

Would we walk around saying there is no way to tell if a diamond is stolen and just let the thieves market prosper? By the way—how is it that our industry is able to self-regulate in a reasonable manner against thieves, but not against conflict diamonds? Is the life of a black in Sierra Leone worth less than the life of a diamond dealer or jeweler in the U.S.?

Mr. Speaker, I met Mr. Rapaport before I went to Sierra Leone last year, and I have heard the industry's admiration for him. He and his colleagues are savvy, clever business people. I am confident they not only can figure out how to stop war diamonds from enriching butchers—but, more importantly, how to turn diamonds' economic potential into a positive force for the African people who so need that.

I applaud Mr. Rapaport for making his trip to Sierra Leone and for eloquently appealing to the diamond industry to find a solution to this urgent problem. And I urge my colleagues to join me in pressing for a targeted solution to the diamond smuggling that is destroying Sierra Leone's democracy and its people.

Please join Sierra Leone's democratic government, the U.S. diamond industry, and some of our most thoughtful colleagues in supporting H. Con. Res. 323.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE EXCELLENCE OF MARIEMONT HIGH SCHOOL'S DESTINATION IMAGINATION TEAM

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 19, 2000

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I honor Mariemont High School's Destination ImagiNation Team. The team has seven students: Carrie Badanes, Lizzy Anthony, Bobby Zepf, Juli Newton, Ben Cober, John Rutherford and Kate Young. They are coached by Anne Badanes and Sue Cober, and will compete in the 2000 Destination ImagiNation world championships. The competition will be held in Ames, Iowa on May 24–27.

During the event, the Mariemont team will compete using its creativity, teamwork, and wits to solve difficult problems. The teams are judged by their ability to integrate a myriad of elements into a performance, which draws upon their knowledge of history, their acting skills, and their ability to improvise. Since last December, the Mariemont High School team has trained extensively. They have spent many hours working with their coaches, learning new skills, researching history, and attending live performances of a professional improvisation group at the Aronoff Center in Cincinnati. In addition, they continue to work with their teacher, Carrie Dattillo, honing their acting skills.

In 1999, the Mariemont High School team placed first at the regional competition and second at the state competition in Columbus. In previous years, the team has always placed second or third in the region and has won an unprecedented three Renatra Fusca awards for outstanding creativity. This year, they took first place in the regional and state competitions. At the regional competition, in March,

they were awarded the prestigious DaVinci Award for outstanding creativity and teamwork. They are the first team from the Mariemont School District to compete in the world championships, and they are the sole team representing the Greater Cincinnati area.

We are very proud of the Mariemont team's accomplishments, and all of us in the Cincinnati area wish its members the very best in their upcoming competition.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS, BRANCH 70, BRANCH 1100, BRANCH 2525: COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 19, 2000

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, today I recognize the National Association of Letter Carriers Branches 70, 1100, and 2525, as they are honored by the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council, AFL-CIO, at its 12th annual Worker's Memorial Dinner with its Community Service Award.

Some eight years ago the National Association of Letter Carriers began its annual food drive and has collected millions of pounds of food every year since. In 1999, more than 1,500 local National Association of Letter Carriers branches in more than 10,000 cities and towns across the country collected a total of over 50 million pounds of food for the needy.

NALC Branch 70, Branch 1100, and Branch 2525 annually collect large amounts of food that directly benefit families in need in our community. Their food drive provides local food banks and pantries with food to serve to needy families throughout the year.

The NALC's commitment to serving the community and especially those members of our community who are most in need is exemplary and worthy of our highest praise. My congratulations go to National Association of Letter Carriers Branch 70, Branch 1100, and Branch 2525 for these significant contributions.

CENTRAL NEW JERSEY RECOGNIZES SUSAN N. WILSON

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 19, 2000

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Susan Wilson of Princeton, who is being honored by Planned Parenthood of Central New Jersey on Tuesday, May 23, 2000.

Ms. Wilson will receive Planned Parenthood's Vivian Aaron Leadership Award. This award, created by the children of Vivian Aaron, recognizes individuals who have demonstrated leadership within their community in the areas of education and family communication.

Susan Wilson served on the New Jersey State Board of Education from 1977 to 1982. It was there that she championed the effort to

establish a statewide mandate for family education in all New Jersey schools.

