

Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination: International treaty upholding individuals' human rights to be free of discrimination on the basis of race.

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Committee—Treaty Monitoring Body that monitors state compliance with the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Covenant.

European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms—European treaty upholding the rights of the Universal Human Rights Declaration.

IACHR—Inter-American Commission on Human Rights: International body upholding the American Convention on Human Rights.

ICCPR—International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights: International treaty protecting individuals' civil and political human rights.

ICESCR—International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: International treaty protecting individuals' economic, social and cultural human rights.

ICPD Programme of Action—Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development: Consensus document adopted by nations participating in the International Conference on Population and Development.

Treaty Monitoring Bodies (TMBs)—United Nations Treaty Monitoring Bodies refer to the six committees which monitor governmental compliance with the major UN human rights treaties. While the TMBs are not judicial bodies; they influence governments by issuing specific observations about states' progress and compliance with human rights obligations. Four committees also hear individual complaints.

Universal Declaration—Universal Declaration of Human Rights: UN human rights instrument at the foundation of modern international human rights law.

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DELUXE HOTEL

HON. WILLIAM J. JANKLOW

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. JANKLOW. Mr. Speaker, on August 12, 2003, the Deluxe Hotel, a small business in Woonsocket, South Dakota, commemorated 100 years of family ownership and operation of the hotel.

The hotel itself is an original structure built in 1883—two months before there was a town of Woonsocket and six years before South Dakota became a state—by railroad supervisor, Charles H. Prior and his wife. On August 12, 1903, Joseph Lane and Margaret Kirby Brown bought the hotel for \$2,250 in cash plus a Springfield, South Dakota hotel valued at \$1,500.

Currently, J.L. and Margaret Brown's granddaughter—Delores Brown Bissel—owns and operates the hotel. She was born in the hotel in 1926, and has been involved in its operation ever since. The descendants of Joseph Lane and Margaret Kirby Brown gathered in Woonsocket on August 2nd to commemorate 100 years of family and business history.

Family-owned businesses, such as the Deluxe Hotel, are the backbone of many small, rural South Dakota communities. I congratulate the Brown Family for this remarkable milestone, and hope that this longstanding contribution to the Woonsocket community and surrounding area will continue far into the 21st century.

TRIBUTE TO THE FANNIE E. RIPPPEL FOUNDATION

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Fannie E. Rippel Foundation, a New Jersey philanthropic organization which is highly esteemed nationally and especially in the Northeast, and that will celebrate fifty years of grant making on December 11, 2003.

During the past five decades the Fannie E. Rippel Foundation has awarded grants amounting to more than \$113 million and has demonstrated its continuing commitment to improving health care in our state and nation.

The Rippel Foundation, established under the will of Julius S. Rippel, provides funds to aid the aged and women of all ages, to aid hospitals and to support institutions involved in heart disease or cancer treatment and research.

In the past, for example, the Foundation has provided and furnished funds for the construction of or to aid in the erection of hospitals and provided funds for their equipment as well as hospital maintenance.

The Foundation has also supported humanitarian programs, emphasizing ethical issues in medicine, pastoral education, programs in rural health, better case and disease management. In particular, the Foundation has supported most generously women's health programs for elderly women with chronic conditions, academic and educational programs for

women, and programs that promote better advocacy of women's health. The Foundation also stresses what is known as "humanistic medicine," and advances the importance of belief, support, communications and relationships in the healing process.

Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt that each and every dollar the Fannie E. Rippel Foundation gives to a hospital or a medical research facility is much appreciated. And, we can all be grateful for the Foundation's efforts because of its dedication to helping under-served rural and urban populations, and its interest in changing the wellness behavior of people through research and preventive care.

Throughout the years, the Fannie E. Rippel Foundation has earned an incredibly positive reputation for the many generous acts of its Board of Trustees, Officers and Staff.

Mr. Speaker, I know that you join me and my colleagues in recognizing and honoring the Fannie E. Rippel Foundation for its outstanding services to humankind for fifty years, and I ask that you and all our colleagues extend sincere best wishes for a successful Rippel Foundation Reception on December 11, 2003.

