

CONGRATULATING DIANA
CONNOLLY

HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2001

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the public service career of Diana Connolly. Diana is retiring from her astonishing 42-year career at the Port of Long Beach, California, in the 38th Congressional District. In no small way, Diana helped to make Long Beach America's busiest port over those 42 years.

Mr. Speaker, what may be most astonishing is that during her tenure, after her long days of service at the Port, she went to school earning a degree at Long Beach City College at night, then a Bachelor of Arts degree and finally a Masters at California State University, Long Beach where I had the privilege of serving as President for many years.

In all of this, it is said that Diana Connolly has been the wheel-horse of the executive staff at the Port. It is no secret that one can phone the Port at 10 a.m. from the nation's capital, which is 7 a.m. at the Port, to find Diana answering the phone. And again, many of us know she is still answering phones long after the Port's traditional quitting time.

Mr. Speaker, I know that such public service dedication can be an important example to young people beginning careers today, and I cannot think of a finer example.

For Diana, her long work hours and always-dependable delivery of results appear at times almost effortless. Certainly Diana has used her fine education record, her hard earned experience, and her dedication to make a difference in the lives of many Southern Californians.

Mr. Speaker, I join Diana's colleagues who will be celebrating her career today in Long Beach. Those of us here in Washington who have known and worked with Diana wish her a well-deserved retirement. We certainly admire her steadfast dedication, her unequaled 42 years of service at the Port and wish her well on what I am sure will be yet another kind of career, which she may now choose to begin.

Congratulations Diana!

CHARTER OF PRIVILEGES

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2001

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a resolution commending the life and work of William Penn—particularly his foundational document, the Charter of Privileges—and celebrating the anniversary of the Liberty Bell and the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence.

William Penn was a distinguished statesman and a principled fighter for religious freedom. Penn was ahead of his time in his thinking about religious freedom and Native American rights and his commitment to republican principles. Revolutionary for its time, Penn's Charter is considered by some to be the Magna Carta of American religious liberty.

Mr. Speaker, the events of September 11 are an eloquent reminder that liberty is not something that we should take for granted. Many people around the world are denied the right to worship freely and to have basic human rights—such as the freedom of assembly and the freedom of association.

We must remember that it was not long ago, in the history of our own nation, that religious freedom and human rights were reserved for a privileged group. When Penn wrote his Charter of Privileges, in Penn's own hometown of Philadelphia, slavery was legal and Roman Catholic worship was illegal. It was in this crucible of prejudice that Penn sought to create a new society—one that would embrace the tenets of individual dignity and freedom of conscience.

In the Charter, Penn ensured that no citizen would be discriminated against because of his or her faith, nor would any citizen be denied a role in civil government because of the expression of his or her faith. Penn recognized the role of religion in public life and affirmed its importance.

Penn's vision of a free society with freedom of religious conscience was conceived in the Tower of London where he was imprisoned for his Quaker convictions. Penn's radical dream that Philadelphia would be a city of brotherly love—where liberties entirely unknown elsewhere in the world would be legislated and practiced—set a new standard for religious liberty that profoundly impacted American history.

Many people are unaware that the Liberty Bell was made in order to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Penn's Charter of Privileges. With the Liberty Bell as its inspiration, abolitionists in Pennsylvania moved swiftly to make Pennsylvania one of the first colonies to work toward the abolition of slavery. In addition, the Liberty Bell was tolled to summon the citizenry to the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence on July 8, 1776.

Under William Penn's leadership, an atmosphere of liberty and religious tolerance was cultivated that had a large impact on the intellectual and commercial life of Pennsylvania, particularly Philadelphia. Some of our nation's founding documents, including the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, were crafted in Philadelphia during this time of extraordinary commitment to individual liberty.

Mr. Speaker, throughout our nation's history, we have been fortunate to have men and women of strong character and firm convictions who have led our country to greater heights and a purer vision for our nation. William Penn was such an individual, and it is my privilege to honor him today by introducing this resolution.

ECONOMIC SECURITY AND
RECOVERY ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 24, 2001

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to the Republican economic stimulus plan and in favor of the Democratic substitute, which will truly help those workers affected by this recession.

September 11th changed the world. As we respond to the economic uncertainty, there is no way that we should allow special interests to use this moment to push and solidify their corporate welfare agenda. Paying off special interest contributors does not stimulate the economy and does not ensure the safety of our country.

An economic stimulus plan should target those who need it the most. Creating jobs, creating economic development activities stimulates the economy. Providing fair unemployment and health care benefits to those who have lost their jobs creates economic stability and is the right thing to do. The wrong thing to do is to provide \$70 billion in corporate tax cuts and only \$2 billion in benefits to workers who have lost their jobs and their health care, which is what the GOP economic stimulus package does. In fact, a full two-thirds of the GOP economic stimulus bill goes to profitable businesses and not to workers affected by the recession.

Let me give just a few examples of the huge corporate tax breaks in this bill. The repeal of the alternative minimum tax for businesses, which was passed in 1986 to ensure that companies could not get out of paying income taxes by using deductions, is not only repealed in the GOP economic stimulus bill, but it is retroactive, allowing businesses to deduct this tax all the way back to 1986! This ridiculous repeal would cost over \$25 billion, with huge amounts of this benefit going to a select few corporations. For example, IBM would get over \$1 billion in tax breaks just from this provision. General Motors and General Electric would each get hundreds of millions of dollars in tax breaks.

At the same time, the GOP barely spends any money at all on unemployment assistance. The amount that IBM would receive through the AMT tax break is the same amount that the GOP would spend on unemployment assistance for laid-off workers. So one corporation benefits the same as all the millions of workers who have lost their jobs? This makes no sense.

So today, I join with my colleagues to oppose this irresponsible tax cut, the so-called "economic stimulus" bill, and to support a real, responsible economic stimulus plan offered by the Democrats.

TRIBUTE TO SYRACUSE'S MILTON
J. RUBENSTEIN MUSEUM OF
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY ON OC-
CASION OF ITS 20TH ANNIVER-
SARY

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2001

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 20th anniversary of the Milton J. Rubenstein Museum of Science & Technology (MOST) in Syracuse, New York.

What began as a vision of the National Council of Jewish Women Greater Syracuse Section, the Junior League of Syracuse, and the Technology Club, now exists as a permanent fixture for all to visit and enjoy. Dedicated to the exploration of science and technology through hands on participation, the MOST today boasts hundreds of exhibits, a domed IMAX theater, and a planetarium.