

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

COMMENDING CHAIRMAN ARCHER
FOR HIS WORK ON THE TAX BILL

HON. NEWT GINGRICH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 1997

Mr. GINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, next week, the House will take a historic series of votes on balancing the budget, saving Medicare, and cutting taxes. The Christian Coalition yesterday sent a letter commending Chairman ARCHER for his work on this bill and describing the importance of these tax cuts to its members. I enter that letter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

CHRISTIAN COALITION,
June 19, 1997.

HON. NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: The Christian Coalition was pleased to support the Ways and Means tax bill. As Chairman Archer correctly noted, there are \$254 billion worth of pro-family tax cuts in the bill, from the \$500 per child tax credit to the education tax incentives to death tax relief. These are significant and meaningful tax cuts for America's families.

As you know, the \$500 per child tax credit has been our highest legislative priority since 1993. Under Chairman Archer's bill, taxpayers with children will be able to keep \$150 billion of their own money thanks to the \$500 per child tax credit. Most significantly, this includes taxpayers with children in the most expensive age group, teenagers. The \$500 per child tax credit will go a long way to relieve the crushing federal tax burden on the family and will enable parents to make their own decisions on how best to meet the financial needs of their children. We also note that the bill contains \$75 billion in education tax incentives and \$29 billion in death tax relief that will be welcome news to families. These are important pro-family provisions. Lastly, we note that we have always supported capital gains tax relief. While the capital gains provisions are not specifically targeted to families, families will definitely benefit from the capital gains relief.

We are concerned, though, about President Clinton's reaction to date. I just cannot imagine that he would veto a bill that provides such significant tax relief to middle class families. That would be a severe disappointment to families with children. We are urging him to support your bill.

Thank you and Chairman Archer for all your hard work on behalf of America's families. We look forward to working with you through out this process to sign long awaited tax relief into law.

Sincerely,

BRIAN LOPINA,
Director, Governmental Affairs Office.

HONORING EARL W. STEPHENS

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 1997

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to rise before you today to pay tribute to Earl W. Stephens, the Illustrious Potentate of Oman Temple No. 72. The Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine will hold their 43d Annual Potentate's Ball in honor of Mr. Stephens on June 21, 1997.

Earl Stephens was born in 1943 to Dock and Jerlyn Stephens in Gilliam, LA, as the second oldest of 12 children. He began his education at Hale Elementary School in Hosston, went on to attend Pine Valley School of Rodessa, LA, and graduated from Herndon High School of Belcher, LA, in 1962. Upon graduation, Mr. Stephens enlisted in the U.S. Air Force where he served our country honorably for 4 years. He married the former Ceatrice Williams and settled in Flint, MI, where he began his 30-year career at Buick Motor Division.

Mr. Stephens' commitment and generosity are evidence by his involvement in numerous community organizations. Earl has been a member of Gospel Temple Baptist Church since 1969 and is currently cochairman of the Deacon Board. Earl's other affiliations include By-Laws Committee chairman of Unity for Justice, and treasurer and award chairperson for the Greater Flint Afro-American Hall of Fame. In addition, Earl has been active with the Boy Scouts of America, where he now serves as commissioner of the Norwegian District of the Tall Pine Council. In addition, Earl is a member of UAW Local 599 and holds the chairmanship of the Veterans Committee. Earl also serves as cochairman of the Credit Committee at Security Federal Credit Union. In all of these endeavors, Mr. Stephens has uplifted us all with his kind spirit, knowledge, and effective leadership.

Mr. Stephens has held membership with the John W. Stevenson Lodge No. 56 Prince Hall Affiliated since September 1988 and served as master in 1995-96. He joined the Saginaw Valley Consistory No. 71 in 1989 and now serves as chancellor. In 1988, Mr. Stephens began his affiliation with the Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. In each of these roles, Mr. Stephens has worked tirelessly to achieve the goal of equal opportunity for all. He has been a mentor and a counselor to many of our young people.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my fellow Members of Congress to join me in honoring the Illustrious Potentate, Mr. Earl Stephens. His devotion to making this Nation a better place to live should reinforce our strong commitment to our communities. We owe a debt of gratitude to Earl, his wife Ceatrice, and their two children, Latricia and Royce.

SALUTE TO DON LEGG

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 1997

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to rise today to honor an east Texan, Don Legg of Kemp, who is a legendary hometown figure. Don was recognized this year at a county-wide celebration of his 90th birthday and of the many years spent in service to the people of Kemp, TX, and Kaufman County.

Don has served his community in a variety of ways over the years. He has served multiple years on the Kemp City Council, the Kaufman County Improvement Commission, the county board of the Visiting Nurses Association, the Kaufman County Senior Citizens Advisory Committee, and the North Central Texas Council of Governments. He has served as either president or secretary of the Kemp Chamber of Commerce since 1970, has been a deputy voter registrar and even has helped take the census. Since 1992 Don has served as a reporter, photographer, and proof-reader for the Monitor, Kemp's newspaper. He is still an active, working member of the press.

Don also served his Nation well. During World War II he was the director of personnel of the American Red Cross and was responsible for the entire Pacific Theater. He supervised the efforts of almost 2,000 Red Cross workers and served with the Red Cross for 17 years.

At 90 years of age, Don is still an active supporter of school functions and area students activities. During his younger years he was a teacher and a coach, and he has been an active member of the Kemp Athletic Boosters Club for many years. He has received numerous awards from State and local officials but says that the honors he most cherishes are those given by students, as they are our Nation's future leaders.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to join Don Legg's many friends and supporters in celebration of his 90th birthday this year and in wishing him continued health and happiness for many years to come.

TRIBUTE TO STUDENTS AT ST.
LEO'S SCHOOL

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 1997

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay a special tribute to a distinguished pair of students from St. Leo's School, who reside in my district. Christopher and Jonathan Cadena are brothers who attend St. Leo's which is located at 104-19 49th Avenue in Corona, Queens.

● 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.

Christopher Mark Cadena was born on January 6, 1989 and has just completed the second grade. As a second grader, in homeroom 2-2 instructed by Ms. Maria Delledera, Christopher has managed to excel in all of his subjects and achieve a record of straight A's. With the recent results of the National Achievement Test, Christopher ranked higher than 82 percent of 2d graders nationwide. Overall he is performing much higher than average in basic skills, reading, language and mathematics. It is my hope his achievement is a testament to his commitment to learning. Christopher's prospects of becoming an NBA basketball player for the New York Knicks will hopefully be realized but not without a solid educational background first. In spirit of the former Senator of New Jersey and former Knicks star the Honorable Bill Bradley. I wish him well.

Jonathan Cadena, born on September 4, 1991, has completed his first step in what promises hopes to be a long, successful, and prosperous road to law school or a doctorate degree in the field of his choice. He has completed his kindergarten K-2 class, instructed by Mrs. Mancuso, and will be entering first grade in September. Christopher and Jonathan Cadena's continued hard work and effort will lead them to a successful future filled with hope and opportunity. None of this could be possible without the constant attention and support of their family. Mr. and Mrs. Hector and Amparo Cadena have the lifelong responsibility to ensure that their children always maintain a high standard in education. This should come easy as their grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Fausto and Beatriz Rosero have also committed themselves to raising and educating their children at St. Leo's. This is the second generation of the Rosero family to attend St. Leo's School. I hope it won't be the last.

The students at St. Leo's School must learn that the value of education is priceless. St. Leo's has long provided the community of Corona and their students with the foundation necessary to be successful in all their endeavors. The next generation of graduates must not only be encouraged to complete their education, but to do it well. They are responsible for paving the way for a better and brighter future for their Nation, community, family, but most of all for themselves.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in encouraging the following students who have started down the right path toward a successful future: Jonathan Cadena—K-2; Christopher Cadena—2-2; Christopher Hernandez—3-1; Stephanie Hernandez—K-1; Ariana Medina—2-2; Andres Patino—1-1; Jessica Patino—3-2; Elizabeth Correa—2-1; Antony Paredes—3-1.

On behalf of Mr. Paul Corsello principal, and Father Charles P. Keeney pastor of St. Leo's Parish, the students and most of all the teachers whose commitment to education are the most inspirational of all lessons, I congratulate everyone, especially the graduating class of 1997 for their dedication in achieving high standards and excellence in education. I wish all of them the best of luck in all their future endeavors.

ORANGE, CONNECTICUT CELEBRATES ITS 175TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 1997

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, June 22, the town of Orange will hold a Jubilee Celebration to commemorate its 175th anniversary. I am proud to rise today to recognize the town of Orange and its people on this very special occasion.

Orange has a long, rich history and its residents can look with pride on a community that has retained its traditional style and appeal. Incorporated in 1822, the town of Orange was originally composed of the parish of North Milford in Milford and the parish of West Haven in New Haven. Named for William, Prince of Orange, the community has a history which dates back to the early 1600's.

Industry arrived in Orange in 1776 but, for the most part, the town remained a farming community. A great source of pride for all the residents of Orange, the Hine farm is the Nation's oldest business continuously operated by the same family. Founded in 1639 by Thomas Hine, the farm has been worked by 11 generations of the family. The farm serves as a reminder of Orange's past and is also an example of how the town of Orange will unite in support of members of the community. When the Hines lost their historic barn to fire last summer, the town rallied around the family. This is truly a heartwarming example of how a community can come together to help members who are trying to get back on their feet.

