

Rominna, one of this past year's Do The Write Thing Program winners, was there with her mother. John was a prize-winner several years ago. Rominna's essay was cast in the immediacy of the here-and-now of a life that has been seldom far from crime in her school and community. John's was forged from the perspective of the rear view mirror, contrasting the downwardly spiraling life he had led before he participated in the program and the one hundred and eighty degree turn-around for the better that it has taken since then. Following their speeches and the film, there was not a dry eye in the audience, the President's included.

KAF's Further Preparation of America's Leaders of Tomorrow. Only days before the anniversary celebrations began, a group of American university and high school students had visited Kuwait as participants in the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations' Kuwait Studies Program. What all had in common was their outstanding participation as delegates to one of the National Council's annual Model Arab League Leadership Development Programs, which are currently underway and involve 2,000 students and their teachers in Models in 18 cities across the United States.

For years now, KAF, the University of Kuwait, the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science, and the American Embassy in Kuwait, headed by former Ambassadors Edward Gnehm and Ryan Crocker, and by current Ambassador James Larocco, have hosted the Kuwait Studies Program for promising American youth that have performed with distinction in the Model Arab Leagues.

Considering that all of the participants to date are still in their twenties, the results, to date, are phenomenal. One of the program's alumni is currently assigned to a major U.S. government post that deals daily with pressing issues pertaining to the Kuwait-U.S. bilateral relationship. Another entered the Foreign Service and was posted to the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait. Another is a career military officer working full time on strategic U.S. defense planning relating to Kuwait and other GCC countries.

Yet another alumnus of the program is currently a Rhodes Scholar. Others include the winner of First Prize for Best Master's Thesis on the Middle East at Oxford University last year, a former intern at the National Council and KAF who is finishing her Ph.D. at Stanford, and one of the best of a new breed of American foreign affairs specialists who is currently teaching tomorrow's military leaders and defense strategists at one of America's service academies.

More than half a dozen of the Kuwait Studies Program and Model Arab League alumni have returned to Kuwait for a year of intensive Arabic language training at Kuwait University. Others are working in the United States for member companies of the U.S.-GCC Corporate Corporation Committee that have invested in Kuwait's economy. Each of these young American leaders of tomorrow has been exposed at length to a side of Kuwait culture and society quite different from any they could have imagined short of visiting the country and meeting with its people.

KAF As A Bridge To The Future. In this way, KAF is helping to prepare a cadre of Americans that will manage the future bilateral Kuwait-United States relationship and America's ties to other Arab countries, the Middle East, and the Islamic world.

This group of American youth that KAF has assisted is only a few years older than

those mowed down by gunfire in the California school. Each acknowledges their debt to KAF and recognizes it as an organization that helped them, much earlier than most of their peers, to take responsibility for their actions and to do what they can to make a positive and lasting difference in the lives of others.

For any nation in search of a cure for the phenomenon of violence and other behavioral excesses that plague its society, it is incumbent upon its leaders to look first and foremost to their country's own resources for solutions. This, to be sure, has been and will continue to be done by America's national, state, and local leaders. But here is a sterling example of how one can also learn much that is timely and relevant from the private sector and civic activist efforts of a dedicated group of Kuwaitis.

These Arab allies, though geographically remote, are no less profoundly concerned than Americans are with funding the means to come to grips with the vicious cycle of violence cycle of violence visited upon their country and people. They are committed to doing something positive and lasting about it, both here and in Kuwait, in the course of working side by side with their counterparts in the United States.

The efforts of the Kuwait-America Foundation to help American youth expand their horizons and break the barriers of violence have emerged from the horrors of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and the deepening bonds of U.S.-Kuwaiti friendship spurred by Kuwait's liberation ten years ago. The spirit of understanding and reciprocal respect that these efforts represent are a testimonial to the wisdom, necessity, and mutuality of benefit that flow from closer U.S.-Arab relations.

ECONOMIC GROWTH AND TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2001

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, this massive tax plan is not balanced, not fair, not honest, not bipartisan, and not responsible.

It will spend down every penny of our hard-won surplus before we have ensured the future of Social Security and Medicare. It will deprive working Americans of the help they need and deserve. It will imperil our capacity to improve education, health care, and the environment. It relies on accounting gimmicks and rosy forecasts. And it places at risk a decade of unprecedented prosperity.

Apparently, the Republican leadership knows it. Why else would they ram through this tax plan before we even have a budget in place, and without the serious analysis the American people expect and deserve?

Frankly, this is the administration's first big test of its stated commitment to bring about a new, bipartisan tone in Washington, and, as one who believes in bipartisanship, I am sorry to say that it has failed that test completely.

