

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 1996

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to join the Carlisle Exchange Club in honoring Dr. Webb S. Hersperger as "Citizen of the Year 1995."

I have known Dr. Hersperger for many years and have valued his friendship. While his professional and community service affiliations are extensive, he is most distinguished for his important contributions to the practice of medicine and the medical community. Having served as president of the Cumberland County Medical Society, he was instrumental in the development of the emergency 911 service.

Webb's commitment to public service by no means ends in the hospital. For many years, he served his country in the U.S. Army Medical Corps. He has also worked to preserve the health and welfare of many Pennsylvanians through the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army, the United Way, and the YMCA, just to list a few. Be it through his medical practice, the church, or service with educational and charitable organizations, he has touched the life of each Cumberland County resident in some way.

It has been said that the health of a democratic society is measured by the quality of functions performed by private citizens. Throughout his career Dr. Hersperger has been dedicated to improving and enriching the lives of others. Through his example, he has set this standard and embodied the values of true citizenship which are vital to the well-being of our community and to the future of our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, as the representative of Pennsylvania's 19th Congressional District, I congratulate Dr. Hersperger for receiving this prestigious award. He has made Cumberland County a better place to live and raise a family. I am proud to call him a constituent and a friend.

SALUTING CUYAHOGA COUNTY
BAR FOUNDATION PUBLIC SERV-
ANTS MERIT AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 1996

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute eight individuals who are being honored as outstanding public servants. On March 22, 1996, the Cuyahoga County Bar Foundation and Cuyahoga County Bar Association will host the 50th Public Servants Merit Awards

Luncheon. At that time, the eight honorees will be presented with the Franklin A. Polk Public Servants Merit Award. The individuals are: Valina M. Aicone; William D. Fromwiller; Sylvia E. Harrison; Patrick P. McGinty; Donald Peak; Francis A. Rutkowski; Rita M. Sobolewski; and J. Carol Wolf. The Public Servants Merit Award is named in honor of Franklin A. Polk, a distinguished lawyer who chaired the annual luncheon for 40 years. As the county bar foundation and the county bar association celebrate a historic 50th awards luncheon, Frank will be remembered for his commitment in recognizing the contributions of public servants.

I take special pride in saluting the 1996 Public Servants Merit Award recipients. I want to share with my colleagues some information regarding these outstanding individuals. They are each more than deserving of special recognition.

Mr. Speaker, Virginia M. Aicone is a resident of Brook Park, OH. She is a graduate of West High School and she has enjoyed a distinguished career with the court which spans 28 years. She began her career with the court in 1968 when she was employed as deputy clerk for the clerk of courts. She went on to serve as editor for the common pleas court.

In her current position, Ms. Aicone is responsible for supervising and training employees in the data input journal entries division. She and her staff work closely with the clerk's office, sheriff's department, and others to guarantee that accurate information is reflected on the court journals.

Ms. Aicone is the proud mother of three children; Michael, Anthony, and Madeline. Her hobbies include bowling, bingo, and coin collecting. In addition, she is active in her community as a member of the Ladies Auxiliary, Fraternal Order of Eagles, where she was named Mother of the year. In addition, she is a member of the American Legion Auxiliary and Women of the Moose.

Mr. Speaker, the next honoree, William D. Fromwiller, is a resident of Claridon, OH. He is a graduate of Richmond Height High School and attended Cleveland State University. Mr. Fromwiller began his court career in 1969, following an honorable discharge from the U.S. Army. He currently serves as chief deputy for the county clerk of courts.

In his position, Mr. Fromwiller, oversees the clerk's budget, including contracts and purchasing. He also responds to procedural questions which arise concerning court rules. Throughout his career, Mr. Fromwiller has exercised the highest level of concern and compassion for those he has encountered on the job. He prides himself on being an effective communicator and problem solver.

Mr. Fromwiller is an avid fisherman, and he enjoys an annual visit to Canada for the sport. He also enjoys hunting and walking. He and his wife, Jean, are the proud parents of two children, Keith and Craig.

Mr. Speaker, our third Public Servants Merit Award recipient has worked in the criminal di-

vision of the clerk of courts office for more than 29 years. Currently, Sylvia E. Harrison is employed as assistant supervisor for the clerk of court. In this position, she assists in the preparation of judges' personal docket for court, issues summons and warrants for defendants who fail to appear in court, and maintains and verifies computerized criminal history checks for the court.

Ms. Harrison is a native of West Virginia and graduated from Excelsior High School. She and her husband, Willie C. Harrison, are the proud parents of Marcia, Felicia, April, and Willie, Jr. They are residents of Cleveland, OH.

In her spare time, Ms. Harrison is active in the Cleveland community. Her memberships include the Urban League of Greater Cleveland, the NAACP, and the Democratic Club. In addition, she is a member of Faith Tabernacle where she serves as financial secretary. Her hobbies include camping, reading, cooking, and playing video games.

Mr. Speaker, the fourth honoree, Patrick P. McGinty, is a resident of Lakewood, OH. He is a veteran of the Korean war, and notes with pride that he is one of eight members of his family to have served in the Armed Forces at various times. Mr. McGinty began his court career in 1968. He currently serves as deputy filing clerk for the probate court. In his position, Mr. McGinty is responsible for filing and distributing probate cases to the public. He also makes certain that magistrates of the court have their daily hearings, and he assists the public in viewing microfilms. Mr. McGinty takes pride in his career in public service and his commitment to helping others.

Sharing her life with Mr. McGinty is his wife of 29 years, Margaret. They are the proud parents of three children: Christopher, Kathleen, and James. In his spare time, Mr. McGinty has volunteered his time at the Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corp., where he delivered food to needy families. He also did volunteer work with St. Augustine's Church. In addition, he has coached youngsters in basketball and boxing. His hobbies also include gardening.

The fifth recipient of the Public Servants Merit Award, Donald E. Peak, is a resident of Parma, OH. Mr. Peak began his career with the Cuyahoga County court system in 1965. He has been employed as a probation officer, case supervisor, and supervisor of placement and manager of residential services for the Cuyahoga County juvenile court.

Currently, Mr. Peak holds the position of deputy director for the department of probation and community services. In this position, he takes responsibility for ensuring that children receive proper assessment and the highest level of support services and programs designed to curtail unlawful behavior on the part of youth.

Mr. Peak is a veteran who was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army. He is an avid

● 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.

sports fan and also enjoys reading, walking, fishing, and coin collecting. In addition, Mr. Peak maintains a close association with and assists individuals who are mentally and physically disadvantaged. He advises that it has given him a greater appreciation of life's true priorities. Mr. Peak and his wife, Virginia Brown Peak, are the parents of three children: Jim, Joe, and Jack.

Mr. Speaker, the next individual selected to be recognized by the Cuyahoga County Bar Association is Francis A. Rutkowski. Mr. Rutkowski is supervisor for the Cleveland municipal court. In this post, he supervises eight probation officers who prepare pre-sentence reports for court judges.

A resident of Westlake, OH, Mr. Rutkowski developed his keen sense of public service while watching his late father, Judge Anthony Rutkowski, tackle the challenges in the courtroom. Mr. Rutkowski's career has included service as a deputy sheriff and probation officer. He is also the past president of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America and served as lecturer at Cleveland State University.

Mr. Rutkowski is a graduate of John Carroll University and Alliance College. He received his law degree from the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law. His professional associations include the American Correctional Association, Ohio Correctional and Court Services Association, National Sheriff's Association, National Association of Chiefs of Police, and the American Bar Association, just to name a few. He and his wife, Patricia L. Buk, are the proud parents of four children; Christine, Joseph, Anne, and Michael.

The next honoree, Ria Moredock Sobolewski, is a former free lance court reporter. For the past 19 years, she has served as the official court reporter for the domestic relations court. She is responsible for the creation of a verbatim record of all court proceedings.

A graduate of West Virginia University and the Academy of Court Reporting, Ms. Sobolewski holds memberships in the National Court Reporters Association and the Ohio Court Reporters Association. She is also the recipient of numerous awards and certificates of merit for outstanding work.

Ms. Sobolewski is the wife of John Sobolewski. The couple resides in North Olmsted, OH, and have enjoyed 20 years of marriage. They are the proud parents of Amy and Johnny.

Mr. Speaker, the final recipient of the Franklin Polk Public Servant Merit Award, Jetta C. Wolf, has enjoyed a career as a legal and judicial secretary which has spanned 39 years. A graduate of Holston High School in Blountville, TN, she began her career with the court system in 1977.

Currently, Ms. Wolf serves as judicial secretary for Judge John T. Patton. In her post, she is responsible for correspondence, stenographic, and file maintenance for the judge. In addition, Ms. Wolf is responsible for circulating and releasing opinions and entering the same records into the court data system.

In her spare time, Ms. Wolf enjoys tailoring, doll making, and cake decorating. She also enjoys antiques and attending Cleveland Indian games. She and her husband, Richard, a retired Cleveland policeman, are the proud

parents of Runa, Lettie, Brian, Tracy, and Angela. The Wolf family reside in North Ridgeville, OH, where they attend Shepherd of the Ridge Lutheran Church.

Mr. Speaker, I take pride in saluting the eight individuals who have been selected to receive the Public Servants Merit Awards from the Cuyahoga County Bar Foundation and Bar Association. They have exhibited the highest level of commitment to public service and personal excellence. I also applaud these distinguished organizations for recognizing the importance of honoring employees who strive to make the court system work more effectively.

THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SAN FRANCISCO ART INSTITUTE

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 1996

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the San Francisco Art Institute as it celebrates its 125th year of contributing to the enrichment of the artistic and cultural community of the San Francisco Bay Area and the United States. The San Francisco Art Institute has excelled in training, guiding and nurturing budding artistic talent, and these talented students and artists have shared their many gifts with the Nation and the world.

Founded in 1871 by a group of artists, writers and civic leaders, the San Francisco Art Institute has become an integral part of the heritage that has made San Francisco a thriving creative arts community. First named the San Francisco Art Association, it was then and continues to be a pioneering institution with a distinct cultural vision for the West.

After World War II, the Art Institute became the west coast center of abstract expressionism, involving an impressive group of artists, including Clyfford Still, Mark Rothko and Ad Reinhardt. In 1946, renowned photographer Ansel Adams created the Nation's first fine art photography department at the Institute, which later enticed such notable instructors as Dorothea Lange, Imogen Cunningham and Edward Weston. In the 1950s, the Institute was a center for the Nation's leading figurative artists, including Richard Diebenkorn, Elmer Bischoff, David Park and James Weeks. In the 1960s, the Art Institute established the country's first fine art film program. And in 1995, keeping up with ever changing technology and new tools for creative expression, the Art Institute launched the New Imaging Center, an important new computer resource center for the visual arts.

The Art Institute offers innovative academic programs in painting, photography, printmaking, filmmaking and sculpture. One of the keys to its exceptional success as an educational institution is the institute's emphasis on personal exploration, growth and total immersion in one's work. The roster of stellar creative talent associated with the Art Institute throughout its last century is stunning in its breadth. The sculptor of Mount Rushmore, Gutzon Borglum, was a student. Diego Rivera created a mural at the school. Enrique Chagoya, Annie Liebowitz and the Grateful

Dead's Jerry Garcia are just a few more of the notable artists who have left their mark on the Art Institute and our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, on March 16, 1996, the San Francisco Art Institute will host a gala celebration of its 125 years. A city-wide arts celebration will occur this month and next, as other San Francisco museums, galleries and art spaces pay tribute to the Institute on this landmark anniversary. On behalf of the United States Congress, I salute Art Institute President Ella King Torrey and all of the great contemporary artists and teachers who have contributed throughout the years to creating and building this legacy for our Nation. Let us all join with the San Francisco Art Institute and continue to celebrate and support the arts and their prominent place in our society for years to come.

WASHINGTON POST EDITORIAL CRITICIZES SERBIAN RESTRICTIONS ON THE INFORMATION MEDIA AND GOVERNMENT CLOSING OF THE SOROS FOUNDATION

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 1996

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, just a few days ago, with my colleague from Nebraska, Mr. BEREUTER, I introduced House Resolution 378 deploring the recent actions by the government of Serbia restricting freedom of the press and freedom of expression and ending the legal authority of the Soros Foundation to continue its democracy-building and humanitarian activities in Serbia.

The Washington Post in an excellent editorial last week commented on the Serbian decision to close the Soros Foundation and the measures taken by the government against the independent information media. I commend this excellent editorial to my colleagues, and I ask that it be placed in the RECORD.

[From the Washington Post, Mar. 7, 1996]

SHUTTERING UP SERBIA

No task is more important in the former Yugoslavia than building a nongovernmental civil society to open up the ingrown local regimes. And in no place is this work more vital than Serbia, the dominant and pace-setting part of the broken-up country. Finally, in this activity no one plays a larger individual role than George Soros, who, as U.S. Information Agency chief Joseph Duffey puts it, does what the U.S. government would do if it had the money. In a score of formerly Communist countries, the billionaire speculator runs private foundations "to enable people to do things which are not centrally determined but autonomous and spontaneous." Except not in Serbia. Not anymore.

"Even as he offered himself internationally as a man who could bring peace to Bosnia. Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic was further consolidating his power at home. He has made a special target of the local Soros Foundation, which does scholarships, summer camps and toys for children, relief for Serb refugees, medical institutions, nongovernmental organizations, the independent works. The foundation has sustained Serbia's only independent media, including the newspaper Nasa Borba and television's Studio B.

But after a campaign (400 articles and broadcasts) in the official media, Serb authorities hoked up a technicality to close the foundation down. Evidently Mr. Milosevic, heading toward elections, wants no opposition, democratic or otherwise—least of all an open society.

The other day, a week after Belgrade closed out the Soros project, the State Department called on President Milosevic to "reverse the trend of anti-democratic repressive measures." The question arises, however, whether Mr. Milosevic had not taken a contrary clue from the secretary of state's failure to receive the independent sector when he buzzed through Belgrade last month.

The Serb leader seems to be carefully weighing what his—undeniably considerable—contributions to ending the war will buy him in international acceptance of his tightening at home. Others must be careful not to let him conclude he has no further need to allow space for independent local actors and foreign organizations like the Soros Foundation. This is space for civility and tolerance, values the former Yugoslavia desperately needs.

POLITICS VERSUS GROWTH?

HON. NEWT GINGRICH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 1996

Mr. GINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, I commend to my colleagues the attached article from Investor's Business Daily. With economic growth of only 1.4 percent last year, the possibility of a recession still casting a shadow and the middle-class being squeezed on all sides, the situation cries out for serious action. Unfortunately, the President vetoed the Balanced Budget Act of 1995 and so far has offered nothing to address the issue of economic growth.

As the Daily points out, there is room for agreement on a capital gains tax. The President has long supported a targeted one. According to one study, such a cut would have created 1.4 million new jobs between 1995 and 1999, added an additional 1 percent a year to the stock market and brought in \$9-\$18 billion in Federal revenue. We must be prepared to respond to the under performance of the economy. Let us hope the President is ready to work out an agreement. I submit the full article into the RECORD.

[From the Investor's Business Daily]

POLITICS VS. GROWTH?

The economy grew just 1.4% after inflation last year, and recession is possible this year. Congress and President Clinton should skip the political games and move now to turn things around.

Speaking in Michigan on Monday, Clinton gave us his "growth agenda." Yet that's just a new, transparent label on his old wish list: a minimum wage hike, a tax deduction for college costs, government vouchers for worker retraining, and the Kennedy-Kassebaum health-insurance reform.

