

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT NUTRITION PROGRAMS

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 1997

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the Older Americans Act nutrition programs on the occasion of their 25th anniversary.

On March 22, 1972, President Richard Nixon signed into law the National Nutritional Program for the Elderly. This legislation added one of the most important components of the Older Americans Act.

Over the years, countless numbers of our Nation's senior citizens have benefited from the nutritional services provided through the Older Americans Act.

For homebound seniors, the program provides nutritional assistance which allows them to remain independent in their homes. In addition, in some instances, it can actually save their lives. In my congressional district, for instance, one elderly constituent of mine had become ill. They were unable to respond to the individual delivering their meal. The individual delivering the meal, concerned about the well-being of the client, contacted local authorities, who were able to bring needed medical attention to the homebound senior.

Meals served under the Older Americans Act are also served in congregate settings, including senior centers and senior day care facilities. In these instances, the individual not only receives a nutritious meal but has an opportunity to socialize with their peers.

Studies have shown these nutrition programs to be beneficial to program participants. For example, older individuals receiving benefits through the Older Americans Act programs tend to have better nutrition than similarly situated older individuals who do not participate in these programs.

Mr. Speaker, in 1995, these programs provided 123,000,000 meals to approximately 2,500,000 older individuals in congregate settings and 119,000,000 meals to 989,000 homebound older persons. They have performed a tremendous service in allowing our Nations' senior citizens to live longer, healthier lives and they deserve our support.

I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the first nutrition program for the elderly under the Older Americans Act.

HONORING THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT NUTRITION PROGRAMS

HON. FRANK RIGGS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 1997

Mr. RIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to commend the Older Americans Act nutrition programs for 25 years of providing nutritious meals to senior citizens.

Saturday, March 22, 1997, marks the 25th anniversary of the signing of the law authorizing the nutrition programs under the Older Americans Act.

While nutrition assistance is but one of many services provided to senior citizens through the Older Americans Act, it is one of the most successful in helping senior citizens live long, healthy, productive lives.

Without this nutrition assistance, many seniors would be forced out of their homes and into nursing homes. For senior citizens no longer able to prepare meals in their home, the in-home meals program, often known as Meals on Wheels, assures they receive nutritional meals. Coupled with other in-home services, this program allows seniors to remain in their local community with friends and family and not be forced prematurely into a nursing home setting.

For senior citizens who are not homebound, the congregate meals program offers them meals in a setting with other seniors, allowing them to socialize with other seniors and participate in a variety of other activities.

I am certain the millions of senior citizens that benefit from these programs each year join me in paying tribute to this successful program. The fact that they voluntarily contribute to the cost of their meals is a sure sign that the program is providing them with meals that are not only healthy and nutritious, but appealing as well.

Because of the importance of these programs that serve our Nation's elderly, I am particularly looking forward to working on the authorization of the Older Americans Act this year. It is my intent to pass legislation that improves services to seniors and helps them live fuller, more active lives. We want to improve services by making sure that funds are being sent where they are needed the most, by increasing flexibility for State and local programs and by helping to improve the quality of all programs under the act. These vital programs help keep many of our Nation's seniors healthy and strong and I look forward to working with my colleagues on this issue.

TRIBUTE TO COL. NORMAN S. BRINSLEY ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. THOMAS W. EWING

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 1997

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to a distinguished and dedicated military officer who has served this Nation with great honor and distinction. Col. Norman S. Brinsley will retire on April 4, 1997, after 30 years of commissioned service in the U.S. Army and Army Reserve. His career accomplishments reflect the type of military leader this Nation has depended upon in times of both peace and war. Today I would like to take a few minutes to highlight Colonel Brinsley's career.

Col. Norman S. Brinsley's distinguished career in the U.S. Army and Army Reserve has spanned more than three decades. He enlisted in the Army in May of 1966, during which he attended the Infantry Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, GA. After earning a commission as a second lieutenant, Colonel Brinsley attended the infantry school's basic Airborne course to learn the fine art of Army parachuting.

Colonel Brinsley served three tours in Vietnam in a variety of assignments. He served in operations and logistics with the 7th Special Forces Group as well as in logistics and administration with the 5th Special Forces Group. He commanded Company E, 4th Battalion, 503d Infantry, with the 173d Airborne Brigade. Colonel Brinsley returned to the 5th Special Forces Group where he was plans officer. His last assignment in Vietnam was as assistant logistics officer with U.S. Army Republic of Vietnam, Special Mission Advisory Group.

Colonel Brinsley became a drilling Army reservist in September of 1971 and held a number of positions of increasing responsibility for 12 years in the 3220th U.S. Army Garrison, the 81st U.S. Army Reserve Command and the 12th Special Forces Group. His final assignment as a drilling reservist was as a manpower analyst and Chief of Force Development and Modernization with the 86th U.S. Army Reserve Command in Chicago, IL.

Colonel Brinsley entered the Active/Guard Reserve [AGR] program in 1984 and has held demanding positions in resource management, internal review, and Reserve component support. He was assigned to the 22d Support Command in Saudi Arabia during both Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Upon his return from the Persian Gulf, he assumed command of the Army Reserve Readiness Training Center of Fort McCoy, WI. Colonel Brinsley was later selected as the deputy commander of the Army Reserve Personnel Center in St. Louis and later became the commander.

● 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.

During his distinguished career, Colonel Brinsley has been a highly decorated officer. His awards include the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star with three oak leaf clusters, the Vietnam Service Medal and seven bronze service stars, the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Master Parachutist Badge and the Special Forces Tab.

Service and dedication to duty have been hallmarks of Colonel Brinsley's career. He has served this country with reliability, distinction, spirit of dedication, devotion to duty, and the unflinching bravery that is the legacy of this Nation and its people. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to present the distinguished credentials of Col. Norman S. Brinsley before the Congress today.

**TAX CREDIT FOR HISTORIC HOME
REHABILITATION AND COMMUNITY
REVITALIZATION**

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 1997

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, today I join Representatives SHAW and KENNELLY in cosponsoring legislation that would provide a tax credit for the rehabilitation of a historic home. This legislation would help those who rehabilitate or purchase a newly rehabilitated home and occupy it as a principle residence.

This tax credit would provide an incentive for the revitalization of many neighborhoods by promoting economic stability and home ownership. I represent the city of Springfield which has many older communities which would benefit greatly from this bill. The city of Springfield and its surrounding communities have many beautiful older historic homes and this tax credit provides a great opportunity for individuals to restore and live in these houses.

The credit is capped at \$50,000 and it would be for 20 percent of qualified rehabilitation expenditures. The credit is not based on the individual's income. However, the property must be used as a taxpayer's principle residence.

Single-family and multifamily homes would qualify for the credit. A developer may rehabilitate a qualifying property for sale and pass the credit through to the home buyer. Properties eligible for the credit are those listed individually on the National Register of Historic Places or on a State or local register, as well as contributing buildings in national, State, and local historic districts.

This tax credit is essential for revitalizing historic districts of our older cities. We have many beautiful homes and neighborhoods in our older cities and we should do everything possible to preserve their unique beauty. This tax credit helps preserve our history. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

**JAMES F. COSGROVE, VOICE OF
DEMOCRACY CONTEST WINNER**

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 1997

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to call the attention of the House to the work of James F. Cosgrove of Wilmington, DE. James is Delaware's State winner of the Veterans of Foreign War's Voice of Democracy scriptwriting contest and has received a \$1,500 Edward A. Nardi Scholarship award. I congratulate James, his family, and VFW Post 3257 and its Ladies Auxiliary in Wilmington, DE for sponsoring this excellent program.

As my colleagues know, the VFW has sponsored the Voice of Democracy Competition for 50 years to promote patriotic and civic responsibility among our young people and to help them attend college through the scholarship awards. The competition requires students to write and record a 3- to 5-minute essay on a patriotic theme. This year, over 109,000 students participated in the contest on the theme: "Democracy—Above and Beyond." I am very proud to share with the House James' excellent essay on the need for young people to become actively involved in making our country a better place to live.

Again, congratulations to James, the Cosgrove family, and the members of VFW Post 3257 and their ladies Auxiliary for their fine work.

DEMOCRACY—ABOVE AND BEYOND

1996-97 VFW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

(By Delaware winner James Cosgrove)

The phone rang. The caller quickly told me to turn on CNN. Although confused, I turned on the television. I was soon shocked to hear what Wolf Blitzer had to report. The United States of America, under the direction of President Bush, had attacked the Iraqi capital of Baghdad.

As the initial shock subsided, a dread thought invaded my mind. Would my father be sent to fight as well? At that time my father was a Lieutenant Commander in the Navy stationed at Camp Pendleton, California. If the fighting continued, he too would be among the masses of Marines being deployed from the base.

The war raged on and the weeks passed. An air of tension enveloped our household since that first day in January when the telephone rang. We were anxious about what was to become of our father. As the war continued, I became increasingly frustrated with my government. They were endangering the life of my father on behalf of Kuwait, a country that I had not heard of in the six years I had been attending elementary school. For me, each day of stressful waiting increased my level of disenchantment.

A few months later, the phone rang a second time. It was my father's commanding officer, informing my dad that he was scheduled to join the next shipment of Marines as a member of the medical corps. The will was written. The bags were packed. The family was morbid. At first I wanted to cry as my mother so often did. I decided instead to follow the example of my father's serene confidence and sense of duty. His air of determination comforted me and gave me hope that he would emerge from the Gulf un-

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scathed. It was then that I realized what sets our nation apart from all other nations.

The American people are what establishes our system of government above and beyond all other forms of government. People who vote. People who own their own businesses. People who feel such a strong devotion to their country that they would be willing to lay down their lives for it. People like my father. The system of democracy places the power to pass laws, support the economy, and protect the country in the hands of the people. This trust, an essential element of democracy, is what truly makes our government excel. Everyone can flourish in an environment where they receive the respect, trust and power necessary to make their government "by the people and for the people." Such is the case of the United States of America!

Thankfully my father was not deployed overseas. Instead, he was assigned to a state-side medical facility. As a sixth grader, I was not conscious of the fact that the democracy in which I lived was the model government. I was not able to comprehend that the freedom and individual rights that I experienced were not present in other countries. Greed and corruption may infest other governments but for 220 years have not been able to control democratic America. Americans should feel pride in being the key ingredient in a recipe that has produced the greatest nation in the world! A nation governed by a philosophy that is above and beyond that of all other nations.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF HICKMAN COUNTY LADY 'DAWGS 1996-97 CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM

HON. ED BRYANT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 1997

Mr. BRYANT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the 1997 Double AA State Champions for Tennessee girls high school basketball. The Hickman County Lady Bulldogs finished their season with a record of 32-4, an impressive mark by any standard.

The achievement of any team rests in the genius of those who guide its players and point them down the pathway of success. Coach Barry Wortman, assistant coaches Misty Shelton and Aaron Taylor, team manager Rocky Stinson, and team trainers Mark Buck and Brian Johnson, are to be commended for their hard work and love of the game of basketball, as well as for their devotion to the girls who brought them and all of Hickman County this distinctive honor.

Among other accomplished athletes, this year's Lady 'Dawgs team included All-State players Becky Myatt and Talisha Scates. In fact Becky Myatt's athleticism and mastery of the game of basketball landed her with perhaps the most prestigious award any high school player can earn, Athlete of the Year. In addition to the achievement of Myatt and Scates, Jennifer Dick and Emily Vincent earned All-Tournament honors. And Amanda Judd was an All-State Tournament Award winner as well.

Rounding out the roster of this middle Tennessee girls high school basketball powerhouse were Eugenia McClain, Cassidy Jenkins, Brandi Jimerson, Heidi McDonald, Jenny

Powers, Racheal Buchanan, and Brandy Martin. Without these players, the Lady 'Dawgs surely would not have been quite the exceptional team they went on to be.

As Hickman County's representative in Congress, I am proud to see its residents and communities enjoy this well deserved recognition. The 1996-97 Lady 'Dawgs have left a legacy which will be remembered next year and many years to come in Hickman County and throughout Tennessee. To the future Lady 'Dawgs teams, I wish you well in your endeavors to carry forward with the championship and winning traditions of Hickman County High School. Congratulations.