Instead of rewarding a select few at the expense of others, let's give generous tax cuts to the families who need it most, while paying down the debt and investing in our future.

That's the right approach. I urge my colleagues to vote no on this massive giveaway, and vote yes on the Democratic alternative.

INTRODUCTION OF THE RAIL MERGER REFORM AND CUSTOMER PROTECTION ACT

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 13, 2001

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to introduce the Rail Merger Reform and Customer Protection Act. This legislation would extend the reach of the antitrust laws to the railroad industry while providing the Surface Transportation Board (STB) with additional criteria on which to evaluate future railroad mergers.

For virtually every business in the United States, mergers and acquisitions in excess of \$10 million are subject to antitrust review by the Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice. Railroads, however, are treated differently. Under current law, the STB has exclusive jurisdiction over most matters concerning rail transportation including mergers and acquisitions. In exercising that authority, the STB has approved a series of mergers over the past 20 years since passage of the Staggers Act which has resulted in widespread consolidation in the rail industry. This consolidation has reduced the number of rail carriers from 63 Class I railroads to just 7, resulting in significant service disruptions, negative impacts on shippers and a reduction in competition.

Mr. Speaker, believe it or not, the railroad industry is the only industry, except for America's favorite pastime, baseball, that is almost entirely exempt from the substance of the antitrust laws. With the rail industry now consolidated to seven major railroads, and the stage set for a possible final consolidation, there is an increased potential for the rail industry to exercise market power and monopoly abuse against shippers. In order to protect shippers and promote true competition, it makes sense to treat the railroads like other industries and subject them to the jurisdiction of the Department of Justice and full application of antitrust laws.

Currently, the Department of Justice can only comment on proposed mergers. In previous mergers the recommendations of DOJ were ignored. For example, the Department of Justice pegged the Union Pacific-Southern Pacific merger "most anti-competitive rail merger in history." In that merger, the STB ignored not only the concerns expressed by Department of Justice, but also the concerns of rail customers, organized labor, and the United States Department of Agriculture. I believe that the Department of Justice, an agency that can objectively evaluate the impact of mergers and protect shippers from the continual decrease in competition, needs to have a strong voice in mergers reviewed by the Surface Transportation Board.

My legislation would require both the Department of Justice and the STB to review and approve future rail mergers. Under this proposed regulatory framework, the DOJ would

approve a merger unless it substantially restrains commerce in any section of the country or tends to create a monopoly in any line of commerce. The STB would still be required to review and approve a merger under a similar standard but it would also judge the proposed merger by a broader public interest standard. However, my legislation would not allow a merger to move forward without approval from both Department of Justice and Surface Transportation Board.

In this day and age, there is no public policy reason to justify the industry's special treatment, particularly since the railroads have enjoyed considerable deregulation under the Staggers Act and the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) Termination Act. The passage of these laws which reduced the scope and effectiveness of the regulatory agency, makes it more necessary than ever for shippers to have the full panoply of remedies available against monopolistic activities.

Under my legislation, the STB would also be required to examine several additional criteria before approving a merger. Future mergers and consolidations would not be approved unless it was shown that the merger: (1) provides additional rail to rail competition and competitive options for rail customers; (2) improves service to customers; and (3) will not reduce competitive rail routes available to current railroad customers. Additionally, the legislation ensures that relief can be sought under the current regulatory framework or through the antitrust laws.

I am pleased that the Alliance for Rail Competition, the Consumers United for Rail Equity, National Farmers Union, American Farm Bureau Federation, National Association of Wheat Growers, the American Forest and Paper Association, the Transportation Intermediaries Association, Otter Trail Power, Minnesota Power, the National Association of Chemical Distributors, and the American Chemistry Council have endorsed this legislation.

I urge my colleagues to join me in this effort to ensure that the railroad industry is subject to the same laws as every other industry. It is in the public interest to raise the bar for review of the last few remaining mergers and to have oversight by the Department of Justice on the actions of the railroads.

REMEMBERING A GREAT MAN:  
ABRAHAM QUEZADA AMADOR

### HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 13, 2001*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember a great man, Abraham Quezada Amador, who died one year ago at age 70. For 30 years Abraham was the founder and director of Comite Regional Campesino, a nonprofit organization that has assisted countless individuals and families become United States citizens.

Abraham made the measure of difference in the lives of countless people. Indeed, it was not unusual to see dozens of people lined up outside the door of his home office patiently

waiting their turn to talk with Abraham. He was always willing to offer his help and advice regarding their citizenship applications. Immigration and Naturalization Service documents or letters they needed to have translated, as well as a myriad of other things. Abraham shared his knowledge and expertise with kindness, understanding, and a smile larger than life itself.