Orange has a number of annual festivals and traditions which bring the community together. In addition to the yearly Memorial Day parade, there is a volunteer firemen's carnival which is not only popular with residents of Orange but also draws people from all over the region. In September, the town gathers to honor its agrarian past with the annual Orange Country Fair. The fair features traditional rural competitions and craft exhibitions. It is clear that the residents of Orange are very proud of the town's rich history.

Perhaps the best indication of the community spirit in Orange is the number of families who have chosen to live there for generations. They form a close-knit, caring community of exceptional citizens with solid values.

I am very pleased to recognize the town of Orange on its 175th anniversary. My very best wishes to all the residents as they celebrate this landmark occasion.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DICK FAUX, MILPITAS' 1997 BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 1997

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Mr. Dick Faux who has recently been selected as the

1997 Business Person of the Year by the Milpitas Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Faux is the co-owner of the Bankers Mortgage Network of Milpitas located in California's 13th Congressional District.

Dick has been a dedicated member of our community for over 29 years. He has been an active member of the Milpitas Chamber since February 1998 who can always be counted on to volunteer for such duties as the annual crab feed and serving on the golf tournament committees. He is also a well-known member of the Chamber's Ambassador Committee.

Dick also served as president of the Milpitas Rotary Club for the 1996-97 year. Throughout his years as a Rotarian he has been a member of many of the Club's committees, chaired numerous projects for the Club and served in a variety of leadership roles. He has also been an active member of numerous other community organizations including the Milpitas YMCA, Women and their Children Housing [W.A.T.C.H.], the American Cancer Society, the American Heart Association, Big Brothers, and the First Presbyterian Church in Milpitas.

Dick Faux will be honored by his friends and colleagues at the Milpitas chambers' annual installation and awards banquet to be held on Friday, June 19, 1997. I am proud to recognize Mr. Dick Faux as the 1997 Milpitas Business Person of the Year.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE PLANTATION SCHOOL

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 1997

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the team from the Plantation Key School from the Florida Keys which was recently awarded a top prize in the worldwide Odyssey of the Mind competition held at the University of Maryland.

In March the team won first place in Florida's statewide Odyssey of the Mind competition, thus qualifying them to represent Florida in the 18th annual world finals competition in early June. At the worldwide level, the team competed against 5,000 students representing 740 schools from across the United States and throughout the world. More than one million students participate each year in localized competitions before the winners are selected to compete in the international finals.

The Plantation School group surpassed 54 U.S. and international teams in their division to receive the top award for exceptional creativity in team problem solving. Only 7 of the 740 participating teams were given this award.

Team members received individual gold medals at an awards ceremony attended by more than 20,000 spectators. In addition, team members' names will appear on a trophy on permanent display in the Explorer's Hall at the National Geographic Society headquarters in Washington, DC. The Gold Medalist student team members are Tehani Pestalozzi, Sarah Otto-Fitzdam, Jamie Shiereck, Kerry Clark, Leah Ekblom, Grant Turner, and Michael Rattliff.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud these students for months of diligent work and for their excellent

representation of Florida in this unique international competition. Also to be commended is the team's longtime teacher and coordinator, Harriet Robbins, along with the team's coaches, parents, and school principal, Sandi Bisceglia, who gave their time and support.

HONORING ROBERT W. HOWALD

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 1997

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring a man who has blessed our community with his dedication for many, many years. After a long and distinguished record of leadership, Robert W. Howald will retire on June 20, 1997 from his position as dean of continuing education at Charles Stewart Mott Community College in Flint, MI.

Before pursuing his career in education, Bob distinguished himself as an employee of General Motors. Over the course of 31 years, Bob worked in a number of positions including, labor relations supervisor, education and training supervisor, time study engineer, and plant safety director. Bob's responsibilities were many yet he always found the time to listen to a co-worker or to help a friend in need.

Bob's commitment to educational opportunities for all, led him to teaching positions at Mott Community College and Mott Adult High School. Bob's experience and skillful teaching methods were recognized by many. He was a frequent guest lecturer for graduate courses on labor relations at Eastm Michigan University. He continues to serve as a proctor at Central Michigan University.

In addition to his work in industry and education, Bob has provided leadership in Flint through a wide range of activities. He was appointed to serve on the Michigan Selective Service Board, served as chairman of Public Affairs for the Michigan Committee, Employer Support of the National Guard and Reserve, and is a member of the American Legion. In addition, he served our country proudly in the U.S. Army Chemical Corps. Bob also is an active member of the United Auto Workers Union of America, Mott College Local No. 2102.

It is indeed my pleasure to stand in front of this Nation's House and speak of my dear friend, who through his thoughts, deeds, and actions has provided our community with an invaluable resource and an indomitable spirit. Although he is retiring, I know that he will remain active in our community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in wishing Bob and his loving wife of 42 years, Betty, well in their retirement. I know that Bob and Betty will enjoy spending time with their children Gwen, Jeffrey, Brian, and Timothy, and their four beautiful grandchildren, Angie, Adam, Kyle, and Kody.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF VIRGIL E. BROWN,
SR.

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 1997

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the lifetime achievement of Virgil E. Brown, Sr., of Cleveland, OH.

Virgil Brown dedicated his adult life to public service. He has been active in his community, in the city, in business, and in charity.

Virgil has served as chairman of the board of Bethany Baptist Church, city council member, Cuyahoga County Commissioner, and director of the County Board of Elections.

He has also served as a board member on the St. Lawrence Seaway Development Board, as a board member of the Greater Cleveland Roundtable and as an executive board member of the March of Dimes.

His record of service has won him the praise and respect of his peers. Virgil was named to the Hall of Fame of the National Forum for Black Public Administrators and the Ohio Senior Citizen Hall of Fame.

Mr. Speaker, Virgil E. Brown's life has been a gift to Cleveland, of whom the whole city is extremely proud.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT KRIEBLE

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 1997

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to pay tribute today to a great American, a great man, and a good friend—the late Robert Kriebel. Many in this body had the privilege of knowing Bob Kriebel, and many more undoubtedly know of his many accomplishments. As a scientist, entrepreneur, and supporter of freedom throughout the world, Bob Kriebel influenced thousands of lives, helped make the world a better place in which to live, and helped change the course of history.

Bob Kriebel first made his mark as a scientist, inventing super adhesives that revolutionized the manufacturing industry. From a \$100,000 investment borrowed from family and friends in the 1950's, he built a multi-national, billion-dollar corporation that created tens of thousands of jobs throughout the world. That success was the foundation for a life-long support of the free enterprise system and for investments both at home and abroad to further that cause.

Bob generously supported dozens of pro-democratic and pro-free market institutions. He was an early supporter of both the Heritage Foundation and the Free Congress Foundation, based here in Washington. He also supported many of the dissident pro-democratic groups in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, even in the face of criticism and skepticism at home. His vision, however, proved prophetic, as his efforts contributed to the fall of communism and helped pave the way for pro-democratic candidates. His Kriebel

Institute spent millions of dollars on political and economic training and on helping develop viable candidates, including Boris Yeltsin.

Bob also helped individuals in need and helped countless entrepreneurs throughout the world. He was particularly devoted to helping private businesses in newly freed economies and transition countries.

Bob's generosity was matched only by his dedication and his boundless energy, and until he was stricken last month, he continued to work tirelessly in these many endeavors. Though some might not have the capacity to understand his full contributions to our Nation, politically and strategically, I believe that all would recognize Bob Kriebel's significant accomplishments, his dedication to free-market principles, and his extraordinary life.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to pay my last respects to this man of many talents, this great American and defender of freedom throughout the world—the late Robert Kriebel.

MONTANA—AT LARGE

HON. RICK HILL

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 1997

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to make my colleagues aware of a project currently underway in my State of Montana, the "One Good Cow Project."

As we all know, the Dakotas and eastern Montana were hit by devastating winter weather which caused the loss of more than 275,000 cattle in the Dakotas and 24,000 in Montana.

Michelle Tebay and Lisa Schmidt of Whitehall, MT, have developed "The One Good Cow Project." This project helps citizens help one another by donating cattle to producers in the Dakotas and eastern Montana. Their goal is to deliver 80,000 healthy, running-age cows to farmers and ranchers who have experienced livestock loss. In pursuit of this goal, hundreds of farmers associations, corporations, and small businesses throughout the West have already come together for this good cause. It is my sincere hope that calling your attention to this terrific effort will compel others to make contributions.

Mr. Speaker, let us applaud this citizen-based effort. I commend both Michelle and Lisa and all those who are contributing to the success of this program. It is a fine example of Americans coming together, selflessly assisting one another, and contributing to those who have experienced hardship.

GOOD LUCK AND CONGRATULATIONS TO MORRIE BOYD

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 1997

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I pay tribute to a great Army officer, and a great soldier. This month Morrie Boyd will depart Washington to assume new duties as the deputy commanding general, III Corps. Fort Hood,

TX. For the past 18 months he has served as the Chief of Army Legislative Liaison where he has proven himself to be a trusted adviser to the Secretary of the Army and the Chief of Staff.