HONORING LARRY WENNLUND

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 1997

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the work and dedication of a great statesman, Representative Larry Wennlund, after 11 years of public service to the people of Illinois and the residents of the 38th District.

Representative Wennlund has been a lifelong resident of New Lenox, IL, and received a bachelor of arts from the University of Illinois at Champaign, and a juris doctor from the John Marshall Law School in Chicago, IL.

Representative Wennlund has been an active member and leader of his community as a member of: Trinity Lutheran Church, the New Lenox Lions Club, the New Lenox Chamber of Commerce and as a member of the New Lenox Grade School Board of Education.

Representative Wennlund remains a leader in his growing community as an advocate for building a strong transportation network, economic development for the area, reforming the Juvenile Justice system, welfare-to-work initiatives and real property tax reform.

Representative Larry Wennlund has also been honored for his talents and accomplishments by being selected from among his peers to serve as a member of the Republican Leadership Team. Representative Larry Wennlund is an honorable man, worthy of praise for his many years of service, leadership and accomplishments for the people of his district.

FREEDOM AND PROSPERITY FOR THE CNMI

HON. TOM DELAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 1997

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, last week, joined by my colleague and friend PHIL CRANE, the chairman of the Trade Subcommittee, I had the pleasure of meeting Gov. Froilan Tenorio of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands [CNMI]. Governor Tenorio has embarked on a bold course to promote economic and political liberty in the CNMI. The brave men and women who died for freedom at the battle of Saipan would be proud to

know that Governor Tenorio has been a true champion of freedom in the Western Pacific.

Governor Tenorio recognizes that the market, and not the government, is the engine of job creation. Governor Tenorio has pushed forward with a program of privatization, fiscal restraint, and lower taxes for his people. Governor Tenorio did not come to Washington looking for taxpayer benefits, welfare, or hand-outs. He came to promote his market reforms. Mr. Speaker, Governor Tenorio deserves our support.

During his administration, Governor Tenorio has actively pursued and courted businesses around the globe to open shop in the CNMI. Like President Reagan in the 1980's, Tenorio has kept taxes low. Low tax rates have actually increased productivity, which in turn, increased revenue for the government of the CNMI. Additionally, the Governor has recognized the importance of trade and has demonstrated how trade with Asian markets can bring prosperity.

The economic changes that have taken place in the CNMI have been nothing short of miraculous. In 1970 most roads were unpaved and most homes lacked running water. There were 55 licensed businesses on the islands, with combined assets of \$2 million. There was one bank and one credit union. Then the island tried free markets.

CNMI dropped laws common elsewhere in Micronesia that restricted foreign investment. It reduced the regulatory burden on business. The island also reformed its punitive tax system. The result has been economic growth. As Peter Ferrara of Americans for Tax Reform said, "Once a dismal outpost of failed state socialism, the islands have now been thoroughly integrated in the dynamic economy of the Pacific Rim."

The number of businesses on the islands has grown from 55 to 5,000. Gross business revenue rose from \$244.4 million in 1986 to \$1.477 billion in 1994. Only 1,056 people were employed in 1970, most by the government. Twenty years later, 25,965 people were working, 22,795 of them for the private sector. Unemployment has fallen from 15 percent to 4 percent since 1980.

The pro-growth economic policies of the CNMI have been in stark contrast to the experiences of other American territories in the Pacific, such as Guam and American Samoa. The unemployment rate in Samoa is close to 16 percent. The government is the most important provider of jobs in the American Samoa and, as of 1989, nearly 60 percent of the residents had incomes below the poverty lines. In Guam, where the local economy has benefited from United States military presence on the island, but the unemployment rate remains higher than in the CNMI.

The Governor's efforts have not come without criticism by some who believe that Washington knows better how to create jobs for the people of the islands than the people of the CNMI themselves. Rep GEORGE MILLER of California believes that Washington should impose the Federal minimum wage on the people of the CNMI. Make no mistake about it, passage of that bill would kill jobs, growth, and opportunity.

Most Members of Congress recognize that a higher minimum wage would result in a with-

drawal of industry from the islands and widespread unemployment. Factories would move from the CNMI to other Pacific outposts that were not burdened by Washington wage controls.

Instead of trying to impose redtape and mandates on the people of the CNMI, we should look to the CNMI as a model of reform. Like the CNMI, Washington should provide tax relief for the American people. We should recognize that pro-business policies create jobs. And we should recognize that free trade creates prosperity. The CNMI is proof positive that these policies work.

While we shouldn't impose Washington mandates on the CNMI, we should also allow the people of the island more control over their own lands. Governor Tenorio described to Mr. CRANE and me the trouble the people of Tinian are having with unreasonable Federal control of their land. Governor Tenorio asked us to look into assisting the people of Tinian with opening up more of their land for development and use in accordance with their cultural and economic interests. Congressman CRANE and I hope to become active in bringing a positive resolution to this matter and other areas where we can help the people of the CNMI.

The CNMI is on the right track. Their Pacific neighbors should view the economic policies on the CNMI as a model. Washington should also acknowledge that Governor Tenorio's policies are on the right track. Let's not nip job creation and economic reform in the bud with ill-conceived Washington knows best legislation. It's time that we recognize and respect the impressive progress that this group of American citizens halfway around the world has achieved.

FREE SPEECH ON THE INTERNET

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 1997

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the efforts of citizens everywhere to protect free speech on the Internet.

Today, the Supreme Court heard arguments to determine the constitutionality of the Communications Decency Act [CDA], which criminalizes certain speech on the Internet.

It is because of the hard work and dedication to free speech by netizens everywhere that this issue has gained the attention of the public, and now, our Nation's highest court.

I have maintained from the very beginning that the CDA is unconstitutional, and I eagerly await the Supreme Court's decision on this case.

I was one of the few Members of this body to vote against the Telecommunications Act, in large part, due to the CDA provision that imposes unacceptable limits on free speech.

While the stated intent of this provision is to limit minors' access to indecent material, in fact, its effect will be much farther reaching. This so-called decency language will dangerously constrain electronic free speech. I still believe that it is the cyberspace equivalent to book burning.

When this bill first became law, I turned my web page black to protest this dangerous assault on free speech. I have been working actively to overturn the CDA ever since. I received thousands of e-mail messages from around the world from people concerned with the threat to free speech imposed by the CDA. I pledged to join with concerned citizens all across the country to fight the CDA in Congress, in the courts, and in the chat rooms and online forums of the Internet itself. And we have. We won in Philadelphia, we won in New York, and we are now poised to win in the Supreme Court of the United States. We promised not to give up the fight, and to continue our efforts to keep the Internet free, and we have done just that.

Now this case is finally before the Supreme Court. Soon we will learn of the outcome of our efforts. Have we successfully challenged this unjust act? Will the Supreme Court uphold the lower court's ruling which struck down the CDA? Will the Justices join the choir of voices who have declared this bill an indecent assault on American liberty? I believe they will.

I believe they will recognize what the lower courts have already determined, that "as the most participatory form of mass speech yet developed, the Internet deserves the highest protection from governmental intrusion," that the CDA is unconstitutional, and that it dangerously constrains electronic free speech.

I applaud everyone who has taken action to support the first amendment, and who has spoken out against this bill to ensure that future generations are able to enjoy the same rights and liberties on the Internet that we have enjoyed in other arenas of expression for the past two centuries.

SECURITY

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 1997

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, March 19, 1997 into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

GOVERNMENT SECRECY

For many years during the Cold War, the United States took extraordinary steps to restrict the access of American citizens to national security information. By limiting certain information only to government officials specially cleared to see it, we tried to keep it out of the hands of our adversaries. This system of protecting information helped keep us more secure.

But the end of the Cold War has given us an opportunity to reassess the role and costs of government secrecy. Certainly restricting access to military plans and weapon designs made sense, but in many ways too much information was kept secret, with even the menu for a dinner party hosted by a U.S. official once classified. I have come to the view that it is an urgent national priority to reform the government's existing system of secrecy. We must bring the system for classifying, safeguarding, and declassifying national security information into line with our view of American democracy and the threats it faces in the post-Cold War world.

SECURITY IN GOVERNMENT TODAY

It is remarkable that Congress has never passed a law specifically setting up the process governing secrecy. Since 1947, decisions on what information should be kept secret have been governed entirely by presidential executive orders. The President relies on his constitutional authority for conducting foreign policy and protecting national security to issue such orders, but there are no laws that tell the President how to classify anything.

Under the current system, tens of thousands of U.S. officials are authorized to classify information. Every year they stamp "secret" on several million new documents. Warehouses now hold an astonishing 1.5 billion pages of classified documents that are more than 25 years old, but only a few hundred officials are assigned to review these documents for declassification. The backlog of secret documents grows year after year.

PROBLEMS OF EXCESSIVE SECRECY

All of us recognize that in a dangerous world some secrecy is vital to save lives, to protect national security, to engage in effective diplomacy, and to bring criminals to justice. But we should also understand the immense costs of secrecy. Government agencies and private firms spend \$5-6 billion annually to manage and protect classified material. Reviewing older documents for declassification is time-consuming and expensive.

Excessive secrecy cripples debate in a free society. Policymakers are not fully informed and government is not held accountable for its actions. Too often I have had the impression that information has been made secret not to protect national security, but to protect officials and their policy decisions from public inquiry.

Information and open debate are the lifeblood of democracy. Surely one of the keys to a successful democracy is to assure that the people are adequately informed about the issues of the day. Openness and publicity may cause some inconvenience, perhaps even some losses from time to time, but I believe openness and accountability will greatly increase the chances that we will avoid major mistakes.

I also believe that a culture of secrecy threatens our capacity to keep secrets that must be kept. As former Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart said, "When everything is classified then nothing is classified." If we have too much secrecy, we cannot focus enough on protecting the truly important secrets. Secrecy can best be preserved when the credibility of the system is assured.

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE

The key then is to strike an appropriate balance. We need to reduce sharply the level of secrecy within our government and make available to the American people millions of documents that have been maintained in secrecy. On the other hand, we want to safeguard better the information necessary to protect our nation and our citizens, information that is critical to the pursuit of our national security. Such a classification system should protect our national security in a reasonable and cost-effective manner.

President Clinton has taken some useful steps to try to reduce government secrecy. He shortened the number of years that most documents may remain secret and gave agencies five years to declassify most documents in their possession that are older than 25 years. The President also ordered the release of millions of World War II-era documents. Unfortunately, there has been resistance to the President's reforms. Some agen-

cies have been slow to adopt new classification procedures, and several are behind schedule on meeting the five-year declassification target.

During the past two years I have served on a twelve-member commission on government secrecy made up of private citizens, Executive Branch officials, and Members of Congress. The commission concluded that current policies have encouraged secrecy, and we made several recommendations to improve the classification process.

First, we need to pass a law establishing broad standards for appropriate classification and declassification. A statute would give the secrecy system greater stability and inspire greater respect than the numerous presidential executive orders issued since World War II. Second, we should create a Declassification Center within the National Archives. It would declassify documents under the guidance of national security agencies, and should eventually be able to declassify more documents, at a lower cost, than individual agencies can today. Third, officials who classify documents should be specially trained to weigh the benefits of public access against the need to protect a particular piece of information, and they should provide a written justification when information is classified for the first time. Fourth, to strengthen individual accountability, officials should be required to identify themselves by name on the documents they classify, and classification should be a regular part of job performance evaluations. Finally, a single Executive Branch agency should be put in charge of coordinating classification policies governmentwide. This agency must have the authority to demand compliance with Administration policies.

CONCLUSION

The Cold War has ended, and so has the justification for a vast array of secrets whose very existence is contrary to free and open government. It is time for a new way of thinking about secrecy. The best way to ensure that secrecy is respected is for secrecy to be returned to a limited but necessary role. We will better protect necessary secrets, and our democracy, if secrecy is reduced overall.

HIGH SCHOOL CHEERLEADING CHAMPIONS

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 1997

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, as we are in the middle of what is known as March Madness, all eyes are focused on the basketball arenas of America. An integral part of what makes the game so much fun and adds to the fans' excitement are the cheerleaders. These young men and women who exhort the crowd to support their team add much to the pageantry of college basketball and, for that matter, all sports.

