

The FDA did send a Warning Letter to Ethicon citing significant deviations from Good Manufacturing Practices. By September, Ethicon decided to recall the sutures it had produced. In other words, many months passed between the initial problems with the sterilization procedure and eventual recall. I can only speculate what would have happened, or not happened, if the FDA had not caught the problems with the sterilizer.

The next sequence of events is what I really find troubling. Ethicon issued its recall according to FDA regulations. However, the letter of the law requires only that Ethicon contact distributors and hospitals, not the surgeons who use the sutures. This means that surgeons across the nation were performing operations and using sutures that were subject to a national recall. While Ethicon followed the letter of the law, I would think that a corporation dedicated to the health of patients would have taken a more aggressive stance to ensure that its sutures would be removed from supply rooms and surgical kits.

According to FDA documents only 2% of the suspect sutures were recovered in the recall. Somehow, leaving 98% of the suspect sutures on the market and unaccounted for seemed to be acceptable to the FDA. They considered the recall completed and closed in June of 1995.

Since 1994, over 100 cases of severe post-operative infections have occurred in patients who claim that the infection was due to contaminated sutures. Lance Williams of the San Francisco Examiner has written a series of articles (2/21/1999 & 2/22/1999) describing the pain and suffering that these people experienced. Ethicon has settled many of these cases out of court with exceptionally strong confidentiality requirements. Because the records are sealed, we cannot determine the potential threat to public health by examining the details of the cases.

We may never know with certainty whether the sutures were contaminated and lead to the postoperative infections. According to a letter from the FDA, "Since typically, 20 units are tested per batch, the finding of ten units were positive results is not conclusive. It is difficult to conclude whether these results mean that the sutures were contaminated or that contamination occurred during the testing."

Even more amazing is the fact that Ethicon destroyed all the sutures recovered in the recall. Therefore, we cannot know if the recalled sutures were contaminated or sterile.

Our constituents depend upon sound federal regulation to protect them from harm. Few of us have the technical expertise to determine which drugs are safe to treat what ails us or the ability to know how we may be infected by contaminated surgical devices. Rather, we must depend upon a sound system of checks and oversight to ensure that the medicines and tools our physicians use are good and will not harm us. In addition, corporations that make their money selling health products have the moral and ethical obligation to take every precaution to protect consumers.

A TRIBUTE TO HENRY T. BRAUCHLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: RECIPIENT OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL AWARD

**HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 1999

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my sincerest congratulations to Henry T. Brauchle Elementary School in San Antonio, TX, upon the notification of their receipt of the Blue Ribbon School Award.

Schools are awarded the Blue Ribbon School Award based on their performance in regard to several criteria, including: student focus and support; active teaching and learning; school organization and culture; challenging standards and curriculum; professional community; leadership and educational vitality; school, family, and community partnerships; and indicators of success.

Henry T. Brauchle Elementary School joins three schools in San Antonio and forty other Texas schools, all of which excelled in these areas and were rewarded with the Blue Ribbon School Award from the United States Department of Education.

To receive consideration for this prestigious award, schools must be recommended for national recognition by their individual state department of education or sponsoring agency. Nominations are then evaluated by a National Review Panel including the Department of Education, the Department of Defense, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Council for American Private Education and a select group of educators from around the country. The Secretary of Education then makes a final determination based on the recommendations of this panel.

In receiving this special recognition, I believe that Henry T. Brauchle Elementary School will inspire others to provide the level of quality education that this Blue Ribbon School Award merits. I am proud to represent a district and hail from a state that has clearly placed an emphasis on the education of our children.

EDUCATION REFORM IN JULESBURG, COLORADO

**HON. BOB SCHAFFER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak to the House of Representatives about the education reforms implemented by the Julesburg School District in Julesburg, Colorado. The district's common sense reforms emphasize personal initiative, accountability, high standards and responsiveness. I offer a recent letter for the RECORD, submitted to me by Mr. Rod Blunck, Superintendent of Schools.

Julesburg's no-nonsense, no-excuses approach to raising test scores has several

steps. First, the salary schedule is based entirely on professional development. This incentive for personal initiative and improvement has a direct bearing on classroom quality. In the near future, the system will be enhanced to include extra compensation opportunities based on student achievement.

