

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SOCIAL SECURITY REFORM

HON. NEWT GINGRICH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 1998

Mr. GINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, the issue of retirement security is one of the long-term priorities of our nation—a Goal for a Generation. Michael Barone points out in today's Wall Street Journal that this is a discussion that the American people are prepared to have. This is an excellent article and recommended reading. I submit it into the RECORD.

[From the Wall Street Journal, May 7, 1998]

VOTERS ARE READY FOR SOCIAL SECURITY REFORM

(By Michael Barone)

Conventional wisdom has long held that Social Security is the third rail of American politics: Touch it and you die. Political events from the 1940s through the 1980s provided plenty of support for this rule. But now the third rail has shifted to the other side of the track: It is politically risky not to propose changes.

This shift was caused by two trends, neither created by government, and neither much noticed by most politicians. The first change was demographic, and the key year was 1993—the first year in which Americans turning 65 had not served in World War II. This was critical because the bedrock of support for the existing Social Security system is the GI generation, which grew up in the Depression, served in World War II and then went on to build a prosperous postwar America.

This generation has a powerful sense of moral entitlement to Social Security and, since 1965, to Medicare. These Americans felt, justifiably, that they had been dealt a poor hand, played it well, and passed on a much better one to the next generation. Economically, the Social Security system was an amazingly good deal for this generation. Former Sen. Alan Simpson used to point out to complaining elders that the value of the payroll taxes they had paid during their earning years was only a small fraction of the total they would receive from their monthly checks. They paid him no heed. If younger Americans had to pay much higher payroll taxes than they had to pay, that was just fine.

SMALLER GENERATION

But every day the GI generation becomes smaller. Today about one-quarter of Americans over 65 were born after 1927—members of what authors William Strauss and Neal Howe call the silent generation. They didn't suffer through the Depression or serve in World War II; the escalator of postwar prosperity was already moving up when they stepped on. They lack the sense of moral entitlement that their elders have.

Meanwhile, the younger generations have come to realize that they are on the losing end of a Ponzi scheme. Their payroll taxes are high, and there is no way they are going

to receive benefits comparable to their "contributions." Ask twentysomethings what they expect to get from Social Security, and they'll just laugh. They know that the ratio of workers to retirees is falling and that the payroll tax will have to become even steeper to support current Social Security payments. Indeed, the Congressional Budget Office estimates the Social Security tax will have to jump from 12% to 18% over the next 30 years.

The twentysomethings know there is an alternative to that heavy blow. Which brings us to the second great change that makes Social Security reform foreseeable: the boom in investment. Pollster Peter Hart, in a 1997 survey for the National Association of Securities Dealers, found that 43% of Americans owned stock, vs. just 21% in 1990. An NBC/Wall Street Journal survey conducted in 1997 reported that 51% of respondents said they owned at least \$5,000 worth of common stock or mutual funds, either individually or through a retirement savings program.

We are becoming a nation of investors. In the 1970s and '80s, most Americans had the bulk of their wealth in residential housing; by 1997, a majority had more wealth in stocks than houses. Americans have long had a stake in stocks through their pension plans; but that stake is increasingly direct, as employers shift from defined-benefit plans (in which a centralized entity does the investing and promises a specific pension) to defined-contribution plans (in which the employee invests his pension directly and the return depends on his own choices).

Over time, the stock market grows faster than incomes, as the investing public has come to understand. Harvard economist Martin Feldstein notes that while funds raised by the payroll tax have historically risen at about 2% a year, stocks rise by 5% to 6% a year over the long run. (Mr. Feldstein's calculations are based on the period 1926-94, which means they include the Depression and exclude the doubling of the market since 1994.) It is increasingly plain to Americans that they would do well to look more to stocks and less to the payroll tax for their retirement income.

But there is increasing evidence that the economic factor most important to Americans is not short-term income but long-term wealth. Voters of the GI generation were sensitive to small fluctuations in income. They remembered the 1930s, when a layoff was often the prelude to years of unemployment. But voters growing up in an age of credit cards and vast job growth know that they can survive a period of temporary income loss. They are more concerned with how they are faring in their lifetime project of accumulating wealth.

A focus on wealth rather than income helps to explain the otherwise puzzling responses of voters to economic events in the 1990s. The relatively small income losses of the 1990-91 recession are not enough to explain why George Bush fell to 37% of the vote in 1992 from 53% in 1988. But a look at where his greatest losses occurred tells the story: They were in New Hampshire and Southern California, which also suffered the nation's biggest drops in housing values.

Voters spurned him because they lost wealth and he didn't seem to be doing anything about it.

In 1994, the old political formulas based on macroeconomic indicators suggested the Democrats should have lost about a dozen House seats. Instead they lost 52, in part because their big-government programs threatened wealth accumulation. And how to explain the current euphoric feeling about the direction of the nation, and Bill Clinton's high job ratings amid deepening political scandal? Income growth is lower than the peaks of the Reagan years, so that's not it. But look at the stock market, and the vast increases in wealth it has given millions of Americans—there's the source.

A final bit of evidence: In the 1996 campaign, Democrats hammered away at Republican "cuts" in Medicare (actually lower increases). For months, these attacks hurt Republicans. But at the beginning of October the Republicans counterattacked, and as Peter Hart has noted, the Democrats' Medicare advantage disappeared by the middle of the month. In a country with a vanishing GI generation and two younger generations skeptical that they will receive much from Medicare or Social Security, the Medicare issue was a wash.

So we now have an electorate ready for Social Security reform. Only a few politicians have stepped forward, the first among them being junior Republican representatives like South Carolina's Mark Sanford and Michigan's Nick Smith. Then this January came Mr. Clinton's opportunistic ploy to outflank tax-cut proposals by calling for budget surpluses to be plowed into Social Security. That put the issue into play. In March, Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D., N.Y.) came forward with his own plan for cutting payroll taxes and establishing supplementary personal investment accounts. Mr. Moynihan's proposal is far from radical, but the direction is apparent. Suddenly U.S. politicians are moving toward an investment based system similar to those already working in Chile and Britain.

STRENGTH AND CONFIDENCE

Will they get their anytime soon? That is by no means clear. Neither the scandal-plagued president nor the razor-thin congressional Republican majority may have the strength and confidence necessary to move ahead. Which would be unfortunate, because suddenly the money to pay for the costs of transition is at hand, in the form of a budget surplus.

But politicians don't have the excuse for hesitation that they had in the 1980s, when they claimed the public would not accept significant changes. The generational shifts and the investment boom of the '90s have created a new America—a nation of investors embarked on a lifetime project of accumulating wealth, confidently relying on their own decisions in the marketplace. Suddenly, the time is ripe for Social Security reform.

● 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.

IN HONOR OF THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FAIRFAX VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 1998

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, May 9, 1998, the Fairfax Volunteer Fire Department is celebrating its 70th Anniversary. This anniversary marks the culmination of a long, proud history of providing fire-suppression and emergency medical services to the fine citizens of the City of Fairfax, Virginia.

Early records indicate that there was a volunteer fire brigade in the Town of Fairfax around the turn of the century. A group of visionary citizens decided that a firefighting system needed to be set up to protect their town from the ravages of fire. Their manual firefighting efforts were fortified by their purchase of a horse or man pulled chemical wagon to increase their firefighting efforts. This chemical wagon would allow them to fight fires with "some" water pressure.

On April 7, 1928, the Fairfax Volunteer Fire Department was legally chartered. At this time, the department became the proud owner of their first motorized fire truck, a 1927 Childs. A garage was also built to house this fine piece of fire equipment. They were now able to respond in a more efficient manner to emergencies when asked by the townspeople.

In the 1960's the Town of Fairfax became the City of Fairfax. Fairfax's population had increased along with their need for more fire protection and firefighters. Career firefighters were hired to join volunteers in answering the call for help, and the City of Fairfax built their first fire station to house their fire apparatuses and equipment.

Today, the City of Fairfax has grown to a population of 19,622 and is 15.9 square kilometers in size. The Fairfax Volunteer Fire Department responded to an astounding 8,000 fire and emergency medical calls last year. That's an average of 22 calls a day, which equals to almost one call per hour.

The Fairfax Volunteer's strong fleet of fire and rescue apparatuses are housed in two fire stations, 3 and 33. Fire Station 3 houses the duty Battalion Chief, a pumper, a ladder truck, and an advanced life support medical unit. Fire Station 33 houses a rescue engine and an advanced life support medical unit.

Taking an active role in one's community is a responsibility we all share, but which few of us fulfill. Yet, the Fairfax Volunteer Fire Department firefighters take great pride in providing round the clock emergency services to its neighbors. I know the visionary citizens who started this organization seventy years ago would be proud to see that what started with just a bucket has grown into one of the most respected volunteer fire departments in my district, the Eleventh Congressional District of Virginia.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in paying tribute to the Fairfax Volunteer Fire Department's distinguished volunteer and career firefighters who place their own lives on the line for their fellow citizens everyday. They are truly deserving of the title "hero".

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SPECIAL TRIBUTE HONORING AMY FELDCAMP, LEGRAND SMITH SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 1998

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect for the outstanding record of excellence he has compiled in academics, leadership and community service, that I am proud to salute Amy Feldcamp, winner of the 1998 LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This award is made to young adults who have demonstrated that they are truly committed to playing important roles in our Nation's future.

As a winner of the LeGrand Smith Scholarship, Amy is being honored for demonstrating that same generosity of spirit, intelligence, responsible citizenship, and capacity for human service that distinguished the late LeGrand Smith of Somerset, Michigan.

Amy Feldcamp is an exceptional student at Saline High School and possesses an impressive high school record. She has been involved with the National Honor Society. Amy is also involved with the high school marching band, S.A.D.D., 4-H, and FHA. Outside of school, Amy has been involved as a Sunday school teacher, providing music in her church, and teaching violin lessons.

In special tribute. Therefore, I am proud to join with her many admirers in extending my highest praise and congratulations to Amy Feldcamp for her selection as a winner of a LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This honor is also a testament to the parents, teachers, and others whose personal interest, strong support and active participation contributed to her success. To this remarkable young woman, I extend my most heartfelt good wishes for all her future endeavors.

1998 LEADERSHIP AND ACADEMIC ALL-STARS

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 1998

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, within Larimer County, Colorado, my home county, reside some of the best and brightest young people in the state. Twelve of them were appropriately honored by the Fort Collins Coloradoan newspaper as 1998 Leadership and Academic All-Stars, and I would like to honor them here today.

Out of 67 teenagers nominated for the awards by teachers, parents and neighbors, these 12 stood out as particularly deserving of recognition: Loring Pfeiffer, Ryan Johnson, Robert "Bobby" Mosiman and Bret Peterson from Rocky Mountain High School; Elizabeth Leon and Steve Foster from Thompson Valley High School; Caitlin Devereaux, Yue Xu and Tiffany Yaussi from Poudre High School; Daniel Salas from Fort Collins High School; Samuel Severance from Loveland High School; and Scott Wilkinson from Windsor High School.

Besides academic achievement, the criteria for Academic All-Star status includes excellence in leadership and community involvement. These future leaders of our community, state, and country are truly our greatest hope for a stronger nation. Please join me today in paying them tribute.

RECOGNIZING NORTEL (NORTHERN TELECOM)

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 1998

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate a good corporate citizen of mine, Nortel (Northern Telecom) for the critical role they are playing in advancing the Internet for the betterment of all mankind.

Recently Donald J. Schuenke, Chairman of the Board of Nortel, was among a stellar list of guests at a White House unveiling of the largest and fastest research and education network in the world. The network, Abilene, is being developed by the University Corporation for Advanced Internet Development (UCAID) with the expertise of Nortel, Qwest Communications, and Cisco Systems. Abilene will provide an advanced backbone network for universities participating in UCAID's Internet2 project. The unveiling was conducted by Vice President AL GORE who said the project "... represents the kind of collaboration among government, industry and academia that leverages the expertise and resources of each entity, to enable technological advancements and innovation. This project will provide the technological leadership our nation needs as we prepare to enter the 21st century."

Also attending the unveiling were Joseph P. Nacchio, president and CEO of Qwest, Dr. Douglas E. Van Houweling, UCAID's president and CEO, and John Morgridge, Chairman of the Board of Cisco.

Abilene will allow networking capabilities which will enable researchers and educators to develop advanced applications for higher education. Nortel and Cisco Systems will provide networking equipment that will enable the Abilene network's leading edge capabilities. Qwest will provide access to its state-of-the-art nationwide fiber optic network.

"Nortel is proud to be part of this important effort and to provide the most advanced equipment in the world to help Abilene develop cutting-edge applications that will make a real difference in the lives of constituents," said Schuenke. "This effort will allow researchers the security, capacity and reliability they will need to take technological innovation to a new plateau."

It is expected that initial operation of Abilene will begin before the end of 1998, with full deployment completed within one year. The Abilene project will provide unparalleled networking capabilities to the member universities of UCAID. It will provide advanced networking capabilities such as quality of service and multicasting and will interconnect with existing advanced research and education networks such as the very high performance Backbone Network Service (vBNS).

Nortel has been a leader in promoting the Internet in education. They have given generously to schools both here in the District of Columbia and around the country by providing computers, access to the Internet, teacher training and maintenance. They are also great believers in private-public partnerships. Greg Farmer who heads up Nortel's Washington, D.C. office is a leader in this area. Most recently he formed Partners in Technology, a public-private partnership aimed at ensuring all D.C. students have access to the Internet and teachers are trained to bring them into the 21st Century.

Nortel works with customers in more than 150 countries to design, build and integrate their communications products and advanced digital networks. Nortel has about 27,000 employees in the U.S., more than in any other country. In Nashville, they have about 1,200 employees who work at the company's headquarters or at Nortel's telephone remanufacturing facility. They also have major facilities in Raleigh, North Carolina; Richardson, Texas; Atlanta, Georgia; Sunrise, Florida; and Santa Clara, California.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating Donald Schuenke and everyone at Nortel for the leadership role they are providing in Internet2 and Next Generation Internet.

IN HONOR OF RICHARD J. ERNST

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 1998

Mr. DAVIS at Virginia. Mr. Speaker, my colleague Mr. WOLF, and I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Richard J. Ernst on the occasion of his retirement as president of Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA). For thirty years, he has made outstanding contributions to Virginia's educational system and to the community.

Dick Ernst joined NOVA in 1968, when it was a three-year-old campus of five thousand students housed in a warehouse. Through his tireless efforts and dedication, NOVA has grown and developed into the second-largest multi-campus community college in the world. The NOVA system now includes five campuses serving more than sixty thousand credit students and three hundred thousand participants in non-credit programs. The development of a sixth campus, the Medical Education campus, is in the preconstruction planning stage. This incredible growth is due to Dick's endless vision and boundless energy that has been the hallmark of his leadership.

Dick Ernst can take pride in the fact that it was his leadership that developed NOVA to one of the best community colleges in the nation. Today it offers training, classes and opportunities to thousands of Northern Virginians from various racial, ethnic and economic backgrounds that, without Dick's efforts, they would not have.

Throughout his educational career, Dick has been involved in numerous community organi-

zations. In 1979-80, Dick served as Interim Chancellor of the Virginia Community College System in addition to his duties as president of NOVA. His many activities include membership in the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce, the Northern Virginia Roundtable, the Advisory Council of the Northern Virginia Minority Business and Professional Association, the Washington Dulles Task Force Advisory Council, and the Fairfax Committee of 100, and serving on the Board of Directors of the Fairfax Unit of the American Cancer Society, the American Automobile Association Potomac Advisory Board, and the Northern Virginia Community Foundation.

The many honors and awards Dick Ernst has received include CEO of the Year by the Association of Community College Trustees, Blue Chip Community College Leader by the University of Texas National Survey, and Man of the Year by the National Council on Community Services and Continuing Education.

He received his baccalaureate degree in mathematics and science and his master's degree in administration from the University of Florida, and his doctoral degree from Florida State University. Dick and his wife Betty, a retired Fairfax County Public Schools educator, have seen their three children graduate from local area high schools and Virginia colleges and universities.

Mr. Speaker, we know our colleagues join us in saluting Dr. Richard J. Ernst, whose educational and civic contributions to the community have helped improve the quality of life for all Northern Virginians.

SPECIAL TRIBUTE HONORING
LINDSAY MCHOLME, LEGRAND
SMITH SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 1998

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect for the outstanding record of excellence he has compiled in academics, leadership and community service, that I am proud to salute Lindsay McHolme, winner of the 1998 LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This award is made to young adults who have demonstrated that they are truly committed to playing important roles in our Nation's future.

As a winner of the LeGrand Smith Scholarship, Lindsay is being honored for demonstrating that same generosity of spirit, intelligence, responsible citizenship, and capacity for human service that distinguished the late LeGrand Smith of Somerset, Michigan.

Lindsay McHolme is an exceptional student at Quincy High School and possesses an impressive high school record. She has been involved with the National Honor Society. Lindsay is also involved with the high school newspaper, student council, and the varsity club. She is a member of the varsity softball, basketball, and volleyball teams. Outside of school, Lindsay has been involved with basketball coaching and tutoring.

In special tribute, therefore, I am proud to join with her many admirers in extending my highest praise and congratulations to Lindsay

McHolme for her selection as a winner of a LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This honor is also a testament to the parents, teachers, and others whose personal interest, strong support and active participation contributed to her success. To this remarkable young woman, I extend my most heartfelt good wishes for all her future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO ROLLING MEADOWS
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 1997
HONOREES

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 1998

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize several special business leaders in my district who will be honored today by the Rolling Meadows Chamber of Commerce.

Tom Rivera, President of Greater Woodfield Convention and Visitors' Bureau, will be honored as the 1997 Business Leader of the Year. Under Tom's guidance, the Bureau has grown to serve 13 northwest suburban communities, and produces more than \$25 million in tourism business for the Greater Woodfield area. In addition, Tom is an active member of the boards of Northwest 2001 and the Northwest Cultural Council. He also serves as the Co-Chair of the Illinois International Convention Center Authority and "The Friends of the Northwest Suburbs." For the past four years, he has been the President of "Visit Illinois," the state's public and private sector tourism association which engaged in marketing, lobbying and educational efforts on behalf of Illinois' tourism industry. In 1995, I was pleased to appoint him to serve on the White House Conference on Travel and Tourism. Tom is certainly an expert in his field and contributes a great deal to the Rolling Meadows community.