During his tour as the Chief, Army Legislative Liaison, he guided the Army's relationship with Congress, wielding a deft and skillful touch during a period of tremendous change. Throughout this period, Morrie Boyd ably assisted the Army's senior leadership in dealings with Members of Congress and their staffs in helping them to understand the needs of the Army as it transforms itself from a forward deployed force to a power projection force. Drawing on years of experience, he skillfully charted the way for an enhanced understanding of the Army's role in the legislative process and for telling the Army story. His leadership resulted in cohesive legislative strategies, responsiveness to constituent inquiries, well-prepared Army leaders and a coherent Army message.

Morrie Boyd's career has reflected a deep commitment to our Nation, which has been characterized by dedicated selfless service, love for soldiers and a commitment to excellence. Major General Boyd is a consummate professional whose performance in over three decades of service, in peace and war has personified those traits of courage, competency, and integrity that our Nation has come to expect from its Army officers. The Pentagon and the Army Secretariat loss will be Fort Hood's gain, as Major General Boyd continues to serve his Nation. On behalf of the Congress of the United States and the people of this great Nation, I offer our heartfelt appreciation for a job well done over the past 18 months and best wishes for continued success, to a great soldier and friend of Congress.

NATIONAL GAMBLING IMPACT
STUDY COMMISSION

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 1997

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, earlier today I had the opportunity to address the National Gambling Impact Study Commission's first meeting and I would like to place my remarks in the RECORD. They follow:

GAMBLING IMPACT STUDY COMMISSION
HEARING

Good morning. I am delighted to be here. As a matter of fact, I can't begin to tell you just how delighted I am.

You are about to begin an important journey and one of your first steps will be to prepare a road map to guide you. There are some important things you should know at the beginning and I am pleased to have this opportunity to speak with you. I appreciate your kindness and your attention. I will not take up too much of your time but there are matters of consequence which I must address.

The task before you is as important as it is enormous. But your goal is really very simple. Today, when a community, town, city, or even a State is considering the pros and cons of letting some kind of gambling activity start up, they have nowhere to go to ob-

tain reliable, factual, and unbiased answers to their questions.

Your job is merely to make that information easily available to them. That's it. Congress has given you 2 years and an adequate budget to uncover, compile, and digest all the available information and I have every confidence that you are up to the task.

I hope you will all take a look at Gambling in America. This is the final report of the 1976 Commission on the Review of the National Policy Toward Gambling. This 3-year study, completed over 20 years ago when legalized gambling was in its infancy, was the last time government took a hard look at gambling. This report would be a good starting point for you. In the preface, commission executive director James E. Ritchie concluded that "we can no longer afford to be ill-informed and complacent about a matter of such manifest national concern." Yet today, over two decades later, we are still having difficulty shining the light of the day on this dubious enterprise.

Let me say at the outset, I oppose gambling. I think it is anti-family, anti-business and does much more harm than good. I certainly don't want it in my community or in my State and would fight it from coming there with all my energy.

But I don't have any right to make that decision for other communities or other places. That's up to the people who live there to decide for themselves. But I'm not asking you to be against gambling. What I do ask, though, and what America demands of you, is to be open minded, fair, undaunted in the pursuit of knowledge based upon solid research and courageous enough to air the truth in the face of what I know will be enormous pressure from special interests and "spin artists."

In your search for information, I hope you will be out on the road. I urge you to hold hearings all across America. The answers to your questions do not lie here in Washington but in the gambling centers of Las Vegas, Atlantic City, and Biloxi; and in regions which are learning to live with casinos and their effects such as New Orleans, St. Louis, and Milwaukee. You should travel to the small towns of Illinois, Iowa, and Missouri to see what river boat casinos are doing to local economies. You should visit States hosting tribal casinos and States which have been recent battlegrounds in the debate over allowing gambling to expand within their borders such as New York, Pennsylvania, and Florida. These are the places where you will meet the people who will help you form your conclusions and where you should set up shop.

I do want to share with you a few observations. I first became interested in this issue some years ago when there was an effort to bring river boat casino gambling to my State of Virginia. Truthfully, I didn't think it was a good idea but I wasn't sure. And there were no good answers to my questions. The preponderance of information that was available was provided by gambling interests which I found suspect and of dubious reliability. And as I dug further into this issue, I was confronted with an army of high priced advocates representing gambling interests. No one was there to represent the people who live in the area and their families.

As a matter of fact, this was about the same time Disney was trying to build a new theme park in my congressional district. This was a high profile and very controversial initiative and the joke around town was that if you were a lawyer or lobbyist this was "the" place to find work. Yet, I hap-

pened to read in the paper that Disney was out-spent by a good margin by the pro-river boat gambling interests lobbying Virginia's General Assembly. Again, while no one was there representing the people who live and work in the area, gambling interests were pouring money into their effort to get a toe hold in Virginia.

And no wonder. Once gambling sets up shop, it's almost impossible to get rid of it. In fact, there's a history of things going the other way. Communities begin to rely on their share of the revenues and local politicians cave in to demands from the gamblers for longer hours, more facilities and more tables or slots or wheels. And they have the money to do it. This is about a \$500 billion per year industry with profits of \$50 billion. That's billion with a "B."

Too much of this money is spent in the high stakes game of influencing lawmakers and other government officials. According to the Federal Elections Commission, during the 1995-96 election cycle, the casino gambling industry poured more than \$4.4 million into federal political contributions including \$2.6 million in "soft money" to the Democratic and Republican parties. State and local campaigns, too, are awash in gambling dollars. Some \$100 million over the past five years has gone to influence state legislatures around the country.

The more I worked on this issue, the more concerned I became. All the evidence I could gather pointed to the conclusion that gambling was harmful to people and to communities. It led to crime, to corruption, to cannibalization of existing business and it caused social ills. The response to my concerns from gambling interests was to note that all my evidence was anecdotal and gambling really jacked up the local economy and they were working to solve whatever problems gambling might contribute to—such as addiction.

I felt their response was unsatisfactory and introduced, with others, legislation to create this commission which, I believed, would quickly pass. Who could be against taking a look at the impact gambling might be having on America?

The answer, I swiftly learned, was the well-heeled and determined industry itself. Fronted by a virtual army of well paid and well connected Washington lobbyists with access to almost every door in this town, they fought this legislation every step of the way. First they tried to kill it in the House and then the Senate. Then they tried to defang the commission by denying it the power to subpoena relevant documents and when that failed they worked to have gambling proponents appointed to this body—to stack the commission, if you will. But I believe you are up to this task. I am counting on you to do a good job. America is counting on you.

One of the first hurdles you must overcome is that the gambling industry has done such a good job of selling themselves as a good neighbor, a creator of revenue and jobs. They pay taxes and governments get hooked on the revenue. Politicians are reluctant to walk away from this money that feeds government spending. But this is a problem, not a solution. As Robert Goodman asks in the preface of his book, *The Luck Business*, "Do we really want a government so dependent on gambling that they are forced actively to promote an activity that takes disproportionately from those who can afford it least, does the greatest damage to existing economies and can be highly addictive?"

No, I do not believe we do. Various studies indicate that perhaps 30 percent of all gambling revenue comes from that 5 percent or

so of problem gamblers addicted to its lure. Even though the gambling industry claims to care about this addiction problem, new games and new attractions are always coming on-line which further sharpen the craving of compulsive gamblers drawing them deeper into the web of self destruction.

After you complete your work, I think you will agree.

Let me close with this. As you begin your search for truth and fairness you will not have to look far to find those who will present the gambler's views. You will find their arguments and presentations, on the surface, most compelling and easy to go down; they have the money to hire the very best to do this sort of thing. I hope you will look beyond the glossy presentations; ask for the research information you need and don't be put off by dodges that it isn't available, isn't relevant or you really don't need it. You do. Stick to your guns and use your subpoena power.

You must avoid being led down the wrong path in your quest for the truth. I predict you will need to search much harder to find witnesses and experiences depicting the downside of gambling. How are you going to find the theater owner who went out of business when the casino opened up? How eager to testify will be the woman whose husband became addicted to gambling, squandered their life savings, ran up incredible debts and then, when he could bear no more, took his own life?

The father of recently slain Sherrice Iverson, the 7-year old whose strangled body was found in a Nevada casino restroom, after she had been allowed to roam unsupervised for long periods while he played the tables, might not be a willing witness. It may be difficult to persuade an indicted state legislator to sit before you to relate how he sold out those he represented for an under-the-table payoff from those wanting to bring a casino to town. Will Missouri's former House Speaker of 15 years who resigned in the face of a federal investigation into financial ties with casinos be eager to tell his story?

Two prominent Kansas City clergy who resigned their pastorates recently due to problem gambling may be reluctant to tell their stories. According to Kansas City Reverend Ben Skinner, one stole \$60,000 from his congregation and lost it at the casinos and the other was discovered gambling while disguised in a wig and glasses. They may not be eager to meet with you.