Abraham was a strong, tireless, and compassionate leader who dedicated his life to assisting those in need, and he has been sorely missed by all whose lives he touched. He devoted his life to helping others and was the most caring and unselfish person I have ever known. We miss his kind words, his sage advice, and his contagious smile. I feel fortunate to have known Abraham for so many years and I am proud to have been his friend.

Abraham is survived by his wife, Maria Guadalupe Aceves, his daughters Lupe Saldana, Blanca Amador, Anna Blevins and Gloria Amador, his sons of Antonio, Abraham Jr., Alphonso and Roy, and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren. I invite my colleagues to join me as I remember this great man who left a wonderful legacy and made the measure of difference in the lives of so many.

### GOOD SAMARITAN HUNGER RELIEF TAX INCENTIVE ACT

### HON. TONY P. HALL

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 13, 2001*

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Good Samaritan Hunger Relief Tax Incentive Act. I am pleased to be joined by my colleague RICHARD BAKER from Louisiana in co-sponsoring this bill, especially given his concern for hungry Americans through his work with the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank. We join with our esteemed colleagues in the Senate, Senators LUGAR and LEAHY, who have introduced companion legislation. They are longstanding champions of programs that help the hungry and our Nation is enriched by their leadership on this forgotten issue.

Despite our economy's strength, hunger still plagues our Nation. It directly threatens 31 million Americans, many of them families and working people. Many of them are leaving welfare and need help along the path to self-sufficiency. Many of them are just like you and me, except that they are often hungry and must turn to community and faith-based hunger relief organizations to feed their families. Currently, more than 10 percent of our fellow citizens depend on nonprofit food distribution organizations for a major part of their nutritional needs.

I have been working on the issue of hunger for more than 15 years. Now more than ever it is clear that we can cure hunger, that we know what to do. Working together, government, nonprofit organizations, and the private sector, can eliminate hunger, but any solution must be multi-faceted. Our Government needs to improve and expand the Food Stamp Program, our Nation's front line of defense

against widespread hunger. Non-profit food banks need additional commodities, especially The Emergency Food Assistance Program, which also benefits our farmers and private donations. And we need to encourage the private sector to do their part by donating food and other resources.

Mr. Speaker, this bill focuses on this third facet by encouraging and assisting the private sector to donate to hunger relief organizations. It would expand the charitable tax deductions to farmers, restaurants and other businesses that are not just corporations. And it would clarify the treatment of donated food for tax purposes.

I have introduced a version of this bill for the past two sessions of Congress, and am encouraged that the Senate Finance Committee is conducting a hearing this week on encouraging charitable giving. I am thankful for colleagues on the Ways and Means Committee who are supporting this bill and have supported the concept in the past, especially JIM RAMSTAD, JOHN LEWIS, KAREN THURMAN and AMO HOUGHTON. I am hopeful that after years of trying, we can pass this bill this year.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Americans waste 96 billion pounds of food every year. That amounts to more than \$31 billion worth of food that is thrown away, or \$1,000 worth of food for every one of the 31 million people are hungry or at risk of hunger. Dumping or plowing under this uneaten food costs our local communities more than \$1 billion a year in waste management costs. If we could recover just 5 percent of the food wasted, we could feed 4 million people. If 10 percent was recovered, 8 million more people would be fed and with 25 percent recovered, we would have food for 20 million people.

Giving food to charities makes good sense, and removing the tax disincentives to the private sector contributions is a key part of that effort. If they help, I am happy to provide a benefit to businesses like Pizza Hut, the largest prepared-food donor in the country; or Potato Management Company (PMC), a farmers' co-operative that just donated 20 million pounds of potatoes to America's Second Harvest; and Kraft Foods, one of the largest overall donors to hunger relief efforts. The private sector needs to do even more to help us wipe out hunger and this bill will assist them with that task.

I am even happier to help the groups that are on the front line of the struggle to end hunger. The Emergency Food Bank in my district of Dayton, OH, does a terrific job in feeding the hungry. They simply need some help, and this bill is one way we in Congress can help our local food banks. Of course, this bill alone is not sufficient, but it is a step in the right direction.

This bill represents the second generation of Good Samaritan legislation. When gleaning and food recovery began to expand two decades ago, farmers and businesses needed to know that they were protected from liability in acting as Good Samaritans. I was able to encourage the State of Ohio to pass liability protection for those who open their fields to gleaners or who donate food in good faith. Then, in 1996, we were able to enact the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act, which created liability protection nationwide.