

Imports now account for approximately 38 percent of all the fruit and 12 percent of all the vegetables Americans consume each year. The volume of food imported into the U.S. has almost doubled over the last 5 years, yet the frequency of FDA inspections has declined sharply during the same period of time. FDA acknowledges that it is "in danger of being overwhelmed by the volume of products reaching U.S. ports."

Even if FDA could perform more inspections, FDA does not have the tests it needs to detect E. coli, salmonella, and other pathogens in imported fruits and vegetables. As recently as 1997, all of the microbiological samples that FDA collected and tested were in response to foodborne illness. None were for preventive detection. There has been little improvement since then.

GAO has studied this situation and has concluded that the federal government cannot ensure that imported foods are safe. In response to this crisis, the President has said FDA needs increased resources, more authority, and improved research and technology. The Imported Food Safety Act of 1999 addresses each of these points. The legislation provides additional resources in the form of a modest user fee on imported foods, and a "Manhattan Project" to develop "real time" tests that yield results within 60 minutes to detect E. coli, salmonella, and other microbial and pesticide contaminants in food. Finally, the legislation gives FDA authority, comparable to that of the U.S. Department of Agriculture with respect to imported poultry and meat, to stop unsafe food at the border and to assure that its ultimate disposition is not America's dinner table.

I would also note that the FY 2000 budget for the President's food safety initiative contains a modest funding increase over previous funding levels. Even under the most optimistic funding and allocation scenarios, the amount requested is inadequate to meet the resources needed to ensure that Americans have healthy food on their dinner table.

A TRIBUTE FOR FORMER MICHIGAN ATTORNEY GENERAL FRANK KELLEY

**HON. BART STUPAK**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 24, 1999*

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, a distinguished public servant recently stepped down from a lifetime working on behalf of the people of Michigan. In fact, Mr. Speaker, when one considers the fact that Frank Kelley served 37 years as Michigan's attorney general, one might almost say it was two lifetimes worth of work, not one, that Kelley spent in his effort to bring economic and environmental justice to the lives of the working men and women of Michigan.

A Democrat, Frank Kelley served with five Michigan governors, Republicans George Romney, Bill Milliken and John Engler, and fellow Democrats John Swainson, who originally appointed Kelley to fill a vacancy, and Jim Blanchard, who gave him the nickname the Eternal General.

Let me quote from a Detroit Free Press editorial of December 27, which spotlighted the fighting spirit of Frank Kelley and summed up—if such a summation is really possible—the 37-year career of this law enforcement legend.

"Kelley likes to say that he was a consumer champion before anyone heard of Ralph Nader, and that he had an environmental division, 'when most people didn't know whether it was spelled with an e or an i.' He regularly went after Michigan utilities in rate-hike cases like a pit bull after sirloin.

"He was outraged by charities that pocketed more money than they spent on good works, by retailers whose price at the scanner didn't match the price on the shelf, and by all the quick-buck ways unscrupulous and uncaring promoters could scam the poor and the wary.

"He understood that the small ways in which people are cheated, stiffed, disappointed and betrayed add up to something big and corrosive. He knew that by protecting the common folk against such frauds, maybe you could keep people believing in the possibilities of justice and good government."

That is a powerful theme for a life's work, Mr. Speaker. We can glimpse in a few words a man who understood the deceptions that can be perpetrated on the elderly in their homes with fraudulent mailings or on housewives in grocery stores, and he claimed that consumer fraud cost Michigan residents more money than other crime.

Public service certainly isn't over for Frank Kelley. He has already joined a new law firm in Lansing, that of Kelley, Cawthorne and Ralls, and he has been appointed by Governor John Engler to a post on the Mackinac Island State Park Commission.

This 103-year-old civic body oversees the park land and the historic attractions on Mackinac Island, which make up about 83 percent of the island. The commission also oversees Colonial Michilimackinac in nearby Mackinaw City and Historic Mill Creek near Cheboygan on the Lake Huron shore.

Frank Kelley's love for this beautiful island is made clear by the fact that he has already purchased his burial site there, right next to the burial site of the late Sen. Phil Hart and across the road from the grave of the late Gov. G. Mennen "Soapy" Williams.

But that's in the future as far as a re-energized Frank Kelley, fresh from heart bypass surgery, is concerned. Right now there is new work, new challenges, in fact, new careers.

Whatever he undertakes, it's certain the people of Michigan will benefit from his endeavors.

I am proud to call him a friend, a constituent, a mentor and—most of all—the "Eternal General."

AN UNCOMMON HERO

**HON. CHRIS CANNON**

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 24, 1999*

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, many individuals have been recognized for their courage

and valor during war time, but it is not often that individuals are remembered for their compassion and generosity under the same circumstances. As part of the ongoing celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Berlin Airlift, I rise today to honor just such a generous man. I am proud to be able to say that he is a constituent of mine, living in Provo, in the Third District of Utah which I represent.

United States Air Force Col. Gail S. Halvorsen was one of many who participated in the joint American and British effort to deliver relief to the people stranded in Berlin after World War II. In total, over 277,000 drops were made and 2.3 million tons of relief supplies were delivered. Col. Halvorsen's contribution, however, did more than feed empty stomachs. It fed empty souls as well.

One morning, (then) Lieutenant Halvorsen was talking with a group of children gathered to watch the planes take off near the Tempelhof Airport in West Berlin. When it was time for him to leave, he realized how long it must have been since these children had enjoyed something sweet, like a piece of gum or candy. He reached into his pocket and produced two sticks of gum, which he gave to the children. Soon Lieut. Halvorsen began dropping small bags of candy, for all the children, over Berlin, attached to white handkerchiefs designed to act as parachutes.

Soon, this small gesture was adopted by the military, and became known as Operation Little Vittles. Shortly thereafter, Lieut. Halvorsen appeared on television to promote the effort, and then thousands of candy donations poured into the program from all over America, as generous families gave to the cause. Col. Halvorsen's effort is universally recognized as one of the keys to the success of the Berlin Airlift, one of America's greatest humanitarian efforts.

Often we read the newspaper or watch the television and question if there are any heroes left; people we truly want to imitate. By honoring Col. Gail Halvorsen today, we are reminded that there surely are still heroes in our midst.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF KING HUSSEIN IBN TALAL AL-HASHEM

SPEECH OF

**HON. BILL LUTHER**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 10, 1999*

Mr. LUTHER. Mr. Speaker, King Hussein's death marks the passing of a truly visionary leader. His reasoned, thoughtful approach toward achieving Middle East peace inspired all of us. We Minnesotans are especially honored that the King received the best possible care in the world from our wonderful Mayo Medical Center. Our deepest sympathies to the family of the King, and all of the people of Jordan and the world.