call vote 504, and "yes" on roll call vote 505.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB RILEY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2000

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 503, H.R. 4049, the Privacy Commission Act. Had I been present I would have voted "yes". Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 504, H.R. 4147, the Stop Material Unsuitable for Teens Act. Had I been present I would have voted "yea". Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 505, H.R. 3088, the Victims of Rape Health Protection Act. Had I been present I would have voted "yea".

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2000

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I was unavoidably absent on a matter of critical importance and missed the following votes:

On H.R. 4049 (rollcall No. 503), to establish the Commission for the Comprehensive Study of Privacy Protection, introduced by the gentleman from Arkansas, Mr. HUTCHINSON, I would have voted "Nay"

On H.R. 4147 (rollcall No. 504), to amend Title 18 United States Code, to increase the

age of persons considered to be minors for the purposes of the prohibition on transporting obscene materials to minors, introduced by the gentleman from Colorado, Mr. TANCREDO, I would have voted "Yea".

On H.R. 3088 (rollcall No. 505), to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide additional protections to victims of rape, introduced by the gentleman from Pennsylvania, Mr. WELDON, I would have voted "Yea".

IN HONOR OF JOSEPH A. BALZANO

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2000

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I make special note of a very important person who has served the State of New Jersey, the City of Camden, and the Delaware River port community for 50 years.

Mr. Joseph A. Balzano, or Joe as we call him, serves as Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer of the South Jersey Port Commission, Port of Camden. The South Jersey Port Commission hired Joe in 1951 as an equipment operator. He quickly moved into management, serving as the Port Operations Manager from 1961 to 1982, then as Deputy Director of the Commission from 1982 to 1989, and finally as Executive Director and CEO since 1989. On August 22, 2000, he began his 50th year working for the Port of Camden.

My friend Joe has had a very interesting career with many highlights. One of these highlights was his integral role in helping to bring the retired Battleship USS *New Jersey* (BB-62) to its namesake home of New Jersey, and to its final resting place as a national museum docked in the Port of Camden.

Joe was born and raised, attended school, married and raised his family in the City of Camden. He has received many honors and awards over the years—too many to list here—and is among the best senior executives in the maritime industry.

The Port of Camden is thankful that Joe Balzano's knowledge, wisdom, leadership and dedication have blessed New Jersey and the Delaware River port community for five decades. Moreover, we are fortunate that his presence will continue to grace the streets of Camden for years to come.

On behalf of the United States Congress and the 3rd Congressional District of New Jersey, I thank Joe Balzano for his distinguished service and dedication to the Port of Camden and to the State of New Jersey.

COMMEMORATING UNITY DAY

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2000

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I commemorate Unity Day, which is being celebrated in Germany today. October 3, 2000 marks the 10th Anniversary of Germany's Reunification.

Growing up, I learned about two countries called Germany—the West and the East—an

ally and an enemy. For over 40 years, this country was divided; families were separated, and most strikingly, vastly different political ideologies governed these two nations.

However, the highly dynamic 20th Century allowed the generation which witnessed the division of this great nation see it reunified on October 3, 1990. What once seemed impossible became unstoppable as the Berlin Wall opened on November 9, 1989, and streams of excited people crossed into the west. While these people were separated by geography and government, their German heritage and common memory of one country kept them together.

While the desire to reunite these two nations was strong, significant economic, political, and social challenges faced the newly united Germany. Despite these issues, the German government and her people pressed forward, refusing to look back.

Today, Germany has much to celebrate. Now united, this country has defined itself, both as a sovereign nation, and within the context of multinational institutions such as the European Union, NATO, and the United States. In addition, Germany has remained a strong ally of the United States.

As Germany celebrates the realization of freedom and democracy under one flag, let this Congress recognize and offer its congratulations on this milestone of achievement, the 10th Anniversary of German Reunification.

A TRIBUTE TO THE GERMAN
SOCIETY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2000

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, today I honor the German Society of Pennsylvania. Founded in 1764, it is the oldest German American organization in the new world. In celebration of its founding, the Society will hold its 236th Anniversary Ball and its annual German American Day festivities.

The first German immigrants came to the new world after being invited by William Penn to come to his colony. Ultimately, thirteen families settled in what became known as Germantown, one of Philadelphia's oldest sections of the city. These families left their homes in the Rhineland City of Krefeld and arrived in Philadelphia on October 6, 1683, a date celebrated by German Americans as the beginning of their history in the United States.

The flow of German immigrants continued and the poorest of them suffered many hardships and cruelty. As a result the Society was founded, for the express purpose of aiding these distressed immigrants. And, because of the Society's advocacy a series of measures to protect immigrants were enacted.

Today, the Society maintains its presence in the First Congressional District in its historic 1888 landmark building, which is on the national list of historic places. The Society also continues to steadfastly fulfill its mission to serve its members and those who share interests in German and German American culture, heritage and values through its presentations of educational lectures, cultural and arts programs, and seminars.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSEPH M. HOEFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2000

Mr. HOEFFEL. Mr. Speaker, last night I missed the first vote (#503) which authorized a Privacy Commission. I was unavoidably detained on a train from Philadelphia which was late in arriving. If present, I would have voted "nay" on the motion.

REVIEW BY CONGRESS OF PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF COURT FACILITIES—H.R. 5363

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2000

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to provide for the review by Congress of proposed construction of court facilities, H.R. 5363.

I am introducing this measure in response to my experience with a proposed Federal courthouse project for Orange County, New York.

In April of this year, the Judicial Council of the Second Circuit voted to rescind its prior 1992 approval for construction of a Federal courthouse in Orange County, New York.

This project began in 1991, when then Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court of the Southern District of New York the honorable Charles L. Brient, requested the board of judges to study future planning for court facilities west of the Hudson River. Subsequently, on June 1992, the board of judges of the southern district found that there was a need for a courthouse to meet the growing demands in the mid-Hudson Valley Region of New York, and voted unanimously to authorize the chief judge to apply to the Judicial Council of the Second Circuit for approval of a Federal District Court-house west of the Hudson.

Following approval of the Judicial Council of the Second Circuit on July 28, 1992, the matter was referred to the court administration and case management committee of the judicial conference of the United States. The committee reported favorably and voted unanimously in a March 1993 session of the judicial conference of the United States to "seek legislation on the court's behalf to amend title 28 of the U.S. Code, section 112(b) to establish a place for holding court in the Middletown/Walkill area of Orange County or such nearby location as may be deemed appropriate."

Accordingly, during the 104th Congress, Public Law 104-317 was approved designating that "court for the southern district shall be held at New York, White Plains, and in Middletown-Walkill area of Orange County or such nearby location as may be appropriate."

In an attempt to proceed forward in an expeditious matter the administrative office of the courts and the U.S. General Services Administration, both concurring with the need for a courthouse in Orange County, determined that a facility could and should be constructed and paid through GSA's current funding.

This project had and still has clear evidence denoting the growth in population and eco-

nomics activity in Dutchess, Orange, and Sullivan County in New York, as well as steady increases in caseload from the mid-Hudson Valley region. In fact, current statistics suggests that the need is even greater now than previously ascertained by Congress in 1996. The number of cases in 1999 that could have gone to an Orange County Courthouse, based on the location of the litigants or the attorney's residence, increased to 312, up from 290 in 1996. Moreover, the population for the region has increased to 671,767, up from 656,740 in 1996 and the total labor force has risen to 309,100 up from 301,800 in 1996.

Furthermore, it should be noted that while Congress may have acquiesced in the closure of some courthouses which have become redundant, based on considerations of economy and efficiency, I know of no situation where a court has refused to provide judicial services at a location designated by statute, where both the need exists and there is strong local support for the service. Such was and still is clearly the case with regard to the Orange County project.

Accordingly, while it is now current practice, as denoted by title 28 of the U.S. Code, for the U.S. Administrative Office of the Courts and the GSA to develop a rolling five year plan denoting the need for courthouse construction, I believe it is important for Congress to have a say in this important matter.

The legislation I introduced today will require the director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts to submit for approval to the Congress a report setting forth the courts plans for proposed construction. Congress will have 30 legislative days to disapprove of the proposed construction.

It has become apparent to me after the experience I have had with both the Board of Judges of the southern district and the Judicial Council of the Second Circuit that an imperialistic attitude among many of our Federal judges prevail.

The decision as to whether or not to move forward with construction of a court facility is no longer based on existing evidence and data showing the need, but instead on the personal thoughts of the judges involved.

This legislation will end that practice. Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5363.

H.R. 5363

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled.

SECTION 1. CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW OF NEW CONSTRUCTION FOR FEDERAL COURTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 462 of title 28, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(g) (1) Facilities for holding court may not be constructed unless—

"(A) the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts submits to the Congress a report setting forth the plans for the proposed construction; and

"(B) 30 days have elapsed and the Congress has not, before the end of that 30-day period, enacted a provision of law stating in substance that the Congress disapproves the proposed construction.

"(2) For purposes of paragraph (1), construction of facilities includes the alteration, improvement, remodeling, reconstruction, or enlargement of any building for purposes of holding court.

"(3) The 30-day period referred to in paragraph (1) shall be computed by excluding—

"(A) the days on which either House is not in session because of an adjournment of more than 3 days to a day certain or an adjournment of the Congress sine die; and

"(B) any Saturday and Sunday, not excluded under subparagraph (A), when either House is not in session."

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 462 of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by inserting before the period at the end the following: ", and subject to subsection (g)";

(2) in subsection (c), by inserting before the period at the end the following: ", and subject to subsection (g)"; and

(3) in subsection (f), by inserting "subject to subsection (g)," after "Director requests,".

CHINA'S HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS DISQUALIFY BEIJING FROM HOSTING THE 2008 OLYMPIC GAMES**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 4, 2000

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, last Thursday, I introduced House Resolution 601, a resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Olympic Games in the year 2008 should NOT be held in Beijing in the People's Republic of China. Joining me as cosponsors of this resolution are a distinguished bipartisan group of our colleagues who are leaders in the area of human rights the Gentleman from California, Mr. COX; the gentleman from Virginia, Mr. WOLF; the gentleman from New Jersey, Mr. SMITH; the gentlewoman from California, Ms. PELOSI; the gentleman from Illinois, Mr. PORTER; and the gentleman from California, Mr. ROHRBACHER.

Mr. Speaker, Beijing is one of five cities currently under consideration by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to host the games in the year 2008. Four other cities are also still in the running—Istanbul, Turkey; Osaka, Japan; Paris, France; and Toronto, Canada. The decision on the venue for the 2008 Games will be made by the IOC at its meeting in Moscow in July 2001. Since the decision will be made in only nine months, it is important that any expression of the views of the House of Representatives be made known quickly.

Mr. Speaker, the human rights record of the People's Republic of China is abominable and it is getting worse, not better. It is completely inconsistent with the Olympic ideal to hold the Games in Beijing. As our resolution spells out in greater detail, according to most recent State Department's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, the government of China "continued to commit widespread and well-documented human rights abuses, in violation of internationally accepted norms."

I reject the argument that holding the games in Beijing will encourage the Chinese government to clean up its act with regard to human rights. The Mayor of Beijing, in connection with the city's bid to host the games, already informed a rally in the city that in preparation for the Games, the government will "resolutely smash and crack down on Falun Gong and other evil cults." If Beijing's bid is accepted, there will be more—not fewer—human rights violations.

Mr. Speaker, the venue of the Olympic Games has great significance. Hitler's Berlin Olympics of 1936 were nothing more than a propaganda exercise—an attempt to fool other countries into believing that Nazi Germany was a model world citizen. Holding the games in Beijing will convey a message that is inconsistent with the Olympic ideal.

Clearly the venue for the Olympic Games is a decision that will be made by the IOC, but clearly this is an issue on which the U.S. Congress can and should express its opinion. If we do not to express our views in the face of China's egregious human rights violations, we would be derelict in our responsibilities.

In 1993, as the IOC was considering the venue for the 2000 Olympic Games, Mr. Speaker, I introduced a resolution which expressed the sense of the House of Representatives that the Olympics in the year 2000 should not be held in Beijing or elsewhere in the People's Republic of China. That resolution was approved by an overwhelming vote in the House of Representatives on July 26, 1993. A Short while later, the IOC voted to accept the bid of Sydney, Australia, as host to the 2000 games.

Mr. Speaker, it is imperative that we continue to call the attention of the world community to the serious violation of human rights by the government of the People's Republic of China. Holding the games in Beijing, if human rights violations continue unabated, would be so contrary to the spirit of the Olympics that the Beijing games would go down in history in much the same terms as Hitler's 1936 games. This is an issue on which this House should express its view.

