

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRINITY LAKE

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 1997

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, for the opportunity to testify in support of my legislation, H.R. 63, which proposes to redesignate Clair Engle Lake in northern California to its better known, common name of "Trinity Lake." I appear today on behalf of the Trinity County Board of Supervisors and the residents of Trinity County, who have requested I introduce this legislation.

Local support for this legislation is overwhelming. One poll, conducted by a local newspaper, showed an almost unanimous vote in favor of changing the lake's name to Trinity Lake. It has also been unanimously endorsed by the Trinity Board of Supervisors, who passed a resolution calling for this action in 1995.

Since the reservoir was created by the construction of the Trinity Dam, locals have referred to it as "Trinity Lake." It earned this name because of its location in Trinity County and its proximity to the Trinity Alps. Reference to the name "Trinity Lake" has been so attractive that it has been adopted by virtually every segment of the general public as well as local, State, and Federal authorities. It has been used extensively by the local tourist industry and public officials to promote the recreational aspects of the lake, since the name "Trinity Lake" creates stronger promotional imagery than does the name "Clair Engle Lake." In fact, the Trinity Lake designation has become so pervasive that about the only people who don't refer to the lake as "Trinity Lake" are those nonresidents and tourists who have never been to the lake itself.

Understandably, this has created a great deal of confusion for visitors to the lake and, consequently, has had a negative economic impact on the lake communities. By changing the name, my legislation will eliminate this confusion and enhance the benefits that the lake brings to Trinity County. Mr. Speaker, in view of the overwhelming sentiment in favor of this legislation, and the worthwhile objectives of eliminating confusion and enhancing economic benefits for Trinity County, I respectfully request the support and endorsement of this House of Representatives in answering the urgent plea of Trinity County residents by giving them back their lake through redesignation of Clair Engle Lake to its more popular name, "Trinity Lake."

RECOGNITION GIVEN TO C. RASEH NAGI OF BROOKLYN

HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 1997

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, today I wish for my colleagues and friends to join me hon-

oring a shining star in my community, Ms. C. Raseh Nagi. Ms. Nagi has been a true leader in the movement to improve educational opportunity for over 35 years. Beginning as a teacher in I.S. 78, she moved on to initiate important programs in foreign language studies and a center for intellectually gifted students. More recently as community superintendent of district 28 she has continued to make vital contributions in education all worthy of mention and praise.

She was instrumental in establishing the District 28 Academy, an alternative program for at-risk junior high school students. Improving on the initial program for gifted students, she created and implemented a districtwide talented and gifted program. Her talents have also served the education community well outside the classroom. She initiated and supported the preparation of competitive and legislative proposals which supplemented the funding available to the district's schools. She encouraged and engaged representatives from all school constituencies to participate in the educational process. She has worked diligently to make education in the community a comprehensive endeavor.

Ms. Nagi has demonstrated a commitment to excellence in the teaching and learning process, focusing on the achievement of high standards for all. I would like to take this moment to recognize Ms. Nagi for her accomplishments and to thank her on behalf of the children and parents she has touched. C. Raseh Nagi has been a true friend and strong leader for the professional staff of district 28 and, she has felt all children have the ability and potential to be anything they want to be.

Thank you Ms. Nagi.

MEDICAID

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 1997

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, March 12, 1997, into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

MEDICAID

All of us are aware of the high cost of health care. For many Americans, meeting health care needs is a financial strain, but it is an overwhelming prospect for those with the lowest incomes. Medicaid is a joint federal-state entitlement program that helps provide health insurance for 38 million low-income Americans, including the blind, disabled, or parents of dependent children.

For more than three decades Medicaid has had a major impact on the lives of poor Americans, helping to protect the health of the most vulnerable. It has also grown into one of the most costly programs in the federal budget—only Social Security, Medicare, and national defense cost more. Yet despite the importance and size of Medicaid, many people are not very familiar with it. I often hear from Hoosiers asking about the basic structure of the program.

Who is eligible for Medicaid? Since 1965 Medicaid has had a positive impact on the health of our most vulnerable populations: indigent elderly and disabled persons, women and children. Covering 1 of 5 children, 1/3 of all births, and 1/4 of nursing home costs, Medicaid has clearly been important. Around 14% of the overall population and some 600,000 Hoosiers benefit from Medicaid services.

Some 70% of those receiving Medicaid are non-elderly poor, but almost 70% of the program costs go to the other 30% of recipients: the blind, disabled, and poor elderly. Not all people earning low incomes are covered by Medicaid. This is largely because people must meet other eligibility criteria besides having low income. For example, single adults or childless couples who are not disabled or aged are ineligible for Medicaid no matter how poor they are. In Indiana more than half of Medicaid recipients are children under 21. President Clinton has proposed improving efforts to reach the 3 million children nationally who are currently eligible for Medicaid but are not signed up.

