

been to impede the exportation of medicines and medical technology to Cuba. These regulations have discouraged the transfer of health care resources through purposely restrictive licensing procedures and denying U.S. visas to, and even suing, executives of foreign companies found to be trading with the island. The collapse of the Soviet Union and the Eastern bloc, Cuba's principal benefactors, exacerbated the damaging effects of U.S. sanctions. As a result, health conditions in Cuba have deteriorated significantly.

Prior to the Warner-Dodd bill, the Dodd-Torres legislation in 1998 was introduced which was aimed at removing the provision of food and medicine from the U.S. sanctions list. The act lost its viability when Senate amendments emasculated the measure, turning the proposed bill into a vehicle for that would make matters worse for Cuba. Hostile riders to the bill permitted sanctions against "terrorist" nations that deny access to food, medicine or medical care as a means of coercion or punishment of a segment of the local populace, effectively invalidating the intentions of the bill's sponsors. Although Cuba has faced international pressure over its flagging human rights record, Havana officials maintain in return that the U.S. embargo has inflicted far more grievous rights violations against Cubans. Critics of the embargo condemn its hypocritical nature because it denies Cuba access to food and medicine as a form of coercion, while the U.S. simultaneously chastises Havana for not providing the population with these essential products. Although the Clinton administration recently ended similar policies against Iran, Libya and Sudan, arguing that "food should not be used as a foreign policy tool," the administration maintains a much more severe embargo including both food and medical supplies against Cuba.

A HISTORY OF GUARANTEED HEALTH CARE

Obsessed with eliminating "human, social and economic underdevelopment," Castro revolutionized the country's medical system in 1959, introducing comprehensive free health care for all Cubans. For several decades this system was considered a model for other Third World nations. The country's constitution guarantees citizens the right to free medical treatment and preventive care. The health delivery system focuses on women's health, providing programs for the early detection of breast and cervical cancer, prenatal care, and free child immunization. Previously, when medicines were available, state pharmacies filled prescriptions for free as well as formulated vaccines which were supplied by the bustling domestic drug manufacturing industry.

Cuba's progressive health care policy propelled the country's successful and internationally acclaimed biotechnology and pharmacology export industries. The island's 11 "world class" research institutions made impressive advances, some of which were greatly respected by the international medical community. These institutes have been credited with developing innovative medical breakthroughs including vaccines for hepatitis-B and meningitis-B. In fact, Cuba is the sole producer of a vaccine for meningitis-B that has been proven to reduce the incidence of the disease by 93%. The institute also developed a surgical cure for retinitis pigmentosa, a genetic disorder that may lead to blindness or tunnel vision.

LONG-TERM EFFECTS ON THE EMBARGO

While Cuban authorities maintain their resolve to provide the populace with greatly needed medical care, highly qualified doctors

still face long lines of patients with only antiquated technology to treat them. Even the medicines produced by the pharmacology industry are difficult to obtain because imports of their components have been restricted by the blockade. Despite the previous successes posted by the pharmacology industry, island drug store shelves are now empty. Although recent changes have allowed for some medical sales to Cuba, each transaction must receive prior approval from the U.S. Treasury Department in order to insure that the sale will not benefit the Cuban government and that such supplies will only be handled by independent and non-governmental agencies. Currently, only one U.S. company has sought license to sell medical goods to Cuba. A study by the American Association for World Health found that Cuban hospitals are in dire need of basic medical supplies as a result of U.S. policies. This is partially due to the fact that the government-run health care system serves the impoverished sector of the population, which cannot otherwise purchase medicine, while other hospitals serving wealthier Cubans and foreigners reap the benefits of this minor relaxation of the embargo. The only relief for the average Cuban citizen comes on the daily charter flight from Miami that brings donations from individuals and aid from the few Catholic humanitarian agencies authorized to operate on the island.

The U.S. embargo and the tempo with which it is being administered is indisputably hurting the majority of Cubans. Critics of the status quo maintain that lifting sanctions and following a policy of constructive engagement would be of great benefit to the general population. Several U.S. legislators recently have traveled to Cuba, indicating a need for more non-political relations with the island. "Cuban can benefit from the research of the National Institutes of Health and we can benefit from the research (the Cubans) are doing on meningitis-B," said Sen. Arlene Specter (R-PA) following a recent visit to the island.

Although the Warner-Dodd bill and HR 212 are meant to transcend party lines, it will be difficult to advance such creative thinking in either the House or the Senate due to the opposition of such powerful and unregenerate Cuba-bashers as Senate Foreign Relations Chairman, Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) and Florida's Cuban-American lobby.

