

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

H.R. 3662, THE U.S. HOLOCAUST
ASSETS COMMISSION ACT OF 1998

HON. MAX SANDLIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 1998

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, few events in the course of human history have affected the human psyche as profoundly as the attempted extermination of the Jewish race by the Nazi regime in World War II. This dark period in our past serves as a reminder of what must never again come to pass. However, lingering questions regarding the disposition of holocaust victims' assets and the role of neutral countries in the theft of these assets have precluded our conclusively closing the door on this chapter in history. The bill we have before us today, H.R. 3662, the U.S. Holocaust Assets Commission Act of 1998, gives us this opportunity.

In the House Banking and Finance Committee, we have held four hearings of this subject, beginning in December of 1996. In the past two years, several European nations and other nations scattered around the globe have created commissions to investigate their own role in the theft of holocaust victim's assets. The investigations have broadened past individual bank accounts to include such assets as artwork and insurance claims. It is time for the United States to do the same and examine the actions of the U.S. Federal Government with regard to holocaust victims' assets that flowed into America after Hitler seized power in Germany.

The June 2, 1998, preliminary report by the Administration's task force and Under Secretary of State Stuart Eizenstat, represents a significant level of commitment by the U.S. Federal Government and an important step in the process. The report also provides an alarming amount of compelling evidence regarding cooperation with the Nazis by neutral countries. These countries accepted large shipments of gold and other assets plundered from Holocaust victims and exchanged critically needed war materials. It is imperative that we continue to study this issue and develop a deeper understanding of the circumstances and consequences of these events.

H.R. 3662 is a good, bipartisan bill that will help America explore many of these same issues as they may have occurred on our own soil. By December 31, 1999, the President and Congress should receive a report from the commission and will have the information necessary to bring justice and closure to questions of the disposition of holocaust victims' assets in America. It is what we, as a nation, must do. I urge all my colleagues to support his bill.

CARMINE J. SPINELLI—40 YEARS
OF FEDERAL CIVIL SERVICE

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 1998

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Mr. Carmine Spinelli of Whitehouse Station, New Jersey. After forty years of Federal civilian service at the United States Army Tank-Automotive and Armaments Command, Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center at Picatinny Arsenal, New Jersey, Carmine will officially retire on July 3, 1998. This evening, June 24, 1998, Mr. Spinelli is being honored for his many years of dedicated service.

Carmine is a native of New Jersey originally from Raritan, a wonderful municipality in Somerset County, and a graduate from Purdue University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Metallurgical Engineering. He began his civil service career in June 1958 as a Mechanical Engineer in the Feltman Research and Engineering Laboratory, Picatinny Arsenal. For more than thirty years he worked and progressed from a Design Engineer to a Division Chief in the Fire Support Armaments Center in 1985. In this capacity, he was responsible for the management and execution of Life Cycle Engineering.

In June 1990, he was promoted to the Senior Executive Services (equivalent to Brigadier General in the United States Army) and was appointed as the Deputy Director of the Fire Support Armaments. In this position for many years, he managed an organization of more than 1,000 scientists and engineers involved in research, development and engineering of a variety of armaments including, artillery, mortars, mines, demolitions, precision munitions and related fire control systems for the entire United States Army. Mr. Spinelli was appointed to the position of Technical Director at the United States Army Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center (an SES rank equivalent to a Major General in the United States Army) in April 1995. Not only was Mr. Spinelli responsible for all technical operations, he managed an annual operating budget of 600 million dollars and a technical staff of over 2,000 scientists and engineers with approximately 2,000 support personnel.

I would be hard pressed to list all of Carmine's accomplishments and special citations here today. But, I must highlight the fact that Carmine has been instrumental in the many successes Picatinny Arsenal has achieved. In 1995, Picatinny Arsenal received the Quality Improvement Prototype; Co-winner, Army R&D Organization of the Year. In 1996, Picatinny Arsenal was awarded the Best Medium Size Installation; R&D Center of Excellence; Commander in Chief Award for Installation Excellence; Presidential Award for

Quality; Quality Partner Award from Quality New Jersey and in 1997 the R&D Center of Excellence. As you know, these awards are the most prestigious and coveted in the military. In fact, they are often referred to as the Triple Crown of military achievements. Personally, Carmine has received the Army's highest civilian award, he Decoration for Exceptional Civilian Service Award, 1990.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me, our colleagues, Carmine's family and friends and his colleagues at Picatinny Arsenal in recognizing Carmine Spinelli's many outstanding and invaluable contributions to New Jersey and to our nation. His dedication and service can only be described as above and beyond the call of duty. His work has kept our young men and women in our military safe and well equipped wherever they serve, whether at home or abroad. For his lifetime of work, we are deeply grateful.

REMEMBERING DONALD E.
KIDWELL, SR.

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 1998

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I rise today to announce the passing of Donald E. Kidwell Sr. His contributions to Prince William County will be long remembered. Don died unexpectedly of cardiac arrest at Mary Washington Hospital in Fredericksburg. He was only 54. It is hard for me to believe that such a dedicated citizen is gone.

In addition to being born in Northern Virginia, he lived in and served the area for his entire life. He attended the University of Virginia from 1961 to 1963 and then graduated from George Mason University in 1970 with a Bachelor of Arts in history. Don made his living as president of Kidwell Title and Abstract Co., although his penchant for local politics led him to serve two four-year terms on the Prince William County Board of Supervisors.

Don, an Arlington native, represented the Woodbridge District on the board from 1980 to 1988. In 1991, he retired from local politics following an unsuccessful campaign against Democrat Kathleen Seefeldt in the race for the first-ever chairman of the board. However, he never lost touch with the political scene. He had a true love for Prince William County and its politics. Don always lived life to the fullest and his unflinching jovial manners remained with him till the end.

Even when his title office opened on Saturdays to make time for overflow work, Don always made time for community service activities. He could be found at any number of civic callings including as a negotiator on Prince William County's behalf with the Woodbridge

● 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.

District, Manassas, and Manassas Park and as former chairman of the Potomac-Rappahanock Transportation District. In addition, he sat on the board of the Prince William County Symphony, and he was the president of the Boys' and Girls' Club of Prince William County.

Donald is survived by his wife Jacqueline as well as five children, two brothers and two sisters.

Mr. Speaker, I know that my colleagues and the citizens of Prince William County join me in mourning Donald's passing. His presence in the community will be missed, but his many accomplishments and good deeds will be fondly remembered.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HAROLD E. FORD, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 1998

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, June 16, 1998, I was unavoidably detained on official business and missed the following rollcall votes: No. 232 and No. 233. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall No. 232 and "aye" on rollcall No. 233.

Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, June 17, 1998, I was unavoidably detained at the White House and missed rollcall vote No. 234. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall No. 234.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 1998

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reiterate my allegiance and pride in our nation, its flag and the words we speak to express these beliefs. Recently in my home district, a high school student refused to stand and say the words, "I Pledge Allegiance to the Flag, of the United States of America, . . ." While I have been disappointed to learn of the student's refusal, perhaps it can serve as a reminder of just why we say the pledge.

The words we call "The Pledge of Allegiance" were first written on paper in 1892 by Francis Bellamy, a Baptist minister. Bellamy was also a chairman of a committee of state superintendents of education in the National Education Association. Part of his job description was to prepare the program for the public schools' quadricentennial celebration for Columbus Day in 1892. Bellamy structured this public school program around a flag raising ceremony and a flag statute, now known as "The Pledge of Allegiance."

Mr. Bellamy also jotted down a journal of what he was thinking while he formulated our nation's words of Allegiance. It reads, "The true reason for allegiance to the Flag is the 'republic for which it stands' . . . And what does that vast thing, the Republic mean? It is the concise political word for the Nation—the One Nation which the Civil War was fought to

prove. To make the One Nation idea clear, we must specify that it is indivisible, as Webster and Lincoln used to repeat in their great speeches."

Mr. Speaker, as you know, every day this Congress meets, someone in the U.S. House of Representatives gives a prayer and recites "The Pledge of Allegiance." I personally see this as a symbol of respect and pride in our country, and I am thankful each day that I can serve our nation.

IN HONOR OF A VALUED VETERAN, JUEL MARIFJEREN

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 1998

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay my respects to the memory of Juel Marifjeren, who passed away on Wednesday May 20, 1998. The life of Juel Marifjeren was taken prematurely as he was preparing to go home from a day of work. I would like to take this time to extend my condolences to the family and friends of Juel Marifjeren, especially his wife, Kathleen and two children, Elizabeth and Steven.

Juel Marifjeren was a loving husband, father and respected employee of the United States Army from 1967 to 1969. Juel Marifjeren dedicated his life to serving others, and his fellow veterans. He will be sorely missed by all who have come in contact with Juel.

It is a privilege for me to rise today to honor a fine man, husband, father and veteran. May he rest in peace, and may the Lord grant peace and comfort to the family and friends of Juel Marifjeren.

THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF EASTBAY WORKS AT THE OAK- LAND PRIVATE INDUSTRY COUN- CIL'S OAKLAND CAREER CENTER

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 1998

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to congratulate the Oakland Private Industry Council as it celebrates the official launch of EASTBAY Works, a one-stop career and human resources center. A total of seventeen one-stop centers will operate throughout the East Bay and the Oakland Private Industry Council is proud to have an EASTBAY Works site located at their Oakland Career Center.

EASTBAY Works is the direct result of a collaborative effort among organizations which recognized the need for coordinated, comprehensive services from the work force development community. Its purpose is to advance the economic well-being of the region by developing and maintaining a skilled workforce. This will be accomplished through a customer-focused collaboration of employment, training, economic development and educational partners working together to meet the needs of employers, job seekers and workers.

EASTBAY Works will serve a wide range of individuals, such as, career changers, welfare recipients looking to enter the workplace, down-sized middle managers, under-employed workers, recent graduates, youth and more. It will offer a broad range of free services and resources, including: a career resource room, with telephones, faxes, and computers; job listings; job search skills training; information about and referral to job training programs; labor market information and on-line access to the state of California's Employment Development Department.

Employers will also receive services through EASTBAY Works. These employers will be matched with an employer representative who will provide services including; job posting capability in the career center and through the Internet, recruiting assistance with access to a large diverse pool of job applicants, labor market data and information about tax credits, hiring incentives and business permits.

EASTBAY Works is an exciting and innovative endeavor which will serve as a model for career centers across the entire nation.

FASTENER QUALITY ACT AMENDMENTS

SPEECH OF

HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 1998

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3824, the Fastener Quality Act Amendments. I would like to commend the work of the Science Committee, Chairman SENSENBRENNER and Mr. BROWN; as well as the efforts of Chairwoman MORELLA and Mr. BARCIA of the Technology Subcommittee.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3824 is important and urgently needed legislation. As my colleagues know, the Fastener Quality Act was enacted eight years ago when there was considerable concern about defective and counterfeit fasteners, mostly manufactured in foreign countries, which were found in military equipment, bridges, and airplanes.

However, much has changed over the past eight years, especially in terms of the technology now employed by the fastener industry to guarantee quality. This bill accomplishes two important goals. First, it eliminates the unnecessary and duplicative regulatory burden on fasteners produced to the standards and specifications of aviation manufacturers which are already regulated by the FAA. And, secondly, this Act delays implementation of the Final Rule for the Fastener Quality Act issued on April 14, 1998 and due to be implemented on July 26, 1998.

During this delay, the Secretary of Commerce will undertake and review the Fastener Quality Act in light of the new advances in technology made by the fastener industry and determine what changes are needed, if any, to assure consumer safety on the one hand and prevent unnecessary and outdated regulation on the other.

Mr. Speaker, the simple fact is that in many ways the industry has moved beyond the Fastener Quality Act passed eight years ago.

Since 1990, enormous strides have been made by both the manufacturers of fasteners and their customers in the way they insure the quality and safety of their products. For example, although the Fastener Quality Act originally envisioned an end-of-the-line lot testing procedures, the fastener industry's quality assurance systems have evolved substantially beyond this to testing throughout the manufacturing process. Even NIST concedes that this method is far superior to lot testing.

Although NIST attempted to accommodate these new procedures in their Final Rule, I am concerned that they were not able to go far enough. The Final Rule does not fully accommodate the new advances in quality demanded by major users of fasteners such as the auto industry. Because of this, if the Final Rule is allowed to go into force on July 26, 1998, serious disruptions to our economy could result.

I am particularly pleased that during the delay in implementation of the Final Rule, this bill requires the Secretary of Commerce to issue a report to Congress on possible changes needed in this Act to account for the advances in quality techniques now common in the fastener industry. It is important that Congress gain a clear understanding of the impact this regulation will have upon our economy, the technological improvements that the fastener industry has made over the past eight years, and the improvements in quality that are likely to occur in the future as the result of further technological advances. It is probable that, as a result of this report, Congress will have to revisit the Fastener Quality Act to insure that the highest quality standards, either in place now or that will arise in the future, are not legislated out of existence.

Mr. Speaker, this is clearly a case of where the best intentions went astray. Although the concerns that prompted the adoption of the Fastener Quality Act were real, the solution proposed by this legislation actually threatens the very quality it seeks to insure. The clear problem with the Fastener Quality Act is that it attempts to legislate advances in technology. It is very difficult for anyone to see into the future and determine what tools will be available to industry in terms of their manufacturing processes and quality control. It is my hope that the Secretary of Commerce in his report to Congress will suggest ways in which changes to the law can be made to guarantee the quality and safety of critical fasteners, but in a manner that allows for, and promotes, both the technology of today and of the future.