Because Medicaid is administered jointly by the federal and state governments, states have some discretion in determining eligibility. The federal Medicaid law defines some 50 groups as potentially eligible. Some must be covered by the states, others are optional. In general, only U.S. citizens may qualify for Medicaid.

What services does Medicaid cover? The federal government requires state Medicaid programs to cover a minimum set of benefits for all eligible recipients, including hospital care, nursing home care, physician services, and laboratory and x-ray services. A substantial portion, almost 40%, of Medicaid spending goes for long-term care services such as nursing home care and home care. In fact, Medicaid is the primary source of long-term care coverage.

Beyond these minimum required services, states have the discretion to cover more. For example, all states voluntarily cover prescription drugs; some also cover institutional care for mentally handicapped individuals and dental and vision care for adults. Indiana is fairly generous, relative to other states, in the optional services its Medicaid program provides. States receive federal matching funds for these additional services.

What is the cost of Medicaid? The federal government does not shoulder the cost of Medicaid alone; it is a shared commitment with the state governments. The federal share is at least 50% in every state, but can exceed 80% depending on a state's per capita income. State participation is voluntary but all states are currently in the program.

The federal government spent \$92 billion on Medicaid in 1996 and the states spent \$69 billion. For the Indiana program, the federal and state shares combined were around \$2.5 billion. Although much uncertainty surrounds projections of growth in Medicaid, costs are expected to climb significantly simply because of overall inflation in the price of health care and an increased number of eligible Americans.

What has been done to curb costs? The rate of federal Medicaid growth from 1988 to 1993 was substantial, averaging almost 20% per year. The Medicaid caseload jumped sharply in the last decade as court decisions and legislation extended coverage. Congress enacted

• 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.

reforms in 1991 and 1993 to curb growth of the program.

1996 was a year of dramatically lower growth in Medicaid costs, only 3.3%. However, it is unlikely to stay that low, with program growth estimated to average almost 8% annually over the next 6 years.

Because of the extremely high rate of Medicaid growth, Congress has examined ways to reform the program. The previous Congress enacted a welfare reform law which is expected to reduce Medicaid spending by \$4 billion over 7 years largely because of restrictions on eligibility of non-citizens for Medicaid. In addition, a proposal to turn Medicaid over to the states was included in a budget bill vetoed by the President.

What are the issues in Medicaid? The issues Congress faces this session include whether Medicaid should remain an entitlement, what national standards should be retained, and how federal funds should be allocated among the states. I favor retaining the entitlement status because eliminating it would increase the number of disadvantaged persons without coverage. I also favor greater flexibility in the administration of Medicaid, including ways to organize and deliver care, reimburse providers, and assure quality of care. But I do believe it is necessary to maintain uniform national standards, especially regarding who should be covered and what basic services should be provided. Today federal Medicaid funds are provided to states on an open-ended basis. Some limits on growth are necessary, possibly on how much can be spent for each patient.

Conclusion. For me the key questions in Medicaid are how to improve coverage without imposing excessive burdens on the taxpayers and how to curb excessive spending without imposing unacceptable hardship on the poor. Congress is looking hard at ways to improve the program and rein in its costs. Much effort is necessary to slow the growth of spending by making more efficient the delivery of health care. Part of the answer is to expand enrollment in managed care and community-based care to control acute care expenses. The undesirable alternatives are to cut eligibility or services, raise taxes, or cut-back reimbursement to doctors or hospitals. Great care must be taken not to reduce needed services to the elderly, the poor, and people with disabilities.

EDWARD WILLIAMS, EAST CHICAGOAN OF THE YEAR

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 1997

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to commend Mr. Edward Williams, an outstanding citizen of Indiana's First Congressional District. On Thursday, March 13, 1997, Edward will be named East Chicagoan of the Year during a recognition banquet at the Knights of Columbus Hall in East Chicago, IN.

Edward, a native of East Chicago, is a graduate of Indiana University in Bloomington. He is currently the director of education and development for the Showboat Mardi Gras Casino. Prior to holding this position, Edward was the president and chief executive officer of Lakeshore Employment and Training Partnership. In this capacity, Edward utilized his aggressive motivational and leadership qualities, which led Lakeshore to successfully train and secure employment for thousands of young adults and other unemployed residents of Lake County, IN.

Not only has Edward excelled in his professional life, but he has been a great community leader as well. Edward's emphasis on the needs of our youth has challenged countless young people to be the very best they can be. He is an accomplished speaker and has addressed thousands of citizens on such diverse topics as education, motivation, economic, and community development, family issues, religion, and community involvement. Edward is a member of several professional associations, and he has received numerous appointments to local, State, and national boards. For example, Edward is a member of the East Chicago Library Board, a trustee of Antioch Baptist Church, and a Lilly Fellow.

