

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THE MEDICARE MEDICATION
EVALUATION AND DISPENSING
SYSTEM ACT OF 1995

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 22, 1995

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing a bill that, if adopted, would dramatically improve the quality of medical care received by our Nation's elderly. This legislation instructs the Secretary to implement an on-line, prescription drug information management program for Medicare beneficiaries. This system, referred to as the Medicare Medication Evaluation and Dispensing System [MMEDS], would provide the tools and information to beneficiaries and their health care providers that are necessary in order to reduce instances of adverse drug interactions, over-medication, and other problems related to prescription drug use that plague our elderly.

BACKGROUND

The inappropriate use of prescription drugs is a health problem that is particularly acute for the elderly. The elderly not only use more prescription drugs than any other age group, they are also more likely to be taking several drugs at once, increasing the probability of adverse drug reactions.

The General Accounting Office reported in July 1995 that 17.5 percent of the almost 30 million noninstitutionalized Medicare recipients 65 or older used at least one drug identified as generally unsuitable for elderly patients. In a recent study published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* [JAMA], researchers concluded that nearly one in four noninstitutionalized elderly patients take prescription drugs that experts regard as generally unsuitable for their age group. If other situations were taken into account, such as incorrect dosage levels, for example, the number of Medicare patients affected by the inappropriate use of prescription drugs would far exceed 25 percent.

The inappropriate use of prescription drugs has not only proven to be dangerous to the health of the elderly, it has also proven to be expensive. The Food and Drug Administration estimates that the annual cost of hospitalizations due to inappropriate prescription drug use is \$20 billion.

The concept of using computer-based systems to improve patient care is not a new one. Advanced on-line computer technology is currently available that permits prescriptions to be screened before they are filled in order to identify potential problems. Thirty States currently operate automated drug utilization review [DUR] information systems for their Medicaid populations. Much of the initial cost—up to 90 percent—incurred by States to implement these on-line drug utilization review systems has been covered by the Federal Government.

IS IT COST EFFECTIVE?

The General Accounting office has found that automated prospective drug utilization review, like that called for in MMEDS, is cost effective to implement and to operate. In the State of Tennessee, a reduction of over \$4 million in Medicaid drug costs was seen in just a 6-month period, representing 3.9 percent of the total cost of claims processed. In Maryland, over 7,000 prescription doses considered excessive for elderly Medicaid patients were modified, resulting in \$385,252 in savings in just 10 months, and a total of \$6.7 million in claims were reversed as a result of their on-line MMEDS-like system, accounting for 7.1 percent of the cost of Medicaid claims processed overall. There is no doubt that if Congress acts to approve this bill, the taxpayer's investment will not be lost and Medicare beneficiaries will be healthier as a result.

GOALS

The goal of this legislation is to provide a comprehensive outpatient prescription drug information system available to all Medicare beneficiaries which educates physicians, patients, and pharmacists concerning: First, instances or patterns of unnecessary or inappropriate prescribing and dispensing practices; Second, instances or patterns of substandard care with respect to such drugs; Third, potential adverse reactions and interactions; and Fourth, appropriate use of generic products.

PROGRAM

The Medicare Medication Evaluation and Dispensing System will build on the existing Medicaid infrastructure. MMEDS will give all Medicare beneficiaries and their health care providers the medication management tools they need to identify the direct threats posed by inappropriate medication. In the process, hospital and other medical costs otherwise picked-up by Medicare as a result of these adverse reactions will be reduced.

The program would provide on-line, real-time prospective review of drug therapy before each prescription is filled or delivered to an individual receiving benefits under Medicare. The review by a pharmacist would include screening for potential drug therapy problems due to therapeutic duplication, drug-drug interactions, and incorrect drug dosage or duration of drug treatment.

ASSURING APPROPRIATE PRESCRIBING AND DISPENSING PRACTICES

While the MMEDS system will be operated under contract with private entities, the Secretary of DHHS would be responsible for overseeing the development of the program to assure appropriate prescribing and dispensing practices for Medicare beneficiaries. The program would provide for prospective review of prescriptions, retrospective review of prescriptions filled, and standards for counseling individuals receiving prescription drugs. The program would include any elements of the State drug use review programs required under Sec-

tion 1927 of the Social Security Act that the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

As part of the prospective drug use review, any participating pharmacy that dispenses a prescription drug to a Medicare beneficiary would be required to offer to discuss with each individual receiving benefits, or the caregiver of such individual—in person, whenever practicable, or through access to a toll-free telephone service—information regarding the appropriate use of a drug, potential interactions between the drug and other drugs dispensed to the individual, and other matters established by the Secretary.

The Secretary would be required to study the feasibility and desirability of requiring patient diagnosis codes on prescriptions, and the feasibility of expanding prospective drug utilization review to include the identification of drug-disease contraindications, interactions with over-the-counter drugs, identification of drugs subject to misuse or inappropriate use, and drug-allergy interactions.

The Secretary, directly or through subcontract, would provide for an educational outreach program to educate physicians and pharmacists on common drug therapy problems. The Secretary would provide written, oral or face-to-face communication which furnishes information and suggested changes in prescribing and dispensing practices.

In addition, the Secretary is instructed to, directly or through contract, disseminate a consumer guide to assist beneficiaries in reducing their expenditures for outpatient drugs and to assist providers in determining the cost-effectiveness of such drugs.

PHARMACY PARTICIPATION

Participation by pharmacies would be on a voluntary basis. Participating would be required to meet standards of participation including, but not limited to maintenance of patient records, information submission at point-of-sale, patient counseling, and performance of required drug utilization review activities. Participating pharmacies would be required to obtain supplier numbers from the Secretary. Such supplier numbers would only be provided to pharmacies that meet requirements specified by the Secretary. Beneficiaries would be notified of which pharmacies are designated Medicare participating pharmacies.

PAYMENT OF SERVICES

Within a 2-year period after the initial operation of the MMEDS system, the Secretary would be required to submit to Congress an analysis of the effect of the MMEDS on expenditures under the Medicare Program and recommended, in consultation with actively practicing pharmacists, a payment methodology for professional services provided to Medicare beneficiaries. The payment methodology would be designed in a manner that generates no net additional costs to the Medicare Program, after accounting for the savings to Medicare as a result of demonstrable reductions in

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

the inappropriate use of outpatient prescription services. The Secretary would submit a report to Congress regarding such recommendations as the Secretary determines appropriate.

PRIVACY OF PRESCRIPTION INFORMATION

Standards would be established to maintain the privacy of protected health information. Protected health information means any information collected in any form under this provision that identifies an individual and is related to the physical or mental health of the individual, or is related to payment for the provision of health care to the individual.

CONCLUSION

As the number of elderly in our society increases, the number and proportion of drugs used by these older Americans will also increase. It is true that drugs, when used appropriately, can reduce or eliminate the need for surgical and hospital care, prevent premature deaths, and improve quality of life. Unfortunately, a good deal of drug use among older persons is inappropriate, often resulting in hospitalization. While some drug-related hospital admissions are unavoidable, many can be attributed to errors in prescribing. By implementing the Medicare Medication Evaluation and Dispensing System Act, we could greatly improve the quality of care received by our Nation's elderly. I look forward to receiving any comments and feedback from interested parties.

TRIBUTE TO LOUISE WOLFF KAHN

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 22, 1995

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in remembrance of one of the great women of Dallas who reflected the true meaning of giving.

Her name is Louise Wolff Kahn and she was given with unswerving dedication in support of the arts, education and historic preservation in Dallas.

In Dallas, we enjoy a rich heritage of philanthropy. We live in a giving community, and if Louise Wolff Kahn believed in a program, institution, or building project, she would devote herself to making it successful. She dedicated herself to many important endeavors such as the Dallas Symphony, breathing life into the organization during some of its darkest financial days. Much of her work has gone without any publicity, but publicity is not what she wanted; she to create a wonderful learning environment for children of low income families. It is evidenced by her devotion to the East Dallas Community School and the Dallas Public Library systems.