Mr. Speaker, I submit the full text of House Resolution 601 to be printed in the RECORD. The text of the resolution spells out in greater detail the concerns we have regarding China's record on human rights and its inconsistency with the Olympic ideal.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 601

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that without improvement in human rights the Olympic Games in the year 2000 should not be held in Beijing in the People's Republic of China.

Whereas the International Olympic Committee is now in the process of determining the venue of the Olympic Games in the year 2000 and is scheduled to make that decision at the IOC meeting scheduled for Moscow in July 2001;

Whereas the city of Beijing has made a proposal to the International Olympic Committee that the summer Olympic Games in the year 2000 be held in Beijing;

Whereas the Olympic Charter states that "Olympism" and the Olympic ideal seek to foster "respect for universal fundamental ethical principles";

Whereas the United Nations General Assembly in resolution 48/11 adopted on October 25, 1993, recognized "that the Olympic goal of the Olympic Movement is to build a peaceful and better world by educating the youth of the world through sport, practiced without discrimination of any kind and the Olympic spirit, which requires mutual understanding, promoted by friendship, solidarity and fair play;

Whereas United National General Assembly in resolution 50/13 of November 7, 1995, stressed "the importance of the principles of the Olympic charter, according to which any

form of discrimination with regard to a country or a person on grounds of race, religion, politics, sex or otherwise is incompatible with the Olympic Movement;

Whereas the State Department's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 1999 reports that

(1) "The [Chinese] Government continued to commit widespread and well-documented human rights abuses, in violation of internationally accepted norms."

(2) "Abuses included instances of extrajudicial killings, torture and mistreatment of prisoners, forced confessions, arbitrary arrest and detention, lengthy incommunicado detention, and denial of due process."

(3) "The Government infringed on citizens' privacy rights."

(4) "The Government tightened restrictions on freedom of speech and of the press, and increased controls on the Internet; self-censorship by journalists also increased."

(5) "The Government severely restricted freedom of assembly and continued to restrict freedom of association."

(6) "The Government continued to restrict freedom of religion and intensified controls on some unregistered churches."

(7) "The Government continued to restrict freedom of movement."

(8) The Government does not permit independent domestic nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) to monitor publicly human rights conditions."

(9) "Violence against women, including coercive family planning practices—which sometimes include forced abortion and forced sterilization; prostitution; discrimination against women; trafficking in women and children; abuse of children; and discrimination against the disabled and minorities are all problems."

(10) "The Government continued to restrict tightly worker rights, and forced labor in prison facilities remains a serious problem. Child labor persists."

(11) "Particularly serious human rights abuses persisted in some minority area, especially in Tibet and Xinjiang, where restrictions on religion and other fundamental freedoms intensified."

Whereas, according to press reports, Liu Qi, the Mayor of Beijing, told a rally called to promote Beijing's bid to host the Olympic Games that the government would "resolutely smash and crack down on Falun Gong and other evil cults" in preparation for hosting the games;

Whereas, the egregious human rights abuses committed by the Government of China are inconsistent with the Olympic ideal; and

Whereas on July 26, 1993, the House of Representatives adopted House Resolution 188 in the 103rd Congress which expressed the sense of the House of Representatives that the Olympics in the year 2000 should not be held in Beijing or elsewhere in the People's Republic of China;

Now, therefore, be it Resolved that the House of Representatives

(1) welcomes the participation of Chinese athletes in the Olympic Games, notes the outstanding competitive effort of Chinese athletes in the games in Sydney, Australia, where Chinese athletes placed third in the number of medals earned, and in Atlanta, Georgia, and Barcelona, Spain, where Chinese athletes also placed third in the number of medals earned, and wholeheartedly welcomes the support of the Chinese people for the Olympic Games;

(2) acknowledges that the Chinese people and thousands of Chinese Olympic athletes have shown their strong support for the Olympic spirit through their commitment to excellence, energy, skill, sportsmanship, and good will towards their fellow athletes;

(3) expresses the sense of the House of Representatives that the Olympic Games in the year 2000 should not be held in Beijing in the People's Republic of China because the deplorable human rights record of the People's Republic of China violates international human rights standards which that Government has pledged to uphold and its actions are inconsistent with the Olympic ideal;

(4) expresses the view that the House looks forward to the day when the House can support a proposal of the People's Republic of China to host the Olympic Games at a time when the Chinese people openly enjoy the tolerance and freedoms espoused by the high ideals of the Olympic tradition; and

(5) directs the Clerk of the House of Representatives to transmit a copy of this resolution to the Chairman of the International Olympic Committee and to the United States representative to the International Olympic Committee with the request that it be circulated to all members of the committee.

RECOGNITION OF CARLEY ZELL AS GEORGIA'S OLDER WORKER OF THE YEAR

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 4, 2000

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Carley Zell as the recipient of this year's Georgia's Older Worker of the Year award. Mr. Zell was given the award during the Georgia Older Worker Conference and 12th Annual Awards Luncheon. The award was presented to Mr. Zell by the Georgia Labor Commissioner Michael Thurmond. Mr. Zell has lived in three centuries and has yet to retire. He has continued to work and contribute to his family and community. Let me take a moment to applaud Mr. Zell's dedication and contributions.

Mr. Zell owns Zell Enterprises which he founded in 1958. His company includes rental properties that are located in Brunswick and the Jacksonville Warehouse Co. Mr. Zell started his first job at age 12 delivering newspapers for the Brunswick News. The year after he graduated from Glynn Academy, he served as an apprentice seaman in the U.S. Navy. During his time in the Navy, he managed a shipyard cafeteria that served 30,000 workers daily, as they built ships at the Brunswick shipyards during World War II.

Please join me again in applauding Mr. Zell. He represents what is best in America—he is a self-learner, and through hard work and persistence has reached the true meaning of success. Let us all take direction from him and strive to obtain his love for work. He has continually given to his community and never asked for anything back in return. Our society today needs more people like him to inspire and continually give relentlessly.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF CONGRESS
REGARDING TAIWAN'S PARTICI-
PATION IN THE UNITED NATIONS

SPEECH OF

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2000

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member rises in strong support of H. Con. Res. 390. This Member would first like to express his sincere appreciation to the distinguished gentleman from Colorado [Mr. SCHAFFER] for introducing this resolution on September 6, 2000 and for working with this Member and staff on a limited number of modifications to the resolution as introduced. In addition, this Member would also like to thank the distinguished Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific [Mr. LANTOS], the distinguished Chairman of the Committee on International Relations [Mr. GILMAN] and the Committee's distinguished Ranking Member [Mr. GEJDENSON], for supporting this resolution and moving it expeditiously forward to the House Floor for consideration.

House Concurrent Resolution 390 expresses this body's strong support for Taiwan's participation in the United Nations and other international organizations, including the World Health Organization (WHO). The resolution correctly notes that the 23 million people on Taiwan have much to contribute—both substantively and financially—to the work of international organizations. Clearly, the people on Taiwan should also benefit from the work of the international organizations as do all members of the world community.

In addition, H. Con. Res. 390 recognizes Taiwan's dramatic transformation into a multi-party democracy with a civil society which fully respects human rights and civil liberties. The resolution notes the most recent illustration of Taiwan's democratic development—the March 18, 2000, election of Mr. Chen Shui-bian as president and the peaceful transfer of power on Taiwan from one political party to another on May 20th with the inauguration of Mr. Chen.

Certainly, Taiwan's economic achievements in the last 50 years also give Taiwan a special role in assisting developing economies and contributing to international organizations focused on economic, trade and development matters. Taiwan is the world's 13th largest economy with over \$235 billion in two-way trade. Indeed, Taiwan already is an active and constructive member of the Asia Development Bank and APEC and has been an observer at the World Trade Organization since 1992.

This year, on May 24, 2000, this body clearly and unequivocally spoke in favor of Taiwan's accession to the WTO as a full member by passing H.R. 4444. Given recent statements by representatives of the People's Republic of China, this Member wishes to reaffirm that legislation's commitment that the United States should be prepared to aggressively counter any attempt to delay, set conditions on, or block Taiwan's accession to the WTO. Our strong support for Taiwan's accession to the WTO is clear.

The resolution also calls on the Clinton Administration to uphold the commitment made in its 1994 Taiwan Policy Review to more actively support Taiwan's participation in appropriate international organizations.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, this Member notes that this body has repeatedly passed measures that call for greater participation by Taiwan in international organizations, in particular supporting Taiwan's participation in the United Nations, the World Health Organization, and the World Trade Organization, among others. As Chairman of the Asia and Pacific Subcommittee, this Member believes it is worthwhile for this body to reaffirm its support and commitment to Taiwan's participation in these important international organizations. Therefore, this Member strongly supports the passage of H. Con. Res. 390.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4578,
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2000

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I will vote for this conference report—and I will do so as a strong supporter of the Conservation and Reinvestment Act, or "CARA."

I understand that other supporters of CARA may disagree. They are concerned that passage of this bill will mean that CARA is dead.

But I do not think that is the case. Certainly I will continue working for CARA's enactment this year—and, if that does not occur, and if I am reelected, I will resume the effort next year.

But in the meantime, by passing this conference report we will take an important step toward one of CARA's key goals—that is, toward fulfilling the promise of one of the wisest and most far-sighted conservation measures ever—the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act.

The promise of that Act was that as the federal government sold non-renewable resources, particularly the oil and gas from the outer continental shelf, it would invest a major part of the proceeds in conserving our lands and waters and in helping our local communities to make similar investments.

Unfortunately, because of the budget problems of the past, for too long the Congress fell short of fulfilling that promise. But now the budget situation is different and we have a chance to make up for some of the shortfalls of the past and in fact to expand the benefits for our country.

By passing this bill, we can help our communities respond to the problems of growth and sprawl and to provide much-needed places for sports and outdoor recreation. We can help preserve our open spaces by acquiring inholdings in our parks and forests from people who want to sell. We can help protect threatened and endangered species, and the fish and wildlife resources that are so important to Colorado and the rest of the nation.

By greatly increasing the resources of the Historic preservation Fund we can help preserve the irreplaceable historic legacy of Colorado and our nation—saving historic landmarks, attracting private investment, and helping bring economic vitality to historic sites in Gilpin, Clear Creek, Adams, and Jefferson Counties and to neighborhoods in Boulder, Ar-

vada, and countless other communities in Colorado and across the continent.

And by bolstering the PILT program, we can help the counties and other local governments in areas where the federal government is a major landowner—and we can do it the right way, by providing funds that aren't tied to timber sales or other uses of the federal lands and so without making the local communities hostages to the debates over timber harvests or other extractive uses.

Mr. Speaker, of course this is not a perfect bill—but, all too often we are reminded that there is no perfect legislation.

But, when you consider all that this conference report would do for our country I am convinced that we should approve it today—and, after that, keep on working for the further improvements that will come from enactment of CARA.

H. CON. RES. 64, CERVICAL CAN-
CER PUBLIC AWARENESS RESO-
LUTION

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB RILEY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2000

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend my colleagues in the House for their support of H. Con. Res. 64, the Cervical Cancer Public Awareness Resolution. I am proud to have supported this legislation as a cosponsor.

This resolution recognizes the severity of the issue of cervical cancer. In order to defeat cervical cancer this country must open its eyes to the disease's catastrophic effects. This legislation seeks to accomplish that objective. It calls on the United States as a whole to support individuals who have been afflicted with cervical cancer, as well as their loved ones. This resolution not only makes Americans aware of this horrible disease, it also urges them to take the opportunity to learn about cervical cancer and take advantage of the improved early detection methods now available. Additionally, this legislation articulates Congress's recognition of the importance of federally funded programs that provide cervical cancer screenings and follow-up services to medically underserved individuals. It is vitally important that each and every woman in America have access to these early detection screenings.

Cervical cancer annually strikes an estimated 15,000 women in the United States. It is estimated that during this decade more than 150,000 women will be diagnosed with cervical cancer in the United States. Even more startling is that during an average woman's lifetime cervical cancer strikes one out of every 50 American women. Studies show that although cervical cancer is a preventable disease in a majority of cases it is still one of the leading causes of death among women worldwide. Although these statistics appear dismal, I am optimistic that through awareness and research we can eventually prevent this disease from taking any more lives. Even today, cervical cancer can be successfully treated and even prevented in many cases. The key to prevention is through early detection. Unfortunately, many women are not aware of the dangers or even the existence of cervical cancer, therefore they do not take the proper precautions through early detection screenings.