We are particularly mindful of the contributions that cheerleaders make to the enjoyment of all types of sports these days because the Sixth District of North Carolina is the home of the 1996-97 North Carolina high school cheerleading champions. Southwestern Randolph High School [SWRHS] near Asheboro, NC, last month captured the State 2-A

cheerleading championship. This championship is all the more special because it came in the final year of Coach LuEllen Loflin's tremendous career at SWRHS. Led by Loflin, the Cougars have won North Carolina's 2-A cheerleading championship 5 of the past 6 years and 6 of the past 8.

As written in the Asheboro Courier-Tribune: For the past 15 years, Loflin has been involved as the coach of the varsity cheerleaders, a span of time which has seen cheerleading evolve from a group of girls who jump up during sporting events to a group of skilled athletes who spend hundreds of hours each year perfecting dance routines loaded with acrobatics and precision maneuvers.

Members of her squad told the Courier-Tribune that Coach Loflin will be missed. "She's a pillar of support and confidence and love and friendship and all those wonderful adjectives," senior cocaptain Christine Cople told the Asheboro newspaper. "She's one of us," fellow cocaptain Lisa Sizemore told the Courier-Tribune about Coach Loflin. "We can all go to her and talk about anything. She's a second mother to us. Without her, we wouldn't be where we are today." Darian Walker, the lone male on the team, was pleased to capture another trophy for a great coach. "To come back and win it one more time before Miss Loflin left was really great," Walker said. "It was one of the best feelings I ever had."

In addition to Cople, Sizemore, and Walker, every member of the Cougar cheerleading squad is to be congratulated for a championship season, including senior captain Melissa Pritchard, and fellow seniors Nicki McKensie, Stephanie Stone, and Amy Sykes; juniors Sara Knapp and Alicia Miller; sophomores Katie Cople, Misty Cox, Ann Culpepper, and Jamie Parrish; and freshmen Kelly Bryant and Marie Nance.

After 15 years of dedicated service to SWRHS, LuEllen Loflin will step down as coach of the cheerleading squad. She leaves a tremendous legacy of achievement. On behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, we congratulate Coach Loflin and the Southwestern Randolph Cougars for winning the 2-A high school cheerleading championship.

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY, 176 YEARS OF FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY

SPEECH OF

HON. HERBERT H. BATEMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 1997

Mr. BATEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join my colleagues today in recognizing the 176th anniversary of the beginning of the revolution that freed the Greeks from the subjugation of Ottoman rule.

On March 25, 1821, Greek patriots began their long struggle for freedom and for independence from the Ottoman Empire. However, the arduous journey to democracy did not end with achievement of independence of 1829. During World War II, the Greeks fought courageously and suffered severe casualties in their

tireless efforts to fend off Nazi armies. There were forced to fight once again in the 1940's in order to turn back the forces of communism, a resistance in which we were proud to extend a hand. Although the years since have been marked by hardships and sacrifice, the people of Greece have shown their resolve, courage, and fortitude. Their dedication to freedom has demonstrated itself in the ultimate success of democracy in modern-day Greece.

We cannot discount our indebtedness to Greece and her people. Western art, architecture, literature, and philosophy all stem from the achievements of the ancient Greeks. Without question, the Greek people have left an indelible impression on world history. But, of all the contributions Greeks have made toward the betterment of mankind, I believe their greatest contribution to be the ideal of democracy. It is fitting that we, the United States of America, should have founded the wellspring of our Nation's laws and ideals in the democratic traditions of Athens and other Greek city-states. And, it was indeed appropriate that during the Greek war for independence, they looked to our Declaration of Independence to guide them in their struggle to rediscover democracy.

In closing, I would like to note that no nation has contributed more to modern Western civilization than Greece, and no nation has had to struggle harder or more often to preserve its liberties. In recognition of all that Greece means to the world, and in tribute to its patriots throughout the centuries, we salute our friends in Greece—and our many Greek-American citizens—on this day of independence.

LA PROGRESIVA PRESBYTERIAN SCHOOL TWENTY-FIFTH YEAR ANNIVERSARY

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 1997

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize La Progresiva Presbyterian School for its 25th school year anniversary.

The Presbyterian school, La Progresiva, was founded in Cardenas, Cuba by a North American missionary named Dr. Robert L. Wharton on the 11th of November, 1900. On that day, La Progresiva opened its doors with only 14 students and with the reading of the first book of Corinthians chapter.

The school developed into one of the finest educational establishments of Cuba, expanding its facilities to accommodate the increasing enrollment of students. Its growing reputation as a fine center of learning, however, was put to a stop in 1961 with the arrival of communism in the island.

Communism was able to put an end to the material aspect of La Progresiva in Cardenas, but it could never destroy the spirit and ideals which still remained alive. So in September 1971, with the help of the First Spanish Presbyterian Church of Miami and the alumni of the old La Progresiva, the new Progresiva opened its doors. It started with humble begin-

nings in much the same way its predecessor had.

Like the old school, this new one grew in popularity and as a result of the increasing demand for enrollment, La Progresiva added another wing to its main building in 1978. The school continued its expansion adding more classrooms to accommodate the demand for admittance into the school. Along with growing in educational capacity, La Progresiva also bettered itself in the athletic department, improving over the years in its sports and, presently, plans are being discussed for a gymnasium.

The Progresiva spirit has prevailed through the years to produce a center of learning which will stand long into the future and one which makes all "Progresivistas" proud.

On this, La Progresiva's 25th school year anniversary, the school's motto is stronger than ever: "Una Vez de La Progresiva, Siempre de La Progresiva."

RURAL ROADS FUNDING

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 1997

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, anticipating this year's reauthorization of the 1991 Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act [ISTEA], I am introducing legislation today that will provide rural area roads eligibility for a small percentage of funding under the Surface Transportation Program [STP].

The intent of ISTEA's STP initiative was to provide greater flexibility to State and local authorities for transportation needs by providing States with block grant-type authority. However, ISTEA regulations prohibit roads classified as local or rural minor collectors from receiving Federal-aid highway funding. Since most roads in rural areas fall under this classification, they are not eligible for funding and remain in severe disrepair.

Under ISTEA's current STP distribution formula, States are required to set aside 10 percent of their STP funds for safety programs and 10 percent for transportation enhancement programs. The remaining 80 percent of STP funding goes into a general purposes fund, with a remaining distribution account receiving 50 percent, and a statewide distribution account receiving 30 percent.

Under the remaining distribution account, funding is provided to areas over 200,000 population, while only a minimal level of funding is provided to rural areas under 5,000 population based on a fiscal year 1991 funding level. Unfortunately, congressional attempts to provide State flexibility do not ensure adequate and equitable distribution of Federal assistance to rural area roads. Moreover, roads functionally classified as local or rural minor collectors are not currently eligible for the rural areas under 5,000 population funding and, since most rural roads fall under these two classifications, they are ineligible for Federal assistance.

My legislation would allow roads functionally classified as local or rural minor collectors eligibility for STP funds under the existing special account for areas under 5,000 population

only. My legislation would not amend the road classification system. Rather, it would only modify 23 U.S.C. 133(c) to allow roads functionally classified as local and rural minor collectors STP funding eligibility under the areas under 5,000 population account 23 U.S.C. 133(d)(3)(B).

In addition, my legislation provides that of the 50 percent to be obligated under the remaining distribution account, at least 20 percent, or the existing minimum requirement, whichever is greater, should go to the rural areas under 5,000 population account. Finally, my legislation would amend the statewide planning process by requiring States to also consider the transportation needs of rural areas, including local and rural minor collectors.

I urge my colleagues to support this necessary legislation as it will provide the flexibility ISTEA was intended to produce and will greatly improve our roadway system by allowing local and rural communities the opportunity to decide which roads should be repaired.

EXTENDING EFFECTIVE DATE OF INVESTMENT ADVISERS SUPERVISION COORDINATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 1997

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, this legislation will provide an extension of 90 days to the effective date of title III of the National Securities Markets Improvement Act of 1996.

The extension of the effective date, which was requested by Securities and Exchange Commission Chairman Arthur Levitt, will help ensure the orderly implementation of the important changes that will be effected by the Investment Advisers Supervision Coordination Act, which is title III of the Improvement Act. I strongly support this responsible request. The Institute of Certified Financial Planners, which represents many of the investment advisers who will be affected by the Improvement Act, also supports the extension of the effective date of title III. I include for the RECORD copies of Chairman Levitt's letter to Chairman BLILEY, as well as a letter from the Institute of Certified Financial Planners to myself offering their support for this legislation.

In addition, I wish to clarify the intent of a provision in title III of the Improvement Act that provides for the establishment of a telephonic or other communication means to provide information about investment advisers' backgrounds. The act directs the Commission to "provide for the establishment and maintenance" of this information service. I wish to make it clear that it is entirely within the Commission's authority and consistent with the intention of this provision for the Commission to delegate the responsibility to establish and maintain this service to a third party, as the Commission has done for purposes of the information service provided pursuant to section 15A(i) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. It is also consistent with the purposes of title III that such a third party be able to charge

reasonable fees of commercial users of the information service.

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION,
Washington, DC, February 12, 1997.

HON. THOMAS J. BLILEY,
Chairman, Committee on Commerce, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN BLILEY: I am writing to request that Congress extend the effective date of Title III of the National Securities Markets Improvement Act of 1996 for 90 days, from April 9 to July 8, 1997. Title III reallocates regulatory responsibilities over investment advisers between the states and the Commission.

The Commission has made substantial progress in completing the many rulemaking directives given to the Commission in the Improvement Act. In October, the Commission proposed a rule providing a safe harbor to allow journalists access to off-shore press conferences. In December, we proposed rules implementing new exemptions from the Investment Company Act for pools sold only to qualified investors. The Commission also proposed, on December 18, 1996, rules to implement Title III.

The Commission is making every effort to meet the legislative deadlines of the Improvement Act. Our rule proposals were issued only two months after the legislation was enacted, and the comment period for the proposals ended earlier this week. While we believe the Commission should be able to finish work on the adoption of the proposed rules by April 9, the effective date of Title III, we are very concerned that this timetable is likely not to afford investment advisers sufficient time to examine the new rules, consult with counsel as to their continuing regulatory status, and properly complete and submit the required forms.

We are also concerned about the effect of the April 9th effective date on state regulatory programs. As you know, Title III assigns important responsibilities for the regulation of investment advisers to state regulators. Because Title III will become effective on April 9th (whether or not the proposed rules are adopted), state law will be preempted as to all advisers still registered with the Commission, including those advisers that will be exclusively regulated by the states. If all (or most) advisers remain registered with the Commission on April 9 because they have not submitted the required forms, much of state investment adviser laws will be preempted, compromising state regulatory and enforcement programs.

By dividing jurisdiction over the 22,500 advisers currently registered with the Commission, the Improvement Act promises to provide more efficient and effective regulation of the investment advisory industry. The Commission strongly supported the enactment of the Act and has moved quickly to implement its purposes. We believe that by providing an additional 90 days, Congress will allow investment advisers adequate time to meet their obligations under the new rules and will avoid disrupting state regulatory efforts that are important if the goals of Title III of the Improvement Act are to be achieved.

If I or any of the Commission staff can answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

ARTHUR LEVITT,
Chairman.

THE INSTITUTE OF
CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNERS,
Denver, CO, March 12, 1997.

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY,
U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN OXLEY: The Institute of Certified Financial Planners¹³ is strongly in support of S. 410, a bill which would extend the April 9 effective date of the Investment Advisers Supervision Coordination Act (the "Coordination Act") by 90 days. We offer two basic but highly important reasons for supporting this delay in the effective date to July 8, 1997.