Along with the distinguished award of East Chicagoan of the year, Edward has been bestowed with the State of Indiana's highest public service award. The Sagamore of the Wabash. The award was issued by Gov. Evan Bayh.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other esteemed colleagues to join me in congratulating Edward on being honored as East Chicagoan of the Year. His children, Kelly, Kirk, and Kevin, can be proud of their father's accomplishments. His unselfish dedication will be marked forever in history.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ADAM RICHARDSON, WINNER OF THE 1997 VOICE OF DEMOCRACY BROADCAST SCRIPTWRITING CONTEST FOR THE STATE OF GEORGIA, SPONSORED BY THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

HON. NATHAN DEAL

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 1997

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following for the RECORD:

DEMOCRACY—ABOVE AND BEYOND

(By Adam Richardson)

When Alexander Hamilton was a child, his family was traveling along the North Carolina coast by boat. He was so terrified of the surroundings he vowed that if he ever became capable, he would build a lighthouse so large and bright that all those that resided in its glow would have nothing to fear. In 1802 Hamilton as Secretary of the Treasury used his influence to get a lighthouse constructed on Cape Hatteras, and to this day it stands, the tallest on the East Coast. Our American democracy that we have built with our blood, sweat, and tears is much the same as this lighthouse. Democracy, like a lighthouse, starts with a dream and strong foundation. This foundation was made with the lives of the men and women who first dreamed the dream to allow democracy to soar above and beyond.

As our democracy grows, we are indebted to be a caretaker of the lighthouse and keep it strong so that the ideal that we uphold, the beam of light, can be seen from farther away with the clarity it commands. This beam of light, seen first by our forefathers, led them out of oppressive darkness to thrive in unforeseen opportunity. But the obstacles were untold, and to aid others who would follow them, they built our lighthouse to carry their vision above and beyond. We were indeed fortunate to have received a raw country instead of being given one stifled in outdated institutions.

Democracy still stands strong, yet it has its enemies. As a lighthouse is constructed, the salt, sand, wind and water attack it, intent on destruction. But when finished, a lighthouse is nearly indestructible and will stand up to the winds of change. When democracy stands tall and strong, it is the envy of its enemies and cannot be considered safe, because there is always a sea spray to diminish the radiance that gives democracy the ability to illuminate the darkness. The democratic vision stands above and reaches beyond all barriers—but not without a struggle. The waves of ignorance often inhibit the gains of democracy. In many countries a child goes without an education because religious differences hurl bullets through the schoolyard. In the former Yugoslavia 250,000 lives have been lost and millions displaced because of a campaign of ethnic cleansing. We in America are made strong by people with the same goals but not necessarily the same gods. Likewise, the winds of inequality topple the hopes of people in countries where one man's vote will not count as much as another's or possibly will not be counted at all.

On the other side of the lighthouse, where all is calm, are the opportunities and the peace of mind that comes with a democratic nation. In America, like a harbor with its protected waters and secured ships, is a country with the betterment of the people the main issue. When democracy has fallen into rigidity, the government has always bent to refuse breaking—in the form of new laws, updating of old ones, and the acceptance of new schools of thought when the old way had proved itself ineffectual. Because this harbor is guarded by democracy and maintained by the power of the people, children can receive an education in the manner they should. Within this harbor a man goes to vote, and his ballot is cast without the worry, "Will I be heard?" or "If so, will I be given a chance?"

Even though the wind and the waves can be kept out, certain elements cannot be held at bay. There is a fog that we cannot see through, even with attuned senses. If we leave this fog unattended, it will be our terrible demise. Many great civilizations have fallen to this killer that comes on cat feet. This killer that lurks in the fog is complacency. We must not become immune to what is going on around us because beyond the fog and beyond the safety of our democracy, the wind and waves are always surging. We must remain vigilant.

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RICHARD J. GROSS VFW POST 8896

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 1997

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Richard J. Gross VFW Post 8896 on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. Located in East Berlin, PA, this post is named in honor of a fallen hero of World War II, Richard J. Gross. A radio operator-gunner on a B-24 Liberator, Gross was lost when his plane was shot down during a combat mission over New Guinea.

Fifty years ago, this post first organized at an informal meeting. On February 13, 1947, the first official meeting was held. The staff of officers was selected and the official business of organizing the post and finding a permanent meeting place was underway. These were but the first few steps of a long journey of community service, fellowship, and remembrance of

the sacrifices veterans have made for the United States.

On March 13, 1947, the Department of Pennsylvania, Veterans of Foreign Wars approved the charter submitted to it, and the VFW Post 8896 officially existed. The men who were a part of this organization were strong and self-reliant; they raised funds and worked themselves to build a suitable place for meetings. The men who constructed this structure did so in their spare time, often after a long day of work. Many times they labored well into the night to complete the structure.