Half his points—the health bill and the wage hike—plainly have nothing to do with growth. At best, they'd be good for those who have jobs.

Education and training do boost growth in the long term. Yet Clinton has yet to show

how more government sponsorship of these goals will help achieve them. It hasn't worked that way in recent decades.

Don't look to other Democrats, either. House Minority Leader Richard Gephardt recently claimed we "don't know" how to boost growth. His best guess is that favorite of Labor Secretary Robert Reich: tax penalties on corporations that downsize.

In fact, Clinton certainly knows what the economy needs, and Gephardt probably does: Tax cuts, the pro-growth move that worked for Presidents Kennedy and Reagan alike.

House Speaker Newt Gingrich is ready to play ball. "All the warning signals are there" for recession, he told reporters last week. "I think if the President really wants to help us to avoid a significant recession . . . we should have a pretty substantial (budget) package in the next week or two."

Gingrich could have added, "If the President really wants to get re-elected." Clinton is riding high in the polls now, but presidents who don't deliver solid growth rarely win a second term.

To Gingrich's credit, he has put jobs above politics. If a Republican Congress and a Democratic president can agree to cut taxes, Americans may just opt for more of the same. It could give Clinton a pro-business image just when he needs it.

But what kind of tax cuts should the deal contain?

The collapse of last year's talks puts us in a whole new ball game. The GOP's \$245 billion grab-bag of tax reductions is dead.

Some Republicans want to salvage part of last year's biggest-ticket proposal, the \$500 per-child credit. That might fit their political needs, but it is more social policy than economic stimulus.

And unless Clinton and Congress can agree on large spending cuts, tax cutters will need to keep their ambitions modest. Big cuts run straight into the iron wall of the "Byrd Rule." This says tax cuts must be "paid for," and the rules for "paying" overestimate how much revenue most tax cuts would lose the government.

The bind is so constrictive, the Byrd Rule so absurd, that the GOP has been reduced to considering bringing back the airline ticket tax to pay for tax cuts.

With so little room to play in, the clear choice is the tax cut that delivers the most bang for the buck: Trimming capital-gains tax rates.

GOP leaders are said to be considering a cut in the top rate from 28% to 20% for individuals only. The relief would be retroactive to the start of this year.

Clinton has long publicly backed a least a targeted cap-gains cut. And throughout the budget battle, he has said he's open to a rate cut.

If Clinton were to quietly approve, we might get something resembling the original "Contract With America" cap-gains plan. Lehman Brothers Chief Economist Allan Sinai, no supply sider, calculated that that would have added 0.7% to the gross domestic product from 1995 to 1999.

Such a cut would have created 1.4 million new jobs over the same five years boosted the S&P 500 by more than 1% a year and put \$9 billion to 18 billion in extra revenues in federal coffers, according to Sinai.

DRI-McGraw Hill projected growth of 1.9% in productivity, \$22.7 billion in higher tax revenues and a near 12% drop in the cost of capital, cumulatively over 10 years.

Thanks to organizational strength, Bob Dole may pull out ahead of the GOP presidential pack over the next week. Yet the

strong showing by political neophyte Steve Forbes, and the failure of Pat Buchanan's economic pitch, prove that prosperity and opportunity sell at the ballot box.

Dole needs a message—and Clinton needs growth. For the sake of the economy, let's hope they can work together to give us a cap-gains tax cut now.

UKRAINE'S COMMITMENTS TO REFORM IN THE ENERGY SECTOR

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 1996

Mr. HAMILTON. I would like to bring to my colleagues' attention a letter I received from the administration concerning a commitment by Ukraine to reform its energy sector in return for United States assistance in the form of a USAID/Eximbank credit facility. In a series of communications with Mr. Richard Morningstar, special adviser to the President and Secretary of State for United States Assistance to the NIS, I expressed my concern that United States provision of a USAID/Eximbank facility be conditioned upon Ukrainian agreement to specific reforms.

In return for a \$175 million credit facility, Ukrainian Deputy Finance Minister Shepek committed to restructure the power market. He specifically agreed to break up the power market by taking four distinct steps, as itemized in the following letter from the Department of State. The reforms agreed to by Mr. Shepek are above and beyond any existing IMF or World Bank conditionality. In my judgment, the conditions attached to this credit facility will enhance reform in the Ukraine.

The text of the letter follows:

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, DC, February 22, 1996.

Hon. LEE HAMILTON,
House of Representatives.

DEAR MR. HAMILTON: During your meeting last fall with Mr. Richard Morningstar, Special Advisor to the President and Secretary of State for U.S. Assistance to the NIS, you expressed interest in the Administration's program of encouraging reform in Ukraine's energy sector and the AID/Eximbank facility. We wanted to take the opportunity to describe the energy sector reforms to which the Government of Ukraine has committed as a condition of approval of the facility.

In two face-to-face official meetings, Mr. Morningstar has made clear to Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Shepek that commitment to restructure the power market is an essential condition under which we could implement the \$175 million facility. Deputy Prime Minister Shepek understood and accepted that condition and has committed to break up the state-owned power monopoly into the following parts:

Four already established, competing electricity generating companies that will be privatized; a national electricity transmission company; twenty-seven independent, joint stock local electric companies; and a competitive market for power by the end of March 1996 in which the generation companies bid to supply the local distribution companies with electricity at the lowest price.

This commitment is above and beyond any IMF conditions and any condition for any existing World Bank loan. Creation of the

power market will become part of the negotiations for an upcoming World Bank loan. The AID/Eximbank credit will give the Government of Ukraine short-term funding flexibility to implement the energy market structure and will help to leverage the World Bank financing.

The AID/Eximbank facility is a special export credit insurance facility for U.S. exporters of agricultural-related goods and services to Ukraine. The purchase of refined fuel agricultural inputs—up to \$100 million of the \$175 million facility and of critical importance to the Government of Ukraine—would qualify for coverage under the program; however, the facility may not be used for broader, untied fuel purchases. We strongly believe that the commitment to the reforms outlined above justifies the inclusion of refined fuel products in the agriculture credit facility. The facility will operate according to ExIm's regulations and Eximbank will recommend whether to extend insurance coverage on a case-by-case basis. We assure you that any agricultural fuel inputs will be closely monitored and traced to agricultural use. As we go forward with this program we will be sure that it remains consistent with our broader efforts to promoting reform in Ukraine.

Please let me know if we can be of further assistance on this or any other issue.

Sincerely,

WENDY R. SHERMAN,
Assistant Secretary,
Legislative Affairs.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE GOLDEN
ANNIVERSARY OF TROOP 232 OF
THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

HON. LARRY COMBEST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 1996

Mr. COMBEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise this afternoon with great pride to acknowledge an outstanding organization in Midland, TX—Troop 232 of the Boy Scouts of America is celebrating its golden anniversary and I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate them on this distinguished milestone.

Scout master Cliff Hogue started Troop 232 in 1946, and thanks to his efforts and the efforts of so many fine young men and their families, Troop 232 has reached this impressive record of a half-century of achievement. In the last 12 years, nearly 40 young men of Troop 232 have been awarded the prestigious Eagle Scout Award. In celebrating its golden anniversary, Troop 232 is not only paying tribute to its longevity, but it is recognizing a commitment to leadership and excellence.

As a former Boy Scout myself, I am well aware of the valuable role this organization plays in providing our youth with the necessary tools to become outstanding leaders. The Boy Scouts remind us of all that is good in America, and Troop 232, through its unwavering dedication to that organization's noble principles, has enriched the lives of hundreds of young men and given its community a legacy of which to be proud.

Congratulations Troop 232. May your success continue as you begin your second half-century.

LEGISLATION TO BENEFIT
REEMPLOYED VETERANS

HON. BARBARA F. VUCANOVICH

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 1996

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 [USERRA] increased the protections afforded our service men and women who leave a civilian job for qualified military service. In addition to assuring these returning veterans that their jobs would be waiting for them when they return, under USERRA a returning veteran is also eligible to have his or her pension, profit-sharing and other related benefits restored. These are the benefits that would have accrued, but for the employee's absence due to qualified military service.

The problem is, under the Internal Revenue Code [IRC], overall limits are placed on contributions and benefits under certain retirement plans. Thus the employer-sponsored pension and savings plan rights given to returning veterans by USERRA are taken away by existing rules in the IRC. If the conflicts between USERRA and the IRC are not corrected, aggrieved veterans will have to bring suit against employers to enforce their rights under USERRA. Relying on litigation to resolve this situation would benefit no one—not the courts, not employers, and certainly not veterans.

Today I am introducing the Veterans Reemployment Benefits Protection Act to allow veterans to receive the benefits Congress intended to give them when it enacted USERRA. This legislation makes technical amendments to the IRC to allow returning veterans and their employers to make make-up contributions as authorized by USERRA.

Language similar to this legislation was included in the Balanced Budget Act of 1995, H.R. 2491, as passed by the House. I have added minor technical changes to the language in H.R. 2491 at the suggestion of the Treasury Department.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will agree that this much-needed technical correction to the IRC should be passed expeditiously, either as part of a larger bill or even on its own. The dedicated young men and women who leave their jobs and families to serve in the U.S. military deserve nothing less.

ALCOHOL LABELING ACT

HON. PATRICIA SCHROEDER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 1996

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, today I and my colleagues are reintroducing the Alcohol Labeling Act, which would require makers of alcoholic beverages to label each beverage container with a list of the ingredients and calories, as well as the alcohol, it contains.

This low-cost proposal establishes the unit of serving size called the drink. One drink contains 0.6 ounces of alcohol—the amount usually found in one beer, one shot of distilled spirits, or one glass of wine.

The only cost to U.S. taxpayers will be \$500,000 for a toll-free number, which would provide referral help for those with a drinking problem. This number and the required information would be legibly printed on each container.

Labeling for alcoholic beverages was not part of the nutrition labeling requirements mandated for food products in 1990. As a result, we are still burdened with an alcohol labeling law that dates from the Prohibition era. It is inconsistent that the alcohol contents of wine and distilled spirits must be disclosed, while producers of beer and malt liquor have the option of listing their ingredients on their labels.

This bill would correct that inconsistency, while providing young consumers, diabetics, and others with diet-sensitive conditions with information on what they are consuming.

I am especially concerned about the increasing problem of teenage binge drinking. This bill would give young, inexperienced drinkers user-friendly information on beverage potency and a standard gauge of the impairment caused by an alcoholic beverage. Informed teens are more likely to avoid death from overdose.

In the 103d Congress, this legislation received the support of groups ranging from the Academy of Pediatrics, to the General Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists, to the National Parent Teacher Association, to the Latino Council on Alcohol and Tobacco.

Providing consumers with the information they need to make informed decisions about drinking is a sound first step in reforming our national alcohol policy.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting ingredient labeling on alcoholic beverages. As individuals, we need this information to be more responsible in our use of alcohol. As a nation, we must end marketing practices that mislead and target our youth.

AMERICA MUST STAND BY
TAIWAN

HON. BILL BAKER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 1996

Mr. BAKER of California. Mr. Speaker, on March 23, the people of Taiwan will hold an event we in this country much too often take for granted: a free election. As Americans, we share in their pride and hopeful anticipation of this great celebration of liberty.

At the same time, we must condemn the actions of the Mainland Chinese in attempting to intimidate the Taiwanese people. The efforts of the dictators in Beijing to somehow frighten the people of Taiwan into postponing their election have failed, and have again reminded the world of what the raw and sordid face of Marxist totalitarianism looks like.

Recently I met on Capitol Hill with Mr. Chen Rong-jye, Deputy Representative of the government of Taiwan. Mr. Chen holds the second-ranking position in the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States, the equivalent of the Taiwanese Embassy—since formal American recognition

of the Communist government in Beijing, Taiwan has had no formal embassy in the United States. We discussed China's military actions in the vicinity of Taiwan's coastline, and Mr. Chen showed me on a map how close the Communist Chinese had come in their missile exercises to two major Taiwanese ports.

I was honored that Mr. Chen came to the Hill to meet with me and discuss the Taiwanese situation. Communist China's crude bullying of Taiwan has failed to sway the commitment of the Taiwanese people to democratic elections later this month, and I fully endorse their brave determination to stand for liberty, and also am strongly supportive of the recent placement of U.S. naval ships in the waters near Taiwan.

In addition, I am proud to be an original co-sponsor of the nonbinding House Concurrent Resolution 148, a resolution that states, in part, that "the United States, in accordance with the Taiwan Relations Act and the constitutional process of the United States, and consistent with its friendship with and commitment to the democratic government and people of Taiwan, should assist in defending them against invasion, missile attack, or blockade by the People's Republic of China."

Other key supporters of this resolution include House Speaker NEWT GINGRICH, International Relations Committee Chairman BENJAMIN GILMAN (R-NY), House Majority Leader DICK ARMEY, and House Majority Whip TOM DELAY.

Ronald Reagan once reminded us that "we are a people with a government, not the other way around." The people of Taiwan understand this fundamental truth in a way the aging tyrants in Beijing perhaps never will, which is all the more reason for the United States to uphold our longtime friends on Taiwan.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO CLARIFY THAT FREQUENT FLIER MILEAGE IS NOT TAXABLE

HON. BARBARA B. KENNELLY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 1996

Mrs. KENNELLY. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to clarify that frequent flier mileage is not taxable. I believe that frequent flier miles are not taxable under current law. However, in light of the Internal Revenue Service's recent advice in technical advice memorandum 9547001 and despite the fact that technical advice memorandums only apply to a given taxpayer and set of circumstances, I feel a clarification is necessary.

The technical advice memorandum would require employers that permit employees to use frequent flier miles for personal trips to report as income on workers' W-2 forms the full cost of plane tickets that led to the accumulation of the frequent flier miles. This simply makes no sense.

This is one of those areas where taxation would raise a myriad of questions for which there is no single correct answer such as appropriate timing—would miles be taxed when

earned or when used; valuation—is mile earned from a credit card equal to a mile earned by flying a particular airline—what is the correct value of a ticket or a free upgrade in light of the fact that any given flight has a myriad of service classes; segregation—do employees have to try and keep track of which miles were earned for personal travel, which miles were earned for business travel, and which miles are earned from using a credit card, or using a particular long-distance carrier. Taxation of frequent flier miles would only result in mindless complication and paperwork of nightmarish proportions for millions of Americans, the airlines, and the Internal Revenue Service. And the Service should realize this.

At a time when over 15 million Americans are enrolled in frequent flier programs and suspicion that the Internal Revenue Code is not fair and needless complexity is at an all time high, it would be sheer folly for the Service to move in this area. They have opened, closed, and reopened several projects to address the tax treatment of frequent flier miles over the years, all to no avail.

I believe that frequent flier miles are not taxable under current law and should remain that way. My bill would simply explicitly say that frequent flier miles are not taxable. I urge my colleagues' support.

ROTARY CLUB OF SAN CLEMENTE

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 1996

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention an organization that has provided 50 years of outstanding service to the city of San Clemente, CA.

Founded in March, 1946, the Rotary Club of San Clemente and its members have provided hundreds of thousands of dollars, equipment, and tens of thousands of manhours in service to the city, the Nation, and the world.

Their accomplishments are numerous. In its many years of service, the Rotary Club of San Clemente has sent thousands of dollars and equipment to De Tuju, Argentina, San Clemente's "sister city". In conjunction with Rotary International, they have taken on the monumental task of eradicating polio in the world by the year 2000. Closer to home, they provide financial support to over 19 San Clemente charities and organizations, as well as, scholarships to local high school seniors.

I would like to commend and thank them for work they so selflessly perform. Their dedication is an inspiration to all.