Since 1983, Ms. Wilson has served as the executive coordinator for the Network for Family Life Education at Rutgers University's School of Social Work. In her present capacity she has become a leader in the fight for effective family life/sexuality education and prevention of adolescent pregnancy.

In 1998, Susan Wilson received the Richard J. Cross Award for Distinguished Contribution to the Field of Human Sexuality from the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. In past years, she has also been the recipient of a Children's Defense Fund Leadership Award and a New Jersey Woman of Achievement Award from Douglas College.

Susan Wilson is a great asset to Central New Jersey. I urge all my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Susan Wilson's dedication to her community.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS OF 2000

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 19, 2000

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, today, my colleague, Mr. GOODLING, and I are introducing the Higher Education Technical Amendments of 2000. Many of my colleagues will remember that in the last Congress we enacted the Higher Education Amendments of 1998 on a bipartisan basis. The passage of that Act was one of the most important pieces of legislation we enacted for students and their parents. I want to again thank Chairman GOODLING for his leadership on that bill. Throughout that process he kept members focused on our goal of improving our student financial aid system. Additionally, I want to acknowledge his leadership in crafting this technical package, which will improve the implementation of the 1998 Amendments. I also want to thank the Committee Ranking Member, Mr. CLAY, the former Ranking Member of the Subcommittee, Mr. KILDEE, and the current Ranking Member of the Subcommittee, Mr. MARTINEZ. The 1998 amendments, which we crafted together, have been a great success, and our continued efforts on this legislation will only improve on those results.

As Chairman GOODLING noted in his statement, the legislation introduced today is technical in nature, but also makes policy adjustments that we believe are necessary to ensure that the Act is implemented in the way Congress intended. We worked with many organizations and individuals who put forth proposals for our consideration. We included those which are bipartisan in nature, benefit students and their parents, and are paid for. Our goal is to pass a bill that can be acted upon by the other body and enacted into law in the near future.

The legislation we are introducing today will improve our national early outreach efforts by making modifications to the TRIO and GEAR UP programs. The bill allows participating organizations to provide grant aid to students

and, in the case of GEAR UP, to serve students from seventh grade through high school graduation.

It will improve the operation of our student loan programs by making minor adjustments to streamline some loan forbearances and to conform the law to reflect current practices for perfecting security interests. This bill will also improve the Perkins Loan program by allowing borrowers to rehabilitate loans by making a single lump sum payment and by clarifying that loans in deferment for a student that performs service resulting in their cancellation are reimbursed for interest as well.

Additionally, this legislation will improve the regulatory process for schools and other program participants. This is important, because we continue to hear reports that the Department does not give the public enough time to comment on or to implement complex student aid regulations. First, the bill will require the Department of Education to allow a minimum of 45 days for comment after the publication of a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM). Second, it prevents disclosure or reporting requirements from becoming effective for at least 180 days after the publication of final regulations.

Finally, the bill we are introducing will clarify and strengthen provisions in the Higher Education Act regarding the return of federal funds when students withdraw from school. Specifically, it will correct a Department interpretation so that students will never be required to return more than 50 percent of the grant funds they received. In addition, the bill will provide students with a limited grace period for repayment to help students who are unable to repay immediately upon their withdrawal, and it will set a minimum threshold for grant repayment of \$50. All of these steps will aid students who postpone or withdraw for emergency or financial reasons.

Mr. Speaker, the legislation we are introducing is bipartisan. It has no cost, and it will improve the implementation of the Higher Education Amendments of 1998 which we worked so hard to enact in the last Congress. I urge every member of this body to support its passage.

TRIBUTE TO SUSAN AND JOSEPH
PICHLER

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 19, 2000

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I pay tribute to Joseph and Susan Pichler, good friends and recipients of the Distinguished Service Citation from the National Conference for Community Justice (NCCJ) on May 25. They were selected for this award for their personal and professional qualities that have furthered the cause of inter-group understanding in our community.

Susan attended St. Mary's College, where she received a Bachelor of Arts in English. A dedicated volunteer for many years, she has done a great deal to improve inner-city education. She is a strong supporter of the Junior Great Books reading enrichment program, and

locally, she initiated this program at Washington Park School and St. Francis Seraph School. While in Kansas, she worked with Junior Great Books at St. John the Evangelist Grade School; taught CCD (Confraternity of Christian Doctrine) at Our Lady of Guadalupe; initiated Junior Great Books at Avenue A School; chaired the Hutchinson High School Evaluation Committee for the School Board; and served on the Parent Teacher Association.

