I urge my colleagues to support enactment of this legislation to provide for a study to determine the sustainability and feasibility of the island St. Croix becoming the 24th National Heritage Area.

GREEK AND TURKISH CYPRIOTS ISSUES

HON. ROBERT WEXLER
FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Speaker, as the ranking Democrat on the Europe Subcommittee, I believe our colleagues in Congress will be interested in the following letter sent by the Turkish Cypriot Leader Rauf Denktas to the Greek Cypriot Leader Tassos Papadopoulos on April 2, 2003. I am hopeful that Mr. Denktas’s letter and its content will be a catalyst for renewed dialogue between Greek and Turkish Cypriots and a positive step toward a comprehensive resolution to their long-standing issues.

In this letter, Mr. Denktas provides a detailed proposal to lift all overseas trade, transport, travel and cultural activities from both parts of Cyprus. He states his willingness to meet with Mr. Papadopoulos to discuss the core issues of a comprehensive settlement with the objective of reaching an agreement between Greek and Turkish Cypriots.

While I understand that the long-standing Cyprus issue cannot be solved without great sacrifice by both sides, it is incredibly important that the United States and the international community work together to resolve this issue. Please know, I remain firmly committed to helping both Greek and Turkish Cypriots overcome obstacles and bring about a lasting peace for future generations.

April 2, 2003
DeAR MR. PAPADOPOULOS: Since our return from The Hague on 11 March 2003, we have been trying to reassess in depth the negotiating process resulting in the stalemate at The Hague.

Based on our re-evaluation and the responses given to the UN Secretary-General’s proposals by both sides, I am now convinced more than ever that we have for too long overlooked the significance of the psychosocial dimension of the problem, and especially the deep crisis of confidence between the two sides.

The Turkish Cypriot side sincerely wishes a lasting settlement to the forty-year-old question of Cyprus. In achieving a sustainable and viable settlement that would be acceptable to both sides, the first meaningful step should, without doubt, be the improvement of the political environment within which we could allow for the evolution of a working relationship between the two sides through the building up of trust and confidence. This would enable us to resolve pending issues, thus preparing the ground for a comprehensive settlement. The island is, no doubt, the common home of the two owner peoples in Cyprus. In this context, I wish to share with you the following ideas and suggestions which I believe could initiate a process of dialogue and consultation leading to a working relationship between us. This would greatly enhance the prospects for and pave the way to a mutually acceptable comprehensive settlement based on the political equality of the two sides and bringing tangible benefits to both parties.

(i) As a first step, the fenced area of Varosha south of Dhimokratias street, including the area of the UN Buffer Zone, will be transferred to the Greek Cypriot control to be opened for resettlement.

(ii) Parallel to this, all restrictions on overseas trade, transport, travel and cultural and sportive activities from or to both parts of Cyprus will be lifted. I am convinced that Turkey and Greece will also positively respond to this move, which is in line with the restriction within which they apply to the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot sides respectively. We shall invite the UN and EU to acknowledge and give effect to these arrangements.

(iii) The freedom of movement will be facilitated between the two sides, subject only to minimal procedures. The restrictions on the movement of tourists will also be lifted.

(iv) Steps will be taken gradually for the normalization of the flow of goods between the two parties on the island. Cooperation shall be also encouraged between the institutions of both sides to identify and develop joint projects.

(v) The Turkish Cypriot side will lift the measures regarding the movement of UNFICYP of July 2000.

(vi) A bilateral Reconciliation Committee will be established with the objective of promoting understanding, tolerance and mutual respect between the two parties. This Committee will make specific recommendations for promoting bilateral contacts and projects. These ideas and suggestions constitute a package and should be regarded as an integrated whole. The acceptance and implementation of this package will neither prejudice our respective positions, nor will it be a substitute to a final settlement. I am prepared to discuss with you the above points and their modalities with the aim of initiating a cooperative relationship. In doing this, we could benefit from the assistance of the UN and the EU. These measures, I believe, would bring about a positive climate to the island and to our region. On the understanding of the above, I am also ready to talk with you the core issues of the comprehensive settlement and matters related to EU membership with the objective of reaching a mutually satisfactory conclusion.

Sincerely,
Rauf R. Denktas.
2001 and within one year achieved the number two market share in low-calorie sweeteners in the world. As a result, Splenda saw more than 100 percent profit growth from 2001 to 2002. Also in that year, McNeil Nutritional's sales grew to $200 million.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you and my colleagues to join me, the Alabama Technology Network and the Business Council of Alabama in honoring McNeil Nutritionals, Splenda Plant, for its outstanding accomplishment. I also want to recognize and thank McNeil Nutritional's for its contributions to the local economy and to the quality of life enjoyed in the State of Alabama.

**Presidential Gifts Accountability Act**

HON. DOUG OSE
OF CALIFORNIA

**In the House of Representatives**

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to introduce a revised version of my “Presidential Gifts Accountability Act.” During the 107th Congress, I introduced an initial bill, H.R. 1081. Both versions of this good government bill establish responsibility in one agency for the receipt, valuation and disposition of Presidential gifts.

In January 2001, there were press accounts of President Clinton's last financial disclosure report, which covered calendar year 2000 and January 1–20, 2001. This report revealed that the Clintons chose to retain $190,027 in gifts, each over $260, during this period. In February 2001, there were press accounts of numerous furniture gifts to the White House residence, which the Clintons returned to the U.S. Government. These press stories led me to question how the current Presidential gifts system works and what legislative changes, if any, are needed to prevent future abuses.

I believe that the American people have the right to know what gifts were received and retained by their President. Additionally, I believe that donors should not receive an unfair advantage in the policymaking process or other governmental benefits.

To prevent future abuses, in March 2001, I introduced H.R. 1081, the “Accountability for Presidential Gifts Act,” which had bipartisan support during the 107th Congress. The Government Reform Subcommittee on Energy Policy, Natural Resources and Regulatory Affairs, which I chair, spent nearly a year gathering the empirical data to support and improve such a legislative effort.

The Subcommittee found that several laws, including the Presidential Gifts Accountability Act, had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1104), the Child Abduction Prevention Act, and the Child Abduction Prevention Act. As the Director for Public Service at the Brookings Institution, I believe that such a legislative effort would make administratively.

The Subcommittee identified a host of problems with the Presidential gifts system, such as consistently undervalued gifts and questionable White House Counsel rulings. The Subcommittee's investigation found that there is no single agency responsible for the receipt, valuation and disposition of Presidential gifts. In the meantime, I am writing you to recommend some changes in the current system, which can be made administratively.

Several laws, involving six Federal offices and agencies, govern the current system. I believe that the good government bill establishes responsibility in one agency for the receipt, valuation, and disposition of Presidential gifts. In the meantime, I am writing you to recommend some changes in the current system, which can be made administratively.

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Sincerely,

DOUG OSE,
Member of Congress.