ESSAY ON FREEDOM BY MICHELLE FUNK OF RICHMOND

HON. DAVID M. McINTOSH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 1996

Mr. McINTOSH. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to give my report from Indiana for the week of March 11.

This week I would like to share with you an essay written by a sixth grade girl named Michelle Funk. Michelle is from Richmond, IN, in my district. Her essay won the top school award for sixth grade and first place in a Sertoma Club contest.

Michelle has entitled her essay, "Freedom." I think Michelle describes the God given right of self-determination better than many adults. Her essay begins.

Imagine this: Johnny and Mark were playing one-on-one basketball when a bully came up to them and said, "Give me that ball!" Johnny said, "I don't have to. It's a free country."

"It's a free country." Many times that just seems like an excuse for not doing things we're told to. But it's true. It is a free country. But what does that mean?

One thing is rights, the rights that are listed in the Constitution. They say that we can go to school, speak our minds, publish our ideas, and believe in whatever and whoever we want to.

A right that is very important is voting. Even though it doesn't apply to me yet, it's still important that we can choose our own leaders instead of having a ruler who's succeeded by his children and their children.

Even though we have a right to freedom, it's still a privilege, and privileges always go with responsibilities. If we are responsible now and in the future, we will make a better life for ourselves and our future families in many ways. If you're responsible, you will do better in school and in your future career. So be responsible!

But then again, you don't have to. It's a free country!

I want to thank Michelle for helping us remember the true nature of freedom. In our Nation, we are blessed with freedoms which people in so many other countries do not enjoy. Michelle reminds us that freedom without responsibility is license. Freedom with responsibility is a virtue.

Mr. Speaker, Michelle's words are an important reminder for our work here in Congress, and they bear repeating. "If we are responsible now and in the future, we will make a better life for ourselves and our future families in many ways". This sixth grader from Richmond, IN is right. Thank you Michelle.

And that is my report from Indiana this week.

THE STORY OF VARIAN FRY AND THE EMERGENCY RESCUE COMMITTEE

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 1996

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, the following account was written by my wife Annette with the able assistance and research of Mandi Cohn. It is a belated attempt to pay a debt to an American hero whose important deeds in the early years of World War II have been overlooked by a majority of Americans. He is the only American recipient of the Righteous Among the Nations Award bestowed by Israel to non-Jews who risked their lives to save Jews during the Holocaust. Truly, I'm grateful to my wife for once more helping us to remember those who deserve to be honored and emulated.

I am placing this statement in the RECORD on March 19 because this marks the 52d anniversary of the Nazi occupation of Hungary. It is important, Mr. Speaker, that we remember not only the tragedies but those few who, by putting their lives on the line, proved that it could have been deterred.

VARIAN FRY: A RIGHTEOUS AMERICAN

In the summer of 1940 when the newspaper headlines in New York announced the fall of France to the Nazis, Varian Fry was way ahead of most Americans in realizing the full implication of these Nazi victories. In 1935 he had visited Germany on assignment for *The Living Age* magazine. He sensed the atmosphere of hatred and oppression Hitler brought to his country. While in Berlin he had seen the first great pogroms against the Jews. He saw young Nazis smash up Jewish-owned shops and watched in horror as they dragged people out in the streets and beat and kicked them almost to death. He watched as they dragged men and women, cut and bleeding down the street, hitting them with clubs, shouting and cursing vile names at them.

When France fell to Hitler invading armies in 1940, thousands of refugees who had fled to Paris as their only escape from Nazi horrors had to flee to the as yet unoccupied southern part of France with Marseilles as their destination. Only after it was too late did they realize that they were caught in yet another trap. In order to appease Hitler, the new puppet government, under Marshall Petain, enacted one stringent decree after another against the Jews and political refugees. They closed the borders and agreed to turn over all refugee exit-visa applications to the Gestapo. As a result the very act of asking to leave was sufficient to guarantee instant arrest.

Meanwhile in New York, Varian Fry, along with a few other prominent individuals, formed the Emergency Rescue Committee to try to help the beleaguered refugees in France. They managed to enlist the support of Eleanor Roosevelt and convince her of the imminent danger facing thousands of distinguished intellectuals, writers, scientists, academics, journalists, historians, musicians, opposition political leaders, and others. Eleanor Roosevelt was able to persuade the President to authorize 200 visas for the most prominent individuals in the group. This was the beginning of the extraordinary rescue mission for which Varian Fry promptly volunteered.

With the help of the German writer Thomas Mann, Jacques Maritain and many others, a list of 200 names was formed, and Varian Fry was appointed by the Emergency Rescue Committee to go to France to head the mission. It was a difficult and complicated undertaking because he received very little support from official sources. He had to coax a passport out of the State Department, which at that time took a dim view of Americans travelling to Europe. Fry then persuaded the International YMCA to give him a letter identifying him as a relief worker with refugees. This gave him some kind of official status vis-a-vis the French puppet Government of Vichy.

With \$3,000 dollars taped to his leg, the list of 200 names which included such world famous persons as political scientist Hannah Arendt and painter Marc Chagall, but without any addresses or phone numbers to facilitate contact, he set out for the overcrowded and turbulent city of Marseilles. After a long and arduous trip he arrived on August 15, 1940, in Marseilles. When he fi-

nally settled in his dingy little hotel room he had to admit to himself that he had no idea how to begin searching for the individuals whose lives were now in his hands. He realized he needed help urgently to accomplish his mission.

His first fortunate breakthrough came when he met with a brilliant young German economist, Dr. Albert Hirschman, who at the time was himself a refugee who had recently managed to escape from Germany. Hirschman became Fry's most trusted friend and assistant. They developed a warm friendship which greatly eased the stresses and strains they faced daily in their dangerous mission. Fry nicknamed Hirschman "Beamish" because no matter how desperate their situation was he kept smiling and beaming optimism. Eventually, Miriam Davenport, a young, energetic and resourceful art history student from Boston, joined them. She, like many others, left Paris when the Germans invaded the city. The three of them became friends and "co-conspirators" in one of the most daring and successful rescue operations of World War II.

They opened their temporary "office" in an abandoned handbag factory in Marseilles. There from early in the morning until late at night Fry and his two young associates interviewed refugees. During each interview they wrote the necessary information about each refugee and placed it on an index card. After the last of the refugees departed each day, Fry, Beamish and their secretary, Lena Fishman, would adjourn to the bathroom and turn on all the water taps to foil any attempts at eavesdropping. There they would talk over any problems that surfaced during the day. Before leaving each day, Fry would spread the index cards containing names and notations on them in careful disarray on one of the desks so that he could tell if they had been tampered with and placed any incriminating documents behind the mirror inside the closet door.

The biggest problem was to find an escape route, to find a way out of France illegally (across the border unnoticed without an exit visa) and enter Spain legally, where it was imperative to get the entry stamp in one's passport. Dr. Hirschman, who had fought briefly with a Republican unit in Barcelona during the Spanish Civil War, knew that in the mountains above Cerbere, a fishing village near the border of Spain, the French and Spanish frontier posts were placed so that neither was visible to the other. It was possible to climb the mountain on the French side without being seen by the guards while also managing not to overshoot the Spanish border station. Once across the border, with a stamped passport, the refugees were able to continue their journey legally. Albert Hirschman drew Varian Fry a sketch of his plan. This map, drawn in pencil on a little scrap of paper, was to become the crucial lifesaving document for thousands of refugees who eventually, with the help of Fry and his associates, fled to the United States, where they would make their most important contributions to the cultural history of western civilization.

Once Fry and his associates worked out this complex routing, they had to acquire a large number of passports and blank identity cards, and find a skilled forger who could make them usable. To forge the documents, Fry engaged the services of a cheery, diminutive Austrian cartoonist named Bill Freier. Freier fled to France when the Germans entered Vienna in March, 1938. He spent his days drawing portraits of people and his nights in his hotel room altering passports.

Unfortunately, Bill Freier paid a heavy price for his valiant efforts. He was arrested by the Gestapo and deported to the death camps in Germany. Amazingly, with courage, endurance and luck, Mr. Freier survived the camp until its liberation. Then he proceeded to walk across France until he found his wife and the four-year old son he had never seen.

With all these pieces in place, Fry's underground "railway" was in business, and miraculously none of the refugees were ever caught. Fry succeeded in saving an incredible number of Europe's intellectual elite in spite of growing police surveillance and harassment. He succeeded in spite of the reluctance of some, the arrogant attitudes of others and the constant lack of cooperation, even discouragement, he received from American consular officials in Marseilles.

Varian Fry's work came to an end on Friday, August 29, 1941, when he was taken into custody by agents of the French Secret Police and was deported to Spain. Unfortunately, once in the safety of the United States, the celebrated refugees Varian Fry rescued could find no time for him. Instead of recognition for his vitally significant and dangerous mission during the war, he was rejected, snubbed and forgotten. The State Department failed to apologize for seizing his passport and leaving him without identification behind enemy lines in France, enabling the Fascist French Secret Police to seize him. "We can't support an American citizen who is helping people evade French law," a U.S. diplomat told Fry when he asked for help.

In the United States Varian Fry wrote and lectured about the plight of Jews and other war refugees, and he accurately predicted the massacre of the Jews throughout Europe. His story is written in his book, "Surrender on Demand," and the later version, "Assignment: Rescue." Finally, Varian Fry received recognition for his efforts when he was awarded the Croix du Chevalier of the French Legion of Honor on April 12, 1967. In the summer of the same year Varian Fry died in his Connecticut home alone, leaving behind the unrecognized legacy of a heroic mission. He is survived by his wife, Annette, and three children.

Mr. Speaker, in 1993 the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC, opened an exhibit detailing his accomplishments. On February 2, 1996, he was honored in Jerusalem at the Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum. Varian Fry is the first and only American recipient of the Righteous Among the Nations Award, which is an honor bestowed by Israel to non-Jews who risked their lives to save Jews during the Holocaust. "Fry was an American Oskar Schindler, an American Raoul Wallenberg," said an attending Israeli.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher was the keynote speaker at the ceremony held belatedly to acknowledge Fry's heroism and humanity. On that occasion he said:

We have come to pay tribute to Varian Fry—a remarkable man and a remarkable American. Regretfully, during his lifetime, his heroic actions never received the support they deserved from my government, particularly the State Department. Even today, Varian Fry's tale of courage and compassion is too little known by his own countrymen. It is therefore with pride, but also with humility, that I come here today, as America's Secretary of State, to honor this extraordinary man.

His assignment was supposed to last three weeks. He remained in France 13 months.

His initial orders were to help 200 individuals * * * he ended up rescuing close to 4,000. Operating under constant threat, without regard for his personal safety, Varian Fry worked tirelessly, using every means available, to secure safe passage for those who came to him, desperate for help. He remained in France long after the dangers to his life became apparent. His explanation was simple: "I stayed", he wrote, "because the refugees needed me." And because he knew that he was truly their last hope.

The measure of our faith is only restored by the knowledge that, in the fact of such evil, there were also men and women like Varian Fry. Otherwise ordinary individuals who were capable of summoning up extraordinary moral courage to confront and defy overwhelming brutality.

Mr. Speaker, what Varian Fry accomplished in terms of saving lives, renewing our faith in humanity and enhancing our trust in people's willingness to act on behalf of the persecuted is unique in the history of World War II. His history of World War II. His work deserves to be honored formally by the United States.

SURRENDER TO NEA PRESSURE

HON. NEWT GINGRICH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 1996

Mr. GINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues the attached article from the March 7 Washington Times. Columnist John Leo describes the power of the National Education Association in opposing any and all school choice reform measures. Leo observes that the NEA's power is so great that it has succeeded in scuttling a full vote in the other body on the District of Columbia appropriations bill; its school voucher initiative is anathema to the NEA. As a result, the financially crippled D.C. government totters near bankruptcy.

Leo observes:

The NEA, the giant dinosaur of educational policy, is the largest single reason why the public school system seems almost impervious to real reform. Its clear goal is power over a monopolistic system, and it will do whatever it must to retain that power.

All those interested in producing true reform in our public schools are urged to read this column, submitted here into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

[From the Washington Times, Mar. 7, 1996]

SURRENDER TO NEA PRESSURE

(By John Leo)

In his generally upbeat State of Education speech last week, Education Secretary Richard Riley talked darkly about people who want to "destroy public schools" and who "seek nothing less than dismemberment of the public education system."

These destroyers and dismemberers turned out to be ordinary supporters of school vouchers or school choice, a great many of whom are poor and black or Hispanic.

In part, Mr. Riley's attack on the school choice movement was protective cover for a disgraceful vote last week perpetrated by Senate Democrats under prodding from the White House. The Senate sank an aid pack-

age for the nearly bankrupt District of Columbia government, essentially because one part of the plan could have given some poor D.C. parents vouchers or scholarships for children to attend private schools. The plan went down on a procedural vote to prevent filibuster. Sixty votes were needed, but the two votes for cloture came out 54-44 and 52-42, with Democrats voting as a bloc with four dissenters, then five.

Democrats are not famous for stiffing the D.C. government, for opposing "choice" in any form, or even for defending Senate talkathons as a method of frustrating majorities. When it comes to essential services, Democrats routinely argue that the poor should have the same options as the middle class and the rich, even if it takes public funds to guarantee them. But all these normal party instincts are routinely suppressed when the subject is schools and the lobby applying the pressure is the major teachers union, the National Education Association.

In this case, the pressure was so intense that the Democrats preferred "a looming crisis of Congress' own making," as The Washington Post put it, to keeping alive the possibility that some poor Washington children might be able to attend non-public schools. As the Republicans tell it, they had the 60 votes in hand on Monday, but the NEA leaned on President Clinton, who abandoned his support for the plan and sent a written message to congressional Democrats asking them to switch, too.

The plan would have left the decision on these vouchers up to the D.C. council, which is highly hostile to the idea. Even if the council had approved, no money would have been removed from public school coffers. School-choice money was separate from public school aid, about \$21 million over five years, covering tuition scholarships for low-income children most at risk for failure.

Still, the NEA did not want D.C. voters to decide for themselves, and it didn't want Congress on record as favoring choice in any way, even for parents confronted with the worst public school system in America. Unionized teachers, like beneficiaries of monopolies everywhere, can always be counted on to suppress competition. So as expected, the White House and the Senate Democrats caved in on schedule.

The NEA, the giant dinosaur of educational policy, is the largest single reason why the public school system seems almost impervious to real reform. Its clear goal is power over a monopolistic system, and it will do whatever it must to retain that power. Given its lobbying strength and muscle within the party—almost one in eight delegates to the last Democratic National Convention were NEA members—it can reliably dictate educational policy and key votes by congressional Democrats. And it can make trouble for reformers of all persuasions. As Lamar Alexander once said, "Only a very determined governor has the influence to marshal enough power to overcome (NEA) opposition."

True to form, the NEA cloaked its institutional interest in fears about church-state separation being violated by children attending religious schools on vouchers. By coincidence, the church-state issue was argued last week before the Wisconsin Supreme Court. At stake is the planned expansion to religious schools of the choice program that is making the most headway—Milwaukee's plan offering scholarships, of about \$3,200 a year per student for some 7,000 poor children to enroll in non-public schools.

The state of Wisconsin argued before the court that arguments calling the Milwaukee

plan a violation of the establishment clause are "no more than hollow walls" thrown up to defend a failing public school system. In questioning lawyers, the justices seemed dubious about the constitutionality of including religious schools in the program.

