

have refused to take the few seats in parliament they were given. Though some governing party representatives have claimed that opposition representation is not necessary for the parliament to function normally, others—perhaps including President Aliiev—understand that a parliament without opposition members is ruinous for Azerbaijan's image. New elections are slated in 11 districts, and perhaps President Aliiev is hoping to tempt some opposition parties to abandon their boycott by offering a few more seats. Whether opposition parties, which are bitterly divided, will participate or eventually agree to take up their deputies' mandates remains to be seen.

What is clearer from the conduct of the election and its outcome is that President Aliiev, who is preparing the succession of his son as Azerbaijan's next president, was determined to keep opposition leaders out of parliament and ensure that the body as a whole is supportive of his heir. If the only way to guarantee the desired outcome was wholesale vote fraud, so be it. Prognoses of possible accommodation with the opposition, or possibly even some power sharing arrangements, to facilitate a smooth and peaceful transfer of power, have proved unfounded. Indeed, President Aliiev reportedly has told the new UK Ambassador to Baku that Azerbaijan does not need to join the Council of Europe, indicating that he is not prepared to make any concessions when it comes to maintaining his grip on power and passing it on to his chosen heir, whatever the international community thinks.

Even more worrisome is that by depriving the opposition of the possibility to contend for power through parliamentary means, Aliiev has seriously reduced the chances of a "soft landing" in Azerbaijan. When he eventually leaves the scene, anything could happen. This is not only a frightening prospect for the citizens of Azerbaijan, its neighbors and hopes for resolving regional disputes, especially the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict—it is a scenario that should alarm policymakers in Washington as well.

Mr. Speaker, it is not my intention to say "I told you so" to those colleagues who argued against my resolution. I would much have preferred to make a statement congratulating Azerbaijan on having held exemplary elections and making substantial steps towards democratization. Alas, I cannot do so, which should sadden and concern all of us. But I fear the consequences will be far more serious for the citizens of Azerbaijan.

**NEW YORK'S HEALTHY START
CONSORTIUM HELPS REDUCE INFANT
MORTALITY**

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, today I praise the outstanding work of New York's Healthy Start Consortium. Healthy Start/NYC (HS/NYC), a collaborative, community-driven, Federal project was founded in 1991 to combat infant mortality and poor maternal and child health in three medically underserved areas. New York neighborhoods like Bedford-

Stuyvesant, Mott Haven and Central Harlem have some of the Nation's highest infant mortality and poverty rates. From 1991 to 1997, HS/NYC served 30,000 women and their families annually which lead to a 40 percent decrease in the infant mortality rate, a drop in low birth weights and a 24 percent decline in births to teens.

The Consortium has been able to create a strong public-private network of health and social service agencies, providers, schools, churches, businesses, and individuals. It has remained committed to its community-driven, collaborative approach. I want to particularly commend the work of Ngozi Moses with the Brooklyn Perinatal Network; Arlene Bailey-Franklin with the Bronx Perinatal Consortium; Sharon Rumley with the Queens Comprehensive Perinatal Council; Goldie Watkins-Bryant with Healthy Start/New York City Project; Luci Chambers, with Downstate New York Healthy Start Project; Mario Drummonds, with Northern Manhattan Perinatal Partnership; Cheryl Brown-Hoyte with Nassau County's Healthy Start Project and Dara Cerwonka with Suffolk County Perinatal Coalition.

Now that the Healthy Start Program has been reauthorized, I look forward to working with the Healthy Start/New York City Consortium in the months ahead. The Consortium hopes to broaden its work with consumers. I am certain that the Consortium will be able to bring new families into its program during the next fiscal year. Once again, I offer my congratulations to the Consortium on a job well done.

**TRIBUTE IN MEMORY OF FORMER
CONGRESSMAN HENRY B. GONZALEZ**

SPEECH OF

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2000

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to our colleague, the late Henry B. Gonzalez, who died on November 28, 2000, and who served the House and the Nation for 37 years as one of its most revered public servants. To his family, his wife Bertha, his son CHARLIE who now serves in the House as our colleague, and to all of his constituents in the 20th District in Texas, I extend my most sincere condolences. My prayers are with all of you in the hope of giving comfort against the grief of your great loss.

What to say about Henry B., as he was affectionately known in his San Antonio Congressional District. In the House, Henry B. was known as a fierce activist for the poor and for minorities in the field of housing, small business, community development, and consumer fairness. He was an unbridled advocate for what he believed was right for his constituents and the Nation.

For Members like me, he was a friend, a mentor and an educator—because without his knowledge and willingness to share, many of us who did not have the privilege or opportunity to serve with him on the Banking and Housing Committee would not have known

what was going on, or how to resolve the problems facing the Nation—from affordable housing to community development to salvaging the savings and loan industry, naming only a few of his many struggles to secure the American dream for all Americans.

From the beginning of his adult life, Henry B. was on fire to help his people and his State and his country. A feisty first-ever Mexican-American to serve in the State Legislature, he was also the first to be selected to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives in 1963—and in both jobs he went about kicking down ethnic barriers, facing civil rights issues with searing defiance that meant a 36 hour filibuster in the Texas State Senate, defeating 16 segregationist bills, to punching out a restaurant patron in the 1970's for calling him a "communist." When an apology was demanded, Henry B. said only that he was sorry he had pulled the punch.

During his 37 years in the House of Representatives, Henry B. Gonzalez spoke out for the people—all people—on behalf of the needs of the working poor—long before it was popular to do so. He held in his hand the day of his swearing in as a Member of this House a bill to abolish the Poll Tax which was eventually enacted, and he never stopped working against all kinds of discrimination against the poor and the disenfranchised in our country.

And so we say goodbye to Henry Gonzalez, knowing that the rich, the poor, the powerful, the disadvantaged, the young and the old, are better off than they would have otherwise been without his caring and compassion, and without the fire in his heart and the courage of his convictions as a public servant that left so much good in its wake—enough to last a lifetime.

We celebrate the life of Henry B. Gonzalez, who served under eight presidents and became a legend in his own time, by conferring upon him the titles of statesman, warrior, pioneer, patriot, hero and a national treasure. We also remember him as funny, brilliant, a maverick, and a coalition builder who lived his life and served his people with exuberant ardor. Most of all he was genuine, and he was honest to a fault.

But Henry B. Gonzalez said it best: "I have never failed myself, and I have never failed you."

He provided the opportunity for all of us to follow in his footsteps, and none more so than his beloved son, the gentleman from Texas, CHARLIE GONZALEZ, our colleague now serving the 20th District of Texas, and I again extend to him and his family my heartfelt sorrow and tell them, Henry B. will never be forgotten.

**INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION
ADDRESSING THE FLU VACCINE
SHORTAGE**

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2000

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, influenza is a serious illness that afflicts millions of Americans each year. While most Americans recover after a few days, influenza causes