Post 8896 quickly became an important part of the community in East Berlin, PA. Throughout the past 50 years, its members have been actively involved in making their town a better place to live. Both they and the man that the post honors serve as reminders for the community at large: One for making the supreme sacrifice for his country during war, and the others for their service to the United States, and the values it holds important.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognition of VFW Post 8896's anniversary. I am proud to say that I am a member of this post. I salute my fellow veterans for 50 years of service, and wish them at least another 50.

HONORING ASSISTANCE LEAGUE OF THE EASTSIDE

HON. JENNIFER DUNN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 1997

Ms. DUNN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in commemorating the chartering of Assistance League of the Eastside [ALE] in Redmond, WA, as the 98th chapter of the National Assistance League. For 8 years Assistance League of the Eastside has existed to develop and carry out philanthropic projects to meet the needs of the greater eastside community. This all-volunteer, nonprofit organization has made a difference in the lives of literally thousands of needy citizens with programs that are tailored to meet real-world emergencies. For example, Operation School Bell has provided more than 1,000 at-risk children with new clothing, school supplies, and hygiene items. Victims of rape and assault have benefited from the Assistance League's dissemination of assault survivor kits, a program that provides sweat suits and personal care items to those seeking refuge from an aggressor. And the ALE's caring and sharing program has brightened the lives of senior citizens at the Emerald Heights assisted living facility in Redmond by providing birthday and holiday parties for the residents. ALE, through the efforts of its 65 very active and good-hearted members, is making a difference in ways that go far beyond the capabilities of government programs because the volunteers are impelled by compassion for their fellow eastsiders. That spirit deserves not only recognition, but commendation and celebration. America needs more people like the citizens who devote their spare time to the many good projects of Assistance League of the Eastside.

Therefore it is fitting that today, as ALE gains chapterhood status with the National Assistance League based on compliance with

that organization's bylaws, policies, and standards, I am proud to draw the attention of the House of the great work of this organization. And I am honored to join Redmond Mayor Rosemarie Ives in setting aside March 12, 1997, as a day to honor Assistance League of the Eastside. I join Mayor Ives in urging all citizens of Washington State to recognize this all-volunteer organization and encourage its continued philanthropic work benefiting our eastside community.

TRIBUTE TO MUSIC EDUCATION IN WASHINGTON STATE

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 1997

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to pay tribute to the students and teachers of Washington State for their accomplishments in the area of music education in our State. Research shows that music is an important tool for building a more creative and intelligent populace and music study helps students to perform better in academic and social settings. March is Music in Our Schools Month and an appropriate time to pay tribute to the students, parents, and teachers in our State who work diligently throughout the year to call attention to the importance of music education in our schools.

I would like to pay a special tribute to Grass Lake Elementary School in Kent, WA, for their contribution to the Music Educator's 13th Annual World's Largest Concert which will be shown nationwide. The hard work and dedication of the individuals involved with this project deserve recognition for their important efforts for bringing attention to music education in our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TED STRICKLAND

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 1997

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, as you all are aware, over the past week, the Midwest has experienced devastating flood waters. Because of these floods, major portions of the Sixth Congressional District of Ohio have been declared a Federal disaster area. To help the people back home, I remained in the district last week and therefore missed the following votes:

Wednesday, March 5, 1997: Had I been present, I would have voted: "yea" on Rollcall Vote 29, House Concurrent Resolution 17, the Guatemalan Peace Process; "yea" on Rollcall Vote 30, House Concurrent Resolution 18, the Nicaraguan Democratic Elections; and "nay" on Rollcall Vote 31, House Concurrent Resolution 31, Display of the Ten Commandments.

Thursday, March 6, 1997: "yea" on Rollcall Vote 32, Motion to Adjourn; "yea" on Rollcall Vote 33, the Journal; "yea" on Rollcall Vote 34, Washington, DC, City Council Contract Reform; and "yea" on Rollcall Vote 35, Motion to Adjourn.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LA PORTE EDUCATION FOUNDATION

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 1997

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the good work of the La Porte Education Foundation and to congratulate foundation members as they prepare for the fourth annual Education Celebration Event on March 13, 1997. The foundation's efforts to improve educational opportunities are forging a stronger community today and building a brighter future for our children.

The foundation's mission is to strengthen the La Porte community through education. A nonprofit organization operating separately from the La Porte School System, the foundation funds innovative, creative, and instructional projects for both students and teachers in La Porte schools.

The La Porte Education Foundation was established in 1993 because the community understood that there is a strong linkage between the quality of life in La Porte and the quality of its education system. Its organizers understand that, sometimes, the best way to meet a challenge is to roll up your sleeves and get involved.

The foundation's endowment has provided a steady, new source of funds outside the general revenue fund for expanding the educational opportunities available to La Porte's students. And it has worked.