With her passing, Dallas has lost one of its greatest philanthropists.

FREE THE CLERGY ACT, H.R. 2829

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 22, 1995

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Free the Clergy Act, a bill:

To prohibit funding by United States Government agencies of the participation of certain officials of the Chinese Government in international conferences, programs, and activities until the Chinese Government releases certain individuals imprisoned or detained on religious grounds.

Mr. Speaker, there are hundreds of people serving long prison sentences in China for practicing their religious faith. Let me repeat that for my colleagues; hundreds of people, Catholics, Protestants, and Buddhists are spending many years of their lives in prison for observing religious practices. Unfortunately, the situation is getting worse.

According to a report released today by Human Rights Watch/Asia:

The Chinese government is subjecting unauthorized Catholic and Protestant groups to intensifying harassment and persecution. . . ."

During the last two years, the Chinese government broadened its drive to crush all forms of dissent. . . . all religious believers, and especially Christians, are seen as potential security risks. . . .

How exactly does Beijing repress religious practitioners? The Communist government sentences a 76-year-old Protestant leader to 15 years in prison for distributing Bibles. It sentences a 65-year-old evangelical elder to an 11-year prison term for belonging to an evangelical group outside the Government-sanctioned religious organizations. A 60-year-old Roman Catholic priest was sentenced to 2 years of reeducation through labor for unknown charges. He had previously spent 13 years in prison because of his refusal to renounce ties with the Vatican. The 6-year-old Panchen Lama and his family have been detained since May and their whereabouts are unknown. Scores of Tibetan Buddhists who refused to participate in the Communist Chinese sham enthronement of Beijing's "Panchen Lama" have been sent to prison and one of their spiritual teachers committed suicide rather than take part in the Chinese charade.

Mr. Speaker, my good friends and colleagues, there are hundreds of such cases. Mind you these people are not spending time in prison and wasting their lives away for calling for political pluralism or democracy. They are being severely punished for following their religious beliefs.

The administration argues that economic liberalization will bring about political pluralism. Many policy makers articulate that position due to political pressure from business groups. It needs to be pointed out, however, that sweeping religious practitioners under the same rug as prodemocracy advocates for short-term economic interests could be a political mistake that will be a long-term liability. The American people are very concerned about jobs and the economy but not if it is at the expense of their core moral and religious beliefs.

The Free the Clergy Act would prohibit any United States funds to be spent on any official in China who is involved with the repression of religion in China and occupied Tibet. It sends a message that we find religious repression repugnant and at grave odds with important American values.

Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2829 and ask that the full text of the bill be printed in the RECORD at this point.

H.R. 2829

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

The Congress makes the following findings: (1) It has been reported that at an internal Central Communist Party meeting in 1994, Chinese President Jiang Zemin asserted that religion is one of the biggest threats to Communist Party rule in China.

(2) On January 31, 1994, Premier Li Ping signed decrees number 144 and 145 which restrict worship, religious education, distribution of bibles and other religious literature, and contact with foreign coreligionists.

(3) The Chinese Government has created organizations that have as their purpose controlling all religious worship, activity, and association in China and supplanting the Roman Catholic Church, independent Protestant churches and independent Buddhist, Taoist, and Islamic associations.

(4) In July 1995 Ye Xiaowen, a reputed atheist and rigid communist, was appointed to head the Bureau of Religious Affairs, an agency controlled by the United Front Work Department of the Chinese Government, that has administrative control over all religious worship and activity in China through an official system of registering or denying rights and privileges to religious congregations and leaders.

(5) In the past year, the Chinese Government has expressed great concern over the spread of Christianity and particularly over the rapid growth of Christian religious institutions other than those controlled by the government, including the Roman Catholic Church and the evangelical Christian "house churches".

(6) Soon after the establishment of the People's Republic of China in 1949, the Chinese Government imprisoned Christians who refused to relinquish their faith to become servants of Communism, charging them as "counter-revolutionaries" and sentencing them to 20 years or more in labor camps.

(7) Hundreds of Chinese Protestants and Catholics are among those now imprisoned at "reeducation through labor" camps because of their religious beliefs.

(8) The reeducation camps are run by the Ministry of Public Security and the Ministry of Justice of the Chinese Government.

(9) The Chinese Communist Government refuses to permit the appointment by the Vatican of Catholic Bishops and ordination of priests for China and insists on appointing its own "Catholic bishops".

(10) The Tenth Panchen Lama died in January 1989 at Tashi Lhunpo Monastery, his traditional spiritual seat in Shigatze, Tibet's second largest city.

(11) The Dalai Lama has the right to recognize the successor to the Panchen Lama, and has always done so.

(12) On May 14, 1995, His Holiness the Dalai Lama announced recognition of a 6-year old boy, Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, as the Eleventh Panchen Lama, according to Tibetan tradition.

(13) The young boy recognized by the Dalai Lama and his family have been brought to Beijing by Chinese authorities and have not been seen in several months.

(14) Chatrel Rimpoche, abbot of Tashi Lhunpo Monastery and head of the original search committee for the Eleventh Panchen Lama, and his assistant, Champa Chung, are believed to have been seized and detained by Chinese authorities in May of 1995.

(15) Chinese Government authorities subsequently detained other Tibetan Buddhists in connection with selection of the Eleventh Panchen Lama, including Gyatrol Rimpoche, Shepa Kelsang, Lhakpa Tsering, and Ringkar Ngawang.

(16) The Chinese Government convened a conference in Beijing of Tibetan Lamas who were forcibly brought to Beijing in order to select a rival candidate to the child selected by the Dalai Lama as the Eleventh Panchen Lama.

(17) On November 29, 1995, Luo Gan, Secretary General of the State Council, and Ye Xiaowen, Director of the Bureau of Religious Affairs, orchestrated an elaborate ceremony designating a 6-year old boy selected by the Chinese Government as the Eleventh Panchen Lama.

(18) On December 8, 1995, State Councilor Li Tiejing presided over a ceremony in Shigatze, Tibet, in which the boy selected by the Chinese Government as the Eleventh Panchen Lama was enthroned.

(19) By seeking to impose its own candidate as the Eleventh Panchen Lama and detaining the 6-year old boy recognized for that position in accordance with Tibetan tradition, the Chinese Government is inserting itself into a purely Tibetan religious matter, in blatant violation of the fundamental human rights of the Tibetan people.

SEC. 2. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

The Department of State should make the release of individuals imprisoned or detained on religious grounds a major objective of United States foreign policy with respect to China, and should raise this issue in every relevant bilateral and multilateral forum.

SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON FUNDING BY AGENCIES OF THE UNITED STATES FOR THE PARTICIPATION OF CERTAIN CHINESE OFFICIALS IN INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES.

(a) RESTRICTION.—No funds available to the Department of State, the United States Information Agency, the Agency for International Development, or any other agency or entity of the United States Government may be obligated or expended for the participation of any of the following individuals in any conference, exchange program, or activity relating to education, culture, training, or any other purpose, until the President submits the certification described in subsection (b):

(1) The head of any of the following Chinese Government-created and approved organizations:

(A) The Chinese Buddhist Association.
(B) The Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association.

(C) The Chinese Catholic Religious Affairs Committee.

(D) The Chinese Catholic Bishops' Conference.

(E) The Chinese Protestant "Three-Self" Patriotic Movement.

(F) The China Christian Council.

(G) The Chinese Taoist Association.

(H) The Chinese Islamic Association.

(2) Any official or employee of the United Front Work Department of the Chinese Government.

(3) Luo Gan, the Secretary General of the State Council, Li Tiejing, State Councilor, and any other official or employee of the State Council.

(4) Ye Xiaowen, Director of Bureau of Religious Affairs, and any other official or employee of the Bureau of Religious Affairs of the Chinese Government.