But too many people with stories like these are out there and you need to hear from them.

I hope you do. I wish you well and pray for your success. Thank you.

REMARKS OF REPRESENTATIVE
TILLIE K. FOWLER REGARDING
A TRIBUTE TO J.L. CULLEN

HON. TILLIE K. FOWLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 1997

Mrs. FOWLER. Mr. Speaker, the Russell Caucus Room was filled to overflowing this morning with Members, staff, and other friends of J.L. Cullen, who came to pay tribute to her memory. Since I was unable to participate in that event due to votes here in the House, I would like to submit my remarks for the RECORD.

There is an old saying that kindness is like snow—it makes everything it covers beautiful. To all of us who knew J.L. Cullen, it is no exaggeration to say that she made the world a more beautiful place, because she was one of the kindest people I have ever known.

J.L. was one of those individuals who sets a standard to which the rest of us mortals can only aspire. She was what my mother, another Southern lady, would call a lovely person—in every way. She was smart as a whip and had an encyclopedic knowledge of the legislative process and the way this town works. She knew just about everybody in Washington, and was liked and admired by same. She had a great sense of humor, was a lot of fun, and—in addition to being a hard worker—had a rich and satisfying personal life. Any of us who enjoyed her lovely paintings or were privileged to taste her cooking can attest the latter. In addition, J.L. was a lady through and through—tough as nails when she needed to be, but always gracious and tolerant toward others.

I know that many of my colleagues in the House and Senate knew her, and they all have great things to say about her and great memories of her. Most of all, though, I think that my favorite memories of J.L. will be of her warm heart and her generosity. In spite of her schedule, she always had time to lend a hand or a shoulder—depending upon which was needed—and it seemed to me that she truly spent most of her time thinking not about herself, but about what she could do for other people. She was a friend to anyone who would let her be a friend, regardless of party affiliations or anything else. She was very creative, and she was always coming up with ways to help others—even people she didn't know very well. She loved to take new Members under her wing and share her knowledge with them, and I am sure that several congressional careers were saved or at least enhanced by her timely advice and admonitions. I know that the little oasis of fun and fellowship that she created for the women Members through her dinner parties was a real source of refreshment and inspiration to all of us.

I suppose I am trying to say that J.L. was the kind of person that parents hope their children will grow up to be—smart, successful, substantial and savvy—but above all, selfless. I was honored to call her my friend; I miss her; and I think that Washington is a little duller, a little colder, and a lot less fun without her.

REPUBLICAN TAX RELIEF

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 1997

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on behalf of Republican tax relief. I urge my colleagues to put themselves in the shoes of working class America when you consider this bill.

Working class, middle-income Americans struggle to make ends meet. For President Clinton, to consider middle-class Americans that earn \$75,000 a year as rich is simply ludicrous. Many middle-class families that earn that much are double income families.

Our plan provides tax relief for working women in double-income families. It also provides tax relief for parents with children in child care by indexing the dependent care tax. Senior citizen couples who make under \$41,200 a year will enjoy a 10 percent capital gains rate under the Republican proposal.

With our bill, middle-income families will benefit from a \$500 per child tax credit. A family that has a child today will receive an estimated \$10,309 in tax relief under the Republican plan by the time that child is 18. The tax relief will also create education investment accounts that will allow parents to save tax-free for their children's higher education.

Just 4 years ago under a Democrat-controlled Congress, American families were hit with the largest tax increase in the history of the world. It has been 16 years since Americans had any meaningful tax relief. Mr. Speaker, it is time to give Americans what they deserve and the Republican plan for tax relief delivers for America's families. I urge my colleagues and the President to strongly support it.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO RICHARD M.
DRISCOLL

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 1997

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reflect on the passing of an outstanding man, Richard M. Driscoll of Russell, KS, who died last week at the age of 78.

Mr. Driscoll was born on May 9, 1919, on a farm in southeastern Russell County, and graduated from Russell High School in 1937. "Dick," as his friends called him, attended the University of Kansas from 1937 to 1940 and was a letterman on both the track and football teams.

Mr. Driscoll enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps after graduating from Washburn Law School and served 2 years with the First Marine Division in the Pacific theater. Upon discharge from the Marines, he returned to Russell County and began to practice law. He was a well respected attorney in Kansas and was also active in farming, oil, and banking.

Dick Driscoll served most of his life in public service. He was a commissioner of the Kansas Highway Department from 1958 to 1962 and from 1973 to 1975. He was a former commissioner on the Economic Development Commission of the State of Kansas from 1969 to 1973 and a member of the Kansas Trade Commission to Japan in 1973. He always enjoyed and was active in local, State, and national politics and was chairman of the Russell County Democratic Central Committee for 35 years. He was also a delegate to two Democratic National Conventions.

He was admitted to the Kansas Bar on July 1, 1943, and received his 50-year certificate and pin of active service in 1993. He was named a counselor to the U.S. Supreme Court in 1971.

Mr. Speaker, men like Dick Driscoll made this country great as soldiers in war and stewards in peace. He will be missed by his family,

friends, and fellow residents of the first district. I ask you to join me in paying tribute to Richard M. Driscoll and his lifetime of service to his Nation and State.

IN MEMORY OF JAMES FRANCIS
McFARLAND

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 1997

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Jim McFarland, a member of my staff who passed away last week. For over 2 years, Jim had served the people of Pennsylvania's 18th Congressional District as a member of my staff, but his years of service to the people of Pennsylvania and the Nation began long before my election to Congress.

Jim was born in 1928 in McKeesport, PA, and lived his entire life in the area of western Pennsylvania known as the Mon-Valley. He bravely served our country as a member of the Army Air Force during the Korean war and after the war returned to the Mon-Valley where he worked as a tool and die maker for the next 40 years at Fisher Body. His public service continued throughout his life exemplifying his commitment and concern for improving the lives of all people.

For 20 years, Jim served as a councilman in his hometown of Jefferson Boro, which honored him with the Crossweight Award in recognition of this service. He also served as a trustee at his church, as the chairman of the Jefferson Boro Democratic Committee, and as president of Local No. 544 of the United Auto Workers. In truth, however, this collection of titles and official positions, while impressive, barely scratches the surface in terms of defining the man.

Jim McFarland was a truly compassionate individual the likes of which this world is rarely lucky enough to see. His presence graced the lives of everyone he came in contact with including his wife, Garnet, his son, Kevin, and his brothers, sisters, and grandchildren. On a personal level, I considered Jim to be one of my most trusted and valued friends. I only knew Jim for a small part of his 68 years, but from the day I first met him some 5 years ago I was struck by his rare combination of dedication, intellect, and extraordinary compassion. I was truly honored to have Jim consider me his friend. I know that I speak not only for myself, but for everyone that knew Jim, in saying that while we will miss him terribly, there is still a sense of joy because the world is a better place because of the life of Jim McFarland.

AIRLINE DISASTER RELIEF ACT

HON. JOSEPH M. McDADE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 1997

Mr. McDADE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce, with 38 members of a bipartisan coalition, the Airline Disaster Relief Act, a meas-

ure which will provide equitable treatment for families of passengers involved in aviation disasters regulated by the Death on the High Seas Act of 1920 [DOHSA].

The White House Commission on Aviation Safety and Security in its February 1997 report stated, "Certain statutes and international treaties, established 50 years ago, historically have not provided equitable treatment for families of passengers involved in international aviation disasters. Specifically, the Death on the High Seas Act of 1920 and the Warsaw Convention of 1929, although designed to aid families of victims of maritime and aviation disasters, have inhibited the ability of family members of aviation disasters to obtain fair compensation."

The Airline Disaster Relief Act will reverse the injustice of the Death on the High Seas Act by allowing plaintiff families of air disaster victims to obtain a fair jury trial and receive just compensation for loss of companionship, loss to society, and punitive damages for the death of their loved ones which claimants are currently restricted from obtaining. It is time to bring sanity and justice to the application of the Federal laws and international treaties which regulate airline disaster claims. Passage of the Airline Disaster Relief Act will be an important first step in achieving this objective.

Currently, there are two legal hurdles which families must overcome to obtain financial compensation for a lost loved one. The first is the Warsaw Convention of 1929 which is the primary vehicle to initiate lawsuits related to airline disasters. The second, is the Death on the High Seas Act which the Supreme Court recently ruled is the Federal law that determines the categories of damage awards. Under the Warsaw Convention, which governs the liability of airlines for airline disasters, families of passengers who died on international flights, such as TWA Flight 800, can receive no more than \$75,000 for the loss of their loved one unless they can prove willful misconduct on the part of the airline. In November 1996, the airline industry waived the \$75,000 cap and the need to prove willful misconduct for all future compensation cases. The airlines are to be commended for this action. However, in the case of the TWA 800 families, the waiver does not apply since the air disaster occurred in July 1996 and the tariff waiver agreement was signed the following November 1996. The lack of retroactive application of the waiver to TWA 800 means the \$75,000 cap is still in place and willful misconduct is still the threshold under the Warsaw Convention to be proven for greater compensation. It is my hope that the administration, the Airline Transportation Association and the airline will work to reverse his injustice and grandfather the TWA families into the November 1996 Tariff Agreement.