Secondly, the responsibility for student achievement is carried out by everyone in the organization, not just the teachers. Their goal, as a staff, is to become a results-oriented organization in which everyone has responsibility for the outcome.

Thirdly, the District is strengthening its accountability to the community by developing school report cards and community presentations.

I would like to summarize with a quote taken from Superintendent Blunck's letter. The letter quotes author Robert Greenleaf, "Great ideas, it has been said, come into the world as gently as doves. Perhaps then, if we listen attentively, we shall hear, amid the uproar of empires and nations, a faint flutter of wings, the gentle stirring of life and hope."

Accountability is a popular by-word today, yet few are willing to put this concept to the test. In Northeast Colorado, far from Denver, far from the noisy rancor of Washington, far from the proposals and speeches, there are people who are making a difference with quiet confidence.

JULESBURG SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-1,

Julesburg, Co, April 18, 1999.

Hon. BOB SCHAFFER,

Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN SCHAFFER: I recently had the pleasure of hearing you speak to a group of people in Julesburg during your recess. I was a member of the audience that day and I wanted to take a minute to tell you that I look forward to your leadership in the educational arena and I anticipate great possibilities for education under your administration. As I listened to you that day it is my understanding that you are the type of leader and congressman who would appreciate what I am about to share with you.

I would like to bring it to your attention that a number of the reforms that you spoke of on that day are already being implemented in the Julesburg School District.

First of all, we do not have the traditional vertical/horizontal salary schedule that is used by most districts in the State. Our schedule is entirely based upon professional development. Within the past year, we have implemented the Julesburg Professional Development Academy where teachers can take professional growth classes that in turn have a direct effect upon their salary and that are specifically directed at increased student achievement. This allows us, as a district, to tailor the classes that teachers take to insure that the requested courses correlate with our District goals of improved student achievement. Some of the courses that have been and will be offered through this program are:

Teaching reading and Writing in the content area

Using the computer to enhance instruction The Colorado Writing Project

Working with Special Needs students in the regular classroom

Standards and Assessments—How do they affect the classroom teacher

As a result of these courses we have seen veteran teachers begin to write rubrics for

their students in areas such as science, industrial arts and other curricular areas. With this type of staff development teachers have a direct responsibility for their salary increases and we as a district are able to determine what classes and professional growth opportunities align with our District goals.

I also wanted to let you know that I have had initial discussion with our teacher representatives about extra compensation opportunities based on student achievement scores. We have already determined that we will be a data-driven, result-oriented organization that is willing to compensate teaching staff for increased student achievement. I anticipate that this program will be fully funded and implemented for the 00-01 school year.

As an example, of our goal of being a result oriented organization I would like to take a minute to share with you an incident that happened after we received the results of the CSAP testing. After receiving the results we noticed that we had declined 25% in reading and 33% in writing from the previous year. Given these known facts we wrote a remediation plan to help us improve our scores. Our remediation included two clauses that I would like to bring to your attention. The first being that, "we would offer no excuses." We would not discuss the test, its norming samples nor the socio-economic status of our children taking the test. In essence we accepted full responsibility for our results. The second caveat that I would like for you to know is that the remediation plan included the Superintendent of Schools and the Board of Education. Thus, to reiterate your point in your speech, in the Julesburg School District Re-1 accountability for student achievement is placed upon the entire organization not just the classroom teacher. In fact, our remediation plan is a public document that is open for our constituents to view. In Julesburg, Colorado, student achievement is the very crux of our accountability and our decision-making processes. We will not just collect data; our future will be driven by it.

Our next step of this accountability process is the development of a local report card. In addition to printing and publishing our local report card we are going to hold a public local "shareholders" meeting. At this meeting we will furnish to our community a "state of the school" presentation. This presentation will include fiscal information as well as student achievement information. It is our intention that this "shareholder" meeting will become a tradition in the Julesburg community.

Congressman Schaffer, I share this information with you because people with shared goals should communicate to maximize the positive effect for our students. As I close, I would like to share a quote with you. Robert Greenleaf, in his book *Servant Leadership* cites the following passage, "Great ideas, it has been said, come into the world as gently as doves. Perhaps then, if we listen attentively, we shall hear, amid the uproar of empires and nations, a faint flutter of wings, the gentle stirring of life and hope." Congressman, you and I both know that the future of education is very bright in Colorado.