(5) Any military or civilian official or employee of the Ministry of Public Security or the Ministry of Justice of the Chinese Government.

(b) CERTIFICATION.—The certification referred to in subsection (a) is a certification by the President to the Congress that the following individuals have been released, unconditionally, by the Chinese Government:

(1) Pei Zhongxun (whose Korean name is Chun Chul).

(2) Dai Guillang.

(3) Dai Lanmei.

(4) Geng Minuan.

(5) Wang Xincui.

(6) Li Tianen.

(7) Guo Mengshan.

(8) Jiang Huaifeng.

(9) Xu Funian.

(10) Wang Yao Hua.

(11) Chen Zhuman.

(12) Bishop Zeng Jingmu.

(13) Father Li Jian Jin.

(14) Father Vincent Qin Guoliang.

(15) Pan Kunming.

(16) Rao Yangping.

(17) Yu Qixing.

(18) Yu Shuishen.

(19) Li Qingming.

(20) Zhang Zhiqiang.

(21) Gedhun Choekyi Nyima and his family.

(22) Chatrel Rimpoche.

(23) Champa Chung.

(24) Gyatrol Rimpoche.

(25) Shepa Kelsang.

(26) Lhakpa Tsering.

(27) Ringkar Ngawang.

INDIA'S NUCLEAR AMBITIONS

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 22, 1995

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I want to call to the attention of my colleagues two articles from the December 15, 1995, *New York Times* and the December 16, 1995, *Washington Post* which report that India may be preparing for another nuclear weapon test near Pokhran, India.

My colleagues may recall that India exploded a nuclear device at this very site back in 1974. Since then, India's nuclear program has advanced rapidly making significant progress in the development of ballistic missiles.

All these activities on the part of India pose a direct threat to Pakistan's security. Despite these threatening moves, Pakistan has displayed considerable restraint. In fact, Pakistan has indicated on numerous occasions its willingness to accept nonproliferation measures, including accession to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, if India were to accept the same. While Pakistan, who has been a long-time ally of the United States, has come under United States sanctions, India has been allowed to pursue its nuclear program without any consequence. Indian activities at the

Pokhran site not only threaten security and stability in South Asia, but also adversely impact United States efforts to have a Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty concluded during 1996.

Mr. Speaker, it is imperative that India should give up its nuclear ambitions and cooperate with Pakistan and its other neighbors in South Asia in banishing forever the chances of nuclear war in South Asia.

[From the *New York Times*, Dec. 15, 1995]

U.S. SUSPECTS INDIA PREPARES TO CONDUCT NUCLEAR TEST

(By Tim Weiner)

WASHINGTON, DEC. 14.—American intelligence experts suspect India is preparing for its first nuclear test since 1974, Government officials said today.

The United States is working to discourage it, fearing a political chain reaction among nuclear nations.

In recent weeks, spy satellites have recorded scientific and technical activity at the Pokaran test site in the Rajasthan desert in India. But intelligence experts said they could not tell whether the activity involved preparations for exploding a nuclear bomb or some other experiment to increase India's expertise in making nuclear weapons.

"We're not sure that they're up to," a Government official said. "The big question is what their motive is. If their motive is to get scientific knowledge, it might be months or years before they do the test. If it's for purely political reasons, it could be this weekend. We don't know the answer to those questions."

Shive Mukherjee, Press Minister of the Indian Embassy here, said today that the activities at the nuclear test site were army exercises whose "movements have been absurdly misinterpreted."

The Congress Party of India, which has governed the country most of the years since independence in 1947, is facing a serious challenge from a right-wing Hindu nationalist party, United States Government officials say a nuclear weapons test could be used by the Congress Party as a symbol of its political potency.

Despite efforts to persuade the world's nuclear powers to sign a comprehensive test ban treaty, China and France have tested nuclear weapons in recent months. If India follows suit, its neighbor, Pakistan, with which it has tense relations, may also test a nuclear weapon, Government and civilian experts said. Neither country has signed the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

"It's going to have a nuclear snowball effect," said Gary Milhollin, director of the Wisconsin Project on Nuclear Arms Control in Washington and a leader civilian expert on the spread of nuclear weapons. "It also jeopardizes the possibility that the world will sign a comprehensive test ban treaty next year."

A State Department official who spoke on condition of anonymity said that if India exploded a nuclear bomb, it "would be a matter of great concern and a serious setback to nonproliferation efforts."

"The United States is committed to the early completion of a comprehensive test ban," the official said. "We are observing a moratorium on nuclear testing and we have called upon all nations to demonstrate similar restraint."

But not all nations have heard the call.

India says publicly that it wants the complete elimination of nuclear weapons. But its nuclear hawks argue that the United States

and Russia will never live up to that ideal and that a comprehensive test ban that is not linked to drastic reductions in the world's nuclear arsenals could leave India a second-rate or third-rate nuclear power.

Mr. Milhollin said India did not have a great archive of test data for nuclear weapons that could be mounted on a warhead and placed on a missile. "Once the test ban treaty comes in, they will be data-poor," he said. "A test now would supply them data, it would be a tremendous plus for the Congress Party, it would give them a big boost in the elections."

Political pressure for a nuclear test is building among India's right wing. "They are saying: 'What are we sitting around for? Why should we sign a test ban treaty not linked to the reduction of nuclear weapons'" said Selig S. Harrison, an expert on South Asia at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

In 1974 India exploded what was believed to be a Hiroshima-sized bomb equal to 12,000 tons of TNT, which is called a "peaceful nuclear explosion." It renewed its program some years later, and in 1989 the Director of Central Intelligence, William H. Webster, testified that India had resumed research on thermonuclear weapons.

While India has sought to limit the nuclear abilities of China, it is most concerned about the nuclear-weapons program of Pakistan, although Pakistan has not acknowledged it has one. The two countries have had three wars, unending political tensions and constant border disputes since they were formed by the partition of India in 1947 after its independence from Britain.

A subnuclear experiment, which would not involve a nuclear explosion, might not have the political effect of a full-fledged detonation. But Administration officials said they feared that any test would create pressure on Pakistan to follow suit.

"We look at this in a balance with Pakistan," a White House official said:

[From the Washington Post, Dec. 16, 1995]
POSSIBLE NUCLEAR ARMS TEST BY INDIA
CONCERNS U.S.

(By R. Jeffrey Smith)

U.S. officials are concerned that India may be preparing to set off its first nuclear blast since 1974, an act they fear could ratchet up a nuclear arms race with neighboring Pakistan.

Both countries are said by Washington to be working busily on improvements to their small nuclear stockpiles, including developing new designs for more powerful weapons. Pakistan is relying on significant assistance from China to construct a reactor that will give it access to plutonium for use in such arms.

U.S. officials said these developments made the region the most likely nuclear flashpoint in the world, even though the risk of war between the two long-standing enemies is not considered imminent.

The U.S. concerns about India are based on recent spy satellite imagery that recorded what one official described as "activities going beyond what we've seen in the past" at India's Pokaran nuclear test site in the Rajasthan desert.

The site has been routinely maintained by India for the past two decades, but U.S. intelligence officials recently noted efforts to clean out a deep underground shaft for lowering a nuclear weapon into the earth. They also noted "possible preparations for instrumentation" of a blast to determine whether it occurred as predicted, the official said.

"We take these preparations very seriously and are in the process of raising the issue with the Indians" at a senior diplomatic level, the official said without providing details. Washington is not aware of any decision by Indian authorities to go through with such a test, he added.

The world's major nuclear powers are attempting to reach accord on the terms of a global nuclear test ban that could take effect next year, and the alleged Indian preparations may reflect a conviction in New Delhi that steps should be taken before then to improve the country's small nuclear stockpile, the officials said. "We're concerned, obviously, at any signs that any power might be testing a nuclear weapon," State Department spokesman Glyn Davies said yesterday. "If there were to be an explosive test by India, it would be a dramatic departure from India's own long-standing position against testing [and] a setback to disarmament efforts internationally."