First, as a professional association involved in the original legislative process, we are fully aware of the substantive changes made to the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 that led to the current regulatory challenges facing the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"). And we strongly commend the SEC on having successfully met the initial challenge of the implementation process by issuing a proposed rulemaking within a tight deadline and addressing all of the critical issues raised thereunder. We are concerned, however, that the remaining amount of time is not enough to address the many formal comment letters (including our own) which were submitted prior to the February 10 deadline—a total of about 80 mostly substantive comment letters—as we understand it. We believe that the SEC needs additional time to properly respond to the issues raised by these comments, resulting actions that will result in a momentous sea-change of regulation for 22,000-plus registered individual investment advisers and firms.

Second, as you are aware, up to 80 percent of all current SEC registrants will withdraw their registration and be subject to state regulation. Once the SEC approves the final rulemaking, additional time is necessary to adjust to the new regulatory environment. The SEC must have adequate time to distribute the final published forms, and current registrants must have time to digest the new mandates, and return the appropriate forms for de-registration or continued federal registration. Further, the Institute and others raised questions about the ability of certain advisers to be able to report accurately, for example, the aggregate assets under management without some minor changes in the reporting requirements suggested in the proposed rulemaking. For many of these registrants, the proposed rulemaking itself raised new questions and issues. No doubt the final rule also will generate some additional questions, but even if the major issues are clarified, the unique nature of each individual adviser's practice will leave some questions unanswered.¹⁴

¹³The Institute of Certified Financial Planners is a Denver-based professional organization representing 11,000 Certified Financial Planner members nationwide. The Institute serves as a resource to federal and state legislators on issues related to financial planning.

¹⁴The questions received from members are of course too numerous to recount in this letter. To provide one example not addressed in the proposed rulemaking was a situation involving an SEC-registered adviser in the state of Ohio which has no state investment adviser statute. The adviser provides personal advice to a few clients but primarily offers through her advisory firm investment management seminars in other states, on behalf of corporations which administer their own 401(k) plans, or on behalf of other investment management firms that contracted them to perform this specific service. It was not clear to this person whether the adviser's employees who provided advice on these 401(k) plans would be subject to state or federal registration or notice filings, etc., as investment adviser representatives, supervised persons, etc., under

This situation, while obviously smaller in scale, is not unlike Congress passing major tax legislation at the end of the year, and leaving the Internal Revenue Service little time to clarify certain aspects of the new tax code that affect thousands of Americans. Distributing new 1040s and related forms within a month of April 15th would no doubt be disastrous.

For the above reasons, we strongly support S. 410 and thank you for supporting the original conference report. An additional 90 days should be more than adequate time to allow the SEC to properly fulfill its mission and for registrants to properly comply with the new changes.

I would be happy to respond to any questions that you might have regarding the above comments.

Sincerely,

JUDY LAU, CFP,
President.

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY, 176
YEARS OF FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN EDWARD PORTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 1997

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise along with many of my other colleagues to commemorate Greek Independence Day. On March 25, 1821, Greece became independent of the Ottoman Empire and began its long, and sometimes difficult, journey back to democracy, freedom, stability, and prosperity.

As the birthplace of democracy, Greece has always been a special place for America and Americans. In this diverse and culturally rich land, we see ourselves, our hopes, our past and our future. I am pleased to rise today as a friend of Greece and the Greek people, and congratulate them on their dynamic society and their triumph of will.

As our NATO ally and partner in the global village, we work closely with Greece to bring about goals of mutual aspiration and concern. I must take this opportunity to thank and congratulate the Greek Government for the positive role that they are playing in mediating with the Serbian government in a quiet, behind the scenes manner—they have been effective where others have failed in persuading Milosevic to loosen his strangle-hold on Serbia and begin moving toward reform. I also call on them to be this same kind of force for good with their neighbor Albania during these difficult days for that country.

I congratulate Greece on its efforts to mend fences with its neighbor Turkey and resolve their differences. While these overtures have not always been well received, the effort is always worth making, and Greece is the better for these efforts.

I thank my colleague, MICHAEL BILIRAKIS from Florida, for organizing this special order, and I appreciate his leadership on this issue. I have enjoyed working with him on a wide range of human rights issues, and I look for-

ward to continuing to do so in the future. I also thank the Greek-American community for holding Members of Congress to a high standard, and supporting the work that we do in the Congress. This is a special day for all of us—I look forward to celebrating it every year and sending fondest good wishes to Hellenes all over the world.

PRIVATIZING SOCIAL SECURITY

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 1997

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, the Social Security system in the United States is headed toward bankruptcy. Neglecting to discuss fundamental reforms of this program, will only lead to last minute band-aid solutions, which means Congress will be back dealing with the issue again, sooner rather than later. Instead of deciding how best to extend Social Security's solvency, past arguments in Congress have sadly focused on blame shifting between political parties—more about who is trying to cut Social Security and less about how to save Social Security.

I am inserting an article in the RECORD which was published in the Wall Street Journal, that includes several ideas for privatizing our Social Security System. While some may be unsure that privatization is the long-term solution to Social Security, I submit this article in the hope it will generate discussions on this issue. I hope my colleagues have a few minutes to review this article, and will look at fundamental reform of Social Security as the only way to truly address the issue at stake:

[From the Wall Street Journal, Jan. 16, 1997]

SOCIAL SECURITY PRIVATIZATION IS HERE

(By E.J. Myers)

The report issued last week by President Clinton's Advisory Committee on Social Security has confused more than a few concerned citizens—not just because of its heavy dosage of technical jargon, but also because the committee itself was incapable of reaching a clear consensus on what to do about Social Security. And now there are serious questions about whether the technical jargon spun out by the committee is even worth the graph paper it's printed on. It appears that the old adage about a camel being a horse put together by a committee was right on target. And when that committee is based in Washington, the camel is likely to end up with three humps.

While Washington may be incapable of putting together a solution for a problem of its own making, the rest of us don't have to give up on Social Security reform. In fact, from Thomas Jefferson to Howard Jarvis, Americans have a long tradition of trumping central government dictates with local solutions that work. And in south Texas, along the windswept Gulf Coast, there are three history-filled counties—Galveston, Brazoria and Matagorda—that years ago put into effect Social Security privatization plans that Washington policy wonks still haven't even conceived of.

BEAUTIFUL SIMPLICITY

Until the early 1980s, state and local governments had the right to opt out of Social Security and establish their own retirement

systems for public employees. This option was provided by the Social Security Act, passed in the 1930s.

Galveston County looked into this idea in 1979. Then-County Attorney Bill Decker asked Don Kebodeaux, president of First Financial Capital Corp. of Houston, to devise a plan for the county's employees to opt out of Social Security. Mr. Kebodeaux and First Financial's Rick Gornto designed a retirement plan that was many times better than Social Security program. In 1980 they presented their plan to former Galveston County Judge Ray Holbrook, County Attorney Bill Decker and the Commissioners Court, the county's administrative body.

The first beauty of the plan was its simplicity. The 6.13% payroll tax that the federal government had been taking from county employees for Social Security would now go into the employees' pension fund and would be matched by the county with an additional 6.13%. The new plan included the same employee benefits Social Security did: pensions and life and disability insurance. In recent years the county has increased its participation to 7.65%, which covered the payments of all premiums for life and disability insurance. The life insurance benefit for those under age 70 is 300% of one's annual earnings; the minimum benefit is \$50,000 and the maximum \$150,000.

The local unions fought the idea at first, and several Galveston County officials also opposed the action. Many spirited debates between Social Security representatives and the men from First Financial were held throughout the county; county employees listened carefully and made sure they got answers to all their questions. Voting on the question was held in 1981. By a resounding margin of 78% to 22%, the Galveston County employees endorsed the idea and the county opted out of Social Security.

Years later, a retired Mr. Decker told the story of how a number of unionized county workers thanked him for his wisdom and guidance. They said that at first they had serious doubts about giving up Social Security's guarantee of fixed income, but that now that they were getting ready to retire with significantly higher benefits, they were very happy they did.

"Of all the things I accomplished while county judge, setting up this retirement system for Galveston County employees is one of my proudest achievements," says Judge Holbrook, who retired in 1994. He points out that after just 12 years of service under the alternate plan he is now receiving twice as much as he would have under Social Security.

Seeing the tremendous potential in a plan like Galveston's, in 1982 Brazoria County opted out of Social Security in favor of a similar plan. A year later Matagorda County did, too. Both of these counties made their employees' contributions 6.7%, improving a great retirement plan by providing for even greater returns.

Tolbert Newman, the First Financial fund manager who oversees the retirement plans for these three counties, cites the following example of the growth that can be achieved in such an alternate pension fund. If an individual begins working at 25 years old and makes a \$2,000 annual contribution for just 10 years, assuming an 8% interest rate, he will have \$314,870 when he retires at age 65. If an employee works continuously for 40 years, depending on contributions, his portion of the pension fund could be more than \$1 million.

Galveston's once-fledgling employee benefit plan has stood the test of time, showing

the proposed rulemaking. This unique situation is one of many that undoubtedly will not be addressed under the final rulemaking.

that it can and does outperform Social Security. Today, with more than 5,000 employees from these three counties, First Financial has grown a very healthy and sizable portfolio. Those who retire after 20 years of service will receive three to four times the monthly benefit they would have under Social Security.

This plan is not just an isolated act by a group of extraordinarily responsible and dedicated Texans. In 1937 the Houston Fire Department set up its own retirement system, which now has more than \$1 billion in assets. Retired firefighters receive more than three times the amount Social Security pensioners do. There are countless other examples of other local and state governments showing the same responsibility and initiative. Five states have opted out of Social Security and have their own plans: California, Nevada, Maine, Ohio and Colorado.

Congress knows that privatization will succeed—or it should know. In 1984 it set up the Thrift Savings Plan, for government employees only, whose "C" Fund is administered entirely by Wells Fargo Funds and has succeeded well beyond anyone's imagination. The plan's three funds today total more than \$28 billion. Under the Thrift Savings Plan, if an employee making \$35,000 per year invests 10% of his pay each year, after 30 years he will have more than \$1.2 million in the retirement fund.

In August 1996 Frost Bank of San Antonio published a survey on Social Security in which 40% of its respondents strongly supported retirement accounts consisting of stocks and bonds and 55% opposed raising payroll taxes.

If Social Security were privatized for all Americans, those who work in the private sector, including the self-employed, would benefit as never before. Phasing out the employer's share of the Social Security tax would, over time, return to the business community more than \$169.2 billion per year. Freedom from these payroll taxes would be a tremendous boon to the economy, allowing the creation of countless new jobs in every sector.

A WINNER FOR DECADES

"We currently pay over \$1.3 billion in matching Social Security taxes annually," says Larry N. Forehand, president of the Texas Restaurant Association and founder of Casa Olé Mexican Restaurants, a fast growing Texas restaurant chain. "If our company had that \$1.3 million a year to invest in new locations, we could build six additional restaurants, employ an additional 450 people and add \$7.2 million to the economy every year. It is estimated that all the restaurants in Texas will save \$1.2 billion per year."

Privatization has been a winner for decades for various government entities. It's time to extend the benefits to all.

THE MICROCREDIT FOR SELF-RELIANCE ACT OF 1997

HON. AMO HOUGHTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 1997

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my good friend and colleague, TONY HALL, and a bipartisan group of over 20 other Members, to introduce the Microcredit for Self-Reliance Act of 1997.

The goal of this bill is to help impoverished people around the world achieve dignity and

economic independence for themselves and their families through microenterprise—a program designed to help provide people with small, low interest loans to start a business and bring themselves out of poverty.

Specifically, the Microcredit for Self-Reliance Act is a vehicle through which the United States can give a higher priority to microcredit internationally, and work toward the goal of the 1997 Microcredit Summit—to reach 100 million of the world's poorest families, especially the women of those families, with credit for self-employment and financial and business services by 2005.

Our bill builds upon the successes of the Grameen Bank of Bangladesh, which was started by Mohammed Yunus in 1983. I'd recommend that each of my colleagues read the book "Give Us Credit," by Alex Counts, which eloquently tells the story of how Mr. Yunus brought so many of his fellow citizens out of poverty through microlending.

The U.S. Agency for International Development [USAID], under the able leadership of Brian Atwood, has also been involved in microenterprise for awhile now, and has been doing a good job at it. Also, groups such as Results, a grass roots support group headed up by Sam Daley-Harris, has worked tirelessly in promoting the ideals of microcredit, culminating in their successful Microcredit Summit, which was held here in Washington last month.