IN HONOR OF THE BAYONNE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY FOUNDATION ON 34 YEARS OF DEDICATION TO THE CITY OF BAYONNE AND TO THIS YEAR'S HONOREES, MR. AL SAMBADE AND MR. THOMAS CUSEGLIO

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 4, 1999

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Bayonne Economic Opportunity Foundation for its continued service to the City of Bayonne, New Jersey, and this year's honorees, Mr. Al Sambade and Mr. Thomas Cuseglio.

The Bayonne Economic Opportunity Foundation, a social service agency in its 34th year, has remained a vibrant and reliable force in the community. Following the slogan, "Peo-

ple Helping People," the foundation has remained dedicated to serving the people of the community through various outreach programs, including Head Start and Meats on Wheels. And this year's honorees truly embody the goals of this organization.

Serving as Assistant Municipal Engineer from 1981 through 1987, Mr. Sambade has worked diligently for the City of Bayonne throughout his career. From funding procurement to construction supervision of various public buildings, drainage systems, and vital water distribution systems, Mr. Sambade's contributions can be seen throughout the city.

Mr. Sambade, a registered architect, licensed engineer, and professional planner in the State of New Jersey, founded the DAL Design Group in 1987. As the organization's President, he supervised millions of dollars worth of diversified housing and commercial and industrial development projects in the State.

A graduate of the Roberson School in Bayonne, Mr. Sambade is also very active in charitable organizations, such as the Boy Scouts, Windmill Alliance, and the Hudson County ARC.

Mr. Cuseglio has been both an active and visible force in the Bayonne community for more than three decades. From 1979 through 1983, Mr. Cuseglio served as City of Bayonne Building Inspector. By 1983, because of his expertise and unmatched commitment to the City, Mr. Cuseglio was serving as City Construction Official, Building Sub Code Official, Zoning Officer, and Relocation Officer.

After retiring from the City in 1992, Mr. Cuseglio continued his commitment to his life work by accepting a part-time position with the City of Keansburg as a Field Inspector to Code and Specification for its revitalization programs. And just four years later, in 1996 returned to Bayonne as "Clerk of the Works." In this capacity, Mr. Cuseglio was responsible for inspecting all construction sites.

Mr. Cuseglio remains active in community and charitable organizations. Presently, he serves on the Board of Trustees of the Bayonne Economic Opportunity Foundation.

These two men exemplify leadership and dedication to the City of Bayonne and to the Bayonne Economic Opportunity Foundation. For these tremendous contributions to New Jersey and their incredible example as public servants, I am very happy to congratulate Mr. Sambade and Mr. Cuseglio for their achievements. I salute and congratulate both of them on their extraordinary accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN MORAMARCO

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 4, 1999

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I take the floor today to recognize the outstanding career of John Moramarco, who is retiring as Senior Vice President and General Manager at Callaway Vineyard and Winery in Temecula, California—after 30 years with the winery.

John comes from a long history of vintners. In fact, he started his career at the family's

Old Mission Winery in Los Angeles as a young boy, and continued the family tradition as an 11th generation viticulturalist.

Years in the family business allowed John to learn the basics of the business, and the finer points and finesse of making great wine.

It was his love of wine, and know how, that John applied to the Capistrano Winery and Vineyards in Fontana, California, which he and his brother, Mike, established. John became the vineyard's manager from 1945 to 1967, and put into place the lessons learned from his youth—grape growing, wine producing, marketing and sales techniques. He also continued to supervise the family's vines and those of several other wineries.

In 1969, Ely Callaway hired John Moramarco to plant and supervise his new vineyard in the small, rural Riverside County town of Temecula. In this position, John was instrumental in Callaway's vineyard and wine development.

Only recently have I had the privilege of working with John, and observing his talent, first hand. Wineries in Southern California are currently facing an unfortunate situation with a disease that kills grapevines and has no cure. But, John's life-time devotion to the industry has made the California Wine Industry better prepared than they may have been.

John's progressive work with professors from both the Universities of California at Davis and Riverside, gives the wine industry a relationship that they can now draw upon to solve this crisis. The industry is indebted to John's work with the universities and his willingness to devote vineyard blocks to the universities for their experiments. Those experiments have resulted in improved rootstocks, fertilizers, herbicides, mildew resistance, grafting and pruning, techniques now standard practice in California, and will give the industry the greatest chance of surviving their current crisis.

I know that I speak for everyone in the wine industry when I say, "John will be missed."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES H. MALONEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 4, 1999

Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained during rollcall vote No. 567. Had I been present I would have voted "no" on rollcall No. 567.

ARTICLE EXPOSES HINDU FUNDAMENTALISTS' REPRESSION OF CHRISTIANS; WILL THE POPE BE SAFE IN INDIA?

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 4, 1999

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, on October 28, the New York Post ran an excellent article by Rod Dreher exposing the tyranny of what he called "Hindu brownshirts" who run India. He

notes that the Pope is heading to India soon and wonders if the Pope and his entourage will be safe in the face of this religious violence.

