

talent needs to be engaged with that from cooperating multilateral organizations and individual countries to produce as realistic and comprehensive market based development plan for each country in sub-Saharan Africa.

At its peak, the mineral riches of one province in Congo provided 25% of the GNP of that country. Once peace comes, a high priority should be given to a plan to restore the power and transportation infrastructure to allow these minerals to play their earlier role in the local and global economy.

By the same token, unwise policies, such as the current efforts of President Mugabe to demagogue the issues involved in the commercial farming sector of his country, need to be more strongly discouraged by those in a position to deploy carrots and sticks. Everywhere in Africa there is a need for more intensive commercial farming, which has more than proven its potential in the latter part of the 20th century. The solid results achieved by efficient commercial farmers both in feeding local people and in providing desperately needed jobs and foreign exchange through exports is something that should not be ignored.

5. Delivery of health services is another area where more cost effective distribution systems are needed in some countries. A recent World Bank report suggested that of each \$100 appropriated for medicines by national budgets in Africa, only \$12 worth of such medicines reach patients. The rest of the money is lost through a combination of spoilage, corruption, and other apparent consequences of gross mismanagement.

The cost of commercially available treatment of HIV positive individuals or those with AIDS is about \$15,000/person. This is the approximate cost of educating 100 primary school students for an entire year. Offers by the United States to provide loans to impoverished African countries to allow them to purchase greater quantities of commercially available drugs to prolong the useful lives of the HIV positive will not find many willing takers among governments with unlimited pressing needs and limited resources.

Prevention is obviously the most important first line of defense against this scourge. Senegal does an effective job in this regard, and its HIV positive population is merely 1.8% by comparison with other countries with rates in excess of 20% and growing. Uganda is also now successfully lowering the infected number of their citizens through effective anti-AIDS information campaigns. But the Senegal and Uganda information programs should be put on the road and marketed in all the African countries.

Brazil has successfully begun to attack its own HIV problem with generic drugs produced at a fraction of the \$15,000 commercial rate. It did so by simply expropriating the technology and subsidizing the production and dissemination of the drugs.

Clearly, it is in the interest of all that current market-based incentives for research and development of anti-AIDS drugs should continue and intensify. Companies which are successful should be rewarded for their success. The franchises for distribution of HIV/AIDS medicines in Africa should be purchased by donor governments and multilateral health agencies.

Even if not all the millions now infected can be treated with anti-AIDS medicines due to cost factors and distribution complexities, at least the scarcest talent in the country, educated at vast cost, can be treated and their productive lives greatly extended.

6. Better education programs are clearly part of the answer to Africa's multiple prob-

lems. But today, less than 2% more women are being educated than was the case during the colonial period. Educational costs are unnecessarily high in some places because of unionized work forces that extract high salaries and benefits. In some places, governments cannot afford to field the number of highly paid teachers who are needed to address the requirements of Africa's children.

American children were educated in the 19th century with very simple structures and facilities. This is an area where friends of Africa in the developed world could perhaps usefully contribute more in talent, funds, and advice. Schools are also

7. Leadership. During the Cold War, the United States mounted an extensive effort to identify and support able, young people from many parts of the world. Large numbers were brought to the United States as visitors and hundreds of thousands were educated here. The AIDS scourge is decapitating large numbers of people, including the educated elites in Africa, and a massive effort to replace these vitally needed trained technical and leadership groups is urgently needed. This will have to be a shared task among many countries that are friends of Africa.

CONCLUSION

This presentation is by no means an attempt at a comprehensive look at Africa's current problems. Those interested in digging deeper into the details should begin by reading some of the useful publications that the World Bank has recently sponsored and examine the writings of other experts on Africa.

Rather this speech is an effort to point out some of the things that I saw myself on a recent tour of part of the continent and some of the conclusions that I reached.

It is intended as an appeal to parts of the policy community who normally have responsibilities far beyond this one isolated region. We all need to look again at what is happening in sub-Saharan Africa and reconsider our overall priorities.

There is plenty of evidence that when the broader policy community focuses its attention on a problem of this kind that it can greatly strengthen the local leadership classes that ultimately bear responsibility for implementing solutions.

In years past, non-profit organizations, scholars, journalists, retired diplomats, and politicians, as well as individuals working within governmental and multilateral organizations have made major contributions in Africa. River blindness, for example, has been almost eliminated from many parts of Africa. New strains of crops have turned some famine prone areas into food-exporting regions. Reconciliation efforts far from the eyes of the public have brought old enemies together. But when governments put their shoulders to the wheel with imagination, resources, and leadership, they can accomplish things that are far beyond what individuals can do.

There is both a need and an opportunity for collective international action in Africa today. The recent debt relief effort needs to be supplemented by programs that deal with other aspects of the continent's urgent needs.

Sometimes even a relatively modest effort in an area which is under-served can yield a disproportionately positive impact on the lives of a great many human beings. The opportunities now in Africa are great for this kind of commitment. I hope that some of you will take up the challenge. Leadership, imagination, and resources are urgently needed in this part of the world.

HONORING JAMES B. ORRELL

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2000

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize James B. Orrell. James Orrell has provided invaluable support and leadership to Marin County school districts and the Marin County Office of Education for 35 years. During his many years of service he has demonstrated leadership in public education and dedication to students, parents, teachers and community members.

James had worked in the Office of Education as Assistant to the Marin County Superintendent of Schools, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services, Director of Employer/Employee Relations, Special Education Project Manager, liaison to the Marin County School Boards Association and the Joint Legislative Action Committee, and Administrative Assistant. He has also been a Teacher and Principal at San Quentin and Interim Superintendent of the Reed School District as well as representing Marin for 30 years on the California School Masters Board to promote excellence in education by recognizing outstanding teachers and administrators.

During his long career in public education, Mr. Orrell worked tirelessly to provide high-quality education programs, and services for all students. It is my pleasure to honor James Orrell. I am proud to represent such a dedicated educator.

TRIBUTE TO ANTONIO MEUCCI

HON. BILL PASCHELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2000

Mr. PASCHELL. Mr. Speaker, Alexander Graham Bell is the man most commonly given full credit for the invention of the telephone. The courts awarded him one of the most valuable patents in American history, a patent that made him a millionaire and became the foundation for one of America's largest corporations. Certainly, the telephone has become a tool of modern communications so fundamental that many of today's business and social activities would be inconceivable in its absence. However, Bell's claim that he solely engineered the telephone was hotly disputed by a number of other inventors, one of which I wish to speak of here today. My motive is not to disparage or discredit the legend of Mr. Bell's findings, but rather to tell the story of Antonio Meucci, an Italian immigrant little known for his far-reaching contributions to our society.

Antonio Meucci was born in San Frediano, near Florence, in April 1808. He studied design and mechanical engineering at Florence's Academy of Fine Arts and then worked in the