Still, programs such as this stand a good chance of passing muster. Since 1983, U.S. Supreme Court rulings have held that this kind of support for students in sectarian schools is legally permissible if the aid goes directly to parents, if the choice of school is freely made by parents or guardians, and if the system of funding is neutral on parental choice of school.

Former Assistant Secretary of Education Diane Ravitch reminds us that both the Head Start program and public scholarships to college provide models for choice—in both cases, public funds legally follow students even to sectarian institutions.

A Supreme Court ruling is presumably years away. In the meantime, we may see many episodes like the Senate's shabby treatment of the D.C. package.

EXCEPTING LOCAL REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITIES FROM THE COMPREHENSIVE ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE, COMPENSATION, AND LIABILITY ACT

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 1996

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I introduced legislation which would amend the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 [CERCLA] to exempt certain State and local redevelopment authorities such as civic boards or commissions, and fresh start users of facilities purchased from those boards or commissions, from liability under the Superfund law under certain limited circumstances.

Under current law, civic boards or commissions charged with the job of developing plans for and encouraging the rehabilitation and reuse of Superfund sites are handicapped by certain Superfund liability provisions. These provisions could make such boards or commissions or their members liable for the costs of remediation of the site because of their involvement with developing plans to encourage future productive use of the site. This situation is unacceptable. Local governments should be able to develop and implement redevelopment plans without the fear of lawsuits seeking to join them as liable owners or operators.

Mr. Speaker, Front Royal, VA, located in Warren County, which I am proud to represent, is a beautiful and historic area located in the scenic Shenandoah Valley of the 10th District. The region has a blemish; however, namely, the Avtex-FMC Superfund site. State and local officials and the citizens of Warren County have come together in a concerted effort to cooperate with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to clean up this contaminated site. Furthermore, like other communities that have Superfund sites, the citizens of Warren County and the town of Front Royal would like to move this site into productive economic use as soon as possible, thereby creating jobs and expanding the tax base.

In fact, the Warren County Redevelopment Board [WCRB], a local civic board, is dedicated to facilitating the reuse of the site. However, the WCRB is limited in what it can do because liability under CERCLA is joint and several and adheres to owners or operators whether they actually contributed to the contamination or not. That means that a local governmental entity, which assumes ownership or control of some or all of the remediated property for the sole purpose of finding a new owner for the property, could be held liable for any further cleanup even though that entity did not engage in any response action at the facility and was not engaged in the generation of any hazardous substance disposed of at the facility.

To further complicate the situation at the Avtex-FMC Superfund site, the EPA has proposed to subdivide putatively clean portions of the site and authorize the transfer of title to the clean sites to a new governmental, industrial, or business owner. In this manner some productive reuse of part of the property could be achieved long before the other polluted portion of the site has been remediated. Taking control of such a clean portion of the site is risky for the transferee because they could be liable for any further remediation required at the site.

Thus, for example, a civic board taking ownership or control of land presently or formerly part of a Superfund site for nonprofit purposes merely with a view to conveying it to a new industrial or commercial entity could be subject to Superfund liability because, for a time, it was an owner or operator of the site, notwithstanding the fact that it never contributed to the contamination of the site. This is the problem facing the WCRB. Likewise, new fresh start users are deterred from taking over the cleaned site for fear of being liable under CERCLA's complicated liability system.

Mr. Speaker, my legislation would allow a civic entity such as the Warren County Redevelopment Board to take title to portions of the site for the purpose of conveying ownership to an economic enterprise that will in turn be granted a fresh start, that is, to take and use the property free of potential liability for past pollution caused by the conduct of other parties at the site. It must be emphasized that the exemption provided by this legislation is strictly limited. Redevelopment authorities will only escape liability if such entity first, has not engaged in any response action at the facility, second, owns the facility or any portion thereof only on a temporary basis for the purpose of transferring the facility to a fresh start user, and third, has not engaged in the generation of any hazardous substance disposed of at such facility. Similarly, fresh start users will only be exempt if they acquired the facility from a redevelopment authority and has not engaged in first, any response action at the facility, second, disposal of any hazardous substance at the facility, or third, the generation of any hazardous substance disposed of at such facility. In short, redevelopment corporations and fresh start users that contaminate the property will not escape liability, but those that have nothing to do with the pollution would not be held liable.

This legislation is a good Government measure which would give State and local

governments needed flexibility in the transition of Superfund sites into productive uses. Moreover, shielding the fresh start user from liability for an act for which the new user has no blame is essential to attracting a new business user which would otherwise be deterred by the potential for liability under the current complicated liability structure.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to include in the RECORD a copy of this legislation and a letter from Fred Foster, president of the Warren County Redevelopment Board, in support of this bill immediately following my statement.

H.R. —

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

SECTION 1. EXEMPTION FROM CERCLA LIABILITY FOR CERTAIN REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITIES AND FRESH START FACILITY USERS.

(a) EXEMPTION FOR CERTAIN REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITIES.—Section 107 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 is amended by adding the following at the end thereof:

"(n) REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITIES.—No State or local board, commission, or other entity, or any member thereof, appointed or elected pursuant to State or local law to plan for or implement the redevelopment or reuse of a facility shall be liable under this section for costs or damages with respect to any release or threat of release from the facility to the extent such liability is based solely on the entity's status as an owner of the facility under paragraph (1) of subsection (a) if such entity—

"(1) has not engaged in any response action at the facility;

"(2) owns the facility or any portion thereof only on a temporary basis prior to transfer to another entity; and

"(3) has not engaged in the generation of any hazardous substance disposed of at such facility.

(b) FRESH START USERS.—Section 101(35)(A) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 is amended by striking "described in clause (i), (ii), or (iii)" and inserting "described in clause (i), (ii), (iii), or (iv)" and by adding the following after clause (iii):

"(iv) The defendant acquired the facility from a person exempt from liability under section 107(n) and has not engaged in (I) any response action at the facility, (II) disposal of any hazardous substance at the facility, or (III) the generation of any hazardous substance disposed of at such facility. This clause shall not apply to any person who impedes the performance of a response action or natural resource restoration at the facility concerned."

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsections (a) and (b) shall apply only with respect to final agency actions, or court orders issued or judicial decisions made, under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

WARREN COUNTY

REDEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, INC.,

Front Royal, VA, July 19, 1995.

Hon. FRANK R. WOLF,

House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN WOLF: I am writing on behalf of the Warren County Redevelopment

Board (WCRB) to thank you for authorizing the drafting of legislation that will protect the WCRB from legal liability as a result of our attempts to obtain productive reuse of the Avtex-FMC Superfund site in Front Royal.

As you know, the EPA has proposed to subdivide the Front Royal site and convey portions of the site that are supposed to be clean on an expedited basis (by the end of this year), long before the entire site has been cleaned up by FMC. As a matter of fact, FMC has proposed to amend its "work plan" to redo the cleaning up work on about 80% of the site which they have already been working on since mid-1980's. In addition EPA is proposing, for FMC approval, a work plan change that will allow them to dispose of contaminated industrial debris in a so called RCRA capsule. Under present law this on-site disposal will, inter alia, result in an inspection five years after the remedial action has been completed and at a minimum yet another five year reinspection delay thereafter.

One of the problems we face is whether EPA has the legal authority to subdivide a Superfund site. I authorized our environmental counsel to write to the EPA in Philadelphia to request they disclose the basis for their authority to perform this subdivision of the site and the conveyance later this year of a "clean" part of the site to the WCRB.

The legislation protecting the WCRB from liability is necessary only if the subdivision of the Avtex-FMC site is legally authorized. But even under the best case scenario, if the subdivision is legally possible, the WCRB is convinced that they could never interest a new company to take over a "clean" part of the site unless your bill is expanded to protect not only the WCRB but the new company which will become the owner and operator of the subdivided site.

Therefore to be helpful your bill must exempt such a new owner by authorizing a "fresh start" status under which the new company is exempted from liability for hazardous substances and pollutants and contaminants on or near the Avtex-FMC site unless the new owner can be shown to actually release these substances by its own activities.

I am convinced that unless we can convey "fresh start" status to a new enterprise we will be unable to attract any company to use the site even if it can be subdivided prior to total cleanup.

Again, I want to thank you for your efforts on our behalf. The additional authority we believe to be necessary will of course entail action by the Senate as well as the House of Representatives. The WCRB and I personally would appreciate it if you would undertake to arrange a meeting with Senators Warner and Robb to get their support for this legislation.

Sincerely yours,

FRED P. FOSTER, President.

TRIBUTE TO THE CHRON'S & COLTIS FOUNDATION OF AMERICA WOMEN OF DISTINCTION

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 1996

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to join with the Chron's & Colitis Foundation of America in honoring their

1996 Women of Distinction. The Chron's & Colitis Foundation is the only national organization dedicated to finding the cure for these two debilitating diseases. The 1996 Women of Distinction are being honored for their devotion to making a difference.

Sonja Zuckerman immigrated to the United States 50 years ago, and has spent her time as an active participant for many important causes including life chairperson of the Diabetes Research Institute's love and hope committee, an ambassador for Project Newborn and her involvement with the Children's Resource Fund, and the Greater Miami Opera. Sonja is an inspiration to those who have had the privilege of working with her.

Judge Lenore Carrero Nesbitt is a U.S. district judge and the first to be appointed to the Federal bench in the southern district. Judge Nesbitt serves the Miami community through many ways, among them through her membership on the Florida civil justice advisory committee, the U.S. Judicial Conference Committee on Criminal Law and Probation Administration, as a member of the board of trustees of the University of Miami, and as a member of the board of directors of the Children's Home Society.

Gwendolyn B. Scott, MD is presently a professor of pediatrics and the director of the pediatric AIDS program at the University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Hospital. Dr. Scott has cared for children with HIV infection and AIDS for many years, and is nationally and internationally recognized for her work in pediatric HIV infection. She also serves as a member of the Dade County Ryan White HIV planning council, as a member of an AHCP panel to develop guidelines for early HIV treatment, a member of the board of the AIDS Policy Center, and as the director of the Ryan White title IV program at the University of Miami.

Linda Gibb has dedicated her life to making her community a better place to live and caring for those in the world-at-large who are less fortunate. Ms. Gibb is the mother of five children and wife of celebrity Barry Gibb. She has served as international co-chair of the love & hope committee for the Diabetes Research Institute [DRI], raised funding to build the DRI building at the University of Miami, is an active supporter of UNICEF, Miami Beach police athletic leagues, Mt. Sinai neonatal care unit, the New World Symphony, Infants in Need, numerous AIDS charities, and the Andy Gibb memorial foundation.

Dr. Joyce Brothers is the world-renowned dean of American psychologists. Dr. Brothers has pursued many careers simultaneously, she is a regular columnist for Good Housekeeping and writes a daily column that is published in more than 175 newspapers worldwide. In pursuit of this prestigious career, Dr. Brothers gives of herself to help others.

In honor of their giving and caring for others, I salute the Chron's & Colitis Foundation of America 1996 Women of Distinction.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A SELLOUT TO CHINA

HON. TILLIE K. FOWLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 1996

Mrs. FOWLER. Mr. Speaker, China's recent saber-rattling in the Taiwan Strait has raised eyebrows and anxiety levels all over the world and generated news coverage about China's defense buildup and weapons and technology sales to other nations. These are issues of extraordinary importance, and I am glad to see that they are finally getting some attention.

One area, however, which has been virtually ignored is the fact that United States Government officials have actually aided the People's Republic of China in these activities by loosening export controls and only selectively enforcing laws which are meant to prevent critical technology from falling into the wrong hands. Some of the effects of this short-sighted and dangerous trend were described last week in an article in the Wall Street Journal written by Michael Ledeen, a senior scholar at the American Enterprise Institute and an expert on foreign policy.

The article addresses some of the implications of our Nation's transfer of technology to China, including the fact that the transfers are undermining stability in the region and jeopardizing our national security. I include a copy of the article to be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD following my remarks.

[From the Wall Street Journal, Mar. 12, 1996]

A SELLOUT TO CHINA

(By Michael Ledeen)

Those of us who believe that free trade and free markets are morally, politically and economically superior to state planning must nonetheless recognize that the government should take measures to prevent the sale of particularly dangerous technology to actual and potential enemies. Our victory in the Cold War was due in no small measure to the Reagan administration's successful program to deny the Soviet Union advanced military technology.

Yet that lesson has been forgotten in the scramble for business in the last major Communist dictatorship, the People's Republic of China. As a recent fiasco proves, the Clinton administration has encouraged American corporations to facilitate the rapid growth of Chinese military power, which is now being used to intimidate our democratic friends and allies in Taiwan and elsewhere in Asia, and may someday be directed against us.

A STRUGGLING COMPANY

The story involves a struggling aircraft company, McDonnell Douglas. Led to believe they could cash in on a Chinese proposal to purchase large numbers of civilian aircraft, McDonnell executives, in violation of export-control legislation, permitted the Chinese to visit a plant in Columbus, Ohio, where parts for the B-1 bomber and the C-17 strategic transport plane were manufactured. The Chinese took extensive notes, photographs and even videotapes of the machinery, involving advanced "five axis" tools used to manufacture components not only for aircraft but also for cruise missiles and nuclear warheads. Workers at the plant, already enraged by McDonnell's decision to phase out the facility, protested against the Chinese inspection tours. To avoid the workers' wrath, the

McDonnell executives smuggled the Chinese in at night or on weekends. The Chinese were so keen to get their hands on the technology that they linked future cooperation with McDonnell to their ability to buy the machinery.

Even though other American companies were interested in buying the equipment, McDonnell, lured by Chinese promises to buy dozens of jointly produced MD-90 passenger planes, insisted on selling it to China at bargain basement prices (about 10 cents on the dollar). The Commerce Department approved an export license in September 1994. According to government officials, the contents of the factory filled 280 semi-trailers, which were driven to the West Coast, whence the stuff was shipped to China.

On its face the sales seemed to violate international agreements among the "Nuclear Suppliers Group," which forbid selling five-axis machinery to any country known to be a nuclear "proliferator" (China is dubbed a "proliferation concern" by the U.S. itself). To justify this extraordinary action, the licenses stipulated that the five-axis machines would be sent exclusively to a new Chinese facility in Beijing, where they could be monitored, but U.S. officials failed to conduct any preshipment inspection of the new factory. If they had, they would have discovered that it did not exist. The Chinese had created a Potemkin factory in order to acquire the technology, which was destined for military facilities. The intelligence community expected this to happen, and it did; Six of the machines were illegally diverted to Nanchang, a major center for Chinese missile programs.

By last spring, McDonnell executives realized they'd been had. The machines had gone to a military facility, the Beijing factory was a hoax, and the Chinese had already canceled the bulk of their promised order. McDonnell informed the Commerce Department of the Chinese diversion, and asked that the license be suspended. Commerce did that, and began an investigation, but before its completion, the Chinese came up with another scheme: Why not send the machines to a factory in Shanghai that was already part of the joint venture with McDonnell? McDonnell filed a request to amend the export license, and in late January a Commerce official told the Far Eastern Economic Review's Nigel Holloway that the amended license had been approved. It is hard to imagine a more classic act of appeasement: A sale that never should have been approved in the first place turns out to have been an illegal diversion, but instead of punishing the criminals involved, the Clinton administration simply covers it up by re-writing the documents.

