

600-seat proscenium stage theater to complement the existing 401-seat thrust theater stage.

The second theater will enable the Berkeley Repertory Theatre to continue its more than thirty year tradition of providing the community with eclectic, imaginative, and challenging productions. The new theater will evoke the intimacy and vitality that is characteristic of the current space, but will also provide greater artistic flexibility for the future.

The opening will showcase the new theater, introduce the community to the Berkeley Repertory Theatre's new home, and host a world premiere performance of *The Oresteia*. The theater will better serve the Repertory's ever-increasing 15,000 member audience. The new building was made possible in part by donations from the City of Berkeley and the Ask Jeeves Foundation.

The new Berkeley Repertory Theatre is the cornerstone of downtown Berkeley's emerging Arts District and has become a great source of civic pride for the community. I am proud to congratulate Berkeley Repertory Theatre as it opens its new theater and I look forward to the many years of arts enrichment it will provide to the City of Berkeley.

COMMEMORATING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MR. CRUZ BACA

HON. HILDA SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2001

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the proud contributions Mr. Cruz Baca and his decedents have made to the city of Baldwin Park. Mr. Baca was born in Mexico in 1874 and first arrived in Baldwin Park in 1906. In 1909 he returned to Mexico to retrieve his wife and children from the threat of revolution and bring them to Baldwin Park. In the spring of 1910 the Baca family finally settled near Francisquito Avenue in Baldwin Park following a long journey on foot through Texas and parts of Arizona.

Mr. Baca was a prosperous farmer who harvested a variety of crops and raised cows to produce milk and cheese. Realizing a demand for the ingredients for tamales, Mr. Baca became the only supplier of those ingredients in the San Gabriel Valley. But Mr. Baca's legacy is not as a landowner or businessman, it is the humanity he demonstrated to his fellow man, neighbor, and community.

Mr. Baca always lent a helping hand to those in need. During the Great Depression Mr. Baca provided food for the poor, he would park his wagon full of produce at Morgan Park to help feed the community. He also provided transportation to those in need with his horse and wagon, taking people as far as San Gabriel to attend services at the San Gabriel Mission. His efforts to improve the community are many, such as plowing and landscaping the land to develop Morgan Park for free and helping to plow his neighbors land when they were experiencing difficulties. Mr. Baca is also known for his selfless acts of heroism, single-handedly saving a family from a burning home and pulling his neighbors car out of the San

Gabriel Valley River with his horse and wagon during a heavy rainstorm.

Mr. Baca was a dedicated father, husband and citizen and his influence will be everlasting in the City of Baldwin Park. Mr. Baca's legacy continues also with the hundreds of decedents that continue to live, work, and raise families in the City of Baldwin Park.

H.R. 808, THE STEEL REVITALIZATION ACT OF 2001

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2001

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 808, the Steel Revitalization Act of 2001.

America's steel industry is in a near crisis state. Beginning in 1997, dumped and subsidized steel imports grew dramatically until they reached almost 40 percent of the U.S. steel market. Steel prices rapidly decreased; steel workers were laid off, steel companies filed for bankruptcy. As a result of the weakened steel industry, the level of imports deemed acceptable by the government increased, and recovery has been difficult.

I believe that this legislation is necessary to help revitalize the steel industry. It provides import relief by imposing five year quotas on the importation of steel and iron ore products in the U.S. The quotas will return the import market share to the levels prior to 1997. This provision is very similar to H.R. 975, which passed the House with strong support in the previous Congress.

In addition, this legislation will augment the Steel Loan Guarantee Program, which provided guaranteed loans to qualified steel companies. Currently, steel companies are finding it almost impossible to raise capital through other sources, especially due to plummeting stock prices and decreasing demand. The Steel Revitalization Act will expand the program by authorizing \$10 billion rather than \$1 billion, guaranteeing 95 percent of the loan rather than 80 percent and extending the terms from five years to fifteen. With this expansion, more companies will be able to take advantage of this worthwhile program.

Mr. Speaker, in the Congressional District I represent, two of our steel companies are seriously distressed. Many of my constituents are at risk of losing their jobs. It is of the utmost importance that we in Congress work hard to keep America's steel industry vital. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 808.

BANKRUPTCY ABUSE PREVENTION AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 333) to amend title 11, United States Code, and for other purposes.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 333, the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act. I have spent a great deal of time examining the public debate surrounding bankruptcy reform and looking for assurances that H.R. 333 will reduce the number of abusive bankruptcy filings by holding debtors responsible for repaying their debts.

Although bankruptcy filings continued to decrease this past year from the record 1.4 million consumer bankruptcy petitions filed in 1998, they still remain six percent higher than five years ago, when filings first passed the one million mark. Last year, the number of personal bankruptcy filings in Rhode Island decreased by 12 percent from the previous year, but that number is still too high, as the number of personal filings in the state has more than doubled in the last decade. Unfortunately, hardworking consumers shoulder much of the economic burden of these bankruptcies.

While there are many factors contributing to the increased number of bankruptcy filings, statistics have shown that a significant number of individuals are permitted to walk away from their debt by filing under Chapter 7 when they have the ability to repay most, if not all, of their debt. Our bankruptcy system should direct filers to the chapter that best matches their needs and allow them to pay off as much debt as possible.

H.R. 333 will help reestablish a degree of personal responsibility by utilizing a needs-based test to identify debtors making over the median income who have an ability to repay at least a portion of their debts. However, this legislation is by no means perfect and it fails to hold credit card companies accountable for the credit they issue. An increasing number of individuals who have experienced events such as illness, job loss or a recent divorce and have no financial recourse other than bankruptcy are being overwhelmed with misleading and abusive marketing strategies of the credit industry. As a result, too many consumers are prone to predatory lending practices after filing for bankruptcy and are never truly granted a fresh start by the system.

It is for these reasons that I will support the amendment offered by my colleague from Texas, Ms. JACKSON-LEE, and the motion to recommit offered by the Ranking Member of the Judiciary Committee, Mr. CONYERS, during consideration of the bill. These provisions would strengthen the bill and address credit card company practices that have contributed to the increasing level of consumer debt and the rise in consumer bankruptcies. Specifically, the Jackson-Lee amendment seeks to modify the means test to allow more flexibility in determining a debtor's expenses, including health insurance premiums, other medical expenses, and the costs relating to the care of foster children, and extend the deadline for filing and confirmation of reorganization plans by small businesses. The motion to recommit would prohibit credit card companies from issuing credit to individuals under the age of 21 unless there is written parental consent or the individual can demonstrate an independent source to pay the debt.