Although the Warsaw Convention is the primary vehicle through which plaintiffs initially seek compensation, the Supreme Court has ruled that damage awards will be based on the antiquated federal law the Death on the High Seas Act [DOHSA]. In 1920, the Death on the High Seas Act was designed for the immediate family of sailors lost at sea to obtain compensation for lost income before a U.S. District Judge under maritime law. Additionally, DOHSA restricts the circle of claim-

ants to those family members who are economically dependent upon the decedent. It took the Supreme Court 77 years to fold major civil aviation related tragedies occurring more than 3 miles from the shores into the Death on the High Seas Act, which was passed at a time when international civil aviation did not exist. DOHSA is invoked when a crash occurs more than a marine league, roughly 3 miles, offshore as in the case of TWA Flight 800.

When the \$75,000 cap of the Warsaw Convention and the compensatory restriction of only seeking loss of income under DOHSA are combined, family members of TWA 800 victims may receive minimal or no compensation through the courts. The interactions of these archaic and arcane laws are dealing families a grave and cruel injustice.

As in the case of TWA 800 and the families of the 21 high school students and chaperons from Montoursville High School, PA, the application of DOHSA will mean that the families of the students will receive minimal compensation since children generally contribute little economically in support of their families. If your children are not supporting you or it is proven in court that they would not have the ability or inclination to support the parents, there will be no compensation. Additionally under DOHSA, surviving parents will be unable to obtain compensation for loss of companionship, loss to society, pain and suffering or punitive damages for lost loved ones. Furthermore, family members of adult victims may receive no compensation unless that individual was directly contributing to the economic welfare of the parents or siblings.

Clearly, under most state tort laws, these limits on categories and thresholds of compensation would be viewed as inequitable, unfair, and inhuman. This inequality is best demonstrated in the State of Pennsylvania. On January 9, 1996, the Supreme Court ruled in *Yamaha versus Calhoun* that State tort law applies when an accident occurs within 3 miles from the shore, and on January 16, 1996, the same Supreme Court decided in *Zicherman versus Korean Airlines* that the Death on the High Seas Act governs tragedies beyond the 3-mile territorial limit. Thus, in *Yamaha versus Calhoun*, Pennsylvania State law applies which allows numerous categories compensation for injury or death of a family member. In *Zicherman versus Korean Airlines*, where DOHSA is applied, families such as those involved in the KAL 007 and TWA 800 air disasters will be restricted to obtaining only one category of compensation—loss of income. The application of DOHSA to the TWA 800 incident will have a draconian impact on the families of the Montoursville High School students and chaperons since they will receive minimal compensation for the loss of their children. DOHSA also applies to all civil air flights, whether domestic or international, such as the airports in Boston, New York, San Francisco, and Los Angeles, where approaches and landings are often over water.

Both the Supreme Court in *Zicherman versus Korean Airlines* and the White House Commission on Aviation Safety and Security recommend that Congress correct these inequities—as other countries have done already, considering that DOHSA was enacted in 1920 to protect widows of seamen—at a

time when civil aviation did not exist. The Airline Disaster Act will abrogate the impact of the Death on the High Seas Act and allow families to seek just compensation under State and common law. I therefore urge my colleagues to join me in supporting passage of the Airline Disaster Relief Act, a measure whose time has come, to correct the judicial injustices which the application of the Death on the High Seas Act inflicts on families of air disaster passengers. Mr. Speaker, thank you for your consideration and support of this timely and badly needed legislative initiative.

CONGRATULATIONS TO 1997 GRADUATES OF SAN PEDRO/NARBONNE COMMUNITY ADULT SCHOOL

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 1997

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 1997 graduating classes of the San Pedro/Narbonne Community Adult School. I was sorry to miss the ceremonies on Wednesday evening which honored students who successfully met the requirements for ESL competency certificates, eighth grade diplomas, and high school diplomas. I also congratulate principal Camilla Kocol and all the faculty and staff of the San Pedro/Narbonne Community Adult School.

It is my pleasure to share with my colleagues a poem that was written by one of the students of the school's creative writing class. This poem was recited by author and adult school student, Bette Ann Schroeder, at Wednesday's graduation ceremony:

I AM AN AMERICAN

I am an American.

My grandfather came from China in the 1800s and helped build the railroads of the West.

I am an American.

My grandfather came from England in the 1800s and worked in the coal mines of Illinois.

I am an American.

My grandfather came first over the Bering Strait and the Isthmus of Panama to roam the forests and valleys of this great land.

I am an American.

My grandfather came from Germany in the 19th Century and started Kindergartens.

I am an American.

My grandfather was captured in Africa and brought to slave in the cotton fields of the South.

I am an American.

My grandfather came from Japan in the 1900s and founded the abalone fishery in San Pedro.

I am an American.

My grandfather fled Pancho Villa in Mexico and worked in the fields of the Imperial Valley.

I am an American.

It was not easy to forget the homeland, to learn the language, to make a living, to struggle against bigotry, to change my ways.

I am an American.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

I am all the cultures of the world, all the religions of the world, all the legends and lore of the world, all the struggles for freedom everywhere.

I am all of these, and all of these make me an American.

TRIBUTE TO RAY BURKHOLDER ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 1997

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today and pay tribute to an outstanding citizen of northwest Ohio. On June 22 of this year, the family and friends of Ray Burkholder will gather to celebrate his 80th birthday which will occur on July 3.

Ray lived and farmed most his life in Pandora, OH. A member of the Grace Mennonite Church in Pandora, Ray has been a leader in his community. He was an instrumental part of the Mennonite disaster team, always available to lend a hand to others. He served for many years as the Sunday school treasurer and is a recipient of both the Community Service Award of Pandora and the Outstanding Citizen Award of Pandora. This past year he served as First Grand Marshal of the Riley Creek Festival.

Birthdays are a wonderful time to recount memories and to look toward new horizons. Since Ray's birth he has been witness to tremendous revolutions in politics, technology, and society. However, I know his favorite memories are of his family and friends.

Americans would not be able to enjoy the blessings of our country without the tireless dedication of those who have the talent and willingness to work for their community. Ray Burkholder, through his example of leadership and humility has enriched the lives of his neighbors in countless ways over the years. It is with great fondness that they will take a day to thank him for his warmth and generosity.

I ask my colleagues to join me in extending best wishes to Ray and his family for continued happiness and best wishes.

ISRAEL—A CORNERSTONE OF U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY POLICY

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 1997

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I submit for my colleagues' consideration remarks I made June 8, 1997 before the Great Neck Synagogue Men's Club. My support for Israel is no secret among my friends in Congress. We cannot ignore the challenge that has been placed before us if we are to see Israel survive as a free and flourishing democratic state. Israel has always been, and must remain, a cornerstone of United States national security policy.

ISRAEL AND THE MIDDLE EAST: A VIEW FROM CAPITOL HILL

Good morning ladies and gentlemen. It is a pleasure to be here among so many friends at a congregation known throughout the greater New York area for its strong ties to the Land of Israel. Your record of generous giving to Israeli causes and your commitment to a strong U.S.-Israeli relationship are well known.

Your congregation has always embodied the essence and vitality of "Am Yisrael Chai" and the sharing, giving spirit "Tikkum Olam." By your very example you have been a light unto our community. Through good times and bad, times of sadness and hope, the Great Neck Synagogue has stood by Israel in its eternal quest for peace with security.

Though many of you share different political opinions about how peace in the Middle East might finally be achieved, you stand united—indeed America stands united—on the need to maintain Israel's economic and military strength as a hedge against the uncertainties of the future.

My friends, we can never allow politics of the moment to obscure three essential facts of our time: first, that Israel exists today as a sovereign, democratic, and Jewish state precisely because it has never allowed its fundamental security interests to be compromised; second, that peace, particularly in the Middle East, has never flowed from weakness; and third, that support for a strong, self confident Israel has always been, and must remain, a cornerstone of United States national security policy.

Israel exists today not because of the world's caring or generosity toward the Jewish People, but in spite of its neglect and indifference. We must never forget the basic truth.

As we commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the Marshall Plan this week, we must remember that the United States stepped forward to rebuild Europe after the war—and particularly Germany—a full year before it gave any thought to relief for Germany's victims through the creation of a Jewish state. The lesson is clear: Israel's fate must always rest with Israel and with those who care for her; it can never be entrusted to the presumed good will of others.

History, my friends, is sometimes a cruel, but honest teacher. I am particularly honored to be here today to share with you some thoughts on the state of U.S.-Israeli relations, the Oslo process, and events unfolding in the Middle East, from the vantage point of Capitol Hill. At the outset, I must confess that I stand before you with more than a little concern.

Concern because a century after the First Zionist Congress, nearly 50 years since the founding of Israel, 30 years after the miraculous triumph of the IDF in the Six Day War, 20 years since Camp David and 4 years since the Oslo process began—Israel still does not know peace.

As we sit here this morning amid these comfortable and serene surroundings, Israel is facing perhaps the greatest threat to her survival yet experienced. It is a threat born not only of external enmity and aggression, but sadly, of internal division, social strife, political indecision and confusion, and the calamity of peace gone unfulfilled.