Mr. Speaker, I again wish to thank the distinguished Chairman of the Science Committee and urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

HONORING DR. NANCY W. DICKEY

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 1998

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Dr. Nancy W. Dickey as she becomes president of the American Medical Association and to recognize the tremendous

contributions she has made to the Texas A&M University Health Science Center College of Medicine and the nation's medical community. She will be honored at A Star for Texas dinner on July 24, 1998, benefiting the Dean's Excellence Scholarship Fund to increase scholarships for economically disadvantaged students.

On June 17, 1998, Dr. Dickey became the first woman to assume the presidency of the American Medical Association. She is also an associate professor in the Department of Family and Community Medicine at Texas A&M University Health Science Center College of Medicine.

Dr. Dickey joined the College of Medicine faculty in January 1996. In addition to teaching, she directs both the Family Practice Residency Foundation of the Brazos Valley and the Family Medicine Center in Bryan, Texas, which provides training for up to 18 family medicine residents.

Dr. Dickey assumed her first leadership role with the AMA in 1977 when she served as the first elected resident member of the Council on Medical Services. She was elected to the AMA Board of Trustees in 1989, serving as chair of the Board's Finance committee, as Vice Chair of the Board, and later as Chair. She was AMA commissioner to the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations from 1989-1995.

Dr. Dickey served as a member of the AMA's Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs from 1980-1989 and as the Council's Chair from 1984-1987. She has been a powerful voice for the AMA in its opposition to physician-assisted suicide and is often called upon to testify regarding the national debate on medical policy and other issues. She was also instrumental in helping to create and launch one of the Association's newest initiatives, the AMA's Patient Safety Foundation.

Dr. Dickey received both her M.D. and her residency training at the University of Texas Medical School at Houston, where she was a recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award. She also served as vice president of the Texas Medical Association from 1986-1987, is a fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians, and has been a certified Diplomate of the American Board of Family Practice since 1994.

I commend Dr. Dickey on her numerous achievements and her contributions to the medical community, and I congratulate her on becoming President of the AMA. She is a caring physician, an excellent teacher, an expert on health care policy and medical ethics, a respected role model, and a pathbreaking leader. I have no doubt that the future will bring even greater accomplishments that will benefit the nation and the practice of medicine.

HONORING MENTAL HEALTH
ADVOCATES

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 1998

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the outstanding mental health volun-

teers and professionals who are being honored by the National Mental Health Association at the 1998 Clifford Beard National Mental Health Conference. I urge my colleagues to join me in acknowledging these outstanding individuals for their efforts in the field of mental health. The Mental Health Association of Orange County, New York has shown great innovation in the field and were honored at this convention.

The National Mental Health Association is the only organization dedicated to addressing all aspects of mental health illness. NMHA works with a network of 330 nationwide affiliates to promote mental health and prevent mental health disorders, and achieve victory over mental illnesses through advocacy, education, research and service.

For their impressive innovation and creativity, the Mental Health Association in Orange County will receive the NMHA Innovation in Programming Award. The Invisible Children's Program works to support parents with a diagnosis of a mental illness in their efforts to be the best possible parent and to keep the family unit together. Studied by researchers throughout the world, this program has served nearly 500 individuals, lessened hospitalizations, and decreased the numbers of children placed in foster care.

The Mental Health Association in Orange County, Inc. seeks to promote the mental health and emotional well-being of Orange County residents, working toward the prevention of mental illnesses and developmental disabilities. In partnership with consumers and their families, MHA strives to fulfill its mission through direct services, public education, advocacy and responsiveness in times of community emergency.

The MHA is a private, non-profit organization which provided free mental health service to 22,000 Orange County residents by over 300 volunteers in 1997. Volunteers answer hotlines, provide companionship, direct services, and assist with fundraisers. The Orange County Mental Health Association is funded through state, county, and federal grants, and is a United Way member agency.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the accomplishments of the Orange County Mental Health Association. The members of this organization has provided invaluable services to the residents of our county, and is deserving of the honor being bestowed upon them.

CONDEMNING THE BRUTAL
KILLING OF MR. JAMES BYRD, JR.

SPEECH OF

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTIAN-GREEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 1998

Ms. CHRISTIAN-GREEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the tragedy which occurred last week in Jasper, Texas, the violent death of Mr. James Byrd, Jr., and I thank Representative WATERS for her leadership in calling this evening's special order.

Mr. Speaker, we are at the end of the 20th century and three decades past the vicious

acts of the sixties, and yet here we are in 1998 faced with the brutal reality that racism is not dead.

This crime on at least two counts—race and disability—is clearly a hate crime, as defined by Federal law. It was a heinous act that should alert the entire country that we as a nation do have a problem with differences, even today.

It is clear that racism still exists, and that it exists even in communities like ours where on the surface, different races, ethnicities and nationalities appear to be in harmony. As a member of the CBC, and a leader in the Virgin Islands, as well as the Nation, it is important that I re-commit my efforts to ridding our communities of all divisiveness, prejudice and intolerance. I call on all the leaders of this Nation, political or otherwise, to do the same.

TAX CODE TERMINATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 17, 1998

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 3097, the Tax Code Termination Act. This legislation may sound great on a bumper sticker but it has no place on the floor of the House of Representatives. This bill would simply terminate the tax code without any guarantee that it will be replaced by a simpler, fairer tax system.

I understand the frustration with the current tax system and wholeheartedly agree with those who believe it is overly complex and in desperate need of reform. We all know that the current tax code results in extreme bureaucratic costs, unintended loopholes, and headaches for every American taxpayer. But the answer is to reform the code. The answer is to hold substantive hearings on alternative proposals. The answer is to take responsible action to improve the system. This bill is neither responsible nor substantive and it is neither reform nor the answer.

As elected representatives we have a responsibility to govern. Rather than sitting down together and discussing alternative tax systems and their relative merits, this legislation takes the approach that if we set up a train wreck down the line, we are going to be forced to come together and make decisions. Well, we all remember how well the train wreck approach worked during the government shutdowns of 1995. Unfortunately, the consequences of this game of chicken are far more sweeping, putting at risk the entire American economy.

Mr. Speaker, we should not put our economy at risk for the sake of political posturing. We all know passage of this bill will not move us one step closer to real tax reform. Let us reject this legislation and instead begin a serious dialogue on how best to reform our Nation's tax code.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

1998 SPIRIT OF ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 1998

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the recipients of the Spirit of Achievement Award.

Each year, I recognize students in the 8th grade graduating classes who have excelled in the classroom, completed community service projects, and participated in extracurricular activities. These students are to be commended for their dedication, leadership, and community pride. They do represent the best and brightest of today's youth.

I am honored to announce the recipients of the 1998 Spirit of Achievement Award:

St. Camillus School: Katarzyna Zagorski and Gregory Jachymiak

Dore School: Timeka Cooley and Benjamin Ayala

St. Jane De Chantal School: Krystyna Kowalkowski and Andrew Wilk

Hearst School: Shemika Perkins and Arthur Bailey

St. Bruno School: Katarzyna Rogala and Matthew Chyba

Kinzie School: Christina Smith and Daniel Zajackowski

St. Daniel the Prophet School: Stephanie Berent and Samuel Pavelka

Byrne School: Tara Murphy and Nicholas Walker

St. Richard School: Alexandra Komonowski and Michael Poineau

Mark Twain School: Mary Gacek and Devin Miarka

St. Symphorosa School: Lauren Ewalt and Anthony Miller

Nathan Hale School: Adriana Misterka and Lukasz Kulesza

St. Rene School: Gina Augustyn and Daniel DeBias

Peck School: Armando Garcia and Richard Piwowarski

Our Lady of Snows School: Bryan Kaminski and Kevin Siedlecki

Edward School: Ewelina Kalinowska and Ali Panjwani

Gloria Dei School: Kaitlin Reedy and Bethany Giebel

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate these students on their graduation from grammar school. I salute them for their remarkable accomplishments in and out of the classroom. But most importantly, my best wishes to each and every recipient as they enter high school and encounter new and exciting challenges.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN R. THUNE

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 1998

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on roll call votes 193, 194, 195, in order to accompany the Vice President as we assessed the horrible damage suffered in Spen-

cer, South Dakota. As my colleagues may recall, a tornado struck this town of approximately 300 people, destroying nearly every structure in town. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on each of the votes.

TAX CODE TERMINATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 17, 1998

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3097, The Tax Code Termination Act. This bill will sunset the tax code by 2002 and force policy makers in Washington to implement a fair replacement.

April 15th should not be a day of anxiety and tension for our constituents. American businesses will spend 3.4 billion hours, and individuals will spend 1.7 billion hours, trying to comply with the tax code. That's equivalent to a staff of three million people working full time, year round, just on taxes. H.R. 3097 will hold Congress accountable for amending the code by December 31, 2002, just a short four years away.

The horror stories my constituents have shared with me on simply filing their EZForm 1040 are ludicrous. The EZForm 1040 is the IRS' "simplest" return, and yet it has 33 pages of instructions! Mr. Speaker, if the IRS has trouble understanding all the rules, subrules and instructions that go along with filing taxes, we cannot expect the American public to accomplish this without havoc and hassle.

This complicated system has made it extraordinarily difficult for people to fill out their tax forms, often resulting in the costly process of going to an accountant to file. That means they must pay more money just to find out how much more money they owe in taxes! Tax simplification would ease the paperwork burden for average taxpayers while reducing the government's cost of administering and collecting taxes.

Mr. Speaker, Washington created this problem and it is time Washington corrects it. I rise in strong support of H.R. 3097. We must end the IRS and its abominable tax code now.

GOOD ADVICE ON NORTH KOREA

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 1998

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, managing our relations with North Korea is one of the toughest challenges confronting American diplomats today.

Until a few years ago, North Korea seemed determined to move forward with a clandestine nuclear weapons program. In October 1994, the Clinton administration negotiated a landmark agreement with North Korea that has frozen North Korea's weapons program and holds out the promise of eliminating this threat to regional security and to our global non-proliferation goals.

A few days ago, the Los Angeles Times published an article written by James Laney, who was the U.S. Ambassador to South Korea until last year, and Jason Shaplen, an expert on North Korea, which lays out other steps the United States might take to manage our relationship with North Korea.

Given the importance of this issue, I insert this article for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD so that Members might have an opportunity to read the advice offered by two of our country's foremost Korean experts.

ENGAGING PYONGYANG IS ROUTE TO STABILITY—KOREA: THE U.S. NEEDS TO REASSURE THE NORTH THAT IT ISN'T SEEKING ITS DEMISE AND TO INCREASE CONTACTS

(By James Laney and Jason T. Shaplen)

South Korean president Kim Dae Jung's visit to the U.S. has put the focus on how to manage an increasingly desperate North Korea. Since assuming office in February, Kim has indicated that he intends to break the Cold War mentality that has stymied progress on the Korean peninsula for the past 45 years and implement a bold new policy toward the North—a policy based on engagement. The U.S. should support his initiative and take steps of its own to promote engagement that moves the peninsula, home to 37,000 U.S. troops, toward greater stability. There are three ways the U.S. can do this.

Issue a statement that Washington does not seek the North's collapse. In his inaugural address, Kim stated that his government, which sits only 30 miles from the DMZ, neither seeks to absorb the North nor actively promote its collapse. Washington, 7,000 miles farther away, should do the same.

Kim's call for reconciliation was not a rash statement made for political effect. It was based on the reality that pursuing a policy of collapse is futile. Barring unforeseen events, neither Kim Jong IL, the North's reclusive leader, nor his regime is likely to disappear in the near future. Even if the situation in the North should change, neighboring China is likely to offer aid that ensures its survival.

Stating clearly that the U.S. does not actively seek the North's collapse (while also recognizing that there is no moral equivalency between the North and South) represents the most sensible approach toward promoting stability. Confronted with a positive statement of this nature, it would be more difficult for North Korea's military to assume an aggressive posture.

Greater engagement with the North. Issuing a statement that the U.S. does not seek the North's collapse will only bring meaningful change if it is followed with a series of initiatives that seek to promote greater engagement, particularly in the economic arena.

To this end, the U.S., on a case-by-case basis, should lift economic sanctions imposed on North Korea as a result of the Trading With the Enemy Act. Allowing investment will force the North to learn more about our economic system and its benefits. One requirement that could be placed on lifting sanctions is that investment in the North must be in the form of U.S.-South Korean joint ventures.

The case for lifting sanctions has some strong proponents. Since his election, Kim Dae Jung has boldly increased the amount and type of investments South Korean firms can make in the North and has suggested that Washington lift sanctions.

Support for existing initiatives. Policy toward North Korea in the pre-Kim Dae Jung

era was not without success. Four-party peace talks to replace the truce that stopped the Korean War with a formal peace treaty began last year. The talks include North and South Korea, the U.S. and China. Shortly after these talks began, Pyongyang and Seoul resumed direct, bilateral dialogue in Beijing.