It is my sincere hope that this legislation will promote widespread awareness throughout the United States. This bill will bring awareness to this very serious disease, and educate all individuals, not only women, on the availability of early detection methods. I believe that through awareness and education we can save thousands of lives, and actually prevent cervical cancer in thousands of other lives. Again, I am proud to have supported the Cervical Cancer Public Awareness Resolution.

IN HONOR OF TOM TOSH OF COMO,
TEXAS

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 4, 2000

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, today, I wish to honor Tom Tosh of Como, Texas. Tom was recently recognized as Texas' Outstanding Older Worker by Green Thumb, America's oldest non-profit provider of senior employment and training. At age sixty-seven, when most people have retired, or are at least considering retirement, Tom went back to work at Custom Shutters Inc. It has now been sixteen years, and Tom Tosh, at age eighty-two, continues to work 40-hour weeks in his position as a specialty craftsman.

Tom truly exemplifies the positive work ethic, experience, loyalty and dependability so important to our society today. According to his personnel manager, Tom is an inspiration because of his untiring dedication to his craft and his company. He is creative, patient, wise, kind, and honest. His knowledge and work ethic motivates workers less than half his age, who, at this rate, will probably end up retiring before he does!

Tom is a navy veteran; he served our country in World War II. In addition to working full-time, Tom volunteers for the American Cancer Society, is a member of his local Veterans of Foreign Wars, swims, sails, and makes jewelry. All this, and he still finds time to dedicate to his wife of 61 years and two children. He is a shining example of America at any age, and truly exemplifies that ability is ageless.

I am proud of work that Green Thumb and other organizations do to strengthen our families, communities, and the Nation. The opportunities, and wisdom that older workers such as Tom Tosh can provide for us are immeasurable. I salute him today.

CONTRIBUTION OF THE CALI-
FORNIA NATIONAL GUARD TO
FIGHTING ILLEGAL DRUGS

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 4, 2000

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the California National Guard for its vital contribution in helping to reduce drug use among our youth. Throughout the United States the National Guard frequently assists local law enforcement agencies in their fight against illicit drugs, and often Guard members risk their lives to provide necessary support for local law enforcement agencies.

Mr. Speaker, the California National Guard performs a variety of tasks and missions in support of local law enforcement agencies. One program in particular that I wish to call to the attention of my colleagues is the Guard's educational efforts as part of "Red Ribbon Week," a nationwide effort to focus on drug awareness and education during the last of October. Since 1988, the California National Guard has been an active participant in Red Ribbon Week. This highly successful program was started initially to commemorate the life of Drug Enforcement Agency officer Enrique ("Kiki") Camerena, an undercover narcotics agent who was brutally murdered by illegal drug traffickers. To mark his death and honor his life, the week of October 23–31 has been designated Red Ribbon Week. Across the nation, federal and local law enforcement agencies spend the week participating in a variety of programs to educate children about the perils of drug use.

The California National Guard has been such an active participant in Red Ribbon Week and its efforts have generated such interest in the program that the Guard has expanded Red Ribbon Week into Red Ribbon Month in order to respond to the numerous requests for education programs. The California Guard uses the power of positive role models to encourage choosing a drug-free lifestyle. I can only imagine the incredibly positive affect that a helicopter pilot has on young children after they witness the landing of his or her helicopter on the school grounds. Other positive Guard efforts include chaperoning education retreats and speaking at schools.

Mr. Speaker, the California National Guard's involvement in Red Ribbon Month is only one aspect of its participation in the battle against illicit drug use. The National Guard participates in the two pronged attack to reduce drug use in our country—simultaneously attacking supply and demand. The Drug Demand Reduction Program (DDR) focuses on education and information about the effects of narcotic use so that individuals will be less likely to turn to drugs. The Guard implements this program through its education work with school children. Already in this year alone, members of the California National Guard have spoken to 123,550 people, 82% of them school-age children and 74% of them in the 8th grade or below. This is particularly important, Mr. Speaker, because studies have shown that the earlier you teach children the dangers of drug use, the greater the chance that the child will embrace that message.

The second element of the California Guard's anti-drug program involves removing the supply of drugs from our streets. To this end, the Guard provides support and assistance to local law enforcement agencies in getting the drugs off of the streets. From flight surveillance to assisting local police officers in raids of methamphetamine plants, the California Guard has been involved in numerous seizures of illegal narcotics. This past year alone, in actions supported by the California Guard, law enforcement officials have seized over 8,100 lbs. of cocaine, 750 lbs. of heroin, 1,800 lbs. of methamphetamine, 360 lbs. of opium, 414,677 marijuana plants and 261 lbs. of processed marijuana.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the vital efforts of the California National Guard in reducing illicit drugs on our streets and educating of our

youth about the perils of drug use. Thanks to their diligent efforts, our state and our nation are a better place.

RECOGNIZING THE REPUBLIC OF
CHINA'S NATIONAL DAY

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 4, 2000

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I send my best wishes and congratulations to Republic of China President Chen Shui-bian and his people on the occasion of their 89th National Day. In recent years, Taiwan has prospered. It has one of the strongest economies in the world and its people enjoy unprecedented prosperity. Taiwan has solid schools, a good transportation system and sound health care. Furthermore, the people of Taiwan enjoy many political freedoms such as direct elections, a free press, and human rights.

I commend Taiwan on their 89th National Day. Their people have every right to be proud on this momentous occasion.

EL CAMINO REAL DE TIERRA
ADENTRO NATIONAL HISTORIC
TRAIL ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2000

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be the sponsor of the House bill of S. 366, El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail Act.

This trail has a great deal of importance to the Southwest. El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro (the Royal Road of the Interior), served as the primary route between the colonial Spanish capital of Mexico City and the Spanish provincial capitals at San Juan de Los Caballeros (1598–1600), San Gabriel (1600–1609) and then Santa Fe (1610–1821). The portion of El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro that resided in what is now the United States extended between El Paso, Texas and present San Juan Pueblo, New Mexico, a distance of 404 miles. El Camino Real is a symbol of the cultural interaction between nations and ethnic groups and of the commercial exchange that made possible the development and growth of the borderland. American Indian groups dating back into prehistoric times, especially the Pueblo Indians of the Rio Grande river valley, use the area and trail along the Rio Grande long before Europeans arrived.

In 1598, Don Juan de Onate led a Spanish military expedition along those trails to establish the northern portion of El Camino Real, and during the Mexican National Period and part of the U.S. Territorial Period, El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro facilitated the emigration of people to New Mexico and other areas that would become the United States.

This trail is important to the history of the borderlands as it was central to the exploration, conquest, colonization, settlement, religious conversion, and military occupation of

the Southwest. Many people used the trail including American Indians, European emigrants, miners, ranchers, soldiers, and missionaries. These travelers promoted cultural interaction among Spaniards, other Europeans, American Indians, Mexicans, and Americans. El Camino Real fostered the spread of Catholicism, mining, an extensive network of commerce, and ethnic and cultural traditions including music, folklore, medicine, foods, architecture, language, place names, irrigation systems, and Spanish law. This trail is important to the cultural history and rich heritage of the Southwest.

S. 366 amends the National Trails System Act to designate El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro as a National Historic Trail. This non-controversial legislation prohibits the acquisition of any lands or interests outside the exterior boundaries of any federally administered area for El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro except with the consent of the owner. The bill has already passed in the House in a similar form. I am pleased that this bill, which is identical to the House bill which I originally introduced, has again made it to the floor.

I would like to thank Chairman YOUNG and Ranking Member MILLER. I would also like to thank Congressman HANSEN and my colleague Mr. SKEEN for allowing this clean bill to come to the House floor. I know that the designation of the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro, as a part of the National Historic Trails System, will benefit a great many people.

I hope my colleagues will support me in the passage of this legislation.

S. 1198: THE TRUTH IN REGULATING ACT

HON. DAVID M. McINTOSH
OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, October 4, 2000

Mr. McINTOSH. Mr. Speaker, I applaud the House's passage yesterday of S. 1198, the Truth in Regulating Act of 2000. This bipartisan, good government bill establishes within the Legislative Branch a much needed regulatory analysis function. This function is intended to enhance congressional responsibility for regulatory decisions developed under the laws Congress enacts.

I want to especially thank Small Business Subcommittee Chairwoman on Regulatory Reform and Paperwork Reduction SUE KELLY for her initiation of this concept and her tenacious determination over a several year period to reach yesterday's successful result. Since 1998, the House Government Reform Subcommittee on National Economic Growth, Natural Resources, and Regulatory Affairs, which I chair, held two hearings and issued two House Reports (H. Rept. 105-441, Part 2 and H. Rept. 106-772) in support of a Congressional office of regulatory analysis.

Yesterday, during the floor debate on S. 1198, Vice Chairman PAUL RYAN expressed Congressional intent for this bill and presented the multi-year House legislative history. I want to emphasize three points which Mr. RYAN made. Also, I want to express my differing view about two statements made by Subcommittee Ranking Member DENNIS KUCINICH.

First, I agree with Mr. RYAN about the importance of the General Accounting Office's

(GAO's) submitting timely comments on proposed rules during the public comment period, while there is still an opportunity to influence the cost, scope and content of an agency's regulatory proposal. S. 1198 does not require GAO to submit timely comments but neither does it preclude GAO for doing so. Second, I agree with Mr. RYAN about GAO's responsibility to examine non-agency (i.e., "public") data and analyses in preparing its 'independent evaluation' of an agency's regulatory proposal. Sometimes the best way to determine if an agency has ignored Congressional intent or failed to consider less costly or non-regulatory alternatives is to review non-agency analyses. S. 1198 does not require GAO to review public data but neither does it preclude GAO from doing so. Third, I agree with Mr. RYAN that GAO should comment substantively on an agency's regulatory proposal. S. 1198 does not require GAO to comment on the scope and content of an agency's regulatory proposal but neither does it preclude GAO from doing so.

Mr. KUCINICH stated his view that, "Under this bill, GAO would retain its traditional role as auditor . . . [the bill] preserves GAO's traditional role as auditor." I do not agree with his view. Instead, S. 1198 requires GAO to prepare an independent evaluation or analysis of agency regulatory proposals. Evaluation is not equivalent to auditing; evaluation requires a thorough analysis, e.g., consideration of less costly or non-regulatory alternatives not presented in an agency's documents. Second, Mr. KUCINICH stated, 'Furthermore, [the bill] would not require the agency to conduct any new analysis.' GAO's independent evaluation should lead agencies to prepare missing cost/benefit, small business impact, federalism impact, or any other missing analysis. S. 1198 does not require an agency to prepare a missing analysis but neither does it preclude an agency from doing so.

A TRIBUTE TO LIBBIE HICKMAN

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, October 4, 2000

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize a dedicated Olympian from my district who is an inspiration to all athletes. Libbie Hickman, a resident of Fort Collins, Colorado, recently earned the proud distinction of representing our great nation at the 27th Olympic Summer Games in Sydney, Australia. Libbie was the fastest American runner in the qualifying race held Wednesday, September 27th, recording a time of thirty-two minutes and fifty-nine seconds. This qualifying time enabled Ms. Hickman to race in last Saturday's finals where she valiantly represented our nation in its quest for gold.

A graduate of Colorado State University, Libbie Hickman has always dreamed of achieving Olympic glory. She first started running at the age of eight, racing against her brothers in the front yard as her father timed them with his stopwatch. Libbie became serious about her running career during her senior year of college, changing her specialty from the 1,500 meter race to the 3,000 meter race. However, it wasn't until four years later, in 1991, that Libbie Hickman truly made her

mark by winning the Association of Road Running Athletes (ARRA) circuit title. Since then, Libbie has placed in the top ten of the finishers in twenty-one of the races in which she has participated. In 14 of those races, she finished in the top 5, and in 5 of them, she won the event.

In her spare time, Libbie Hickman is a self-described "gardening freak" who thinks she might have been a professional gardener if her passion for running were not so strong. Passion for her sport has driven her to work hard in pursuit of her Olympic dream. This passion was on display Wednesday as she led the American team to a qualifying spot in the 10,000 meter finals. Libbie finished 10th in her heat, and 20th overall. She was the only American woman who qualified to go to the finals on Saturday. While Libbie did not win the race, she won our hearts and proved herself a fierce and respected competitor, and an inspiration to the people of Colorado, and the entire nation.