Mr. John Conyers, Superintendent of Community Consolidated School District 15 will be honored as the 1997 Community Leader of the Year. John is a dedicated educator, having been a classroom teacher and principal in inner-city and suburban schools. He is a member of the Advisory Committee to the State Superintendent of Schools, and also serves on the board of the Palatine Township Senior Citizen Council as well as the Roosevelt University-Robin Campus Community Advising Board. In addition, he serves on the Board of Representatives of the Northwest Suburban Education to Careers Partnership. John also has had articles published in several well-respected educational trade journals, and has served as a member of the State of Illinois Governor's Commission on Japanese Economy and Educational Interchange. Through John's participation, School District 15 has received a due amount of recognition of its excellence.

Incredible Technologies, Inc. will be honored as the Small Business of the Year for 1997. The company is the coin-operated game manufacturer of the popular Golden Tee 3D Golf game. The success of its games has earned the company a reputation for being able to develop innovative games that consumers enjoy

playing. The company, and its owners Elaine and Richard Ditton, have been in the Rolling Meadows business community since 1993.

The City of Rolling Meadows has been selected to receive the 1997 Business Beautification Award. In the past four years, the City Council has transformed a virtually unidentifiable downtown area into a place that area residents are proud of. A key improvement was a new community events sign, located in the downtown area, which has an electronic message board to relay messages related to city events and activities.

Also receiving the 1997 Business Beautification Award is the Harris Bank Arlington-Meadows, a long-time member of the Rolling Meadows community. The new building constructed in 1997 has given great appeal to the local downtown area. This state-of-the-art banking center adds convenience to residents' lives as well.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate these leaders of Rolling Meadows for their hard work and dedication. Rolling Meadows and the Eighth Congressional District of Illinois is a better place to live because of them.

HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED CAREER OF MAYOR JOE B. JACKSON

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 1998

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of a hard-working, dedicated public servant, Mayor Joe B. Jackson. Mayor Jackson has served the City of Murfreesboro, my home town, for the past 30 years. First as city councilman from 1968 to 1982, then as Mayor until his retirement on May 7, 1998.

During his tenure, Murfreesboro has grown from the quaint, southern, small town to one of the fastest growing cities in the nation. When Mayor Jackson began his public life, Murfreesboro's population was around 25,000—now, under his leadership, the population has grown to over 60,000. Although the growth has been tremendous, especially in the past ten years, Mayor Jackson has made sure we continue to maintain our exceptional quality of life.

Murfreesboro has faced many challenges since Mayor Jackson first took office. One was to successfully recruit more industry to the area, therefore providing better job opportunities for young people. While many point to industrial development as his single greatest accomplishment, it has been his vision and leadership that has proven time and time again to bring our community together to do the long-range planning necessary.

As the senior member of the council, he has always been the first one willing to learn. One of his greatest talents is his ability to look ahead, not just to the next week or next election, but his ability to look to the future and plan for the changes that lie ahead.

Mayor Jackson has not only served at the helm of our fair city, but he has also held leadership positions as the past-president of the

Tennessee Municipal League and as a member of the Board of Directors at The National League of Cities.

Although he may be retiring as Mayor, he is not retiring from public service—it's in his blood. Besides, we do not plan on letting him retire. I know I will turn to him for advice, and am confident future city leaders will do the same.

It goes without saying that Mayor Jackson would not be the leader he is today without the support and guidance of one special individual, his wife, Frances. She not only helped raise three wonderful daughters, Janeese, Jodi and Jennifer, but she has always been there by his side through the ups and downs. Everyone in Murfreesboro knows their accomplishments are joint accomplishments.

On a personal note, Mayor Jackson has meant a great deal to me and my family. Mayor Jackson has known my parents since they all attended college together at Middle Tennessee State University. His family, along with mine, have been longtime members of Saint Mark's Methodist Church in Murfreesboro.

Mayor Jackson, we will forever be indebted to you. Thank you for sharing your time and your love to help make Murfreesboro a better place to live for all of us.

"WHAT AMERICA MEANS TO ME" ESSAY WINNER KYLE KITSCHER

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 1998

Mr. SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, the Fort Collins Elks Lodge No. 804 recently held a ceremony honoring three Fort Collins students for having written admirably on the subject of American citizenship. Their essays, entitled, "What America Means to Me," are fine examples of what we can expect when we encourage our children to articulate their patriotism.

This year's first-place winner is Kyle Kitscher, a fifth grader at Tavelli Elementary School. Allow me to share with you excerpts of his essay:

America is my home. I was born here making me a legal citizen. Many people would like to live here and become citizens because of the freedom we enjoy. The kind of freedom America has is like this: We have the choice of who we want to marry or where we want to live. We have the choice of which religion we want to practice.

America has a great history. We take bits and pieces of other cultures and blend them together for a new culture, this is diverse. America has good land for growing food, minerals for production and clean water and plenty of land for everyone.

Second and third place went to Kelly Taylor and Jordan Bowlby; both from Riffenburgh Elementary School. They, too, are to be commended for superb writing on a subject so dear to us all.

Let me take a moment to thank the Elks Lodge #804 in Fort Collins, which has sponsored this competition now for 14 years. Their many years of contributions to elementary

education in Fort Collins are worthy of recognition by the House.

IN HONOR OF LIFE WITH CANCER

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 1998

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Inova Fairfax Hospital Program, Life with Cancer, for its fine work helping cancer victims and their families cope with the disease and enhance their quality of life. Life with Cancer is entirely supported by community funds and offers its programs free of charge to patients in the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. area and their families and friends, regardless of where the patient is being treated.

The group was started at Fairfax Hospital in 1987 by a widower whose wife had died of cancer. He was left with two children and a great deal of emotional pain. He used his two-year experience of coping with his wife's illness and its impact on his family to create a program to support families affected by cancer at all stages of the illness. The resulting program is one of the most comprehensive of its kind in the United States. Because the program is based in Fairfax Hospital, which treats more cancer patients than any other hospital in the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan area, program staff are able to work closely with highly skilled physicians and allied health care professionals to provide the most beneficial services to patients.

Life with Cancer supports family members through the duration of the cancer experience by providing the most current information on cancer diagnoses, treatment, and psychosocial impact, assisting children and adults who have lost a loved one to cancer, collaborating with other health care professionals to assure that patients and their families are receiving comprehensive and coordinated services, and educating the community about cancer and its impact.

Classes available to patients and their families include: I Can Cope, a seminar discussing basic facts about coping with cancer, Look Good . . . Feel Better, for patients undergoing chemotherapy or radiation treatments, Spirituality and Cancer, to help families reexamine their religious beliefs given the cancer experience, and Humor and Cancer, to help patients and family members use humor as a means to strengthen their mental attitude toward cancer. Ongoing emotional support is provided by support group and family meetings. Short-term counseling and crisis intervention is available for individual assistance.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in thanking the staff and volunteers of Life with Cancer for their dedication to helping cancer victims and their families. This valuable program, which should serve as a national model, provides a much-needed network of support for those dealing with the impact of this devastating disease.

SPECIAL TRIBUTE HONORING ANDREW NEWHOUSE, LEGRAND SMITH SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 1998

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect for the outstanding record of excellence he has compiled in academics, leadership and community service, that I am proud to salute Andrew Newhouse, winner of the 1998 LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This award is made to young adults who have demonstrated that they are truly committed to playing important roles in our Nation's future.

As a winner of the LeGrand Smith Scholarship, Andrew is being honored for demonstrating that same generosity of spirit, intelligence, responsible citizenship, and capacity for human service that distinguished the late LeGrand Smith of Somerset, Michigan.

Andrew Newhouse is an exceptional student at Jackson County Western High School and possesses an impressive high school record. He has been involved with the National Honor Society. Andrew is also involved with the Science Academic Games Team and the Jazz band. He is a member of the varsity cross country tack team. Outside of school Andrew, has been involved in volunteer work at his local church, taking a college class, and tutoring learning disabled students.

In special tribute, Therefore, I am proud to join with his many admirers in extending my highest praise and congratulations to Andrew Newhouse for his selection as a winner of a LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This honor is also a testament to the parents, teachers, and others whose personal interest, strong support and active participation contributed to his success. To this remarkable young man, I extend my most heartfelt good wishes for all his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING DR. PATRICK DOYLE

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 1998

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tremendous contributions Dr. Patrick Doyle has made to Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU), his community and our environment.

In 1972, as faculty advisor to the MTSU Biology Club, Dr. Doyle instituted a recycling program on the school's campus. To date, the program has been responsible for the recycling of 9.2 million pounds of newspaper, one million pounds of office paper and 176,000 pounds of aluminum cans. Students recycling on campus and individuals and businesses in Murfreesboro have contributed to Dr. Doyle's recycling efforts.

My Murfreesboro district office staff and I are very grateful to Dr. Doyle and the biology students who collect our cans, newspaper and office paper for the recycling program. I am sure the students who have received scholar-

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

ships, as a result of this program, are grateful as well. Over the past 20 years, funds totalling \$400,000 have been used to assist over 200 students through the more than 20 scholarships generated by the recycling program.

Dr. Doyle has also taught an environmental problems course since the 1970s. One day, back in 1978, a fledgling Congressman visited Dr. Doyle's class. The students bombarded the freshman legislator with questions. He was genuinely concerned with the issues they raised. He told the students he would study the issues and get back with them. True to his word, he researched the students' questions and sent them a letter. Now, Vice President AL GORE is internationally known for his knowledge on environmental issues.

Dr. Doyle is known for more than his environmental achievements. He has distinguished himself on the racquetball court, as well as introducing this Member of Congress to his first semester of college.

I would like to congratulate Dr. Doyle on receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation.

Dr. Doyle, Thank you for the contributions you have made to Middle Tennessee State University and the Murfreesboro community.

A TRIBUTE TO OUR GOLD STAR MOTHERS

HON. JON D. FOX

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 1998

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to our Gold Star Mothers, who have suffered the terrible losses of their sons and daughters for the defense of our nation.

We must offer the gratefulness of this Nation to the mothers who have made the greatest of all sacrifices to our country, their children.

The plight of the Gold Star Mothers is being remembered in Philadelphia in a production entitled "Reflections—Going Home" in which students from the Thomas Edison High School are participating. The Play was written, produced and directed by one of my constituents, Vietnam Veteran Frank "Bud" Kowalewski. I commend his tireless work in offering our young people the opportunity to honor lost lives, and teaching them the nature of valor and patriotism. The play strives to educate the nation on the sacrifices made by Gold Star Mothers. I congratulate the cast on their achievements in reminding us all the true reason we celebrate Memorial Day in America.

God bless the Gold Star Mothers. We humbly offer our tears, humility and gratitude as a nation.

We pray there will be no more lives unnecessarily lost and no more tears. God love and protect all of our brave soldiers in this great Nation.

May 7, 1998

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOUTHEASTERN COLORADO WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 1998

Mr. SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 40th Anniversary of the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District and to share with you a brief history of water development in Colorado's Arkansas River Valley.

In 1859, discovery of gold in Colorado brought many settlers to the Arkansas River Valley, but few were successful in their search for wealth. More and more gold seekers turned to farming to provide for themselves and their families. As permanent settlements were established, farmers discovered normal rainfall was inadequate for agriculture. The era of irrigation had begun.

Early irrigation in the valley depended on available stream runoff from the Arkansas River and its tributaries. As irrigation farming increased, a demand developed for late-season water which could not be supplied by unregulated streamflow. Storage reservoirs were needed. As a result, farmer-owned irrigation companies were formed between 1890 and 1910. These companies constructed several storage reservoirs having a total storage capacity of nearly 600,000 acre-feet. In addition, they received water from transmountain diversion systems originally importing only a few thousand acre-feet annually.

After years of drought and hardship, and numerous discussions among the residents of the Arkansas Valley, the plan to form a water conservancy district was put forward. Early leaders of water development Harold Christy, Charlie Boustead and Charlie Beise, visited numerous meetings of canal companies to explain the needs and usefulness of a district with taxing power. Petitions to create such a district were then circulated throughout the community.

On May 13, 1958, the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District was formed. At that time, the District Board of Directors were named and included Charles Irwin, Frank Dilley, Selby Yount, Wayne Bennett, Herbert Schroeder, Frank Milenski, Elmer Martin, James Shoun, James Wagner, Kenneth Shaw, Sid Nichols, Roy Cooper, David Ciruli, Harold Christy and William Bauserman.

Just four years later, the Fryngpan-Arkansas Project, a plan to divert additional flows from the western slope, gained approval. On August 16, 1962, President John F. Kennedy traveled to Pueblo, Colorado to sign Public Law 87-590 authorizing the project. At that time he stated, "There is no more valuable lesson for a President . . . than to come to a river and see what grows next to it and come to this city * * * this platform, and know how vitally important water is."

Water is indeed a necessity to the people of the Arkansas River Valley. The Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District for the last forty years has been the driving force behind proper water management within the valley and it is for that reason that I honor them today.

CONGRATULATIONS TO PRESIDENT LEE TENG-HUI OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 1998

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, President Lee Teng-hui and Vice President Lin Chan of the Republic of China (Taiwan) will be celebrating their first anniversary in office on May 20, 1998. They have done an excellent job leading their country.

Everything about Taiwan is forward looking. It has successfully weathered the current Asian financial crisis. In the last year, President Lee and Vice President Lien have maintained a steady economic growth, expanded substantive relations with a number of countries and sought a continuing dialogue with mainland China.

On the eve of their second anniversary in office, I join my colleagues in wishing President Lee and Vice President Lien continuing success in leading their country.

BRIGANTINE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NAMED KINDNESS SCHOOL IN NEW JERSEY

HON. FRANK A. LOBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 1998

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, in a time when the evening news is characterized by conflict and turmoil, it is nice to come across the story of Brigantine Elementary School. Last year, Brigantine Elementary was named the kindest school in my home state of New Jersey. The school received the award after students were urged to perform acts of kindness every day during the month of October. The students responded by performing 50,000 good deeds. Some of these acts included helping parents or calling a sick relative.

The month of May is Kindness Awareness Month in New Jersey. During this month, Brigantine Elementary's kindness program will be promoted as a model for other schools in the state. Brigantine Elementary's success is easily replicated. Their kindness program was developed as a means to reinforce basic values in their students. Administrator, teachers, and parents worked cooperatively to develop the kindness program to support a mission of developing good citizenship qualities in a rich multi cultural setting. Working on a "Kindness is Contagious" theme, the school set goals for each student, had students record their progress and encouraged parents to participate with their children.

The work of these students profoundly demonstrates that each individual can make a difference. They have proven that kindness is indeed contagious as other schools in the state embrace the model of their program. I want to commend the work of the students, staff and parents at Brigantine Elementary. I am proud of the dedication they have shown to make their community a better place.

SPECIAL TRIBUTE HONORING RANDY VANWAGEN, LEGRAND SMITH SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 1998

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect for the outstanding record of excellence he has compiled in academics, leadership and community service, that I am proud to salute Randy VanWagen, winner of the 1998 LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This award is made to young adults who have demonstrated that they are truly committed to playing important roles in our Nation's future.

As a winner of the LeGrand Smith Scholarship, Randy is being honored for demonstrating that same generosity of spirit, intelligence, responsible citizenship, and capacity for human service that distinguished the late LeGrand Smith of Somerset, Michigan.

Randy VanWagen is an exceptional student at Columbia Central High School and possesses an impressive high school record. He has been involved with the National Honor Society. Randy is also involved with the Student Council, the English Essay and Social Sciences Academic Teams, and is the founder and president of the Varsity Club. He is a member of the varsity Football, Wrestling, and Track teams. Outside of school Randy has been involved in volunteer work and computer graphics.

In special tribute, therefore, I am proud to join with his many admirers in extending my highest praise and congratulations to Randy VanWagen for his selection as a winner of a LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This honor is also a testament to the parents, teachers, and others whose personal interest, strong support and active participation contributed to his success. To this remarkable young man, I extend my most heartfelt good wishes for all his future endeavors.

DRUG INTERDICTION

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 1998

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to add another line of defense in our Nation's war against drugs by introducing legislation today to strengthen drug interdiction efforts by the U.S. Customs Service. As my colleagues know, drug use, particularly among teenagers, is widespread and skyrocketing. A critical prong in Congress' attack on illicit drug use is stopping the flow of drugs across our nation's borders before they fall into the hands of our children.

As the Federal agency responsible for protecting the nation's borders, the U.S. Customs Service is our front line in fighting the war on drugs. Customs seized nearly 1 million pounds of illegal drugs last year, more than all other Federal agencies combined. In 1997 alone, over 118 million automobiles, 9.3 million trucks, 321,000 railcars and 4.5 million sea

containers entered the United States creating an enormous window of opportunity for drug smugglers and a massive drug enforcement dilemma for Customs.

To provide Customs with the necessary resources to police our borders, my legislation authorizes a significant increase in the number of inspectors and narcotics detection equipment along the U.S. borders with Mexico and Canada, as well as providing additional personnel and equipment at Florida and Gulf Coast Seaports and major metropolitan drug distribution centers such as Chicago, New York, Miami and Los Angeles. The war on drugs is winnable, but it can't be fought with words alone. My anti-drug smuggling bill supplies Customs with the necessary arsenal to defeat the ugly scourge that is casting a dark shadow over our nation.

THE TECHNICAL WORKERS FAIRNESS ACT OF 1998

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 1998

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Technical Workers Fairness Act of 1998. This bill, and its companion bill, S. 1924 offered by Sens. Connie Mack (R-FL) and John Kerry (D-MA), would repeal Section 1706 of the 1986 Tax Reform Act in order to provide the necessary tax relief for the technical services industry.