Mr. Speaker, this bill calls for no new funds. Rather, we're calling for more of our existing funds to be used to support microcredit programs. Specifically, the bill asks for \$170 million for fiscal year 1998 and \$180 million for fiscal year 1999 to be allocated to USAID for microcredit assistance. Half these resources, at least \$85 million for fiscal year 1998, and \$90 million for fiscal 1999, would go to institutions serving the poorest 50 percent of those living below the poverty line, especially women, with loans under \$300.

In addition, we'd like to provide \$20 million for special initiative within the International Fund for Agricultural Development [IFAD] to support community based micro-finance institutions that serve the very poor in rural areas.

Why Microcredit? Well, the World Health Organization reports that poverty is the leading cause of death worldwide. Over 1 billion people—or one-fifth the world's population—live in extreme poverty. Microcredit is one of the most effective antipoverty tools in existence, allowing people to eradicate poverty and hunger in their own lives.

The microcredit program enjoys broad bipartisan support. These programs not only help millions work their own way out of poverty, but also recycle foreign aid dollars through loan repayments. Microcredit loans are self-sustainable. They are easily replicable and powerful vehicles for social development.

Mr. Speaker, I hope you'll join me in support of the Microcredit for Self-Reliance Act of 1997.

HONORING CELINA HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM FOR AN OUTSTANDING SEASON

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 1997

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the accomplishments of a dedicated group of young women who worked together in the true spirit of sportsmanship to achieve a long-awaited goal.

The group is the Celina High School Lady Bulldogs basketball team of Celina, TN, and that goal was making it to the State Class A championship game. Although they were not victorious, the hardwork and dedication they demonstrated throughout the year will not be without notice. After all, they were honored as: 1997 Tri-Lakes Conference Champions, 1997 District 5 Champions, 1997 Region 3 Champions, and 1997 State Runner-up.

These women of Celina High School trained vigorously, played tirelessly, and deserve recognition for a job well done.

I congratulate each member of the team, their head coach, Joe Sims, and all the assistant coaches, managers, school administrators, and all other support staff. I know they won't soon forget this milestone, and those that are still to come.

The players are true champions: Nicole Davis, Jennifer Davenport, Kaylin Walker, Amanda Kendall, Tara Ashlock, Michelle Chambers, Crystal Price, Amber Isenberg, Andrea McLerran, Trinity Weddle, Amanda Thompson, Erica Melton, Janet Barlow, Courtney Cross, Dana Key, Cera Burnette, and Claudia Bailey.

TRIBUTE TO ASBURY PARK ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 1997

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I am very honored to represent the city of Asbury Park, NJ, which this week is celebrating its 100th anniversary.

If you mention Asbury Park to anyone in this country under the age of 45, they will often recognize it as the city Bruce Springsteen put on the map.

I am a great fan of Bruce Springsteen whom I consider a true musical talent and whose album "Greetings from Asbury Park," did indeed familiarize millions with our city. But I am quick to point out that Asbury Park was a famous seashore resort for almost a century before Bruce Springsteen entered the musical scene.

In fact, Asbury Park was attracting great musical talent starting perhaps in 1904 when Arthur Pryer, a member of the John Philip Sousa band, began a series of concerts on the boardwalk. According to a history compiled by Florence Moss, "Men in white straw hats and women in white-linen bustled dresses, carrying lace-trimmed umbrellas, would promenade the length of the mile long boardwalk."

Founded decades earlier by James A. Bradley, a developer with great foresight, and named after Francis Asbury, the father of Methodism in the United States, Asbury Park changed from sand dunes and forests to an exclusive seashore resort during the latter part of the 1800's. Until the rail line was extended farther south, wealthy residents of Newark and New York would take the train to Long Branch and then be picked up by horse and carriage and transported to Asbury Park.

The twenties was a rip-roaring era at the Jersey Shore featuring a rather booming and lucrative prohibition period. This in turn was followed some years later by the big bands and the likes of Count Basie and Frank Sinatra and other music greats.

During World War II, the British Navy took residence in the Monterey and Berkeley Carteret hotels and the British Army inhabited the Kingsley Arms Hotel. This presence enabled local residents to survive gas rationing and other wartime shortages.

On the nearby boardwalk, the Casino and Convention Hall were utilized for other purposes. Since the twenties, entertainers performed and trade shows and folk festivals were held in these massive structures which were designed by architects Warren and Wetmore, who also designed New York's Grand Central Station.

Asbury Park can also claim the distinction of being the first seaside resort in the country to adopt a sanitary sewer system and its trolley system was only the second electric system built in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, while Asbury Park has suffered from a loss of revenues in recent years and the relocation of many stores to the shopping malls, it still boasts wonderful beaches, a great boardwalk, wide streets, historic architecture and a corps of dedicated citizens and public officials dedicated to its rebirth. In my mind, the restoration of Asbury Park to its position as a premier vacation and cultural center is well within our grasp and I pledge to work hard to see that this dream of ours is realized.

THE INDONESIA MILITARY ASSISTANCE ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 1997

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, as you are aware, I am very concerned about conditions in the former Portuguese colony of East Timor. Particularly, I believe I bring a unique perspective to the debate because I am one of the few Members of Congress to have visited the good people of East Timor. As a legislator, I have been privy to the debate in Congress over the responsibility of the United States to fight for human rights world wide.

Up until 21 years ago, East Timor was a colony of Portugal. In 1975, the small, emerging nation of East Timor was brutally invaded by the nation of Indonesia. Over the past 21 years, the people of East Timor have been subjected to some of the worst abuses of

human rights in the world. The Indonesian government has been a cruel and repressive dictatorship.

More than 200,000 East Timorese—almost one-third of the population—have been killed or have died from starvation after being forced from their villages. All attempts at peaceful protest have been met with violent oppression. This attack cannot be countenanced and this violence must end.

Abduction, torture, suppression of dissent, and disappearances are common occurrences under the Indonesian occupation of East Timor. Suppression of the East Timorese independence movement includes arbitrary detention, use of secret detention facilities, rape, torture frequently resulting in death. These abuses occur in large part due to the free hand given to the military to suppress the independence movement.

In December of last year, I visited the Indonesian-occupied land of East Timor. One of the greatest honors of my life was attending Christmas midnight mass celebrated by Bishop Belo, one of the two 1996 Nobel Peace Prize winners, and spending Christmas Day with him. My visit there has made me truly redouble my efforts on behalf of the people of East Timor and Indonesia.

There is no question that the attacks and abuses are escalating throughout Indonesia. Since Christmas Eve, there have been numerous roundups by security forces. A recent New York Times editorial cited the effects of this crack down on nongovernmental organizations. This latest instance of violence against the people of East Timor and Indonesia requires an immediate response from the U.S. Government.

As a former Portuguese colony, the concerns of the Portuguese-Americans for the human rights situation in East Timor have been great. Indeed, as I travel across the country, it is primarily in the Portuguese communities, and of course the large Portuguese communities in Rhode Island, that I hear concerns over the plight of these people half way around the globe. Senator Pell and former Representative Ron Machtley both raised my awareness of this issue. Unfortunately, things have not changed. What was true then was true now, human rights in East Timor have not improved.

This year's U.S. Department of State human rights report clearly classifies the country of Indonesia as one of the worst violators of human rights. The report highlights those actions based on authoritarian efforts to suppress dissent, enforce cohesion and restrict opposition groups and nongovernmental organizations. The report has over 30 pages dedicated to the intolerable human rights situation in Indonesia.

The bill that I am introducing today, the Indonesian Military Assistance Accountability Act, will attempt to confirm a commitment from Indonesia to cease the human rights violations throughout the country. The bill imposes military sanctions on the country of Indonesia if its human rights record fails to improve.

I have worked closely with numerous human rights groups, and nongovernmental organizations, to establish the most effective way to protect the people of East Timor and other parts of Indonesia, such as Aryan Jaya, where human rights atrocities are being committed.

Specifically, the bill conditions United States arms sales and transfers on a few achievable policy reforms by the Government of Indonesia in the areas of free and fair elections, labor rights, protection of nongovernmental organizations, including human rights, environmental, and religious foundations, rights and protections for the people of East Timor, release of political prisoners, and fair trials for such persons.

Indonesia repeatedly denies that there is a problem. If this is true, the Indonesians have nothing to fear by a close investigation of their human rights practices.

Unfortunately, they do have much to fear and they have been very vocal about any possible legislation that I or other congressional Members may introduce.

The bill I am introducing is clearly for military sanctions only. But it will send a message to Indonesia and it will take away the \$26 million in military assistance that it receives every year if it does not change its ways. We have waited too long for change and it will not come without a law on the books to impose change on Indonesia. I look to the rest of my congressional colleagues to support this legislation, in order that we send a clear and unmistakable message to Indonesia—that they must cease violating the human rights of the people of Indonesia, particularly in East Timor.

PARTNERS IN ACHIEVING LITERACY

HON. VIC FAZIO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 1997

Mr. FAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Vacaville Reporter, Solano County businesses, the students and kids who participate in the Partners in Achieving Literacy Program.

I am proud to say that more than 100 businesses throughout Solano County have come forward to join Partners in Achieving Literacy (PAL) with the Vacaville Reporter in helping local kids stay on top of their school work and their citizenship.

More than 5,000 students in Travis, Dixon, Vacaville and Fairfield/Suisun School District participate and benefit from this year's program alone. Teachers from more than 120 classrooms use the Reporter as a teaching tool in subjects ranging from geography to economics to civics to current events. Thanks to lesson plans that have been suggested to local teachers by the Reporter, reading and math skills have been heightened. We need more interaction between business and students like Partners in Literacy if we are to prepare our children and students for the challenges of the 21st century.

Weekly features in the Reporter like Kids Tech, Rooster Tails and Kids Talk have gotten even more kids involved in learning about the issues of the day and the issues that affect their community.

Programs like the Reporter's PAL Program is an essential component to our overall national education strategy. As employers in our community come to depend more and more

on a skilled and technical workforce for tomorrow's economy, it is critical that we have the educated labor pool to fill those jobs.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring The Vacaville Reporter, the businesses of Solano County and most of all the kids and schools who participate in the Partners in Literacy program.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 1997

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, the RECORD for Thursday, March 13, incorrectly listed my declared intention to vote on rollcall vote Nos. 49 and 50 regarding moving the previous question and final passage of the Paperwork Reduction Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall 49 and "yes" on rollcall 50. I was present and voted on rollcall No. 48.

UPS: BREAKING THE SOUND BARRIER

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 1997

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I want to highlight a monumental achievement accomplished by one of America's premier deliverers of mail and packages, the United Parcel Service [UPS]. As part of a national mandate, UPS has become the first major North American airline to fully comply with stage 3 aircraft noise reduction regulations, 3 years before the federally mandated deadline.

Indeed, this ambitious and expensive initiative undertaken by UPS speaks volumes about the company's commitment to promoting quieter and more efficient transport of parcels. Today, all 197 jets in the UPS fleet will comply with the stage 3 noise-reduction rule. The number of residents in noise-impacted areas will be reduced by 80 percent. Clearly, UPS has set a standard that other airlines should strive to emulate.

Using current technology, UPS planes will now utilize 18 percent less fuel. Additionally, instead of a 22-square-mile area being affected by noise, the area will now be 6.5 miles.

1997 marks the 50-year anniversary of the historic flight in which Capt. Chuck Yeager exceeded the speed of sound. UPS has now broken a new sound barrier that will provide long-term benefits for the environment, the airline industry, and citizens. Other airlines should follow the lead of UPS and achieve early compliance with stage 3 aircraft noise reduction regulations.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

MARY MULHOLLAND: THE SPIRIT OF SERVICE

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 1997

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mary Mulholland, an extraordinary woman from Morris County, NJ, for her years of dedicated service to the people of our county and State.

Mr. Speaker, there is hardly a person in Morris County who has not been touched by the innate kindness of Mary Mulholland. Over the years, she has been ever present in the many volunteer and service organizations that make our county one of America's most wonderful places to live, work and raise a family.