It is with great pride that I stand today to congratulate one of Colorado's genuine Olympic heroes. Libbie Hickman is a true American heroine. She has displayed courage and perseverance in the tireless pursuit of excellence. She has competed on the world's biggest track and given her all to fulfill her Olympic dream. She has made us proud.

VETERANS' ORAL HISTORY PROJECT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBIN HAYES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, October 3, 2000

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the legislation offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin, the Veterans' Oral History Project, because it encompasses American pride and patriotism. Our veterans are the heroes who helped preserve our American heritage. They are living evidence that freedom is never free, and they carry the honor of hundreds of thousands who breathed their last breath on the field of battle.

Some months ago, I introduced legislation to recognize the American G.I. as the most influential figure of the 20th century. I was proud that my legislation passed this House unanimously, and I believe the legislation we debate this evening is critical to our effort to recognize and preserve a record of the sacrifices of every man and woman who served our Nation. The importance of documenting the personal accounts of our country's veterans cannot be understated. For generations, American troops have served to ensure freedom and democracy in all corners of the world. Their contributions are woven not only into the history of a grateful nation but also the history of a peaceful world.

Over the course of the last few months, I have asked veterans throughout my district, the 8th District of North Carolina, to share with me their wartime experiences. Their response has been amazing. Every American should have the opportunity to read the brave accounts of veterans like James Holt, James Wells, and Willie Monday—to name just a few. Crew Chief Holt recounts his WWII missions and America's contribution in defeating Hitler.

Similarly, Mrs. Shuping writes on behalf of her father, James Archie Wells, who fought to liberate Okinawa, and Captain Monday recalls his reconnaissance missions over the Philippines. This, Mr. Speaker, is the best of American history—and there is an abundance of it. That's why this legislation is so very important. The memory of those we lost and the sacrifice of those who lived to tell the tale must be preserved and held in high esteem by a Congress and a country that extends our veterans its utmost respect and heartfelt gratitude.

I commend my colleague from Wisconsin for his initiative on this issue and urge my colleagues support for this worthy legislation.

IN HONOR OF ABBOT ROGER W. GRIES

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 4, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Abbot Roger W. Gries who has been named "Catholic Man of the Year" by the Greater Cleveland Knights of Columbus Luncheon Club.

This is certainly a well-deserved title for Abbot Gries, a native Clevelander who has devoted most of his life to education, his faith and the Catholic Church. He professed his vows as a Benedictine monk more than 40 years ago and was ordained to the priesthood in 1963. Throughout his many years of dedicated service to Benedictine High School, Abbot Gries has held a number of different posts. He started out teaching mathematics, but his extraordinary skill as an educator was soon recognized as he was named Assistant Principal in 1965 and Principal in 1968.

Abbot Gries continued his successful reign as Principal at Benedictine until 1977, when he was appointed Prior of St. Andrew Abbey, the second superior of the monastery. Because of his outstanding work as Prior, his fellow monks elected him the fourth abbot of St. Andrew Abbey on June 9, 1981, a position that he holds to this day. In addition to his commitment to St. Andrew Abbey, Abbot Gries is also President of Benedictine High School. At this time, he is overseeing the implementation of the Master Plan currently underway at the Abbey and high school in the Buckeye-Woodland community.

Aside from his prominent role as an educator and abbot of St. Andrew Abbey, Abbot Gries also served at the Holy Family Parish in Parma, OH on weekends for 18 years and previously acted as the chaplain of the Maple Heights Knights of Columbus. He continues his active association with the Alhambra.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my fellow colleagues to join me in honoring Abbot Roger W. Gries. This remarkable man reminds us all of the importance of faith, community, and volunteerism. We are truly lucky to have him in Cleveland.

TRIBUTE TO PRISCILLA HILLGREN

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 4, 2000

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great American, and I am proud to recognize Priscilla A. Hillgren in the Congress for her invaluable contributions and service to our nation.

Priscilla Hillgren distinguished herself through her devotion to her family, friends, and community. She was born in Beresford, South Dakota on June 26th, 1904, the daughter of a Lutheran minister. Her family instilled in her the value of an education, and she and her sisters attended college, which she interrupted twice to teach in a country school.

One of the happiest days of her life surely must have been June 26th, 1929, when she married Ralph O. Hillgren, who was city editor of the Argus Leader in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Many more happy days followed, thanks to the births of her son John, her daughters Annette Bray and Sonja Hillgren Hill, two grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, three step grandchildren, and three step great-grandchildren.

Priscilla Hillgren is probably best-known for her work with mentally handicapped children at three Sioux Falls private schools from 1958 to 1972. Her generosity and hard work touched many families in that area, and her legacy will inspire those who continue to provide these important services.

She also was active in the American Association of University Women, with membership in two AAUW book groups, and was honored by AAUW as a Named Gift Recipient in 1977. Moreover, Priscilla was president of the Augustana College Auxiliary, and a member of the Civic Fine Arts Center and the American Legion Auxiliary, among other organizations.

Sadly, Priscilla Hillgren passed away last month. Her congregation at the First Lutheran Church, where she was a Sunday School teacher for 26 years, will miss her greatly, as will her family and friends.

I am among this group, and on behalf of the Congress I extend my deepest sympathies to her family, even as I encourage them to join me in celebrating her extraordinary life.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ALTERNATIVE FUEL VEHICLES INTERMODAL TRANSPORTATION ACT

HON. SHERWOOD L. BOEHLERT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 4, 2000

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, transportation is vital to the social and economic health of our nation. During the past twenty years, however, transportation systems have struggled to keep pace with America's growing and changing needs. For example, between 1970 and 1990, the U.S. automobile population grew almost three times faster than the human population. In fact, in 1995 Americans averaged about 4.3 one-way trips per day and about 14,000 miles per year—up from 2.9 trips and 9,500 miles in 1977. Other forms of transportation have seen dramatic growth as well.

Since 1980, freight railroad traffic has increased 47 percent and the number of airports has increased 20 percent.

Explosive transportation growth has led to inefficient movement of people and goods, reduced productivity, wasted energy, and increased congestion and emissions. A recent study conducted by the Texas Transportation Institute found that in 1982, ten of the 70 urban areas studied had unacceptable levels of congestion, but by 1996, that number had almost quadrupled, to 39 areas.

As the number of cars, trucks, freight trains and planes grows and America's transportation network expands, the need for fuel increases. In 1997, the volume of imported oil exceeded domestic production for the first time in U.S. history. Our thirst for oil is fueled by the transportation sector, which uses over 65 percent of the petroleum consumed in the United States.

Our transportation system is over 90 percent dependent on oil—and that's too much when over 50 percent our nation's oil comes from overseas and the price has almost quadrupled in 18 months. Powering our cars and buses with alternative fuel is an environmentally sound way to reduce our dependence on foreign oil—and it's good for the economy, too, because alternative fuels can be produced here at home.

Alternative fuels, such as electricity, natural gas, methanol, hydrogen and propane, provide a plentiful, domestically produced and environmentally friendly source of energy. And, when integrated into America's transportation network—in meaningful quantities—alternatively fueled vehicles (AFVs) contribute to mitigating the energy and environmental problems caused by the transportation sector.

In addition, to alternative fuels, the implementation of intermodal transportation networks is another component to alleviating America's transportation problems. Intermodalism refers to interconnections among various modes of transportation, or the use of multiple modes of transportation during a single trip. Employing the concept of intermodalism offers the promise of lowering transportation costs, increasing economic productivity and efficiency, reducing the burden on existing infrastructure, while at the same time reducing energy consumption and improving air quality and the environment.

In an attempt to address the energy and environmental concerns that an "over-stressed" transportation network has created, Congress passed several pieces of legislation. The Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, established programs and regulations directed at the mobile sector to decrease major automotive pollutants that are the key contributors to urban smog, or ozone. Today, however, nearly 100 cities throughout the United States continue to fail to meet federal air quality guidelines.

In 1991, Congress also recognized the impact and sought to mitigate some of the problems associated with the growing number of cars, trucks, freight trains and planes in the United States when it enacted the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA). ISTEA established the National Commission on Intermodal Transportation and tasked it with conducting a complete study of intermodal transportation in the US. ISTEA also established the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Program which

provides federal funding for innovative transportation projects designed to assist States in meeting their transportation/air quality plans. The CMAQ program cuts across traditional boundaries and includes projects dealing with transit and highways, as well as non-traditional areas, such as vehicle emission inspections and maintenance. Although inroads have been made, and intermodal transportation systems have been applied in the movement of goods, large-scale intermodal systems have yet to be meaningfully applied to the movement of people.

Finally, in 1992, Congress enacted the Energy Policy Act (EPAAct) which recognized that alternative fuels and alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs) can provide substantial environmental benefits and at the same time can decrease our dependence on foreign oil. EPAAct included a modest set of tax incentives intended to support the development and introduction of AFVs to the market.

Today I am introducing legislation that builds on the very important work that has been done as a result of these landmark bills that have focused our efforts on dealing with transportation, congestion, air quality and energy security issues holistically, rather than as separate non-connected issues. I believe, firmly, that we must look to address many of the problems created by a growing transportation system and the need to ensure and indeed enhance mobility as a single issue, a single goal. The "Alternative Fuel Vehicles Intermodal Transportation Act" provides funding for a \$200 million federal pilot program to demonstrate the use of alternative fuel vehicles in intermodal applications. Importantly, the goals of the program will be accomplished through partnerships between Federal, State and local governments, metropolitan transportation authorities, industry and business. This legislation would help urban centers develop and demonstrate effective, alternative fuel transportation networks to move people.

By combining intermodal transportation systems with alternative fuels, the United States can build transportation networks that efficiently and cleanly transport passengers and goods.

In the long run, alternative fuel vehicles will obviously have to succeed in the marketplace entirely on their own. But the federal government should be doing more to encourage the development and deployment of alternative vehicles because there are clear public benefits and the technology will develop too slowly without incentives. In addition, public entities are the main purchasers of buses so the government is the market in that area.

What will this legislation achieve? The proposed pilot program would assist up to 15 locations throughout the United States to put in place clean, innovative, linked transportation systems that reduce dependence on foreign oil, increase reliance on alternative fuels, enhance the usefulness of public transportation systems, protect the environment, and speed the deployment of alternative fuel technologies. Participants in the program would be required to match federal dollars with an equal contribution from State and local governments and the private sector. Projects would be awarded to applicants that meet criteria including: the number of riders served or goods transported; the ability to achieve national, state or local air quality goals; and the deployment of innovative transportation technologies

or new intermodal systems that increase the use of alternative fuels.

How could this legislation impact your community? Imagine a linked transportation system where commuters use electric station cars or "neighborhood electric vehicles" to reach an electrified commuter train or a natural gas powered bus, which would then deliver them to the urban center. And once in the urban center, the same people might transfer to a propane-powered shuttle bus or fuel cell bus for the last leg of their trip to the office, the shopping district or the doctor.

Another travel scenario that releases near zero-emissions while improving the quality of a trip might involve the business traveler who arrives in a city by plane, transfers to a light rail system that deposits her in the urban center where she checks-out an electric "station car" to travel to meetings in three different locations. Upon concluding business, she returns to the light-rail station, plugs in the rented station car for the next driver, hops on the light rail and returns to the airport. This business traveler has left no environmental footprint during her visit to your community.

Enhance the environment—relieve traffic congestion—increase alternative fuel use—effectively demonstrate viable and sustainable alternative fuel vehicles and their interconnected use in transportation networks—bring together all levels of government and industry as partners in this effort—and educate the public that alternative fuel technologies work . . . these are the goals of the Alternative Fuel Vehicles Intermodal Transportation Act. The price tag for reaching these goals is relatively modest; the price for not supporting this type of paradigm shift in the way we move people and goods is incalculable. And it is a price that will be paid not just with dollars, but with our natural resources, our air, and the quality of life for generations to come. I hope many of my colleagues will recognize the value and importance of this innovative program and will support this important legislation.

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 4, 2000

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, as the Congress continues to debate the question on how to provide seniors with affordable prescription drugs, I wanted to bring to my colleagues attention the article "Prescription Drug Costs: Has Canada Found the Answer?" by William McArthur, M.D. Dr. McArthur is a palliative care physician, writer and health policy analyst in Vancouver B.C. Some of our colleagues have been touting the affordability of prescription drugs in Canada and in some cases sponsoring bus trips for seniors across the border to obtain these drugs. We should be skeptical of this approach because, in reality, the Canadian government drug mandates harm patients and increase the costs in other sectors of the health care system.