Since the passage of the 1986 Tax Reform Act, Section 1706 added a new subsection (d) to Section 530 of the Revenue Act of 1978. For those businesses classified as "technical services firms," Section 1706 removed the Section 530 employment tax safe havens that otherwise apply to all other types of businesses that use the services of independent contractors. These Section 530 safe havens were enacted by Congress in 1978 to protect business taxpayers, especially small businesses, from arbitrary IRS decisions interpreting the common law employment test in employment tax audits.

Yet Section 1706 singles out one group of taxpayers. As a result of Section 1706, technical services firms must prove to the IRS that their hired workers meet the qualifications as independent contractors under the centuries-old common law employment test. Even if the firm can prove that the employment of the independent contractor is consistent with industry practice or a relevant court ruling, all of which constitutes a "safe haven" under Section 530—none of these factors are relevant because of the enactment of Section 1706.

The harm caused to the technical services industry and its employees is real. There is no rationale as to why a business could be severely penalized by the IRS and forced to pay employment taxes despite the fact that the contractors have already paid these same taxes in full. Unfortunately, some IRS auditors have used Section 1706 to claim that even incorporated independent contractors are not legitimate. Faced with the obstacle of meeting the requirements of the common law employment test to prove a worker's status to the

IRS, many technical services firms will simply refuse to hire any independent contractors in order to avoid tempting an IRS audit.

In 1991, the Treasury Department issued a 100-page study of Section 1706, as required by Congress. The Study found that tax compliance is actually better-than-average among technical services workers compared to other contractors in other industries. In addition, Section 1706 is the only occasion since the enactment of Section 530 that Congress has ever cut back on the safe haven protections in Section 530. Furthermore, in 1996, Congress expanded the Section 530 protection and shifted the burden from the taxpayer to the IRS.

In light of the unfairness of Section 1706, I believe it is time to move for its repeal so that technical services firms will be allowed to compete on a level playing field. As the Ranking Member of the Tax, Finance and Exports subcommittee, I am pleased to take these steps to remove this discriminatory provision.

THE AMERICAN ECONOMY PROTECTION ACT

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 1998

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, today I joined my colleagues, JO ANN EMERSON and RON KLINK, to introduce a bill to protect the economy of the United States. Specifically, this bill will prohibit the use of federal funds for any implementation of the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change until Senate ratification. This bill is companion language to Senator ASHCROFT's bill S. 2019.

The Kyoto Protocol requires the United States to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions to seven percent below 1990 levels by 2008-2012. Other industrialized nations must meet a similarly strict timetable. Meanwhile, the Kyoto Protocol exempts 132 developing nations, including China, India, Brazil, and Mexico, from any greenhouse gas reduction, even though these four nations alone are expected to emit half of the world's greenhouse gases by the year 2050. This creates a two-tiered environmental obligation, forcing the entire burden to reduce greenhouse emissions on industrialized nations while turning the developing world into a pollution enterprise zone. This won't eliminate greenhouse gases, or succeed in reversing global warming, it will just change their point of production.

American families receive the brunt of the burden imposed by the Kyoto Protocol. The Wharton Econometric Forecasting Associates (WEFA), a well respected economic firm, has estimated the Kyoto Protocol would result in Americans paying 50 cents more for a gallon of gasoline and more than \$2,000 per American household. WEFA also estimates the Protocol could result in the United States losing over a million jobs each year over a 15 year period.

Even the Clinton Administration, strong supporters of the Kyoto Protocol, admits it could add \$70 to \$110 to the average American household's annual energy bill. And these esti-

mates were based on several highly optimistic assumptions by White House economists.

Furthermore, the United States Department of Energy studied the impact the Kyoto Protocol will have on six major manufacturing industries. Results indicate that the Kyoto targets and timetables to limit greenhouse gas emissions are tantamount to pink slips for the American worker. Studying petroleum refining, pulp and paper making, cement, steel, basic chemicals, and aluminum, the Department of Energy forecasts hundreds of thousands of American jobs lost and the suppliers for these materials moving to developing nations. Again, worldwide emissions won't be reduced, they will be shipped overseas, just like American jobs.

The U.S. Constitution confers on the Senate the responsibility to evaluate a treaty on its merits and then to give or withhold its advice and consent. As an indicator of where the Senate stands on this issue, last year the Senate passed S. Res. 98 by a vote of 95-0, expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States should not sign onto any treaty placing America at a competitive disadvantage during the climate change negotiations in Kyoto, Japan.

In Kyoto, the Clinton Administration completely ignored the Senate position, and did exactly the opposite. Now, there is wide concern that the Administration is working proactively to implement the Kyoto targets through regulatory fiat. Part of this stems from the Environmental Protection Agency indicating its plan to draft new Clean Air rules enacting portions of the Kyoto Protocol.

The American Economy Protection Act will insure that the Kyoto Protocol is not implemented through the regulatory process. The Founding Fathers in their infinite wisdom provided that the Senate should be a check and balance on international treaties through the ratification process. This bill maintains the integrity of the U.S. Constitution and supports continued economic growth in the United States. I urge your support of this bill.

SPECIAL TRIBUTE HONORING JEREMY BAYER, LEGRAND SMITH SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 1998

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect for the outstanding record of excellence he has compiled in academics, leadership and community service, that I am proud to salute Jeremy Bayer, winner of the 1998 LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This award is made to young adults who have demonstrated that they are truly committed to playing important roles in our Nation's future.

As a winner of the LeGrand Smith Scholarship, Jeremy is being honored for demonstrating that same generosity of spirit, intelligence, responsible citizenship, and capacity for human service that distinguished the late LeGrand Smith of Somerset, Michigan.

Jeremy Bayer is an exceptional student at Northwest High School and possesses an im-

pressive high school record. He has been involved with the National Honor Society. Jeremy is also involved with the Science team and the Chi Alpha/Religious Club. He is a member of the varsity soccer, swimming and track teams. Outside of school Jeremy, has been involved with the Boy Scout Explorers and served as a soccer referee and soccer camp counselor.

In special tribute, Therefore, I am proud to join with his many admirers in extending my highest praise and congratulations to Jeremy Bayer for his selection as a winner of a LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This honor is also a testament to the parents, teachers, and others whose personal interest, strong support and active participation contributed to his success. To this remarkable young man, I extend my most heartfelt good wishes for all his future endeavors.

YOUNG NOAH FRANK'S POEM "I WANT TO BE"

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 1998

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, in honor of National Poetry Month, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate a young constituent of mine, Noah Frank, who recently won the grand prize for his age group in the national "River of Words" competition for his poem "I Want to Be."

Noah Frank, a second-grader at Lakeshore Elementary School in San Francisco, displays in his poem remarkable wit and maturity, as well as a concrete grasp of the English language. Most importantly, however, his poem poignantly expresses the joy of exploring our world through the imagination.

I can't think of a better theme for National Poetry Month. Through poetry we exercise not only the vitality of language and thought; we exercise our imaginations. It is our imaginations that allow us to wonder.

I WANT TO BE

I want to be a dogfish
and catch a leaping catfish
with whiskers as long as a stream.
And I want to be
the rain trickling down on the world
telling it it's springtime.

TAX FREEDOM DAY

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 1998

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Tax Freedom Day, which we will celebrate this Sunday, May 10. Tax Freedom Day marks the day when American taxpayers have symbolically "paid off" their total tax burden and may begin working for themselves, not the government.

The truth is, taxpayers are spending more than one-third of their work time paying for wasteful government spending and unnecessary bureaucracies. The average American

has worked 45 days this year to pay personal income taxes, 38 days to pay payroll taxes, 18 days for sales and excise taxes, and 12 days for property taxes. Two additional weeks are consumed by corporate income taxes not to mention 3 more days spent paying miscellaneous taxes. This is totally unacceptable—Americans should not have to work 129 days out of the year simply to support the government.

Not only do Americans pay outrageously high taxes, they are being taxed for the wrong reasons. Taxpayers should not be penalized for getting married, investing their money or saving for the future. These taxes are contrary to common sense, and they defy basic American values. It is up to us to reform the tax code so that Americans will no longer have to send their money to Washington for bureaucracies and programs that do not work.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join with me in celebration of Tax Freedom Day. Let's take this opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to lower taxes and cut government spending.

CONGRATULATIONS TO PRESIDENT
LEE TENG-HUI

HON. ROBERT SMITH

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 1998

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, two years ago, on May 20, 1996, Dr. Lee Teng-hui and Dr. Lien Chan were sworn into office as the ninth President and Vice President of the Republic of China on Taiwan. In the last two years, Lee and Lien have accomplished a great deal for their country.

For instance, Taiwan has continued to reduce its trade surplus with the United States and maintained its economic and political growth. It has brilliantly survived the current Asian financial crisis. It is also worthwhile to mention that Taiwan's process of democratization is continuing and has drawn praise from Western press.

It is time we should recognize Taiwan for it is a democratic, free enterprising country, worthy of respect and admiration.

I have enjoyed working with Taiwan's Representative in Washington, Ambassador Stephen Chen. He and his aides have kept me totally informed of the developments in Taiwan. They are hardworking diplomats.

Congratulations to the Republic of China on its president's second anniversary in office.

WARM WELCOME TO EAST
JESSAMINE MIDDLE SCHOOL

HON. SCOTTY BAESLER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 1998

Mr. BAESLER. Mr. Speaker, I am once again pleased and honored to welcome to our Capital City the eighth grade class from East Jessamine Middle School. These bright and ambitious students have traveled to Wash-

ington from the heart of the Bluegrass State, Nicholasville, Kentucky. Nathaniel Hawthorne, the great American poet once wrote, "It is natural enough to suppose that the center and heart of America is the Capitol, and certainly, in its outward aspect, the world has not many a statelier or more beautiful edifices." I join with these students in their excitement to explore and learn more about the history and origin of the Capitol. I am proud of these eighth graders and thankful to their teachers for bringing history alive for them. I wish them the best for a most memorable trip in Washington, D.C.

SPECIAL TRIBUTE HONORING
CHRISTINA ZIEGLER, LEGRAND
SMITH SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 1998

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect for the outstanding record of excellence she has compiled in academics, leadership and community service, that I am proud to salute Christina Ziegler, winner of the 1998 LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This award is made to young adults who have demonstrated that they are truly committed to playing important roles in our Nation's future.

As a winner of the LeGrand Smith Scholarship, Christina is being honored for demonstrating that same generosity of spirit, intelligence, responsible citizenship, and capacity for human service that distinguished the late LeGrand Smith of Somerset, Michigan.

Christina Ziegler is an exceptional student at Litchfield High School and possesses an impressive high school record. She has been involved with the National Honor Society. Christina is also involved with the high school Spanish club, and the varsity cross country, volleyball and track teams. Outside of school, Christina, has been involved with her church youth group and various other community activities.

In special tribute, Therefore, I am proud to join with her many admirers in extending my highest praise and congratulations to Christina Ziegler for her selection as a winner of a LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This honor is also a testament to the parents, teachers, and others whose personal interest, strong support and active participation contributed to her success. To this remarkable young woman, I extend my most heartfelt good wishes for all her future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING MICHAEL BERRY

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 1998

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Michael Berry as he receives the 1998 Ellis Island Medal of Honor on Saturday, May 9, 1998. The National Ethnic Coalition, the largest ethnic and

heritage organization in the United States, presents these medals each year to recognize exceptional humanitarian efforts and outstanding contributions to our country.

In Michael Berry they have found an individual who truly exemplifies the spirit of this award.

Mr. Berry has devoted his life to the welfare of the Arab American community, both in America and abroad. While Mr. Berry has often been described as the "elder Statesman of the Arab Community" he has always shunned such titles, believing instead that his work should speak for itself.

Having witnessed the efforts of Michael Berry for three decades, I know it would require volumes to capture the depth and intensity of the great work and magnificent contributions of his service. And, more importantly, I know there is no final chapter because his work is ongoing.

The achievements of Michael Berry in the legal, civic, social, humanitarian and public service fields are spread across his home community of Dearborn, the metro-Detroit area, the State of Michigan, the United States, and of course the international community.

Michael Berry served his community through the Dearborn United Community Services, the Southeast Dearborn Civic Association, the Wayne County Citizens Committee on Juvenile Delinquency, the Executive Board of the March of Dimes, and St. Jude's Hospital for which he received the Danny Thomas Award for furthering the goals of the Hospital.

He served as a member and Chairman of the Board of the Wayne County Road Commission for over 15 years. This service was recognized when the International Terminal at Metro Detroit Airport was named the Michael Berry International Terminal.

Michael Berry served his state on the Michigan Committee for Racial and Ethnic Minority Equality and on the Michigan Supreme Court's Task Force for ethnic and racial discrimination in the courts.

He served his nation as a member of the American Task Force for Lebanon. He was selected by the United States Information Service as an exemplary first generation Lebanese American in published materials circulated overseas and he was sponsored by the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs to participate in a speaking tour of the Near East in 1966.

Michael Berry served the Arab American community at home and abroad. He served as the first ever Muslim co-chairperson of the Greater Detroit Conference of Christians, Jews and Muslims when "Muslims" was added to this generations-old organization. He was President for over twenty years of the Cedars of Lebanon Bar Association, now known as the Arab American Bar Association.

Michael Berry has been cited many times for his humanitarian efforts. He and other Lebanese-American leaders were instrumental in sending \$1.6 million worth of medical supplies and equipment to three supply-drained hospitals in Lebanon in 1992.

He was the first co-chairman of the United American Lebanese Association and was awarded the National Order of Cedar of Lebanon by the Lebanese Government on October 21, 1993.

Mr. Speaker, it is with high admiration that I rise today to salute the achievements of a wonderful friend and world citizen as he receives this most prestigious award.

PRESIDENT LEE TENG-HUI OF
TAIWAN

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 1998

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, the voters in Taiwan went to the polls two years ago to elect the first democratic head of state in Chinese history. Incumbent Lee Teng-hui received 54% of the vote, far outdistancing his three rivals and sending the world an unmistakable message that true democracy has arrived in the Republic of China.

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the people of Taiwan on their president's second anniversary in office. I was there to see him sworn into office, as part of the official United States delegation representing President Clinton, and it was an awesome sight. I offer my congratulations to President Lee for his unwavering determination to make his country one of Asia's liveliest democracies and the example how profitable a free and democratic Chinese society can be.

President Lee's election victory in 1996 has thrust him onto the international stage and put him in the company of the world leaders. He has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for his vision and his leadership in democratic and economic matters. His repeated attempts to reach out to Chinese leaders have won him worldwide praise.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in offering our collective congratulations to President Lee for his tremendous international accomplishments.

HIGHER EDUCATION AMENDMENTS
OF 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. ALLEN BOYD, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 6, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 6) to extend the authorization of programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes:

Mr. BOYD. Mr. Chairman, in a recent press conference, President Clinton said that "the most principled compromise will leave both sides unhappy." Every person in this chamber knows the truth in that statement.

Our colleagues, Mr. Goodling and Mr. Kildee, have produced such a principled compromise on the student loan interest rate issue in H.R. 6. This agreement is the result of a year of difficult negotiations, and I believe that we should respect and honor their efforts. As Mr. Kildee pointed out the other day on the floor, the compromise is based on the Admin-

istration's proposal to set the student interest rate at a point where it will be the lowest it has been in 17 years.

We need to ensure that this compromise is written into law. There is no time left for political posturing as the July 1st deadline is just days away.

I want to thank my colleagues on the Education and Workforce Committee for their fine work on this principled compromise and urge my colleagues in the House to encourage the Senate to ratify it at the earliest possible date.

NATIONAL CORRECTIONS
OFFICERS WEEK

HON. J.C. WATTS, JR.

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 1998

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, during this National Correctional Officers and Employees Week, I wish to commend all of the officers and staff who work in correctional facilities in my home state of Oklahoma. In fact, every American owes a debt of gratitude to the men and women who work in our Federal and State correctional facilities all across our country.

Every day, hundreds of Americans are the victims of crime. Hopes and dreams are dashed by arsonists. Families are shattered by domestic abuse. Lives are taken and property lost. Often times, the only ones who stand between our personal safety and criminals are our brave men and women who work in law enforcement, especially those who work in correctional facilities. Correctional officers are given the special task of dealing with society's most incorrigible criminals, while seeking to reform those souls who may yet be turned away from a wasted life of crime.

We owe special thanks this week to the 22 Federal Bureau of Prisons officers and employees who have died in the line of duty since 1901. They gave their lives and sacrificed their futures to keep our families safe. We must keep the families of some of the more recently lost officers and employees in our prayers.

We also owe our gratitude to the public servants who have excelled in their duties and improved the quality of federal prison facilities. We owe our thanks to the people whom the Federal Bureau of Prisons has judged worthy of its highest awards for merit in 1998. These fine Americans include Thelma Olivares, who was named Supervisor of the Year; David Wedeking, who was named Department Head of the Year; Stephanie Gibson, who was named Employee of the Year; Charles Morris, who was named Correctional Officer of the Year; and Kristen Lunsford-Holley, who was named the Doug Krittenbrink Rookie of the Year.

America's correctional officers and employees are the difference between safe neighborhoods and senseless tragedy. Their efforts to reform young offenders while there is still hope, and their work to keep dangerous felons securely behind bars and away from our families are contributions which all too often go unnoticed. Hopefully, during this National Correc-

tional Officers and Employees Week, we will all reflect and be thankful that our country enjoys protection because we have the world's finest correctional employees.

SPECIAL TRIBUTE HONORING
ANNE KELLOGG, LEGRAND
SMITH SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 1998

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect for the outstanding record of excellence he has compiled in academics, leadership and community service, that I am proud to salute Anne Kellogg, winner of the 1998 LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This award made to young adults who have demonstrated that they are truly committed to playing important roles in our Nation's future.

As a winner of the LeGrand Smith Scholarship, Anne is being honored for demonstrating that same generosity of spirit, intelligence, responsible citizenship, and capacity for human service that distinguished the late LeGrand Smith of Somerset, Michigan.