It is an unfortunate consequence of Israel's proud, but troubled history that we have grown all too accustomed to the hatred which her enemies harbor for the Jewish State—a state whose very existence continues to be the anathema to the 110 million Moslems who surround her.

Terrorist bombs in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, the murder of Jewish school girls on a class outing, the knifing of Yeshiva students on their way to the Kotel—these sights have become as familiar to the younger generation of Israelis as the weekly Vietnam body count was to my generation. My friends, we are living a tragedy today with no satisfactory end in sight.

Lamentably, we have learned the sad truth that weapons and military might alone can not bring peace. Sadder still, we have learned that a peace reluctantly born and brazenly violated by Israel's enemies is not peace either. There are no good choices left for Israel today. She has been cheated of the very hope, *Hativka*, for which her people proclaim in song and for which all Jews everywhere yearn.

Like you I have tried to make sense of the many contradictions that have arisen as a result of the Oslo process. I say Oslo process, and not peace process, because while there exists today only one process, I believe that there are many paths to peace—and I am a fervent believer in peace. But for it to be real, it must be lasting; for it to be lasting, it must be honest; for it to be honest, it must demonstrate at every turn the resolve of all of the parties to abide by the commitments they made on the day of the signing and in the subsequent agreements. Tragically, for all concerned, this has not happened.

Those Palestinians who had the chance to share in the prosperity of a reconstructed Middle East, and in doing so to accept something less than the full measure of their political demands, have opted instead for a more sinister path. They have chosen to use the dove of peace to conceal their more menacing intentions, just as Mr. Arafat, himself, chose to conceal a pistol beneath his jacket when he appeared before the United Nations General Assembly in the mid-seventies.

This song of peace is well worn in tune. Born of Hitler's deception at Munich in the 1938, it survives today in the guise of those who would have peace at any price, even if it meant admitting the Trojan Horse of the PLO terrorism inside the gates of the city. If we are to begin to understand what is now happening to Israel and to grasp the historic forces now at work to undo the dream of the last 100 years, we must first see that there is a distinction between negotiation and extortion, between reality and illusion, and between trust and deception.

I stand before you this morning as one who lives this ordeal every day in Congress. My heart is heavy with the pain and suffering endured by Israelis as together we struggle to make sense of the turmoil that is gripping the region. And yes, I grieve for the Palestinians, too, who have been deceived by their leaders into believing that a terror organization like the PLO can ever bring peace. It can't. And the reason is simple. Terror and the ways of the gun are an integral part of the PLO's identity, a past it can never leave behind.

The Palestinian community has yet to produce leaders whose commitment to peace is more than simply a means of seeking tactical advantage. It is a community which continues to be dominated by revolutionaries, guerrilla fighters and scoundrels of every stripe—and not true statesmen who understand the art of compromise, are committed to a true reconciliation, and tolerate dissent.

I wish this were not so, but the record of the last four years speaks of different reality. While Israel has demonstrated a willingness to retreat from some of its most

cherished sites like Hebron and Shechem (Nabulus), to accept the presence of armed Palestinian militia at checkpoints around the country, and to concede that a final status talks will include Jerusalem, the PLO has only shown increasing reticence to carry out its side of the bargain.

The PLO has answered Israel's deeply rooted security concerns with provocation after provocation, even questioning whether there will even be room for a sovereign Jewish State in the Middle East once the Oslo process is concluded. If you doubt what I am telling you, you need look no farther than the maps which the PLO uses at countless functions, both official and unofficial, on its monuments, on its stationary letterhead and on its television broadcasts.

It is a map showing a sovereign State of Palestine stretching from the Mediterranean to the Jordan River and from the Banyas to Eliat, encompassing all of the present day State of Israel. If this were not bad enough, the President's own Special Coordinator for the Middle East, Mr. Dennis Ross, has been photographed with Yasir Arafat sitting beneath these maps apparently unmoved by the implication of their sinister message.

I believe that at no time during the Cold War would an American diplomat ever have been found posing beneath a map of the Baltic States, festooned in the colors of the former Soviet Union. The same might be said for Berlin and Afghanistan—for South Korea and Hong Kong in the case of China—and for South Vietnam when it came to claims made by the Hanoi Government before our withdrawal from the War.

My friends, I am deeply concerned that Israel and the United States are now living an Alice in Wonderland existence, where up is down and down is up—where is good is bad and bad is good. It is a contradiction that has bedeviled me for the past four years about which I refuse to remain silent.

As the principal House sponsor of the Middle East Peace Compliance Act of 1995, I tried to bring some sense to our nation's Middle East policy. I asked my colleagues to consider the folly of providing the terrorist PLO with \$500 million in U.S. Government assistance while making virtually no provision for the accountability of the funds and providing no honest mechanism to assess whether the PLO was in fact complying with the spirit and the letter of Oslo.

For this I was widely chastised by many Members as well as by Administration officials: for attempting to bar all funding to the PLO, for insisting that no funds go to individuals alleged to have killed or injured Americans or for trying to prevent projects and activities that were not strictly humanitarian in nature.

Well, time has vindicated my position. Just two weeks ago an audit conducted the PLO itself found that \$350 million dollars in international aid has been stolen from the Palestinian coffers or misused by their leaders—many of them took money to buy grand villas and fancy automobiles. At the same time we see that incidences of PLO-inspired violence are continuing to increase with not only Israelis being killed, but also Palestinians who dare to sell land to Jews.

Yasir Arafat continues to undermine Oslo by praising Palestinian suicide bombers as martyrs and heroes and by paying homage to Hamas leader Sheik Yassin. Arafat calls upon his public to unite around the cause of Jerusalem—all of Jerusalem—as the capital of a Palestinian state.

Would you believe that a senior Arafat official recently leveled the absurd accusation

that Israel sells gum in the West Bank and Gaza laced with an aphrodisiac! Unfortunately, this is but a mild version of the anti-Israel vitriol which regularly pours out from the Egyptian Press and is frankly indistinguishable from the anti-Semitic diatribes of medieval European demagogues or Der Stuermer, the Nazi propaganda paper.

My friends, I can go on and on listing the PLO violations of Oslo and Arafat's incendiary rhetoric. This is a matter of public record and the record is indisputable. That is, unless you hail from the U.S. State Department, which continues to insist in report after report to the Congress that Arafat and the PLO are in virtual compliance with their Oslo commitments.

Though the New York Times has only recently acknowledged that the PLO has not changed its covenant calling for the destruction of Israel, the State Department continues to cling to the vain notion that Arafat's word is his bond. The Administration still insists that the promise of the Palestinian National Council (PNC) to change the covenant is an adequate substitute for actually changing the covenant.

We cannot ignore the challenge that has been placed before us if we are to see Israel survive as a free and flourishing state.

To the extent that the United States is complicit in helping Arafat achieve his objectives, we are obliged as citizens, as friends of Israel, as Americans concerned with the moral, political and strategic posture of our own country, to act soon to restore common sense to our otherwise misguided Middle East policy.

These are the actions which I am now talking, and which I intend to pursue in the weeks ahead, toward this goal:

First, I have notified the Foreign Operations Appropriations subcommittee, of which I am a member, of my desire to suspend U.S. aid to the PLO until it meets the compliance standards laid down in the Oslo Accords. Last month I added my name to a bi-partisan letter co-signed by 15 House members urging the president to cut aid to the PLO;

Second, I do not endorse the current effort by the Administration to cut \$50 million from Israel's aid package for next year—aid which is sorely needed to maintain Israel's strong defense posture in the face of renewed threats by Syria and Iraq and vote to ensure that adequate funds are made available to facilitate the eventual move of the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem as directed by Congress in legislation last year;

Third, I am continuing to support efforts to bolster counter-terrorism cooperation between the U.S. and Israel. To this end, I urge the Justice Department to conduct a review of all cases in which current or past members of the PLO are alleged to have harmed Americans or their property. I want to know the level of cooperation that U.S. law enforcement agencies have received from the PLO in their investigation and in requests for extradition; and, urge the Administration to examine the threat to U.S. security posed by the increasing numbers of weapons pouring into the Palestinian controlled areas. In particular, I am concerned by reports that the PLO has acquired surface-to-air missiles which have the potential to down civilian air traffic transiting through the Middle East and elsewhere. With the cause of the TWA disaster still unknown, I feel it is prudent to keep a spotlight on this critical national security issue.

Dear friends, let me conclude by saying that I feel privileged to be able to lead the

fight for a cause in which I believe so deeply. For me, the U.S.-Israel relationship is more than just a slogan, it is an historic commitment of two nations to the cause of peace, freedom, and security. I don't have to tell you we are living through difficult times. They are difficult times for many nations around the world, particularly for Israel, which continues to live under the threat of war.

Just last week Israel's Chief of Staff spoke publicly of the increasingly menacing military build-up along the border with Syria. Likewise, countries from Egypt to Saudi Arabia, and Iraq to Iran, continue to acquire advanced long-range weaponry, capable of striking anywhere in Israel, despite the region's supposed move toward peace. Therefore, it is all the more important that we not forget the history which brought us to this point in time—and the lessons learned—as we begin to build a new future.