The Canadian bureaucracies cause significant delays in access to new and innovative drugs. First, at the federal level, Canadians wait up to a year longer than Americans do for approval of new drugs. Then the delays con-

tinue at the provincial level where various government "gatekeepers" review the "therapeutic value" of prescription drugs before they are included in the formulary. The length of the delays varies widely. The government officials in Nova Scotia approve drugs for its formulary in 250 days, while the wait in Ontario is nearly 500 days.

Canadian patients are often forced to use the medicines selected by the government solely for cost reasons. Patients who would respond better to the second, third, or fourth drug developed for a specific condition are often denied the preferred drug, and are stuck with the government-approved "one size fits all" drug.

I urge my Colleagues to read this article and keep in mind that while prescription drugs appear to cost less in Canada than in the United States, there is a costly price associated with the Canadian system that ultimately translates into a lack of quality care for patients.

[From the National Journal's Congress Daily, Oct. 2, 2000]

PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS: HAS CANADA FOUND THE ANSWER?

(By William McArthur, M.D.)

Some Americans faced with the rising costs of prescription drugs look longingly at Canada, where prescription drugs appear to cost less than in the United States. The fact is that, while some drugs do cost less in Canada, others don't. Furthermore, many drugs are not available at any cost in Canada. The effect of Canadian policies is to restrict the overall availability of prescription drugs through a combination of a lengthy drug approval process and oppressive price controls.

First of all, Canada's federal drug approval process takes much longer than that of the U.S., resulting in delayed access for Canadians to new drugs. For example, Canadian acceptance of the drug Viagra came a whole year after it had been available in the U.S. For 12 months Canadians who needed Viagra, or another of the many drugs delayed or denied approval, had to go to the U.S. to get their medication.

Even if a drug wins federal approval, it faces 10 more hurdles to become widely accessible—the 10 provinces. Each province has a review committee that must approve the drug for reimbursement under the public healthcare system. For example, in British Columbia, neither the new anti-arthritis drugs Celebrex and Vioxx, nor the Alzheimer's treatment Aricept, have been approved for reimbursement, severely limiting their availability. Further, the provincial approval times vary greatly from province to province, creating further inequities.

Price controls imposed by a government agency, the Patented Medicines Price Review Board (PMPRB), are the reason some prescription drugs cost less in Canada than in the United States. However, while keeping some prescription drug prices down through price controls, Canada has been unable to control overall drug spending. OECD statistics reveal that when the PMPRB was created in 1988, per capita expenditure on prescription drugs was \$106; by 1996 that had doubled to \$211 per person. One study of international drug price comparisons by Prof. Patricia Danzon of the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania concluded that, on the average, drug prices in Canada were higher than those in the United States. Some individual drugs, particularly generics, cost far more in Canada. For example, the anti-hypertensive drug atenolol is four times more expensive in Canada than in the United States. And a University of Toronto study found that the main effect of price controls

on prescription drugs was to limit patients' access to newer medicines so that they had to rely more on hospitals and surgery.

All provinces require that chemically identical and cheaper generic drugs be substituted for more expensive brand-name drugs when they are available. However, British Columbia has gone farther with a "reference price system." Under this system, the government can require that a patient receiving a drug subsidy be treated with whichever costs the least: (a) a generic substitute, (b) a drug with similar but not identical active ingredients or (c) a completely different compound deemed to have the same therapeutic effect. Patients are often forced to switch medicines, sometimes in mid-treatment, when the reference price system mandates a change. Twenty-seven percent of physicians in British Columbia report that they have had to admit patients to the emergency room or hospital as a result of the mandated switching of medicines. Sixty-eight percent report confusion or uncertainty by cardiovascular or hypertension patients, and 60 percent have seen patients' conditions worsen or their symptoms accelerate due to mandated switching.

Through limiting the availability of prescription drugs and controlling the prices of those that are available, Canada has succeeded only in preventing Canadians from obtaining drugs that might have reduced hospital stays and expensive medical procedures. The end result of this is that Canadians are getting a lower standard of health care at a higher cost than patients and taxpayers have a right to expect.

One lesson that Americans should learn from the Canadian experience is that when government pays for drugs, government controls the supply. As soon as government has to pay the bill, efforts are made to restrict the availability of newer and more effective drugs. The inevitable result is that other health expenditures like surgery and emergency visits increase, and patients suffer.

AMERICAN COMPETITIVENESS IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2000

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, expanding the number of H-1B visas for foreign workers is critical to the well being of Oregon's high-tech community. Given the strong economy, record low unemployment, and declining graduation rates in high-tech education fields, that industry is facing a critical shortage of highly educated workers. In Oregon, for example, we have openings for 800 software engineers and are currently unable to fill them.

Our education system is not producing the needed skilled workers for the high-tech industry. The H-1B visa program helps fill the void, but that's not all it does. The legislation we adopted last night helps develop our own workforce.

The bill keeps the current \$500 application fee that employers pay for new H-1B visa holders, which produces \$75 million in revenue each year. Less than two percent of the fees is for administrative expenses and the rest is used to enhance our educational system. This funding provides math, science, engineering, and technology post-secondary

scholarships for low-income and disadvantaged students. It is also used to improve K-12 math and science education and for job training.

While this funding helps, I have joined many of my colleagues in pressing for more. I am a cosponsor of the Dreier-Lofgren bill that raises the cap on H-1B visas and doubles the application fee to \$1000. I am hopeful we can adopt that increase before we adjourn and thereby do even more to meet our nation's educational needs.

Many companies in my state are working independently of the government to help as well. Intel makes its micro-chips in Oregon. In 1998, it contributed \$63 million to higher education and \$29 million to K-12 education. In an effort to encourage high school students to enter science and engineering career field tracks, companies like Electro Scientific Industries have partnered with local school districts and opened their doors to students, teachers and parents to talk to young engineers about career decisions and options.

Together, we can reverse the shortage by improving our educational system. In the short term, increasing visa numbers is not a bad thing. Each new wave of immigrants adds to the diversity and character of our communities. This diversity has given us the strength to grow in times of prosperity and survive in times of trouble. H-1B visa holders add to our strong economy.

RECOGNITION OF THE "LIGHT THE NIGHT" WALK

HON. DEBORAH PRYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 4, 2000

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues will be interested in the following comments made by Mr. Ken Barun, President and CEO of Ronald McDonald House Charities on the "Light the Night" walk held on September 21, 2000, that raised funds for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. I submit Mr. Barun's remarks for the RECORD:

You, the "Light the Night" walkers—teams and individuals—are the ones truly making a difference tonight. Through your participation in events such as this, the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society continues to raise funds and combat cancers that have touched so many of us—our families, our friends—those whom we know or had the pleasure of once knowing.

I think it's fate that the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society and Ronald McDonald House Charities have come together for this wonderful fundraiser. Both organizations care deeply about children and their families; both provide comfort and care when needed; and both want to see an end to this terrible disease called cancer.

To give you a brief background about Ronald McDonald House Charities, our mission is to improve the health and wellness of children around the world. It is a mission that began with the care and compassion of dedicated people who, like McDonald's Corporation founder, Ray Kroc, dared to dream.

Ray once dreamed of having a thousand McDonald's restaurants in the U.S. We now have more than 25,000 restaurants in 119 countries. Similarly, the people who started Ronald McDonald House Charities, had the dream of having just one Ronald McDonald

House—the one that opened in Philadelphia in 1974. We now have more than 200 Houses around the world in 18 countries.

As the network of Ronald McDonald Houses grows, so does our role as a Charity. To date, through our global organization and more than 160 local Chapters in 32 countries, we've awarded more than 225 million dollars in grants. In addition, we receive the donation of time from an army of well over 25,000 volunteers worldwide.

Volunteers like you. People who effect positive change. Which brings me back to why we are all here. Leukemia is the number one disease that kills our children. Think about that—the number one disease. However, there is hope: Because of efforts like yours tonight, and the efforts of others like you, there's been enough funding to sustain ongoing research, research that has tripled the leukemia survival rate in the last 39 years. That is an astonishing accomplishment. And you, members and volunteers of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, should be proud to be a part of that.

I'd like to thank the McDonald's region in Washington and Baltimore and all its McDonald's franchisees for supporting and participating in tonight's "Light the Night" Walk with us. I'd also like to thank the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society for all your terrific work in organizing this event. And finally, to those of you who have come out here tonight, donned your walking shoes and have collected thousands and thousands of dollars, a very special, heartfelt thank you.

I feel truly honored to be in your company.

RECOGNITION OF LAWSUIT ABUSE AWARENESS WEEK: SEPTEMBER 18-22, 2000

HON. ROBERT L. EHRlich, JR.

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 4, 2000

Mr. EHRlich. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge a group of citizens in my district working hard to address an issue affecting every citizen of our state: Lawsuit Abuse.

Throughout my district, and all over the greater Baltimore area, local citizens are volunteering their time and energy to inform the public about the costs and problems stemming from the excessive numbers and types of lawsuits filed in today's litigious society. The men and women of the Baltimore Regional Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse, otherwise known as BRCALA, have a simple goal—to create a greater public awareness of abuses of our civil justice system. This type of citizen activism has had a positive impact on perceptions and attitudes toward abuses of our legal system, a problem most folks do not stop to consider during their daily routine.

While the overall mission of Baltimore Regional Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse is to curb lawsuit abuse, the organization's efforts focus on education. Every time these dedicated Marylanders speak out against lawsuit abuse, ordinary citizens are educated on the statewide and nationwide consequences our legal system has on our daily lives. The costs of lawsuit abuse include higher prices for consumer products, higher medical expenses, higher taxes, higher insurance rates, and lost business expansion and product development.

As a former member of the Maryland General Assembly, I worked hard to reform our legal system at the state level. During my tenure in Congress, I have supported efforts with

respect to product liability reform, securities litigation reform, and reform of the federal Superfund program. More importantly, I sponsored legislation that has helped reduce frivolous class action lawsuits brought against mortgage brokers.

This year, I voted to support H.R. 1875, the Interstate Class Action Jurisdiction Act. This legislation recognizes that many class action lawsuits do little to help consumers, but allow personal injury lawyers to collect millions of dollars in legal fees. H.R. 1875 is an important step in helping reform a legal system that has been abused time and time again.

Legal reform is a complex issue. The legal system must function to provide justice to every American. This does not mean, however, that the status quo is perfect. When lawsuits and the courts are used in excess or to the detriment of innocent parties, the system must be reviewed and reformed.

Let me acknowledge the BRCALA board of directors for giving of their valuable time and energy: the Honorable Phillip Bissett, BRCALA chairman; Joseph Brown, Jr.; Dr. William Howard; Gary O. Prince; the Honorable Joseph Sachs; and the Honorable Michael Wagner—directors and supporters dedicated to BRCALA; and Nancy Hill, BRCALA executive director.

Mr. Speaker, the Baltimore Regional Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse has declared September 18 through September 22, 2000, as "Lawsuit Abuse Awareness Week" in Maryland.

I want to commend every person involved in this worthwhile effort for their dedication and commitment.

A TRIBUTE TO HON. ROBERT W.
BLANCHETTE

HON. BUD SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 4, 2000

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to one of the true leaders in the renaissance of America's rail transportation system. Robert Blanchette, who died last week, was literally present at the creation when our private-sector railroads suffered financial collapse in the 1970s, and then returned to financial stability after 1980.

After graduation from Yale Law School and service as an Air Force legal officer, Mr. Blanchette began his legal career in railroading as the general counsel of the New Haven Railroad in the late 1960s. While serving in that post, he also became executive director of the America's Sound Transportation Review program, one of the first modern efforts to analyze the ills of the transport system and recommend needed changes.

Bob's next major post was counsel to the bankruptcy trustee of the Penn Central Railroad, which entered bankruptcy in 1970 and collapsed in 1973. At the time, Penn Central was the largest corporate bankruptcy in U.S. history. Based on his outstanding performance as counsel, Bob was later installed first as bankruptcy trustee, then chairman of the board, and chief executive officer.

As one who arrived in Congress in the midst of what became known as "the wreck of the Penn Central," I can personally attest to the

gargantuan effort required to deal with massive creditor claims against the Penn Central estate, while at the same time helping to fashion Conrail as the federally created successor to the various bankrupt Northeastern freight railroads. Bob handled these daunting tasks with characteristic acumen and aplomb. Eventually, thanks to the groundwork laid during Bob's tenure with the Penn Central, Conrail became a thriving railroad that was fully privatized in 1987 and was recently purchased by Norfolk Southern and CSX.