Anne Kellogg is an exceptional student at Marshall High School and possesses an impressive high school record. She has been involved with the National Honor Society. Anne is also involved with the Student Government, serving as the Class President for four years and the Student Council President her senior year. She is also a member of the varsity soccer and volleyball teams. Outside of school, Anne has been a representative for the United Way, a D.A.R.E. role model and has volunteered at the Tendercare Nursing Home in Marshall.

In special tribute, therefore, I am proud to join with her many admirers in extending my highest praise and congratulations to Anne Kellogg for her selection as a winner of a LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This honor is also a testament to the parents, teachers, and others whose personal interest, strong support and active participation contributed to her success. To this remarkable young woman, I extend my most heartfelt good wishes for all her future endeavors.

MEDICAL INNOVATION TAX
CREDIT ACT

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 1998

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleague SAM JOHNSON, to introduce legislation that would make it easier for medical schools, teaching hospitals, and not-for-profit hospitals in the United States to conduct potentially life-saving medical research. The enactment of the Medical Innovation Tax Credit would provide an important incentive for companies to fund more clinical research at these institutions. This bill would establish an incremental, 20 percent tax credit in a new

section of the Internal Revenue Code for companies that conduct clinical testing research activities at U.S. medical schools and teaching hospitals. To get the tax credit, companies would undertake clinical testing activities at defined academic institutions: medical schools, teaching hospitals owned by, or affiliated with, an institution of higher education, and charitable research hospitals designated as cancer centers by the National Cancer Institute of the National Institute of Health. No tax credit would be available for clinical research activity conducted outside the U.S.

This proposal comes at a time of substantive upheaval and transformation in our nation's health care system. As we all know, our medical schools and teaching hospitals are the backbone of innovation in American medicine. They are the places where scientific discovery intersects with patient care and medical and health professions training. But today these institutions are facing significant financial challenges due to fundamental changes in the health care system. Whereas medical schools and teaching hospitals used to be able to fund some research from excess patient care revenues, in the new competitive environment these institutions can no longer command higher prices from insurers simply because they fulfill the unique and critical missions of research and education. Additional private sector investment in our Nation's research and development is needed so medical schools and teaching hospitals can continue to fulfill their social missions.

I am concerned that while the clinical research market is booming, medical schools and teaching hospitals are losing market share for clinical testing research activities. The Medical Innovation Tax Credit would provide some assistance to these institutions, but would also stimulate them to continue improving their efficiency in operating the clinical research enterprise. And since the tax credit is narrowly tailored, its potential cost to the government is relatively small.

We need some way to help these institutions that is market-based and incentive driven. This proposal presents a creative way to encourage companies to conduct more clinical trials in the United States. It will arrest the declining share of trials conducted at these institutions and help alleviate some of the financial pressures they are experiencing. The Medical Innovation Tax Credit will provide needed resources for medical schools and teaching hospitals to maintain the robust research base necessary for high quality health-oriented education. Finally, it will strengthen the intellectual partnership between the private sector and medical schools and teaching hospitals to help ensure America's continued world leadership in research and innovation. I am proud to introduce this legislation and urge my colleagues to support a measure that will benefit all Americans.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE
BATTLE OF PALO ALTO

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 1998

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, 152 years ago today, the first battle of the Mexican-American War was waged at Palo Alto, Texas, setting in motion a history which still fascinates and touches us today. When the war was over 2 years later, the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo changed the face of our nation and forever shaped our relationship with Mexico.

The historical significance of this war and its aftermath was a defining one for the young nation of the United States; for the Republic of Mexico; and for the descendants of both countries who populate our communities today. The Mexican-American War has consistently been a major omission in U.S. history. That omission has a hidden cost. Because *who we are* is shaped by our history, we need to know that history. But it is not the past that shapes our future, it is today's new era of cooperation existing between the United States and Mexico.

Since the days when the United States and Mexico met on the battlefield, their descendants have grown together as flowers upon their graves. Our cultures and traditions are intermingled, not by design, but by fate and circumstance. We understand that our futures are interwoven; we share an economic and cultural bond.

The most important element of this shared bond is the North Atlantic Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). The spirit of NAFTA has brought about a mutual frankness and a new-found respect for one another. All across the Southwest, our mutual histories and customs are mingled, and they are evident in our daily lives. Our commonalities are evident in the food we eat, the music we prefer, and the dual languages we speak.

Economically, the outcome of the Mexican-American War immediately benefited the United States with the addition of the Southwest to the nation's territory. The Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo in 1848 was a turning point in our history. U.S. citizens in the rugged west joined the existing Mexican population, making the American Southwest a fascinating melting pot. This cultural blend produced some of the most enduring legacies of the American West: rodeos, cowboys, and the wild West.

Today, our economic fortunes are profoundly bound together. NAFTA is making North America the largest, most prosperous, and most efficient free trade zone in the world. Let me note here that it was Mexican President Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, in 1853, who first advocated the commemoration of those killed in the war and at the Battle of Palo Alto. So, it is fair to say that Mexico began the long process of making one-time adversaries into the friends and economic allies we are today.

Our political debates today so often touch on sensitive subjects that engender misunderstandings. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in offering a message of hope and friend-

ship to Mexico, based on where we have been, where we are now and where we hope to go.

TALBOTT RETIRES: 4TH ESTATE
SUFFERS LOSS

HON. ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 1998

Mr. BLAGOJEVICH. Mr. Speaker, this week, a "-30-" will be placed on Basil Talbott's journalism career when he retires from the Chicago Sun-Times. For Chicago's newspaper readers, journalists and politicians, the loss is significant. Three decades of irreplaceable journalistic experience guided each of his stories. He had covered the Triple Crown of Chicago journalism—Chicago politics, Springfield's State House and Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C.—for one of the nation's largest daily newspapers. Basil's forceful personality and zeal for news enabled him to find ways to plow through the obstacles to the information he needed. He combined tenacity with directness and integrity, qualities that caused Congressmen to view him with a little trepidation and a lot of respect. Few answered lightly when greeted by Talbott's trademark: "What's up?"

Few reporters were less susceptible to the wiles of spinmeisters than Basil Talbott. He could trample a thin story idea with a single, devastating question. Like the best reporters, he was always skeptical, never cynical. Congressmen looking for high-calorie, low-substance puff pieces should look elsewhere; Basil put the interests of his readers first. As a former philosophy student at one of the nation's top universities, the University of Chicago, he was well-acquainted with Greek and Roman thought. But Basil Talbott's news judgment seemed guided by the more modern philosophy of Yogi Berra: "If it ain't interesting, it ain't interesting." Officials who had the smarts and will to make news found Basil with a ready pen.

Because of his wide experience, his stories got to the heart of the matter. He was always fair, always offered a chance to make a full case. His precise questioning could quickly expose a thin understanding of an issue or coax unexpected, intriguing details; in fact, transcripts of Basil Talbott interviews could serve as models for would-be cross-examiners.

Taken as a whole, the thousands of stories he filed in his career would make a small mountain. Anyone who understands the deadlines, knowledge, the source-work and the scrappiness that went into compiling that small mountain could only call it a substantial achievement.

Basil Talbott made a sustained commitment to compiling the first-draft of Chicago's recent history. His contribution to helping Chicagoans understand their city and their colorful politicians deserves commendation from this Congress. As Basil hits the send key on a 30-plus year career in journalism, we should lament the loss to Chicago's Fourth Estate, salute his fine example and wish him well in his quest to put a good lead on the next phase of his life.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 1998

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I am dismayed to learn that the House of Representatives will once again delay a vote on campaign finance reform. We were promised a vote before May 15th, but now it appears that the leadership of the House has broken their promise again.

Mr. Speaker, there has been a great deal of attention paid recently to the internal debate over the campaign finance investigations in the House. This debate has diverted attention away from the real issue, fixing the abuses in the system that are currently legal. I fear that perhaps that is the goal of the Republican leadership in Congress. By continuing to spend taxpayer dollars on Congressional hearings and keeping the attention on abuses that occurred in the past the leadership feels it will not need to fix the system for future elections. I will not let that happen.

The people of this country have spoken loud and clear, they want campaign finance reform. If you doubt the will of the public just look at all the Republican members who returned from the Easter recess willing to challenge the leadership and sign the campaign finance discharge petition. At that time the leadership gave their word that they would allow an open and honest vote on campaign finance reform. I hope that the leadership keeps its word and allows a vote next week.

HONORING REV. SPURGEON
EUGENE CRAYTON**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 1998

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend Spurgeon Eugene Crayton, Pastor, Mount Ollie Baptist Church. Rev. Crayton has dedicated his life to the church and the community of Brooklyn, New York.

The 65-year-old Brownsville pastor is one of the busiest in the city. He conducts as many as fifteen revivals a year, preaching in a style that he describes as a combination of old fashioned flare mixed with contemporary versions of biblical stories. As a specialist in teaching Baptist doctrine, Rev. Crayton has held a variety of posts in the Eastern Baptist Association, representing Brooklyn, Queens, Nassau, and Suffolk counties, and is presently an Area Vice President of the Empire State Baptist Convention, which represents some 500 churches from Niagara Falls to East Hampton.

In addition to his pastoral duties, Rev. Crayton has managed to author several books, including a collection of short stories about his Korean War experiences called "Screams and Protest", which is used by the public school system. He has also written "God's Star in the East", a guide to Baptist congregations, and is working on a third book entitled, "The Black Baptist Church of Today".

Always a man of action, Rev. Crayton has even found time to write plays, including "Another One Gone" and "The Erudite".

Through his commitment to work on behalf of the community, this dynamic minister has also served as a charter board member of the Half Way House Rehabilitation Center for Drug Abuse; as a Protestant Chaplain for the Madonna Heights School for Girls, a Catholic School; and is an instructor of English at Central Commercial High School in New York City.

Rev. Crayton's own words exemplify his extraordinary sensitivity to the needs of God's people: "We have a lot of dedicated ministers who want not only to be good preachers, but will help fight for social causes for their parishioners. There is a greater interest now on the part of the ministry to understand the religious, political, social, and economic problems of our communities." He has truly left an indelible mark for all to follow.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Rev. Spurgeon Eugene Crayton for his valuable contributions to the community of Brooklyn.

THE U.S. ARMY SCHOOL OF THE
AMERICAS: COMMITTED TO
HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOC-
RACY IN OUR HEMISPHERE**HON. MAC COLLINS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 1998

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, as many of my colleagues have come to know, there is an ongoing movement led by the Maryknoll Order of the Catholic Church to attack American foreign policy and her right to defend her interests through closure of the U.S. Army School of the Americas. The School is our nation's preeminent training facility for Spanish speaking militaries and police forces and for U.S. military officers slated to be stationed in South America, Central America, or the Caribbean. The School of the Americas provides training in professional military and police operations (including a Spanish-language Command and General Staff Officer Course). Other coursework includes drug interdiction and eradication, peacekeeping, and resource management. Most importantly, each course focuses on supporting and maintaining democracy and protecting human rights. The School is widely recognized as having developed the foremost human rights training program available at any military training institution in the world, including other U.S. training centers.

Unfortunately, you can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink. While the vast majority—well over 99 percent—of the School's graduates have returned to serve their nations honorably, those who oppose U.S. foreign policy in the region have seized upon the horrible actions of a very few School graduates as justification for U.S. disengagement throughout our own hemisphere. These former students have acted illegally and immorally in spite of what they learned at the School, not because of it. Suggestions that the Army's School of the Americas has somehow been responsible for, or complicit in atrocities

committed by rogue Latin American soldiers are outrageous, inflammatory, and completely unsubstantiated. Implicating our own dedicated soldiers in the wrongdoings of criminals throughout Latin America represents an attack not only on the School, but also on the U.S. Army, on the U.S. Armed Forces as a whole, and on American foreign policy and the American government's right to protect her national interests abroad.

Today, the United States pursues its foreign policy in Central America, South America, and the Caribbean with fewer military deployments than are required in any other region of the world. We are able to accomplish this because of the confidence that we have in the American-trained military leadership of the region's democracies. If there were no School of the Americas, pursuit of our foreign policy in Latin America would be very costly both in human and monetary terms.

Large military deployments would probably be required to continue current international drug interdiction, peacekeeping, and humanitarian relief missions throughout the region. Such deployments would not only put thousands of American lives at risk, but would also vastly increase the region's burden on the taxpayer. Currently, the entire Southern Command Area of Responsibility (which encompasses 1/6th of the Earth's surface, including all of Central America, South America, and the Caribbean) requires an investment of only about \$550 million per year to protect our national security interests. Compare this to the costs associated with operations in the much smaller regions of Bosnia, costing over \$2 billion last year, or Iraq, costing over \$1.6 billion last year.

An honest assessment of Latin American history over the last 50 years demonstrates clearly that the U.S. Army School of the Americas saves lives.

Recently, Latin American military officers trained at the School were responsible for negotiating a peaceful settlement to the Ecuador/Peru border dispute.

During the 90s, military coups threatened in Venezuela and Paraguay have been averted through U.S. contacts and cooperation with soldiers trained at USARSA.

Jose Serrano, Colombia's new drug czar who was featured recently in the Wall Street Journal, has made great progress in eliminating police corruption and in attacking the operations of that nation's drug kingpins. He is a former guest instructor at the School.

Jaime Guzman, the Minister of Defense of El Salvador, has nearly eliminated human rights abuses by the Salvadoran military. During the 1980s, such abuses numbered nearly 2000 incidents each month. Now they nearly never occur, thanks to the School of the Americas human rights training that General Guzman received at Fort Benning, and then implemented in El Salvador.

While most of the turmoil of the 1980s has receded in the region, new threats have emerged and must be addressed. The Army School of the Americas continues to be an important support structure for many of the region's fledgling democracies, particularly in fighting on the front lines of the war on drugs. With all of the progress that has been made in the region, it would be irresponsible to turn

our backs while drug traffickers and terrorists chip away at freedom and democracy in Central and South America and continue to kill our children on our own streets.

Recently, the Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Southern Command General Charles Wilhelm referred to the inter-American drug supply as the greatest chemical weapons threat currently faced by the United States. Every year, hundreds of billions of dollars worth of deadly, addictive chemicals flow across our borders from Mexico and South America and end up in the bodies of American citizens—many of them children. We must have the School so that we may continue to train Spanish-speaking soldiers and police to interdict drugs and eradicate them at their source. Hundreds of thousands of Americans have died of the effects of narcotics smuggled from without our hemisphere, yet the School's opponents still seek to close this institution which is having a more profound impact on inter-American drug trafficking than any other military training facility in the world.

Opponents of the Army School suggest that it should be closed in the interest of human rights. But whose human rights are we talking about? Through its training programs, the School of the Americas protects the human rights of Latin American citizens from both wayward military officials and drug death squads (like the one that recently ambushed a Colombian National Police scout team, killing them all). Furthermore, the School protects U.S. human rights and interests by attacking the drug crisis at its source and by maintaining peace and constructive relations throughout the militaries of our region. The only humans whose rights would be protected by closing the School are those of the drug lords and criminals who are the enemies of democracy and the murderers of our children and those of Latin America.

Ironically, the School's closing would eliminate the opportunity for Latin America soldiers to study democracy and human rights. Not only are such courses unavailable at other nations' military training facilities, they are not even offered at other U.S. Department of Defense schools. The School's critics seem to be suggesting that the best way to effect a better understanding of human rights and democracy in Latin American militaries is to close down the only facility providing Latin American soldiers and police with training in democracy and human rights. I respectfully disagree.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL NURSES WEEK, MAY 6-12

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 1998

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in recognition of National Nurses Week. The 2.6 million registered nurses in the United States make up our nation's largest health care profession. Throughout our country's history, nurses have been the backbone of our health care system. The nursing profession plays a vital role in meeting the different and emerging

health care needs of the American population in a wide range of settings. Moreover, nurses are the human face of our health care system. As the primary care givers, nurses have the most contact with patients and play a direct role in a patient's recovery. As a nurse, I know from firsthand experience that when it comes to patient recovery, good nursing care makes a difference.

Nurses are also the future of our health care system. As our country places renewed emphasis on primary and preventive health care, we will require better utilization of all our nation's nursing resources. The cost-effective, safe and quality health care services provided by registered nurses will be an ever more important component of our health care delivery system in the future. Therefore, we must do everything we can to promote and advance the nursing profession.

I am proud to be the cosponsor of a number of bills that advance the nursing profession by fostering high standards of nursing practice, promoting the economic and general welfare of nurses in the workplace and projecting a positive and realistic view of nursing. Some of the bills I proudly sponsor include H.R. 1165, the Patient Safety Act of 1997, legislation that provides whistle-blower protection for nurses who speak out about patient care issues, and H.R. 2754 the Health Worker Protection Act, which mandates the substitution of existing needlestick products with safer needle devices that would help prevent needlestick injuries. I urge all my colleagues to support these important pieces of legislation, support our nursing professionals and advance the cause of nursing nationwide.

IN HONOR OF ANTHONY AND ANNE CELEBREZZE ON THEIR SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 1998

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 60th wedding anniversary of Anthony and Anne Celebrezze of Cleveland, Ohio. The couple was married May 7, 1938.

Judge Celebrezze's family moved from Anzi, Italy to the United States when he was two years old. His political career began when he was elected to the Ohio State Senate in 1950. He later became the first foreign-born Mayor of Cleveland, and the only Mayor of Cleveland ever elected to five consecutive terms. He was the first nonnative to be appointed to the Cabinet of the United States, where he served as Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare under Presidents Kennedy and Johnson. And Judge Celebrezze was the first emigre to be appointed Judge of the United States Court of Appeals. In 1973, Judge Celebrezze's leadership was recognized when an Act of Congress designated the Federal Building in Cleveland, the Anthony J. Celebrezze Federal Building.