As if this were not enough, it turns out that McDonnell is hotly pursuing another project with the Chinese, which would expand its MD-90 airplane facility at Shenyang to manufacture parts for a smaller version, the MD-95. Some officials in the Defense Department were concerned that advanced machine tools at Shenyang were grossly underutilized, and they believe they have now found an explanation. On Feb. 5, a joint Chinese-Russian project was announced for the construction of Su-27 fighters—some of the most advanced in the world—at Shenyang. No clearer proof could be imagined of the military value of the McDonnell hardware. One would hope that our president would come down hard on a company that was contributing so mightily to Chinese military power. Instead, at a campaign-style appearance at a McDonnell plant in Long Beach,

Calif., on Feb. 23, Bill Clinton announced that the government was buying another batch of McDonnell military transports.

The McDonnell case is just one example among many of the Clinton administration's determination to give China most everything it wants, national security be damned. As early as October 1993, Secretary of Defense William Perry announced in Beijing that he'd told the Chinese they could cut back on their nuclear testing by using advanced computers to simulate the explosions, adding that the U.S. was prepared to share this know-how. Within two months, Mr. Clinton announced a massive decontrol on exports of the necessary supercomputers.

While it is true that the computer simulations might reduce the need for some nuclear testing, they also permit the Chinese to conduct their nuclear program with greater secrecy, thereby making it far more difficult for the West to find out what China is up to in this delicate area. But Clinton & Co. don't seem terribly worried by anything the Chinese might care to do. The Washington Times revealed on Feb. 5 that the intelligence community had discovered that China is shipping the Pakistanis components for their nuclear weapons program. This leak, nicely timed to coincide with the Washington visit of China's foreign minister, shamed the administration into promising it would raise the issue with him.

Another leak—this time that the Chinese are providing Iran with the technology for advanced chemical weapons factories—appeared just in time for the arrival in Washington of their national security adviser. But why should the Chinese worry? This is the crowd that decontrolled the supercomputers, and pointedly refused to take punitive action when advanced technology was illegally diverted to military projects. The administration even refused to invoke sanctions when Adm. Scott Redd, commander of U.S. naval forces in the Persian Gulf, warned that missiles supplied by China to Iran threaten our ships.

ONLY WORDS

The Clinton administration's threats to "get tough" with China are only words, and the words are belied by its actions. Just before the release of the State Department's criticism of Chinese human rights practices last week, the White House announced the lifting of yet another sanction on China: American companies like Loral, Hughes and Lockheed Martin can now use Chinese rockets to put their satellites into orbit. It doesn't take a Confucian scholar to understand the meaning of Mr. Clinton's behavior: The words assuage his domestic critics, but the actions strengthen and delight the Chinese.

Mr. Clinton's policy is based on the theory that we can best influence the behavior of China by enmeshing that country in a vast network of trade. For those old enough to remember, this theory was tested in the mid-1970s on the U.S.S.R., when Richard Nixon and Henry Kissinger called it "detente." It did not change Soviet behavior; instead it made the Soviets technologically and militarily more powerful. It will certainly do the same for the Chinese.

Let us hope that neither our Pacific friends and allies nor our own children will have to face terrible weapons of destruction, designed and manufactured by American computers and machines, foolishly and irresponsibly provided by Bill Clinton, Ron Brown, William Perry and their willing accomplices in government and business.

NEW YORK TIMES CALLS INDIA ROTTEN, CORRUPT, REPRESSIVE, AND ANTIPEOPLE

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 1996

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, the February 25 issue of the New York Times featured an excellent article on the corruption and repression in India. In it, the Indian Government was aptly described as "a rotten, corrupt, repressive, and anti-people system." This is an accurate and very damning indictment of the brutal Indian regime. I will be placing this article in the RECORD.

The repression of the Sikhs is vividly exposed in the new video "Disappearances in Punjab," which I recently received from the Council of Khalistan. An Indian policewoman testifies in the video about acts of torture and repression that she has seen. The kidnaping of human rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalra is highlighted. Mr. Khalra was kidnaped by the Punjab police after publishing a report which exposed abductions and disappearances of the same kind as those revealed by this video.

The video is a powerful indictment of India's reign of terror in Punjab, Khalistan. No one who watches it will ever again see India as anything but a brutal police state. I strongly recommend it. As Siskel and Ebert would say, it gets two thumbs up.

As you know, India has recently been rocked by a massive corruption scandal which as forced the resignations of several Cabinet members and a number of leading opposition political figures. According to the January 25 issue of the Tribune of Chandigarh, the Prime Minister himself received 3.5 crore rupees, the equivalent of millions of dollars, in this scandal. All this is going on while the ordinary people of India live in some of the worst poverty in all the world, some of them making less than a dollar a day. Is it any wonder that many experts believe that India is apt to break apart soon?

This corruption is one symptom of India's moral bankruptcy. Another is the repression of the Indian regime routinely practices against the Sikhs Nation and the other nations their forces brutally occupy, such as Azad Kashmir and Christian Nagaland. One recent incident, while not as serious as the Khalra kidnaping, shows how pervasive the effort to intimidate the Sikh Nation into submission is. A university student is being denied his degree by the regime despite being one of the top students in his class. His name is Sukbir Signh Osan, and he is also the reporter who broke the story that the late Governor of Punjab, Surendra Nath, was paid \$1.5 billion by the Indian regime to organize and support covert states terrorism in Punjab and Kashmir. This certainly seem to be an attempt to force Mr. Osan to toe the India regime's line rather than doing this kind of independent reporting.

In that light, the Sikhs of Khalistan and the oppressed peoples of the other nations India brutally occupies are entirely justified in seeking their freedom. America should support them in this effort.

Many of us have introduced a bill, H.R. 1425, the Human Rights in India Act, which

will cut off United States development aid to India until the human rights situation is rectified. This bill would be a first step in restoring freedom in the subcontinent. I urge my colleagues to support it, and I call upon our colleagues over on the Senate side to introduce parallel legislation. I also call upon our Senate colleagues to circulate a letter protesting India's brutal repression of the Sikhs and others similar to the one 65 of us signed last year. In America, we enjoy the blessings of freedom. It is our duty to help spread those blessings to all the people of the world.

THE SPIRIT OF RURAL AMERICA

HON. GEORGE R. NETHERCUTT, JR.

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 1996

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, the first 2 months of 1996 brought the Pacific Northwest bitter cold, heavy snow, torrential rains, and disastrous floods.

I had the opportunity to witness some of the worst flooding in our State in 30 years. Railroads have been washed out, highways are crumbling, and homes have been carpeted with river mud. However, outside of the heavy mud rose a spirit from eastern Washington that lightened the hearts of everyone who was touched by this force of nature. Without phone calls, whistles, or an official call, the eastern Washington community has come together to work day and night to take their town back from overflowing rivers. Working as one, they created an awe-inspiring relief team. This effort is a tribute to the strength and capability of the people of the Pacific Northwest.

Nothing tears at the fabric of a community like a natural disaster and nothing else can bring out the best in human beings. The people of Dayton, Walla Walla, Waitsburg, Pullman, Colfax, Elberton, Palouse, and all surrounding towns should be commended for what they have endured and how they have welcomed their neighbors' help with open arms.

The employees of FEMA, the Red Cross, Corps of Engineers, and the Small Business Administration must be congratulated as well. Working among disaster areas and dealing with human concerns day after day challenged public and private citizens alike. My visit to these towns to view the damage was not only inspiring but an encouraging opportunity to observe Federal employees at work. These agencies have received high marks in Washington State and our residents thank their personnel for what they have done to assist.

When spring arrives in the Pacific Northwest, the scars will remain visible, but the work will continue. Crops will be replanted and roads will be repaired. As a Member of Congress, I will be doing my best to help our small towns get back on their feet, back in their homes, and their lives back to normal. It will all take time and it will also preparation to avoid flood damage in the future.

America's small towns must be preserved. Rural communities are certainly a window into our past and, I hope, a picture of what America can be. We are faced with daily reports of

bad news about the condition of our society, but the citizens of Dayton, Waitsburg, Palouse, and all the other affected towns in eastern Washington give me hope. Community leaders like Waitsburg Mayor Tom Baker, Columbia County Commissioner Jon McFarland, and Walla Walla County Commissioner David Carey have given so much to their constituents under adverse circumstances. John Vachal, the mayor of Dayton, has done an excellent job coordinating his responsibilities to the town and contending with the damage to his own neighborhood. Great commitment and leadership has also been recognized in Columbia County Commissioners George Touchette and Charles Reeves, Colfax Mayor Norma Becker, Palouse Mayor Bruce Baldwin, and Pullman Mayor Mitch Chandler, to name only a few.

Countless families have endured this winter's heartbreaking events, like the Marshall family of Starbuck, whose living room was flooded with 3 feet of water. Flint and Megan Gilbertson were both moved to tears, not simply because they nearly lost their home, but because their community opened hearts and wallets and donated needed money to the family. Nevertheless, few complain and everybody works for the good of the community. I believe Darlene Burrill of Walla Walla said it best. "May each one find hope and encouragement in knowing that there are many people who care."

I will do all that I can to make recovery proceed as smoothly as possible for the people of the Fifth Congressional District. America has much to learn from my part of the country, and I have a renewed respect and a continuing deep appreciation for the spirit of rural America and eastern Washington.

IRAN OIL SANCTIONS ACT OF 1996

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 1996

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce H.R. 3107, a bill that would impose sanctions on companies that provide key oilfield equipment and technology and investment to Iran and Libya. The Iran Oil Sanctions Act of 1996 will ensure that these terrorist states will have more limited access to outside capital and technology. It will be a major deterrent to their efforts in attracting new investment and luring European and Asian firms into developing Iranian offshore oil resources.

The Iran Oil Sanctions Act of 1996 imposes sanctions on persons exporting key oilfield goods of technology or making investments of \$40 million or more that would enhance the ability of Iran and Libya to develop their petroleum resources.

The measure would require the President to impose two or more penalties on a sanctioned person. These penalties include a denial of Exibank assistance; a denial of specific licenses for the export of controlled technology and a prohibition on imports from that company; a prohibition on a sanctioned financial institution from serving as a primary dealer in U.S. Government debt instruments; a prohibi-

tion on any U.S. financial institution from making any loan to a sanctioned person over \$10 million a year; and a ban on any U.S. Government procurement of any goods or services from a sanctioned person.

The legislation allows the President to delay imposition of sanctions for 90 days to pursue consultations with the Government of the sanctioned person to terminate the sanctionable activities. An additional 90-day delay is provided if that Government is in the process of terminating these activities. The President may waive any of the sanctions if he determines that doing so is in the U.S. national interest.

The adoption of a companion bill in the Senate on December 22, 1995, as well as the prospect for the enactment of a more comprehensive sanctions regime contained in this bill has already had a deterrent effect on potential investors and oilfield suppliers in Iran and Libya.

The bombings and slaughter of innocent civilians in Israel over the past several months demands an immediate and concrete plan to punish those states providing financing and other support to the perpetrators of these unspeakable crimes.

While the convening of an antiterrorism summit in Egypt earlier this month was a laudable step in fighting the challenge of state-supported terrorism around the world, much more needs to be done in focusing the spotlight directly on states such as Libya and Iran. Adoption of this measure would be the first step in developing such a plan.

It can be the cornerstone in the foundation of our policy of cutting off the key sources of funding to those regimes aiding and funding these acts of terrorism and actively developing weapons of mass destruction.

In my view, the most effective way to advance the goals of the antiterrorism summit is to adopt a comprehensive policy designed to stop the flow of oilfield technology and investments to Iran and Libya. This bill accomplishes this objective by sanctioning any company providing goods or the capital to develop the oil resources of these rogue regimes.

To our trading partners in Europe and Japan who have expressed reservations about our approach in this bill, I would only ask them to examine the actions and public statements coming from Teheran and Tripoli, including their continued support for terrorist activities throughout Europe, their advocacy of the destruction of Israel, their efforts to develop chemical and nuclear weapons of mass destruction, their characterization of the murder of Prime Minister Yitzakh Rabin as "divine revenge", and their unwillingness to extradite those responsible for the murder of the passengers of the Pan Am 103 flight.

I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to send a strong message that future trade and investment in the petroleum sector in Iran and Libya will restrict a company's access to the United States economy. I ask you to join me in supporting this very important legislation which will be considered later this week by the International Relations Committee.

TRIBUTE TO MSGR. JOHN PATRICK CARROLL-ABBING

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 1996

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of Lou Marsh, a close friend and constituent. Mr. Marsh is the Florida chairman of the national board of the Boys' Town of Italy as well as its tireless advocate. It is through his commitment that I have become familiar with the Boys' Town of Italy and how I come to pay tribute to the humanitarian efforts of Msgr. John Patrick Carroll-Abbing and this years Boys' Town honorees.

The monsignor's work has spanned the course of the last half-century and has served to establish and preserve the Boys' Town of Italy. In 1945, Monsignor Carroll-Abbing founded his first Boys' Town 45 miles from Rome. The purpose of the town was simple, to give orphaned or abandoned children a home. The Boys' Towns were run completely by the children. They shared in the work responsibilities and learned to respect one another.

The dreams of monsignor Carroll-Abbing have been realized today with nine Boys' Towns and one Girls' Town in Italy, all run by the monsignor's International Boys' Towns of Italy—the organization which he established. Today, orphans in Italy no longer go without homes. Besides the towns which he established, the monsignor's organization also donates money, clothes, medical care, furniture, and time to children in need.

Today, Monsignor Carroll-Abbing's touch is felt around the world. He has extended his aid across seas and continents. The monsignor's Boys' Towns have provided homes for hundreds who have suffered due to war, famine, and disaster. In addition, the monsignor travels around the world to disaster sights to assist in relief efforts on each occasion with the help of children.

Monsignor Carroll-Abbing's major contribution to the world has been to give opportunity to a group of forgotten children who would have otherwise lacked it. Msgr. John Patrick Carroll-Abbing has served humanity throughout his life; whether they be orphans, delinquents, or children in need. Monsignor Carroll-Abbing is a man who has touched, changed, and saved the lives of thousands of children. For more than 50 years he has dedicated himself to improving the lives of children. Monsignor Carroll-Abbing is a man who should be revered by all, and overlooked by none, as one of the greatest humanitarians in history.

This year the Boys' Towns of Italy are honoring two outstanding Italian-Americans for their various achievements and contributions. The Boys' Town Entertainer of the Year Award will go to Mr. Dennis Farina. Mr. Farina has long been acknowledged as one of Hollywood's busiest actors, and has appeared in such hits as "Get Shorty," "Little Big League," and "Striking Distance."

The Boys' Town of Italy Man of the Year is Mr. Chuck Curico. Mr. Curico at the age of 17 joined the U.S. Marine Corps where he served for 3 years. He received the Navy Achievement Medal for his service in the Vietnam war.

He returned home, married, and graduated from college in 1972, the same year he founded Tire Kingdom with a modest investment of \$150. Tire Kingdom is now America's third largest independent tire dealer, and is currently listed as one of Florida's top 50 companies. Believing strongly in giving something back to his community, Mr. Curico has been actively involved in community service projects such as: Homesafe, Junior Achievement, the American Cancer Society, the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, the March of Dimes, Boys and Girls Clubs, and many others. Mr. Curico, with his exemplary and tireless dedication to improving the lives of others serves as an illustration of what we all should strive to become.

WIDENING INCOME GAP IN AMERICA

HON. MARTIN OLAV SABO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 1996

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, for many years, I have been speaking about the growing income gap in America. Due to the Republican Presidential race, this issue has finally been catapulted into the forefront of the Nation's consciousness. In fact, it is hard to open a newspaper op-ed page or turn on a television news program without hearing something about declining worker wages, increased layoffs and increasing corporate profits and CEO pay. I am grateful that people have started to pay attention to this important problem. I fear, however, that as the Republican race winds down, the issue of the income gap will no longer be in vogue, and the media will turn its attention to something new.