When Ronald Reagan took office in 1981, Bob was named Federal Railroad Administrator. This was an era of massive and long overdue change, when the entire freight railroad industry was being transformed and rehabilitated through the deregulation of the Staggers Rail Act. Bob was at the center of efforts to modernize all federal policies affecting the rail transport system.

In 1983, Bob returned to private law practice, representing the French high-speed rail enterprise, TGV. Later, from 1990 to 1997, he served as general counsel to the Association of American Railroads.

Those who worked in or with the railroad industry can attest to Bob's razor-sharp mind and analytical skills. He was able easily to grasp the most complex issues, and equally important, to fashion sensible proposals for addressing those issues. Without exception, Bob was the consummate gentleman, and a constant source of dry wit and good humor. He never shrank from discussing and dissecting the rail transport policy issues of the day, on or off Capitol Hill.

Throughout his professional career, Bob remained intensely proud of his French heritage, and an unapologetic Francophile, always ready to discuss French culture, cuisine, and of course, wine. He was truly an *homme extraordinaire*, and will be sorely missed by all who had the good fortune to know him.

MR. TRACY JOHNSON HONORED
WITH NATIONAL CRIME PREVENTION
AWARD

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 4, 2000

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Tracy Johnson of Freeport, Illinois, a town in the congressional district I am privileged to represent. Tracy is a modern-day hero who works tirelessly to prevent crime in northern Illinois.

On September 29, 2000, Tracy joined seven other citizen crime fighters from around the country to receive the SBC Communications Award of Excellence in Crime Prevention. Nationally recognized comedian Joe Piscopo presented the award during the "2000 National Conference on Preventing Crime" in Washington, DC. This year's eight winners, selected from nominations across the country, have all made major impacts in their communities with their innovative crime prevention strategies.

Tracy received this special honor because he helped spearhead the Coalition for a Safe Community, a comprehensive partnership of organizations and people planning and acting to prevent crime throughout Freeport; started an education and action crime prevention pro-

gram for youth; and developed a job training and placement center for young mothers, among other activities.

I wish to thank Tracy and the numerous individuals with whom he works for their tireless efforts to make our communities safer.

NATIONAL DAY OF THE REPUBLIC
OF CHINA

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 4, 2000

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, as the Republic of China's 89th National Day approaches, I wish to congratulate President Chen Shui-bian and the people of Taiwan for their continuing economic success and political reforms.

On this festive occasion, it is my hope that Taiwan and the Chinese mainland will soon begin a serious dialogue on reunification issues. The time is approaching for both sides to work out their differences and find a way to co-exist without antagonism. I am certain the people on Taiwan look forward to the day when they will be able to celebrate October 10th without the fear of a bellicose neighbor threatening not only their political freedom, but also their very lives.

I also would like to take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to Ambassador C.J. Chen, who recently returned to Washington after several years in Taipei. A distinguished diplomat, Ambassador Chen is now Taiwan's chief representative in the United States. Ambassador Chen is an industrious and experienced diplomat who has worked diligently for many years to strengthen ties between the United States and the people of Taiwan.

Mr. Speaker, Taiwan has become a beacon of democracy in an area of the world which has known authoritarianism for centuries. The upcoming celebration of National Day in the Republic of China is a timely reminder of the importance of our friendship and support for Taiwan.

AMERICAN COMPETITIVENESS IN
THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY
ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2000

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, in 1998, Congress passed legislation to raise the H-1B caps to 115,000 visas per year. That legislation included important provisions to ensure that American workers would not be displaced by those holding H-1B visas. This included requirements for employers to file applications with the Department of Labor showing that they will pay the H-1B worker the "required wage rate" and that a strike or lockout was not occurring at the job site.

Unfortunately, that legislation was not enough and already the 115,000 H-1B visa limit for Fiscal Year 2000 has been reached. Tuesday, the Senate passed S. 2045 to increase the H-1B cap to 195,000 through 2003

and included several important worker training and education provisions. It is now time for the House to pass this bill as well.

This bill includes provisions so that 55% of the H-1B education and training fees go toward Department of Labor demonstration programs and projects to provide training for workers. Twenty-two percent of the fees will go toward low-income scholarships and fifteen percent of the fees will go toward National Science Foundation grants for math, technology and science education in primary and secondary schools. It also provides after-school technology grants to encourage youth education in these subject areas.

Earlier this year, I cosponsored "The Helping to Improve Technology Education and Achievement Act of 2000" introduced by Congresswoman ZOE LOFGREN and Congressman DAVID DREIER. This bill was critical to the debate on this issue and I am proud to have worked with those sponsors, as well as with members on both sides of the aisle who have been dedicated to bringing this bill to the floor.

I recognize the enormous difficulties that the current worker shortage poses to high tech companies. At the same time, however, I want to insure that we do all that we can to reach the best and brightest in America and providing opportunity for and training to American workers as well. Today's bill is attentive to both of these needs. I urge all of my colleagues to vote for S. 2045.

PASS THE CARAT ACT: H.R. 5147

HON. TONY P. HALL

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 4, 2000

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, many of us are gravely concerned about the role the trade in diamonds has in fueling some of the most brutal wars in Africa. Much is made of the fact that the number of these diamonds is small—between 4 and 15 percent. The reality is that blood diamonds account for 30 percent of the profits the industry earns.

The link between diamonds and war is well-documented, and I urge our colleagues to get the complete story by requesting a briefing by U.S. intelligence agencies. In the meantime, I am submitting for the RECORD a selection of excerpts from respected publications. This is by no means exhaustive, and it omits reports on the industry's recent efforts to repair its damaged reputation.

I hope this selection is useful to the American public—which buys two-thirds of the world's diamonds. And I urge my colleagues to review this situation and join in efforts to combat this terrible trade.

"The flow of uncut diamonds from rebel-held mines to market centers around the world—valued at hundreds of millions of dollars a year—is keeping rebel armies in Angola, Congo and Sierra Leone supplied with tanks and assault rifles and even uniforms and beer, American and European officials say." U.S. May Try to Curb Diamond Trade That Fuels Africa Wars, *New York Times*, 8/7/99.

"The brutal war in Sierra Leone, which left thousands maimed and mutilated, was prolonged by at least 18 months because of the ability of the rebels to quickly trade diamonds for arms, an Administration official

said. . . ." U.S. May Try to Curb Diamond Trade That Fuels Africa Wars, *New York Times*, 8/7/99.

"In many African nations, the natural resources that should be used to feed and educate people are instead being used to destroy them. . . . Loot, not better government, has motivated the psychotically brutal guerrillas of Sierra Leone." The Business of War in Africa, *New York Times*, 8/8/99.

"Sierra Leone was founded in the 18th century as a safe haven for freed slaves. At the close of the 20th century, its people are enduring horrors at the hands of their countrymen and bearing scars from a civil war of atrocities perpetrated by an army of thugs and desperadoes." The Amputees of Sierra Leone: Civil War's Brutal Legacy, *Washington Post*, 10/18/99.

"The eight-year conflict that has shattered this country and brutalized its 5 million people has been fueled by foreigners' hunger for diamonds. . . . These conflicts are singularly brutal, scholars say, because many of their sponsors are outsiders with little motive to limit destruction." Diamond Hunters Fuel Africa's Brutal Wars, *Washington Post*, 10/16/99.

" . . . a prosthetics specialist for Handicap International . . . said he had never seen a double-arm amputee until he came here. 'It was shocking,' he said. 'I don't think you will find double amputees of the upper limbs anywhere else in the world—maybe isolated cases, but not like in Sierra Leone.' In the Amputee and War Wounded Camp. . . . the double amputees are considered the unluckiest. Those without arms . . . openly express envy of those with a missing leg, who will one day wear trousers over an artificial leg, or those with at least one good arm. . . . a psychologist who treats the amputees, said the Revolutionary United Front appeared to have selected men whose maiming would most profoundly affect the social order. 'It was the goal of the rebels to take away their role as men, fathers and husbands.'" Sierra Leone Measures Terror in Severed Limbs, *Washington Post*, 8/22/99.

"The residents of this camp [for amputees] lost their arms and feet to a rebel force that spread terror among Sierra Leoneans not by killing but by leaving people . . . as living, limbless symbols of its savage power. The campaign worked." *Sierra Leone Measures Terror in Severed Limbs*, *Washington Post*, 8/22/99.

"That dazzling diamond necklace you buy for that special someone at a swank Fifth Avenue jewelry store may be funding the activities of a canibal gang in Sierra Leone. . . . It's the dark side of the diamond industry. . . . and the profits—estimated to be \$2 billion a year—are funneled back to some of the worst mass killers this century has ever seen. The money is used to buy arms and military hardware, and to hire private mercenary firms to keep these internal African conflicts raging, according to a recent report by the State Department's Bureau of Intelligence and Research." *Dirty Diamonds*, *New York Post*, 11/9/99.

" . . . are New York diamond dealers worried about having their glittering product follow in the footsteps of the fur coat and labeled parish products? 'No . . . We've weathered many storms before. We'll weather this one too.'" *Dirty Diamonds*, *New York Post*, 11/9/99.

"Some of Africa's worst violence—in Angola, in Congo, in Sierra Leone—where hundreds of thousands have died or lost arms and legs: This turmoil has been financed in large part by stolen diamonds that end up in jewelry stores around the world. . . . There is so much money at stake, it won't be easy to stop rebels who have used the beauty and value of diamonds to create misery and

death in Africa." ABC World News Tonight, 11/26/99.

"In an African tragedy, the world's purest gems are funding one of the dirtiest wars in history." *Diamonds in the Rough*, *Time*, 12/6/99.

"More than 10,000 people had been murdered, raped, abducted or maimed by rebels in a campaign of calculated terror. In their vividness and gratuitous cruelty, the mass amputations epitomized the powerlessness of ordinary Africans at the turn of the millennium. They also marked a climactic spasm in a grinding eight-year civil war shaped by familiar patterns. Outsiders exploited Sierra Leone's diamonds and other resources. . . . The international media paid little attention. And the great power stood aside, numbed by Africa's wars and poverty." *Peace Without Justice: The Other War*, *Washington Post*, 1/9/00.

"Rebel armies in Angola, the Congo, and Sierra Leone wage brutal civil wars funded by an extensive, smuggled diamond trade. The rebels take control of a diamond mine, falsify a few documents, and then sell the diamonds in the international markets. . . . Rebels in Sierra Leone used their diamond money, funneled through dealers in Liberia, to build an army that started with just 400 volunteers, into a fighting force with more than 20,000 paid soldiers." *Is Your Engagement Ring Funding a Civil War?*, *Shewire*, 2/23/00.

"In many parts of Africa, diamonds don't mean glamour, purity or eternal love. Instead, they mean slaughter and sadistic brutality. In civil wars in Angola, Congo and Sierra Leone—among the world's bloodiest yet most ignored conflicts—guerrilla groups earn hundreds of millions of dollars annually from mining and exporting diamonds. They use the money to buy huge arsenals and terrorize enormous expanses of countryside." *Glittering Currency of African Warfare*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, 3/6/00.

"The diamond-financed escalation of war in Angola in the last decade has cost the lives of about 500,000 people while displacing about four million others, according to human rights groups and the United Nations." *U.N. Sees Violation of a Diamond Ban by Angola Rebels*, *New York Times*, 3/11/00.

" . . . the glittering stones have become agents of slave labor, murder, dismemberment, mass homelessness and wholesale economic collapse." *New York Times*, 4/6/00.

"Sierra Leone remains one of the poorest countries, despite its diamond wealth. Or rather because of it. 'The diamond mines are central to the conflict in two ways. One, they provide the spoils. Two, providing the RUF with the money to continue waging war.'" *A Conflict Rooted in Rebels and Diamonds*, *Christian Science Monitor*, 5/15/00.

"Clausewitz called war 'the pursuit for politics by other means.' But war is just as often a device for the pursuit of business. In Sierra Leone, war is caused by diamonds. The limb-chopping rebels of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) started out in 1991 as a small band. Then they captured the diamond region, got rich and became a very big band. . . . They fight not to win but to keep hold of the diamond trade." *Diamonds are for Killers*, *Washington Post*, 5/16/00.

"The international diamond trade needs to be regulated. . . . Better accountability is not too much to ask of an industry with annual retail sales worth \$56 billion. Western governments can carry on financing peace-keeping missions while their consumers finance mayhem." *Diamonds are for Killers*, *Washington Post*, 5/16/00.