Not only is Judge Celebrezze a successful, well-known politician, he is a loving husband to Anne Celebrezze. Anne taught in the Cleveland Public School System and has been active in countless community projects helping

children, the elderly, and the arts. She was involved in the Cleveland Council and the National Board of the Camp Fire Girls for many years. She served on the Board of the Child Guidance Center of Cleveland where a work room is named after her for her fundraising efforts to expand the program. Anne has also been engaged in the Women's City Club of Cleveland for over thirty years. She was appointed to the National Committee for Education of the Handicapped by President Johnson where she worked to help children with learning disabilities qualify for a public school education.

Together, Anthony and Anne have three children and 10 grandchildren to whom they have passed on their values, leadership skills, involvement in community service, and love. My fellow colleagues, please join me in wishing a happy 60th anniversary to Anthony and Anne Celebrezze. May they have many more happy and healthy years together.

SPECIAL TRIBUTE HONORING JULIA PETERS, LeGRAND SMITH SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 1998

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect for the outstanding record of excellence she has compiled in academics, leadership and community service, that I am proud to salute Julia Peters, winner of the 1998 LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This award is made to young adults who have demonstrated that they are truly committed to playing important roles in our Nation's future.

As a winner of the LeGrand Smith Scholarship, Julia is being honored for demonstrating that same generosity of spirit, intelligence, responsible citizenship, and capacity for human service that distinguished the late LeGrand Smith of Somerset, Michigan.

Julia Peters is an exceptional student at Tecumseh High School and possesses an impressive high school record. President of the National Honor Society, Julia is also the secretary for her school's S.A.D.D. program. She was student of the month 19 times throughout high school. Outside of school, Julia was involved with the Student County Congress and various other community activities.

In special tribute, Therefore, I am proud to join with her many admirers in extending my highest praise and congratulations to Julia Peters for her selection as a winner of a LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This honor is also a testament to the parents, teachers, and others whose personal interest, strong support and active participation contributed to her success. To this remarkable young woman, I extend my most heartfelt good wishes for all her future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING CHIEF OF POLICE ROY SUMISAKI FOR HIS OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE CITY OF GILROY, CA

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 1998

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding achievement of Chief of Police Roy Sumisaki, who has served the city of Gilroy, California for more than 7 years.

Through trials and triumph Chief Sumisaki has distinguished himself as a devoted crime fighter in a career that has spanned 28 years.

Born in a Japanese-American internment camp during World War II, Chief Sumisaki graduated from Gilroy High School and joined the United States Army. His career, which included at tour of duty in Vietnam as an intelligence officer, spanned 32 years, 8 of which were on active duty. He retired from the Army a Lieutenant Colonel.

During his military service, Chief Sumisaki was awarded the Purple Heart, two Bronze Stars, and Air Medal, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, and the Vietnamese Honor Medal.

Soon after resigning from active duty military service, Chief Sumisaki pursued a career in law enforcement. He holds a master's degree in police administration from Golden Gate University and attended the FBI National Academy. He joined the Pacifica Police Department in 1974, and later transferred to the Marina Police Department, rising to the rank of Commander.

While later serving with the Chico Police Department, he rose to the rank of Captain. In 1990 he returned home to Gilroy to become the first Asian-American police chief in the continental U.S.

During his tenure Chief Sumisaki worked tirelessly to make Gilroy a safer place to live and work. A testament to his high level of professionalism, Chief Sumisaki was awarded the National Police Commendation Medal.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Chief Roy Sumisaki upon his retirement from the Gilroy Police Department.

SPEAKER GINGRICH FALSELY CLAIMS WHITE HOUSE COORDINATION BEHIND CRITICISM OF CHAIRMAN BURTON

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 1998

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, it seems obvious to me that not every criticism of the Clinton Administration is part of a "right-wing conspiracy," but it should be equally clear that not every objection to the tactics of a Clinton critic is the product of a White House conspiracy. This week, Speaker GINGRICH unfairly attacked the congressional criticisms of Chair-

man BURTON even though he knew those criticisms were justified.

This Tuesday, in response to widespread criticism of Chairman BURTON for releasing misleading and distorted excerpts of private conversations of Mr. Hubbell with his wife and his attorney, Speaker GINGRICH spoke out to accuse the Democrats in Congress of acting at the behest of the White House. Rather than honestly dealing with the serious violations of privacy and fairness worked by Chairman BURTON, Speaker GINGRICH changed the subject by claiming "There has been a routine process by this White House to avoid the truth * * * by attacking the person who is seeking the truth."

Remarkably, one day later, Speaker GINGRICH, during a closed Republican conference meeting, scolded Chairman BURTON for his actions, saying "I'm embarrassed for you, I'm embarrassed for myself, and I'm embarrassed for the [Republican] conference at the circus that went on at your committee."

Clearly, Speaker GINGRICH recognizes both that Chairman BURTON'S actions were wrong and that congressional criticisms of him were genuine expressions of outrage and not some "spin" strategy organized by the White House.

This institution is not well-served by the cynical partisanship of the Speaker's attacks on those who were offended by Chairman BURTON'S conduct. With each such outburst, it becomes increasingly unlikely that the important investigative work of Chairman BURTON'S committee, or of any other committee which is called on to inquire into allegations of wrongdoing at the White House, will lead to any findings that will be accepted as legitimate by the public.

I appeal to the higher instincts of Speaker GINGRICH and Chairman BURTON to apologize directly to the people who have been smeared by these irresponsible attacks—Mr. and Mrs. Hubbell, the President and the First Lady—for the good of the Committee and the integrity of the Congress as a whole.

REGARDING PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 1998

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, we are in the midst of Public Service Recognition Week, and I salute the public servants whose hard work and determination have markedly improved the way government does business.

Each May, the President's Council on Management Improvement, and the Public Employees Roundtable, launch activities in cities across our nation which highlight excellence in public service at the federal, state, and local government levels. The organization hosts agency exhibits and demonstrations that educate the public about the array of programs and services that public employees provide to the American people.

Activities in my district were kicked off last Friday by the Baltimore Federal Executive Board which held its 31st Annual Excellence in Federal Career Awards program at Martin's

West in Woodlawn. Thirty-six agencies submitted a total of 199 nominations for the Board's consideration. Among the 16 first place Gold Award winners were: Lieutenant Colonel David Mansfield, a Logistics Management Officer with the Maryland Air National Guard who was recognized as an outstanding supervisor; Ann Grieb, a computer specialist at the Coast Guard Engineering Logistics Center who was recognized as an outstanding specialist; and Serafin Rivera, a machinist with the Corps of Engineers who was recognized as outstanding in trades and crafts.

Mr. Speaker, while I only have enough time to recognize a few of the winners, I believe that each award recipient and each person nominated deserve our appreciation.

This past Monday, the Public Employees Roundtable held a ceremony here on Capitol Hill and presented its "Breakfast of Champions" award to representatives of exceptional programs at each level of government. The 1998 award winner at the Federal level was New York/New Jersey Veterans Integrated Service Network Consortium on Homeless Veterans. Other programs receiving special recognition this year were the City of Richmond, Virginia Fire Department; Immigrant Visa Unit, U.S. Embassy Moscow; and the Los Angeles County, California Consolidated Criminal History Reporting System.

Beginning today, May 7th, and continuing through Sunday, May 10th, over two dozen federal agencies and employee organizations will have exhibits set up in large tents on the National Mall at 3rd and Independence Avenues. The public is invited to come out to learn more about the functions of these agencies and the services that each provide. There will also be a job fair and a science fair. Some of our military bands and other groups will provide entertainment during this family oriented event.

Mr. Speaker, Public Service Recognition Week offers all Americans, especially young people the opportunity to learn and get excited about a career in public service. It also provides the opportunity to thank those who serve us daily for their efforts. I believe that public service should be valued and respected by all Americans, and the activities occurring this week across the nation prove why.

SPECIAL TRIBUTE HONORING MEREDITH PELTY, LeGRAND SMITH SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 1998

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect for the outstanding record of excellence she has compiled in academics, leadership and community service, that I am proud to salute Meredith Peltz, winner of the 1998 LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This award is made to young adults who have demonstrated that they are truly committed to playing important roles in our Nation's future.

As a winner of the LeGrand Smith Scholarship, Meredith is being honored for demonstrating that same generosity of spirit, intelligence, responsible citizenship, and capacity

for human service that distinguished the late LeGrand Smith of Somerset, Michigan.

Meredith is an exceptional student at Onsted High School and possesses an impressive high school record. Meredith is the Captain of the National Honor Society and was chosen by her peers this year as the Homecoming Queen. Meredith is also involved with varsity cheerleading and track. Outside of school, Meredith is a Confirmation teacher within her church and is involved with her church youth group.

In special tribute, Therefore, I am proud to join with her many admirers in extending my highest praise and congratulations to Meredith Pelly for her selection as a winner of a LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This honor is also a testament to the parents, teachers, and others whose personal interest, strong support and active participation contributed to her success. To this remarkable young woman, I extend my most heartfelt good wishes for all her future endeavors.

“OMNIBUS MERCURY EMISSIONS
REDUCTION ACT OF 1998”

HON. THOMAS H. ALLEN

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 1998

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the “Omnibus Mercury Emissions Reductions Act of 1998.” This important legislation is aimed at protecting our children from mercury, one of the most dangerous toxins in our environment.

Mercury is a naturally occurring, highly toxic element. Its presence in our environment has built to dangerous levels due to the lack of regulation of power plants, waste incinerators, and some types of manufacturing. Those regions downwind from the major pollution sources are most at risk because mercury can travel great distances before falling to the Earth and washing into our lakes, rivers and streams. My home State of Maine, the tailpipe for our nation’s polluted air, has some of the highest mercury levels in the country. As I’ve often said, the wind travels west to east, always has, always will.

Our children are most at risk. Mercury poisoning can be devastating for children and pregnant women. Contamination can cause damage to the developing central nervous system. Adults can also be affected. Symptoms range from numbness in extremities to paralysis and kidney disease. The most common form of mercury poisoning occurs from eating polluted fish. Exposure can also occur through drinking water and soil contamination. Several states, including Maine, have issued health warnings due to mercury contamination that cover every single body of inland water.

Our wildlife is also in danger. Maine’s loons and bald eagles, symbols of the state’s beauty and natural habitat, have mercury levels high enough to interfere with reproduction. In fact Maine’s bald eagle reproductive rates have remained well below the rest of the country. Studies have found significantly high levels of mercury and other toxins in eggs and eaglets.

The Clean Air Act has achieved remarkable success since its inception. Our families are

breathing easier because we have reduced the emission levels of lead and other toxins. Unfortunately, mercury has fallen through the cracks. The Environmental Protection Agency recently released its “Mercury Study Report to Congress.” This detailed report contains volumes of information on the dangers of mercury and how to control the levels emitted into our environment. Now that we have the long-awaited report, we must take action.

The legislation I am introducing will do just that. The “Omnibus Mercury Emissions Reduction Act of 1998” requires the EPA to set mercury emission standards for the largest sources. The bill sets an emissions reduction standard of 95 percent for coal-fired powerplants and other utilities, as well as incinerators and chlor-alkali plants. Many may argue this cannot be done, that the costs of controls will be much too high. I disagree. We know mercury can be reduced or removed from powerplants and products. Technology exists for companies to meet the standards, and this bill will allow them to choose the best approach for their facility. We have reduced or eliminated other toxins, without the catastrophic effects the utilities predicted. The time has come to do it with mercury.

When I ran for office last year, people in Maine told me the country needed to continue the environmental strides made by leaders like Senator Edmund Muskie and Senator George Mitchell. Maine is proud of its tradition of environmental activism. Maine Governor Angus King and his administration have taken steps to reduce the levels of mercury emitted by sources within Maine. That, however, will not protect our children from sources that cross our boundaries. Maine has cleaned up its act, and now we must ask for the rest of the nation to help.

Just five years ago, 27 states had issued mercury advisories covering almost 900 water bodies. Today, the number of states with advisories has grown to 39, and the number of water bodies affected has increased to 1,675. The problem is getting worse, not better. We are heading down a path where the entire nation could be under a mercury advisory. Do you want to explain to your children and grandchildren that the reason they can’t eat the fresh water fish they just caught is because we failed to take action necessary to protect them?

Mr. Speaker, mercury is one of our last remaining unregulated toxins. We must act, and we must act fast. This is not an easy task. We can’t see the mercury dispersed through the air and falling to the ground. However, we now know more about mercury than we ever have. We know the solutions to the problem and we have the technology to fix it. We must implement new strategies now. The future of our environment for our children and grandchildren is at stake.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TRAVEL
REFORM RULE

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 1998

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues, CHRIS COX, PETER VISCLOSKEY, TOM

CAMPBELL and I are introducing today a resolution that would improve accountability in congressional travel and help encourage more travel related to the official business of the House.

Congressional travel, done the right way, can greatly enhance a Member’s knowledge of the issues, improving the quality of legislation and congressional oversight. Members of Congress should inspect important government activities at home and abroad, and share the knowledge they gain with their colleagues and the public.

While the 1995 House gift ban curtailed the worst abuses of congressional travel, occasional reports of travel abuse continue. These reports have led the public to view much congressional travel as wasteful or unnecessary, with the detrimental effect of discouraging some important, legitimate trips.

The Travel Reform Rule which we are introducing today aims to strengthen the House’s oversight of travel by Members and staff; make all congressional travel records more accessible to the public; and ensure that the information gained through travel is more widely disseminated.

The requirements of Hamilton’s resolution would apply to (1) travel that is paid for by official House funds, except for travel to a Member’s congressional district; (2) travel with a foreign country paid for by a foreign government; and (3) any other travel related to official duties, including that paid for by private entities.

The Travel Reform Rule, H. Res. XXX, would require more detailed reports: Current House rules require Members and staff to file a report with the Clerk of the House for any committee-funded travel, privately-funded travel, or for foreign government-funded foreign travel.

For privately-funded travel, reports must include the source of funds paying for travel, and an estimate of the cost of transportation, food, lodging, and other expenses, and a determination that all such expenses are necessary. These reports and the reports on foreign government-funded travel must be filed within 30 days of the end of a trip, though House rules include no penalty for failure to do so.

Committee-funded foreign travel reports must disclose the countries visited, the amount of per diem and transportation furnished, and the total foreign currencies and/or appropriated funds expended. These reports must be filed within 60 days of travel.

The Hamilton resolution would improve and harmonize reporting requirements.

First, the resolution would require for all travel a substantive report to the Clerk of the House on the relation of the travel to the official business of the House, including a detailed itinerary and policy findings and recommendations.

Second, reports on travel funded by a non-profit organization would have to include copies of the organization’s reports to the Internal Revenue Service on its contributions and expenditures. This provision is intended to shed light on any shell foundations set up to fund congressional travel.

Third, the resolution requires identification of the funding entity, including: any pertinent information that could be gathered in the case

of a private funding source, an estimate of the costs of travel provided by a foreign government, and if transportation is provided by the Department of Defense, the report must include an estimate of the cost of equivalent commercial transportation.

Under the resolution, the Clerk of the House would notify the House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct (the Ethics Committee) of any failure to meet these requirements.

Improve public disclosure: The Hamilton resolution would require the Clerk of the House to publish in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and on the Internet a compilation of travel reports for each calendar quarter, as well as an annual summary of all House travel. Currently, the Clerk is only required to publish reports for government-funded foreign travel, and there is not Internet requirement.

Require advance authorization from Ethics Committee: Travel funded by private sources would require advance authorization from the House Ethics Committee. Currently, there is not prior authorization requirement for Members, and for staff, such travel by may be approved by Members without consultation with the Ethics Committee. Prior authorization will take the guess work out of travel, and ensure for the House and the public that all private trips are legitimately related to House business.

Restrict perks: Members and staff would be prohibited from accepting first class airfare, as well as meals and lodging in excess of the federal employee per diem rate, unless previously authorized by the Ethics Committee. Moreover, travel by spouses or family members would be limited to trips where other guests are also permitted to bring their families.

I commend this resolution to my colleagues' attention.

HIGHER EDUCATION AMENDMENTS OF 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 6) to extend the authorization of programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes:

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of the student loan interest rate compromise that was passed last night as part of H.R. 6, the Higher Education Amendments. This bill, with strong bipartisan support, offers a sensible solution to the pressing problem of the interest rate change scheduled for July 1, 1998.

There has been a lot of discussion regarding the appropriate interest rate for student loans. The Department of Education insists that lenders can absorb much larger yield cuts to student loan interest rates without any disruption to the student loan program. Yet they are actively seeking to arrange more than \$5

billion in emergency funding in case they are mistaken. Banks and other student lenders vehemently disagree. They have consistently argued that a 0.3 percent reduction in guaranteed loan yields will drive away many lenders, especially small community banks. They also argue that remaining lenders will be discouraged from making loans to high risk borrowers, such as those attending community colleges and trade schools. Yet so far no lender has announced its withdrawal from the loan program.

Suffice it to say, we simply do not know what the impact of the yield cut will be on the guaranteed student loan market. What we do know is that we cannot afford to allow our student loan program to collapse because of this dispute. No one wants to run the risk that any student in their home district will be unable to get their student loans this Fall. But we must act now because the beginning of the Fall award cycle is less than 60 days away. The compromise reached in H.R. 6 corrects the interest rate calculation and ensures that student loans remain available for all students.

For this reason, I find the Administration's veto threat over this interest rate compromise to be somewhat disconcerting. Two years ago, this Congress called for a bipartisan solution to the direct versus guaranteed student loan debate. In the spirit of that decision, we voted overwhelmingly last night in support of this carefully crafted compromise. I urge the Administration to recognize this bipartisan effort and support the interest rate compromise so that we may ensure that no students find their access to financial aid unnecessarily denied.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DARTMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL WINTER PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 1998

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment today to congratulate the Dartmouth High School Winter Percussion Ensemble for taking first place honors in the Winterguard International World Championships. The thirty-four member group, performing a routine with a "Batman" theme, scored a 98.7, topping one hundred and fifty other bands.

The Dartmouth High School Winter Percussion Ensemble is under the direction of Thomas Aungst, who is ably assisted by Darcy Aungst and Jaime Ecker. The ensemble endured a seventeen hour bus trip to Dayton, Ohio to bring home the World Championship. It is the first time in the history of the competition that a first time entrant has won the championship.