We cannot squander this opportunity. The income gap is a growing problem that, if not addressed, threatens to undermine our Nation's prosperity and calls into question the type of nation we want America to be. We must take advantage of the attention now being paid to the problems facing working Americans.

Thanks in part to the deficit reduction measures we passed in 1993, the American economy today is in good shape: We enjoy strong growth combined with low unemployment and low inflation. The stock market is also reaching record highs, as are profits of many American companies. This should seem like good news for the average American family, for in the past, Americans at all income levels shared in our Nation's prosperity. Today, however, stock prices and corporate profits rise while the incomes of middle-class American families stagnate or drop.

If stagnating wages were the only problem that working Americans had to face, things might not be so bad. However, in recent years our Nation has also seen unprecedented worker layoffs in corporate America. Of course, it is understandable that such upheavals may occur as our economy becomes more technology-based and integrated into global markets. What is difficult to understand, however, are the tremendous bonuses and pay increases enjoyed by the very CEO's who lay off thousands of workers.

The United States has prided itself on being a nation of the middle class—one in which if you work hard and follow the rules, you can expect to do well enough to support yourself and your family. Alarming, this is no longer true for an increasing number of Americans.

In the decades following World War II, American workers shared in the successes of their employers. Over the past 20 years, however, only high-income Americans have moved ahead economically. Between 1977 and 1990, for instance, the average after-tax income of the wealthiest 1 percent of our population increased by 67 percent, after adjusting for inflation. During this same period, the average after-tax income of the bottom fifth decreased by nearly 27 percent.

This is not a problem that affects only the poor. Every year, thousands of Americans are laid off from well-paying middle class jobs, to be left with a choice between a new job that pays less or the unemployment line. Clearly, this trend cannot continue.

America's level of income inequality is already higher than that of any industrialized nation. Our middle class is evaporating, and we are well on the road to becoming a nation divided between a few very rich and many who simply struggle to get by. None of us, in the words of Labor Secretary Robert Reich, will "want to live in a society sharply divided between winners and losers."

Leaders in government and business must begin to address this problem, which will have social consequences that far outweigh any economic impact. We must correct policies that exacerbate the income gap, and develop new ones that help to close it. Several of my Democratic colleagues have developed proposals to reduce the income gap by encouraging responsible corporate citizenship, boosting worker wages, and making our Tax Code more equitable. I commend them for these efforts, and call upon all of my colleagues to take action to restore working Americans' faith in the economy.

The widening income gap lays before us the question of what kind of country we want to be: one sharply divided between the rich and poor, or one in which all citizens can benefit from a strong economy. I believe that our choice is clear. America has always been the land of opportunity. We should work together for policies that do not favor any income group, but enable all Americans to share in our Nation's strength and prosperity.

INDIAN TYRANNY SUBJECT OF NEW VIDEO

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 1996

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, many of us have spoken repeatedly about India's repressive tyranny in Punjab, Khalistan, and in other areas where the dominant population is not Brahmin Hindu. Now a new video has come out which exposes the pervasive nature of that tyranny, at least as it relates to the Sikh nation in Punjab, Khalistan. I thank the Council of Khalistan for sending me this powerful documentary Disappearances in Punjab.

This video was not made by Sikhs, but by a human rights activist who is Hindu. It is a solid investigation of the repressive nature of India's brutal rule of Punjab, Khalistan. Khalistan, of course, is the independent Sikh country declared on October 7, 1987. The Council of Khalistan is its government in exile.

Disappearances in Punjab focuses on Sikhs who have been made to disappear by the Indian regime. According to a coalition of prominent human rights groups and individual activists, there are more than 100,000 Sikhs who have been subjected to this cruel fate. Perhaps the most prominent is the general secretary of the human rights wing—Shiromani Akali Dal—Jaswant Singh Khalra. Mr. Khalra was whisked away from his Amritsar home on September 6, less than a week after meeting with a congressional delegation to discuss a report he had published. In the report, Mr. Khalra showed that over 25,000 young Sikhs men had been abducted by the regime, tortured, and killed, then their bodies had been declared unidentified and cremated. After the report was published, the Tarn Taran police chief explicitly told Mr. Khalra that he, too, would be made to disappear. After more than 6 months in illegal detention, Mr. Khalra's whereabouts remain unknown. As the video shows, this incident is unfortunately part of a pattern of intimidation through terror by the Indian regime.

The video publicizes real victims of India's brutal repression. It shows us a policewoman talking about the disappearances and other repression in Punjab, Khalistan. It is vivid indictment of the brutality that is a way of life in Punjab, Khalistan, under India's tyrannical rule.

After seeing this video, I am more convinced than ever that we need to support the Sikhs of Khalistan and the other oppressed people of the South Asian subcontinent in their struggle to be free. The Indian regime has killed over 150,000 Sikhs since 1984, over 200,000 Christians in Nagaland since 1947, over 43,000 Moslems in Kashmir since 1988, and thousands of Assamese, Manipuris, Tamils, Dalits—black untouchables—and other people who are in the way of the Brahmin class. Maybe that is what the New York Times had in mind when it described India in its February 25 edition as "a rotten, corrupt, repressive, and anti-people system." No one should have to live in such a system. If America can help the peoples of the subcontinent escape from this brutal and bloody tyranny, it is our moral duty to do so. We must do whatever we can.

One thing we clearly can do is to cut off United States aid to India. A good first step in that direction is H.R. 1425, the Human Rights in India Act. Under this act, United States development aid to India would be cut off until human rights are observed. I urge my colleagues to vote for this bill and to join those of us who have become sponsors. America must not be supporting tyranny with aid or trade. We must be especially careful not to support tyrants with the tax dollars of the American people.

We must also pass House Concurrent Resolution 32, urging a plebiscite in Indian-occupied Khalistan under international supervision. This is a sense-of-the-Congress resolution.

Frankly, India shows all the signs of a country in the process of unraveling. It is time that America got itself on the side of the emerging South Asian nations who will soon be free despite Indian's repression. Only then will the subcontinent live in prosperity and harmony.

HONORING THE LUDLOW BOYS
SOCCER TEAM'S STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 1996

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to pay tribute to Coach Tony Goncalves and his Ludlow High School Lions boys soccer team for their outstanding 4 to 1 victory over Somerville High School to win the Massachusetts Boys Division I State Soccer Championship. The impressive performance by the Lions in the championship capped off a tremendous 17-2-3 campaign for Coach Goncalves and his team and earned them a spot in the top 25 of the Umbro Boys High School Soccer Poll. Over the years Ludlow High School has enjoyed a rich tradition of soccer excellence and this team will certainly be remembered as one of the best in Ludlow High School history.

I would also like to recognize Coach Goncalves' assistants, Jack Vilaca, Greg Kolodziej, and Jon Cavallo, as well as team managers Brian Gosciminski and Tony Sanches for their outstanding efforts throughout this championship season. It is the unsung efforts of people like these that often make championships possible, and Ludlow was quite fortunate to be assisted by such able individuals.

Finally, I would like to recognize the players who delivered this spectacular victory: Seniors, Bob Nascimento, Eddie Pires, Rich Huff, John Summerlin, Aaron Majka, Carlos Gomes, Adriano Dos Santos, Wesley Manuel, Chris Goncalves, Mark Eusebio, Jeff Leandro, James Ziemba; Juniors: Rob Gomes, Matthew Goncalves, Adriano Genovevo, Danny Elias, Jason Alves, Ryan Lemek; Sophomores: Alex Carvalho, Dave Garcia, Jon Haluch, and Justin Larame.

The achievements of these young men are a tremendous source of pride for not only the town of Ludlow but for the entire Second Congressional District. I am honored to represent such outstanding individuals and I join with the citizens of the Second Congressional District in offering most heartfelt congratulations. I would also like to wish the returning players the best of luck as they embark on their title defense next season.

ERISA CLARIFICATION ACT OF 1996

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 1996

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the ERISA Clarification Act of 1996.

For almost 20 years, the insurance industry has relied on a Department of Labor interpretive bulletin stating that assets contained in an insurance company general account were not plan assets under ERISA.

However, in 1993 the Supreme Court ruled in *John Hancock versus Harris Trust* that such pension assets were covered by ERISA. Because the court recognized that this interpretation could seriously disrupt pension management, it recommended that potential problems be addressed either administratively or legislatively.

Although the Department of Labor is currently working to develop new rules governing prospective insurance company activities, without legislative changes, insurance companies might go unprotected from retroactive liability further threatening the security of pension assets.

Because of the manner in which insurance companies have managed their pension assets over the past 20 years, this legislation will remove the threat of retroactive liability. In doing so, pension plan participants and beneficiaries will be protected without affecting any ongoing civil action.

Since the Department of Labor issued its interpretive bulletin in 1975, there is little evidence that plan participants have suffered as a result of this longstanding practice of the insurance industry. In fact, prior to the *Harris Trust* decision, the Department of Labor had not initiated any enforcement proceedings based on alleged mismanagement.

If we do not address this issue, we will seriously risk the safety and security of pension assets while unfairly exposing the insurance industry to retroactive liability costs based on actions which, at the time, were in accordance with the Department of Labor's rules and regulations.

Therefore, I would ask my colleagues to join me in this effort by becoming cosponsors of this necessary legislation.

HONORING THE 163-YEAR ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE TREATY OF
AMITY AND COMMERCE

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 1996

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 163d anniversary of the Treaty of Amity and Commerce between the United States and the kingdom of Thailand. This treaty was the first of its kind between the United States and an Asian nation.

The United States has had a close relationship with Thailand dating back before 1833 when this treaty was signed. Scores of teachers, Christian missionaries, and medical personnel were instrumental in the 19th century in building schools, churches, and leprosy clinics and hospitals throughout the kingdom, often working closely with the Chakri Dynasty of kings, including the current monarch, King Bhumibhol Adulyadej, who was born in Boston while his father attended Harvard Medical School. Americans helped bring Thailand its first X-ray machine and printing press.

While there have been successors to the 1833 Treaty of Amity and Commerce which have been accorded status as the ruling documents of diplomacy between our two nations, I would like to emphasize that this particular treaty was the foundation for 163 years of close personal and political friendships. The United States and Thailand have reaffirmed their commitment to conduct bilateral relations in a manner consistent with the spirit of this treaty.

Thailand's culture and Government go back thousands of years, and it is the only nation in Southeast Asia that was never colonized. For this reason, our long friendship holds a special significance in the region. I believe that as we approach the 21st century it is important to recognize our old, close friend throughout the world.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure that my colleagues are aware of the differences of opinion we have with Thailand over a number of trade-related issues. However, I hope that we remember that Thailand is a long-time friend to the United States and prompt us to work together to solve these problems in a manner befitting our long cordial friendship.

DR. ELIZABETH BOGGS: IN
MEMORIAM

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 1996

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to revise and extend my remarks to mark the memory of Elizabeth Boggs who died on January 27, 1996. I am privileged to join many other Americans in paying tribute to Dr. Elizabeth Boggs.

We met when I first entered the New Jersey State Legislature in the early 1980's. She was physically striking—but it was her towering mind that was totally overwhelming. Elizabeth had an encyclopedic memory and when she said she knew the law, she meant it. Elizabeth would quote chapter and verse of most every statute since she in most cases wrote them. She was not boastful, but rather quite matter of fact: facts, figures, dates, times, locations, and people. When she looked down at you through her glasses you'd better be prepared to be questioned, grilled, interrogated, and vastly overpowered and outmanned on all counts.

When I chaired the appropriations process in the New Jersey Legislature, she would confront me in person and write long and detailed letters citing the most irrefutable evidence for her arguments. Elizabeth Boggs took my breath away literally with her intellect. Her integrity was unquestioned, so the force of her arguments made many of us rewrite our policy and appropriations bills accordingly. As well, she put a human face on her advocacy for individuals with mental retardation and developmental disabilities.

I consider myself lucky to have been in her company during my time in Trenton and more recently in Washington. Most of us in politics and government are lay people, thank goodness, so we benefit from those who educate

us. While there are many teachers in my past, Elizabeth Boggs was one of the best and most memorable. Her education formula: perseverance, patience, repetition, love, and lots of heart.

IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE COMPREHENSIVE SOUTHWEST BORDER ENFORCEMENT STRATEGY

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 1996

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, as the House begins debate on an immigration reform bill, I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the Immigration and Naturalization Service's (INS) efforts to control illegal immigration along the United States' southern border. The administration has made the enforcement of our borders a high priority, and for the first time in recent memory the INS has the resources to seriously undertake this responsibility. Both Attorney General Janet Reno and INS Commissioner Doris Meissner have made personal visits to the border, with the Commissioner visiting Nogales, AZ, as recently as last month. Commissioner Meissner and Attorney General Reno are to be commended for their efforts at border enforcement, and I submit for the RECORD an outline of the INS's successful comprehensive Southwest border enforcement strategy.

THE IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE: BUILDING A COMPREHENSIVE SOUTHWEST BORDER ENFORCEMENT STRATEGY

I. OVERVIEW

The Clinton Administration has made control of illegal immigration a top priority and has worked to provide the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) with the resources necessary for an enforcement strategy that will make a difference quickly and sustain itself over time. The Administration focused immigration control efforts first on the 2,000-mile U.S.-Mexican border. Years of neglect had left the Southwest border an open invitation to illegal immigration. The INS did not have the personnel or the equipment to properly control this important frontier.

For the first time, the Clinton Administration developed a coherent strategy to restore the rule of law to the Southwest border. This strategy is backed by adequate resources and broad community support. The Administration's goal is unambiguous: a border that deters illegal immigration, drug trafficking, and alien smuggling and facilitates legal immigration and commerce.

II. A COMPREHENSIVE BORDER CONTROL STRATEGY

The international boundary between the United States and Mexico divides two countries with dramatically different economies, but many shared values, commercial interests and a shared history. It is a border that runs through communities. It is also a border that is used by migrants from Mexico and around the world to enter the United States illegally. It is a border that is today experiencing tremendous immigration pressures.

INS developed a multi-year border enforcement strategy both to facilitate legal travel

and commerce between the United States and Mexico, and to aggressively enforce the nation's immigration laws. The plan is comprehensive, recognizing that the various regions of the border are interconnected, and any action on one part of the border affects conditions along other parts of the border.

The Administration's border control plan has several key objectives:

To provide the Border Patrol and other INS enforcement divisions with the personnel, equipment and technology to deter, detect and apprehend illegal aliens;

To regain control of major entry corridors along the border that for too long have been controlled by illegal immigrants and smugglers;

To close off the routes most frequently used by smugglers and illegal aliens and to shift traffic to areas that are more remote and difficult to cross illegally, where INS has the tactical advantage;

To tighten security and control illegal crossings through ports of entry; and

To make our ports of entry work for regular commuters, trade, tourists and other legitimate traffic across our borders.

These objectives are essential to effectively deter illegal immigration into the United States. The over-arching goal of the strategy is to make it so difficult and so costly to enter this county illegally that fewer individuals even try.

The Administration developed an ambitious plan to achieve these objectives. It involved the strategic deployment of resources, equipment and technologies in concentrated areas of illegal activity. In the past, INS resources were spread out along the length of the border. This deployment plan diminished the effectiveness of Border Patrol agents, vehicles and sensors. By contrast, INS first targeted deployment of new resources to the San Diego and El Paso sectors. These two sectors alone historically accounted for approximately 65 percent of all Border Patrol apprehensions. INS has also deployed significant new resources in Arizona. This concentrated approach has enabled INS to gain a greater degree of control in these two regions. As we regain control in these areas, we are working to expand control to other corridors of illegal entry.