An Indian government spokesman in New Delhi termed a report yesterday about the test preparations by the New York Times "totally speculative" but stopped short of denying it, according to Reuter news agency. Another Indian official was quoted as saying the site where preparations allegedly are underway is "an area where there are routine exercises always."

U.S. intelligence officials have said Indian scientists are trying to develop more powerful "boosted" atomic arms as well as a hydrogen bomb.

In Pakistan, they said, construction of a nuclear reactor is continuing at the city of Khushab; China is providing technical advice to the Pakistani engineers and also may be providing vital equipment.

"This may be inconsistent with China's obligations" under the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, which bars the transfer of nuclear components to projects that are not subject to international inspection and also bars any contribution to efforts by non-nuclear states to build nuclear arms, a U.S. official said.

"There is a danger of an eruption, where one state takes a step and the other matches it and goes beyond," said Carnegie Endowment Senior Associate Leonard S. Spector, a nuclear proliferation expert. "They could claim they have nuclear warheads for their missiles, and declare they are nuclear powers. . . . The whole complexion of this problem could change dramatically."

INDIA'S NUCLEAR WEAPONS CAPABILITY

HON. ROBERT G. TORRICELLI

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 22, 1995

Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. Speaker, I bring to the attention of my colleagues recent press reports about India's nuclear weapons capability.

A December 15 story in the New York Times indicates that based on satellite surveillance, United States experts suspect India is preparing for a nuclear test, its first since 1974. The Indian Government says the intelligence is being misinterpreted and that it has no plans to conduct another nuclear test.

Mr. Speaker, nuclear developments on the South Asian subcontinent should not be taken lightly. Any move by the Government of India to conduct a nuclear test will inevitably esca-

late the danger of proliferation in a region fraught with tensions and conflicts and threaten the negotiations in Geneva on the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

Mr. Speaker, the United States continues to pursue efforts to bring both Pakistan and India back from the nuclear brink. It is a policy that should not and cannot be threatened by India. Three times since 1947 India and Pakistan have gone to war. Tensions still simmer over the disputed territory of Kashmir.

The United States has made its policy goals for South Asia clear. We oppose the deployment of missiles, nuclear weapons testing, and production of fissile materials. We can only attain these goals if India cooperates with these guidelines. If India proceeds with nuclear testing, it will be repudiating years of efforts to end nuclear proliferation and could increase tensions with Pakistan.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to read the New York Times story and the December 20 editorial in the Washington Post on this very significant development.

TRIBUTE TO WANDA CARNEY

HON. JACK QUINN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 22, 1995

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Wanda Carney, an individual who has served the constituents of western New York for 21 years. Wanda first began working for the U.S. House of Representatives in the district office of former Congressman Henry Nowak and later as a member of my staff.

Over those 21 years, Wanda has served as a catalyst in helping literally thousands of constituents who have turned to their Congressman as their last hope. No matter the problem's size, whether it was with obtaining a passport, assisting a member of our armed forces, or interceding in adoption proceedings, Wanda addressed it with the same exemplary level of devotion.

I am sure every Member of the House of Representatives can appreciate the importance of having a Wanda Carney on their staff and the void that is left when they move on.

I join with Wanda's family, her colleagues, the Honorable Henry Nowak, her friends, and the entire western New York community in recognition of her outstanding dedication and years of distinguished service. With retirement comes many new opportunities. May she meet every opportunity with the same enthusiasm and vigor which she demonstrated throughout her brilliant career; and may those opportunities be as fruitful as those in her past.

Thank you, Wanda, for your tireless effort and personal commitment. As you enter retirement, I wish you nothing but the best.

PRO-LIFE MOVEMENT

HON. JAMES M. TALENT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 22, 1995

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in a belated tribute to a great victory in the pro-life movement. While the pro-life movement always has proclaimed the sanctity of human life, pro-life supporters and others touched by abortions have been without a place where they can gather to mourn those lost to abortion or to reconcile the pain of that tragic decision. But that changed in 1993 when a pro-life group in Chattanooga, TN, peacefully brought about the closing of the city's only abortion clinic. This is an incredible story, which I want to bring to the attention of my colleagues in the House.

In April 1993, the Pro-life Majority Coalition of Chattanooga [ProMaCC] learned of the pending sale of a building that for 18 years housed the Chattanooga Women's Clinic. The abortionist who was leasing the building agreed to purchase the property from the bankrupt landlord for \$254,000. Within 7 days, ProMaCC raised over \$300,000 from local pro-life supporters who wanted the facility closed. When the building was auctioned in bankruptcy court, ProMaCC outbid the abortionist and purchased the building for \$294,000. Faced with the loss of this facility, the owner of the abortion clinic sold all assets and dissolved the corporation.

But the story doesn't end here. After the building was acquired, the question arose of what to do with it. ProMaCC formed a new organization called the Imago Deli—Latin for Image of God—Foundation to decide the future of the 8,600 square foot building. The foundation sold part of the former clinic to AAA Women's Services, a pregnancy center which provides counseling, abstinence training, and infant care instruction and which distributes food, clothing, and other needs for babies.

The remainder of the building will be dedicated as a memorial to the victims of abortion—the National Memorial for the Unborn. Most of the existing building structure will be torn down. The abortion procedure room and waiting area, however, will remain standing to house the central feature of the memorial, the Wall of Names. The wall, which is modeled after the Vietnam War Memorial, will hold name plaques, each one dedicated to the memory of an aborted child by those who mourn the loss. A black wrought iron fence will be constructed over the building's footings to mark the perimeter of the former clinic. Connecting the fence to the Wall of Names is a stone path which winds past meditative gardens and a pool of tears. With both the AAA Women's Service and the National Memorial for the Unborn, an effigy of despair has been transformed, in a real way, into a monument of hope which encourages, supports, and nurtures life, both physically and spiritually.

Abortion is an emotional issue which has deeply divided our Republic since the Supreme Court handed down the Roe versus Wade decision. But I hope that everyone will join me in applauding the efforts of the Imago

Dei Foundation to provide a memorial for the unborn where the healing of millions of Americans touched by the scar of abortion may begin.

Besides healing individuals, the National Memorial for the Unborn begins the process of healing a nation. The memorial brings us one step closer to the day when we have mercy for all and malice toward none. Brochures at the memorial read:

On the site where over 35,000 babies were aborted, the National Memorial for the Unborn is a powerful witness to God's redemption and healing for all the victims of abortion and for our Nation.

Indeed it is, Mr. Speaker.

The National Memorial to the Unborn was dedicated on January 23, 1994, and will be open to the public in January 1996. I commend everyone involved in this project, and I look forward to the day when we as a nation will have a place to mourn individually and corporately the loss of children by abortion.

The following Members of Congress join me in these remarks: Representative ZACH WAMP, Representative CHARLES CANADY, Representative TODD TIAHRT, Representative BOB INGLIS, Representative RON LEWIS, Representative STEVE LARGENT, Representative WILLIAM LIPINSKI, Representative CHRISTOPHER SMITH, Representative BILL EMERSON, Representative DAVE WELDON, Representative TIM HUTCHISON, Representative JOE BARTON, Representative NICK RAHALL, Representative JAMES BARCIA, Representative MEL HANCOCK, Representative TOM COBURN, Representative WES COOLEY.

RETIREMENT OF HAROLD T.
BUSHEY

HON. WILLIAM J. COYNE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 22, 1995

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Mr. Harold T. Bushey, who will retire next month after 54 years of dedicated service to the Federal Government.

Most of Mr. Bushey's career in the Federal Government has consisted of serving our Nation's veterans. He has been with the Veterans' Administration [VA] since March 1946. A decorated veteran of World War II and a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh, Mr. Bushey has been the Director of the Pittsburgh Veterans Affairs Regional Office since July 1, 1971. In this capacity, Mr. Bushey has worked closely with my office to meet the needs of veterans in the 14th Congressional District of Pennsylvania. Under Mr. Bushey's capable leadership, the local VA personnel has promptly and efficiently responded to requests from my office for assistance with health care, pensions, and other veterans' benefits. Prior to his appointment as Director of the Pittsburgh regional office, Mr. Bushey served as Assistant Director and Personnel Director of this office.