"Sierra Leone is being ripped apart because of diamonds. The Revolutionary United Front, or RUF, the leading rebel group, controls the country's richest diamond areas . . . refugees have no hope of

profiting from their hometown's natural wealth so long as the RUF remains there. 'I am living like this all because of diamonds,' [a refugee] said, surveying a crush of humanity at the camp's food distribution center." *A War Driven by Diamonds*, Los Angeles Times, 5/26/00.

"That a criminal economy can eat away at the heart of states and whole nations is nothing new. But recent events in Lierra Leone have shown that it can also divert to its own advantage an entire peacekeeping operation run by the United Nations and supported by the main foreign powers . . . We must be clear about who is involved. Barbaric, drug-crazed and dragooned by the warlords as they may be armed and desperate young men could not have brought UNAMSIL to it knees all on their own. The UN has been ensnared by something different, something newer and more insidious; by a struggle between two rival groups supported by businessmen intent on gaining control of mineral wealth." *Sierra Leone's Diamond Wars*, *Le Monde*, 6/00.

"The Kalashnikov lifestyle helps our business,' sing the child-soldiers of the RUF. When these kids with guns—doubly cursed by a war in which they are born to live as killers and then die young—watched the blue berets moving towards the diamond fields last March, they did not see them as representatives of an international community intent on disarming them and generously giving them an education, health, social protection and work. This is just one more faction that wanted to take their territory away from them so as to deprive them of their source of wealth . . ." *Sierra Leone's Diamond Wars*, *Le Monde*, 6/00.

"At least three wars in Africa are 'fueled' by diamonds . . . A campaign partly financed by Britain, is seeking to alert consumers to 'conflict' diamonds.' Seeing what animal-rights campaigners did to fur, this has terrified the whole industry." *Losing Their Sparkle: How to Stop Diamonds Paying for Nasty African Wars*, *The Economist*, 6/3/00.

"When they chop off people's hands, they will say to the victims, 'Let's see how you're going to vote now,' [Sierra Leone's Ambassador] Liagh explained. 'In Sierra Leone, people re in a state of shock. Nobody throughout the fellow Africans could be this vicious' The extreme violence, he said, is explained by the diamonds, which the rebels—who have received support from Libya and neighboring Liberia—seek to control. 'The greedier you are, the more violent you are,' he said." *An African Ambassador Battles Terror and Indifference*, *New York Times*, 6/5/00.

"As the people of Sierra Leone, Angola and the Democratic Republic of the Congo have found to their cost, diamonds from rebel-controlled mines are the perfect currency to discreetly buy arms, bribe officials and keep soldiers fed and fighting. Stones smaller than a fingernail can be easily hidden and sold for thousands of dollars with no question asked." *African Diamonds are a Rebel's Best Friend*, *Reuters*, 6/8/00.

"DeBeers is stepping up its attempts to make such Robin Cook and others do not stigmatize diamonds as 'the new fur' through constantly associated them with wars in Africa. Diamonds are commonplace in some parts of the [African] Continent and their high value is dependent on a pure image and DeBeers' restricting supply. The company has always had a huge marketing arm and 'diamonds are forever,' coined in 1947, is one of the most successful advertising slogans of all time." *African Images Could Hurt Diamond Trade*, *Daily Telegraph*, 6/12/00.

"The [United Nations'] main objective is to take the diamond fields in the east, which finance the rebels' war chest . . . From the diamond fields, the threats of the conflict lead

over the border. The RUF smuggles diamonds into neighboring Liberia, where President Charles Taylor (who helped launch the RUF) is, according to the British, swapping them for weapons and ammunition." *Sierra Leone: Staying On*, *The Economist*, 6/17/00.

"Many rebel leaders inciting civil conflict are really more interested in lucrative commodities such as diamonds, drugs, timber and coffee than in the political grievances they espouse, the World Bank says in a report release last week. . . . When the main grievances—inequality political repression, and ethnic and religious divisions—are measured objectively, they provide no explanatory power in predicting rebellion. . . . By contrast, economic characteristics—dependence on primary commodity exports, low average incomes, slow growth, and large diasporas—all are significant and powerful predictors of civil war." *Report Links Conflicts with Commodities*, *UN Wire*, 6/22/00.

"In Sierra Leone, the Revolutionary United Front, a rebel outfit seeking to conquer diamond fields in the eastern part of their country, routinely chops off the limbs of citizens to force evacuations of the countryside surrounding the mines. The rebels barter diamonds for weapons and fund their movement with illicit diamond trade. . . . While the vast majority of diamonds come from conflict-free zones in Africa and are traded legitimately, enough diamonds are mined in conflict zones to create a reasonable doubt about any stone's origin." *Rights Groups Take the Stick to Carat of Conflict Diamonds*, *Congressional Quarterly Daily Monitor*, 6/28/00.

" . . . public perception of diamonds has been marred by the gems' links to such armed conflicts as the one in Sierra Leone, reports the Karachi Dawn. 'Suddenly, instead of being glamorous and eternal, the precious stones are shooting to the top of the political hate list,' wrote Doug Alexander. 'Their sparkle has faded in a matter of weeks.'" *Diamonds Becoming Unpopular Due to Ties to Conflict*, *UN Wire*, 6/29/00.

"We have always maintained that the conflict in Sierra Leone is not about ideology, tribal or regional difference,' [Sierra Leone's Ambassador] Kamara added. "It has nothing to do with the so-called problem of marginalized youths or . . . an uprising by rural poor against the urban elite. The root of the conflict is and remains diamonds, diamonds and diamonds.'" *New York Times*, 7/6/00.

"Two weeks ago the World Bank reported that the struggle for diamonds and other commodities had overtaken politics as the biggest cause of civil war globally. The deaths of countless Africans are now inextricably linked to the glittering object that has symbolized the promise of a lasting marriage." *In Search of Hot Rocks*, *Newsweek*, 7/10/00.

"By far the most potent symbol of the suffering 'conflict diamonds' can inflict are the amputees of Sierra Leone. [Foday] Sankoh's rebels cut the hands off defenseless civilians in order to sow terror and clear people out of diamond-rich areas. Later, long after a peace agreement had been signed, Sankoh's forces attacked U.N. peacekeepers just as they were preparing to move into rebel-held diamond zones. That audacious assault clearly demonstrated just how important diamonds had become to the RUF." *In Search of Hot Rocks*, *Newsweek*, 7/10/00.

"Rather quickly, the world is waking up to the role of diamonds in fueling Africa's civil wars." *Africa's Death Stones*, 7/15/00.

"Diamonds have long conjured the most romantic notions. . . . In parts of conflict-ridden Africa, however, diamonds inspire little sentimentality. African warlords have taken control of some of the most valuable

diamond mines on the continent, using the proceeds to buy guns and machetes. Their involvement in the international diamond trade has given birth to a new gemstone: the blood diamond." *A Rebel's Best Friend*, *Washington Times*, 7/23/00.

"Consumers have begun to ask where their diamonds come from, prodding the industry to start certifying that it does not finance civil wars, merchants said. . . . The diamond merchants say they are working under pressure from their customers." *Diamond Industry Makes Proposals*, *Washington Post*, 9/7/00.

"Buyers would be appalled to learn that money paid for diamond rings and bracelets may ultimately support politico-criminal bands which exploit child-soldiers and survive by atrocities and terror. The business would be ruined overnight if the barbarous crimes committed in Sierra Leone—and wholesale atrocities against civilians in the struggles over control of diamonds and minerals in the Congo, Angola and elsewhere—became associated by the Western public with luxury jewels." *How Pressure on the Diamond Trade Can do Good for Africa*, *International Herald Tribune*, 8/25/00.

"The diamond trade is hard to control since the stones are so easily concealed and transported. . . . On the other hand, nearly all traded jewel diamonds pass by way of four countries: South Africa . . . Belgium and Israel, . . . and the United States. All are serious countries that can suppress much of the illicit trade, if they want." *How Pressure on the Diamond Trade Can do Good for Africa*, *International Herald Tribune*, 8/25/00.

"DeBeers was rocked by disclosures that in 1992 the company bought \$14 million worth of diamonds from Angolan rebels and has since scrambled to burnish its public image . . . [its] strategy may prove a spectacularly profitable act of reinvention." *A Gem of a New Strategy*, *Time*, 9/25/00.

"Nine years of civil war . . . has devastated the civilian population of Sierra Leone. The conflict has killed over 75,000 people, displaced one-half of the country's 4.5 million people, and resulted in egregious human rights violations. . . . The RUF, however, has continued to finance its military operations through the illegal sale of diamonds." *Sierra Leone: Diamonds for Arms*, *Human Rights Brief*, Spring 2000.

"The photographs of sad-eyed babies whose hands were hacked off by a vicious rebel force have shocked the world's conscience. So too have reports that the wealth and weaponry of Sierra Leone's insurgents come from their control of their country's diamond fields. The horrifying juxtaposition of severed limbs with twinkling gems has even riveted the attention of the diamond industry. U.S. consumers have a particular reason to deplore the link between diamond purchases and the funding of the psychotic rebel forces in West Africa. Americans reportedly account for 65 percent of the world's diamond jewelry sales. But at present there is no way for those buying this symbol of love to make an ethical choice." *Deadly Diamonds: Gems Sold in the United States Pay for Atrocities in West Africa*, *Legal Times*, 9/11/00.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUBEN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 4, 2000

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote No. 509, making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2001. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

IN HONOR OF THE 25TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF DON AND CATHIE HUNSBERGER

HON. CHRISTOPHER COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 4, 2000

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, there are few occasions more joyous and historic in a family's life than a 25th wedding anniversary. On October 11, 1975, Don and Cathie Hunsberger were married. Today, a quarter-century later, their bonds of matrimony are stronger than ever.

As each of us in Congress knows, leadership in all walks of life means, more than anything else, setting an example. The Hunsbergers' commitment to each other, to their families, and to their communities is just such an example and inspiration to us all.

They began their partnership as college sweethearts at DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana. Cathie was studying to become a teacher. Don was preparing for law school. Even then, Cathie was convinced that the education of our children was the key to our future, and Don was committed to improving the way of our laws and our government serve the people. Their sense of caring and responsibility made a lasting impression on all of their many friends, most particularly Cathie's adopted "sister" and roommate, my wife, Rebecca. Cathie and Don were soon married, and shortly made their way to Orange County, California.

As a renowned educator, Cathie has made a positive difference to hundreds of our children in Orange County. Don's leadership in the law and his community service have improved the lives of families throughout Southern California.

Twenty-five years of marriage have produced four children. As parents, Don and Cathie have passed along their values and their sense of honor, duty, and patriotism to Lauren, Ashley, Alec, and Evan. As a result, Orange County and our Nation will long profit from their example.

Along with the rest of their family and friends, the Hunsbergers will be celebrating this memorable occasion on October 11, 2000 in Yorba Linda, California at the home of Cathie's parents, George and Mary Ries. I know all of my colleagues join me in wishing Don and Cathie Hunsberger a splendid 25th wedding anniversary, and many more to come.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING TAIWAN'S PARTICIPATION IN THE UNITED NATIONS

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM BLILEY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2000

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, the Republic of China on Taiwan will celebrate its 89th anniversary of its founding on October 10, 2000. On this exciting occasion, I would like to add my support for this thriving democracy and to recognize the good work of Taiwan's President Chen Shui-bain.

Again this year, the Republic of China on Taiwan attempted to return to the United Na-

tions. I agree that the Republic of China on Taiwan should have a place in the United Nations. Taiwan is, and has always been willing to contribute to the many worthwhile causes of the United Nations, but without membership to the United Nations, Taiwan is barred from any substantive involvement.

Time has come for the United Nations to honor its own principle of universal membership and admit the Republic of China on Taiwan as a member.

On the eve of the Republic of China's National Day, I call on the United States to support this thriving democracy in their bid to become a member of the United Nations.

QUALITY, NOT QUANTITY;
RESULTS NOT PROCESS

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2000

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my good friend and colleague, BILL GOODLING.

When I think of BILL GOODLING, the words "quality" and "integrity" come to mind. BILL GOODLING is an example of the very finest this institution has to offer. His practical experience as a high school teacher, principal, and superintendent has given him the ability to legislate with authority on education issues. Many times I have looked to his leadership on education and deferred to his "hands-on" knowledge of preparing children for the best possible future.

BILL's philosophy of education is based on the premise that many of us believe in—ensuring that parents and local education agencies make decisions regarding a child's education, not the federal government. As Chairman of the Education and the Workforce Committee, he has challenged the federal education paradigm by insisting that the education of children is not determined by federal bureaucrats.