Similarly, the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization has been a success. Founded by the U.S., South Korea and Japan to implement portions of the landmark 1994 U.S.-North Korean Agreed Framework (in which Pyongyang agreed to scrap its suspect nuclear program in exchange for two proliferation-resistant nuclear reactors), KEDO has formed a professional relationship with the North. Working on the ground in North Korea and across the table from in New York, KEDO and North Korea have signed scores of internationally binding agreements that have allowed hundreds of South Koreans to travel to the North for the nuclear project. KEDO's prime contractor for the nuclear project, KEDO's prime contractor for the project is a South Korean firm. This means that at the height of construction, thousands of South Koreans will work side by side with thousands of North Koreans, building not only safer nuclear reactors, but greater understanding and, it is hoped, mutual confidence.

These and other initiatives signal an acknowledgment of necessity, if not desire by the North to engage. As such, they deserve the continued political and, in the case of KEDO, financial support of the administration and Congress.

Managing North Korea is a very difficult task. The situation remains precarious and deterrence must remain the foundation of the U.S.-South Korean approach to the North. That said, the combination of Pyongyang's increasing desperation and Kim Dae Jung's refreshing vision presents an opportunity that Washington and Seoul must not let pass.

H.R. 1151 AND CREDIT UNION CHARTER CONVERSIONS

HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 1998

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, this body acted swiftly and decisively to assure the availability of financial services for all Americans when it passed, by an 411-8 vote, H.R. 1151, the Credit Union Membership Access Act. This legislation preserves the right of millions of Americans to retain their membership in credit unions and to continue to benefit from credit union services. I am pleased to have been one of the authors of this important legislation.

In developing this bill, the Banking Committee went to great lengths to achieve consensus legislation that would protect consumers' choice of financial services, ensure proper regulatory supervision of credit unions and strengthen credit unions' long-standing commitment to serving all segments in their communities. As passed by the House, H.R. 1151 accomplishes all of these goals. However, the bill was recently amended during consideration by the Senate Banking Committee and now includes new provisions that are of great concern to me and demand the careful scrutiny of the House.

As passed by the House, Section 202 of H.R. 1151 requires the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA) to review its rules and regulations that govern the conversion of federal credit unions to mutual thrift institution charters. The intent is to assure that these rules do not permit unfair conversions and require objective disclosure of all relevant facts about any possible conversion to credit union members. However, the Senate Banking version of H.R. 1151 would arbitrarily and drastically revise NCUA's conversion rules. If enacted, the Senate bill changes would permit credit union conversions under rules that are far less stringent than the conversion regulations for any other type of financial institution. That would be absolutely unacceptable.

Under current NCUA regulations, if a credit union—as a member-owned financial cooperative—wishes to convert to a thrift charter, it must first obtain the approval of a majority of the credit union's members. This majority vote requirement is necessary to protect the interests of credit union members, but it is not so difficult as to pose a barrier to conversions. It is noteworthy that practically every credit union that has sought to convert to a mutual thrift charter—with one exception—has met this majority vote requirement and has successfully converted. The regulations now in place have worked well.

However, the Senate Banking Committee version of Section 202 would significantly rewrite these conversion regulations, making the process substantially easier and greatly scaling back necessary regulatory oversight. If enacted into law this provision would authorize the conversion of insured credit unions to mutual savings institutions without the prior approval of any regulator, either the National Credit Union Administration or the Office of Thrift Supervision.

In addition, the Senate proposal would permit conversions with only an affirmative vote of a simple majority of the members of the credit union who are voting in an election. Let me emphasize that this is not a majority of the people or families who use and depend upon the credit union, only a simple majority of those who actually vote. This could permit a small minority of credit union officers and members to change the charter of a credit union with minimal knowledge and participation of the majority of members whose financial security would be drastically affected. This may or may not be likely. But under these eased conversion standards, it certainly is very possible, and wrong.

An example of how stronger conversion criteria can work both to protect the interests of members while permitting change to meet market conditions can be found right outside my Congressional district in Western New York. Eastman Savings and Loan Association of Rochester, New York, was a New York chartered mutual savings and loan association that desired to convert to a credit union. ESL's own by-laws and the New York State banking laws impose a number of strict conversion requirements, both in terms of the number of eligible votes that had to be cast and the size of the majority required for approval. As a result, ESL had to meet one of two possible tests for conversion: 66.7% of the total possible votes had to be favorable or 75% of all votes cast

had to be favorable. ESL successfully made the conversion with an affirmative vote of 98.7% of votes cast. ESL's directors attribute the huge success of this conversion vote to the added preparation and articulation of the purpose and plan for conversion that was required to meet this higher approval standard.

If the House concurs in the Senate proposals to ease current conversion requirements for credit unions I believe we will be inviting abuse. Credit unions are non-profit institutions that are chartered to serve a public purpose. This purpose and ownership structures should not be changed without significant involvement of both federal regulators and the majority of affected members. Any standard for a credit union's conversion to another type of financial institution must continue to require, at a minimum, that a majority of the credit union's membership participate in a conversion vote and a majority of those voting approve the conversion and that the credit union regulator, NCUA, must continue to have authority over the conversion process. The public's interest and the interests of members and their families necessitate this minimal level of involvement by both regulators and credit union members.

TRIBUTE TO SHERIFF STEVE
MAGARIAN

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 1998

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Fresno County Sheriff Steve Magarian. Sheriff Magarian has been an inspirational role model to the law enforcement here in the 19th Congressional District.

As Chief Executive Officer for the County of Fresno Sheriff's Department, Sheriff Magarian leads, directs and manages a highly sophisticated, diversified and complex organization. Operating throughout a 6,000-square mile area, he holds responsibility for meeting the needs of residents throughout Fresno County, with an annual Department budget in excess of 560 million dollars and personnel of approximately 1,000.

In his vital role, Sheriff Magarian has earned the public's trust, confidence, and support. Through his hard work, he established the department's primary mission. It is a mission that upholds fairness, justice and responsiveness to public needs and feelings while enforcing the law and protecting life and property.

Sheriff Magarian's leadership has guided the efforts and demeanor of the Department to conform with the high standards expected by the public. In administering the Patrol, Detective, Jail and Administrative divisions, his underlying commitment is to maintain the integrity of the constitutional rights as established by the framers of our Constitution.

Sheriff Magarian graduated from California State University, Fresno in 1972. In 1974 he received his Masters Degree in Criminology with distinction.

Sheriff Magarian has worked hard in the law enforcement arena. He created and implemented a county-wide narcotic suppression

program through acquisition of a \$500,000 state grant. This grant has been increased to \$900,000 and approved for its eight consecutive year. He also developed a highly successful Tactical Unit within the Patrol Division which targeted property crimes and arrested dozens of criminals. At a cost of only \$35,000, this Unit successfully recovered several hundred thousand dollars in stolen property and returned property to its legal owners. As noted above these are just some of the contributions Mr. Magarian has accomplished.

Sheriff Magarian's 30-year career with Fresno County Sheriff's Department has been marked by significant law enforcement and management experience.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have Sheriff Magarian as a law enforcement in the 19th Congressional District. I congratulate him on his lifetime of accomplishments and ask my colleagues to join me in wishing him every success on his future endeavors.

RECOGNITION OF O.D. WYATT
HIGH SCHOOL BOYS STATE
TRACK TEAM

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 1998

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to your attention the remarkable efforts and acclamations of the track team from the Chaparrals of O.D. Wyatt High School in Fort Worth, Texas. These fine young men not only won the University Interscholastic League state championships, but left all their fellow competitors behind. Headlining the team is senior sprinter Demario Wesley, who was individually honored by the Fort Worth Star Telegram as the male track athlete of the year. Mr. Wesley placed first in all three events he entered. Just one year after trying to run on an ankle with bone spurs, Wesley won the 100 meter dash in a time of 10.23 seconds, the 200 meter run in a time of 20.74 as well as anchoring the 4x100 meter relay. With Wesley taking the leading position, Wyatt won the state competition by a 26 point margin. Wyatt's most impressive accomplishment came in the 4x100 meter relay victory when Milton Wesley, Monte Clopton, Michael Franklin and Demario Wesley broke their own national record. I would like to recognize the extraordinary efforts of this exemplary team as well as their coach Lee Williams whose hard work has inspired his team to victory. These young men have not only set a standard for future Wyatt boys track teams, they have proven that next years stars are currently in our schools and in our homes. Mr. Speaker, let us join in congratulating O.D. Wyatt High School on their accomplishments at the state track championships.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 1998

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall no. 243, I was inadvertently detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 1998

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, due to a necessary visit to the doctor's office Thursday morning, I was absent from the chamber during rollcall votes 226, 227, and 228. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall 226, "yes" on rollcall 227 and "no" on rollcall 228.

A BILL TO AMEND THE INDIAN
EMPLOYMENT, TRAINING AND
RELATED SERVICES DEMONSTRATION
ACT OF 1992

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 1998

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce legislation to amend the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Demonstration Act of 1992. My legislation will provide for the transfer of services and personnel from the Bureau of Indian Affairs to the Office of Self-Governance and to emphasize the need for job creation in Alaska native communities and on Indian reservations.

Since its enactment in 1992, the "477" program of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Demonstration Act, has become one of the few successful economic development programs in Indian country. This program was implemented to help tribes address severe problems in employment and poverty faced in their communities. It allows tribal governments to consolidate formula funded employment, training and related programs into one streamlined, efficient program, which enable tribes to reduce administrative time and costs, and increase services to their members. Alaska tribes have informed me that they have reported great savings in administering employment and training programs through consolidation of application and reporting requirements.

On October 9, 1997, Senator CAMPBELL introduced S. 1279 and on this same date, Senator MURKOWSKI introduced S. 1281, which proposed amendments to the "477" program, and included Alaska-specific provisions. On May 14, 1998, the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs held a committee oversight hearing to discuss the provisions of the program. S. 1279, as amended, incorporates several

provisions of S. 1281, and makes other technical corrections. The Senate Indian Affairs Committee held a mark-up of their two bills and favorably reported S. 1279 out of Committee.

My legislation is identical to S. 1279, as reported out of committee, and would at long last address the extreme unemployment in Alaska native communities and to provide young Alaska natives with both educational and job skills so they can fully participate and contribute to Alaska's economy. The bill I am introducing today will lead to further economic growth and more efficient use of Indian job training dollars. I urge my colleagues to support my bill

RECOGNIZING WHEELING AND
ROLLING MEADOWS HIGH
SCHOOLS' PARTICIPATION IN
THE CAPITOL HILL ROBOTICS INVITATIONAL

HON. JOHN EDWARD PORTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 1998

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to rise today to recognize the students and teachers from Wheeling and Rolling Meadows High Schools in Illinois who have been selected to participate here today on Capitol Hill in the "Robotics Invitational." These students and teachers are part of a national robotics program that is supported by the FIRST Foundation—For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology. This creative program engages young people in science and engineering through fun activities that have practical applications. Earlier this year, over 9,000 students, representing 200 teams participated in regional contests that led to finals at the Disney Epcot Center in Florida. Working with identical boxes of raw materials and credit for the purchase of additional supplies, these teams set out to design a robot that could play ball like Sammy Sosa. I am proud to say that the robot designed by the Wheeling and Rolling Meadow could play in the Majors and I am sure that they will do very well in today's competition.

Science and engineering is an extremely important component of a high school education. Excellence in these fields has helped to propel the United States to its leadership role in the world today. While the *Mars Pathfinder* was developed from slightly more than a small box of raw materials, the individuals who helped to accomplish this tremendous feat most likely had their interest sparked by engineering competitions similar to the one on Capitol Hill today.

Best of luck to Wheeling, Rolling Meadow and the other teams in today's competition and I hope that these young people will continue their education and even pursue careers in the exciting fields of science and engineering.

PRAISE FOR ENGINEERED SOLUTIONS, AND THE STUDENTS FROM THE STEVENS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AND HOBOKEN HIGH SCHOOL

HON. STEVE R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 1998

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to join my colleagues in paying tribute to the 200 high school teams across the country who participated in a robotics competition put on by FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology). I would especially like to recognize the team from Northern New Jersey comprised of Engineered Solutions from Ft. Lee, New Jersey, and high school students from the Stevens Institute of Technology and Hoboken High School.

This competition underscores the work of FIRST, a foundation which partners high school students with engineers from corporations and small businesses, scientists from NASA and the military, and mentors from world class universities. The unique FIRST competition allows students to get hands-on experience in developing cutting-edge design and manufacturing processes in an energetic, competitive environment. This program represents a unique method for getting students excited about science and technology.

I commend the excellent work done by the students on the Engineered Solutions/Stevens Institute of Technology/Hoboken High School team. And I wish the students from the other 200 teams across the country all the best.

IN HONOR OF THE HERNDON ROTARY CLUB'S CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 1998

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise and pay tribute to Peggy Vetter, the thirty-third recipient of the Herndon Rotary Club's Citizen of the Year Award. For the past twenty-two years, she has devoted her time and effort to extensive volunteer and leadership activities throughout Herndon.

In 1976, shortly after moving to the area, Peggy founded the Herndon Observer newspaper. The Observer was one of the first newspapers in the growing area. While the newspaper was initially published just twice monthly, it allowed for the town and its citizens to communicate and gave everyone a voice in the community. Peggy sold the paper in 1990, but continues to report on Herndon government as well as its people and events.

Peggy's involvement in the community and its many facets did not stop there. While working at her paper she supported the community's youth by hiring high school students as correspondents and office helpers. In addition, she supported fund-raising efforts for youth sports, the Boy Scouts, and the Girl Scouts.

