extensions of remarks

June 27, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2217) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes.

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Chairman, H.R. 2217, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, contained language under the National Park Service/Land Acquisition and State Assistance section regarding federal grants to the State of Florida for acquisition of lands or waters within the Everglades watershed including the areas known as the Frog Pond, the Rocky Glades, and the Eight and One-Half Square Mile Area. This language begins on page 29, line 15 of the House engrossed bill and continues until page 30, line 11. This language does not constitute any new authority to acquire land or to obligate funds beyond existing law under Public Law 101–229, the Everglades National Park Protection and Expansion Act of 1989. The Committee on Resources has primary jurisdiction over this statute. The authority of the federal government to acquire land, directly or indirectly by eminent domain, must be specific. If I felt that this language in the Interior appropriations bill authorized new acquisition authority, I would have exercised my prerogative under the rules of the House of Representatives to have the language struck on a point of order.

Similarly, nothing in this language from the Interior appropriations bill provides any new project authorization beyond that contained in the Everglades National Park Protection and Expansion Act. Again, I would have raised a point of order against the text if I believed that it constituted new or amended project author-
I hope this clarifies any questions or concerns that my colleagues or the public might have regarding these provisions.

HONORING REVEREND JOHN L. FREESEMANN’S 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION

HON. ZOE LOFGREN
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, June 27, 2001

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Reverend John L. Freesemann of the Holy Redeemer Lutheran Church in San Jose, California, on the 25th Anniversary of his Ordination. On the 27th day of June, 1976, Reverend John L. Freesemann was ordained in the Lutheran Church. For 25 years he has served both his parish community and the people of Santa Clara County faithfully and devotedly.

Reverend John Freesemann has been a tireless advocate of ecumenism in San Jose and the surrounding communities; he has provided a decade of responsible leadership as a board member and past president of the California Council of Churches, and is a founding member and the current president of California Church Impact. Reverend Freesemann has also served for eight terms as president of the Santa Clara County Council of Churches. Reverend John Freesemann gives tirelessly of his time and talents to support children and families as a founding member, two-term vice president, and current president of Resources for Families and Communities in Santa Clara County.

As the pastor of Holy Redeemer Lutheran Church for 11 years, Reverend Freesemann has established his San Jose parish as a place of safety, of compassion and of hope. Under his loving guidance, Holy Redeemer has expanded its ministries to the community at large.

I wish to congratulate Reverend John L. Freesemann on this, the 25th Anniversary of his Ordination, and to thank him for his many years of service to the people of San Jose. Our community is the richer for his faithful service.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BIO-TECHNOLOGY AND AGRICULTURE IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD ACT OF 2001

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, June 27, 2001

My bill recognizes the great potential of agricultural biotechnology to combat hunger, malnutrition, and sickness in the developing world and provides the mechanism to encourage the pursuit of this exciting technology.

Portions of the developing world are facing a pandemic of malnutrition and disease; 200 million people on the African continent alone are chronically malnourished. Traditional farming practices cannot meet the growing needs of the developing world. Africa’s crop production is the lowest in the world and even with about two-thirds of its labor force engaged in agriculture, Africa currently imports more than 25 percent of its grain for food and feed.

Biotechnology offers great promise for agriculture and nutrition in the developing world. Vitamin-enhanced foods, foods higher in protein, and fruits and vegetables with longer shelf-lives have been developed using biotechnology. Biotechnology can promote sustainable agriculture, leading to food and economic security in developing nations. Biotechnology can help developing countries produce higher crop yields while using fewer pesticides and herbicides. My bill does not encourage the development of pesticide-resistant crops.

An added benefit of increased yields through biotechnology is that increased productivity on existing crop land reduces the amount of land that needs to be farmed as well as the need for new crop acreage, which can greatly slow the rate of habitat destruction. Since most food production and farming in the developing world is done by women, such an increase in productivity also enables women to spend their time on other productive activities and better care for their families.

Biotechnology can also improve the health of citizens of developing countries by combating illness. Substantial progress has been made in the developed world on vaccines against life-threatening illnesses, but, unfortunately, infrastructure limitations often hinder the effectiveness of traditional vaccination methods in some parts of the developing world. For example, many vaccines must be kept refrigerated until they are injected. Even if a health clinic has electricity and is able to deliver effective vaccines, the cost of multiple needles can hinder vaccination efforts. Additionally, the improper use of hypodermic needles can spread HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. Biotechnology offers the prospect of orally delivering vaccines to immunize against life-threatening illnesses through agricultural products in a safe and effective manner.

My bill establishes a grant program under the Foreign Agricultural Service in the Department of Agriculture to encourage research in agricultural biotechnology. Eligible grant recipients include historically black colleges and universities, land-grant colleges, Hispanic serving institutions, and tribal colleges or universities. Non-profit organizations and consortia of for-profit and in-country agricultural research centers are also eligible.

I encourage my colleagues to support this important piece of legislation.

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE LINKS ACROSS AMERICA

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, June 27, 2001

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the International African Arts Festival which annually contributes to the Brooklyn community through weekend long cultural events.

For the past thirty years, the International African Arts Festival has brought together those who wish to enjoy the music, dance, art, craft, flavors, colors, laughter, and love of the African Diasporan family as well as visitors from across the globe. Born on a stage, the festival grew into a block party. However, soon thereafter the location changed once again to the Boys and Girls High field.

In an effort to give back to the community, the International African Arts Festival holds an annual talent search, in which cash prizes and performance contracts are awarded to young people. The talent search has helped to launch the careers of several young stars. In addition, the Festival has awarded over $23,000 in annual scholarships to graduating high school seniors over the past eleven years. The International African Arts Festival is also responsible for the success of the Living Legends Award as well as the Ankh Award, both bestowed upon leaders and inspirational figures in the community.

The International African Arts Festival is committed to maintaining a connection with African tradition itself. A traditional African libation ceremony officially opens the Festival each year in salute to the spirit of the African ancestors. Over the course of its thirty years, the International African Arts Festival has brought a wealth of world-class entertainment to Brooklyn stages. The Festival maintains a deep connection with the residents of Brooklyn, employing over 300 people every year.

Mr. Speaker, for the past thirty years the International African Arts Festival has been an integral part of the community. As such, the Festival is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today. I hope that all of my colleagues will join me in honoring this truly remarkable event.