For his entire tenure in the House of Representatives, BILL GOODLING has encouraged all of us to keep the federal government's commitment to special education, and funding for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) has more than doubled during his term as Chairman of the Education Committee. IDEA will miss a great ally when he retires from the House.

Under his leadership, the focus on education has shifted from the quantity of programs and services provided by the federal government to the quality of those programs. Head Start, for example, has been enhanced to ensure that children are taught by qualified teachers and held accountable for meeting specific performance measures. Ed-Flex has also been expanded to allow all 50 states flexibility in administering education programs in return for meeting measurable performance standards.

BILL's contributions to Congress are not solely limited to education, however. As a member of the Committee on International Relations, he has impacted the development of U.S. foreign policy by insisting that U.S. national security interests are the utmost priority. His position on that Committee has also allowed him the opportunity to champion human rights and child survival efforts abroad.

Like many of my colleagues, I am saddened to see him leave this body. I will certainly miss his practical, "hands-on" expertise when looking for leadership on education issues. But I congratulate you, BILL, on a job well done. I wish you and Hilda all the best for your life to come.

HISTORICALLY WOMEN'S PUBLIC COLLEGES OR UNIVERSITIES HISTORIC BUILDING RESTORATION AND PRESERVATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SAXBY CHAMBLISS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2000

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this important bill, H.R. 4503, Historically Women's Public Colleges or Universities Historic Building Restoration and Preservation Act, which provides critical funding to assist a group of schools who pioneered improvements in educational opportunities for women throughout the United States.

Like the other colleges and universities that we are supporting in this bill, Wesleyan was established to ensure that women in the United States receive a quality education. Wesleyan College was founded as a public college in 1836, by citizens of Macon, Georgia, as Georgia Female College and is the oldest women's college in the world that still educates exclusively women. For more than 160 years, Wesleyan, has prepared women for life, work, and service. Today, Dr. Nora Bell, President of Wesleyan, the faculty and staff of Wesleyan continue to promote women's education as a continual, integrated process of growth in mind, spirit, and body.

Located on a 200-acre wooded campus, Wesleyan has multiple historic buildings on its current campus, including Persons Hall, Wortham Hall, and Banks Hall. I have had the distinct honor to visit the Wesleyan campus on many occasions. I have talked to students, toured the splendid historic building, and I firmly believe that providing funding for Wesleyan College as well as Georgia College and the other prestigious historically women's public colleges and universities will help restore some of our most precious historic landmarks and treasures and preserve the foundations of women's education in America.

FOREMOST FOODS ON GUAM

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 4, 2000

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 50th anniversary of Foremost Foods on Guam. For five decades, Foremost has been at the forefront in providing goods and services to the people of Guam. The company's products were first introduced to local households in 1950, when former Governor Carlton Skinner asked International Dairy Supply Company to supply Guam's civilian population with dairy products. Two years earlier, International Dairy was awarded a contract to produce goods exclusively for military personnel. Blue Seal milk products were then

sold at local stores and Guam schools began receiving half-pints of milk for lunch programs.

On February 12, 1951, International Dairy Supply Company was issued a Guam business license and, by 1955, the company was producing a thousand gallons of milk a day for civilian consumption. At the time, the staff consisted of 11 production personnel, 5 maintenance staffers and 3 drivers. In 1961, the Blue Seal milk trademark was replaced with the familiar "F" logo denoting Blue Seal's relationship with the parent company, Foremost Dairies. By 1965, Foremost Dairies had become the company's sole shareholder.

In the 1960's, milk, vanilla ice cream, and Coca-Cola were Foremost's bestsellers on Guam and in the Northern Marianas. As consumer lifestyles became more active and sophisticated, Foremost catered to local tastes. Through the years, low-fat skimmed products, Diet Coke, fat-free milk, yogurt and Crystal Clear Drinking Water have found popularity among island consumers.

From a handful of employees in the 1950's, Foremost Foods and Coca-Cola Beverage Company, Guam, now employs a full time staff which mans two 8-hour shifts at their state-of-the-art plant in Upper Tumon. In addition, a technical staff supervises and maintains equipment 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Under the capable direction of Paul Boon, who became the company's president 7 years ago, Foremost has continued a tradition of dedication and support for its employees. Veteran employees can attest to the company's concerns towards its workers through their training and development programs and their salary and benefits packages.

Over the years, Foremost has also been an active supporter of community programs, activities and events. The company has supplied products to numerous races and tournaments. It sponsors major events, such as the prestigious Asian Professional Golf Association Tournament, and provides corporate encouragement to community endeavors, such as Sanctuary Inc., the American Cancer Society, Goodwill Industries of Guam, Inc., and the Guam Chapter of the American Red Cross. However, the cooperative spirit between Foremost and the community is best demonstrated in times of contingency, such as typhoons. During such times, Foremost employees switch to round-the-clock production preparing basic supplies, such as ice and water, in order to meet the needs of island residents.

For the past 50 years, Guam and the Northern Marianas have enjoyed quality products provided by Foremost Foods. On behalf of the people of Guam, I commend the company for its contribution to our community and our economy. I congratulate Foremost Foods and join them in celebrating their 50-year anniversary on Guam. I hope that the next 50 years would bring continued success to Foremost Foods and its employees.

At this point, I would like to submit, for the RECORD, the names of veteran employees who, through the years, have made great contributions towards the success of the company.

33 Years: Narciso M. Ibit, Production Supervisor; 31 Years: Eduardo G. Merto, Dairy Specialist II; 27 Years: Hermie L. Loria, Production Supervisor; 26 Years: Benjamin M. Peralta, Engineering Technician I; Danilo E. Tucio, Dairy Specialist III; 25 Years: Joseph E. Collado, Chief Engineer; Arturo Hippolito, Dairy Specialist II; Marcelo Carlos, Jr., CSR

Crystal Clear; Luis Gonzales, Production Manager; Carlos Nucum, Engineering Technician II; Bartolome Andres Dairy Specialist II; Efren Silva, Engineering Tech I; Tommy Sangalang, Dairy Specialist II; Teodor Aagsalud, Warehouse Specialist II; 24 Years: Natalio I. Esperosa, Dairy Specialist I; Mateo D. Ulanday, Dairy Route Sales Representative; Cerilio Danila, Dairy Specialist III; Jose Ferrer, Dairy Route Sales Representative; 23 Years: Rudolfo De Guzman, Dairy Specialist II; Leo Bustillo, Warehouse Specialist II; Augusto Perez, Engineering Technician III; Luther Umayam, Auto Mechanic I; Alberto Valencia, Engineering Technician I; 22 Years: Manuel Alvarez, Crystal Clear Supervisor; Jose Agahan, Warehouse Specialist II; 20 Years: Romualdo Dela Cruz, Engineering Leadman IV; 19 Years: Federico Ventura, Preseller (Dairy); Erlo Torres, Dairy Specialist II; 15 Years: Reynaldo Dimla, Engineering Clerk; Samuel Aagsalud, Dairy Specialist III; 14 Years: Rogelio Almeria, Auto Mechanic II; 13 Years: Zaldy Ponce, Warehouse Specialist II; Benson Ayson, Dairy Route Sales Representative; Rodolfo Paulino, QA Manager; Luzviminda Fellone, Lab Technician II; Elmer Escalera, Dairy Specialist II; Eddie Salonga, Dairy Route Sales Representative; 12 Years: John Panaguiton, Dairy Route Sales Representative; Eloison Galang, Coke Vending Sales Representative; Antonio Pehipol, Dairy Specialist IV; Amante Velasco, Dairy Specialist III; Roger Tiong, Dairy Route Sales Representative; Salvador Tarape, Dairy Route Sales Representative; 11 Years: Gil David, Warehouse Specialist II; Jose Canovas, Preseller (Dairy); Edgar Llarenas, Coke Technician III; Joveneil Eugenio, Lab Technician I.

EX-OFFENDER VOTING RIGHTS ACT

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 4, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, in Post-Civil War America, Congress passed the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution to give African Americans the right to vote and to participate meaningfully in the governance of this country. While 22 African-Americans were elected to Congress in the following years, the promise of these amendments was destroyed by Jim Crow laws. After decades of struggle, the sacrifices of nonviolent civil rights protesters spurred Congress to approve the Voting Rights Act in 1965. The passage of the Voting Rights Act was perhaps the most important victory won by the Civil Rights Movement led by the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. All of these efforts were made with the recognition that the franchise is critical to the ultimate emancipation of the African American people.

Unfortunately, as we approach the first national election of the new millennium, we are confronted with another challenge to the enfranchisement of millions of African-Americans. Mr. Speaker, there is simply no justification for the disenfranchisement of almost 3 million Americans who served their sentences for the commission of a felony crime. Let me repeat that point: over 3 million Americans have lost their right to vote even after they have paid their debt to society. Mr. Speaker, this issue is of great concern to my commu-

nity, which already suffered so much from the so-called "war on drugs."

The war on drugs is perhaps the single most "effective" tool in disenfranchising millions of African Americans since Jim Crow. Between 1985 and 1995, there was a 707% increase in the number of African Americans in state prison for a drug offense, compared to a 306 percent increase for whites over the same period. In addition, since the advent in 1986 of mandatory minimum sentences for drug related offenses, the number of African Americans in prison on drug-related offenses has exploded. In fact, despite evidence that African Americans and Caucasians use drugs at roughly the same rate, African Americans have been especially hard hit by mandatory minimum sentences: African Americans comprise about 13 percent of the United States' population, 15 percent of drug users, and 17 percent of cocaine users. However, thanks to the war on drugs being targeted against our communities, African Americans account for 33 percent of all federal drug convictions, 57 percent of Federal cocaine convictions and a staggering 84 percent of all federal crack cocaine convictions. Once convicted, these individuals often lose their right to vote for life.

The result? The combined effect of the war on drugs and mandatory minimum sentences being targeted at African Americans and other minorities is that these groups are losing their right to vote at staggering rates. That's why I come here today, to join my colleagues in demanding passage on vital legislation to make all persons released from prison automatically eligible to vote in federal elections. This, Mr. Speaker, is a necessary step in restoring the franchise to those Americans who have already suffered so much.

IN RECOGNITION OF MANUEL D. MAYERSON

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 4, 2000

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Manuel D. Mayerson, who will be honored at the Second Annual Circle of Life Awards Dinner in Cincinnati on October 5, 2000.

The Circle of Life Awards Dinner raises awareness about the severity of brain injury and honors leaders like Manuel for their work in helping young people with disabilities. Brain injury is the most frequent cause of disability and death among children and adolescents in the United States. Each year, over 1 million children sustain injuries with more than 30,000 suffering a serious permanent disability.

Manuel's interest in helping children and others with disabilities began about 10 years ago when he was approached by several organizations about the problems of infant brain injuries caused by shaking. Manuel then decided to form the Family Violence Coalition, which focuses on programs to prevent child abuse.

Most recently and through Manuel's support, the Mayerson Center for Safe and Healthy Children at Children's Hospital Medical Center of Cincinnati was founded to help prevent, identify and treat child abuse and neglect.

Manuel also serves as a trustee at Children's Hospital. Outside the Hospital, he has been instrumental in establishing programs like the Inclusion Network, which works to increase acceptance of the disabled, and other important human service programs that help people to overcome limiting conditions.

Manuel continues to serve on a number of boards including: the Cincinnati Children's Hospital; Hebrew Union College; Contem-

porary Arts Center; Cincinnati Art Museum; and the Freestore/Foodbank. In addition, the Mayerson Foundation, supported by Manuel and his wife, Rhoda, has been most generous to causes that improve the lives of children, people with disabilities, and to community institutions aimed at preserving cultural heritage.

Manuel and Rhoda have three children: Neil, Fred, and Arlene. In addition to the many influences in Manuel's life, Arlene, a civil lib-

erties attorney and one of the architects of the Americans with Disabilities Act, has had a significant impact in shaping his commitment to helping those with disabilities.

All of us in the Cincinnati area congratulate Manuel for his outstanding leadership, service and commitment to improving the lives of others.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD

on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, October 5, 2000 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

OCTOBER 10

2:30 p.m.

Intelligence
Closed business meeting to consider pending intelligence matters.

SH-219

7:30 p.m.

Conferees
Closed meeting of conferees on H.R. 4392, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2001 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System.

S-407, Capitol

OCTOBER 11

9:30 a.m.

Judiciary
Administrative Oversight and the Courts Subcommittee

To continue oversight hearings on the Wen Ho Lee case.

SD-226

OCTOBER 12

9:30 a.m.

Appropriations
Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the status of Gulf War illnesses.

SD-124