The La Porte Foundation Board decided early on that the entire community needed to be actively involved in the foundation's efforts to enhance education in La Porte schools. As a means to involve citizens, the board chose to sponsor an event which would celebrate public education in La Porte on an annual basis. The first celebration was held at Sylvan Beach Pavilion and was developed and presented by a foundation committee consisting of teachers, community members, PTO and area industry representatives, and foundation board members. The first celebration was an overwhelming success with over 1,000 citizens enjoying booths from each school and entertainment from many students.

The second annual celebration was moved to La Porte High School to accommodate large crowds. Now in the fourth year, this year's celebration will highlight grant projects by LPISD teachers which were funded by the foundation. This unique event continues to draw enthusiastic crowds numbering over 1,000 each year.

I wish the foundation continued success as they celebrate another Education Celebration Event and continue their mission to improve the education and lives of the children of La Porte.

THE DEFENSE JOBS AND TRADE PROMOTION ACT OF 1997

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 1997

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, today Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. CRANE, Ms. DUNN, Mr. SAM JOHN-SON of Texas, Mr. HULSHOF, Mr. HAYWORTH,

Mr. ENGLISH, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. PACKARD, Mr. DREIER, Mr. KING, and Mr. MCCOLLUM join me in introducing legislation that eliminates a provision of tax law which discriminates against U.S. exporters of defense products. The Defense Jobs and Trade Promotion Act of 1977 will help defense contractors improve their competitiveness, will protect our defense industrial base, and will help insure that American defense workers—who have already had to adjust to sharply declining defense budgets—do not see their jobs lost to overseas competitors because of a harmful quirk in our own tax law.

The Internal Revenue Code allows U.S. companies to establish Foreign Sales Corporations [FSC's], under which they can exempt from U.S. taxation a portion of their earnings from foreign sales. This provision is designed to help U.S. firms compete against companies in other countries which rely more on value-added taxes [VAT's] than on corporate income taxes. When products are exported from such countries, the VAT is rebated, effectively lowering their prices. U.S. companies, in contrast, must charge relatively higher prices in order to obtain a reasonable net profit after taxes have been paid. By permitting a share of the profits derived from exports to be excluded from corporate income taxes, the FSC in effect allows companies to charge lower prices and partially compensates for the differences between the U.S. tax system and that of most of our competitors.

In 1976, Mr. Speaker, the tax law was amended to reduce the tax benefits for defense products to 50 percent, while retaining the full benefits for all other products. The rationale for this discriminatory treatment—that U.S. defense exporters faced little competition—no longer exists. Whatever the veracity of that premise 20 years ago, today's military exports are subject to fierce international competition in every area. Twenty years ago, roughly one-half of all the nations purchasing defense products benefited from U.S. military assistance. Today, U.S. military assistance has been sharply curtailed and is essentially limited to two countries. Moreover, with the sharp decline in the defense budget over the past decade, exports of defense products have become even more critical to maintaining a viable U.S. defense industrial base. The aerospace industry alone provides over 800,000 jobs for U.S. workers. Roughly one-third of these jobs are tied directly to export sales. In 1996, for example, total industry sales were \$112 billion, \$37 billion of which was for exports. Of the three fighter aircraft under production in this country, two are dependent on foreign customers.

No valid economic or policy reason exists for continuing a tax policy that discriminates against a particular class of manufactured products. Furthermore, repealing this section will not impact the foreign policy of the United States. Military sales will continue to be subject to the license requirements of the Arms Export Control Act.

Mr. Speaker, improvement of the U.S. trade imbalance is fundamental to the health of our economy. The benefits provided by the FSC provisions contribute significantly to the ability of U.S. exporters to compete effectively in foreign markets. The FSC limitation on the exemption for defense exports hampers the ability of U.S. companies, many of whom already have access to large foreign markets, to com-

pete effectively abroad with many of their products. Section 923(a)(5) should be repealed immediately to remove this impediment to international competitiveness and to improve the health of our defense industry.

Let me briefly describe the historical context in which the FSC provisions were enacted, as it helps to explain why this section of the law should now be repealed.

The genesis of the FSC was the Domestic International Sales Corporation or DISC. Congress had enacted the DISC provisions in 1971 to stimulate exports and grant a Federal income tax deferral opportunity to U.S. firms engaged in exporting through domestic corporations. A DISC was not subject to Federal income tax on its earnings. Rather, the DISC's parent company was taxed each year on part of the DISC's earnings as if the parent company had received a dividend from the DISC. The DISC's remaining earnings were not taxed until actually distributed to the parent company. Until 1976, up to 50 percent of the DISC's annual export profits could be deferred in this manner, including profits from the sale of military products.

From the outset, Mr. Speaker, the DISC program was the subject of a dispute between the United States and other signatories of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade [GATT]. Some countries contended that the DISC provisions essentially created an illegal export subsidy that violated the GATT.