Her skills with community fundraisers led her to chair the Rotary Club's annual efforts on behalf of the Embry Rucker Shelter, which has collected thousands of dollars' worth of clothing and supplies for those temporarily homeless. She participated in a wide range of activities with the Rotary Club, from cleaning up Spring Branch to ringing bells for the Salvation Army to acting as a Herndon Festival Marshal.

On her own, she has volunteered at her children's schools, served for five years as a Cub Scout den mother, and helped found the American Women's Club in Kingston, Jamaica. In addition, she served on the Herndon Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors for many years. She was honored in 1996 as Woman of the Year by the Herndon Business and Professional Woman's Club.

Peggy lived in several places and traveled extensively before settling in Herndon. She was born in Valpariso, Indiana, went to high school in Niles, Michigan, and then attended St. Mary's College at Notre Dame. She started her career as a journalist during World War II, serving as a reporter and editor for the Niles Daily Star. Following her marriage to her husband Don, she served as an assistant society editor of the Lansing State Journal and a capital correspondent for the Detroit Free Press and Times.

Her husband's job with Pan Am Airlines led her and her three children to travel around the world to places such as Guam, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Guatemala, Miami, before coming to the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area in 1974.

Mr. Speaker, I know that my colleagues join me in honoring and thanking Peggy Vetter for all of her hard work to improve the Herndon community. Her spirit and dedication to public service is truly outstanding, and we congratulate her for being named the Herndon Rotary Club's Citizen of the Year.

CONGRATULATIONS TO FALLON HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 1998

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize twenty-one years of dedicated service and commitment to the health of thousands of patients across the state of Massachusetts. Fallon Healthcare System celebrates not only twenty-one years of operation, but also marks this event by the enrollment of their 200,000th member. I am proud to play a role in recognizing Fallon here today as they play a vital part in the economy of the region and are a critical provider of care to the community.

Fallon was founded in 1977 as the first Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) in Central Massachusetts and, after just two decades, was twice named one of the best HMOs in America by US News and World Report. This organization has also been recognized by Newsweek, The Wall Street Journal, and many other national and local advocacy groups, publications, and health care specialists.

Fallon has been a leader in the community with efforts to provide health care to citizens both inside and outside of their health plan. Their efforts to assist the elderly, the poor, children, and to reach out to the community are all signs of their commitment to the health of the citizens in Massachusetts.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating this important occasion in the history of Fallon Healthcare System.

THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF FAIRFIELD, ESSEX
COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 1998

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the people of the Township of Fairfield, County of Essex, New Jersey as they commemorate the 200th anniversary of the incorporation of their community.

In the early years, shortly after Connecticut settlers founded Newark in 1666, a group moved out to the northwest and settled in what is now Fairfield. The settlers bought the land, known as Fairfield, from the Indians. In 1701, eight proprietors from England came together and formed the East Jersey Society and purchased a 13,500-acre tract of land from the top of the First Watchung Mountain to the Passaic River, which was patented Horseneck. They built their homes on high ground and fed their stock from hay cut in the Bit Piece and Little Piece Meadows. The New Jersey State Legislature created Caldwell Township. The boundaries were drawn from the county line to Mt. Pleasant Avenue, Livingston, and from the Passaic River to the top of the first Mountain. The twenty-eight mile township was named for Reverend James Caldwell, who was pastor of the Presbyterian Church where St. Aloysius R.C. Church, Caldwell now stands.

On April 8, 1799, the first town meeting was held and nine school districts were established. Also, at the meeting a \$200 budget was voted to defray the expenses of the school districts. The Fairfield district's first school antedated the formation of Caldwell Township, a school that was built just before or immediately following the Revolutionary War. Classes were instructed in the Dutch language. In 1957, a new school was built at the intersection of Horseneck and Fairfield Roads. In 1892, the first town to break away from Caldwell Township in a dispute over road taxes was the Borough of Caldwell. This marked the beginning of a succession of towns including, Verona, North Caldwell, Essex Fells, West Caldwell, Roseland and Cedar Grove. This left Caldwell Township which is now Fairfield with an area of 10.4 square miles. By the end of the century, Fairfield would be faced with more seceding territories.

With the invention of the automobile came the necessity for a speed limit in Fairfield. On December 4, 1899, an ordinance was passed designating a speed limit of 8 miles per hour. A couple of years later, the speed limit was in-

creased to 10 miles per hour (five miles while turning corners) for any horse, mule or vehicle. The ordinance also indicated that any wheeled vehicle must have a bell or gong of sufficient power to give warning of an approach. In 1919, it came to the attention of the Township committees that the Passaic River had become a popular recreational area and the committee found it necessary to make it unlawful to bathe in the waters of Caldwell Township without being clothed. Other problems involving the river had become more serious. The lowlands have always been subjected to flooding. In fact, the Township's flood control program dates back to 1844.

The 1930's saw Fairfield begin to evolve from a farm community to a more suburban community. As the population continued to increase over the 1,000 person mark, an organized police department was established in 1937. The year 1940 saw industrial development move into Fairfield with the construction of the Curtis Wright airplane factory. In the 1960's a campaign for a municipal name change was underfoot. As the community's population continued to boom it was apparent that the Township was in need of its own postal facility. However, the Township of Caldwell found itself unable to obtain a facility under that name because of the confusion with Caldwell Borough, the post office through which the community was served. As a consequence, Mayor Stephen Szabo suggested that the municipality again become known as Fairfield. The idea was quickly endorsed by other local officials and from most of the community.

Mr. Speaker, my fellow colleagues, please join me in congratulating the Township of Fairfield and its citizens as they celebrate this milestone.

SPORTSMEN'S MEMORIAL ACT OF
1998

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 1998

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduced the Sportsmen's Memorial Act of 1998. This legislation will honor this Nation's sportsmen by initiating a process through which a memorial will be established in, or around, the District of Columbia.

I think everyone will agree that the conservation of the Nation's fish and wildlife resources is of critical importance to all of our citizens.

Many government agencies have been created to manage our natural resources. In addition, many national, state and local associations have been established to support conservation efforts.

However, standing at the forefront of these collective efforts are sportsmen, whose financial support to the Nation's fish and wildlife conservation efforts number in the tens of billions of dollars.

Sportsmen have been the financial and philosophical backbone of successful fish and wildlife management throughout the 20th century.

The support of these individuals has allowed fish and wildlife managers to protect and restore millions of acres of habitat, engage in quality research on a multitude of fish and wildlife species, and actively manage our natural resources on a day-to-day basis.

In addition, sportsmen, through their purchase of state hunting and fishing licenses, stamps, and tags, have contributed billions of dollars directly to wildlife agencies.

This support has allowed fish and wildlife managers to achieve some of the greatest success stories.

For all of these reasons, I believe it is appropriate that we honor these men and women with a memorial in the National Capital Region.

I encourage all of my colleagues to join me in honoring the sportsmen of this Country by cosponsoring the Sportsmen Memorial Act of 1998.

JOINT HEARING—SENATE LABOR
AND HUMAN RESOURCES AND
HOUSE COMMERCE COMMITTEE;
ORGAN DONATION ALLOCATION

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 1998

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend Chairmen JEFFORDS and BLILEY for conducting hearings on the problem of organ allocation. As they well known, organs have not been allocated in a fair way to benefit patients in the past and we are in a position now to take a stand for patients and for fairness.

This is a simple issue of fairness and quality. If you are a patient in need of a transplant and you live in Tennessee, the average time you spend on the waiting list is about 21 days. If you live in my part of the country, the San Francisco Bay Area, the average waiting time for that same patient is over 300 days.

In every part of the country, the Cleveland Plain Dealer reports that minority candidates wait longer than their white counterparts for available organs.

Is this fair? When my good friend Congressman MOAKLEY was diagnosed with hepatitis B and was in need for a liver transplant, his doctors told him to leave Boston and move to Virginia to increase his chances of obtaining a liver.

Fairness is half of this fight. Quality is the other. There is a lot of money to be made in organ transplants. Too many centers have been opened to increase the prestige and the profits of a local hospital—and not because they do a good job. In fact, in general the lower volume small transplant centers have poorer outcomes than the high volume transplant centers. The fact is, having a transplant center has become the equivalent of health pork. Many of these centers are like the excess projects in the recently-passed highway bill: centers without a justification. But unlike highway pork, these centers often end up killing patients because they do not do as good a job as the high volume centers. I really think it is immoral for centers who have a lower success rate than the high volume centers to

be fighting the Department's regulation. Their actions are a disgrace to the Hippocratic Oath.

The proliferation of poor quality transplant centers not only wastes lives, it wastes money. The United States has 289 hospitals doing transplants—and that is an enormous commitment of capital. I have read that a hospital has to invest about \$10 million to be able to do heart transplants.

These proliferating costs are part of what drives health inflation in the United States and part of what places such huge budget pressures on Medicare. Concentrating transplants in fewer, high-quality, life-saving centers would allow us to save hundreds of millions of dollars in the years to come. The Department's regulation gives us the potential to focus on Centers of Excellence where we not only save lives, but can obtain economies of scale necessary to preserve the Medicare program.

If my colleagues are serious about putting patients first, what is so onerous about a system that proposes to base transplant decisions on common medical criteria on a medical need list—not geography, not income, not even levels of insurance coverage—just pure professional medical opinion and medical need.

This hearing is about putting patients first—not putting transplant bureaucracies first. I can think of no better way to put patients first than to make the system fair for all. I urge the Committees to support the Department's regulations.

A BILL TO AMEND THE INDIAN HEALTH CARE IMPROVEMENT ACT

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 1998

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce legislation with my distinguished colleague, Mr. DALE KILDEE of Michigan, to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCA). In 1988, pursuant to Section 405 of the IHCA, the Indian Health Service (IHS) was directed to select up to four tribally-operated IHS hospitals to participate in a demonstration program to test methods for the direct billing for and receipt of payment for health services provided to Medicare and Medicaid eligible patients. This was established to determine whether collections would be increased through direct involvement of tribal health care providers versus the current practice which required billings and collections be routed through the IHS.

In 1996, Congress extended this demonstration program until 1998. This extension allowed Congress additional time with which to consider whether to permanently authorize the collection program. The law also required the IHS to submit a report to Congress on the demonstration program on September 30, 1996, the same day the program was originally to expire. The report was to evaluate whether the objectives were fulfilled and whether direct billing should be allowed for other tribal providers who operate an IHS facility. This report is still undergoing Departmental

review, however, it is our understanding that the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Indian Health Service are very pleased with the success of the demonstration program.

All four participants have reported a dramatic increase of collections for Medicare and Medicaid services, which provided additional revenues for IHS programs at these facilities. In addition, there has been a significant reduction in the turn-around time between billing and receipt of payment and an increase in efficiency by being able to track their own billings and collections in order to act quickly to resolve questions and problems.

On behalf of my constituents, the Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation and the South East Area Regional Health Corporation, I am introducing this legislation to provide permanent status for the demonstration program established by Section 405 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, to provide a "grandfather" clause for the current four demonstration participants to enable them to continue their programs without interruption, and to expand eligibility for the program to tribes or tribal organizations who operated or are served by an IHS hospital or clinic.

ALASKA NATIVE AND AMERICAN INDIAN DIRECT REIMBURSEMENT ACT OF 1998

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 1998

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to urge my colleagues to support legislation I am introducing today with Resources Committee Chairman YOUNG that would permanently authorize and expand the Medicare and Medicaid direct collections demonstration program under section 405 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act.

The Medicare and Medicaid direct collections demonstration program currently allows four tribal health care operators who operate an entire Indian Health Service hospital or clinic to bill directly and collect Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements instead of having to deal with the bureaucracy at the Indian Health Service. The current participants are the Bristol Bay Health Corporation and the Southeast Regional Health Corporation in Alaska, the Mississippi Choctaw Health Center, and the Choctaw Tribe of Oklahoma.

The demonstration program has been fully tested over the past decade. All of the participants—and the Department of Health and Human Services—report that the program is a great success. In fact, the program has: significantly reduced the turnaround time between billing and the receipt of payment for Medicare and Medicaid services; increased the administrative efficiency of the participating facilities by empowering them to track their own Medicare and Medicaid billings and collections; and improved collections for Medicare and Medicaid services, which in turn have provided badly-needed revenues for Indian and Alaska Native health care.

In 1996, when the demonstration program was about to expire, Congress extended it

through fiscal year 1998. This extension has allowed the participants to continue their direct billing and collection efforts and has given Congress additional time to consider whether to authorize the program permanently.

Because the demonstration program is again set to expire on September 30, Congress must act quickly to recognize the benefits of the demonstration program by enacting legislation that simply would permanently authorize it and expand it to other eligible tribal participants.

The Alaska Native and American Indian Direct Reimbursement Act of 1998 is an identical companion bill to legislation introduced in the Senate on April 29 and sponsored by Senators MURKOWSKI, LOTT, BAUCUS, and INHOFE. The Indian Health Service and the Health Care Financing Administration support it.

I hope that my colleagues also will support this important legislation and that the Resources Committee and this House will favorably consider it as soon as possible so this successful program can continue to increase the administrative efficiency of participating Alaska native and American Indian health care facilities.

HONORING AUDIOVOX AND TOSHIBA: A VERY SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 1998

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a very special and unique relationship between the well-known Japanese company, Toshiba, and a great American company based on Long Island, Audiovox Corporation. For the last 14 years they have shared an incredible partnership in cellular phone manufacturing and distribution, which has led to this day, during which we are marking the 7 millionth cellular phone that has derived from this very special relationship. In fact, I have taken the liberty of proclaiming this day, "Audiovox-Toshiba Day" in the 5th District of New York.