His dedication, competence, and professionalism are unsurpassed, and they have been recognized by a number of awards over

the past decades. He has served the public and the VA in a number of different capacities. He has served on a number of prestigious VA committees and task forces assigned the responsibility for such diverse missions as improving benefit management and training personnel. In addition, he has held positions of leadership on the Pittsburgh Federal Executive Board and its Minority Business Opportunity Committee. He has been recognized for his efforts to recruit veterans, minorities, and women for the Veterans' Administration in the 1960's, as well as for helping to recruit personnel for service overseas with the Agency for International Development. In 1988, he spearheaded the first VA pilot project to provide housing and other assistance for homeless veterans.

Mr. Bushey has been involved in community activity and in promoting local charitable efforts as well. He has served as the Chairman of the Government Services Division of the United Way of Allegheny County, he served on the Executive Board of the American Red Cross, and he currently serves on the boards of the local Salvation Army, the Health Education Center, and the Pittsburgh Resource Center.

I want to thank Harold Bushey for 54 years of distinguished service to our country and our community. I salute him for his commitment to our country's veterans and their families. I congratulate him for a job well done on the occasion of his retirement and wish him much success in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO ERIK JONSSON

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 22, 1995

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in remembrance of a great man and a friend to everyone in Dallas, Mr. Erik Jonsson. Mr. Jonsson passed away on August 31, 1995, and I will miss him dearly.

Mr. Jonsson was a product of the American dream. He was the son of immigrant parents who found within himself the attributes necessary to make all of his dreams come true—and he did. He worked his way to the top of one of America's biggest corporations as president and cofounder of Texas Instruments, Inc. He was mayor of Dallas from 1964 to 1971 and was the driving force behind establishing the Dallas/Fort Worth Airport, he served as the first chairman of its board.

He was admired by his colleagues and friends for always thinking of the big picture and never taking his eyes off the prize—working to make Dallas the great city that it is.

RUSSIAN JEWISH CONGRESS TO
CONVENE IN MOSCOW IN JANU-
ARY 1996

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 22, 1995

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, next month in Russia, an event will take place that marks an

important milestone in that country's long and difficult road toward democracy, freedom, and the development of an open and pluralistic society. Due in large part to the efforts of one of the leading entrepreneurs of Russia, Mr. Vladimir Goussinsky, the Uniting Convention of the Russian Jewish Congress will convene in Moscow in early January to bring together the religious and secular Jewish communities of Russia on the basis of their common ethnic and spiritual heritage. Mr. Speaker, this historic event marks the beginning of the Jewish community coming into its own in the new post-Communist Russia, and it reflects the establishment of the Jewish community as a full-fledged and coequal member of Russian religious life.

The Russian Jewish Congress, with the assistance and support of the World Jewish Congress, will give a unified voice to the important Jewish community of Russia, which has long been without such an organization to represent the broad concerns of its Jewish community. The aim of this organization is to unite the religious and secular Jewish communities of Russia in order to develop and finance programs to revive Jewish language and cultural traditions, establish national schools, restore synagogue buildings, and assist disadvantaged and needy members of the Jewish Community.

Mr. Speaker, under the outstanding leadership of Vladimir Goussinsky, there is no doubt in my mind that this organization will succeed in its worthy goals. Mr. Goussinsky is known internationally as a champion of free enterprise and freedom of the press in Russia, and now he has established himself as a leader of the resurgent Jewish community by convening this Uniting Convention of the Russian Jewish Congress. He has done a great service to his country by leading the way toward a pluralistic society that honors and respects the diverse cultures and religious communities that are contained within its borders.

Mr. Goussinsky is director general of the Most Group of Companies, one of Russia's largest and most productive private enterprises. He was a theater director who drove a gypsy cab on the side to supplement his income under the Communist regime. In 1986, just 5 days after Soviet President Michael Gorbachev legalized private commercial activities, Mr. Goussinsky established his first company. He later created one of the first Russian-American joint ventures, which became the foundation for the Most Group.

The Most Group now includes a diverse portfolio of some of the most visible and successful businesses in Russia, employing over 12,000 people and now with assets of nearly \$500 million. These include Most Development, a real estate and construction division which has spearheaded the rebuilding and reconstruction of key areas of Moscow; Most Bank, one of the largest banks in Russia; Segodnya, one of Moscow's most popular daily newspapers; and NTV, Russia's only independent television network.

Mr. Goussinsky has led the fight for freedom of the press in Russia. Segodnya and NTV are regarded worldwide as being the most independent and honest media outlets in Russia. Mr. Goussinsky has repeatedly continued to report objectively—and in many cases criti-

cally—regarding government policies and Russian domestic and international politics. This commitment to freedom of the press has been pursued despite enormous political pressure from the government and other forces in Russia.

The Russian people and the Russian Jewish community are fortunate indeed to enjoy Mr. Goussinsky's heroic efforts to bring Russia out of this extremely difficult time and encourage the transition to a free market and to an open and pluralistic democracy. I invite my colleagues to join me in applauding Mr. Goussinsky for his efforts in convening the Uniting Convention of the Russian Jewish Congress and in fostering freedom and democratic progress in Russia.

TRIBUTE TO REV. CORA PALMER

HON. JON D. FOX

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 22, 1995

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Rev. Cora Lee Palmer, pastor of St. John A.M.E. Church of Conshohocken who died on November 9 in Misericordia Hospital in Philadelphia.

Reverend Palmer was both a spiritual and community leader in my home district of Montgomery County, PA, where she was a member of the A.M.E. Preachers Association and the Conshohocken Ministerium.

Born in Clinton, SC, Reverend Palmer lived in the city of Philadelphia for more than 50 years. She attended Eastern College in St. David's, PA. Reverend Palmer's leadership and spiritual guidance extended beyond the boundaries of her church and were a beacon to many in the borough of Conshohocken. I was proud to have known her and was thrilled when she invited me to her church to meet those congregants who look up to her and counted on her for counsel.

Mr. Speaker, Reverend Palmer is survived by her husband, James; her two sons, Dennis McDuffy of Willingboro, NJ, and Rev. Eugene McDuffy of Thorndale, PA. She is also survived by a daughter, Carol McDuffy Kimble of Philadelphia; her father, Thomas Fant of Chicago, IL; a half brother, Thomas Fant, Jr., of Great Neck, NY, as well as 17 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren.

Her passing has left a void in the hearts of many in Conshohocken and throughout the Delaware Valley region. We will all miss her powerful leadership, her dedication to faith, and her belief in the goodness in people. Mr. Speaker, Montgomery County is a little poorer because of her loss but we are grateful to have had her among us for so many years.

STOP THE BUDGET IMPASSE: PROTECT MEDICARE AND MEDICAID—REOPEN GOVERNMENT

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 22, 1995

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, in the spirit of Christmas and the holiday season, I rise in

strong opposition to the Republicans' drastic cuts in health care services for the most vulnerable in our society, and to their politically contrived forced shutdown of the Federal Government. Under the Republicans' budget, there would no longer be a holiday season for the vulnerable.

While the Republicans are busy repealing Medicaid, have they stopped to comprehend the fact that 90 percent of children with AIDS receive the critical health care services they need through Medicaid. In addition, health care coverage will be denied to nearly 4 million children, and over 300,000 seniors could be denied nursing home care.

Mr. Speaker, who would have thought that we would have ever reached the point where the Republicans would feel comfortable in holding the American people and the country hostage, because the President will not agree with their extremist budget. And then, on top of that, to vote themselves a Christmas recess when they should have passed a clean continuing resolution—this is the ultimate of irresponsibility.

