

Emancipation Proclamation and began to enforce President Abraham Lincoln's executive order.

We must never forget how precious our freedom is to all Americans; the thousands of men and women who died fighting for our freedom; or the struggles of past generations as they demanded a true equality, regardless of their race, sex, or religion.

I can think of no better way to move forward than to celebrate the defeat of slavery. Juneteenth Independence Day is a celebration where all Americans, of all races, can join together to celebrate our independence and our freedom.

Just this past weekend, Richmond, Virginia, celebrated "Juneteenth, an Emancipation Celebration." Festivities took place at the Manchester Dock, which served as a port of entry for Africans being brought into America to be sold as slaves. Later in the evening, individuals walked along the same trail marched by slaves from Manchester Dock. I would like to thank the City of Richmond Slave Trail Commission, Senator Henry Marsh's Unity Day Committee, and the Elegba Folklore Society for hosting "Juneteenth, an Emancipation Celebration."

Madam Speaker, I hope you join me in reflecting upon the struggles of our African-American brothers and sisters and celebrate with me and Americans all across the United States the Emancipation Proclamation. Madam Speaker, please support H. Con. Res. 163. Thank you.

STAND UP FOR OUR VETS

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2001

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, later this month, the Prime Minister of Japan will meet President Bush. I urge the President to address the issue of compensation of American veterans who were sent to forced labor camps during the war.

Obtaining justice for Americans who suffered at the hands of Japanese companies is an issue that must be addressed during the upcoming summit.

It is unfortunate that the State Department has taken the mistaken and regrettable position that the Peace Treaty with Japan somehow bars private legal actions by our veterans against private Japanese corporations to whom they were forced to work with no pay and horrendous conditions.

The legal experts who have aligned themselves with these American heroes in their actions against immensely profitable private Japanese companies make a number of solid arguments to the effect that the waiver provisions of the 1951 Treaty do not cover these national-against-national claims. It is far from obvious that under our constitutional system, the federal government even has the authority to compromise or to waive claims of private citizens, which, after all, do not belong to the government. Nor is it obvious that the negotiators of the Treaty—including John Foster Dulles—contemplated, much less preemptively resolved, private claims of this kind.

Article 14 of the Treaty does not even purport to waive all claims howsoever arising,

having to do with misconduct by Japanese companies during the War years. It is limited, even by its own terms, to claims based on "actions taken . . . in the course of the prosecution of the War." Acts that were illegal under international law as it existed in the 1940s are not, and should not be, protected under the waiver according to the principle of law, morality, and common sense that one should not be permitted to profit from his own wrong.

Using slave labor to assist in the War effort was illegal in the years 1939–45, as it is today. Thus mistreatment of prisoners of war cannot have been undertaken "in the course of the prosecution of the War," unless the companies that accepted the benefit of these captives' work are now to confess that they are guilty of war crimes: allegations they have vehemently resisted for nearly five decades.

These men do not seek, nor does the outcome they are attempting to achieve require, abrogation of the Treaty. They believe that as a matter both of law and of fairness, the Treaty and the peaceful Pacific that it heralds are consistent with a measure of compensation for their suffering. A legal victory for our vets would be another indication that the United States legal system is founded not on empty ideals but on the real rights of real people. That would be an outcome in which all Americans should rejoice.

But make no mistake about it, while I hope that the Bush Administration and the government of Japan will assist our veterans through diplomacy, failure to do so would not put an end to this issue. Rep. MICHAEL HONDA and DANA ROHRBACHER have introduced legislation to overcome the State Department's twisted interpretation. I support this bill and will push for its passage into law if the U.S./Japanese Summit does not produce justice for our veterans.

A TRIBUTE TO G. LOUIS FLETCHER, SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2001

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like today to pay tribute to the 35-year public service career of G. Louis Fletcher, the General Manager of the San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District, located in my Congressional District in Southern California. From his start as an engineer, General Manager Fletcher has provided leadership at every level of the agency. He will retire at the end of this month.

Louis Fletcher is one of the unsung men of vision who have ensured that the booming communities of the San Bernardino and Yucaipa Valleys have never faced a water supply problem. Starting with the agency in 1966, Mr. Fletcher was responsible for the design and construction of a major aqueduct system that presently delivers imported water from the California State Water Project to the San Bernardino and Yucaipa Valleys.

Mr. Fletcher has championed the needs of constituents in the 40th Congressional District for decades, including leading the fight to convince the Army Corps of Engineers to agree to

a flood-control dam that would be much more aesthetic—and more effective—than what was planned for the town of Mentone. The completed Seven Oaks Dam on the upper Santa Ana River provides flood control relief for millions and blends wonderfully with the surrounding hills.

The principal accomplishment of Mr. Fletcher's career has been the design and construction of a water supply system for hundreds of thousands of people. He is known throughout California for his innovative work in groundwater management, water quality and quantity computer models, mortar lining of steel water pipelines, and improved methods of wastewater management.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in honoring G. Louis Fletcher for his lifelong work in providing clean and reliable water to so many people. It is fitting that all of us join with his family and friends in recognizing his service and dedication to the San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District. We wish him well in his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2001

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I was not able to vote during consideration of rollcall No. 169 and 170. I would have voted: "nay" on both these rollcall votes.

2001 SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2216) making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes:

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the DeLauro Amendment, which would increase funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

My colleagues, LIHEAP is the safety net that protects our most vulnerable from making a choice between food and heat or air conditioning. Many LIHEAP families receive a small amount of support, but it's a difference that helps them maintain their dignity.

Nearly 80 percent of LIHEAP participants receiving heating assistance earn less than the federal poverty level. Unfortunately, nearly half of the states have exhausted or nearly exhausted available funding.

In New York—where energy prices increased by more than 20 percent over the last year, and this summer they are expected to be higher than ever—our LIHEAP funding balance is only \$23 million. Last year at this time the balance was \$35 million.

Unless we provide added funds to the LIHEAP program, an increase in energy prices will force millions of families to choose between