

TRIBUTE TO RICADO ICAZA

**HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

**HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

**HON. BRAD SHERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 3, 1999*

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. SHERMAN and I rise today to pay tribute to our very good friend, Ricardo Icaza, President of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 770. This year Ricardo is receiving the International Humanitarian Award from the Israel Humanitarian Foundation. Having traveled outside the United States many times as a representative of the AFL-CIO, advocating on behalf of working people, it is no exaggeration to say that he is a perfect choice for this prestigious honor.

Ricardo joined Local 770 in 1956, when Dwight Eisenhower was President of the United States and Elvis Presley had his first hit records. In the ensuing 43 years, the fortunes of organized labor have ebbed and flowed, along with those of the American economy as a whole. Through it all Ricardo's commitment to the Union, its policies and its goals, has never wavered. He is too busy fighting for the rights of workers to worry about whether the role of unions is diminishing, or to fret over the standing of the labor movement in public opinion polls.

Ricardo has held many important positions with Local 770, including Research Assistant, Organizer, Business Representative and Secretary-Treasurer. He has been President of Local 770 since 1981.

Many of his duties have involved helping his brothers and sisters in foreign countries. In 1979, for example, he represented the Retail Clerks International Union as an advisory committee member in a delegation that went to Portugal, Spain and Brussels. He has also traveled to China, Geneva and Germany as a representative of the AFL-CIO. In 1998, Ricardo represented labor in Mayor Riordan's delegation that visited Japan for the purpose of encouraging business with the City of Los Angeles.

Ricardo's involvement with labor does not stop with Local 770. He is also President of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, Treasurer of the Food and Drug Council and Vice President of the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement and trustee of the Southern California United Food and Commercial Workers Unions.

We ask our colleagues to join us in saluting Ricardo Icaza, a man of integrity, compassion and justice. His unshakable commitment to improving the lives of working men and women inspires us all.

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE STUDENTS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FOUNDING OF THE CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION "CLOTHES, FOOD, AND EDUCATION FOR THE POOR AND NEEDY"

**HON. PETER DEUTSCH**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 3, 1999*

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of some distinguished South Florida students: Abhishek Gupta, Adam & Diana Deitsch, Connie & Hakeem Campbell, Shaun Krueger, Edward & Monique McDuffie, Laurel Stephenson, and Samantha Voehringer. Every one of these students in between the ages of 7-17 years old, and their outstanding community service has truly benefited both the South Florida community as well as the world at large.

During this past Thanksgiving break, my constituent, Abhishek Gupta, read several articles in local newspapers describing the unfortunate situation of many poor and needy families in his local community and around the world. The eleventh grade student set himself the lofty goal of raising \$50,000 in order to promote and combat this cause. With encouragement from his parents and help from several local students, Abhishek created a non-profit organization called "Clothes, Food & Education for the Poor & Needy" to help less fortunate families.

Finding corporate sponsors to pay for operational expenses, Abhishek appealed to an received contributions from the local community members who responded with both enthusiasm and compassion. In the end, their goal was exceeded by raising \$60,000 in just a few weeks. The money was donated to the Sun-Sentinel Children's Fund, the Miami Herald Wishbook in Southeast Florida, and to victims in Central America affected by Hurricane Mitch. In a very short time, the once bold idea developed not only a reality, but into an overwhelming success.

In December 1998, Lynn Stephenson, R.N., and Abhishek Gupta were invited to accompany a medical team on a mission of mercy to Honduras and Nicaragua from 12/26/98 through 12/31/98. In their possession were 120 boxes of food, clothing and medical supplies for distribution. In the three days the team of doctors was in Central America, they were met by an overwhelming number of patients to whom they provided badly needed medical treatment. By the end of the three days, they had seen a total of 594 patients.

Mr. Speaker, "Clothes, Food and Education for the Poor and Needy" is committed to supporting needy families and education in South Florida and around the world. The organization will continue to seek contributions for this worthy cause. Their vision is to make this an effort that continues throughout the year, thus creating the possibility of having a positive effect on the lives of people who are less fortunate.

*March 3, 1999*

H.R. 436, THE GOVERNMENT WASTE, FRAUD & ERROR REDUCTION ACT

**HON. DIANA DeGETTE**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 3, 1999*

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, Congress acted responsibly to reduce government waste last week, voting 419-1 to pass H.R. 436, the Government Waste, Fraud & Error Reduction Act.

This common-sense measure empowers federal agencies to collect delinquent debt and it bars individuals from receiving aid or participating in federal programs if they have refused to pay back money borrowed from the government. This tough-on-debt approach is justified for individuals who knowingly seek the assistance of the Federal Government, but choose to defraud taxpayers by not paying back their debts. On a yearly basis, Congress will receive reports from federal agencies detailing debt collection procedures and outstanding debts of \$1 million or more. With reinvigorated, streamlined debt collection mechanisms in place, the Federal Government will be able to use hard-earned taxpayer money more efficiently.

One important provision of H.R. 436 will allow social security benefits to be scaled back for individuals who owe large amounts of child support. For many working and single-parent families, child support payments are essential ingredients for success in raising children. I believe this bill will ease the burden on working families.

I was pleased to support this legislation and make good on my pledge to reduce government waste whenever possible.

IN SUPPORT OF THE WIRELESS PRIVACY ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 1999

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 3, 1999*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to submit for the RECORD that I would have voted "yes" if I'd been present for the vote on the Wireless Privacy Enhancement Act of 1999.

This important legislation strengthens and clarifies prohibitions on electronic eavesdropping.

Mr. Speaker, specifically, this legislation makes it illegal to intentionally intercept calls or to intentionally divulge the content of private calls. Additionally, it increases the penalties for violators and requires the FCC to investigate violations.

This legislation is essentially the same wireless scanner legislation that the House of Representatives overwhelmingly approved last session.

As an original co-sponsor of the Wireless Privacy Enhancement Act of 1999, I'm pleased my colleagues saw fit to pass the legislation by a 403 to 3 vote margin. As I stated before, had I been present for this vote, I