At a ceremony today at Audiovox's headquarters in the town of Happaug in Suffolk County on Long Island, Toshiba will be presenting a gold phone to mark this remarkable milestone. Mr. Takao Kishida, General Manager of the Mobile Communications Division of Toshiba and Mr. Kunio Horiuchi, Department Manager of the division, will be presenting the phone on behalf of Pizo Nishimuro, President of Toshiba. Accepting this unique award on behalf of Audiovox will be two very good close friends of mine, Phillip Christopher, President and CEO of Audiovox Communications Corporation (ACC), and John J. Shalam, Chairman of Audiovox.

Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned before, the nature of the relationship has been Toshiba manufacturing the phones and Audiovox marketing them in North America. I'm sure my colleagues realize that there are countless numbers of companies in the world who manufacture cellular phones. However, over half of the phones that Audiovox has sold over the

course of almost 15 years have come from Toshiba's production line, and, Audiovox officials do not hesitate for one minute to say that Toshiba is the best—based on their quality, their integrity and character, and their loyalty to this special relationship. That's why I think it's so important to highlight this special relationship as an example of what can come of the very special bond that has existed over the past 50 years between the United States and Japan. Regardless of the differences we may encounter in our general trade relationship, I wanted to take a moment to recognize the unique partnership between Toshiba and Audiovox, and the remarkable achievements that they have reached together. This is an exemplary union that should be held up to the highest regard, to demonstrate to others the opportunities that exist between our countries and to encourage other companies to engage in similar ventures.

Trade is so very much a critical component of U.S. policy, particularly in this day and age as we become more of a global village. Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, please join with me today as we honor two truly energetic and viable companies who have chosen to engage in a partnership that has only served to complement each companies' strengths as well as continuing to highlight the special bond between the U.S. and Japan.

A TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL J. KANE

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 1998

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, writing of Sir Thomas More, Robert Whittinton observed that he was "a man for all seasons." As I pay tribute today to my good friend, Michael Kane, on the occasion of his retirement from the Monson Public Schools system, the same sentiment comes to mind.

Though words cannot fairly describe Mike Kane's philanthropic approach to life, I would like to detail some of the ways in which he has put his talents to use to serve others. Mike Kane began his career as a Science and Mathematics Teacher at South Main Street School in Monson. He went on to be Vice Principal of Monson Junior-Senior High School and later Principal of that same school. Totaling 37 years, Mike's career was built around a most noble pursuit—the education of our youth.

While committed to instilling the importance of academic pursuits in the young minds that he has reached, Mike Kane has also consistently stressed in his teaching and by example the unique role that athletic challenges play in one's development. Mike's years as high school Baseball and Girl's Basketball coach as well as his involvement and leadership with the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association Basketball Tournament Committee and Sectional Seeding Committee for more than 25 years epitomizes this deeply held belief.

In addition to his dedication to these endeavors, Mike Kane has also been seriously involved with the National Foundation of the

March of Dimes. In both the Monson and Pioneer Valley chapters of this organization, Mike has served as Chairman during his tenure of membership and has also been on the Pioneer Valley's Board of Directors. Donating his time to such a worthy cause offers further testament to the quality of Mike Kane's character.

An active member of the Massachusetts Teachers' Association and the National Education Association, Mike Kane has brought to the forefront of state and national organizations the same innovative ideas that he has shared with students, teachers, and administrators in Monson for 37 years.

The hats worn by Mike Kane—Teacher, Principal, Coach, Volunteer, and Craftsman—are those of one singular man committed to education, to athletics, to service, and to excellence. I am proud not only to honor and to recognize his achievements today, but to know him through his good work.

CONDEMNING THE BRUTAL KILLING OF MR. JAMES BYRD, JR.

SPEECH OF

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 1998

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus and Americans of goodwill throughout the country tonight in condemning the brutal, heinous murder of James Byrd, Jr. in Jasper, Texas on June 6, by a gang of lawless thugs.

Violence and hatred in our society hurt us all.

Yet as we gather today to denounce this brutal murder, I am hopeful that in Mr. Byrd's memory that we as a nation will go forth and affirm that we are still committed to justice, and to equality in our country.

We've seen too much hatred, too much killing. We must let the death of James Byrd, Jr. make us better, not bitter.

I am hopeful that just as the citizens of Jasper, both black and white, have come together in a remarkable fashion and chosen redemption over retaliation, that this tragic event will serve as a catalyst to bring all America together truly as one America.

THE IMPORTED FOOD SAFETY ACT OF 1998

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 1998

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Imported Food Safety Act of 1998 which will give the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) new authority and much needed resources to protect American consumers from unsafe imported food. I am very pleased to have 15 of my Democratic colleagues on the Commerce Committee joining me as original cosponsors in introducing this important legislation. It is my sincere hope that

many more Members, including my Republican colleagues, will soon join us in responding to consumer concerns over the safety of the food we eat.

U.S. food safety standards are among the highest in the world. In spite of this fact, millions of Americans each year are unknowing victims of illness attributable to food-borne bacteria, viruses, parasites, and pesticides. According to a recent General Accounting Office (GAO) report, as many as 33 million Americans each year become ill from the foods they eat. We also know that many cases of food-borne illness are not reported. GAO, therefore, estimates the total number of food-borne illnesses to exceed 81 million each year. Among these cases, more than 9,100 result in death. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service estimates "the costs for medical treatment and productivity losses associated with these illnesses and deaths range from \$6.6 billion to \$37.1 billion."

Increased media attention on food-borne illness outbreaks has turned, once unfamiliar scientific names, into household words. Recently, an outbreak of food poisoning from salmonella in cereal was reported in 11 states. E. Coli 0157 has been found in apple juice and hamburger, cyclospora in raspberries, Listeria in ice cream, Cryptosporidium in water, and viral Hepatitis A in frozen strawberries served in a school lunch program.

The population of our country is growing and changing. Exposure to food-borne pathogens is particularly dangerous for the most vulnerable members of the public, such as children, pregnant women, the elderly, those with HIV/AIDS, cancer and other persons whose immune systems are compromised.

The number of food-borne illness outbreaks has increased in recent years, and so has the volume of foreign food imports coming into our country. In its recent report, GAO said that the Federal government cannot ensure that imported foods are safe. The FDA, itself has acknowledged that it is "in danger of being overwhelmed by the volume of products reaching U.S. ports."

The volume of imported food has doubled over the last five years, while the frequency of FDA inspections has declined sharply during this same period of time. More than 38 percent of the fresh fruit and more than 12 percent of the fresh vegetables that Americans now consume each year are imported.

Most Americans would be alarmed to learn that just a small fraction, less than two percent, of the 2.7 million food entries coming into this country are ever inspected or tested by the FDA. Even fewer, only 0.2 percent of food entries, are tested for microbiological contamination.

In a recent letter, however, FDA said that it "has no assignments for monitoring imported fresh fruits and vegetables for presence of pathogenic microorganisms." In fiscal year 1997, all of the 251 microbiological samples FDA collected that year, were in response to food-borne illness outbreaks. None were for preventive detection.

The outrageous and wholly intolerable conclusion one must draw is that American consumers are being used as guinea pigs.

FDA has stated that there is a "critical need for rapid, accurate methods to detect, identify

and quantify pathogens. . . ." The testing methods currently being used at FDA can take up to two weeks to isolate and identify pathogens in food samples. What is needed are quicker detection methods, or "real time tests" that yield results in approximately 60 minutes, to identify pathogenic contamination, especially at busy ports of entry. But currently, FDA is not funding research to develop these tests, nor do they have plans to develop these tests in the future.

It is clear that FDA is lacking the necessary resources to regulate the global food marketplace. Unlike the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), FDA does not have the authority to deny product entry at the border or to permit imports only from agency approved suppliers in foreign countries. The GAO reported that FDA's procedures for ensuring that unsafe imported foods do not reach consumers are vulnerable to abuse by unscrupulous importers. According to GAO, some importers ignore FDA's orders to return, to destroy or to re-export their shipments. By the time FDA decides to inspect shipments, in some cases, the importers have already marketed the goods.

In response to this crisis, the President has said FDA needs increased resources, more authority, and improved research and technology. The Imported Food Safety Act of 1998 addresses each of these points.

This legislation provides additional resources in the form of a modest user fee on imported foods to increase the number of FDA inspectors at ports of entry in the U.S. Proceeds from the user fee would also be used for a "Manhattan Project" to develop "real time" tests (results within 60 minutes) to detect E. Coli, salmonella, and other microbial and pesticide contaminants in imported food. Without tests that produce quick results, there is no way FDA inspectors can detect pathogens in imported food before it is distributed to consumers. Finally, the legislation gives FDA authority, comparable to that of the USDA with respect to imported poultry and meat, to stop unsafe food at the border and to assure that its ultimate disposition is not America's dinner table.

The Imported Food Safety Act of 1998 focuses on these three key areas: authority; research; and resources.

INCREASED REGULATORY AUTHORITY FOR FDA

The recent GAO study of the imported food safety program points out that: "In some cases, when the Food and Drug Administration decides to inspect shipments, the importers have already marketed the goods." "[W]hen the [FDA] finds contamination and calls for importers to return shipments to the Customs Service for destruction or reexport, importers ignore this requirement or substitute other goods for the original shipment. Such cases of noncompliance seldom result in a significant penalty."

FDA currently lacks the authority to impose criminal penalties on importers that circumvent FDA's import procedures. FDA reliance on the importers' bond agreement with Customs, has left the agency without an adequate economic deterrent to the distribution of adulterated products. Current penalties, namely the forfeiture of a bond, are inadequate and are regarded as a cost of doing business. Under the

current bond system, GAO reports that "even if the maximum damages had been collected, the importer would have still made a profit on the sale of the shipment." This bill would subject such behavior to tough penalties that will be a strong deterrent to circumventing the current regulatory system. These penalties are the same as those used by USDA in their imported meat inspection program.

The bill would also prohibit an importer from commercially distributing foreign-produced food, without FDA approval. An importer whose food is refused entry by FDA would be responsible for the disposition of re-exportation of such food products. Failing to do so would make the importer subject to penalties under the Federal Food Drug and Cosmetic Act.

DEVELOPMENT OF "REAL-TIME" LABORATORY METHODS TO TEST FOR PATHOGENS TO BE USED IN BORDER INSPECTIONS

FDA wrote in a January 16, 1998 letter that there is a "critical need for rapid, accurate methods to detect, identify and quantify pathogens in a wide variety of environments . . ."

The methods for detecting a wide range of bacterial, viral, and parasitic pathogens in or on fresh fruits and vegetables are limited . . ."

This bill would provide additional funds for research and development on test methods to detect E. coli, salmonella and other disease-causing microorganisms and pesticide residues in imported food, as it enters the U.S. and before it is distributed to the public. The bill requires FDA to devote resources to developing such tests within three years of the date of enactment. This funding will be in addition to FDA appropriated funds and will be collected through a modest, \$20 per entry, user fee on imported food.

USER FEE FOR IMPORTED FOOD

This legislation also provides for a modest user fee to be paid to the FDA for each entry of foreign food imported into the U.S. It is clear that the current Majority in Congress is not prepared to appropriate funds needed to protect Americans from unsafe food. Funds for the President's food safety initiative were recently zeroed out at the Senate Appropriations Committee and in the House, the President's initiative received only a token funding level.

A user fee on imported food, like the user fee in the Imported Food Safety Act, would ensure that FDA has much needed resources to protect American consumers from unsafe imported food. The proceeds from this user fee would be used to fund much needed research efforts on "real time" test methods for detecting pathogenic contaminants in food and to fund increased FDA efforts to inspect foreign fresh and packaged foods coming into the country.

The U.S. imports approximately 2.7 million entries of food each year that are valued at approximately \$36 billion. The bill provides that a per entry fee of no more than \$20 would be imposed on food imports. This fee is not based on the value of a shipment of imported food. Instead, it is an amount based on the cost of processing and approving food imports, including the cost of sampling and testing.

COUNTRY-OF-ORIGIN LABELING

Finally, this bill requires country-of-origin labeling of all imported foods. Restaurants and

other prepared-food service establishments are exempted from complying with the country-of-origin labeling requirement. We often forget that the toughest, and many times the best, regulators are America's consumers. This bill gives consumers information that allows them to make informed choices with respect to the conditions under which the food they buy is produced.

Maintaining public confidence in the safety of the food supply is of paramount importance. People must be confident that the food they purchase and provide for themselves and their families is safe. Country-of-origin labeling will empower consumers, giving them greater information on which to base their food purchasing decisions. This is especially important in view of the now all too frequent outbreaks of food-borne illness.

We need to focus our efforts on eradicating food-borne illness in this country. As our consumption of imported food continues to grow, we must find ways of ensuring that foreign produced food meets our health and safety standards. It simply is no longer acceptable for government to blame its failures on the increased volume of imports or the fact that detection methods are not available.

FDA must be given the authority, the resources, and the responsibility to ensure that foreign produced foods get to the consumers of this country, if, and only if, they meet U.S. health and safety standards.