Partly in response to these criticisms, Congress reduced DISC benefits in the Tax Reform Act of 1976. First, Congress changed the tax rules in such a way that less than 25 percent, rather than 50 percent, of a corporation's earnings from exports could be deferred from U.S. taxation. Second, DISC benefits for the sale of military products were cut back. The House originally proposed to terminate all DISC benefits for military sales, except if the products were to be used solely for nonmilitary purposes. The Senate recommended that all DISC benefits be terminated for military sales unless it was determined that the property was competitive with foreign-manufactured property.

The compromise reached was that the DISC benefits would be terminated for 50 percent of military sales—whether or not competitive—made after October 2, 1975. For this purpose, military property was defined to include any article that is inherently military in character without regard to its intended use, such as communications satellites and their components, launch vehicles, and many aircraft and their components.

DISC remained a serious irritant in U.S. trade relations with other countries, particularly the European Economic Community, and in October 1982, the United States informed the GATT Council that it would propose to Congress legislation addressing the concerns of its trading partners over DISC.

In March 1983, the administration announced the general elements of an alternative to the DISC program. Legislation on the proposed alternative was introduced on August 4, 1983, to replace DISC's with Foreign Sales Corporations [FSCs]. The FSC provisions were signed into law on July 18, 1984, as part of the Deficit Reduction Act of 1984.

The FSC provisions are similar to the DISC provisions in that they were designed to encourage exports by allowing exporters to exempt a percentage of export income from tax-

ation. FSC benefits are provided for property manufactured or produced in the United States. The exemption on the sale of military goods, again, is half the amount otherwise allowed for other types of property. The legislative history shows that this special rule for military property was simply a carryover from the DISC provisions which were based on the premise that military products were not sold in a competitive environment.

Mr. Speaker, with the sharp decline in our defense budget over the past decade, exports of defense products have become even more critical to maintain or increase employment in the United States and to preserve the skills and facilities necessary to maintain a viable U.S. defense industrial base. But today, our defense companies face intense competition from companies in Europe and around the world. Indeed, global competition is even further intensified because Russia and other former Communist countries are now considered acceptable suppliers by countries that would not have purchased from them during the cold war. This increased global competition has contributed heavily to declining American sales abroad. Indeed, over the 10-year period between 1984 and 1994, U.S. defense exports declined an astounding 37 percent when measured in constant dollars.

The U.S. public and U.S. industry have made a tremendous investment in our defense industrial base. Decisions on whether or not to allow a defense export should continue to be made on foreign policy grounds. However, once a decision has been made that an export is consistent with those interests, surely our Government should encourage such sales to go to U.S. companies and workers, not our competitors. Discriminating against these sales in the Tax Code puts our defense industry at great disadvantage and makes no sense in today's environment.

The repeal of section 923(a)(5) would put defense companies on a more level playing field with other competitors with respect not only to military products but also to commercial products. This is true because companies that have developed skills and expertise producing goods for military use are most likely to apply those in commercial markets by developing new uses for military products or close derivatives from those products. Since the FSC provisions rely on a definition of military products that focuses on the source of the product's development and its potential use rather than on its actual intended use, almost all products currently produced by the aerospace industry are subject to the 50-percent FSC limitation under current law. This is the case even if these products or close derivatives are exported for strictly commercial purposes.

Mr. Speaker, let me close by stressing that no valid economic or policy reason exists for continuing a tax policy that discriminates against one class of manufactured products. To the contrary, thousands of good U.S. jobs, the maintenance of a healthy defense industrial base, and the improvement of our balance of trade argue for abolishing this unfair policy.

We must repeal this part of the Tax Code in order to provide fair and equal treatment to our defense industry and its workers, and to enable our defense companies to compete more successfully in the increasingly challenging international market. I would urge my colleagues to join me—and the bipartisan group

of original cosponsors—in supporting the Defense Jobs and Trade Promotion Act of 1997.

WHY GINGRICH SHOULD STEP
DOWN AS SPEAKER

HON. EARL F. HILLIARD

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 1997

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker. I wish to insert the following statement into the RECORD, regarding my vote in connection to the resolution of reprimand against Speaker GINGRICH in January, regarding his Ethics Committee problems.

STATEMENT BY CONGRESSMAN EARL F.
HILLIARD

I voted against the House Resolution providing a reprimand and a monetary penalty of \$300,000 for Speaker Gingrich because it was less than a slap on the wrist. The fine itself is insufficient. Paying a simple fine is no deterrent for what the Speaker has done. In his position as Speaker of the House of Representatives, one of the highest positions within our government, and given the amount of power at his control, a reprimand and a monetary fine do not fit the misconduct which has been committed. How simple it will be for this Speaker to raise \$300,000 to pay a fine imposed upon him because of his wrongful fund raising activities.

