

districts. These savings could be especially significant at a time when there is a clear need for more teachers.

There is also a clear need for school construction. Students of the "echo boom" generation—the children of the baby boomers—are reaching school age even while class sizes are being reduced. At the same time, studies show that over 70 percent of our nation's schools were built before 1960 and are now in need of major repairs. School construction and modernization earned an "F" from the American Society of Civil Engineers in its 1998 Report Card for America's Infrastructure. Many districts can't afford sorely needed remodeling or construction of new schools, while others are scrambling to address severe overcrowding issues.

HOW IT WOULD WORK

The High Performance Schools Act of 2001 would help give school districts the tools and assistance they need to make good building choices. The bill would establish a program in the Department of Energy to help school districts produce "high performance" school buildings. Funds would be directed to school districts through state offices of energy for building design and technical assistance. These grants would be available to school districts that are faced with rising elementary and secondary school enrollments, that lack the resources to make major infrastructural investments, and that commit to work with the state agencies to produce school facilities that incorporate a "high performance" building approach. Some grants would also be available to facilitate private and public financing, promote the use of energy service companies, work with school administrations, students, and communities, and coordinate public benefit programs.

TRIBUTE TO JERALD T. MAHSHIE

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is truly my distinct honor to pay tribute to one of Northwest Indiana's hidden treasures, Jerald T. Mahshie, of Schererville, Indiana. Jerry is one of the most dedicated, distinguished and creative citizens of Indiana's First Congressional District.

For the past 3½ years, Jerry has been the Director of Food and Beverage at the Radisson Hotel at Star Plaza in Merrillville, Indiana. While Jerry has been a resident of the First Congressional District for only a short time, Northwest Indiana has certainly been rewarded by the true service and uncompromising dedication he has displayed to both its citizens and communities, as well as his employer.

During his tenure at the Radisson Hotel, Jerry's consummate professionalism and attention to detail enabled the facility to become one of the premier meeting and dining locations in the First Congressional District.

When I think of Jerry, the first image that comes to my mind is not his successful professional career, but his extraordinary leadership and care for others. Whenever a project has needed a leader or an issue has needed to be addressed, Jerry has stepped forward to

accept the challenge. Unfortunately, Northwest Indiana will be losing this hidden treasure, as Jerry has accepted a position in the Indiana's capitol, Indianapolis.

Jerry is truly a remarkable man. His hard work has earned him a number of accomplishments and awards. Such achievements include: Member of the American Academy of Chefs, President of the American Culinary Federation Chefs of Northwest Indiana, Certified Executive Chef, 1999 Lake County Convention and Visitors Bureau Hospitality and Professional of the Year. In addition to his devotion to his job, Jerry finds time to serve his community. He is a past member of the Hammond Area Career Center Advisory Board and the Ivy Tech Gary Campus Advisory Board, as well as the Chairman for the 2001 Taste of Northwest Indiana.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Jerry Mahshie for his remarkable accomplishments, enduring service, and the unforgettable effect he has had on the people of Northwest Indiana. We will surely miss him. May the future continue to hold great things for this outstanding professional.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE PATSY MINK OF HAWAII

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, March is Women's History Month, a time to reflect upon and honor the contributions of women that have made this country a better place. Today, we are going to recognize one of our own.

Few dispute the positive impact of Title IX, the landmark civil rights legislation that prohibits sex discrimination in federally-funded education programs. But I wonder how many of my colleagues realize that we have the privilege to serve with one of the driving forces behind that law—the Gentlelady from Hawaii, Patsy Mink.

As a member of the House Education and Labor Committee, Patsy was one of the architects of Title IX. And since its enactment 30 years ago, she has been a leading voice in the call for full enforcement of the law.

The importance of her work cannot be understated. This is demonstrated by my own family's experience.

Only the youngest of my three daughters, Adrienne, had the opportunity to play soccer from kindergarten on through college.

As the assistant soccer coach for her team in the mid and late 1980s, I can well remember the excitement of the girls—and their parents—when girls' soccer first became a recognized team sport in our high school. That meant that Adrienne, just like my son Rody before her, would have the opportunity to play a sport she loved throughout her years in school.

But the impact of Title IX is widespread.