The Imported Food Safety Act of 1998 would give FDA, for the first time, the authority, resources, and responsibility it needs to tackle this problem in a meaningful way. This is good public health policy, and the American people deserve no less. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT AGREES TO REVIEW ACCUSATIONS AGAINST INDEPENDENT COUNSEL STARR

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 1998

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, Attorney General Janet Reno's announcement today that allegations of improper conduct by Independent Counsel Ken Starr have been referred to the Justice Department's Office of Professional Responsibility is an appropriate first step. Over the past few days, serious questions concerning the behavior of Mr. Starr and his staff have been raised. On the one hand, a respected journalist, Steven Brill, says that Mr. Starr admitted leaking grand jury information. For his part, Mr. Starr does not deny meeting with reporters on an "off the record basis." Instead, he says that the information he provided during those meetings was not covered by Rule 6(e) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure.

To resolve this dispute, any investigation must determine two important things. First, exactly what information did Mr. Starr give to reporters during his "off the record" meetings? Second, what are the legal rules that govern what an Independent Counsel can say to a reporter? In his recent letter of complaint to Mr.

Brill, the Independent Counsel seems to take the position that Rule 6(e) should be interpreted very narrowly to apply only to disclosures of events or testimony that actually occur in the grand jury room. The law in the District of Columbia Circuit does not support that view.

In its opinion in the Dow Jones case, which was decided in May of this year, the D.C. Circuit wrote that Rule 6(e) reaches "not only what has occurred and what is occurring, but also what is likely to occur. Encompassed within the rule of secrecy are the identities of witnesses or jurors, the substance of testimony as well as actual transcripts, the strategy or direction of the investigation, the deliberations of questions of jurors, and the like."

The Dow Jones case makes clear that Rule 6(e) applies much more broadly than the Independent Counsel has argued in his public statements over the past few days. A review by the Justice Department's Office of Professional Responsibility is a good first step toward resolving the important factual and legal issues that are disputed in this case.

WELCOMING SECRETARY OF
STATE MADELEINE K. ALBRIGHT
TO MINNESOTA

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 1998

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I am honored and privileged to submit to the RECORD Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright's insightful and promising commencement address to the University of Minnesota College of Liberal Arts on Sunday, June 14, 1998 for Members review. I hope my colleagues will examine its message: America must lead. We must lead in the pursuit of global freedom and democracy, enforcing greater human rights, supporting the nuclear test ban agreement, limiting the proliferation of nuclear weapons, striving to improve the working conditions around the world and protecting earth's natural resources. This address was a powerful statement and was very well received by the graduates and the general public.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS SPRING COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS, JUNE 14, 1998

(By Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright)

Thank you, Vice-President Mondale, for that wonderful introduction. It's great to see you again and thank you for welcoming me to your state.

Regents of the University, President Yudof, Dean Rosenstone, honorary degree recipient Estes, Teacher of the Year Professor Sugnet, U.S. Representative Bruce Vento, Members of the class of 1998 and your families, faculty, and friends, I am delighted to be here and honored that you asked me to share this day with you.

To the parents here this morning, let me say that I understand how you feel. I had three daughters graduate from college and each time the emotions were the same: intense pride—and immense relief.

To the Class of '98, I add my heartfelt congratulations to those of Fritz Mondale.

Today is a day to celebrate; it is the payoff for all the late nights in the library and the long hours studying. Graduation is one of the five great milestones in life. The others are birth, marriage, death and the day you finally pay off your student loan.

Now, at last, only one thing still stands between you and your degree. And that is my speech. The bad news is that I am a former professor. Even my soundbites are fifty minutes long.

The good news is that I will not inform you that you had more fun in college than you will ever have again, for that might depress you. I will not place the weight of the world upon your shoulders, for that might intimidate you. And I will not lecture you about your social habits, for that will always be your parents' job.

Instead, I want to discuss with you some of the choices which we as a society and as a nation face. For nations are like people. Each must choose whether to live their lives selfishly and complacently or to act with courage and faith.

We are privileged to reside in a country that, through most of this century, has chosen the latter course, to lead. So that today, we are helping to shape events in every region on every continent in every corner of the world.

We exercise this leadership not out of sentiment, but out of necessity. For we Americans want to live, and we want our children to live, in peace, prosperity and freedom. But as the new century draws near, we cannot guarantee these blessings for ourselves if others do not have them as well.

Earlier this spring, at the Coast Guard Academy and the University of Maryland, I spoke of some of the specific steps we are taking to advance these goals: to reinvigorate our alliances, for example, and to build a more open and fair system of trade. This is especially important in states like Minnesota, where companies such as Cargill, General Mills, Honeywell, Pillsbury and 3M have made you export leaders.

But today, I want to address a theme that ties the broad goals of our foreign policy together. For I have found as Secretary of State that now, more than ever, the great dividing line in the world is not between East and West, North and South or rich and poor; it is between those paralyzed by the memories and habits of the past, and those energized by prospects for the future.

That is not rhetoric; it is reality.

Consider, for example, nuclear weapons. The recent decisions by India and Pakistan to conduct nuclear tests reflect old thinking about national greatness, and old fears stemming from a boundary dispute that goes back more than five decades.

The Indian Prime Minister justified his action by saying that his country "has the sanction of her own past glory." But if that rationale made any sense, which it does not, other inheritors of past glory, from the modern day Egyptians and Babylonians to the Incas and Aztecs, would be out setting off atomic blasts.

Our message to the leaders of South Asia and nations everywhere is that if you want the world's respect—don't set off nuclear bombs; educate your people.

If you want the world's understanding; don't get into an arms race—use technology to prosper in the global economy.

And if you want the world's help; don't talk about how much you can destroy—show us how much freedom and opportunity and tolerance and respect for human dignity you can create. That is the badge of greatness.

And in that quest, every nation that is prepared to help itself can count on the help of the United States.

The bomb blasts in South Asia should serve as a wake-up call to the world. The Cold War has ended, but the danger posed by nuclear weapons obviously has not. We must do all we can to reduce the role that nuclear weapons play and the risks that they entail. And we are.

President Clinton has proposed to Russia a new round of arms reductions that could bring our arsenals down to 80% below Cold War peaks.

We are working hard to ensure that all nuclear materials are securely guarded and safely handled, so that no nukes become loose nukes.

We have made stopping the spread of nuclear and biological weapons and poison gas a top priority in our relations with Russia, China, Ukraine and other key countries.

And last year, the President submitted to the Senate a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty to ban nuclear explosive tests of any size, for any purpose, in any place, for all time. There could be no greater gift to the future. Now, more than ever, India and Pakistan should sign that agreement.

And, now more than ever, the United States Senate should stop shilly-shallying around and approve it for America. Because if we want others to refrain from nuclear tests, and we do; others will want us to promise the same; and we should. On this critical issue, at this perilous time, our leadership should be unambiguous, decisive and strong.

Tragically, one of the recurring themes of the twentieth century and of all history has been the competition by different nations and peoples for land, resources and power. As the new century draws near, our corresponding challenge is to restrain and channel such competitions, so that differences are resolved peacefully and with respect for the legitimate rights of all.

Here again, almost wherever you look, you will see people struggling to reconcile their hopes for the future with their memories of the past. You will see some whose actions and thoughts are dictated almost entirely by old grievances, who are embittered and think only of revenge. They are the prisoners of history.

But you will see others who share the same memories and bear the same scars, but are nevertheless taking courageous action to find common ground with old adversaries. They are the shapers of history. And they are driven by hope and determination to build a future for their children that is better than the past.

You can be proud that the United States is standing shoulder to shoulder with the peacemakers against the bombthrowers; supporting the Good Friday agreement in Northern Ireland; trying to end conflict in the Horn of Africa; working with our partners to stop violence and repression in the Balkans; and striving to overcome setbacks in the quest for a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

In each case, America is on the side of those determined not to re-live the past, but rather to learn from it and improve upon it.

That is not international social work, as some suggest. It is smart for America, because we are better off when regional conflicts do not arise, threatening friends, creating economic disruptions and generating refugees. And it is also right to help others avoid unnecessary bloodshed, and enable people to enjoy what President Clinton has called the quiet miracle of a normal life.

The divide between past and future is evident also in attitudes towards the environment where, all too often, we still hear the old conventional wisdom:

"Don't worry, our natural resources are inexhaustible."

"Don't act, environmental protection costs too much."

"Don't get excited, nature can recover on her own from even the worst pollution."

Well, I can't speak for Mother Nature, but not only am I a mother, I am a grandmother of three, and there are times I want to shout from the rooftops, "Wake up."

We are about to enter a century when there will be far more of us around the world, living closer together, consuming more, demanding more, using more and throwing more away.

Isn't it only common sense that we take reasonable steps to restrain population growth and safeguard the health of our air and the cleanliness of our rivers, lakes and coasts? For if we fail to do that, we will deny our children and our children's children the legacy of abundance we ourselves inherited.

That would be a felony against the future. And it is not acceptable—to you, or to me.

We have to recognize, moreover, that effective environmental protection must be a multinational enterprise. It requires global action.

Today, leading scientists agree that greenhouse gases are warming our planet.

Those stuck in the past say:

"Don't worry, let's keep pumping more and more of those gases into our atmosphere. Let's hope the freakish tornadoes and floods we've been experiencing are not related to global climate change. Let's choose to believe that the predicted sea level rise and the sudden changes in farm production won't happen. Let's pretend that the anticipated increase in heat-related death and disease will not strike—or at least not us."

"Better yet, let's not think about it at all. Let's forget, for example, that the past five months have been the hottest January to May in recorded history. Let's wrap ourselves in denial and bury ourselves like an un-Golden Gopher in the sand."

I have a different view. I don't think America should hide. I think America should lead.

We emit more greenhouse gases than any other country—by far. We should set an example. That is the only way to persuade developing countries such as China, India and Brazil to grow in ways that are environmentally friendly. And that matters because, if they repeat our mistakes, we may find our nation and our world increasingly unlivable. In time, we could face a slow motion environmental Armageddon.

That is why the Clinton Administration is working to ensure that both industrialized and developing countries participate in the effort to control global climate change.

We have adopted an approach that will provide a boon to the new environmental technologies America has developed. We have agreed to targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions that are achievable and fair.

Above all, we are insisting that action be taken now—not twenty years from now—when the costs will be higher and the job much harder. In this historic effort, we will need, and I hope we will have, the wholehearted support of the North Star State.

Finally, the divide between future and past is evident in attitudes around the world toward democracy and human rights.

Some cling to the false sense of order that comes when political dissent is stifled and everyone knows their place. They haul out

the old stereotypes and say that, "Well, freedom may work in some places, but the people in such and such a country are not ready; they do not really want it; they do not really need it."

To use a diplomatic term of art, that is balderdash.

When I was still a little girl, my family was driven twice from its home—first by Hitler and then by Stalin. So call me prejudiced. But I believe in freedom.

I believe that, for a society to reach its potential, its people must be free to choose their leaders, publish their thoughts, worship their God and pursue their dreams.

That is a lesson we have learned time and again this century, from South Africa to South Korea and from Central Europe to Central America. It is a lesson we hope will be applied now in Indonesia and Nigeria. In each country, new leaders have an historic opportunity to bring their nation into the democratic fold. If that is their choice, the United States will do all it can to help.

Because, if we want the circle of freedom to grow, we must assist those who are doing their best to help themselves by nurturing civil liberties, defeating crime, creating open markets, and building democratic institutions.

Second, we must be willing to speak out for human rights and for religious and political freedoms whether they are under assault in a small country such as Burma or a big country such as China. And if we are told to mind our own business, we must respond that human rights are our business because, as Martin Luther King once said, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

Third, we must strive to improve working conditions around the world. Because I suspect you are like me. When we buy a blouse or a shirt, we want to know that it was not produced by people who are under-age, under coercion, in prison or denied their basic right to organize.

We Americans cannot and will not accept a global economy that rewards the lowest bidder without regard to standards. We want a future where profits come from perspiration and inspiration, not exploitation.

Fourth, we must do all we can to advance the status of women, because no country can grow strong and free when denied the talents of half its people.

In years past, we have made enormous progress. But today, around the world, terrible abuses are still being committed against women. These include domestic violence, dowry murders, mutilation and forced prostitution. Some say all this is cultural and there's nothing we can do about it. I say it's criminal and we each have an obligation to stop it.

Finally, the United States must continue to lead the world in its support for the international war crimes tribunals, because we believe that the perpetrators of genocide and ethnic cleansing should be held accountable and those who see rape as just another tactic of war must pay for their crimes.

Members of the Class of 1998: Today, you will graduate into a world of accelerating and astonishing change, where technological breakthroughs occur daily, trends may disappear in a week, and events of just a few years ago can seem like ancient history.

But some things have not changed. The dynamism of the Twin Cities. The beauty of the Land of Ten Thousand Lakes.

The excellence of this College and University.

The integrity of Walter Mondale.

And the purpose of America.

Fifty years ago, across the river in St. Paul, President Harry Truman spoke of the strength of democracy and of our country. He did not stress the power of our armed forces, though powerful they were.

He did not mention the mighty American economy, though we were responsible for almost half of the world's production at the time. He did not emphasize the vastness of our territory or the size of our population. He spoke instead of a deeper and more profound source of strength.

"Hitler", said President Truman, "learned that efficiency without justice is a vain thing. Democracy does not work that way. Democracy is a matter of faith—a faith in the soul of man—a faith in human rights. That is the kind of faith that moves mountains—that's the kind of faith that hurled the (resources of the) Iron Range at the Nazis."

"Faith gives value to all things," President Truman concluded, "Without faith, the people perish."