Mr. Speaker, in the spirit of Christmas and the holiday season, I strongly urge my Republican colleagues to put an end to their budget impasse, protect Medicare and Medicaid, reopen the Federal Government, and begin sensible budget negotiations.

ALBERT SCHWEITZER INSTITUTE LEADS THE WAY IN HUMANITARIAN SERVICE

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 22, 1995

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Albert Schweitzer Institute for the Humanities, a nonprofit organization in residence at Choate Rosemary Hall in Wallingford, CT. In this season of peace and goodwill, it is an especially appropriate time to honor this organization that is working for the ideals Dr. Albert Schweitzer dedicated his life to—promoting and improving human rights, health care, the environment, and peace throughout the world.

In 1984, the Schweitzer Institute has led the way in providing assistance to the areas where it is most needed. The Schweitzer Institute was the first organization to evacuate children from Bosnia, bringing over 20 Bosnian children to the United States and arranging for their medical treatment. While peace seems to be on the horizon, Bosnian civilians are still suffering from the ravages of war. Another trip to Bosnia is planned for January to bring desperately needed medicine, warm clothes, food, and toys.

The Schweitzer Institute is also working with the Inter-American Development Bank to run and monitor the Nickerie Hospital in Suriname. The hospital is in a remote area of Suriname's rain forest where no other health care is available. The institute will work to modernize health care facilities and improve the access and quality of care. In the past, the institute has evacuated children from the former Soviet

Union to the United States for medical treatment; and has sponsored international conferences on issues such as global health, military toxic waste and ethics.

The Schweitzer Institute has improved the quality of life for thousands of people around the world. I am proud of the work they have done, and I would like to congratulate Harold Robles, president and founder of the institute, and his staff on their important and successful work. The Albert Schweitzer Institute for the Humanities is truly making our world a better place.

TRIBUTE TO BUSINESS AND CIVIC LEADER, RUSSELL N. BARRINGER, JR.

HON. DAVID FUNDERBURK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 22, 1995

Mr. FUNDERBURK. Mr. Speaker, it is with pleasure that I pay tribute to one of Durham's most prominent leaders. Russell N. Barringer, Jr. has stood out during the past few decades, as a successful businessman and community leader. His list of civic, social, government, and business activities are too numerous to mention here. But I will try to summarize his most outstanding accomplishments.

Mr. Barringer's education included Calvert Method School, Carr Junior High School, Durham High School, Davidson College and Duke University. He is married to Mary Ruth Teer and has three children, Russell III, Edward T., Stephen W., and six grandchildren. Mr. Barringer served in the U.S. Army Reserves from 1955 to 1967 when he received an honorable discharge as first lieutenant. Mr. Barringer belongs to Westminster Presbyterian Church. He is a private instrument-related pilot and aircraft owner; and he enjoys golf, tennis, and travel, and is a member of several prominent country clubs.

Russell N. Barringer, Jr. is both chairman and CEO of Dealers Supply Co. and the West Durham Lumber Co. Dealers Supply ranked 25th in sales volume of floor covering distribution in the United States. West Durham Lumber is in the retail lumber and building supply business in the Durham area. Also, Barringer is chairman of Barringer Enterprises.

Mr. Barringer has been in the forefront of business promotion and activity in Durham. His involvement includes past board memberships of NCNB City Board, Scottish Savings and Loan State Board, and Southeastern Savings and Loan City Board (chairman). Current memberships include Duke University Fuqua School of Business Advisory Board (chairman 1992), National Association of Wholesalers, Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, National Association of Floor Covering Distributors, First Union National Bank City Board, Duke University Arthritic Advisory Board, and the Carpet Trade Golf Association.

In government and civic affairs, Russell N. Barringer, Jr. has also been a leader. He served on the Durham City Planning and Zoning Commission, and on the County Schools Advisory Board. He was appointed by Governor James Martin to the North Carolina Aer-

onautics Council (on which he served as secretary in 1992), and he was a candidate for Durham County commissioner in several elections. In civic affairs he has served on: the Durham Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, Friends of Watts Hospital Board of Directors, the Salvation Army Advisory Board, the Multiple Sclerosis Society Board of Directors, Duke University Durham County Alumni Association, and the Civic Club Golf Tournament Committee.

I am very pleased to recognize the major contributions made in many fields by Durham's outstanding citizen, Russell N. Barringer, Jr.

BALANCED BUDGET

HON. WILLIAM J. MARTINI

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 22, 1995

Mr. MARTINI. Mr. Speaker, President Clinton is playing games with the American people. He claims to support a balanced budget, but he has failed to honor his commitment.

I believe that we have a moral obligation to balance the budget. A balanced budget is the right thing to do for our future, our children's future, and the future of generations to come.

Our message is simple, the Federal Government must learn to exercise the same fiscal restraint that families and businesses operate under each and everyday.

My Republican colleagues and to their credit, some on the other side of the aisle, have put forth an ambitious agenda that would balance the Federal budget by the year 2002.

Unfortunately the Clinton administration has decided to fight us every step of the way instead of joining in our effort.

The truth is my friends, we will balance the budget, we will save Medicare, and we will change the way the Federal Government operates. For the sake of our children we must not back away from the awesome task at hand.

Mr. Speaker, Congress is finally shaping up and bringing long awaited fiscal fitness to the Federal Government.

I am proud to be part of this historic effort. I urge the administration to stop playing games and honor its commitment to the American people.

TRIBUTE TO KARIN URQUHART

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 22, 1995

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of my district's most dedicated and respected individuals, Karin Urquhart. The Marin Conservation League [MCL] and the community is conducting "A Toast to Karin Urquhart" to celebrate her visionary leadership.

Since 1976, Karin has served the Marin Conservation League. First as a member of the board of directors, then president from

1977 to 1979, and later as the executive director, and is one of the most recognized leaders of Marin's environmental community.

Karin Urquhart has improved the quality of life in Marin County through her enthusiasm and experience. Her professional and volunteer work is truly impressive. In addition to her MCL work, Karin has served the Marin County Board of Supervisors as an appointee to the Marin County Parks, Open Space, and Cultural Commission for a decade and, most recently, she was appointed trustee to the Marin Community Foundation.

As an example of her commitment to the county, Karin currently is president of the Marconi Conference Center Board, and board member of Marin Conservation Corps, Environmental Forum, Marin Agricultural Land Trust, and Digital Village to name a few. She has been recognized by induction into the Marin Women's Hall of Fame, received the national Conservation Award from Daughters of the American Revolution, and named the Executive Director of the Year for Excellence in Developing Community Partnerships.

It has been my pleasure and privilege to work with Karin over the last several years on important issues such as protecting wetlands and preserving agriculture and open space. I particularly appreciated her coming to Washington, DC to testify in favor of my bill to expand the Pt. Reyes National Seashore. It's been a pleasure working with such a capable and compassionate person. I continue to be impressed by her dedication and vision. She is a role model for all.

On the occasion of her retirement from Marin Conservation League, and as we celebrate Karin's years of service to this community, I wish to recognize Karin for her commitment to the people of Marin County, and to thank her for her outstanding record of public service. Marin County owes a great deal of gratitude for the tireless efforts of Karin over the years. Time and again she has extended herself on behalf of many people and for many causes.

Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay tribute to Karin Urquhart as her many friends and supporters celebrate and toast her at the Marin Rod & Gun Club in San Rafael. I extend my hearty congratulations and best wishes to Karin, and to her husband Don, for continued success now, and in the years to come, and I consider it an honor to be her friend.

MERRY CHRISTMAS, FAA

HON. BOB FRANKS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 22, 1995

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to move the Federal Aviation Administration's [FAA] eastern regional office from Queens, NY, to Union County, NJ.

As my colleagues are aware, after spending \$6 million and taking over 5 years, the FAA will implement next month its long-awaited Solberg mitigation plan. The FAA is proceeding to execute this plan even though it has virtually no support among the citizens of New Jersey or their elected officials.