It was exactly 30 years ago this week that the Jewish State found itself caught in a life or death struggle as the Arab armies of Egypt, Jordan and Syria, backed by the Soviet Union and its allies sought to destroy her. I remember those terrifying hours of the 1967 war well, as do most of you in this room. They are seared into our collective consciousness.

Many of you probably can recall in vivid detail what you were doing at precisely the moment when news flashed across our television sets that the fledgling was now fighting for its life against seemingly unsurmountable odds. Today, as we recall those fateful hours, we must renew our pledge to fight for Israel's survival, in our homes, in our places of worship, in our State and on Capitol Hill.

We must do everything in our power to see that the insecurity of those years do not return. For my part, I am committed to do whatever is necessary to perpetuate a strong Israel and a strong U.S.-Israel relationship. It is my hope that during the difficult weeks and months ahead I will be able to call upon each and every one of you, your rabbis and synagogue leaders, to guide me through the thicket of Middle East politics so that I can better serve the cause of peace and U.S.-Israel friendship. Together, we can achieve miraculous things.

Thank you for the opportunity to share a few thoughts with you this morning. May the coming festival of Shavuot pass peacefully for Israel. May you all know peace. Shalom.

FREE TRADE AND THE G8 SUMMIT

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 1997

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to alert my colleagues to the upcoming challenges and opportunities of the G8 Summit in Denver. Anticipating the economic boost from this week's G8 Summit, Denver area merchants hope to rake in big revenues from the thousands of visitors expected. Yet how well Colorado fulfills its role as gracious host will be but one measure of the State's achievement during the historic event.

More important than the short-term economic surge associated with the summit, success in advancing the Nation's trade objec-

tives will have a far greater impact on Colorado's long-term economy and job growth. Among the leaders assembled, the most pivotal exchange to watch is the one between President Clinton and Japanese Prime Minister Hashimoto.

Hashimoto's visit will highlight the close alliance the United States and Japan have established throughout the cold war years, and maintain today. However, while United States interests remain tightly linked with those of Japan on many fronts, such as containment of North Korea, the Hashimoto visit may serve as a springboard for talks on other issues that divide us.

Despite the close ties we have forged, the bilateral relationship between the United States and Japan has been marred by a series of ongoing trade disputes that are of major concern to United States interest—especially the interests of Colorado.

Specifically, the United States Trade Representative is challenging 30 years of Japan's Government-supported market barriers that have prevented, and continue to prevent international competitors from gaining fair access to the Japanese market for consumer film and paper products. The massive array of evidence reveals for the first time, an elaborate system designed to exclude foreign competitors from Japanese markets.

So what does film and paper have to do with Colorado? In a word, Kodak. Eastman Kodak Co. employs over 2,700 people in northern Colorado. Their photographic products are sold all over the world.

Much of what Kodak sells overseas is manufactured at their plant in Windsor, CO. where Kodak exports color paper and medical x-ray film directly to Japan. Expanding this market share would certainly create more jobs in Colorado and expand economic prosperity.

One year ago, the United States Government determined that Japan has engaged in unreasonable trade practices in the lucrative market. Rather than retaliating directly, the United States filed a case with the newly formed World Trade Organization [WTO]. The case is regarded as the most comprehensive well-documented trade case in history—the resolution of which could substantially change the way America does business with Japan. The case is expected to be decided in October, this year.

For those of us who are WTO skeptics, the episode is the first real test of the panel's capacity to address structural and access barriers. The precedent that could be set might have a profound impact on literally hundreds of Colorado-based exporters seeking broader markets in Japan.

George M.C. Fisher, Kodak CEO expressed optimism about the case against Japanese protectionism. "We believe that the WTO, upon examination of the evidence, will conclude that the laws and measures enacted by the Government of Japan to restrict foreign competition in its consumer photographic produce market, are inconsistent with the country's international obligations under the GATT," he said. "The ramifications of this historic case are potentially of landmark proportions."

Still, it is unfortunate that Kodak must go to such exhausting lengths to gain fair market

access in Japan. An assertive United States President would have dealt more firmly with Japan rather than defer the Kodak case to the WTO as Clinton chose to do.

If Prime Minister Hashimoto is any less stubborn, the G8 meeting right here in Colorado might prove to be the perfect place to announce the loosening of trade restrictions, to allow greater competition in the Japanese market, to allow Japanese consumers the advantage of lower prices, and to shore up the otherwise good relationship between the United States and Japan. It would be a Kodak moment, that all of Colorado could take to the bank.

FREEDOM FOR ALL

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 1997

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, there is an alarming trend that has occurred the past several months, led by some social conservative organizations in Washington who have called for the revocation of China's most-favored-nation [MFN] status. They argue we should revoke this status, which is simply normal trade relations between countries, to retaliate against the Chinese Government for interfering with the practice of religion.

I, too, am very concerned about the persecution of anyone who practices religion in China. It is for this very reason that I have the firm conviction that MFN must be renewed. In fact, missionaries in China, who are closest to the issue, say that MFN is essential for maintaining the positive work they do. As a conservative, as a Christian, and as the chairman of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Trade I am absolutely convinced that by bringing the influence of the outside world into China, free trade will create opportunities for freedom of religion to take root.

Trade has helped to expose millions of the Chinese people to values such as human rights and religious freedom by opening a door to the People's Republic of China. In the June 11, 1997, edition of the Wall Street Journal, Rev. Robert A. Sirico addressed many of these concerns and concluded that "Just as religious freedom offers the best hope for Christian social influence, economic freedom is the best hope for spreading that influence around the world." I applaud his thinking and submit his article into the RECORD. I urge my colleagues to consider the points he raises here and to vote to renew China's MFN status.

[From the Wall Street Journal, June 11, 1997]

CHINA AND THE TRADE WARRIORS

(By Robert A. Sirico)

Despite occasional tensions between social conservatives and economic conservatives, most social and cultural goals have an economic dimension about which the two camps are generally in agreement. But now a leader of the socially conservative camp has proposed that there is an issue that pits morality and prosperity irreconcilably against one another—U.S. trade with China, a nation known for human-rights violations, and particularly for religious persecution.

Gary Bauer of the Family Research Council is demanding that the U.S. government wage economic war against China with sanctions, boycotts and embargoes. In his campaign for trade restrictions with China, Mr. Bauer and a few other conservative leaders are working hand in glove with labor unions and other left-liberal protectionists, normally die-hard opponents of the religious right.

BARRICADES HAVE COLLAPSED

The usual political barricades have collapsed as Mr. Bauer's comrades join forces to oppose congressional attempts to continue normal trading relations with China. In a recent letter, Mr. Bauer compares the urgency of imposing sanctions to issues such as ending slavery and defeating Hitler.

How restricting trade with China will help strengthen American families, faith and morality is unclear. What is clear is that Mr. Bauer finds China's treatment of Christians morally objectionable. I do, too. And he is to be commended for his efforts at raising the public's awareness of Chinese persecution. Christians are threatened, jailed, expelled and even killed in China. Whether this occurs more or less today than in decades past is in dispute. But one human-rights violation is one too many.

That's why I, along with many others, signed an open letter from the Family Research Council to Vice President Al Gore that appeared in major newspapers. It objected to Mr. Gore's failure to emphasize China's poor human-rights record during his March visit. The letter particularly highlighted China's vicious suppression of rights of Roman Catholics to worship in freedom. The letter said nothing about a broader trade agenda.

I would have signed a similar letter about the appalling treatment of Christians in Egypt (which receives U.S. aid), Saudi Arabia (which the U.S. has defended militarily) and Iraq (where a Kurdish convert to Christianity, Mansour Hussein Sifer, was recently martyred). Friends of freedom should oppose restrictions on worship and religious speech anywhere they may appear, including the U.S.

When I signed the letter on China, however, I did not know that it was a prologue to a full-blown political campaign that would seek to curtail commercial ties between China and the rest of the world. Mr. Bauer's position has evolved from a strong moral stand in favor of religious freedom to waging total trade war.

A charge often leveled against the Christian right is that it is not sensitive to the difference between urging certain moral ends and using government coercion to bring them about. It's usually a canard: In the case of the arts, for example, the religious right seeks not censorship but an end to taxpayer subsidies for blasphemy and obscenity. I regret having to say that this time, however, the Family Research Council has lived up to the stereotype. It is attempting to enlist government power, at the expense of everyone who benefits from U.S.-Chinese commercial relations, thus choosing an inappropriate means to achieve a moral end.

What's more, trade sanctions would be counterproductive. Sanctions won't bring freedom for religious expression in China. They won't end China's cruel policies limiting family size. They won't stop the horrific policy of forced abortions. They won't bring democracy. They can only further isolate China and close off avenues for greater Western influence.

The growth of Western businesses in China, however, would dilute the power of China's

communist rulers. As commercial networks develop, Chinese businesspeople are able to travel more freely, and Chinese believers have more disposable income with which to support evangelistic endeavors.

