

Mr. Speaker, I must also report even more disturbing news to my colleagues. I believe we have an administration that is so hellbent on normalizing relations with Cuba that it is willing to overlook allegations of drug-trafficking.

On December 3, 1998, the Colombian National Police seized 7.5 tons of cocaine headed for Cuba, and eventually likely the United States and elsewhere. I have sent investigators down there who were able to put together the pieces of the puzzle in three days which our government, the ONDCP, DEA, CIA, and White House have either not been willing to do, or worse do not want to put together.

I have a letter from Barry McCaffrey which says there is no evidence that the Castro government is involved in drug-trafficking, ignoring the fact that Castro's brother, Raul, has been under indictment in Miami since the early 1990's for drug-trafficking and racketeering. Also, Ileana de la Guardia, the daughter of executed Cuban Colonel Tony de la Guardia, is currently involved in a court case in France where she alleges that drug trafficking reaches the "highest echelons" of the Cuban government.

What is the problem with this administration when it comes to Fidel Castro? Why does the White House continue to ignore the grim and brutal realities of Castro's dictatorship? I don't know the answer, but I believe it goes beyond a simple disagreement on policy. How we can turn a blind eye to Castro's behavior and even reward him is truly beyond me.

What is obvious is the fact that this White House will do anything to normalize relations with the last dictator in the Western Hemisphere. The White House wants to dilute and then eliminate the Burton-Helms Embargo; the White House is flouting the law, ignoring the will of the American people, and tossing aside four decades of bipartisan agreement on Castro. It is left to us in Congress to do what is right.

Mr. Speaker, I join my fellow cosponsors in support of H. Res. 99. Let's do everything we can to keep the heat on Castro and his galags. As a Houston Chronicle editorial recently observed, "This is no time to play ball with Fidel Castro."

TRIBUTE TO KATHY ADAMSON

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 24, 1999

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kathy Adamson, an extraordinary citizen of San Mateo County, California, who will be inducted into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame on Friday, March 26, 1999.

A native of Redwood City, Kathy Adamson has been a foster parent to more than four hundred children ranging in age from newborn to sixteen. Children in her temporary care have included drug exposed infants, shaken babies, toddlers, children with Attention Deficit Disorders, and adolescent girls. Kathy's home became a hospice for terminally ill infants, many of whom died in her loving arms. Since 1995 she has worked with San Mateo County Mental Health as an independent contractor,

providing a variety of programs designed to help support parents and children in need. In recognition of her professionalism, her exceptional work and her compassion, Kathy was elected President of the San Mateo County Foster Care Association.

Mr. Speaker, Kathy Adamson is an outstanding woman and I salute her for her remarkable contributions and commitment to our community. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring her on being inducted into the San Mateo County Woman's Hall of Fame.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT "PETERBO" BANKHEAD

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 24, 1999

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today to pay tribute in memory of Mr. Robert "Peterbo" Bankhead, who recently passed. He was not only a County Supervisor in my district, the 2nd Congressional District, but also a personal and dear friend to me. It is very hard to effectively portray in a short amount of time to you the true heart, spirit, and countless deeds of Mr. Robert "Peterbo" Bankhead.

Mr. Robert "Peterbo" Bankhead was born on August 30, 1999. He attended Humphreys County High School in Belzoni, Mississippi where he was a member of the first class to graduate from Humphreys County High School. He graduated from Mississippi Valley State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice in 1977. Additionally, he graduated from MATC (Milwaukee Area Technical College) with a degree in the Culinary Arts. He opened Peterbo's Restaurant in 1974 in Isola, Mississippi where it remains today. During the life of Robert Bankhead, he received several social and community awards for his countless hours, and dedication. He was life-time member of Mississippi Valley State Alumni, the Mississippi Restaurant's Association, and served as Beat 1 Supervisor for Humphrey County for two consecutive terms.

Robert will always be remembered as a person willing to go the extra mile. In closing, Mr. Speaker I would like to say that Robert has made a tremendous contribution to the future of America. His work was pivotal and instrumental in the overall success of my 1996 and 1998 campaign. My prayers go out to his family and his contributions will be remembered in Mississippi, specifically the 2nd Congressional District for years to come.

A BLOOMIN' GOOD FAMILY AND THEIR BLOOMIN' GOOD BUSINESS

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 24, 1999

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, all around Washington the crocuses and forsythia are starting to bloom, and for some it is a daily ritual to

see whether or not the famed cherry blossoms have started to hail the true start of spring. The people of Saginaw, Michigan, may not have the same early blooms or the Tidal Basin ritual, but they have something better—McDonald's Nursery which is celebrating its 70th anniversary this week.

Seventy years ago, Dr. Francis J. McDonald, a dentist with a vision for the beauty of nature, started McDonald's Nursery as a hobby. He bought five acres of land off Seidel Road with a 400-year old beech tree on it. He dug a well that to this day supplies water to the nursery, and with his children, Joe, Jim, Mary, Catherine and Tom, he planted trees. Today those trees provide a forty foot tall memorial to his legacy. With his wife Mary, he moved the family to what would become one of the most famous nurseries in this part of Michigan.

Nursery products were sold out of the front yard at the beginning. During World War II, while sons Joe and Jim served in the military, he expanded the nursery buying more property with an eye towards the growing suburban area. When Joe returned home, a landscape division was started, and then in 1946 a garden store. The seasonal nursery business turned into a Christmas business in 1955, so that it is now a year-round operation with its biggest months in December and May.

Today, McDonald's Nursery has 112 employees and sales of nearly \$4 million. It has gone through thirteen expansions, and now covers 210 acres in Thomas Township, with an 18-acre lake providing irrigation. The McDonald family has made its mark on the Saginaw business community as leaders to be admired and emulated.

Starting from Francis McDonald's hobby, to Tom McDonald telling friends at a Chamber of Commerce dinner that they sell "every bloomin' thing"—a phrase which became the nursery's hallmark, this is a business that we are privileged to have in the Saginaw community. Mr. Speaker, I urge you and all of our colleagues to join me in congratulating McDonald's Nursery on its 70th anniversary, and in wishing that their new slogan, "McDonald's Nursery 70 Years and Growing" holds as much promise as the first bloom of spring.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS MERGERS

HON. TOM DeLAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 24, 1999

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the antitrust division of the Department of Justice for approving the SBC-Ameritech merger. As the telecommunications industry continues to evolve in the aftermath of the Telecommunications Reform Act of 1996, the promise of that act can be fulfilled only if regulatory agencies remove the eye shades of New Deal regulation and begin to view the competitive landscape of tomorrow with a fresh look. This is precisely what the Department has done this week.

However, I was not pleased to learn that, unlike mergers in other competitive industries, telecommunications mergers such as the