Judging from the answers given at a recent House Aviation Subcommittee hearing on the expanded east coast plan, a hearing which I requested, the FAA has no plan to resolve New Jersey's aircraft noise problem. In effect, the FAA has decided to wash its hands of my State's legitimate aircraft noise concerns.

It is obvious that the FAA has lost touch with the citizens of New Jersey. This is why it is important that the FAA bureaucrats responsible for the New Jersey aircraft noise debacle work in a State where they can be constantly reminded of their failure. I am confident that after moving to the Garden State, the FAA will be able to clearly hear the aircraft noise problem it created. And after a few months of being in one of the most noise-impacted counties in the Nation, perhaps the FAA will become more amenable to finally solving New Jersey's aircraft noise problem.

Mr. Speaker, the people of New Jersey deserve better than the FAA's footdragging and duplicity on this issue. I plan to attach this legislation to the FAA reform bill, which is ready for consideration by the House. In the interim, I encourage my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO SANFORD M. LITVACK

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 22, 1995

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Sanford M. Litvack, a distinguished attorney who currently serves as the senior executive vice president and chief of corporate operations of the Walt Disney Co.

Mr. Litvack is greatly respected both in the legal community and among the advocates of legal reform and legal services for the poor. He has led the crusade to make the law a field of humane service, and not merely a remunerative profession.

On January 27, 1996, Bet Tzedek Legal Services will honor Sanford M. Litvack for his unstinting work in bringing high-quality legal services to the poor, the elderly, and others in need.

Under Mr. Litvack's vigorous leadership, the goals of Bet Tzedek have been realized even beyond the expectations of the organization's founders and staunchest supporters. He and his colleagues have assembled a well-organized, efficient, humanitarian organization that individuals can turn to for competent legal counsel when all other paths are closed.

Sanford Litvack sets a standard for us all to live up to. He has been able to balance his full family and professional life with energetic and creative contributions to the organization and leadership of Bet Tzedek and other humanitarian and philanthropic efforts.

I ask all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing Sanford Litvack for his important work with Bet Tzedek Legal Services. I wish him every success in all of his future endeavors.

UNITED STATES NEEDS TOUGH ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION TO COMPETE GLOBALLY IN NEXT CENTURY

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 22, 1995

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, one of the many problems with the Republicans' most recent budget proposal is the drastic effect it will have on environmental research and technology. According to the White House, "it would cut environmental research and technology funding by nearly \$1 billion or 20 percent from the President's request for fiscal year 1996." Additionally, the Republican cuts include a 92-percent reduction from the President's request for the Environmental Technology Initiative [ETI], which would thwart efforts to encourage the development of new technologies that reduce pollution and clean up the environment while creating new jobs and economic growth—a market that is expected to boom to \$400 billion by 2000—if American industry does not make sufficient investments in this area today.

The need for environmental technology and services is rapidly growing on a global scale. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development estimates the market will be worth \$300 billion and that the demand for waste-management products and air-pollution control equipment will grow by over 50 percent in the next 5 years, with water- and effluent-treatment growing by a third by the end of the decade. The U.S. Export-Import Bank already estimates the environmental technology and services market's worldwide value at \$400 billion.

However, developers of environmental technology face a series of hurdles before they can truly tap into this market. First, the market is ill-defined and driven almost entirely by regulation and the level of enforcement in different national and regional markets. According to *Financial Times* (6/21/95), in the UK the greatest demands by companies in this expanding market are for ever more accurate data and analysis. Of the 116 companies questioned in the first survey of purchases of environmental technology earlier this year, 90 percent said the main driving-force behind the market was legislation.

The second problem facing developers, which is mainly due to weak environmental legislation, is convincing financiers that the technology can generate sufficient returns for investors.

According to the *Financial Times* (December 1, 1995), international competition is fierce, primarily between the three biggest exporters, the United States, Japan, and Germany. The U.S. Ex-Im Bank started a special program to help its industry find markets abroad. Julie Belaga, a director of the bank, says the main aim is to create United States jobs by financing exports where the private sector is unwilling to do so. Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, commented in a recent edition of *Environment Strategy Europe*, a yearbook for legislators and business leaders, that Germany's very tough environmental legislation had en-

abled the country to take a leading position in the world market for environmental protection goods.

Now is not the time for the United States to cut back on funds for environmental research and technology, nor is it the time to backtrack on advances made in environmental legislation made over the past decade. Now is when the 104th Congress needs to seize this opportunity to create jobs, build new industries, and protect the environment by passing additional legislation, particularly in the area of tax reform, that will ensure that the United States will be a leader in the environmental technology and services industry into the next century.

According to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development in an environmental assessment report of the United States scheduled to be released in January 1996, the United States has been a leader in environmental programs, but needs to eliminate "environmentally unsound Federal subsidies", including those to coal-fired power plants, and examine national consumption patterns. Back in September, I introduced a bill that would repeal 11 incentives in the corporate Tax Code to produce various polluting energy supplies and consume various nonrenewable minerals. Currently, these polluting tax subsidies cost taxpayers close to \$2.2 billion per year. This figure is expected to total a \$14.5 billion Treasury loss over the next 5 years.

The cost is even greater when we consider that not only do these subsidies encourage waste and environment degradation, but they also discourage investment in new alternatives to existing technology. Some European countries, that is, Germany, Austria, and the Netherlands, are considering a fiscally-neutral Ecological Tax Reform (ETR) which would introduce a CO₂/energy tax and at the same time reduce their income tax. The European Union Commission is considering a similar proposal. I am currently working on a bill along these same lines that would gradually reduce corporate and individual income taxes and gradually increase taxes on pollution, excessive depletion of valuable natural resources, and inefficient production and consumption of energy.

The time is right from both an environmental and an economical view point to press forward with tough environmental legislation which will protect our environment, create jobs, and position the United States as a leader in the environmental technology and services industry, an industry that will be constantly expanding through the next century.

Reprinted below is an article by Jessica Mathews which depicts the ease with which businesses developed substitutes for ozone-depleting chlorofluorocarbons [CFCs] once there was a modest incentive to do so.

CLEAN SWEEPS: TWO SUCCESS STORIES FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Two extraordinary environmental successes are passing almost unnoticed. They illustrate the cost of ignoring good news—in particular good news about government—in favor of bad. When the success stories are missed so is the opportunity to reframe policy on the basis of what works instead of always focusing on what doesn't.

In less than two weeks the United States will produce its last ozone-destroying chlorofluorocarbon (CFCs), completing a historic international phaseout of a

class of chemicals that just a few years ago seemed irreplaceable. Since the original aim of cutting production by half by 2000 was set in 1987, the goal has been tightened to a phase out, the schedule repeatedly accelerated and the class of banned chemicals broadened. The developing country full partners and will cease production in 2015. Each new goal has been reached more quickly and at lower cost—frequently at a profit—than anyone dreamed possible even five years ago.

The ease with which businesses have developed CFC substitutes makes it easy to forget how hard the task looked at the outset. Industries predicted doomsday scenarios. The cuts would cripple the electronics industry, which would be unable to clean its chips, it was said, and would force offices, hospitals and shopping malls deprived of air conditioning to close.

With hindsight it's obvious why the experts were so wrong. CFCs seemed irreplaceable only because there had never been a reason to look for substitutes. CFCs were cheap, easy to handle, environmentally benign outside the stratosphere and useful in an enormous number of applications. Once there was a need to replace them, a modest economic incentive (in this case a tax) and enough time to develop alternatives, innovation bloomed.

The Clean Air Act amendments of 1990, which set the U.S. CFC rules, also established a plan to curb acid rain. In the 10 years it took to pass this law, no provisions were more bitterly fought. The need for controls at all, their appropriate level and their cost sparked trench warfare between environmentalists and industry and among pollution-emitting and pollution-receiving states. Utilities predicted a cost of \$1,000 to \$1,500 for every ton of sulfur dioxide removed. Some said it could not be done even at that exorbitant price.