INTRODUCING THE WAR PROFITEERING PREVENTION ACT OF 2003

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise with Representatives DEFAZIO, and DELAURO as original cosponsors to introduce the War Profiteering Prevention Act of 2003. This is an identical companion to legislation introduced by Senators LEAHY, CLINTON, DURBIN and FEINSTEIN.

This bill closely resembles an amendment that I offered during consideration of the Iraq reconstruction bill. Unfortunately, the Rules Committee declined to allow debate on my amendment, which would have established tough criminal penalties for individuals who defraud the government involving contracts related to the war or reconstruction of Iraq.

As the government begins to spend the roughly \$20 billion appropriated for rebuilding Iraq, it is essential that we protect these funds from waste, fraud and abuse. To that end, the War Profiteering Prevention Act establishes a maximum criminal penalty of 20 years in prison and fines up to \$1 million for war profiteers and cheats who exploit the postwar relief efforts.

Unlike most nations where we send foreign aid, there is no functioning government in Iraq. While I believe the Coalition Provisional Authority is doing the best it can, it simply does not maintain the manpower necessary to adequately monitor reconstruction funds. Regrettably, a handful of politically connected corporations, including some with scandal-ridden business records, are taking advantage of this situation.

While anti-fraud laws protect against wasteful spending here at home, there are no such laws prohibiting war profiteering overseas. In response, my bill criminalizes overcharging taxpayers for any good or service with the specific intent to excessively profit from reconstruction. The legislation also prohibits fraud

and false statements in any matter involving a contract.

We need strong disincentives for those who defraud taxpayers. These controls must be in place now because criminal statutes cannot be applied retroactively. We cannot in good faith ask American families to sacrifice for postwar reconstruction and then allow so many others to unfairly profit at their expense.

Mr. Speaker, we must send a clear message that cheating U.S. taxpayers is completely unacceptable and will not go unpunished. For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the War Profiteering Prevention Act of 2003.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF DR. ROBERT PAVLICA

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the great contributions to education made by Dr. Robert Pavlica. I also wish to congratulate him on being one of only six teachers from around the world, and one of only two from the United States, to be honored by INTEL. Innovation in Education with the prestigious 2003 "Excellence in Teaching Award." He received this accolade for his pioneering development of the "Authentic Science Research in the High School" program.

Dr. Pavlica, a White Plains, NY, resident, who has a Ph.D. in biochemistry, along with master's degrees in philosophy, cell biology, and biology, has been inspiring students as a science teacher at Byram Hills High School in Armonk, NY, for the past 33 years. In 1990, he began teaching scientific research after one of his students asked for his help in pursuing an independent research project.

This would lead Dr. Pavlica to create the "Authentic Science Research in the High School" program, a three-year science research course, in which sophomores, who elect to participate, are instructed in the methods and processes of research. This culminates in each student conducting an original research project into an area of particular interest to the student. To help guide his or her work, each student is mentored by a respected scientist in the student's field of research.

This program has been enormously successful. Since its creation little more than a decade ago, thirty-nine of Dr. Pavlica's students at Byram Hills have become semifinalists for the Intel Science Talent Research Award, formerly known as the Westinghouse. Amazingly, eleven of his students have even reached the finals of the esteemed competition. This program has also prepared many more students for the arduous research that they will face in college.

Dr. Pavlica has taught his techniques to numerous educators, who wish to replicate his success in getting students excited about scientific research. Presently, over 170 school districts throughout the country have instructors who are using his program. In fact, over seventy percent of public and private high schools in Westchester County, NY, now employ the program.

The success of the program at Byram Hills has been mirrored in these schools, as well. Indeed, in 2002 and 2003, roughly forty percent of all of New York State's INTEL Science Talent Search semifinalist awards went to students who were taught using the "Authentic Science Research in the High School" program.

I am truly honored that I have this opportunity to congratulate Dr. Pavlica on his well-deserved award and to thank him for helping so many students in Westchester and around the country learn more about science and the potential that lies within them.