The Dartmouth High School Winter Percussion Ensemble's significant achievement has bestowed a great sense of pride and community spirit to the residents of Dartmouth, as well as the entire citizenry of Massachusetts. They are to be congratulated.

REMARKS BY FORMER SECRETARY OF STATE JAMES BAKER ON U.S. POLICY TOWARD IRAN

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 1998

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, the distinguished former Secretary of State, James A. Baker III, delivered a speech on America's Interest in the Middle East at a May 4, 1998, symposium in Washington sponsored by the magazine, Middle East Insight. He made many important observations about the Middle East peace process, and about U.S. policy in the Gulf. I commend him for his remarks.

I would like to bring the attention of my colleagues an excerpt of his speech, concerning U.S. policy toward Iran:

... Let me turn briefly to Iran. This is a country that I think most everyone who looks at it objectively would have to agree is in transition. And I think there are a number of events over the past year or so that have underscored that fact. The first, of course, and most startling was the election of a moderate or semi-moderate, President Khatami, as president last May. The second was his televised overture to the people of the United States, which we saw in January of this year. And the third and most recent was the release from arrest last month of Teheran's mayor, who had been taken prisoner by the hard-liners. And I think this is really a significant development, because it has been widely interpreted—and, I think, correctly—as a victory for Khatami and his colleagues.

So what I think we may be seeing in Iran is the beginning of an evolution toward a truly post-revolutionary Iran. I think the days of the—the heydays of the revolution are over, and I think Iran is beginning to move in a different direction. I think we're going to begin to see an Iran that is less stridently extreme, and I think we're going to begin to see one that is more open to the outside world. So the question arises: What, then, should the United States of America be doing?

First of all, I think we should be prepared to meet official Iranian representatives anywhere, anytime, to begin the formal dialogue.

Secondly, I think we ought to encourage ongoing to people-to-people contact between the two countries, such as the recent visit of a U.S. wrestling team here not long ago.

And thirdly, I think we should consider easing sanctions when and if it becomes clear that Teheran will publicly condemn state-sponsored terrorism and when it becomes clear that she is actually reducing her support for terrorist groups and her efforts to acquire weapons of mass destruction. That last point, I think, is a particularly vital one, because for us to get there and, actually, for Iran to improve its relations with the United States is going to take actions and not words. We're going to have to see the rhetoric and the reality match; the reality is going to have to match the rhetoric.

And without real, verifiable action on the part of the Iranians, I don't foresee any real thaw in U.S.-Iranian relations. As we contemplate, through, the prospect of such a thaw—and I think is a good prospect that it can occur if the requisite actions take

place—as we contemplate such a thaw, I think we ought to remember two very important points. First is that any process is going to be a protracted process, very likely one of years and not months in duration.

And secondly, an opening to Teheran even if it's successful, is not going to be any substitute for an ongoing, energetic American-led effort to contain the efforts of Iraq to develop biological weapons. Horrific weapons of mass destruction. In other words, I think we ought to avoid the false promise that somehow an improved Washington-Teheran relationship is an ace in the hole when it comes to the question of containing the weapons of mass destruction goals of Iraq. . . .

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 1998

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the National Day of Prayer, which takes place this year on Thursday, May 7th. This unique annual observance offers an opportunity for all Americans to join together in prayer.

The National Day of Prayer has been celebrated annually ever since its introduction in 1952 by Congress. In 1988, the National Day of Prayer was set on the first Thursday of each May. For over 45 years, the National Day of Prayer has been an occasion for countless Americans to give thanks for their blessings and ask for God's assistance.

The theme of this year's National Day of Prayer is "America, Return to God." It is a theme that is undoubtedly shared by Americans of all faiths. One of the most important values promoted by the National Day of Prayer is unity among people of different faiths. Americans of all faiths are encouraged to take time during the day to offer their prayers before God.

The National Day of Prayer is a time to thank God for the many gifts and blessings that have been bestowed upon us, individually and as a nation. It is also a time to ask for stability and wisdom, and for God's guidance today so that we may restore moral values in our communities.

My fellow colleagues, I urge you to join me and Americans from every state in praying for America, its leaders, and its people on the National Day of Prayer.

SPECIAL TRIBUTE HONORING
HOLLY SPRUNGER, LEGRAND
SMITH SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 1998

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect for the outstanding record of excellence she has compiled in academics, leadership and community service, that I am proud to salute Holly Sprunger, winner of the 1998 LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This award

is made to young adults who have demonstrated that they are truly committed to playing important roles in our Nation's future.

As a winner of the LeGrand Smith Scholarship, Holly is being honored for demonstrating that same generosity of spirit, intelligence, responsible citizenship, and capacity for human service that distinguished the late LeGrand Smith of Somerset, Michigan.

Holly is an exceptional student at Lenawee Christian High School and possesses an impressive high school record. Holly is the President of the National Honor Society and is Co-Valedictorian of her senior class. Holly is also involved with varsity basketball, volleyball and softball. Outside of school, Holly is involved with various community activities.

In special tribute, Therefore, I am proud to join with her many admirers in extending my highest praise and congratulations to Holly Sprunger for her selection as a winner of a LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This honor is also a testament to the parents, teachers, and others whose personal interest, strong support and active participation contributed to her success. To this remarkable young woman, I extend my most heartfelt good wishes for all her future endeavors.

HONORING GEORGE KING
RADANOVICH

HON. ROBERT L. EHRLICH, JR.

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 1998

Mr. EHRLICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to inform you and the members of this body of an important and exciting event that happened today. At 3:15 a.m. here in Washington, D.C. George King Radanovich entered the world.

George King is the son and first child of my friend and colleague, Representative GEORGE RADANOVICH and his wife Ethie. Named after his grandfather, George King is twenty two and one quarter inches long and weighs in at eight pounds, two ounces.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my most hearty congratulations to George and Ethie on the birth of their son. The joys of parenthood and the awesome responsibility involved in bringing up children can only be truly understood by parents. I'm happy that George and Ethie now have the chance to fully understand the unique importance of families in our society.

I also want to honor George King. He enters the world in an exciting time. Change is all around us. We can only guess at what advances, what progress he will see in his lifetime. As we change and as we progress we must remember that we owe all children, including George King, a strong society so that they can grow up in loving families, with faith and reliance in God, in safe and secure neighborhoods, and with hope and opportunity for the future.

Mr. Speaker, I know that George King Radanovich will grow up in a strong and loving family. I honor his parents George and Ethie for that and I ask that all my colleagues do the same.

HONORING THE VISIT OF PRESIDENT ALPHA OUMAR KONARE OF MALI TO MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

HON. DEBBIE STABENOW

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 1998

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. Speaker, as part of the Michigan State University community, the people I represent have had the great pleasure of welcoming to Michigan many world leaders who have opened the world to us and introduced us to new cultures. This is why I am so pleased to have his excellency Mr. Alpha Oumar Konare, President of the Republic of Mali, to receive an honorary degree at Michigan State University's May 8th Advanced Degree Commencement Ceremony.

The honorary degree recognizes President Konare's contributions to establishing democracy and peace in Mali, to peacemaking efforts in Africa, and to preserving Mali's cultural heritage through his professional activities as an archaeologist.

In recent years, Mali has moved from a repressive dictatorship to an open parliamentary democracy, a transition which can be largely credited to the leadership and activism of President Konare.

President Konare won the first multiparty presidential election in his country's history and was sworn in as President of the Republic of Mali on June 8, 1992. Prior to his election he was president of the West African Archaeologist Association as well as the first African President of the International Council of Museums.

President Konare's visit celebrates the new and developing partnership the MSU community has had with the people of Mali. In recent years, more than 20 Malians have pursued undergraduate and graduate programs at MSU, while an almost equal amount of American MSU graduate students have conducted their thesis or dissertation research on Mali. The strong research and educational links the MSU community and the people of Mali have forged in recent years can be credited to both President Konare and MSU's great commitment to education and diversity.

But most importantly, President Konare's visit reaffirms the friendship between the MSU community and the people of Mali, and it is my hope that we continue developing new initiatives that will, together, take us well into the 21st Century.

Through President Konare's leadership, the MSU community views the Republic of Mali as more than just a friend of the United States; Mali is our partner in education. I thank President Konare for his contribution to democracy, his worldwide leadership, and his commitment to Michigan State University.

HONORING THE QUEENS BOROUGH
PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM

HON. THOMAS J. MANTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 1998

Mr. MANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and praise the enormous success of the Queens Borough Public Library system, which was cited in last Tuesday's Washington Post as "far and away the busiest in the United States." Queens has the largest public library system in the country in terms of circulation, and the second largest in terms of holdings.

Mr. Speaker, the Queens Borough Public Library has enjoyed its overwhelming popularity due to the very trait that makes Queens, and indeed all of New York, so very special, namely the diversity of its inhabitants. One in three Queens residents hails from another country and nearly half of the Borough's residents speak a language other than English at home. Queens Borough Public Library's New Americans Program was established in 1977 to provide special services to the area's many new immigrants. The library's collections include, at the Central Library, 101,000 items in Spanish and 93,000 items in Chinese, the country's largest collections in those languages. In addition, the system has thousands of items in Korean, Russian, and South Asian languages.

Mr. Speaker, aside from its impressive collection of books, the Queens Borough Public Library offers a wide array of services designed to ease and facilitate immigrants' assimilation into American society. Queens has the largest library-managed English-as-a-Second-Language program in the country, annually serving nearly 3,000 students, representing 88 countries and 50 languages. It also publishes the "Queens Directory of Immigrant-Serving Agencies," a compilation which includes over 150 agencies that provide free or low-cost social services to immigrants in Queens in 50 different languages. There are many other free lectures and programs available to the library's users.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to read the article from the Washington Post. The Queens Borough Public Library deserves this recognition, and I would once more like to offer my heartfelt congratulations for their fine work.

[From the Washington Post, Apr. 27, 1998]

A BOROUGHFUL OF BOOKWORMS

MOTIVATED IMMIGRANTS MAKE QUEENS
LIBRARY BUSIEST IN U.S.

(By Blaine Harden)

NEW YORK, April 27—Pin-Pin Lin treks twice a week with her two sons and a big shopping bag to a crowded library in the borough of Queens. The Taiwanese immigrant herds her boys as they plunder books from library shelves and toss them in the bag.

Sitting between her sons at a library table while they rifle through the books, she looks up words in an English-Cantonese dictionary and frets about any "no-good" English words they might read, speak or think.

"I no want to miss anything," explains Lin, who every Thursday morning, when her boys are in school, attends English language class at the Queens library. "If I don't learn

about American culture and speak English, I could lose them. If they think I not understand, they not do what I say."

Book-obsessed, worrywart immigrants like Pin-Pin Lin are the driving reason why the Queens Public Library is far and away the busiest in the United States. Most library books in Queens do not go out of date. They wear out from overuse and fall to pieces.

The library circulates the nation's highest number of books, tapes and videos—15.3 million a year.

In the sprawling borough that lies across the East River from Manhattan, library card holders check out more books per capita than users of any big city library system in the country. The 1.95 million residents of Queens use the public library five times more frequently than residents of the District of Columbia, twice as often as residents of Prince George's County and a third more frequently than people in Montgomery County.

The Los Angeles library serves about 1.4 million more people than the Queens library, but last year people in Queens checked out 4 million more books.

"We have complaints all the time from our older clientele, who want quiet and who want space. Well, our libraries aren't quiet and, for the most part, they aren't spacious," says Gary Strong, director of the Queens Public Library, one of three public library networks in the city. There is also a library system in Brooklyn and the New York Public Library serves Manhattan, the Bronx and Staten Island.

"The people who use our library are highly motivated," Strong adds. "They want jobs. They want to learn how to live in America."

Queens has the highest percentage of foreign-born residents of any borough in New York, a city that at the end of the 20th century is sponging up one of the great waves of immigration in its history. Nearly half the residents of Queens speak a language other than English at home. More than a third were born in a foreign country.

The extraordinary love affair between immigrants and libraries is a century-old story in New York, as it is in other American cities that have been immigrant gateways. The most crowded libraries in New York have always been in neighborhoods with the largest population of recent immigrants.

That love affair continues at the end of the century, but with complications, especially in Queens. The book lovers who elbow each other for space in the library's 62 branches are more than ever before a mixed bunch—racially, linguistically and culturally.

The busiest branch in the nation's busiest library system is in Flushing, which has been inundated in the past decade with Chinese, Korean, Indian, Russian, Colombian and Afghan immigrants. Until a handsome new library building opens this summer, the Flushing branch is crammed into a former furniture store.

Inside, there are not nearly enough little chairs for all the little kids who wiggle and squeal and devour picture book after picture book. Stacks of blue plastic-coated foam pads are available so kids and parents can sit on the tile floor.

Queues form behind computer terminals that allow immigrants to search home country periodicals using Chinese, Korean and Roman writing systems. "Watch Your Belongings!" signs are in English, Spanish and Chinese.

There are no public bathrooms—space being too precious to waste on nonessentials. But there are librarians who speak Russian,

Hindi, Chinese, Korean, Gujarati and Spanish.

"Have you ever wondered where the new South Asian materials are?" asks a sign taped to a pillar in the Flushing branch library. "Well, wonder no more. They're here! You can find materials in: Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Malayalam and Urdu."

"We have gone from a dozen countries to a hundred countries," says Strong. "We are not just waiting for them to come to us after they have solved all their problems, after they have a job and after they have the kids in school. We go after them. We advertise. We do not check their immigration status."

Immigration had already transformed Flushing from a staid middle-class Italian and Jewish community into a polyglot boom town when Ruth Herzburg took over eight years ago as library branch manager. Herzburg quickly discovered that the branch was falling behind the newcomer mix.

Herzburg tentatively put a small collection of Korean-language books out on a shelf five years ago. "Those books walked off the shelves. Before that, we didn't really know the Koreans were here," she said.

As immigrants make the transition from their native language to English, Herzburg says they hunger for basically the same kinds of books—translations of potboiler American fiction like Danielle Steel, self-help books and computer books. Many immigrants to Queens have technical skills, she says, and they demand science, technology and business books.

By spending more money per capita on books and other materials than any other major urban American library system, the Queens Public Library has marshaled its resources to seduce each new group of immigrants and lure them into the branches.

The seduction starts by sending library emissaries to immigrant associations that work with recent arrivals. In the languages of the immigrants, they explain how the library can show them how to get a driver's license, navigate the Internet and learn English. The library runs the largest English-as-a-second-language program in the country and says it could double its enrollment if it had more space and money.

"Starting with the library and it is often the beginning of a lifelong habit," said Adriana Acauan Tandler, head of the library's New Americans program and herself an immigrant from Brazil.

Using census data and a demographer and by commissioning polls among Queens residents, the library has been able to spot holes in library usage. The biggest hole in the late 1980s was among Spanish speakers.

The library went after them with an aggressive public relations campaign. It translated applications for library cards into Spanish, purchased spots on Spanish radio and pulled together a Spanish collection of 100,000 items in 10 branches.

"In just three years, we found that Spanish speakers were using the library as much as anybody in the borough. They read everything from Cervantes to 'Superman.' The secret of our success is that we give people what they want, instead of what we think they should have," Acauan Tandler said.

What adults want, above all else, is translations of American bestsellers in their own language. The library tries to buy them quickly and in quantity. At the Flushing branch, the head librarian has about \$125,000 a year to spend as she wishes on "hot" books.

"We don't wait for the central office to send out popular books. We like to go around

to all the local bookstores and buy popular books off the shelves. All the books are in foreign languages. We don't even have an English-language bookstore in Flushing," said Herzburg.

Pin-Pin Lin tries to steer her boys, ages 10 and 13, away from Chinese-language books. She prefers they read only in English. To that end, she makes sure they leave the library after each visit with 20 or so English books in the shopping bag.

"I don't care if they read all. Kid is kid. If they don't like books, I bring them back and get more," said Lin.

UNDERSTANDING U.S. NATIONALITY AND CITIZENSHIP IN PUERTO RICO

HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 1998

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I want to submit for the RECORD a letter dealing with U.S. citizenship and Puerto Ricans dated April 9, 1998, which I received during our recent recess. Its author, Dick Thornburgh, is well-known as a former two-term Governor of my home state of Pennsylvania and as our former U.S. Attorney General.

I join Governor Thornburgh in praising Federal District Court Judge Stanley Sporkin and the State Department for their proper applications of federal immigration laws. In an opinion and order filed April 23, 1998, Federal District Court Judge Stanley Sporkin upheld the policy adopted by the U.S. Department of State on the question of whether persons with U.S. nationality and citizenship based on birth in Puerto Rico can renounce that status and remain in Puerto Rico without a visa. In a ruling that was legally and morally correct, the Court said "no" to the absurd proposition that a person who becomes an alien under federal immigration and nationality law applicable in Puerto Rico in order to become an alien does not have to comply with federal law requiring aliens to get a visa to remain in the United States.

The right of U.S. citizenship and all the benefits it provides should not be the subject of mockery. American citizenship refers to more than just status. It exemplifies all this country represents—the spirit of liberty and democratic values. I commend this letter for all to read.

STATEMENT OF DICK THORNBURGH ON THE DANGERS OF JUDICIAL USURPATION OF PUERTO RICO'S POLITICAL SELF-DETERMINATION

Puerto Rico has been under the sovereignty of the United States for one hundred years, and Puerto Ricans have been citizens of the United States for 81 years. However, the political status of Puerto Rico remains unsettled and advocates within Puerto Rico of separatism under the American flag are working to exploit that political uncertainty. The tactics employed by these advocates harms all U.S. citizens—whether they reside in one of the states of the Union or in Puerto Rico. Separatists within Puerto Rico have been forced to find a way around the 95% of Puerto Ricans who want U.S. citizenship, and they have found support among local judges appointed by the last separatist governor of Puerto Rico.