No one understands this better than evangelical missionaries currently working in China. Mr. Bauer's passionate campaign has elicited pleas from many of them for Congress not to cut off trade. Such an action would endanger their status there, and possibly lead China to revoke their visas. It would severely limit opportunities to bring in Bibles and other religious materials. These missionaries understand that commercial relations are a wonderfully liberating force that allow not only mutually beneficial trade but also cultural and religious exchanges. Why doesn't Mr. Bauer listen to those who know far more about China than Washington think tanks and labor unions do? "They may be too close to the situation," he answers, somewhat flippantly.

Until recently, trade warriors have cited the case of the U.S. Catholic bishops, who have opposed renewing normal trade status with China. At the same time, however, Hong Kong's official Catholic newspaper, the Sunday Examiner, reports new contacts between Beijing and Hong Kong's Catholic hierarchy. These contacts are a major step toward an official recognition of the Catholic Church on the mainland.

TO THE GOOD

This would all be to the good. Diplomacy and international trade strengthen people's loyalties to each other and weaken government power. Beijing has shown itself to be supremely interested in fostering prosperity at home. Christians must take advantage of this impulse, rather than recklessly treating China as a monster that must be slain.

This need not be an issue that divides social conservatives from economic conservatives. Economic prosperity through free trade is the most effective distributor of wealth and power, and trade with China is the surest way to break the gap of centralized political power. Religious conservatives should broaden their focus beyond purely social and cultural issues. Mr. Bauer and his supporters are right to decry the immoral treatment of believers in China. But allowing themselves to be used by protectionist and labor lobbies is an imprudent approach. Just as religious freedom offers the best hope for Christian social influence, economic freedom is the best hope for spreading that influence around the world.

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF FREELY ELECTED HEADS OF GOVERNMENT

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 1997

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I was pleased recently to participate in this year's meeting of the Council of Freely Elected Heads of Government in Atlanta, GA. This meeting dealt with a number of important issues facing the Western Hemisphere, but I would like to focus the attention of my colleagues on one issue the conference addressed: The importance of freedom of the press.

Freedom of speech and of the press is a basic American value. It is enshrined in the

first amendment to our Constitution. As countries around the world struggle to achieve a transition to democracy, we must never forget the importance of this freedom. We must strive to protect and foster the rights of expression of peoples everywhere.

It was in this spirit that the council endorsed a declaration on press freedom that was adopted on March 11, 1994, at the Hemisphere Conference on Free Speech held at Chapultepec Castle in Mexico City.

Known as the Declaration of Chapultepec, it has been endorsed by news organizations and prominent leaders throughout the Western Hemisphere, including President Clinton.

The Declaration describes the importance of a free press in a free society, and lays down 10 principles for ensuring the continuance of press freedom. It is only when individuals take responsibility for protecting their liberties that we can all be assured of the continuation of the freedoms that we cherish.

I commend the Declaration to my colleagues and ask that it be printed in the RECORD at this point:

No people or society can be free without freedom of expression and of the press. The exercise of this freedom is not something authorities grant, it is an inalienable right of the people.

Every person has the right to seek and receive information, express opinions and disseminate them freely. No one may restrict or deny these rights.

The authorities must be compelled by law to make available in a timely and reasonable manner the information generated by the public sector. No journalist may be forced to reveal his or her sources of information.

Freedom of expression and of the press are severely limited by murder, terrorism, kidnapping, intimidation, the unjust imprisonment of journalists, the destruction of facilities, violence of any kind and impunity for perpetrators. Such acts must be investigated promptly and punished harshly.

Prior censorship, restrictions on the circulation of the media or dissemination of their reports, arbitrary management of information, the imposition of obstacles to the flow of news, and restrictions on the activities and movements of journalists directly contradict freedom of the press.

The media and journalists should neither be discriminated against nor favored because of what they write or say.

Tariff and exchange policies, licenses for the importation of paper or news-gathering equipment, the assigning of radio and television frequencies and the granting or withdrawal of government advertising may not be used to reward or punish the media or individual journalists.

The membership of journalists in guilds, their affiliation to professional and trade associations and the affiliation of the media with business groups must be strictly voluntary.

The credibility of the press is linked to its commitment to truth, to the pursuit of accuracy, fairness and objectivity and to the clear distinction between news and advertising. The attainment of these goals and the respect for ethical and professional values may not be imposed. These are the exclusive responsibility of journalists and the media. In a free society, it is public opinion that rewards or punishes.

No news medium nor journalist may be punished for publishing the truth or criticizing or denouncing the government.

June 20, 1997

MORATORIUM ON THE EPA'S PROPOSED NEW AIR QUALITY STANDARDS

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 1997

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues RON KLING and RICK BOUCHER in introducing legislation that will place a 4-year moratorium on the Administrator of Environmental Protection Agency's [EPA] authority to promulgate new or revised ambient air quality standards for ozone or fine particulate matter. We are introducing this legislation because the Administrator of the EPA appears determined to finalize the highly controversial new standards she proposed in November—in spite of widespread disagreement within the scientific community that they will produce any measurable improvement in human health and widespread certainty among State and local government officials across the Nation and even within other agencies of the Federal Government that the proposed new standard will wreak economic and social havoc.

Consider, for example, these excerpts from an November 20, 1996, letter from the Assistant Secretary of Transportation to Sally Katzen, Director of the Office of Management and Budget [OMB] office responsible for reviewing and signing off on the EPA's regulatory impact analysis of the proposed new standards. The letter calls into question not only the EPA's estimate of the cost of these new standards, but also its determination of the standards' positive impact on public health and the environment:

The social and economic disruption that the proposed changes will cause are not understood. The costs associated with the standards changes, both in terms of cost of compliance as well as economic impacts, will likely be large. . . . [It] is critical that the Administration understand the implications associated with such costs up front.

The impacts of the Clean Air Act sanctions on highway funding, as well as on stationary sources, could affect much larger areas, going well beyond those envisioned when the 1990 Amendments were passed. The enforcement consequences of these mandates would thus likely be profound. Better estimates of

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the impacts on transportation programs and the economy in general are necessary before the Administration commits to far more stringent standards.

There are substantial uncertainties and numerous subjective judgments required about the health effects and levels and form of the proposed standards. . . .

Control measures needed to meet the standards could have significant economic impacts on industry, including previously unregulated businesses, and require lifestyle changes by a significant part of the U.S. population.

Or consider these excerpts from an November 18, 1996 letter from the Small Business Administration to the Administrator of the EPA;

[Regarding the EPA's conclusion that the proposed rules will not have a significant economic impact on small entities] Considering the large economic impacts suggested by the EPA's own analysis that will unquestionably fall on tens of thousands, if not hundreds of thousands of small businesses, this would be a startling proposition to the small business community.

. . . EPA's own draft November 3 analysis (admittedly very approximate) reveals shockingly high impacts. . . . Furthermore, these costs are in addition to the costs required by the current standards. Thus, this regulation is certainly one of the most expensive regulations, if not the most expensive regulation faced by small business in ten or more years. (emphasis in original)

The grave concerns these and other Federal agencies, offices, and advisory councils—such as the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, and Defense, the Office of Science and Technology Policy, and the Council of Economic Advisors—have expressed about the proposed new standards underscore the concerns felt by communities across my district, my State, and this Nation. For example, Michigan currently has six ozone nonattainment counties. According to information provided by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, under the EPA's proposal, an additional 11 counties would violate the standard, based on data from the 1994-96 ozone monitoring seasons. When all associated urbanized areas and adjacent counties are included, most of lower Michigan would be thrust into nonattainment status, seriously undermining and perhaps reversing the progress we have made in recent years to diversify and develop our economy and produce good jobs.

The proposed new standard pose a particular problem for western Michigan, which is overwhelmingly affected by transient ozone from Gary, Chicago, and Milwaukee. No matter how many costly restrictions and regulations might be imposed on many western Michigan communities to reduce local emissions, they would still not meet the proposed new standards. Take Muskegon County, for example. We could close down every factory, turn off every car, douse every backyard grill, and remove every occupant and the county would still fail to meet the standards because of transient ozone from the other side of Lake Michigan. The proposed regulations do not appear to provide any regulatory relief for such areas victimized by transient ozone, in spite of the fact that the 1990 Clean Air Act amendments gave the Administrator the authority to take such situations into account in promulgating regulations.

Instead of imposing stringent new air quality standards that will thrust many communities now in attainment back into nonattainment and that will be impossible for areas impacted by transient air pollution from heavily polluted cities to meet, no matter how stringent their pollution reduction restrictions, the EPA ought to be focusing its efforts on the nearly 50 percent of cities that have not yet come into compliance with the current standards for ozone and particulate matter. That is only common sense.

I am also concerned that imposing new standards when many areas have yet to come into compliance with the current standards could actually slow progress toward cleaner air. The promulgation of new standards will require the development and implementation of new State implementation plans and will reset the compliance clock.

The Administrator of the EPA is rushing to judgment, imposing new standards which will wreak havoc on economic growth, jobs, and even personal lifestyles without solid evidence that these sacrifices will be worth it in improved health. That is why the legislation my colleagues and I are introducing today is vital to the future of my State and the nation. I encourage you to join us in cosponsoring this bill.