PROTECTING PUBLIC SAFETY IS AT THE HEART OF GUN PURCHASE BACKGROUND RECORDS

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I want to provide some additional information to follow up on my RECORD statement of November 25 regarding the provision in the FY 2004 omnibus spending bill which would require the destruction of background records checks 24 hours after a gun purchase.

I submit for the RECORD letters from two law enforcement officers groups who share my deep concerns about the impact on public safety of changing the current 90-day period for retaining data related to firearms purchase and approval. The Federal Bureau of Investigation Agents Association, wrote: "The more the retention period is reduced, the more difficult it would become to use the paperwork to investigate or prosecute crimes related to the use of sales of the firearms in question. Any such efforts can only complicate the already difficult task of law enforcement and jeopardize public safety."

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION,
AGENTS ASSOCIATION,

November 25, 2003.

Re Issues Related to Retention of Firearms Paperwork.

Hon. FRANK WOLF,

Chairman, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State, and Judiciary Appropriations Committee, H-309 Capitol Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN WOLF: On behalf of the FBI Agents Association (FBIAA), I am writing to express the FBIAA's concerns regarding the possibility of an appropriations rider that might reduce the current 90-day retention period for data related to firearms sales and approval. The FBIAA is a non-governmental professional association with a membership of nearly 9,000 current and more than 2,000 retired FBI agents nationwide; neither the FBIAA nor I speak for the official FBI.

While the FBIAA certainly understands and appreciates the civil liberties concerns related to firearms registration and the retention of paperwork related to background checks, we think the current 90-day retention period strikes the proper balance between civil liberties and crime control. To date, we are not aware of any problems associated with the current system. The more the retention period is reduced, the more difficult it would become to use the paperwork to investigate or prosecute crimes related to the use or sales of the firearms in question. Any such efforts can only complicate the already difficult task of law enforcement and jeopardize public safety.

We would be happy to further communicate with you on this or any other issue. As Congress moves forward in the appropriations process, we ask that you thoroughly review any rider attempt that may limit the ability of law enforcement officers to perform effective, fair, and timely investigations.

Very truly yours,

FRED BRAGG, *President.*

The International Association of Chiefs of Police, which first raised concerns about changing the time background records are maintained in a letter in 2001, continues to stand by that statement, which said: "We believe that decreasing the amount of time the purchase records are kept will weaken the background check system and allow more criminals to illegally obtain weapons."

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
CHIEFS OF POLICE,

Alexandria, VA, September 4, 2001.

Mr. TIMOTHY MUNSON,

Section Chief, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Module A-3,

Clarksburg, WV.

DEAR MR. MUNSON: The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed rule that would reduce the amount of time that the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) maintains National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NTCS) records on approved purchases from 90 days to one business day. The IACP is world's oldest and largest association of law enforcement executives with more than 18,000 members in 100 countries.

The IACP believes that the 90-day retention period should not be shortened. Decreasing the retention period of these records to one business day will not provide law enforcement with sufficient time to perform the necessary audits on the NCCS system as established by the Brady Act.

In March 1999, the Department of Justice issued a proposed rule to reduce the retention period from 180 days to 90 days. They concluded that 90 days was the "shortest practicable period of time for retaining records of allowed transfers that would permit the performance of basic security audits" of the NICS system. However; the Justice Department also acknowledged that law enforcement and the FBI's Advisory Policy Board had instead sought to increase the record retention period from 180 days to one year.

The FBI has stated that it requires at least 90 days to audit the records in order to ensure the accuracy and legitimacy of background checks performed by federally-licensed firearms dealers. These audits allow the FBI to search for patterns of fraud and abuse by both gun dealers and purchasers. Through these audits, the FBI can identify instances in which the NICS system is used for unauthorized purchases such as gun dealers having background checks on people other than gun buyers. In addition, audits can also help determine if gun buyers have submitted false identification in order to thwart the background check system. To run these crucial audits, the FBI needs the records on both approved and denied purchases. If these records are quickly destroyed, it will be much more difficult for law enforcement to investigate and prevent abuses of the background check system.

We believe that decreasing the amount of time the purchase records are kept will weaken the background check system and allow more criminals to illegally obtain weapons. In addition, it is important to note that there have been no allegations that any information retained in the records has been misused.