III. PUTTING EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES INTO PLACE

The 2,000-mile border contains many distinct areas with wide-ranging topography, histories and crossing patterns. INS designed strategies for each area consistent with the comprehensive approach and the over-arching goal of deterring illegal immigration.

INS began by concentrating resources in areas that have long been major corridors for illegal immigration. The agency launched Operation Hold the Line in El Paso, Operation Gatekeeper in San Diego, and Operation Safeguard in Arizona. INS has continued to strengthen these operations with new agents, tightened enforcement at ports of entry, and a crackdown on alien smugglers.

Operation Hold the Line

INS launched Operation Hold the Line in El Paso, Texas to close the holes in what had become one of the most porous areas of the U.S.-Mexican border. Before Operation Hold the Line, 18 percent of all illegal crossers caught entering the United States were apprehended in this area. INS redirected 54 Border Patrol agents to the Sector in FY 1994, and added 50 new agents in FY 1995 to support Operation Hold the Line.

With Operation Hold the Line, the Border Patrol developed a high visibility strategy to

deter illegal alien traffic into El Paso. The strategy was based on the specific crossing patterns, the characteristics of the illegal crossers in El Paso, and the flat terrain of the region. The majority of aliens apprehended by the Border Patrol in El Paso have historically been commuters—traveling from Juarez, Mexico to El Paso on a regular basis to work, shop or visit with friends and relatives. Most tried to enter the United States directly through downtown El Paso. Accordingly, the Border Patrol focused on a strategy of deterring these crossers, placing Border Patrol agents directly on the line at regular intervals.

The Operation has proven to be tremendously effective. Apprehensions in the sector dropped significantly. In addition, the crime rate in downtown El Paso is down, and it appears that many short-term illegal crossers have been deterred from entering the United States. Traffic at the El Paso ports of entry has risen, and INS has applied law enforcement and facilitation strategies there.

At the same time, while many illegal crossers are deterred, a number of more determined crossers are shifting their routes of entry to the outskirts of El Paso. INS is responding to these shifts in traffic by adding additional agents to support outlying stations, building fences, and providing agents with sophisticated equipment and technologies to track and apprehend aliens who cross in remote regions.

Operation Gatekeeper

For years, before the Administration launched Operation Gatekeeper, the Border Patrol in San Diego fought a losing battle. The border was overridden with illegal alien traffic. Nearly 25 percent of all apprehensions along the U.S.-Mexican border took place along the 5-mile stretch between San Diego and Tijuana known as Imperial Beach. A 14-mile stretch in San Diego—which includes Imperial Beach—has historically accounted for as much as 40 percent of Southwest border apprehensions. Before Operation Gatekeeper, illegal aliens openly congregated on the U.S. side of the border while waiting for an opportunity to head north. Many areas of Imperial Beach belonged to smugglers, illegal aliens and criminals who preyed on aliens and U.S. residents alike.

San Diego has historically been a main point of entry for illegal crossers coming to the United States from the interior of Mexico. Unlike El Paso, there are fewer "commuters." The vast majority of illegal crossers are highly motivated and try repeatedly to enter. Many hire smugglers to help them evade the Border Patrol. The terrain—a combination of rugged canyons, mountains, forest areas, and mud flats, along with heavily populated communities almost directly on the border—makes the work of the Border Patrol even more difficult.

On October 1, 1994, the Attorney General announced Operation Gatekeeper, a coordinated effort by the INS, the Office of the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of California and the Executive Office of Immigration Review. Operation Gatekeeper was designed to use a multitude of tools to increase INS' enforcement capacity in San Diego and to address the specific challenges of the region.

The Clinton Administration deployed new agents, time-saving equipment, state-of-the-art technology and an effective strategy to begin to reclaim the border in San Diego. The Operation sought first to control the 5-mile area of Imperial Beach, and then to expand control eastward throughout the 66-mile Sector. This strategy has proven effective, and intensive enforcement efforts have

shifted traffic east to areas that are more remote and where the Border Patrol has more of a tactical advantage.

As traffic has shifted away from Imperial Beach, INS has continued to beef up the Border Patrol presence along the remaining 61 miles of the San Diego Sector. However, illegal immigrants have often resorted to hiring smugglers to help them evade the Border Patrol. Others attempt to enter illegally through a port of entry using a fraudulent document. In May of 1995, INS launched Operation Disruption to crack down on smugglers and close off smuggling routes. The agency has also taken steps to tighten enforcement at ports of entry in San Diego.

INS continues to fortify the entire San Diego border and will strengthen the control achieved to date with substantial new resources this fiscal year.

Operation Safeguard

Over the course of the last 2 years, as INS enhanced border security in El Paso, Texas, and San Diego, California, INS anticipated that traffic would shift to Arizona. By the end of 1994, apprehensions in Arizona had climbed 59 percent above the levels at the end of 1993.

The Department of Justice launched Operation Safeguard to enhance the security of the Arizona border. INS detailed agents to Arizona to handle the increase flow of illegal alien traffic in the area until permanent agents could arrive. The goal of the operation was to redirect illegal crossings away from urban areas near the Nogales Port of Entry to open areas that the Border Patrol can more easily control. The Border Patrol used its enhanced force to deploy agents almost directly on the line along the four critical miles of the border. The agent deployment, combined with new fencing, has allowed the Border Patrol to enhance control in this critical area in Nogales.

Bridging Enforcement Across California and Arizona

On January 16, 1996, the Clinton Administration implemented a new initiative to strengthen and link Operations Gatekeeper and Operation Safeguard. INS accelerated the deployment of new personnel and resources—including 200 detailed Border Patrol agents, 40 detailed inspectors, and 60 special agent investigators—to further deter illegal crossings into California and Arizona.

The new initiative has three critical components:

First, with the addition of new equipment and personnel in San Diego, INS will expand the area of control in San Diego from Imperial Beach to Chula Vista to the east.

Second, INS has linked Operation Gatekeeper in California with Operation Safeguard in Arizona. Through the use of checkpoints and airport monitoring, the agency is closing off routes used by illegal aliens and smugglers to evade the Border Patrol in areas of heightened enforcement. As part of this effort, the Department of Justice has strengthened its current coordination with the military as the work at the border on counter-drug enforcement activities in California and Arizona.

Third, INS has been working closely with local law enforcement and plans to formally establish a federal-local partnership to enforce federal, state and local laws along the border. Local law enforcement agencies across California and Arizona will provide the Border Patrol and immigration agents with assistance by providing transportation, security and other support. The Justice Department will reimburse local law enforce-

ment agencies for the extra assistance they provide INS in immigration enforcement.

IV. PROVIDING THE BORDER REGION WITH RESOURCES TO EFFECTIVELY CONTROL THE BORDER

Three years ago, the Border Patrol was understaffed and gravely handicapped in its ability to patrol the front line. Agents spent too much time on administrative duties, filling out paperwork by hand or on manual typewriters. Agents were often stranded because of broken-down vehicles, or left idled with radios or other equipment in need of repair. A shortage of vehicles forced agents to leave the line open during shift changes—allowing illegal crossers to enter the United States unimpeded at regular intervals during day and night. Too few roads, inadequate lighting and too little fencing in key crossing areas further hampered the work of the Border Patrol.

Over the last 3 years, the Clinton Administration has used every resource at its disposal to implement a plan that brings the highest crossed corridors in key urban areas under control. INS has deployed hundreds of new Border Patrol agents. It has provided agents with advanced technologies to catch illegal crossers and criminal aliens. Agents now have state-of-the-art equipment and vehicles. The Federal Government has built miles of roads and fences, and installed lighting to enhance effectiveness across the border. Over the course of this year, the INS will continue to strengthen the border with new agents, inspectors, vehicles and other equipment, fencing, lighting, and technology.

New Border Patrol Agents

In fiscal years 1994 and 1995, the Clinton Administration sought and received funding for a total of 1,150 new Border Patrol agents. Of these agents, more than 500 new agents have been deployed in San Diego, more than 140 in the El Paso Sector, with 510 agents going to Tucson, Del Rio, Laredo and McAllen.

In FY 1996, 800 new Border Patrol agents are targeted for assignment to the Southwest border. These enhancements will increase the size and effectiveness of the Border Patrol. In addition, 200 Border Patrol positions will be redeployed from interior locations in the United States to further strengthen the Border Patrol presence along the front lines of the Southwest border. With the new agents to be added this fiscal year, the Border Patrol force will have increased by more than 40 percent in just over 3 years.

New Land Border Inspectors

INS hired 110 new land border inspectors with FY 1995 funding and will hire 536 new inspectors for ports of entry along the Southwest border with FY 1996 funding. The additional inspectors to be added this year will increase current staffing levels by 50 percent—the most significant port of entry staffing increase in the history of the agency. These inspectors are crucial to facilitate legal traffic and commerce and to tighten enforcement at our ports of entry along the border. INS has an ambitious plan in place to facilitate legal traffic through ports of entry along our Southern and Northern borders. With new personnel and technology, INS is taking steps and piloting programs to reduce waiting times for people legally entering the United States. These steps include designated commuter lanes, an automatic entry system for pre-screened travelers, and other improvements in our processing systems. These steps will reduce the inconvenience of waiting to enter the United States at our

ports of entry without sacrificing the security of our borders.

Vehicles and Equipment

Over the past 3 years, INS has expanded the fleet of Border Patrol vehicles with the purchase of more than 1,500 new vehicles and more than 900 replacement vehicles. INS will continue to purchase two new vehicles for every three agents hired. Now, with an adequate vehicle fleet, agents can change shifts without sacrificing enforcement on the line and without creating a window of opportunity for illegal crossers.

Fencing the Roads

Over the past several years, INS, with the support of military personnel and the National Guard, has built many miles of fencing along the border to control drug trafficking, alien smuggling, crime, and illegal immigration. In San Diego, the Federal Government completed 7 miles of fencing by 1993 and, with continued construction over the last 3 years, there are now 23 miles of fencing in the Sector. In Tucson, INS has started construction on a fence project and in the Yuma, Arizona Sector, the agency has built close to 6 miles of fencing.

With continued support, INS plans to build the following new fences this year: 8 miles of fencing in the Campo Station section of the San Diego Sector; 3 miles of fencing in El Centro; 4.7 miles of fencing at the Nogales Station area in the Tucson Sector, completing a project started this past year; and 2.3 miles of fencing in El Paso—including a one-mile fence in the Anapra/Sunland Park, New Mexico area and 1.3 miles at the Roadside Park area.

INS will build roads to access the fencing and along the entire length of the fences, just as it has done in previous fence construction.

Lighting

Over the past 2 years, lighting projects in areas of San Diego have proven tremendously effective and have established the need for additional border lighting. With brightly shining lights, smugglers and illegal crossers cannot evade detection by the Border Patrol or other law enforcement personnel and it is harder for criminals to prey on victims in the dark. In 1995, the San Diego Sector installed 5 miles of lighting in the Imperial Beach Station, and other parts of the Sector have utilized portable lights pending the arrival of permanent fixtures.

This year, INS will install additional lighting in San Diego and El Paso. The key areas to be lit are those east of the San Ysidro Port of Entry stretching to the San Ysidro mountains in San Diego; the Anapra/Sunland Park, New Mexico area; and along the Franklin Canal in the El Paso Sector.

High Technology Support for Enforcement Operations

Over the past year, the Border Patrol has received state-of-the-art technologies to support the detection and apprehension of illegal crossers. Twenty-five infra-red scopes were deployed in San Diego and El Paso and 105 sensors were placed along crossing routes in San Diego, Tucson and Yuma, Arizona. The Border Patrol has also been equipped with computer equipment to speed up the time it takes to process illegal aliens—freeing up more agents for work on the line.

In addition, INS deployed a valuable new tool on the border: the IDENT system. This new technology is an automated fingerprint identification system that allows INS, for the first time, to readily identify criminal aliens, track illegal crossing patterns, and

collect recidivism data. Over the past year, this system has been deployed in parts of California, Arizona and Texas.

This year, we will make our agents even more effective with the following new equipment:

Additional sensors for every sector along the Southwest border to detect illegal traffic;

Portable radios for all new agents and new vehicles. In addition, INS will install a new radio network in San Diego to handle encrypted voice communication;

Infra-red scopes across the border, including 16 to the San Diego Sector, 5 to the San Diego repair facility, 6 to El Centro, 7 to Yuma, 10 to Tucson, 6 to El Paso, 5 to the El Paso repair facility, 6 to Marfa, 15 to Del Rio, 4 to Laredo, and 8 to McAllen;

New equipment and software for the Border Patrol's computer-assisted dispatch system in San Diego; and

The complete deployment of IDENT to each of the sectors along the Southwest border and the installation of IDENT enhancements.

V. SUMMARY: A RECORD OF PROGRESS

The Clinton Administration has made clear progress to date. Today, the border is harder to cross than at any time in history. INS is advancing each of the key objectives of the border control strategy. It has secured areas of the border where just 2 years ago aliens freely crossed with impunity. As it has closed off traditional traffic routes, forcing illegal crossers to remote regions and to use longer and more arduous routes. In short, INS is successfully raising the cost and difficulty of entering the United States illegally. Communities across the Southwest border are encouraged by the measures we have taken to date.

The work that the Clinton Administration is doing on the Southwest border is essential to restore the rule of law to the region and to begin to control the problem of immigration into the United States. However, to effectively control illegal immigration, the Federal Government must remove the magnet of illegal employment that draws illegal aliens to the United States and must also protect our citizens from criminal aliens.

This Administration is committed to fighting the problem of illegal immigration on each of these fronts. INS is working with unsurpassed commitment not just to control the border, but also to back up border enforcement efforts with the aggressive enforcement of immigration laws at the worksite, tough penalties on criminal aliens who return to the United States, and an aggressive program to remove criminal and other illegal aliens from the United States. The agency is now armed with new resources to eliminate the job magnet and restore integrity to our immigration system. The measures being taken, and the enforcement plan at work, will bring greater security to the region and to the country for years to come.

A CHRONOLOGY OF PROGRESS ON THE BORDER: 1993-1996

March 1993—14-mile Fence Completed in the San Diego Sector

The San Diego fence, built with support of the military's Joint Task Force 6, has routed illegal traffic, deterred illegal entry and forced alien and drug smugglers to use routes where the risk of apprehension is substantially higher.

October 1993—Operation Hold the Line Launched in El Paso, Texas

Operation Hold the Line employs an enhanced Border Patrol unit to engage in

linewatch operations in the metropolitan El Paso area to effectively stop illegal immigration between El Paso and Ciudad Juarez, Mexico.

October 1994—Operation Gatekeeper Launched in San Diego, California

The Department of Justice deployed new agents, added support staff to free additional agents to work on the line, and provided the San Diego Sector with new technology, including the prototype IDENT system, and equipment. INS uses these and other new resources in an aggressive new strategy to control illegal immigration into San Diego and to shift traffic to areas where crossing is more difficult and the risk of apprehension is greater.

October 1994—Operation Safeguard Launched in Arizona

Operation Safeguard utilizes a line-watching strategy, in the Nogales and Douglas areas of Arizona. As part of the Operation, and in order to channel illegal traffic to areas of enhanced Border Patrol control, INS built part of a 4.7-mile metal fence in the Nogales Station area in 1995.

January 1995—New Resources Deployed Across the Southwest Border

With new resources in FY 1995, INS announced that it would add 700 Border Patrol agents to the Southwest border to bring the on duty force to 4,400. These new agents are supported with new vehicles, equipment and technologies, and well as new roads, fences and lighting.