The Speaker should have been censured, at a minimum, by the House of Representatives. In addition, he should voluntarily and immediately step down as Speaker. In his own words, he has stated that he: "brought down on the people's House a controversy which could weaken the faith the people have in the government." Through an abuse and misuse of power, Gingrich broke laws to enhance himself, strengthen his role within the Republican Party and strategically position himself to be Speaker of the House. Therefore, he intentionally and deliberately created a situation where he could become Speaker. He exists as Speaker today, only because he broke the rules.

Today's vote sends a message to the American people that money supersedes laws. Today's vote tells the American people that it is okay to break laws in order to become powerful because you will only have to pay a fine if you get caught. Today's vote shows the American people that the wealthy and powerful are given preferential treatment. Every time such a situation is allowed, we chip away at one of the pillars of democracy—and that is equal justice for all, regardless of financial status. While the Speaker received less than a slap on the wrist, one of the pillars of democracy received a fatal blow. While the Speaker is free to continue fund raising, the ideal of equal justice under the law is held captive on a \$300,000 bond. I voted against today's House Resolution because it fundamentally failed to adequately address the Speaker's wrong doing.

TRIBUTE TO PATRICIA GORDON

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 1997

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Patricia Gordon, a certified professional secretary, on the occasion of winning the 1997

Secretary of the Year. This award is an honor of distinction based on business experience, education, and Professional Secretaries International activities.

Ms. Gordon has been an office professional for 23 years, with the last 10 years spent in service to East Detroit public schools. She also has earned her real estate license and is the mother of four. She is looking forward to continuing her education earning a degree in business.

She has been active in the Macomb Chapter of Professional Secretaries International organization since 1993 and served her organization as the cochairperson for the 1996 Michigan Division Annual Meeting.

And so, Mr. Speaker, today, I commend and congratulate Patricia Gordon on the honor of winning 1997 Secretary of the Year. I extend my best wishes and good luck in the future.

RECOGNIZING SEARCHY MAR-
SHALL AS THE PETER J. SALM-
ON NATIONAL BLIND EMPLOYEE
OF THE YEAR

HON. ANNE M. NORTHUP

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 1997

Mrs. NORTHUP. Mr. Speaker, Congress passed the Wagner-O'Day Act in 1938 to provide employment opportunities for Americans who are blind. Amended as the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act in 1971, today, this program continues to provide employment and other support services to thousands of people who are blind or have other severe disabilities throughout the United States.

Many of the individuals who participate in the Javits-Wagner-O'Day [JWOD] Program are not capable of competitive employment, or do not desire competitive employment. The JWOD Act has been a successful initiative which has provided gainful and remunerative employment to many people who would otherwise have had no employment options.

Many of the persons served have overcome obstacles to lead fulfilling lives. Each year the National Industries for the Blind [NIB], the central nonprofit agency for industries for the blind participating in the JWOD, selects one outstanding worker as the Peter J. Salmon National Blind Employee of the Year. This year one of my constituents, Mr. Searchy Marshall, has been nominated to receive this impressive honor. I applaud Mr. Marshall for his determination to succeed and his dedication to his work. He is truly an inspiration to us all.

TRIBUTE TO NEAL H. BROXMEYER

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 1997

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with my colleagues in the House of Representatives the story of a man whose life, which ended all too soon at age 43, was dedicated to the pursuit of truth.

Neal Howard Broxmeyer searched for truth with a great intensity. He was long immersed in spiritual work which brought tremendous

peace. A beloved and respected leader of the School of Practical Philosophy, he played a major role in establishing its Abraham Lincoln School for Boys and Girls on the upper east side in Manhattan. His 8-year-old son is a student there, and is very proud of the role his Dad played. Indeed, it was one of Neal's precious dreams to see the school flourish and grow.

Neal's devotion to his family was exemplary. He naturally included within his family the many people whose lives intersected with his. In that sense, Neal's family included his associates and colleagues at Fairfield Properties, where he was a partner. His brothers have said that he was an excellent businessman, known for his honesty and his integrity. He was seen as the "heart and soul" of his business, and he was referred to as "the light of the office."

Neal Broxmeyer was a man who always looked beyond his own needs. He led his life in keeping with the maxim: "Set no limits in service," and encouraged others to do the same. He was always available to others. He cherished the community in which he lived and was very happy to be part of the community association. He led the way in establishing the security patrol in the community, and always said "How could I not take it on?"

Neal was a simple man who was extraordinary. Always there, steady and balanced; never looking for faults in others, but instead finding the goodness in everyone. Everything and everyone who benefited from his attention, concern, insight, wisdom, counsel, and warmth understands that there was "absence of claim." Although not rigid, Neal was highly disciplined. His life, though very short, was filled with a quality beyond most. Nothing, it seems, was wasted.