Educated at the College of Saint Elizabeth in Convent Station, Mary went on to work for the New York Telephone Co. soon thereafter. By the 1950's she was married and raising six children with her husband, the late Dr. Robert E. Mulholland. Yet somehow, Mary found the time to become involved in community service. True to form, Mary jumped in with both feet and before long she helped found the Morris County Aftercare Clinic and the Dope Open, Inc., which became the first in a long line of public service commitments she would lead.

Mary devotes her time to numerous organizations, including St. Clares Riverside Foundation, Dover General Hospital and Medical Center, Hope House, the College of Saint Elizabeth, Centenary College, the United Way, the Easter Seal Society and even the Governor's Advisory Council for Drug/Alcohol Abuse. However, nowhere is her presence more evident than at the Dope Open, Inc., of which she is the founder and president. In three decades with the Dope Open, she has, through her charming personality, conviction and absolute tenacity, raised more than \$1 million to fight drug abuse and chemical dependency. Each year, Mary continues her relentless battle to help juveniles in our community who have been robbed of their youth and innocence by the scourge of drugs. The Dope Open provides hope for these lost children and I am certain that without Mary's foresight, fortitude and dedication to this effort, many of them would have nowhere to turn.

The one thing everyone who knows Mary can agree on is that a person cannot help but be energized into action when she speaks. When Mary decides to take on a commitment to help people in our community, she installs in all of us a sense of urgency about the issue—a sort of call to arms. And Mary is no figurehead, she provides both the spark, dynamism and energy needed to take on any task, no matter how daunting or demanding. To that end, she does us all a public service by bringing out our own compassion and sense of duty to help our less fortunate neighbors.

Mr. Speaker, each day, thanks to the Herculean efforts of Mary Mulholland, the future of Morris County is a little more promising. Mary Mulholland truly embodies the spirit of service and I thank her for all she has done for our community throughout the years.

March 19, 1997

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 1997

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, on March 5, 1997, I voted "aye" for rollcall No. 31, which expressed the sense of Congress that the display of the Ten Commandments in public buildings should be allowed. My vote was based on my personal brief in the Ten Commandments as a basic fundament of Christian doctrine. After further examination I came to the realization that, in spite of my personal beliefs, I must recognize that one's personal beliefs, including my own, cannot usurp the tenets which our country is based upon. One of those tenets is the separation of church and state. This measure is in direct opposition to the aforementioned principle. Thus, I would like the RECORD to reflect that I am not in support of this measure.

PRESERVE THE ILLINOIS AND MICHIGAN CANAL

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 1997

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, on February 12, I introduced legislation to preserve and enhance the Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor. H.R. 1042 extends the I&M Canal National Heritage Corridor Commission for another 5 years to 2004.

Designated by Congress in 1984, the I&M Canal National Heritage Corridor was the first "partnership park" of its kind and is now a model for such parks throughout the Nation. The Corridor stretches 100 miles across Illinois, from Chicago to LaSalle/Peru and encompasses 450 square miles. Its rich heritage and recreational opportunities attract countless visitors to the area and enhance the pride of local residents. Simply put, the Corridor is of great historical significance to the State of Illinois, as well as the entire Nation.

Since the creation of the Commission, which coordinates the efforts and resources of Federal, State, and local agencies, we have seen significant progress being made along the Corridor. However, there is still a great deal more that needs to be done. We must continue to work to preserve this unique treasure for future generations. H.R. 1042 will allow the Commission to continue its vital work and further the successful partnership between Federal, State, and local agencies as they work to preserve this important piece of our Nation's history.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support my bill, H.R. 1042.

104 KRBE

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 1997

Mr. GREEN. Mr. Speaker, it is very seldom that I get the opportunity to recognize local personalities who have unselfishly devoted their time and effort to improve the world we live in. In Houston we are fortunate to have someone like Sam Malone. Sam Malone has been firing up the radio waves for 4 years in Houston with his cohorts of the "Morning Show" Maria Todd and Psychoo Robbie on 104 KRBE. Aside from providing lively entertainment, they have held numerous charity events to help our city, including blood drives, food drives, and clothing drives. In recognition of their 4th year anniversary, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Sam and the "Morning Show" for their hard work and commend everyone at KRBE for their continued support to our organizations and charities.

Here's to you Sam, happy anniversary, we look forward to many more years to come. See ya.

**THE COLORECTAL CANCER
SCREENING ACT OF 1997**
HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 1997

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing the Colorectal Cancer Screening Act of 1997 in order to establish colorectal cancer screening as a covered benefit under the Medicare program. Colorectal cancer screening is an important element of what should be a comprehensive program of preventive health care for our senior citizens. Unfortunately, the current Medicare program provides little incentive for Medicare recipients to have regular check-ups and undergo the routine tests that will prevent serious illnesses and detect diseases at their earliest, most treatable stage. This legislation, if enacted, would encourage Medicare recipients to be screened for colorectal cancer by providing Medicare coverage of those tests. I am pleased to be joined by 14 cosponsors in introducing this important legislation.

It is particularly timely that this legislation be considered at this time. Over the past 2 to 3 years, there has been a significant amount of work done within the medical community to develop Guidelines and recommendations on how to screen for colorectal cancer. Several new screening guidelines and revised screening recommendations have been released within the past two months, and new screening recommendations are expected to be issued within the next few weeks by the American Cancer Society. These Guidelines and recommendations indicate that there is an emerging consensus that there are a number of different procedures that can be used to screen for colorectal cancer. This legislation is based upon that consensus.

The move to develop new screening guidelines really started in the spring of 1995 with

the release of the "Guide to Clinical Preventive Services" by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force. In this report, the Task Force reversed the position taken in its 1989 report and concluded that there was a sufficient scientific basis upon which to recommend colorectal cancer screening, starting at age 50 for most individuals. The report specifically recommended screening average risk individuals with two procedures—FOBT and sigmoidoscopy—though it raised concerns about the limited effectiveness of these procedures and questioned the willingness of patients to comply with these tests. The report also noted discussed screening with colonoscopy and the barium enema, and concluded that there was insufficient evidence to recommend for or against screening with either test. The report also raised questions regarding the overall cost and risks of screening, particularly with regard to colonoscopy.

Many of the questions raised by the U.S. Preventive Services report have been answered. The release of the Task Force report prompted the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research [AHCPR] of the Department of Health and Human Services to initiate a 2-year project to examine the scientific and medical literature on all available options for colorectal cancer screening and to develop Clinical Practice Guidelines on colorectal cancer screening. The AHCPR terminated the development of specific screening recommendations last April, but has completed an "Evidence Report" summarizing the current evidence on the various screening procedures. A summary of this report, released in February, concludes that there is evidence to support colorectal cancer screening with all of the screening procedures identified in the Preventive Services Task Force report—FOBT, sigmoidoscopy, the barium enema and colonoscopy. I ask unanimous consent that the Summary of the AHCPR Evidence Report be included in the RECORD with these remarks.

The effort to develop Clinical Guidelines for Colorectal Cancer Screening did not, however, end with AHCPR's decision not to complete the project. Colorectal Cancer Screening Guidelines based on the AHCPR project were completed and published in the February 1997 issue of the medical journal "Gastroenterology." The 16 members of the multidisciplinary expert panel first assembled by the AHCPR were listed as the authors of the Guidelines, and the project was completed under the direction of the American Gastroenterological Association and a consortium of four other gastroenterology organizations that had served as the contractor to the AHCPR. These new Guidelines are endorsed by the American Cancer Society, American College of Gastroenterology, American Gastroenterological Association, American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons, American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy, Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America, Oncology Nursing Society and the Society of American Gastrointestinal Endoscopic Surgeons.

The Colorectal Cancer Screening Act of 1997 embodies the screening recommendations included in the clinical Guidelines and supported by the AHCPR Evidence Report. It should be noted that the legislation includes

the option for individuals at average-risk and high-risk to be screened with the barium enema. It does so because providing patients and their physicians with the option of being screened with the barium enema is fully supported by these reports, and by the scientific and medical literature that provides the basis for the recommendations. To be specific with regard to the Clinical Practice Guidelines published in Gastroenterology:

The Clinical Practice Guidelines recommend screening people at average risk for colorectal cancer with double-contrast barium enema every 5-10 years;

The Clinical Practice Guidelines recommend use of the barium enema for screening individuals at high risk for colorectal cancer—individuals with close relatives who have had colorectal cancer or an adenomatous polyp and people with a family history of hereditary nonpolyposis colorectal cancer—and

The Clinical Practice Guidelines recommend use of the barium enema or colonoscopy for surveillance of people with a history of adenomatous polyps or colorectal cancer.

Although they have not yet been finalized, I understand that the American Cancer Society will soon issue new recommendations for colorectal cancer screening. The legislation that I introduce today is consistent with the approach that has been taken by the American Cancer Society in developing these new recommendations.

One final consideration guided the development of this colorectal cancer screening legislation, and it is that the colorectal cancer is a particularly deadly disease for African-Americans. This is discussed in the Summary of the AHCPR Evidence Report, which notes that the National Cancer Institute and other medical journals have found that black men and women with colorectal cancer have a 50 percent greater probability of dying of colon cancer than do white men and women. The medical literature indicates that this is caused, at least in part, by the fact that African-Americans tend to get colorectal cancer in the right—proximal—portion of the colon—the portion that is not reached by sigmoidoscopy, the most common screening procedure currently in use. The Colorectal Cancer Screening Act of 1997 provides individuals the option of a full colon screening with the barium enema in order to assure that the screening program we establish in the Medicare program is adequate for African-Americans. It also should be noted that this option is particularly important for other Americans as well, given that it has been shown to be significantly more effective than screening only one-half of the colon with sigmoidoscopy. Moreover, in addition to being effective, the barium enema is one of the most cost-effective screening procedures for both average-risk and high-risk individuals.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize for my colleagues the cost-effectiveness of this legislation. According to the Office of Technology Assessment, colorectal cancer screening is capable of saving thousands of American lives at a cost of only about \$13,250 per life year saved. Colorectal cancer screening is also cost-effective when compared with other Medicare-covered procedures such as kidney dialysis—\$50,000 per life year saved—and mammography—\$40,000 per life year saved. I

cite these figures not to argue against these other life-saving devices and procedures, but rather to provide a comparison that demonstrates the importance of Medicare coverage for such cost-effective procedures as colorectal cancer screening at a time when we are working hard to reduce the level of spending in the overall Medicare program.

In the end, however, the Colorectal Cancer Screening Act of 1997 is not about cost-effectiveness and economics—it is about saving lives that are unnecessarily lost to this disease. Colorectal cancer strikes about 145,000 Americans each year, and about 55,000 Americans die of the disease each year. This legislation can save many of these lives, and I urge my colleagues to join me in seeking its enactment.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE HISTORIC HOMEOWNERSHIP ASSISTANCE ACT

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 1997

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, all across America, in the small towns and great cities of this country, our heritage as a nation—the physical evidence of our past—is at risk. In virtually every corner of this land, homes in which grandparents and parents grew up, communities and neighborhoods that nurtured vibrant families, schools that were good places to learn and churches and synagogues that were filled on days of prayer, have suffered the ravages of abandonment and decay.

In the decade from 1980 to 1990, Chicago lost 41,000 housing units through abandonment, Philadelphia 10,000, and St. Louis 7,000. The story in our older small communities has been the same, and the trend continues. It is important to understand that it is not just the buildings that we are losing. It is the sense of our past, the vitality of our communities and the shared values of those precious places.

We need not stand hopelessly by as passive witnesses to the loss of these irreplaceable historic resources. We can act, and to that end I am introducing today with my colleagues, Mrs. Kennelly, Mr. Lewis, Mrs. Johnson of Connecticut, and Mr. English, the Historic Homeownership Assistance Act.