The debates of the 1980s have been replaced by a benefit/cost ratio almost too lopsided to be believed. The newest estimate of the benefits of controlling acid rain, released by EPA this week, pegs the health benefits at an astonishing \$12 billion to \$40 billion annually. (The high estimate, based on more controversial science, is \$78 billion.) The estimate does not include the considerable benefits to acidified lakes and streams, high-altitude forests, to buildings or to visibility—only health. On the other side, the costs to industry and government when the controls are fully implemented will be \$2 billion to \$3 billion per year.

Acid rain emission allowances are trading for one-tenth what industry predicted—at \$130 per ton. Power plants and industries that do not have to begin cutting back until 2000 have begun to do so by choice. Those required to begin cutbacks this year are, in the new lingo "overcontrolling," cutting a staggering 40 percent more pollution than the law demands. To put it another way: Polluters are today emitting only 60 percent of what was allowed by a standard that, only a few years ago, many considered to be overly stringent and dangerously expensive.

What happened? First, of course, it is a law of human nature that the technical difficulty and economic cost of change—no matter how cloaked in seemingly objective science—will be exaggerated by those most deeply affected. In the case of environmental controls that generally means by the affected industries.

Something more important is at work. Both the CFC and the acid rain program set a goal, a performance standard, and left business free to figure out how best to meet it.

Both avoided the traditional route of writing regulations specifying precisely what must be done.

Both programs let the marketplace work. The acid rain emissions trading scheme lets pollution sources buy and sell rights to emit sulfur dioxide or to bank them for later use. Instead of being forced to move by an arbitrary schedule, a company sets whatever schedule works best for it. Rather than requiring a cut of 10 percent or 50 percent from one year to the next, banked allowances allow a smooth transition. An incentive is created to control more pollution than the law requires. Instead of being told what to do by a bureaucrat, businessmen are given the flexibility to do what they're trained to do. Innovation is unleashed.

The sulfur emissions market is only a primitive first step toward an effective environmental marketplace. Newer schemes rely less heavily on government regulators. But EPA's best friends testify that while the agency's leadership has gotten the message, the command and control mentality still grips its troops—as well as too many environmentalists.

It's important these days to know that major societal goals can be achieved and even exceeded, as well as missed. The ozone and acid rain successes mean, too, that we know how to achieve more environmental cleanup at less cost and with more exportable innovation that we are currently using. That's news.

PROBLEMS FOR THE POOR

HON. WILLIAM J. MARTINI

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 22, 1995

Mr. MARTINI. Mr. Speaker, 30 years of ever-expanding and growing antipoverty programs have not erased poverty from our midst.

We have spent \$5 trillion trying to address this problem, yet the percentage of children living in poverty is unchanged from what it was in 1965.

Worse, we have seen illegitimate births more than quadruple, and have subsidized the rise of the single parent family in our country.

Today, nearly 30 percent of all births in our Nation are illegitimate.

In 1992, the Federal Government alone spent \$305 billion on 79 overlapping means-tested social welfare programs.

If we had spent just one-third of that in direct transfer payments to the poor, it would have been enough to lift each and every impoverished family over the poverty line.

But our problems still persist.

Some in Congress and the bureaucracy in Washington continue to insist that they know what the poor in our communities need.

For years they have been beholden to the ill-conceived notion that we can only consider ourselves a compassionate nation if Washington prescribes solutions to societal problems.

The resulting system has done worse than fail us.

It has betrayed us.

Something needs to change, but for years this body has been unwilling to address welfare reform.

And I understand why, Mr. Speaker.

Some Democrats in this Chamber have spent their careers constructing the American welfare state.

They have continually told us that more and more government will make it all better.

Now that it is obvious that their polices have failed, pride of authorship prohibits them from making the tough but necessary decisions to dismantle the system.

This is only natural, but it cannot be the excuse not to move this body forward.

Finally, Congress will send to the President that promised to "end welfare as we know it" a real, credible plan to do just that.

No longer will we entice illegal aliens across our borders with easily received welfare benefits.

No longer will the taxpayers pay to support addiction.

An no longer will Washington bureaucrats impose top-down solutions to problems they don't understand.

We will put an end to the big-government compassion that kills, and return a sense of responsibility, a sense of right and wrong, to the American social safety net.

I look forward to supporting the conference report on H.R. 4, and I urge every Member from both sides of the aisle to support it.

TRIBUTE TO OVETA CULP HOBBY

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 22, 1995

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in remembrance of one of the great ladies of Texas, Mrs. Oveta Culp Hobby.

Oveta Culp Hobby witnessed and shaped major events in modern U.S. history. Her accomplishments as a public servant and businesswoman have always been the reasons that I have looked up to her, but often these accomplishments have been overlooked. This Texan's achievements have spanned the decades, but are known to a relative few. Most people remember Oveta Culp Hobby as the head of a powerful newspaper family and the wife of a Governor and the mother of a Lieutenant Governor.

Mrs. Hobby, however, was important in her own right. In an era where being a "first" was an unfair and unfortunate litmus test by which a woman's ability to succeed would be measured, she rose to the occasion by doing what she thought she should do—make her mark on the world.

Despite her contributions and her considerable financial assets, Oveta Culp Hobby was reluctant to dub herself powerful. She made her mark on the world by doing what she thought was right. She will be remembered by those of us who have looked to her as a mentor and a role model.

GOP WELFARE BILL SENDS MILLIONS INTO POVERTY

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 22, 1995

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, Christmas is the season when charity and compassion go public. The time period between Thanksgiving and Christmas is when the true spirit of giving comes into the open. Outside the grocery store you see the bell ringers. Each way you turn there is an open mind and an open heart.

Why do people care? For one reason, the Bible says we should care for the poor. The Bible says:

If there is a poor man among your brothers in any of the towns of the land that the Lord your God is giving you, do not be hard hearted or tightfisted toward your poor brother. Rather be openhanded and freely lend him whatever he needs . . . Give generously to him and do so without a grudging heart. There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be openhanded toward your brothers and toward the poor and needy in you land. (Deuteronomy, 15:7-11).

I believe that as a society, we should care for certain groups of people who can't care for themselves—the poor, the elderly, the disabled. It is simply the right thing to do.

What has happened since the Republican Party took control of this House? We have suddenly decided that these people can miraculously care for themselves. Even in Biblical times it was recognized that there will always be poor among us and that we should care from them generously. Why now have the Republicans decided to prioritize corporate and wealthy tax breaks above the poor?

The Republican welfare bill is frightening.

The bill denies guaranteed Medicaid coverage for children and parents receiving AFDC and for children receiving Federal foster care or adoption assistance under title IV-E of the Social Security Act. The welfare conference agreement could eliminate Medicaid eligibility for 1 to 2 million low-income children leaving millions more uninsured if Medicaid eligibility ends. Combined with other massive social service cuts, this is a tragedy waiting to happen.

The Republican budget cuts aid to severely disabled children by 25 percent, slashing \$12 billion from disabled children's SSI benefits.

Over 160,000 children currently in the program would lose eligibility 1 year after enactment.

The Republicans claim they want to move people from welfare to work but fail to provide much needed child care.

The Republican bill denies SSI benefits and food stamps to legal immigrants, and permits States to deny legal immigrants cash welfare, Medicaid, and title X social services.

This punitive bill prohibits States from paying additional welfare benefits to families that have an additional child while on welfare. Don't they realize that the child is an innocent victim in this arrangement? The child did not ask to be born into such a family.

This bill pays a bounty to States that reduce their illegitimacy ratio or the number of children born out of wedlock. This provision will serve only to increase the number of abortions or to further restrict a woman's legal right to make her own reproductive health choices.

The bill does not reform welfare. It destroys the only safety net some people have on which to depend. At this time of holiday giving, we should remember those most in need; we should count our own blessings; and we should vote against this hard-hearted bill that will send millions further into poverty.