The will of the people of Puerto Rico was reflected on November 17, 1997, when the Governor of Puerto Rico signed into law a statute approved by the Legislature of Puerto Rico defining a "citizen of Puerto Rico" as a person with United States nationality and citizenship who is a lawful resident of Puerto Rico. This new law affirmed the principles of U.S. constitutional federalism as embodied in the local Puerto Rican constitution, recognized one U.S. nationality based citizenship under the American flag, and clearly expressed the loyalty and patriotism of the 3.8 American citizens of Puerto Rico.

In contrast to the measure adopted by elected leaders, on November 18, 1997, the local territorial court issued a ruling suspending enforcement of a decades old statute requiring U.S. citizenship in order to vote in local elections in Puerto Rico. A majority on the territorial court was appointed by a former governor who supports a perpetual "commonwealth" status for Puerto Rico in which the territory would have some of the attributes of both a state of the union and a separate nation. The local court's decision to exempt Juan Mari Bras, a pro-Castro socialist who renounced his U.S. nationality, from the local U.S. citizenship requirement for voting is based on a doctrine that a separate legal nationality for Puerto Ricans exists within the U.S. constitutional system. While there are many nationalities within the U.S. in the sense of cultural heritage and identity, there is and can be only one legal and constitutional form of national citizenship.

In addition to running afoul of the one legal nationality principle, the local Supreme Court's decision also constitutes an official action by a co-equal branch of the territorial government to nullify application of federal law. Specifically, the local court ruled that a person who has been certified by the State Department to be an alien can nonetheless remain in a territory of the U.S. without a visa or other legal authority from the U.S. The Puerto Rican court held that a non-citizen could remain in Puerto Rico and enjoy all the rights of a separate Puerto Rican nationality and citizenship—even though he has not complied with the immigration and nationality laws of the United States.

Aware of the local court's decision, the State Department adopted a policy of denying certification of loss of citizenship to persons who intend to remain in Puerto Rico based on a claim of local citizenship. On January 27, 1998, in the case of a "copy cat" renunciation by one Alberto Lozada Colon, the Department of State reiterated the fundamental point that the U.S. citizenship of Puerto Ricans is supreme to their citizenship of the constituent territory of the U.S. This will prevent further "copy cat" cases and provides the basis for bringing the previous cases into compliance with U.S. immigration law, thereby rendering meaningless the reckless action by the Puerto Rican court in contravention of federal supremacy.

However, this episode underscores the importance of resolving Puerto Rico's status. H.R. 856, as approved by the House on March 4, 1998, would provide a process to end the current ambiguities about Puerto Rico, and it is hoped the Senate will act soon on this matter. To help sort out the issues of nationality and citizenship related to status, the following principles and legal requirements must be recognized.

Similar to a State of the Union, Puerto Rico has sufficient sovereignty over its internal affairs under the local constitution to prescribe the qualifications of voters. How-

ever, Puerto Rico's local sovereignty is a statutory delegation of the authority of Congress to govern territories, and is not a vested, guaranteed or permanent form of sovereignty such as the states have under the 10th Amendment. Even if it were, no state of the Union, much less an unincorporated commonwealth territory, has the power to declare that the citizenship of the state or territory survives legally effective renunciation of U.S. nationality and citizenship (see, discussion below of *Davis v. District Director*, 481 F. Supp. 1178 (1979)). Yet, that is precisely what the territorial court in Puerto Rico has attempted to do in the case of Juan Mari Bras.

While Puerto Rico has powers of local government which in some respects are like the states to the extent consistent with federal law and the U.S. Constitution, Puerto Rico does not have the sovereignty or constitutional authority to ignore the supremacy clause of the federal constitution by creating a separate nationality (see, *Rodriguez v. Popular Democratic Party*, 457 U.S. 1 (1982)). Congress alone determines and regulates nationality under Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution. In the local court's ruling in the Mari Bras case, however, a person certified by the U.S. Department of State to be an alien under U.S. immigration laws, and who has refused to obtain a visa in compliance with the Immigration and Nationality Act, is supposedly recognized as having the right to reside in the United States, including Puerto Rico, and enjoy the rights and privileges of a fictitious separate Puerto Rican nationality citizenship.

Fortunately, we do not have to wait for an appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court to correct this miscarriage of justice which infringes upon the voting rights of the U.S. citizens of Puerto Rico who are legally qualified to vote under applicable law. Nor do we need to wait for Congress to restore the rule of law by confirming that under existing federal law (8 U.S.C. 1402) there is only one nationality or national citizenship for people born in Puerto Rico as long as it remains within the sovereignty of the United States. For Congress already has provided the statutory authority for the Executive Branch of the federal government to preserve the constitutional and federal legal order applicable to Puerto Rico in these matters. As already mentioned, in the Lozada Colon case the U.S. State Department has rectified the anomaly of the Mari Bras case and determined that the requirements of 8 U.S.C. 1481(a)(5) for loss of U.S. nationality are not satisfied if the person renouncing intends to remain in the U.S. without a visa based on a claim of Puerto Rican nationality.

Specifically, either the individual who has been certified as an alien must be compelled by the INS to comply with the requirements of the Immigration and Nationality Act for his continued presence in the United States, or the State Department must vacate the certification that he expatriated himself in a legally effective manner under 8 U.S.C. 1481(a)(5). As discussed below, it has to be one or the other.

Last year a statement by Congressman George Gekas appeared in the *CONGRESSIONAL RECORD* (143 Cong. Rec. E766 (daily ed. April 29, 1997) (statement of Rep. Gekas) about creeping separatism in Puerto Rico's local judiciary. This wake up call was sounded when a local trial court judge ruled that it was unconstitutional under the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico for the legislative branch of the local government to make U.S. citizenship a voter eligibility requirement in elections in Puerto

Rico—as it is in other states and territory in the United States.

The ruling of the trial court was that a radical socialist named Juan Mari Bras, who had U.S. citizenship granted by a federal statute extending that privilege to people born in Puerto Rico, should be allowed to vote in elections even though he had gone to Venezuela and taken an oath renouncing his U.S. nationality and citizenship in the manner prescribed by Congress. Mari Bras then went to Cuba to show solidarity with the regime there, and returned triumphantly to Puerto Rico. He was admitted back into U.S. territory by INS officials, based on his U.S. birth certificate, without disclosing that the State Department had issued an official document certifying he was a stateless alien with no legal right to enter or reside in the United States without an appropriate visa.

Not only did he assert exemption from visa requirements based on a claim of a separate Puerto Rican nationality, he then sought certification of his eligibility to vote, and was challenged by U.S. citizen voters who do not want their own votes diluted by non-citizens ineligible to vote under Puerto Rican law. Since the elected representatives of the people of Puerto Rico in the territorial legislature, had decided many years ago to make U.S. citizenship a voter qualification under the local election law, the trial judge threw out that statute so the expatriate could cast a ballot. That ballot was sealed pending an appeal of the case to the territorial Supreme Court, which ultimately ordered that the ballot be counted based on the local court's recognition of a separate Puerto Rican nationality and non-recognition of Federal law.

In the statement of April 29, 1997, cited above, Mr. Gekas touched upon an argument which independently has been developed further by the State Department in its own approach to a "copy cat" renunciation case involving an individual named Alberto Lozada Colon. Specifically, now that we know what Mari Bras was actually intending when he executed his oath of renunciation, it may well be that the U.S. State Department should evaluate whether he actually had formed the intention required to meet the criteria of 8 U.S.C. 1481(a)(5). Stated simply, the basis upon which his application for certification of loss of nationality should be re-evaluated, and perhaps rescinded, is as follows:

The right to reside in territory under the sovereignty of the United States, including Puerto Rico, arises from U.S. nationality and citizenship or, in the case of non-citizen aliens, compliance with the visa requirements of the federal Immigration and Nationality Act.

In accordance with 8 U.S.C. 1481(a), which prescribes the procedure for renouncing citizenship in a legally effective manner, Mari Bras executed an oath voluntarily and intentionally relinquishing "all rights and privileges" of United States nationality and citizenship.

Since we now know Mari Bras intended to continue to enjoy the right to reside in the United States as a non-citizen alien under federal immigration law without complying with applicable visa requirements, we can presume that he did not truly intend to renounce and cease to enjoy "all rights and privileges" of United States nationality and citizenship.

Consequently his oath of renunciation does not mean the statutory criteria of 8 U.S.C. 1481(a), which, again, requires intent to relinquish all rights and privileges of U.S. nationality and citizenship.

Clearly, Mari Bras has not honored his oath of renunciation, and his certification of loss of U.S. nationality and citizenship should be vacated. He should not be allowed to benefit from a false oath, or to act in a manner which contradicts his oath, without consequence and legal accountability. For there is only one nationality and nationality-based citizenship in the United States, including Puerto Rico. There is no separate Puerto Rican nationality or nationality-based citizenship which enables Mari Bras to reside in Puerto Rico and enjoy the rights of citizenship in violation of federal law.

If Mari Bras is an alien he must comply with federal law regulating the presence of aliens in the United States. If he has not truly expatriated himself due to lack of actual intent to live as an alien in Puerto Rico then his hoax should be brought to an end by proper action to enforce the criteria of 8 U.S.C. 1481(a)(5). This statute and the implementing regulations promulgated by the Secretary of State (22 CFR 50.40-50.50) require the accredited diplomatic officer at the U.S. Embassy involved to "determine" that the statutory criteria for effective renunciation exists, and require the Secretary of State to "approve" the certification of same. If the declarations made by the renouncing party before, during or after the certification, or the actions of the person after certification, establish that the requirements of the statute for effective renunciation have not been met, then the Secretary of State has a responsibility to prevent abuse of the renunciation procedure for purposes of violating or evading Federal immigration laws.

The Supreme Court of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico based its reasoning on the concept that there is a Puerto Rican citizenship separate from U.S. citizenship that arises from birth in Puerto Rico under U.S. sovereignty. This citizenship is not merely residency or the status of a person subject to the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. Rather it is a separate nationality that exists within U.S. nationality. Of course, the court found no support in the text of Puerto Rican statutes, the Puerto Rican Constitution, or the U.S. Constitution. In its convoluted opinion, the court is saying one thing and doing another in at least two ways.

First, while the court pretends to refrain from declaring the local statute invalid, the court invalidates the statute by amending it in contravention of the Legislature's expressed intent. Thus, instead of affirming the trial court in declaring the statute unconstitutional because its clear language would prevent Puerto Rican born Mari Bras from voting, the court states that it would be unconstitutional if the statute were to be enforced in the case of Mari Bras.

The court's ruling amounts to nothing less than a suspension of the rule of law under local constitution. The effect is that the statute is constitutional only if it is not enforced in the case of a person to whom it applies, so the court avoids making a constitutional determination by amending rather than interpreting the statute.

Second, the court attempts to delimit the constitutional nature of this separate Puerto Rican nationality by claiming that it exists within the framework of the United States-Puerto Rico relationship and is not equivalent to citizenship of an independent country. At the same time, the court is attempting to establish a separate constitutional nationality and legal citizenship which has rights and privileges separate from but duplicating the rights and privileges of U.S. na-

tionality and citizenship in Puerto Rico. This alternative nationality and citizenship is claimed by the Puerto Rican separatists as a right binding on the U.S. in perpetuity which cannot be ended without the consent of Puerto Rico.

The opinion of the Federal Court of Appeals in Davis, 481 F. Supp. 1178 (1979), includes an excellent explanation of why the separate-state-citizenship-as-separate-nationality argument must fail in the case of the states of the union. Certainly a territory with a local commonwealth constitution authorized by Act of Congress (P.L. 81-600) does not have greater sovereignty than a state of the Union. While the people of Puerto Rico consented to the establishment of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico structure of local government with respect to the internal affairs of the territory, this does not create a local sovereignty or a basis for separate nationality and citizenship superior to that of the states of the Union yet that is what the result would be if, as the Puerto Rico Supreme Court has ruled, "citizenship of Puerto Rico" constitutes a form of citizenship superior to that of citizenship of a state of the Union.

Thus, those who argue that Puerto Rico could become a Quebec-like situation if it is ever admitted as a state had better recognize that the real danger of a Quebec-like problem is if the current ambiguous status continues and this nation-within-a-nation ideology is imposed by local authorities without a clear choice by the people based on a Federal policy to define the current status and options for change accurately. The local judiciary's ruling in this case is an attempt to usurp the authority of Congress under the territorial clause in Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 and Section 8 of Article I to determine the nationality and nationality-based citizenship of persons born in Puerto Rico. That authority also is recognized in Article IX of the Treaty of Paris under which the U.S. became sovereign in Puerto Rico. The United States has not ceded or restricted that authority by agreeing to establish internal self-government under the commonwealth structure.

The United States gave the mechanisms of internal self-government in the territory the chance to resolve this problem under local law by sorting out the mess and conforming local law to federal law. The elected co-equal branches of government acted responsibly and consistent with the federal and local constitutions. Unfortunately, the territorial court of last resort failed the test. Now this has become a political question which must be resolved by the political branches of the Federal government.

The failure of the judicial branch of the local constitutional government to respect the separation of powers under the local constitution does not bode well for the viability of continued territorial status under the commonwealth structure. The court's ruling in this case suggests that the present status quo is not a permanent solution to the question of Puerto Rico's political status.

However, the territorial commonwealth structure cannot be made acceptable by defining it as something other than what it really is. Revisionist judicial rulings which attempt to transform unincorporated territory status into a form of permanent statehood without going through the admissions process under Article IV of the federal constitution, and at the same time seek separate nationality do nothing to clarify Puerto Rico's political future. It is becoming more

clear every day that either statehood or separate nationhood are the only viable solutions to the problem of Puerto Rico's political status.

Clearly, Puerto Rico is not a state, but an internally self-governing territory of the United States. Likewise, the "people of Puerto Rico" are not a separate nationality, but a body politic consisting of persons with United States nationality and citizenship who reside in Puerto Rico. This includes those born there and those who were born or naturalized in a state of the union and now reside there. See, 48 U.S.C. 733; also *Gonzales v. Williams*, 192 U.S. 1 (1904).

CONCLUSION

The local election law in Puerto Rico requiring U.S. citizenship to vote in local elections was enacted by the democratically elected representatives of the people. The local statute approved by the Legislature of Puerto Rico properly recognizes that only the United States can define and confer nationality and citizenship on people born in Puerto Rico as long as it is within U.S. sovereignty.

The attempt of local courts to recognize, and thereby exercise the sovereign power to create, an alternative separate nationality and citizenship status in lieu of the federally defined status, and to impose non-citizen voting on the people of Puerto Rico without their consent, has been repudiated by the Federal government through the State Department's action in the Mari Bras "copy cat" case of Lazada Colon.

Only if the people of Puerto Rico, acting through their constitutional process and in an exercise of self-determination, requested that the U.S. Congress approve legislation to end the current U.S. nationality and citizenship of persons born in Puerto Rico, and Congress in fact does so, would a different result appear to be constitutionally possible.

In that event, presumably, a process leading to separate sovereignty, nationality and citizenship for Puerto Rico would commence. Previously, neither the electorate in Puerto Rico nor the local legislature have expressed significant levels of support for that approach to resolving the ultimate status of Puerto Rico. Inevitably, the decision must be made by the people of Puerto Rico through a process of self-determination in a clear and transparent election. Judicial usurpation of the process of self-determination harms all of us.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MEDICAL INNOVATION TAX CREDIT BILL

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 1998

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to establish the Medical Innovation Tax Credit with my colleague, SANDER M. LEVIN. This new credit will provide an important incentive for companies to expand their pioneering clinical research activities at our Nation's leading medical institutions such as M.D. Anderson, the University of Texas, and the University of Michigan. By promoting more medical research, the credit will help enhance the development of new products and therapies to prevent, treat and cure serious medical conditions and diseases.

The Medical Innovation Tax Credit establishes a narrowly targeted, incremental 20%

credit in the Internal Revenue Code. The credit is available to companies for qualified expenditures on human clinical trials conducted at medical schools, teaching hospitals that are under common ownership or affiliated with an institution of higher learning, or by non-profit research hospitals that are designated as cancer centers by the National Cancer Institute (NCI).

The additional private sector investment generated by the Medical Innovation Tax Credit is also essential so that medical schools and teaching hospitals can continue to fulfill their unique and vital roles that benefit both the health of the American public and the economy. These institutions are the backbone of innovation in American medicine. By linking together research, medical training and patient care, they develop and employ the knowledge that can result in major medical breakthroughs.

Today, however, they are under increased financial pressures as markets for health care services undergo rapid, fundamental change. These financial pressures may have an adverse impact on funds traditionally dedicated for research. Recent reports indicate that there has been a decline in clinical trials at medical schools and teaching hospitals. This decline is troubling, since it signals that research dollars are shrinking at our Nation's leading medical research institutions. A new infusion of funds for expanded clinical research activities, stimulated by the Medical Innovation Tax Credit, can help stem and reverse this trend. Moreover, continued and expanded investment in our leading medical research institutions will ensure that the United States maintains its position as the leader in innovative, biomedical research.

The credit also provides an important incentive for research activities to remain in the United States since only domestic clinical research activities are eligible for the credit. This requirement will encourage biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies to keep their clinical trial research projects at home by decreasing the economic incentive to move such activities to "lower-cost" facilities off-shore.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this important legislation. The Medical Innovation Tax Credit will strengthen the partnership between the private sector and our Nation's leading medical institutions to ensure America's continued world leadership in research and medical innovation.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ED AND JERRY WATSON

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 1998

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with my colleague GENE GREEN in congratulating Ed and Jerry Watson of Deer Park, Texas, as they celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on May 7, 1998. Throughout their lives, Ed and Jerry have provided tremendous examples of public service, contributing unselfishly to numerous causes while raising a fine family.

Both Ed and Jerry are native Texans who have an abiding love for their state and community.

Ed was born in "Pole Cat Ridge," Wallisville, Texas, on July 20, 1920. He graduated from Anahuac High School in 1939 and joined the U.S. Navy in 1942. After his service in World War II, he attended the University of Houston until he went to work in 1946 at Shell Oil Refinery in Deer Park.