This legislation is almost identical to legislation introduced in the 104th Congress as H.R. 1662. It is patterned after the existing Historic Rehabilitation Investment tax credit. That legislation has been enormously successful in stimulating private investment in the rehabilitation of buildings of historic importance all across the country. Through its use we have been able to save and re-use a rich and diverse array of historic buildings: landmarks such as Union Station in Washington, D.C.; the Fox Paper Mills, a mixed-used project that was once a derelict in Appleton, WI; and the Rosa True School, an eight-unit low/moderate income rental project in an historic building in Portland, Maine. In my own State of Florida, since 1974, the existing Historic Rehabilitation Investment Tax Credit has resulted in over

325 rehabilitation projects, leveraging more than \$238 million in private investment. These projects range from the restoration of art deco hotels in historic Miami Beach, bringing economic rebirth to this once decaying area, to the development of multifamily housing in the Springfield Historic District in Jacksonville.

The legislation that I am introducing today builds on the familiar structure of the existing tax credit but with a different focus. It is designed to empower the one major constituency that has been barred from using the existing credit—homeowners. Only those persons who rehabilitate or purchase a newly rehabilitated home and occupy it as their principal residence would be entitled to the credit that this legislation would create. There would be no passive losses, no tax shelters, and no syndications under this bill.

Like the existing investment credit, the bill would provide a credit to homeowners equal to 20 percent of the qualified rehabilitation expenditures made on an eligible building that is used as a principal residence by the owner. Eligible buildings would be those that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, are contributing buildings in National Register Historic Districts or in nationally certified state or local historic districts or are individually listed on a nationally certified state or local register. As is the case with the existing credit, the rehabilitation work would have to be performed in compliance with the Secretary of the Interior's standards for rehabilitation, although the bill would clarify the directive that the standards be interpreted in a manner that takes into consideration economic and technical feasibility.

The bill also makes provision for lower-income home buyers who may not have sufficient federal income tax liability to use a tax credit. It would permit such persons to receive a historic rehabilitation mortgage credit certificate which they can use with their bank to obtain a lower interest rate on their mortgage. The legislation also permits home buyers in distressed areas to use the certificate to lower their down payment.

The credit would be available for condominiums and co-ops, as well as single-family buildings. If a building were to be rehabilitated by a developer for sale to a homeowner, the credit would pass through to the homeowner. Since one purpose of the bill is to provide incentives for middle-income and more affluent families to return to older towns and cities, the bill does not discriminate among taxpayers on the basis of income. It does, however, impose a cap of \$50,000 on the amount of credit which may be taken for a principal residence.

The Historic Homeownership Assistance Act will make ownership of a rehabilitated older home more affordable for homeowners of modest incomes. It will encourage more affluent families to claim a stake in older towns and neighborhoods. It affords fiscally stressed cities and towns a way to put abandoned buildings back on the tax roles, while strengthening their income and sales tax bases. It offers developers, realtors, and homebuilders a new realm of economic opportunity in revitalizing decaying buildings.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is no panacea. Although its goals are great, its reach will be modest. But it can make a difference, and an

importance difference. In communities large and small all across this nation. The American dream of owning one's home is a powerful force. This bill can help it come true for those who are prepared to make a personal commitment to join in the rescue of our priceless heritage. By their actions they can help to revitalize decaying resources of historic importance, create jobs and stimulate economic development, and restore to our older towns and cities a lost sense of purpose and community.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill and an explanation of its provisions be printed in the RECORD.

"HISTORIC HOMEOWNERSHIP ASSISTANCE ACT"

Legislation to create a 20 percent tax credit for the rehabilitation of a historic structure occupied by the taxpayer as his principal residence was sponsored last Congress by Representatives Clay Shaw (R-FL) and Barbara Kennelly (D-CT) in the House, and by Senators John Chafee (R-RI) and Bob Graham (D-FL) in the Senate. Although this legislation did not become law, it received considerable support in Congress and we are planning for reintroduction next session and an active campaign to secure its passage.

GOALS OF THE HISTORIC HOMEOWNERSHIP ASSISTANCE ACT

Expand homeownership opportunities for low- and middle-income individuals and families;

Stimulate the revival of declining neighborhoods and communities;

Enlarge and stabilize the tax base of cities and small towns;

Preserve and protect historic homes.

MAJOR PROVISIONS OF THE HISTORIC HOMEOWNERSHIP ASSISTANCE ACT

Rate of Credit, Eligible buildings: The rate of credit is 20 percent of qualified rehabilitation expenditures. Eligible buildings include those listed on national or federally-certified state and local historic registers, and buildings which are located in national or federally-certified state and local historic districts. Eligible buildings (or a portion) must be owned and occupied by the tax payer as his principal residence. Condominiums and cooperatives would be eligible for the tax credit. Rehabilitation would have to be performed in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Rehabilitation.

Maximum Credit, Minimum Expenditures: The maximum credit allowable would be \$50,000 for each principal residence, subject to Alternative Minimum Tax provisions. Rehabilitation must be substantial—the greater of \$5,000 or the adjusted basis of the building—with an exception for buildings in census tracts targeted as distressed for Mortgage Revenue Bond purposes under I.R.C. Sec. 143(j)(1) and Enterprise and Empowerment Zones, where the minimum expenditure must be \$5,000. At least 5 percent of the qualified rehabilitation expenditures would have to be spent on the exterior of the building.

Mortgage Credit Certificate Provision for Low and Moderate Income Homeowners: Taxpayers who do not have sufficient federal income tax liability to make use of the credit could elect to receive, in lieu of the credit, an Historic Rehabilitation Mortgage Credit Certificate in the face amount of the credit to which the taxpayer is entitled. The taxpayer would then transfer the certificate to the mortgage lender in exchange for a reduced interest rate on the home mortgage loan. The mortgage lender would be permitted to reduce its own federal income tax

liability by the face amount of the certificate.

Targeted Flexibility for Historic Rehabilitation Standards: For buildings in census tracts targeted as distressed or located within an Enterprise and Empowerment Zone, the Secretary would be required to give consideration to: (1) the feasibility of preserving existing architectural or design elements of the interior of such building; (2) the risk of further deterioration or demolition of such building in the event that certification is denied because of the failure to preserve such interior elements; and, (3) the effects of such deterioration or demolition on neighboring historic properties.

No Passive Activity Rules, No Income Cap on Eligibility: Passive activity rules would not apply because by occupying and rehabilitating a qualifying residence, the individual is not an investor but utilizing the property as his primary residence. There would be no income cap because the proposed legislation is intended not only to foster homeownership and encourage rehabilitation of deteriorated buildings, but also to promote economic diversity within neighborhoods and increased local ad valorem real property, income and sales tax revenues.

Process for Certifying Qualified Rehabilitation Expenditures: Maintains the certification process for the existing rehab credit, but authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to enter into cooperative agreements allowing the State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs) and Certified Local Governments (CLGs) to certify projects within their respective jurisdictions. The SHPOs would have the authority to levy fees for processing applications for certification, provided that the proceeds of such fees are used only to defray expenses associated with the processing of the application.

Revenue Loss Estimate: The Congressional Joint Committee on Taxation has estimated the revenue loss of the Historic Homeownership Assistance Act to be \$368 million over a seven year period.

HUMAN RIGHTS IN KOSOVA

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 1997

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call attention to the situation in Kosova. As my colleagues are aware, Kosova is a region in the former Yugoslavia which is populated by 92 percent ethnic Albanians, but ruled by Serbia.

Since unilaterally withdrawing Kosova's autonomy, Belgrade has carried out a harsh campaign of violations of human and political rights against the Kosovans.

Dr. Alush A. Gashi, M.D., Ph.D., is a member of the Kosova Council for the Defense of Human Rights and Freedoms and is an expert on the situation in Kosova. On February 6, 1997, he addressed the Congressional Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

I am inserting Dr. Gashi's statement to the Commission at this point in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

STATEMENT BY ALUSH A. GASHI

I

Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen. Thank you for this opportunity to speak

with CSCE on the timely and critical subject of repression of human rights and freedoms in the Republic of Kosova.

It was almost three years ago—on May 9, 1994—that I last appeared before the CSCE. Then as now, I just arrived from Prishtina, the capital of the Republic of Kosova. Then as now, I sadly reported that the human rights situation in Kosova had degenerated. Then as now, I must regrettably tell you that repression, violence and terrorism directed at Albanians has escalated. Then as now, I reaffirmed our commitment to peaceful resistance under the leadership of President Rugova and his government.

It has been said that the more things change, the more they stay the same. In Kosova, things have gotten much worse.

Although I speak to you as a human rights activist, I also speak as a citizen of the Republic of Kosova who has experienced firsthand the terrible repression of the Belgrade regime.

II

Perhaps the U.S. State Department annual human rights report described the human rights crisis in Kosova most accurately. In that report issued a week ago on January 30, 1997, the U.S. said: "The human rights record continued to be poor. The police committed numerous, serious abuses including extrajudicial killings, torture, brutal beatings, and arbitrary arrests. Police repression continued to be directed against . . . particularly the Albanians of Kosova . . . and was also increasingly directed against any citizens who protested against the government."

The State Department reported that Serbian authorities killed 14 Albanians in 1996. Torture and cruel forms of punishment were directed against Albanians. Serbian police frequently extracted "confessions" during interrogations that routinely included beating of suspects' feet, hands, genital areas and heads." The police use their fists, nightsticks, and occasionally electric shocks," the report said, adding that the police "often beat persons in front of their families" as a means of intimidating other innocent citizens.

The report told of an incident last July in which "several ethnic Albanian vendors in an open market near Prishtina were beaten by Serbian financial police, who accused them of not having their vendor's licenses in order. According to the victims, the police stole all the merchandise from the vendors without even looking at their papers, and then left the scene."

Albanian children were not spared. The Council for the Defense of Human Rights and Freedoms documented between January and June 1996 over 200 cases of mistreatment of children at the hands of Serb authorities.

And the documentation goes on. Police in Kosova use arbitrary arrest and detention. Trials are delayed. There is no justice. Freedom of speech and the press are non-existent. Peaceful assembly and association are unknown under the Belgrade regime. Freedom of movement within Kosova as well as foreign travel, and emigration which are tightly controlled while repatriation, in effect, is prohibited.

Just last Sunday, The Washington Times reported that death came for a 34-year-old Albanian school teacher with a knock on the door that has become a trademark of the Serbian police state system of terror that has gripped Kosova. Nearly 30 Serbian police circled the teacher's house at 6 in the morning before entering.

The police grabbed the teacher's wife by the neck and demanded she direct them to

her husband and "a hidden gun," according to family members. The teacher's father reported that the police found the teacher in his bedroom, handcuffed him, and took him away.

Two days later, the family discovered their son's body, beaten and bruised, in a state hospital. A Serbian doctor and two Albanian colleagues said he died from trauma, with evident bruises and lacerations on his legs and genitals.

In short, in Kosova we have the full denial of human and national rights of Albanians imposed by the Serbian regime which has forcefully colonized Kosova and imposed apartheid.

III

While the state of Serbian terrorism has not relented in Kosova, there are important developments in Belgrade that confirm not everything remains the same. Foremost among these are opposition protest marches and rallies in Belgrade.

While all of us in Kosova welcome movement toward democracy in Serbia, the last Communist state in Europe, and sincerely support the right of the Serbian opposition to peacefully protest and demonstrate for democratization of Serbia, our people are asking: Where was the Serbian opposition while we were protesting against the Belgrade regime?

Under the leadership of President Rugova, Albanians in Kosova for almost a decade have peacefully protested against the Belgrade regime. Unfortunately, almost ten years later, the Serbian opposition has not distanced themselves from the Belgrade tyranny or supported stopping violence against Albanians.

They have not protested or distanced themselves, even when Serbian authorities killed peaceful Albanian demonstrators in various parts of Kosova. The Serbian opposition did not protest when the Serbian regime beat Albanian physicians in front of their patients in Kosova's hospitals, or when Serbian police beat Albanian teachers, killed Albanian parents who were protecting their children in the Albanian education system.

They did not protest when the Belgrade regime held political trials of Albanians who established the Kosova parliament. Neither did they protest when Serbian authorities arbitrarily dismissed Albanians from their jobs, closed down all mass media in Albanian language, and achieved quiet ethnic cleansing in Kosova through police interrogation and torture.