Thanks to its passage in 1972, my daughter Adrienne and so many other young women and girls throughout America have come to benefit from the opportunities enjoyed for so long by young men and boys in America.

A recent GAO study reported that, since the enactment of Title IX, the number of women enrolled in college has more than doubled from about 3.7 million to 8.2 million. The number of women participating in intercollegiate sports also has grown from about 30,000 to 157,000—this is an increase from 1.7 percent to 5.5 percent of all full-time, undergraduate women. The unparalleled opportunities that women and girls currently have in the classroom and on the playing field are due in large part to Title IX.

Title IX has enabled young women to participate in school sports—to learn the value of teamwork and competition, and to gain the self-confidence and skills that are so valuable in business and in other future careers.

I cannot say enough about how instrumental Patsy was in bringing out these opportunities for young women. As with any issue on which Patsy Mink takes a stand, she has consistently shown her passion for enforcing gender equity, particularly as it relates to education. And as the legislative record shows, she has been steadfast in her commitment to preserving the advances and effectiveness of Title IX.

Congresswoman Mink is to be commended for her leadership on Title IX. She will long be remembered for her tireless efforts toward achieving true equality for women. And her efforts truly represent the spirit and ideals of Women's History Month.

SBA LEGISLATION

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce a bill which will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Small Business Administration (SBA). As you know, the Small Business Administration (SBA) is responsible for aiding, counseling, assisting, and protecting the interests of the nation's small businesses. According to the U.S. General Accounting Office, as of September 30, 2000, SBA's total loan portfolio was about \$52 billion, including \$45 billion in direct and guaranteed small business loans and other guarantees and \$7 billion in disaster loans. The SBA plays a critical role in the development of small businesses all around the nation.

However, in a recent report, GAO found that SBA's lack of a coordinated lender oversight program increases the potential for program abuse and unnecessary financial risk. Therefore, GAO recommended that SBA ensure that the required 7(a) lender oversight reviews are conducted. Additionally, GAO recommended that SBA establish organizational responsibilities and a mechanism for ensuring that information on the lender review process is collected, reported and analyzed.

I am introducing this legislation to ensure that GAO's recommendations are carried out. My bill, if enacted, would not only address GAO's concerns by establishing an office which has responsibility for lender oversight reviews but would also bring forth a mechanism for ensuring that information on the lender review process and lender compliance is

collected, analyzed and reported to relevant Congressional Committees.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is not a partisan issue, but it is a good government issue because it not only assures that the people's money is spent wisely but empowers the SBA to ensure that the laws are followed. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and I look forward to being able to vote on this bill on the house floor.

RURAL EDUCATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Mr. JOHN. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to reintroduce the Rural Education Development Initiative (REDI) Act which calls for an increased focus on rural education and provides assistance to the many small, poor, rural schools in our country. As the House begins the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, REDI will ensure that the educational opportunities for rural areas are not forgotten.

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) reports that 46 percent of our Nation's public schools serve rural areas, yet they only receive 22 percent of the Nation's education funds annually. In addition data from the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) consistently shows large gaps between the achievement of students in high-poverty schools and those in other schools.

Another critical problem for rural school districts involves the hiring and retention of qualified administrators and certified teachers, especially in special education, science, and mathematics. Consequently, teachers in rural schools are almost twice as likely to provide instruction in two or more subjects than teachers in urban schools.

More importantly, many small school districts often can't qualify for federal programs based on their small enrollments, and some money-distribution formulas do not fit many states' county-wide system of school districting.

All these problems add up to one thing: our rural schools need more funding opportunities. REDI provides this opportunity and gives our rural students a chance to succeed. This legislation creates a grant program to assist rural areas with technology efforts, professional development activities designed to prepare teachers who are teaching out of their primary subject area, academic enrichment programs, and activities to recruit and retain highly qualified teachers in special education, mathematics, or science.

REDI is bi-partisan and is supported by the National Education Association (NEA). I look forward to working with my Colleagues to enact REDI and realize our goal of parity for rural students.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

POLITICIZING THE FEDERAL JUDICIARY

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, "Bipartisanship." "The rule of law." A judiciary that "looks and feels like the diverse country" we are. All ideas that then-Governor Bush's campaign promised to deliver on during the fall campaign.

Many believe that these slogans were just that: Bromides intended as camouflage, as feel-good dressing for a right wing agenda far outside the political mainstream.