If I can be of any assistance to you in our shared purpose please feel free to call on me.

Sincerely,

ROD L. BLUNCK,  
*Superintendent of Schools.*

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### HONORING COMMUNITY PROTESTANT CHURCH OF CO-OP CITY

#### HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 20, 1999*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, a church can be the mainstay of a community, the bond which holds its people together in common purpose. In the Bronx, the Co-op City community is fortunate to have such a church, the Community Protestant Church of Co-op City.

And today I rise to congratulate that wonderful institution and its worshippers who are celebrating the church's 30th anniversary.

The Community Protestant Church started humbly enough with the organizational meeting of co-operators, as residents of Co-op City are called, in the spring of 1969. Initially services were held in the homes on a rotating basis before moving to a community room. Visiting ministers were provided by the Council of Churches on a weekly basis. The following year Temple Beth-El shared its space with the Church and the Rev. Julius Sasportas volunteered to serve as pastor.

It was on March 21, 1971, that the church was officially incorporated. That same year the church acquired and renovated space at 2053 Asch Loop North and in May of the following year moved into its new quarters. In December, 1972, the Rev. Daniel Ward was sent by the Southern Baptist Convention to serve as Pastor.

In the following years more space was acquired and in 1976 the Rev. Dr. Calvin E. Owens became the spiritual leader of the church. New land was acquired for a permanent home and in November 3, 1994, groundbreaking ceremonies were held.

I congratulate the Community Protestant Church on its 30th anniversary and wish the church many more years in the community.

### IN HONOR OF ST. JOSEPH WORSHIP SPACE

#### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 20, 1999*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the dedication of the St. Joseph Worship Space.

The Worship Space is an environment where, through private devotion and liturgical celebration, the sisters of St. Joseph may be united with God and with one another. The Worship Space provides the congregation with a much-needed facility where the sisters of St. Joseph and the community can gather to worship.

A Reservation Chapel has been set up for the use of private devotion to the Blessed Sacrament. The Reconciliation Chapel has been built and is dedicated for the reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Also, seating for 250 people is available for liturgy, meetings, jubilees, Chapter assemblies, and, a gathering room has been established where the sisters can meet as well as extend their hospitality to the congregation.

*May 20, 1999*

My fellow colleagues, please join me honoring the dedication of the Sisters of St. Joseph Worship Space.

### TRIBUTE TO REV. RICHARD ANDRUS

#### HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 20, 1999*

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to congratulate, Rev. Richard Andrus upon his retirement from the ministry. His parishioners, colleagues, family and friends will honor him with a retirement dinner at the First United Methodist Church in Mount Clemens, MI.

Born in Reese, MI, in 1937, Reverend Andrus has dedicated much of his life to serving others. He entered the ministry in 1967, and has been a leader in nine different churches throughout his exemplary career. Currently, Reverend Andrus serves at the First United Methodist Church in Mount Clemens. He has been with the church for 7 years.

Prior to his arrival at First United Methodist Church in Mount Clemens, Reverend Andrus served in several area churches, including the Warren First United Methodist Church and the Warren Wesley Church. Prior to that, he was assigned to the New Baltimore Congregation and built the Grace United Methodist Church.

Reverend Andrus is a tireless advocate for the people of Macomb County. He formed the Macomb County Ministerium and has been a member of the Macomb Emergency Shelter Coalition for the last 10 years. Reverend Andrus is also a member of the Jail Ministry, the Healthier Macomb Organization and the Rotary Club. While serving in New Baltimore, he was also the Chaplain for the Civil Air Patrol at Selfridge Air Force Base.

For more than 32 years, Rev. Richard Andrus has given his time, love and patience to the people he has served. Now, it is my honor to give Reverend Andrus my heartfelt congratulations as he celebrates his retirement.

### A TRIBUTE TO GLEN OAKS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL; RECIPIENT OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL AWARD

#### HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 20, 1999*

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my sincerest congratulations to Glen Oaks Elementary School in San Antonio, TX, upon the notification of their receipt of the Blue Ribbon School Award.

Schools are awarded the Blue Ribbon School Award based on their performance in regards to several criteria, including: student focus and support; active teaching and learning; school organization and culture; challenging standard and curriculum; professional