Neither did they protest when Serbian apartheid endangered the health and lives of Albanian people in Kosova, which is a crime against humanity, or when the Serbian regime expelled Albanians from their apartments and replaced them with Serb colonizers from other parts of former Yugoslavia.

Unfortunately, Serbian opposition did not protest and is not protesting now, against the Serbian regime for not letting the parliament and government of Kosova function.

Serbian opposition rightfully is asking for recognition of their vote, but at the same time is denying the democratic election in which Albanians citizens of the Republic of Kosova voted for their legitimate representatives in the Kosova leadership and gave them a mandate to represent them.

When we voted in 1992, instead of getting support from the Serbian opposition, some of them were asking to cut off our hands with which we cast our vote, and to cut off our fingers with which we made the "V" for victory sign.

Now, we understand Serbian frustrations at not achieving their aspirations for a

greater Serbia. We understand that they may want to distance themselves from the crimes. But we all respect their right to demonstrate and achieve seats in their parliament.

We have to see their program. They have not yet revealed their policy toward Kosova. We hope and we wish that they can recognize the new reality in Kosova. We hope that the Serbian opposition understands that they cannot live under a double standard. To ask respect of their vote and political will in Serbia and at the same time deny the political will of Albanians in the Republic of Kosova is unacceptable.

Albanians of Kosova are against violence. They do support the rights of Serbia to demonstrate, and they condemn any use of force against them. After one decade of peaceful protests, Albanians of Kosova once again are inviting the Serbian opposition, which has protested for several months, to join Albanians of Kosova in their demand for full freedom and democracy based on the political will of Albanians in Kosova which has been confirmed by referendum, as well as parliamentary and presidential elections.

Kosova wants to see a democratic neighbor in Serbia which will end colonization of Kosova. But until that happens, we are in danger of the possibility of transferring the conflict from Belgrade to Kosova.

The United States attitude toward the Belgrade regime has changed since I last met with you. While the Dayton Accords could not have been achieved without the support of Belgrade, the world has witnessed again the duplicity, dishonest and disdain which the tyrant demonstrates toward agreements with which they disagree.

Now, just over a year since the Dayton agreement was reached, and the outer wall of sanctions was established, the U.S. has made it clear that it opposes Communist government in Belgrade and supports the opposition protests in Belgrade.

We were encouraged by State Department statements Monday in which the spokesman, Nicholas Burns, said: "We have always said that we believe in enhancement of the political rights of the Kosovars."

The U.S. should continue to increase its pressure on the Belgrade regime, as it has done in recent days. While this increase of pressure is certainly appropriate, it has resulted along with the success of the opposition protests in convincing the Belgrade Communist regime to once again to play "the Kosova card."

Isn't it ironic. The beginning of the end of former Yugoslavia began in Kosova. And now, as the beginning of the end of Serbia-Montenegro unfolds, the focuses has again shifted to Kosova. In recent days, the Belgrade regime has attempted to stir nationalist passions against the Albanians in Kosova, just as it did at the start of the Balkans calamity in 1989.

Then as now, Belgrade regime has turned from rhetoric to rampage. As Nicholas Burns reported Monday: "Let me give you a little bit more information about Kosova because we're very concerned by it. We understand that three ethnic Albanians were killed by Serbian police on Friday. Over 100 ethnic Albanians have been arrested by Serbian police in what appears to be a coordinated police round-up in Kosova itself. Forty are still in custody. There is a basic denial of human and political rights to the Albanian population which will remain . . . a great concern of the United States." This insanity must be stopped.

In Kosova, we have organized our society, our institutions, so we urge the inter-

national community to help us by ensuring that Serbia will leave us alone in our state of Republic of Kosova.

We are part of the solution. We are committed to the peaceful resolution of the crisis and achieving recognition for our right of self-determination. But structural repression against Albanians in Kosova has become unbearable and still, under the leadership of President Rugova, Albanians are continuing their peaceful attempt to decolonize Kosova and establish an internationally recognized independent state of Kosova on the basis of the referendum held on September 26, 1991, as the best way to protect human and national rights of all the population of the Republic of Kosova.

The independent Kosova will play an important role in establishing friendly relations between the Albanians and the Serbs in the Balkans and also in directly influencing long-term stability in the region. Kosova will become a bridge between the state of Albania and the Serbia. This implies special relations and open borders between Kosova and Serbia as well as between Kosova and Albania.

As Yugoslavia disintegrates, the new reality is that Kosova is an emerging state in the Balkans.

It would be tragic if a decision over the future of Kosova would be made against the political will of the people of Kosova. That would be tragic for the ideals of freedom but also definitely unacceptable for Kosova.

IV

We are asking the United States of America to continue its policy of protecting Kosova. We hope that we have learned from the tragedy of Bosnia that we should not react too late.

With all the problems, the United States engagement in Bosnia succeeded in stopping the war and mass killings, rapes, prison camps, and the worst misery the world has seen since the Holocaust.

We are asking the U.S. leadership for a peaceful resolution of the question of Kosova and the total Albanian question in general. Maintaining the "outer wall" of sanctions until a final, acceptable peaceful solution for Kosova is reached is essential.

We are asking the USCSCE to exercise its influence on the Belgrade regime to accept the political reality that exists in Kosova.

Kosova is a question of international stability. Therefore, we ask the USCSCE for the return of OSCE monitors and a permanent OSCE presence in Kosova.

Other democratic nations should follow the example of the U.S. which directly engaged in Kosova through its permanent USIS office, and that of many NGOs as well. We wish to see more of such activity.

Tuesday night, President Clinton said in his State of the Union address that America must build for the next century. We as well are seeking to establish our future and that of our children in the next century.

How can we accept living under occupation and colonization, fear and violence which Serbia has imposed on Kosova? We are directed toward global goals of the 21st century, while Serbia wants to move us back to the dark ages. Kosova may be the last example of classical colonization. We are asking for support for peaceful decolonization of Kosova. We are asking for democratic support for the destruction of apartheid in Kosova.

In every crisis of European stability in this century, the United States was the country that brought the solution and stability. We hope that the U.S. will not surrender the

Balkans to the people who unjustly drew the maps with artificial borders in the Congress of Berlin in the last century. They have placed a time bomb in the Balkans which brought tragedy after tragedy for a hundred years.

As President Clinton said in the State of Union address, the enemy of our time is inaction. We are asking for U.S. action in protecting Kosova as well as the South Balkans.

We in Kosova were encouraged by President Clinton's statement: "Our first task is to help build for the first time an undivided, democratic Europe," he said. We are encouraged by this statement because in a democratic Europe, abolition of colonization and apartheid in Kosova will take place.

So finally, we ask USCSCE and all other U.S. institutions and the international community to support the peaceful policy of Kosova Albanians through dialog and under U.S. leadership with international guarantees.

We are counting on the only force in the world that has the will to stop it. We are counting on the United States of America.

THE GRIM STATISTICS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN KOSOVA

Over 150 Albanians, mostly young people, have been killed by the Serbian police and army since 1989. In 1996 alone, 14 were killed.

66 young Albanian soldiers have been killed while serving in the army under very dubious and suspicious circumstances since 1981.

During the first six months of 1996, some 3,657 ethnic Albanians were mistreated, severely beaten and tortured. By the end of the year there were more than 5000.

In the beginning of 1997, five Albanians were killed by Serbian police and at least 100 Albanians were arrested without reason within a period of one week. The majority of them are still being held in Serbian custody.

Between 1981 and 1993, over 3,200 Albanians were sentenced for one to 20 years in prison for political reasons; 30,000 received 60-day sentences; and over 800,000 were detained by police.

147,300 Albanians, almost 80 percent of all employed Albanians, have been fired by the Serbian government.

450 enterprises were placed under "emergency administration".

4,000 small businesses were shut down for from six months to one year.

Over one million Albanians have no means of subsistence.

Over 80 percent of health care facilities are under "special measures;" dozens of walk-in clinics have been shut down in villages.

Over 2,400 Albanian medical personnel have been dismissed, 157 of them from the teaching staff of the Faculty of Medicine in Prishtina.

70,000 Albanian high school students have been barred from their school buildings.

22,000 teachers have been teaching for seven years without pay.

837 professors and assistants have been dismissed from the university, representing 95 percent of the teaching and administrative staff.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference.

This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, March 20, 1997, may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MARCH 21

11:00 a.m.
Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe
To hold a briefing on prospects for elections, reintegration, and democratization in Croatia. 2200 Rayburn Building

APRIL 8

9:30 a.m.
Appropriations
VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Environmental Protection Agency. SD-138

10:00 a.m.
Appropriations
Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Farm Service Agency, the Foreign Agricultural Service, and the Risk Management Agency, Department of Agriculture. SD-124

2:00 p.m.
Appropriations
Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine child pornography issues. S-146, Capitol

APRIL 9

10:00 a.m.
Appropriations
Defense Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for Navy and Marine Corps programs. SD-192

APRIL 10

9:00 a.m.
Appropriations
Interior Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Bureau of Indian Affairs of the Department of the Interior and Indian gaming activities. SD-124

10:00 a.m.
Appropriations
Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Im-

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

migration and Naturalization Service, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Drug Enforcement Administration. S-146, Capitol

Appropriations
Transportation Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Department of Transportation SD-192

APRIL 15

9:30 a.m.
Appropriations
VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Department of Housing and Urban Development. SD-138

10:00 a.m.
Appropriations
Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Rural Utilities Service, the Rural Housing Service, the Rural Business-Cooperative Service, and the Alternative Agricultural Research and Commercialization Center, all of the Department of Agriculture. SD-124

2:00 p.m.
Appropriations
Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Subcommittee
To hold hearings on counter-terrorism issues. S-146, Capitol

APRIL 16

10:00 a.m.
Appropriations
Defense Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Department of the Army. SD-192

Appropriations
Transportation Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Department of Transportation. SD-124

2:00 p.m.
Appropriations
Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Federal Communications Commission. S-146, Capitol

APRIL 17

9:00 a.m.
Appropriations
Interior Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture. SD-192

1:30 p.m.
Appropriations
Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Supreme Court of the United States and the Judiciary. S-146, Capitol

APRIL 22

9:30 a.m.
Appropriations
VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the National Science Foundation and the Office of Science and Technology Policy. SD-192

Appropriations
Energy and Water Development Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Environmental Management Program of the Department of Energy. SD-124

10:00 a.m.
Appropriations
Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Agricultural Research Service, the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, the Economic Research Service, and the National Agricultural Statistics Service, all of the Department of Agriculture. SD-138

APRIL 23

10:00 a.m.
Appropriations
Defense Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Department of Defense, focusing on medical programs. SD-192

APRIL 24

9:30 a.m.
Appropriations
Interior Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the National Endowment for the Arts/National Endowment for the Humanities. SD-192

Appropriations
Energy and Water Development Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Corp of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation, Department of the Interior. SD-124

APRIL 29

9:30 a.m.
Appropriations
VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Department of Veterans Affairs. SD-138

10:00 a.m.
Appropriations
Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, and the Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Resources. SD-124

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

March 19, 1997

APRIL 30

10:00 a.m.
 Appropriations
 Defense Subcommittee
 To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Department of Defense, focusing on the structure and modernization of the National Guard.

SD-192

MAY 1

9:00 a.m.
 Appropriations
 Interior Subcommittee
 To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Department of the Interior.

SD-192

MAY 6

9:30 a.m.
 Appropriations
 VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies Subcommittee
 To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

SD-138

MAY 7

10:00 a.m.
 Appropriations
 Defense Subcommittee
 To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Department of Defense.

SD-192

MAY 14

10:00 a.m.
 Appropriations
 Defense Subcommittee
 To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Department of Defense, focusing on environmental programs.

SD-192

MAY 21

10:00 a.m.
 Appropriations
 Defense Subcommittee
 To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Department of Defense, focusing on Air Force programs.

SD-192

JUNE 4

10:00 a.m.
 Appropriations
 Defense Subcommittee
 To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Department of Defense.

SD-192

JUNE 11

10:00 a.m.
 Appropriations
 Defense Subcommittee
 To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Department of Defense.

SD-192

CANCELLATIONS

MARCH 20

10:00 a.m.
 Appropriations
 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Subcommittee
 To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Department of Education.

SD-192