Jerry was born in Saratoga, Texas, on September 30, 1923. She was named Susan Geraldine Eaves, but was called Jerry as her parents had hoped for a boy. Jerry graduated from Kilgore High School in 1941 and was working in Houston when she and Ed met. Jerry's parents were living in Hankamer (near Anahuac) when her younger sister asked Ed to give her big sister a ride back to Houston. The rest, as they say, is history.

They were married on May 7, 1948 at the Lawndale Baptist Church in Houston. Shortly after, Ed was called back into service during the Korean Conflict in 1950 for 15 months. In 1954, having outgrown their home in Pasadena, the Watsons and their four children moved to Deer Park. In March 1955, they became members of the First Baptist Church of Deer Park. At the time, the church was still meeting in the old wooden buildings on Sixth Street. Jerry recalls many Vacation Bible Schools in which she helped and the children participated.

Ed has been involved in politics and community affairs since 1947. He is a 50-year member of the Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers International Union, and he was serving as President of Local 4-367 when elected in 1972 as a member of the Texas House of Representatives, a position in which he served for 8 terms. In the Texas Legislature, Ed was a leader on issues of law enforcement, education, environmental protection, and creating economic opportunity, and he served several terms as Chairman of the Harris County Delegation. Currently he is a Community Liaison on my congressional staff in Pasadena and Deer Park, Texas.

Ed is a charter member of the Deer Park Chamber of Commerce and a charter member of the Lions Club. He served fourteen years as a volunteer fireman and is now one of six honorary members. He has been actively involved in the Wheel House, a 30-day alcohol rehabilitation facility, since 1954 and serves on their board of directors. Ed visits daily, reaching out to the residents, solving problems when they arise, and funding.

Ed also serves on the board of directors of the Interfaith Helping Hands Ministry. He also volunteers his time at First Baptist Church, serving on the Benevolence Committee and reaching out to people not only in the church, but in the community as well. Because of his caring ways, Ed was named Deer Park Citizen of the Year in 1987.

Jerry's achievements are also impressive. In 1961 Jerry went to work for the Registrar of San Jacinto College. In 1963 the College began teaching about computer science, and Jerry began taking classes and working on the college information system. During some semesters, she was taking a class, working, and teaching a key-punching class after work. During this time, she and three of her children

were all enrolled in college. Jerry received her Certificate Technology Degree in Computer Science the same night her younger son received his A.A. Degree in Computer Science. She retired from San Jacinto College in 1982.

Jerry was one of the earliest members of the Deer Park Ladies Civic Club and assisted in preparing the first Deep Park telephone book to be published. With Ed, Jerry also works with the Interfaith Helping Hands Ministry and she has served on the Bereavement Committee at First Baptist Church many times.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Ed and Jerry Watson on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary and commend them on a lifetime of achievement. Their commitment not only to one another, but to others as well, is an example for all of us. May the coming years bring good health, happiness, and time to enjoy their eight grandsons, one granddaughter, and one great grandson. On this joyous occasion, I am pleased to join their family, friends, and community in saying congratulations and thank you.

"OVERTURN THE ROYALTY
GIVEAWAY AMENDMENT"

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 1998

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, last week, legislative larceny was committed in the conference committee on the Emergency Supplemental. As happens too often in this Congress, the hold up was committed by wealthy interests who want to make themselves still richer with money that belongs to the taxpayers of this country.

Senator BARBARA BOXER put up a valiant fight to prevent the committee from accepting the oil companies' \$66 million royalty giveaway amendment, but the industry had the conference wired. The oil industry, which has been cheating taxpayers for years, won.

Today, we are introducing legislation to reverse that legislative maneuver and restore the money to the people who own the oil: the taxpayers of the United States.

I wrote the provision of the offshore oil law in 1978 that requires that coastal states receive a share from the oil produced from federal lands adjacent to their coasts. But the oil companies have been cheating taxpayers and the states by underestimating the value of the oil and underpaying royalties to the tune of hundreds of millions of dollars. The Department of Interior's Minerals Management Service drafted rules to end this underpayment fraud and assure that taxpayers get the money they deserve.

But the royalty giveaway amendment stops the Interior Department from implementing new rules that would require more accurate pricing of oil produced from public lands. Those rules, the product of long investigations, would base the value of the oil on actual market prices instead of on the much lower prices reported by the oil companies. Delaying this rule from going into effect will cost taxpayers \$66 million a year—\$5.5 million for each month that the rule is delayed. That means a loss of \$1.8 million a year for California alone.

Our state turns federal oil and gas royalties over to the public schools, and most other states share a portion of these revenues with their schools—money that could be used to buy computers or pay teachers' salaries or reduce class size. If the federal government had collected the royalties we were due, California could have paid the salaries of 45 teachers next year. Instead, thanks to this sneaky amendment, that money will line the oil industry's pockets.

Senator HUTCHISON, who sponsored this amendment, claims more time is needed to study the issue. We already spent years studying the issue. A task force has filed its report documenting hundreds of millions of dollars in underpayments.

The current system must be changed. The Justice Department recently decided to intervene in litigation accusing four major oil companies of knowingly having underpaid hundreds of millions of dollars in royalties from federal and Indian leases in the Gulf of Mexico, Wyoming, New Mexico and California. There is no justification for preventing the Interior Department from performing its legal mandate: to ensure that we get fair market value from the production from public lands.

The giveaway rider ignores substantial evidence of underpayments developed by the House Government Reform and Oversight Committee, thanks to the leadership of Congresswoman CAROLYN MALONEY, who joins us this morning. We call on the Congress to reverse this greedy and unwarranted action and pass the Miller-Boxer bill to restore the royalties that the taxpayers, and the schoolchildren, of this nation deserve.

PART 2: JOBS WITH JUSTICE:
FIRST NATIONAL WORKERS'
RIGHTS BOARD HEARING

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 1998

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, Jobs With Justice convened its "First National Workers' Rights Board Hearing on Welfare/Workfare Issues" in Chicago in 1997. This hearing featured a number of community, labor and political leaders. I include their remarks for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Part 2 of this statement includes: Joselito Laudencia of Californians for Justice; Christopher Lamb of the Center on Social Welfare Policy and Law; Sabrina Gillon of the Campaign for a Sustainable Milwaukee; and Paul Booth of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME).

CALIFORNIANS FOR JUSTICE

(By Joselito Laudencia, Executive Director)

Good morning. My name is Joselito Laudencia and I am the Executive Director of Californians for Justice. Californians for Justice is a grassroots multiracial organization working to build political power among communities of color, and poor and young people of all colors in California. Earlier this year, we launched a campaign for Economic Justice. With welfare reform devastating our constituencies, we decided to launch a multi-year campaign for public jobs. Specifically,

with the state government pushing hundreds of thousands of welfare recipients into the workforce, we feel that the state government has a responsibility to ensure that jobs are available, that these jobs are good paying jobs with benefits, and that these jobs actually address the needs of California's communities.

Let me provide some context. The signing into law of welfare reform on a federal level sent a simple message that everyone on welfare needs to get a job. The new law says that everyone on welfare must be at work within 24 months for a minimum of 20 hours a week. Currently, there are over 900,000 welfare recipients in California, with at least 300,000 facing this two-year time limit within two years. And families have only 5 years in a lifetime to receive welfare—even if there are no jobs.

This destruction of the welfare system comes at a time when jobs have been leaving over the last 25 years. Corporations have been downsizing, automating, shifting to part-time workers and moving overseas.

If any job growth is happening, it occurs in two fields. One area includes highly skilled jobs. As Times Magazine in January 1997 highlighted, the hottest fields in terms of new jobs include teachers, nurses, executives, lawyers, financial managers, computer engineers, and accountants, jobs which require extensive levels of education and training.

The other arena includes the fast growing occupations and industries that frequently offer part-time or temporary work and often lack basic benefits, especially in the retail trade and the service sector.

We also have to realize that the U.S. and the California economy have never provided enough jobs. Although the unemployment rate has been at its lowest in 23 years, over 1 million people in California are "officially" unemployed. On top of that, California will witness over 100,000 college graduates and over 270,000 public high school graduates. This also doesn't take into account the over 1 million underemployed, who include involuntary part-time workers and persons not working due to lack of child care, transportation and other factors. Plus, this doesn't include discouraged workers who've stopped working and workers who work full time at low-wages that aren't enough to survive.

With millions looking for work and welfare recipients entering the workforce, California projects a job growth of only 270,000 each year.

If we look at traditional efforts to create jobs, we find that they don't work. Providing tax subsidies to corporations to create jobs hasn't worked. Job training programs usually result in individuals completing programs with no jobs at the end process.

With this context, Californians for Justice is waging a public jobs campaign in California and is urging that Jobs with Justice take on a public job creation campaign as a necessary strategy to provide a viable and alternative solution to welfare reform.

We must reassert the role of government to ensure the health and well-being of every person, especially those most in need.

To conclude, I'd like to outline the political principles that guide our efforts to job creation: (1) Jobs must be at living wage salaries and with benefits, including health care and child care; (2) Jobs must be new jobs and not replace or displace pre-existing workers or positions; (3) These jobs must be union jobs; (4) Priority for jobs must be given to communities of color, women and poor communities that have been devastated by unemployment; (5) Public jobs must be in

projects that will truly benefit communities. Projects must reflect a politics of redistribution of wealth to low-income communities and communities of color and not predominantly a funding of private industry with public funds in a way that maintains a structure of wealth moving upward for profit maximization; (6) A Jobs program must address the entire need for jobs towards eradicating unemployment; (7) Since this system cannot guarantee jobs for all and because there are people unable to work, there must be a safety net and aright to entitlement benefits, including childcare, medical care, transportation and living wage cash grants.

No one organization or group can make this happen. We all need to work together to expose the truth that the jobs are not out there and push for a pro-active solution that addresses the needs of all our communities.

CENTER ON SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY AND LAW
(By Christopher Lamb)

I. INTRODUCTION

My name is Christopher Lamb. I am a senior attorney at The Welfare Law Center in New York City. We are a national not-for-profit law office dedicated to working with and on behalf of welfare recipients and organizations of welfare recipients in securing and protecting recipients' legal rights to fair and decent treatment both as welfare recipients and, where applicable, as workers in welfare work programs. We are currently counsel in several class action lawsuits involving abuses in New York City's workfare program. We are also coordinating a national effort to support workfare organizing called the Workfare Research and Advocacy Project.

II. WORKFARE BACKGROUND

Workfare is work performed as a condition of receiving a welfare grant. It is not a job. While it may be possible to gain recognition of workfare participants' status as workers to secure them coverage under the multitude of employment laws that most of us take for granted, doing so in most cases will require political and legal battles.

Workfare is not new. Various types of work relief have existed for as long as there has been public assistance and workfare existed as part of the federal AFDC program for its last thirty years. Workfare therefore has a track record and that record shows that it is not an effective path off of welfare or to higher income or to a job.

Despite the dismal history of workfare as a strategy for moving people off of welfare and into jobs, last year's federal welfare reform bill places substantial pressure to expand existing workfare programs and to create new ones. Over a quarter of the states currently have workfare programs and it is likely that more states will add programs as the pressures increase under the federal law to have welfare recipients in what the bill calls "work activities". New York City has the largest workfare program in the nation with close to 40,000 participants.

III. WORKFARE PROBLEMS

As cities and states expand their workfare programs, workfare participants are facing many problems that are common to other low-wage workers as well as some that are unique to their situations as workfare workers. In many instances, these problems are surfacing first and most prominently in New York City's program because of its size and because it has been operating at a very substantial size for longer than most other programs. There is, however, no reason to believe that any of these issues will appear only in New York.

Health and Safety. Workfare workers who were performing hot, dirty work cleaning streets in New York City had to sue this summer to gain access to bathrooms and drinking water, protective clothing, and right to know training about work place hazards. Although the workers won a court order, lack of appropriate protective gear and failure to provide right to know training remain commonplace at worksites throughout the City.

New York City is not alone in failing to maintain appropriate health and safety standards for its workfare workers. In Los Angeles, for example, workfare workers at city hospitals who are required to mop floors soiled with blood and other medical waste are not provided with boots or other protective clothing.

Workers' Compensation. In Ohio, the Ohio Supreme Court recently struck down a state law which limited to \$33/week the death benefit paid to the widow of a workfare worker killed by a work-related illness. Similar laws are still in effect in other states. For example, New York law guarantees workers' compensation to workfare workers, "but not necessarily at the same benefit level" provided to other workers.

Minimum and Prevailing Wage. New York City ignored a state law which required it to compensate workfare workers at prevailing wage and then when a court ordered it to comply with the law the City successfully sought to have the statute repealed. Elsewhere, serious minimum wage violations are occurring. In several states, workfare workers are being required to work 35 to 40 hours per week although they receive cash assistance and food stamps that are equal to closer to 20 hours per week at the minimum wage.

Denial of Access to Ed. and Training. In New York City, the growth of the workfare programs has had a devastating impact on welfare recipients' access to education and training. At the City University of New York, the number of welfare recipients enrolled dropped from 27,000 to 22,000 in one year and is still dropping. Small pre-college and vocational educational programs have seen even more devastating drops in enrollment.

IV. IMPACT ON OTHER WORKERS

Large scale workfare programs inevitably result in the displacement of other workers and the loss of jobs paying decent wages. Simultaneously with increasing its workfare program to about 40,000 participants, New York City reduced its payroll by over 20,000 workers. Displacement has also been documented elsewhere. In Baltimore, for example, the school board has replaced custodial workers who were paid a living wage under a local living wage ordinance with workfare workers.

The use of workfare workers also depresses the wages of other workers. In New York, for example, it has been estimated that 30,000 workfare workers working 26 hours per week would result in the depression of wages in the bottom third of the workforce by 9% or in the displacement of 20,000 other workers, or some combination of these two effects.

V. CONCLUSION

The vast majority of welfare recipients with whom I speak in my work want to work. They want to earn a wage with which they can meet their families' basic needs and they want to be treated fairly and decently in the workplace. In other words, they want jobs, not workfare. It is incumbent upon all of us to fight with them toward that goal.

HOW AFDC/W-2 HAS AFFECTED ME

(By Sabrina Gillon)

Hello, my name is Sabrina Gillon and this is my statement of how AFDC/W-2 has affected my life and forced me to leave out of college at Milwaukee Area Technical College.

I first entered college in the Fall of 1995. I originally entered into college at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and half way through the semester I was told that in order to receive any daycare for my son I would have to leave UWM and go to a two year college. At the end of the Fall semester, I left UWM, reluctantly, and went to Milwaukee Area Technical College. Once there, I enrolled in the Administrative Assistant Program which was a very far stretch away from the Wildlife Conservationist program that I was in at UWM.

The entire time I was in classes at MATC, I was constantly being sent letters saying that I was being sanctioned for no reason at all because I was attending all of my classes on a daily basis and working in the computer lab when I wasn't in class. All together I was down at the MATC campus a total of 7 to 8 hours a day. At one point in time, I was being sent sanction letters every other week for about 2 to 3 months. It was a very maddening and frustrating time for me. I would have to miss class in order to go down to the welfare office and get the matter straightened out. My worker, Alexia Daniels, was usually not able to be reached and I would have to request to see her supervisor just to get the situation cleared up.

As spring semester of 1997 came I was continually reminded that my time to be in school was coming to a close and that I should begin looking for a job. When I asked my worker, Jane Jilk, at the Milwaukee Job Center Network (North) about possible ways in which I could stay in school, all she could say was for me to take some evening classes and she emphasized that *daycare would not be provided*. Any my question to her was "how am I going to be able to take night classes when I have no one to watch my 3 year old son while I am in class?" She could not even give me a reasonable answer. This is part of the area of W-2 and/or AFDC that confuses me though. How is it that some participants on AFDC are able to continue their college schooling and also continue to receive daycare for their child(ren), while others are told that they are on their own, or "Gee, that's just too bad." For this system to supposedly be designed to help people, I truly do not see where it shows any caring or compassion for the individuals who are on it, especially those who are trying to achieve a goal greater than one of simply working for minimum wage. Is it so wrong to want for a better life in which we, AFDC recipients, can make reasonable wages so that we can sustain and take care of our families?

In closing, I would just like to say that W-2, as it is now, is just not going to work. Many people are going to be destitute and lost. The United States is one of the richest countries in the world, yet one of the poorest when it comes to caring about its own people. I can only hope that the Government and Thompson soon see that W-2 is not as wonderful and spectacular as they presume it to be. Thank you very much for your thoughtfulness, time, and consideration in listening to what I had to say. It is greatly appreciated.

TESTIMONY OCTOBER 25, 1997 TO NATIONAL
WORKERS RIGHTS BOARD

(By Paul Booth, Assistant to the President
and Director of Field Services)

If there was a time when the labor movement held itself apart from the trials and tribulations of people on relief, that day is gone.

The AFL-CIO proclaimed our commitment to organizing workfare workers at the February Council meeting, proclaimed the solidarity of the unionized 13 million American workers with the million recipients who are being placed into the workplace. The connections we are creating—in Baltimore, between AFSCME council 67 and local 44, and BUILD,

the community organization, and Solidarity Sponsoring Committee, and the welfare recipients who are joining this coalition as members in good standing; in New York, between AFSCME District Council 37, and ACORN, and JWJ, which has now unmistakably demonstrated the demand for representation—these connections exemplify the AFL-CIO's policy, and they defeat the insidious intent of the Gingrich crowd, namely to pit union workers against workfare workers in a Hobbesian conflict that could only destroy our hard-won conditions of work, to the detriment of all.

AFSCME, the Service Employees, and the Communications Workers, took the initia-

tive, as soon as the new law was enacted, to try to redefine the issue. That it be seen not just as the change from welfare dependency, to work; it is about the conditions of that work.

We ask you to make the finding that these questions are within your purview, as matters of Workers Rights . . . that recipients, once placed on the job, are workers, entitled to these rights: To a living wage job; to membership in the union at their workplace; to organize in a union where one is not in place; and to equal treatment under the labor laws.