Currently, Susan is active with the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, serving as a member of the National Advisory Board and the Board of Trustees. She also serves on the Board of Trustees for St. Mary's College in Notre Dame, Indiana, and has spent 10 years as a volunteer librarian at St. Francis Seraph School.

Joe is Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer at the Kroger Company, one of America's largest companies, and a company that gives much to our community. He graduated magna cum laude from Notre Dame University, and went on to obtain his M.B.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Chicago.

From 1968–1970, Joe served in the U.S. Department of Labor. He also taught at the University of Kansas School of Business for 15 years, and served as Dean from 1974–1980.

Joe has been involved in a number of civic and charitable activities. He is a former member of the Board of Advisors with the Salvation Army School for Officers Training. He is an Honorary Lifetime Member of the University of Kansas School of Fine Arts; a member of the Catholic Commission on Intellectual and Cultural Affairs; and a member of the Board of Trustees of Tougaloo College in Mississippi.

Locally, Joe is Co-Chairman of the Greater Cincinnati Scholarship Association; a member of the Xavier University Board of Trustees; an Advisory Member of the Cincinnati Opera; and a member of the Advisory Board of the Cincinnati Chapter of the Salvation Army.

Joe also is active as a member of the Board of Directors of Federated Department Stores, Inc., and Milacron, Inc. He is a member of the Board at Catalyst; a member of the Business Council; past Chairman of the National Alliance of Business; and a member of the Cincinnati Business Committee.

All of us in the Cincinnati area are grateful to Susan and Joe for their numerous contributions to our community, and congratulate them on receiving this prestigious NCCJ award.

A.O. REED & COMPANY: SPIRIT OF
COOPERATION AWARD

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 19, 2000

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, today I recognize A.O. Reed & Company, as it is honored by the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council, AFL-CIO, at its 12th annual Worker's Memorial Dinner with its Spirit of Cooperation Award.

A.O. Reed, founded in 1914, is one of the largest and most respected locally owned con-

struction companies. The company has been in continuous business in San Diego for over eighty years, and it is responsible for some of the largest, most complex projects in the San Diego area, including the East Terminal at Lindbergh Field, Hyatt Regency San Diego, San Diego Marriott Hotel, Kaiser Hospital, Salk Cancer Research Facility, Scripps Institute of Oceanography and Marine Biology, California State Prison, Idec Pharmaceutical, and Callaway Golf Ball Facility. With this Labor Council Spirit of Cooperation award, we honor their long-standing support for the trade union movement.

A.O. Reed employees are compensated with wages and benefits that lead the industry. Their employees receive the best training available through state-approved apprenticeship and journeyman training programs. A.O. Reed management has demonstrated an admirable commitment to the collective bargaining process.

A.O. Reed is also a consistent leader in charitable giving. They donate labor and materials to those in the San Diego community who are in need of plumbing and mechanical services.

This award recognizes their contribution to San Diego and honors their partnership with Plumbers and Pipefitter Local 230 and Sheetmetal Workers Local 206. My congratulations go to A.O. Reed & Company for these significant contributions.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HIGHER
EDUCATION TECHNICAL AMEND-
MENTS OF 2000

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 19, 2000

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Higher Education Technical Amendments of 2000. On May 8, 1998, the House passed the Higher Education Amendments of 1998 on a bipartisan basis. That legislation was subsequently enacted on October 7, 1998, and greatly benefited students by providing the lowest student loan interest rates in almost 20 years, as well as by making needed improvements to important student aid programs like Work-Study, Pell Grants, and TRIO.

At that time I congratulated the Subcommittee Chairman, Mr. MCKEON, the Ranking Member, Mr. CLAY, and the former Ranking Member of the Subcommittee, Mr. KILDEE, for a job well done. The past year and a half has shown that praise was well placed. Millions of students have since benefited from their efforts, and the minimal number of technical amendments that are needed is testimony to the fact that the bill was well crafted.

Since that time, the Department of Education has concluded its first round of negotiated rule making, and issued final regulations to reflect the changes. We have had a chance to analyze the implementation of the law with respect to congressional intent. In most cases our intent was adhered to, but in a few important instances it was not.

The legislation we are introducing today makes necessary technical changes as well