Dreher wrote that "a small but violent faction of Hindu fundamentalists aligned with the Hindu nationalist government have been conducting an organized campaign against the Pope as part of a concerted effort to demonize and persecute the country's tiny Christian minority."

In the article, Dreher states that there were 108 cases of beatings, stonings, church burnings, looting of religious schools, and other attacks on Christians. Freedom House, a widely respected human-rights monitoring organization, reports that there have been more incidents of violence against Indian Christians in the past year than in the previous 50 years, even though Christians make up just 3 percent of India's population.

Missionary Graham Staines and his two young sons were burned to death in their Jeeps by a Hindu mob affiliated with the ruling party. The Hindu militants surrounded the jeep and chanted "Victory to Lord Ram." Last month, Hindu fundamentalists kidnapped a nun named Sister Ruby and forced her to drink their body fluids. These are only two of so many incidents that I have lost count.

There have been cases of forcible reconversion to Hinduism along with the violent incidents against Christians and Christian institutions. Many of us have been standing here discussing this, yet it continues to go on in a country that continues to proclaim itself democratic.

It is not just the Christians. The persecution of Sikhs and Muslims has been well documented in this body time and time again. India has killed over 200,000 Christians since independence, and it has also murdered over 250,000 Sikhs, more than 65,000 Muslims, and tens of thousands of others. The highest shrines of India's Sikh and Muslim communities have been attacked by the Indian government.

It is clear that there is no religious freedom in "democratic" India. How can we be upset about China's persecution of Falun Gong and turn our heads when India practices oppression on Christians, Sikhs, Muslims, and others?

It is our responsibility as the leader of the Free World to help ensure freedom for everyone on the planet. We must subject India to the same penalties we impose on any other country that violates religious freedom. We should stop our aid to India until it respects basic human rights, including religious freedom. We should put the Congress on record in support of self-determination for all the minority nations that India is victimizing. Finally, I call on President Clinton to stress these human rights and self-determination issues when he visits India early next year.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to put Mr. Dreher's article into the RECORD for the information of my colleagues.

POPE'S PASSAGE TO INDIA MAY BE MOST PERILOUS YET

[From the New York Post, Oct. 28, 1999]

(By Fred Dreher)

Will Pope John Paul II be safe in India? There is more reason to worry for the pon-

tiff's welfare as he visits the world's largest democracy next week than there was when he went to communist Poland under martial law.

That's because a small but violent faction of Hindu fundamentalists aligned with the Hindu nationalist government have been conducting an organized campaign against the pope as part of a concerted effort to demonize and persecute the country's tiny Christian minority.

The government promises to protect the Holy Father from coalition fanatics. But while John Paul can rely on state security, his Catholic followers and Protestant brethren remain at the mercy of Hindu brown-shirts.

These thugs have carried out vicious attacks on Christians since a coalition led by the hard-line Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) came to power two years ago.

Freedom House, the Washington-based human-rights organization, says there have been more recorded incidents of violence against India's Christian minority in the past year than in the previous half-century.

The most shocking incident took place in January, when Hindu thugs burned alive Australian missionary Graham Staines and his two little boys. That was far from a isolated incident.

In 1998, the Catholic Bishop's Conference in India reported 108 cases of beatings, stonings, church burnings, looting of religious schools and institutions, and other attacks on Catholics and evangelicals.

It has been just as bad this year. Just last month, a Catholic priest working in the same territory as the Staines family was murdered while saying Mass for converts, his heart pierced by a poison-tipped arrow.

Why the attacks? Hindu nationalist leaders, particularly those associated with the BJP-allied World Hindu Congress (VHP), claim Christians are on "conversion overdrive."

This is preposterous. Despite being present in India for almost 2,000 years, and educating hundreds of millions of Indian children, Christianity claims the allegiance of less than 3 percent of the country's people.

Even in Orissa state, site of the worst anti-Christian violence, fewer than 500 conversions occur each year.

Still, Hindu nationalists continue to make wild-eyed assertions, such as VHP leader Mohan Joshi's recent statement that missionary homes run by Mother Teresa's order were "nothing but conversion centers."

Not true, but if it were, so what?

We know perfectly well what would have become of the diseased and the destitute had Mother Teresa's nuns not rescued them from the street: They would have been left to die in the gutter condemned by a culture that decrees these lowborn souls deserve their fate.

"What has the VHP done to better the life of the low castes? The answer is nothing," says Freedom House investigator Joseph Assad.

"When I was in India, I talked to one Christian who was forcibly reconverted to Hinduism. He told me when no one cared for us, Christians came and gave us food, gave us shelter and gave us medicine."

An Indian Protestant activist who lives in New Jersey told me BJP rule has meant open season on followers of Christ.

"The last two years have been unprecedented," the man says. "They have burned churches down, raped nuns, killed people. We complain to the government, but they look the other way."