This afternoon, at this celebration of warm memory and high expectation, I summon each of you in the name of our country and of all who have worked and sacrificed to build it, to embrace the faith that your courage and your perseverance will make a difference.

And that every life changed by your example; every community enriched by your giving; every problem solved by your diligence; and every barrier to justice brought down by your determination, will ennoble your own life, inspire others, help fulfill the American Dream, and explode outward the boundaries of what is achievable on this earth.

Class of 1998: As I look out among you, all I see are future shapers and history makers. The world is waiting. The new century is yours to build. Go for it. And may God bless you all. Thank you very much.

A TRIBUTE TO THE ORDER OF AMERICAN HELLENIC EDUCATIONAL PROGRESSIVE ASSOCIATION (AHEPA) CHAPTER NUMBER 78

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 1998

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to commend the Order of American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (Ahepa), Chapter Number 78, who in conjunction with the Daughters of Penelope, Mentor Chapter Number 81, will be hosting the 68th Hoosier District Number 12 Annual Convention in Merrillville, Indiana this weekend, June 19–21, 1998. On Saturday, June 20, as part of the convention's festivities, the following six outstanding members of the Order of Ahepa, and the Northwest Indiana community will be receiving their prestigious Fifty Year Member Pins: Mr. Spiro Cappony, of Griffith; Mr. James Kallimani, of Gary; Mr. Deno Manolopoulos, of Valparaiso; Mr. Nick Pangere, of Merrillville; Mr. John Trakas, of Crown Point; and Mr. Tony Zerites, of Crown Point.

Each of these six men has dedicated fifty years of service to all facets of the Order of Ahepa, his community, and the noteworthy humanitarian charities and activities to which the

Order or Ahepa donates effort, time, and money. These loyal and dedicated individuals share this prestigious honor with approximately fifty-seven additional Chapter 78 members who have already attained Fifty Year Member status.

The Order of Ahepa is an international fraternal order with chapters in the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and the Bahamas Islands. It was founded in 1922 in Atlanta, Georgia, to help immigrants from Europe, especially Greece, assimilate into the American way of life. It taught the new arrivals the customs and language, and helped them to become good, productive citizens in their new, adopted country. Today, the Order of Ahepa is still concerned with aiding immigrants, as well as monitoring the current events in Greece, becoming involved with the region's community, and supporting the aging members of the Northwest Indiana Greek community. Nationally, the Order of Ahepa works with the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to build and maintain senior citizen apartments. Chapter 78 of the Order of Ahepa, based in Merrillville, is quite proud of the three 50-unit buildings that it maintains in conjunction with HUD and the Town Board of Merrillville. Indeed, I commend the Order of Ahepa for providing a safe, clean living environment for area seniors.

Besides the outstanding senior housing program, Chapter 78 of the Order of Ahepa supports many other charitable organizations, including food pantries at the St. Constantine Cathedral in Merrillville and another one in Hobart, and St. Basil's Academy in Boston, Massachusetts. Besides helping other charitable organizations, the local Order of Ahepa Chapter directly helps such groups as Hearing Impaired Children in the Catholic Diocese of Gary; the Merrillville and Hobart Police Departments; the Hobart Fire Department's school fire safety awareness programs; the Greek Orthodox Cathedral; Our Lady of Perpetual Help's Ministry to the Physically and Mentally Challenged; and Holy Cross College in Boston.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in saluting Spiro Cappony, James Kallimani, Deno Manolopoulos, Nick Pangere, John Trakas, and Tony Zerites, of the Chapter 78 Order of Ahepa, for their distinguished service, dedication, and leadership. Through their hard work and commitment, they have furthered the goals of the Order of Ahepa in bringing together the members of the Greek community for the betterment of everyone in Northwest Indiana.

IN HONOR OF LA SAGRADA
FAMILIA PARISH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 1998

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor La Sagrada Familia Parish, which is celebrating its dedication on June 21.

The Hispanic Catholic community of Cleveland has wanted a parish of its own since the

early 1950s. At that point there were at least five different parishes that Spanish speaking people attended. By the early 1970s the Hispanic Catholic community had grown so large that it needed its own parish. In 1973, a small group began with a special service at St. Stephen's Church. Eventually developed into the community of San Juan Bautista. There were still many people without a parish, however, so in 1980 the idea for La Sagrada Familia Parish began. It took eighteen years, but the dream is now a reality. On June 21 the dedication ceremony will take place.

To understand the magnitude of the accomplishment, we must recognize the collective contribution of this congregation: Persistence, a dedication to hard work, a devotion to the community, and a commitment to progress. The La Sagrada Familia Parish has demonstrated that vision, combined with spirit, leads to boundless achievement.

The Hispanic Catholic community has added a spirit of diversity and tradition to the neighborhood of the near west side. Always willing to help others, the community has made a difference, taking advantage of resources of time and caring to improve the lot of its neighbors in need. The community has waited for a long time for a parish of its own, and with La Sagrada Familia, the dream is accomplished, the prayers have been answered. The dedication of La Sagrada Familia Parish serves as a reminder of the community's devotion to the service of others. The dedication of this church should be a source of pride for all of Cleveland's Hispanic Catholic community.

La Sagrada Familia Parish is the product of years of planning, fund-raising, and hard work. This is a proud moment for Cleveland and its Hispanic Catholic community. My fellow colleagues, please join me in congratulating this parish and in wishing parishioners many happy years in their new home.

WELCOMING THE FIRST-EVER DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WNBA TEAM—THE WASHINGTON MYSTICS

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 1998

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to welcome the first-ever D.C. Women's National Basketball Association team to our nation's capital. This moment comes on top of other news that the District for the first time received acclaim as the best place to live in the East from Money Magazine. Together these firsts affirm that Washington, D.C. is truly a special city, and not only because D.C. is our nation's capital.

Tomorrow, I will join thousands of fans at the MCI Center to see our first home game against Utah. The District is very proud of this team, which will be led by standout shooting guard Nikki McCray, the lead scorer on the 1996 gold medal winning U.S. Olympic team. Head Coach Jim Lewis promises a full-court offense, using the fast break and aggressive defense, which are sure to be exciting viewing for the fans here in Washington.

I would also like to commend and thank team owner, Abe Pollin, Irene Pollin and Susan O'Malley, president of the Mystics organization, for their vision and commitment to making women's professional basketball a reality here in the District.

This team is important to the fans here in the District, including the many young girls among them who look to these outstanding women athletes as role models. Last year, we celebrated the 25th anniversary of Title IX and today the fruits of this achievement are being recognized. This important legislation contributed in large part to the participation of more than 100,000 women in intercollegiate athletics in 1997, a fourfold increase since 1971. In the 1996 Summer Olympic Games, American women won a record 19 Olympic medals. Thousands of women today, including many WNBA players have benefitted from athletic scholarships that simply were unheard of before Title IX. The number of girls participating in high school athletics has risen from fewer than 300,000 in 1971 to 2.4 million today. Girls' participation in high school basketball increased 300% from 1971 to 1995! Research suggests that girls who participate in sports are more likely to experience academic success and to graduate from high school than those who do not play sports. Half of all girls who participate in sports experience higher-than-average levels of self-esteem and less depression.

We welcome the Washington Mystics' team—Nikki McCray, Heidi Burge, Deborah Carter, Keri Chaconas, Tammy Jackson, Penny Moore, Murriel Page, Alessandra Santos de Oliveira, Adreinne Shuler, Leila de Souza Sobral, and Rita Williams. We look forward to their contributions to the community and to the basketball profession. Go Mystics!

TRIBUTE TO MR. ELLIOT ROBSON

HON. HAROLD E. FORD, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 1998

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring an accomplished young man from Memphis, Tennessee, Mr. Elliot Robson. As a student at White Station High School in Memphis, Tennessee, Elliot has excelled in all of his subjects, but he has developed exceptional competence in history.

This week, Mr. Robson is participating in the National History Day Competition at University of Maryland at College Park where he is competing with approximately 78 of his peers for the Senior Individual Exhibit Award. This national competition is the culmination of a rigorous set of contests at the local and state level where middle, junior, and high school students conduct primary research, write papers, and prepare media presentations on significant historical events.

National History Day is the product of a year-long educational program aimed at fostering achievement and intellectual growth among students from all backgrounds and regions of the nation. This year, the National

History Day theme is "Migrations in History: People, Ideas, Culture." Mr. Robson chose to study Jewish immigration, a topic about which he gained knowledge during his education at Beth Shalom Religious School.

Mr. Robson is to be commended for his success. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring an individual who through his efforts in this competition has demonstrated exceptional educational achievement. I urge Mr. Robson to continue to build upon this strong educational base and to continue to provide a model for other students around the country. Please join me in commending Mr. Robson and wishing him the best in his future endeavors.

GAMBLING AND AMERICA'S YOUTH

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 1998

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I want to call to my colleagues' attention a story on the front page of the June 16 New York Times titled, "Those Seductive Snake Eyes: Tales of Growing Up Gambling." The bad news is that gambling is growing. The worse news is that gambling addiction is growing fastest among young people.

The article says, "There is a growing concern among experts on compulsive gambling about the number of youths who—confronted with state lotteries, the growth of family-oriented casinos and sometimes lax enforcement of wagering laws—gamble at an earlier and earlier age and gamble excessively."

The story quotes a recent Harvard Medical School study which was conducted by Dr. Howard Shaffer which found that the rate of problem gambling among adolescents is more than twice the rate for adults.

This article is shocking. It cites stories of young people who have hit the bottom young—and all because of gambling.

One young man got hooked on gambling as a teenager. The problem was so bad, his parents had to put locks on all the rooms and closets in the house so he wouldn't run out and sell the family belongings to gamble. He has been to prison twice for credit card fraud and writing false checks. Later in the article, he talks about how he first got interested in gambling. When he was growing up, he used to help his grandmother pick lottery numbers at a neighborhood store, and he used to go with her on her gambling trips to Atlantic City. He would wait for her outside the casino, peering in the window and wishing he could play, too.

The article talks about another young person who started gambling when he was 13 years old. With his buddies, this teen used to play craps near his house, place bets on pick-up basketball games, and play a dice game called "see-low." Now he is in a treatment center for drug and gambling problems.

The New York Times piece said that in one high school in the Northeast U.S., kids said they knew a fellow student who was a professional bookie who booked bets right there at their high school. Amazingly, that school set

up a mock-casino as part of its prom night festivities. The school principal said the students had no problem with the various games—they knew them well and apparently needed no coaching.

But this is a problem everywhere, in all of America. According to the article, a Louisiana State University study conducted last year found that among Louisiana young people aged 18 to 21, one in seven were, and I quote, "problem gamblers, some of them pathological—youths with a chronic and progressive psychological disorder characterized by an emotional dependence on gambling and a loss of control over their gambling."

Everyone is worried about tobacco use among teenagers, and I am, too. But we've got another problem, and we really need to pay attention.

I hope this country wakes up. I hope our governors wake up. I hope this Congress wakes up.

[From the New York Times, June 16, 1998]

THOSE SEDUCTIVE SNAKE EYES: TALES OF GROWING UP GAMBLING

(By Brett Pulley)

ATLANTIC CITY—Like a first kiss, getting the car keys for the first time or walking into a bar and buying a first drink, gambling has become a rite of passage for young people on their way to adulthood.

With casinos in 26 states and lotteries in 38, youths who have watched their parents choose from a hefty menu of legal gambling activities right in their backyards are going on dates, spending their prom nights and joining college classmates at the nearest casinos.

Along with this change in the American cultural scene, there is a growing concern among experts on compulsive gambling about the number of youths who—confronted with state lotteries, the growth of family-oriented casinos and sometimes lax enforcement of wagering laws—gamble at an earlier and earlier age and gamble excessively.

These experts fear that the proliferation of youthful gambling will lead to more cases like that of a young Philadelphia man who became an addicted gambler as a teen-ager. For the young man, now 27, the "bottom" came after he had made two trips to prison for credit card fraud and writing false checks, attempted suicide and robbed his family.

"By the time I was 17, my parents had put a lock on everything in the house—bedrooms, pantries, closets," said the man, Michael, who is in a treatment program for compulsive gamblers. Like other addicts in recovery programs, Michael agreed to be identified only by his first name. "If I could take 30 towels out of the linen closet I would sell them for \$10 to place a bet," he recalled.

A study conducted last year by Louisiana State University found that one in seven Louisianians ages 18 to 21 were problem gamblers, some of them pathological—youths with a chronic and progressive psychological disorder characterized by an emotional dependence on gambling and a loss of control over their gambling.

Dr. Howard Shaffer, a professor of psychology at Harvard University, recently conducted an analysis of nationwide studies of gambling addiction. He found that the rate of problem gambling among adolescents was 9.4 percent, more than twice the 3.8 percent rate for adults. "Young people have been gambling since the beginning of time," he

said. "But I think now, for the first time, young people are growing up having lived their entire lives in a social environment where gambling is promoted and socially accepted."

"It used to be that young people said, 'I'm 21, let's go have a drink.' Now they say, 'I'm 21, let's go gamble.'"

Children get their lessons in wagering all around them—from the sports trading cards that they buy hoping to find one with an instant and large monetary value, to the chocolate chip cookie company that advertises during Saturday morning cartoons, offering \$1,000 to the lucky child who buys a package with the chocolate chips missing. And although children have been gambling for years, the fundamental principle of gambling—buying a chance to win more money—is indeed more pervasive in the lives of young people than it has ever been, some experts say.