May 1995—Operation Disruption Launched in San Diego

With the INS border crackdown in San Diego, INS launched Operation Disruption to disrupt established alien smuggling routes and to prevent smugglers from developing new avenues for illegal entry into the United States.

June 1995—Phase II of Gatekeeper Launched in San Diego

Building on the success of Operation Gatekeeper, a second phase was launched to respond to changes in traffic patterns and to address smuggling. INS placed additional agents in East County and tightened security at ports of entry. In addition, the agency announced that it would maintain and improve checkpoints north of San Diego and a new temporary checkpoint in East County.

October 1995—Further Enhancements to Gatekeeper

Attorney General announced the detailing of agents to San Diego to beef up enforcement in East County and to reinforce Imperial Beach and other areas of San Diego. She also announced that INS penalties for fraudulent document users, new detention space to support the border crackdown, and the appointment of Alan Bersin, the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of California, to be her Special Representative for the southwest border to coordinate the work of all Justice Department agencies, harness resources from throughout the Federal Government, and work with state and local law enforcement.

December 1995—IDENT Installed in Tucson, El Paso, McAllen, Yuma

The IDENT prototype system deployment continued, expanding in areas east of San Diego and bringing the useful apprehension and analytic tool to more Border Patrol sectors along the Southwest border. By March, all nine Southwest sectors will have the IDENT prototype installed.

January 1996—Border Enhancements in California and Arizona

INS detailed 200 agents from Western, Central and Eastern regions of the United States

to sectors in California and Arizona and 100 investigators/special agents as an advance deployment of FY 1996 resources. These new agents, along with improved coordination with the military and the support of local law enforcement, will increase control and further deter illegal immigration into the United States during a period when immigration pressures from Mexico are high.

February 1996—FY 1996 resources are deployed to California, Arizona and Texas

Department of Justice announced the deployment of new resources to be directed to the Southwest border. These include the addition of 1,000 Border Patrol agents to the front line and the extension of the border strategy to gain control of additional sections of the border where there is a high level of illegal traffic—providing significant support for San Diego, Tucson, and El Paso and McAllen, Texas.

FIGHTING CRIME TO PROTECT THE AMERICAN DREAM

HON. JON CHRISTENSEN

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 1996

Mr. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, a long shadow is falling over Nebraska. Slowly, the shadow is blotting out the sunny streets and parks where children play. It's blotting out the moonlight where couples walk, carefree. It's even blotting out the warm, welcoming glow of our own houses at night.

That shadow is crime, and after many years of thinking it can't fall on us here—it has. The violence that trails gangs and drugs like a vicious dog drove homicides in Omaha to an all-time high in 1995. There were 41 killings last year in Omaha, 8 more than 1994. Omaha's police made nearly 20 percent more juvenile arrests in 1995 than in 1994. And the shadow even claimed the life of one of our brave men in blue. As Ronald Reagan once said, our police patrol "the thin blue line that holds back a jungle which threatens to reclaim this clearing we call civilization. No bands play when a cop is shooting it out in a back alley." Certainly none play when he can't even fire back.

We may have been free from the worst crime for many years, but now we must turn and face the shadow, and drive it back.

Today I want to talk about how I think we can restore safety to our streets and sanity to the system. I'm fighting hard to protect the American dream. An essential part of that dream is the freedom from fear. We must have safe streets and secure schools, and I believe that we can.

TOUGH CRIME BILLS

The fact is that moral principles—our values—underlie our criminal justice system. There's nothing wrong with these values, and we should never feel guilty about making those who violate those values pay. Theft is not some act of artistic or political expression. It is theft and it is wrong. Murder is not forbidden as a matter of subjective opinion. It is objectively evil, and we must stop it. No one but thieves and murderers benefit when we think otherwise.

I've long argued for tougher punishment for those who prey on society. Back in 1994, I

made my support for the death penalty a cornerstone of my bid for Congress. Since then, I've worked hard for tough crime legislation that made sure local law enforcement officials—and not Washington bureaucrats—decided how their funds were used.

A year ago, we in the House of Representatives passed six tough bills aimed at combating crime. For instance, the House unanimously approved the Victim Restitution Act. The bill instructs courts in Federal criminal proceedings to require convicted offenders to pay restitution to their victims. The fact that we passed the Victim Restitution Act without a single dissenting vote tells me Congress truly has changed. Nowadays, we all agree that criminals should have to pay for their misdeeds—literally.

The House also approved the Exclusionary Rule Reform Act, which would allow prosecutors in federal court to use evidence gathered by law enforcement officials acting in good faith. Today, criminals are frequently acquitted on technicalities, only because the officers investigating them unknowingly stepped over some arbitrary line. A typo on a warrant should never put a vicious criminal back on the street. This reform would help end that, while still protecting the rights of private citizens.

We passed the Effective Death Penalty Act, to limit the number of appeals of convicted felons already on death row. Currently, those on death row can file almost unlimited appeals, tying up the courts and using the appeals process to escape their sentence. We've seen that again and again in Nebraska as vicious killers like Willie Otey and John Joubert cheat justice for decades.

Fourth, the House passed the Violent Criminal Incarceration Act, which provided resources to states for prison construction and also contained truth-in-sentencing provisions intended to make convicted criminals serve more of the prison terms they are given.

Fifth, we passed the Criminal Alien Deportation Improvements Act, which strengthens our ability to deal with aliens who are convicted of serious crimes while they are in the United States. It's a shocking fact that our Federal prisons now hold more than 25 percent non-U.S. citizens. Since 1980, the number of alien inmates has skyrocketed 600 percent. Why on earth should our States pay hundreds of millions of dollars a year to incarcerate foreign drug dealers?

The House capped its action on crime prevention by passing the Local Government Law Enforcement Block Grants Act. This bill would provide resources to States and cities like Omaha for law enforcement and allows them to spend it in the most effective way for their area. It will help local police fight crime without Congress dictating from Washington the best way to do it. A program along those lines will allow Sarpy County police to go high-tech this year, putting laptops in squad cars to keep them on the beat more and at their desks less.

All but one of these bills are waiting for approval in the Senate. But I'm not going to just stand around and wait for them. I'm going to be working to bring these bills up again in a revised form that addresses the Senate's concerns. And I'm going to work to see that the

Senate brings these bills up. I believe that controlling crime is one key concern of Americans nationwide.

CHRISTENSEN PRISON REFORM BILL

Some say prisoners are overcrowded. Some say prisoners are uncomfortable. Some say prisoners are denied access to recreation.

To them I say: So?

For too long, liberal judges, slick lawyers and misguided policies have turned prisons into playhouses. To fix that, I've put together legislation that makes it clear once and for all that our prisons are not country clubs.

First, the legislation would repeal all Federal prohibitions inhibiting or prohibiting the sale or shipment of prison-made goods. Simply put, this bill would give our Federal prisons the ability to require prisoners to produce goods and services that are actually demanded by market forces, as opposed to spending time on make-work projects such as busting rocks. Profits generated by the sale of such goods and services can then go to help reduce the costs of institutionalization and victim restitution, and take some of the burden off our overtaxed families.

Moreover, the prison reform bill assesses a 25-percent levy on all prisoner wages, with 5 percent going to reimburse the prosecuting agency for the cost of prosecution; 10 percent going to victim restitution, and 10 percent to a new fund created to help to protect our officers from violent criminals, and to help the families of peace officers killed in the line of duty.

Second, the bill would institute a 48-hour-per-week work requirement for all Federal prisoners. If both parents in middle-class families are forced to work just to make ends meet, at the very least we should demand that those who have broken our laws and terrorized our families should put in an honest day's work.

Third, the Christensen bill requires Federal prisoners to study at least 12 hours per week. Part of the role of the prison is to prepare convicted criminals to reenter society. It's not their choice whether to spend that time playing cards or getting their GED. It's ours.

Fourth, the Christensen bill would prohibit the use of weight lifting equipment in Federal prisons by Federal prisoners. Why should taxpayers be forced to pay for criminals to become stronger and more deadly so that they can then prey upon our families and children upon release? Our prisons are not for recreation—they are for incarceration.

Fifth, the Christensen bill would ban the use of televisions in Federal prisons, with a narrow exception for educational purposes. So long as just one Nebraska family can't afford the luxury of cable television, then not one Federal prisoner should either. It's time we quit treating our Federal prisons like Holiday Inns.

Finally, the Christensen bill seeks an end to frivolous prison litigation. Inmates have claimed prisons have violated their rights to: Wear sunglasses; own soap on a rope; and eat off real china as opposed to paper plates.

Try finding those rights in the Constitution.

In my home State of Nebraska, inmates have sued claiming: a right to meals of his choice, complaining about soggy toast and cold hamburgers; cruel and unusual punishment because Nebraska taxpayers wouldn't

pay for a nose job; and even a right to child pornography in prison, despite the fact that the inmate was serving a sentence for first degree sexual assault on a child and manufacturing child pornography.

The bottom line is that these lawsuits are nuts, and they must stop. I believe this bill will make sure prisons are punishment, not playgrounds.

HARD TIME FOR GUN CRIMES BILL

Another bill I've been working on is H.R. 3085, the Hard Time for Gun Crimes Act.

This bill would make it clear that the problem with guns in our society is not the guns but the felons who use them for a criminal purpose. It would do so by dramatically increasing the penalties for the possessing, brandishing, or discharging a firearm during the commission of a federal felony.

For instance, under my bill, if you fire a gun during the commission of a Federal crime: If it's the first offense, you'll get 30 extra years in jail. If it's the second offense, you'll get a minimum 50 extra years in jail.

The key message is that we've had it with gun-related violence. Americans have zero tolerance for gun crime, so our justice system should too. Our families and children shouldn't be afraid to walk to school, go to the grocery store, and leave their windows open at night.

I believe firmly that gun control is not crime control. Why would someone willing to commit murder respect gun control laws? Gun control, while often well-intentioned, has simply failed. We have over 22,000 gun control laws on the books today. Yet the States with the toughest gun laws tend to have the highest crime rates, and those with the least gun laws tend to have the lowest. Controlling those who use guns in a criminal way is far more effective than cracking down on the vast majority of law-abiding citizens who own firearms for hunting and their own protection.

That's why I think we should work to keep those who would misuse guns in jail. No more slick criminal defense attorneys pushing criminals to freedom through legal loopholes. No more soft sentences after teary speeches before the bench. No more legal gymnastics setting criminals free after a fraction of their allotted time in jail.

My hard time for gun crimes bill sends a clear message: If you use a gun to commit a felony, plan on spending the next few decades behind bars—no exceptions.

WELFARE REFORM

The bills passed by the House last year and just last week are aimed at fixing our desperately broken criminal justice system. I'd like to add my measures, which will both keep criminals in jail and make jail a punishment once again. I believe that as a package, these get-tough measures will transform America's attack on crime and make it effective once again.

But before I close, I want to touch on one other major crime control initiative that I have supported from the beginning of my campaign. It may not always be presented as crime-control, but I believe strongly that it is. That initiative is welfare reform.

Over the past 30 years, the rise in violent crime parallels the rise in families abandoned by fathers. High-crime areas also overlap with concentrations of broken families. One study

indicated that a 10-percent increase in the percentage of children living in single-parent households leads typically to a 17-percent increase in juvenile crime. According to policy analyst Patrick Fagan, "In high-crime inner-city neighborhoods, well over 90 percent of children from safe, stable homes do not become delinquents. By contrast, only 10 percent of children from unsafe, unstable homes in these neighborhoods avoid crime."

And it is where welfare is most prevalent that families break up. If family break-up causes crime, and welfare causes family break-up, why do we keep kiting checks to destroy our most vulnerable communities? Reforming welfare is not just a matter of saving money—it is a matter of fighting crime. Reforming welfare is a moral imperative for those who care about our children's safety.

Last year we worked hard to end welfare as we know it, to spring our Nation's most vulnerable members from the trap of dependency, sloth, and moral decay. The Personal Responsibility Act, as it was called, was a revolutionary proposal that delivered the true, tough welfare reform Americans have been demanding for so long. In spite of cries to the contrary, this legislation will improve the lives of the disadvantaged children trapped in today's collapsed welfare pit. Welfare reform will, over time, begin to heal the diseased underbelly of society. And as it does, I deeply believe the cancer of crime will begin to recede.

The current welfare system is a cause, not a cure, of the ills afflicting inner-city America. Nothing could be more cruel to our Nation's children than a system which lures their parents into dependency, traps them in broke down public housing, and subsidizes failure, illegitimacy, and substance abuse. This system is hurting the very disadvantaged children it was intended to help—and turning ever more of them to a life of crime.

The current welfare state fuels crime by paying poor people to break up their families, use drugs and alcohol, and abandon their re-

sponsibility for their own lives. Over half of the 5 million families on welfare remain trapped on it for 10 years or more.

The Personal Responsibility Act I supported would end welfare as a way of life, both by requiring recipients to work for benefits after 2 years, and by cutting off welfare altogether after 5 years. The measure would get even tougher with faceless Washington bureaucrats. It eliminated their bloated headquarters, turning the resources over to States to design programs that work at the local level. I want to make sure our money is used in Nebraska where it's needed, not Washington where all too often it's wasted. That way the resources can be used to lift families out of poverty, instead of anchoring them in it. The seemingly hopeless, pointless communities blasted by the top-down welfare state breed crime, and true welfare reform would allow Nebraska to heal those communities. We could save children not just from poverty, but from depravity.

Moving to an opportunity society rather than a welfare state will favor families over illegitimacy, local control over Federal centralization, and responsibility over dependence. And, ultimately, it will fight crime by giving our poorest, most disillusioned children hope rather than handouts. The best way to fight crime is to have fewer children becoming criminals.

Those who truly care about our safety—as well as our disadvantaged—should come together to reform the failed Federal welfare state. I'll continue working hard to see that that gets done.

CONCLUSION

I believe that the new Congress and I have brought true change to Washington. I've worked hard to balance the budget for the first time in a generation to put the Nation back on track, just as I said I would. I've worked hard to clean up our broken court system, to stop the blight of runaway lawyers and rampant lawsuits crippling our Nation, just as I said I would. I've worked hard as your representative

on the tax-writing Ways and Means Committee to reduce the burden on hard-working Americans and job-creating businesses to restore the upward climb of our families and workplaces, just as I said I would. And I've tried always to keep my word, to restore the bonds of trust that make a democracy work—just as I said I would.

This fight to bring Nebraska's values to Washington is well on its way. The day will come when the occupant of 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue will have the courage to sign a balanced budget, welfare reform, and tax relief—and to keep his promises. But to restore the American dream for us and our children, none of this will be enough. What does a balanced Federal budget matter if Nebraska's children can't play in the streets? What consolation is the restoration of a good income to a woman who's lost her husband at the hands of a violent criminal? What do good jobs and opportunity matter if people are barricaded in their houses?

That's why we need to come together as Americans to fight this shadow off. Men and women of all ideologies, all races, and all creeds agree that the shadow of crime has frightened our children long enough. I say those who care should work now—today—to restore our streets to safety. We should work now—today—to knit up our Nation's fraying social fabric. We should work now—today—to stop coddling criminals and start crushing them.

I'm confident my colleagues will join me in this hard work, because it is hard work. And I also know that many Americans on the front lines of this battle are working far more effectively and bravely than any of us could to combat crime. But until more and more of our families live free from fear, and less and less of our children cry themselves to sleep, I also promise you this: No one will outwork JON CHRISTENSEN.