President Bush's actions with the federal judiciary in just the past week—when the White House may believe that everyone is distracted with the tax cutting plan for the rich—may in fact prove just how far out of touch with the mainstream, and its own campaign rhetoric, this administration really is.

First, the White House has floated a balloon that it's considering abandoning the long-standing practice of soliciting comments from the ABA for judicial nominees. This could be the clearest signal that ideology and a crass desire to politicize the judiciary—rather than judicial competence—will be touchstone for Bush nominations to the federal judiciary.

And then today, the Bush administration has announced that it would rescind nominations for the federal bench made by the Clinton Administration. Among the casualties, African American judges who bore the stamp of enthusiastic approval from the ABA and from Republicans. Judges such as Roger Gregory, who had support of two Republican senators in Virginia, and who would represent the first African American appointment on the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals. Judge Gregory was appointed to the court in a recess appointment after the Republican Senate would not schedule a confirmation vote.

Both actions speak loudly to African Americans. They portend a plan by this Bush White House to politicize the judiciary. They both turn the clock backwards.

Today's Detroit News has the following article which is on point.

[From the Detroit News, Mar. 20, 2001]

BUSH WITHDRAWS MICH. JUDICIAL NOMINEES

(By Jesse J. Holland)

WASHINGTON.—President Bush on Monday dumped former President Clinton's last judicial nominees, including two Michigan women nominated for the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals who never got a hearing.

Michigan Court of Appeals Judge Helene White waited for a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing for four years—longer than any other judicial nominee in history.

And Detroit attorney Kathleen McCree Lewis, a partner in the Dykema Gossett law firm who often argues cases before the 6th Circuit, was nominated in September 1999 but never had a hearing.

"I'm very disappointed," she said. "I knew it could happen, but because there had been statements about bipartisanship, it was my hope that it wouldn't."

Bush officially withdrew 62 executive and judicial nominations.

Besides Michigan, the 6th Circuit includes Ohio, Tennessee and Kentucky.

"Both of these nominees were not only very qualified and widely respected, but would have been excellent members of the federal bench," said Rep. Debbie Stabenow, D-Lansing. "While the President has continued to talk about the need to reach out to Democrats and foster greater bipartisanship in Washington, it's time he needs to follow-up his words with bipartisan deeds."

Stabenow and Sen. Carl Levin, D-Detroit, had been pushing for a hearing for the two Michigan nominees.

"Some of these individuals will be considered for positions in the Bush administration," White House spokesman Scott McClellan said. "No one should be considered ruled in or out at this point."

The decision to withdraw the Clinton judicial nominees comes as Bush starts to look at filling the remaining vacancies with his own nominees.

White House counsel Albert Gonzales and Atty. Gen. John Ashcroft met with top officials from the American Bar Association on Monday to discuss the nomination process. A committee of senior administration officials led by Gonzales has interviewed more than 50 candidates in a drive to fill nearly 100 vacancies with judges who share Bush's conservative philosophy.

LASTING PEACE IN NORTHERN IRELAND IN U.S. NATIONAL INTEREST

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, last week was Saint Patrick's Day and Irish events all around our country and the globe, commemorated the patron Saint of Ireland. The Irish in America proudly celebrated their heritage and prayed for lasting peace and justice in the long divided and troubled north of Ireland. Along with Ireland's many friends around the globe, we joined in that prayer for lasting peace.

Former President Bill Clinton played an important role, along with former Senator George Mitchell, in bringing about the historic Good Friday Accord of April 1998 that has the best chance for making that peace a reality, if the accord is carried out and honored by all sides.

Now, I am pleased to note that our new President, George W. Bush, has willingly and aggressively picked up the mantle of our continued U.S. support for finding and sustaining a lasting peace and justice in the north. Unlike any President of the United States in my memory, President Bush last week at the White House ceremony for Saint Patrick's Day stated, "It is in our national interest that there be lasting peace, a real lasting peace, in Northern Ireland."

I join with all of the Irish American community in thanking President Bush for that strong and unambiguous statement of our continued U.S. interest and support in the long and difficult struggle for lasting peace in Northern Ireland.

Mr. Speaker, I request that the full text of President Bush's remarks at the White House ceremony for Irish American Leaders held on