The local governments that sponsor lotteries, as well as the casino industry and other businesses, do their part, whether intentional or not, to enhance gambling's appeal in the eyes of the young. Lottery scratch cards have bright, cartoonish graphics. Video poker machines resemble the video machines that a generation of children have grown up playing. Video arcades for children along the Boardwalk in Atlantic City include reconditioned slot machines that work just like the real thing but offer prizes instead of money. And the casino industry, by surrounding itself with amusement parks and attractions that appeal to the young, has given parents a reason to bring children along when they visit places like Atlantic City and Las Vegas, introducing adolescents to casinos and cultivating future gamblers.

"Market-savvy managers are grooming the next generation," said Marvin Roffman, a Philadelphia-based gambling analyst. "The kids go to the amusement park for the day, and when the family gets back to the hotel room, Dad is talking about how he did at the blackjack tables and Mom is talking about how she did at the slots. The kids are listening and it's making an impression on them."

With so many other things to worry about, like teen-age pregnancy, drug abuse and drunken driving, many parents and educators say they have not yet focused on gambling as one of their major concerns.

"I know we have students, probably a large number of students, who gamble," conceded William Steele, the principal of Atlantic City High School. On the desk in his outer office, there is a stack of pamphlets for students to read about compulsive gambling. And although the school's student resource center lists counseling for problem gambling as one of the services it provides, Mr. Steele admitted that little has been done to encourage students to seek help for gambling problems. "It's not an area that we have taken a keen interest in," he said.

It is true that like other rites of passage, gambling will prove harmless in the long term for most of the young people who try it. Dr. Shaffer said that many teen-agers experimented with gambling and lost interest as they became adults. One primary reason that teen-agers are so interested in gambling, he said, is that adults have failed to inform them of the dangers. "I think it's because of the whole social milieu that we've provided these young people," he said.

THE PROBLEM—TEEN-AGERS LOSING CONTROL OF THE DICE

While much is left to be learned about the long-term impact of gambling's pervasiveness, it is already quite clear that some

youths are destined to have problems with their gambling. Gambling experts estimate that 10 to 15 percent of youths who gamble become "problem gamblers," meaning they suffer some loss of control over their gambling behavior. And according to the Council on Compulsive Gambling of New Jersey, of those who experience more severe problems and become pathological gamblers, most are people who start gambling before they reach 14.

One such case is that of Malcolm, a 17-year-old youth from Plainfield, N.J., who at 13 was playing craps in his neighborhood and wagering on pick-up basketball games and "see-low," a game played with three dice that is popular among teen-age gamblers.

"I always gambled, so I thought that I may have a problem," Malcolm said. After a recent conviction for marijuana possession, Malcolm was sent to New Hope Foundation, an in-patient addiction center in Marlboro, N.J. Compulsive gambling was diagnosed, and now he receives treatment for both drug and gambling problems.

Cole DiMattio, one of Malcolm's counselors at the center, said that it was Malcolm's interest in gambling that led him to drugs. "All of his gambling," Mr. DiMattio said, "looking for that crowd, brought him into the drug culture." When he was a child, Malcolm said in a recent telephone interview, his parents often played the state lottery and visited the casinos in Atlantic City. "They didn't take me with them" he said. "But I wanted to go."

Valerie Lorenz, executive director of the Compulsive Gambling Center, a treatment program in Baltimore, said that while many teen-agers were compulsive gamblers, few sought treatment while they were still in their teens. "It just takes a while for the addiction to develop," she said.

Michael is a case in point. He traced his interest in gambling back to growing up in Philadelphia, where he helped his grandmother pick lottery numbers at the corner store and joined her on frequent trips to Atlantic City, an hour's drive away. He recalled standing outside the old Playboy casino, peering through its gigantic window.

"I stood outside that glass and watched my grandmother and thought, all I ever want in life is to be on the other side of that glass," he said.

He got on the other side before long, he said, and by 15 he had used fake ID's and was a regular at the casinos, receiving free limousine rides to and from Philadelphia and complimentary hotel rooms from casinos that rarely questioned his age. Betting \$100 to \$2,000 a hand on blackjack, he financed his gambling any way he could. He said he robbed local prostitutes several times and in a single week wrote \$35,000 in bad checks at the bank where his father was a vice president.

"One of those prostitutes could have blown my head off," he said. "But it didn't matter, as long as I was able to stay in action, that's all that mattered." He is now married, working at a bakery and living in southern New Jersey. He attends meetings of Gamblers Anonymous, he said, and has not placed a bet in four years.

But not all young problem gamblers are able to withstand the travails wrought by their excessive wagering. Last November, just after running up a \$6,000 debt betting on the World Series, Moshe Pergament, a 19-year-old college student from an affluent Long Island family, decided to end his gambling, and his life. He bought a toy handgun and drove erratically on the Long Island Ex-

pressway, causing police officers to stop him. When he was pulled over, he aimed the gun at the officers, who responded by shooting and killing him. The police said they found letters in Mr. Pergament's car that revealed the gambling debt and his intention of having the police shoot him, a phenomenon known as "suicide by cop."

THE POLICING—OFFICIALS WATCH, TRYING TO RESPOND

In parts of the country where gambling has flourished especially fast, the problem with under-age gambling is particularly acute. In Louisiana, a state that has long had horse racing and back-room card games but over the last decade has added riverboat casinos, video poker machines, a state lottery and casinos operated by American Indians, officials were jolted into action after the Louisiana State University study found that youths there were three times as likely as adults to become problem gamblers. The study, conducted by the department of psychiatry, surveyed 12,066 adolescents grades six through twelve in public and private schools in the 1996-97 school year.

The Louisiana State Legislature this year raised to 21 from 18 the minimum age for playing the state lottery and video poker machines inside more than 5,000 bars, restaurants and truck stops. Most states require lottery players to be at least 18. About half the states with casinos or video poker and slot machines allow 18-year-olds to play, while the other half, including Nevada and New Jersey, require those gamblers to be at least 21. The majority of states with pari-mutuel betting on events like horse racing, dog racing and jai alai allow 18-year-olds to bet.

In Louisiana, after a local television reporter used an undercover camera recently to show that under age gamblers were easily boarding the more than a dozen casino riverboats docked around the state, state gambling regulators are now threatening to rescind the licenses of casino operators who cannot keep under-age gamblers off their boats. In other states with legalized gambling, there are similar concerns. A citizen watchdog group in Illinois, for example, recently filmed under-age students drinking and gambling on the state's riverboats. The state gaming board then took steps to enforce age minimums.

"The truth of the matter is under-age gambling is a little like under-age drinking," said John Kennedy, Louisiana's secretary of revenue and a member of the state gaming control board. "Minors, by definition, don't have the reasoning power of adults. If you don't have the reasoning power, then you can't know your limits."

Still, many teen-agers simply do not want to wait until they are old enough to gamble. In Atlantic City last year 38,502 juveniles were escorted out of the city's 12 casinos, according to the state's casino control commission. An additional 52,364 under-age would-be gamblers tried to enter a casino and were turned away.

Too often, though, experts say, enforcement is lax.

A familiar scene played itself out recently at the Tropicana Casino here. Madelyn Carabello was locked in a hypnotic trance as she dropped coins in a slot machine and watched the reels spin to a stop. After she had been playing for an hour and a half, a security guard approached her and asked for identification, then escorted her out. If her flawlessly youthful face, striped denim jeans and tennis shoes were not enough to tip the casino's security staff that it had an under-

age gambler in its midst, surely the gold pendant around her neck was a dead giveaway. It was a large heart, surrounding the numeral 19, her age.

But despite her age, it was not the first time that Ms. Carabello, a freshman at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City, had gambled in a casino.

She recalled the eagerness with which she and 10 classmates boarded a gambling boat on their prom night in Miami.

"We heard that you only had to be 18" to gamble on the boat, she said. "I had heard how it was in a casino, that you could win money and stuff. I was like, 'Okay, let's do it.'"

Youths gamble because they see everyone around them doing it, not because they care that lotteries are sanctioned by the state or that casinos are legal, said Henry Lesieur, president of the Institute for Problem Gambling in Pawtucket, R.I.

"I don't think that kids are thinking at this level," he said, "whether the state sanctions it or not is irrelevant. What is relevant is that it is available in places like the grocery store and they can see it being advertised on TV."

The casino industry, keenly aware of the potential for compulsive gambling to become the bane that nicotine addiction is to the tobacco industry—and aware that a Presidential commission will issue a comprehensive report next year on the impact of gambling on the country—has recently begun to acknowledge the problem and take preemptive steps. New programs to discourage under-age gambling are being paid for and implemented by the industry, and studies on compulsive gambling, particularly among under-age gamblers, are being conducted through research grants from the industry.

"Most of the under-age gaming going on in this country is not going on inside the casinos," said Frank Fahrenkopf, president of the American Gaming Association, the casino industry's lobbying organization. He pointed out that many young people gamble on sports and play lotteries. "We are trying to reach out to that area of the population."

The interest that children develop in gambling often starts long before they are old enough to sneak into a casino. A group of Long Island parents, concerned that their young children were hooked on sports trading cards, filed lawsuits against six of the major sports trading card companies in 1996, claiming that the companies have colluded to conduct an illegal gambling enterprise by inserting rare and valuable cards that could instantly be redeemed for cash. The lawsuits, filed in New York, New Jersey, Texas and California, are pending, although one claim in Texas was dismissed by the court there. James M. Schaefer, an anthropologist at Union College in Schenectady, N.Y., who conducted research for the plaintiffs, visited card shops and sports memorabilia shows where the cards are bought and traded. What he found was that children as young as 6 were doing what is known as insert card chasing, spending \$2 to \$6 for a pack of cards, ripping them open, quickly flipping through them in search of the valuable inserts, discarding the "garbage cards" and buying more.

"The kids are driven to find a valuable insert card, and they'll spend all the money they have to find it." Mr. Schaefer said. Some gambling opponents have raised similar concerns about other seemingly benign products aimed at children, like the scratch-and-win promotions often offered by McDonald's, and a current promotion by Nabisco,

which offers \$1,000 to anyone who finds a bag of Chips a'hoey cookies without any chocolate chips. Ann Smith, a spokeswoman for Nabisco, denied that such promotions encourage gambling. "They are purchasing the product," she said. "It's a consumer promotion geared toward added value."

THE NEXT BET—COPING IN A CULTURE OF GAMBLING

Many students in places like Atlantic City become familiar with casino games because they work after school or in summer at the casinos. Although customers must be 21, the minimum age for working at a casino is 18. Many young gamblers said that they had jobs and financed their habit using the same disposable income that other young people spend at the movies or the mall. However, gambling experts said that many of those who gamble at school or elsewhere come from affluent families and have more money than the average student. Casinos here and in other cities have created opportunities for young people. In addition to jobs, they provide a wide range of assistance to local teenagers, from scholarships to mentoring programs. But with some of those same young people becoming increasingly fascinated with gambling, some communities are now questioning whether they should accept any largess from the casinos in their neighborhoods.

In Louisiana, casino employees participate in career days at high schools, and casinos have donated to students everything from pumpkins for Halloween to playing cards em-

blazoned with casino logos. But now, after opponents of gambling complained that these donations were only veiled attempts by the casinos to cultivate future loyal customers, gambling regulators are considering a ban on donations from casinos to students. "We are trying to make a determination as to whether the stuff they do in the schools is marketing," said Hillary Crain, chairman of the state's gaming control board.

Many experts said that the best method for dealing with the escalating interest in gambling among youths is to teach them more about the potential downside to gambling, and to get them to better understand probability, the ratio of the number of times that something will probably occur to the number of possible occurrences. If they better understood the extent to which the odds are against them, experts said, fewer children would be so anxious to gamble. Still, said Edward Looney, the executive director of the Council on Compulsive Gambling of New Jersey, "Youngsters are youngsters, and gambling is an exciting thing for them to do because it's risky."

But even as schools preach against gambling, in many places it has become a part of the culture of adolescence. Growing up in Warwick, R.I., where residents can bet on the state lottery, jai alai and dog races, play video lottery machines or drive to the Foxwoods casino an hour away in Connecticut, Seth Jackson anxiously, awaited the day he would turn 21 and could step into a big, ram-bunctious casino to gamble to his heart's content.

"It was a big deal for me the first time," Mr. Jackson, 22 a senior at George Washington University, said during a recent "senior week" bus trip to Atlantic City, the gambling capital of the East Coast. "Everybody around me gambled when I was growing up," he said, as he stood surrounded by classmates and slot machines inside the Tropicana.

At Atlantic City High School here, students said that betting on sports and playing card games for money was common. Several students said in interviews that they knew of a fellow student who worked as a professional bookie, laying odds on games and collecting bets. "The guy books bets right in school," said Tom Le, 16 a sophomore.

In May, on the night of the school's senior prom, one of the activities arranged for the evening was a mock casino, set up inside the cafeteria. Students received clips and played casino games like blackjack and craps. "I was really astonished at how well they knew the games," said Mr. Steele, the principal. He said he believed that gambling had captured the fancy of young people because it made them feel like adults. "I guess it's a nice feeling to go into the casino, play and receive complimentary drinks," he said. "How can you tell them, here it is, it's exciting, but you can't do it? We have to face it, it's here to stay. It's a matter that's going to have to be dealt with. I don't know how. Just hope and pray that it's done on a small scale."