Neal is survived by his loving family: His beloved wife Susan; their children, Dara, Jennifer, and David; by his parents, Muriel and Joseph; and by his brothers Mark and Gary.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege and distinct honor to bring the brief life of Neal Howard Broxmeyer to the attention of my colleagues and hope they will join me in paying tribute to an outstanding human being.

"THE ATTACK CULTURE"

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 1997

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, as usual, the columnist Robert J. Samuelson has written very clearly and concisely about the scandals and the so-called attack culture that we find ourselves in today. I recommend the following column to my colleagues:

THE ATTACK CULTURE

(By Robert J. Samuelson)

"Scandal" is the latest word to lose its meaning. The threshold for scandal has moved so low that Washington is almost never without one. The newest is the "campaign finance" scandal, but we are still dealing with the Whitewater scandal and the Gingrich scandal. We have a permanent apparatus of investigators, partisans and reporters working full time to discover and publicize alleged wrongdoing—and calling everything they examine a scandal or potential scandal. Growing outrage is expressed

over offenses that seem ever more obscure or trivial.

Of course, there are genuine scandals, and the behavior of our highest (or lowest) officials must be open to scrutiny. Government and the people who run it can be accountable only if their activities can be inspected. But the process has become twisted into a parody. At last week's press conference, President Clinton was asked 18 questions; 15 concerned campaign fund-raising. Was that the only important matter?

What we're seeing is the attack culture. By attack culture, I mean a mind-set and set of practices that go beyond ordinary partisanship, criticism, debate and investigation. What defines the attack culture is that its animating spirit—unexpressed, but obvious—is to destroy and bring down. Does anyone doubt that the assorted Whitewater investigations aim to destroy President Clinton and the first lady? Does anyone doubt that the charges against House Speaker Gingrich were motivated less by ethical sensitivities than the desire to annihilate him politically?

Investigation, always a political weapon, is now more so than ever. In a 1990 book ("Politics by Other Means"), political scientists Benjamin Ginsberg and Martin Shefter correctly observed: "American politics has recently undergone a fundamental transformation. . . . [C]ontending forces are increasingly relying on such institutional weapons of political struggle as legislative investigations, media revelations, and judicial proceedings to weaken their political rivals and gain power for themselves."

The attack culture originated with Watergate, and Nixon—destroyed and forced to resign—remains the standard of success. The mimicking of Watergate is increasingly undemocratic and breeds disrespect for the law, politics and (if anyone cares) the press. Most Americans sense that the process is out of control, because no one—no one, that is, who doesn't study these scandals for countless hours—can understand what they're about.

What was Gingrich's great offense? Well, he taught a college course (a sin?). Then, some videotapes of the course were used for political promotion (gee, a politician acting political). But wait: The course was financed by tax-deductible charitable donations, which aren't allowed for politics. Therefore, Gingrich committed a no-no and compounded it by providing false information to Congress (an innocent mistake, he claims; a willful deception, say his foes). Clinton may be guilty of a crime in Whitewater, but three investigations—costing more than \$24 million—have yet to disclose what it is.

I am no fan of Clinton's or Gingrich's; nor am I defending their behavior and certainly wouldn't offer it as a model to my children. But we have elections for voters to decide whether, all things considered, they want to retain their elected leaders. Except in rare cases, that job shouldn't be hijacked by courts, prosecutors or the press with investigations that are increasingly inquisitorial. They aim to prejudice people against their target, even if no serious charges are ultimately sustained. The process is abused, because the investigations are selective (often triggered by the target's prominence) and aim (by adverse publicity) to convict and punish the target.

The attack culture subsists on personal ambition and various political agendas. Reports want a big story; prosecutors seek convictions; partisans crave power. And the mere act of investigation creates pressures for results. Resources have been committed; reputations are at stake. Hardly anyone wants to say: "Sorry, nothing here" or "It's trivial." Every mistake, error or personal ex-

cess is elevated to a great evil. Sinister motives are alleged or implied. If it's not a scandal, why bother?

It's also guilty until proven innocent. Some investigations are self-fulfilling. There are so many laws and regulations that anyone who is investigated exhaustively may be found to have violated something. And some targets, flustered or embarrassed, blunder into criminal coverups. Nor are the targets only prominent officials. The federal Office of Research Integrity recently cleared an experienced scientist of misconduct. But for three years, he was subject to congressional hearings and had his research branded fraudulent. Those years, he said, "have been holy hell. They took away my position, my reputation, my work."

People are smeared because the attack culture is heavy-handed and single-minded. The current furor over campaign financing fits the pattern. It is driven by a coalition of Clinton haters, campaign-finance reformers and the press. The story surely seems compelling: the president (apparently) brokering the Lincoln bedroom for contributions; a host of seedy characters schmoozing at the White House; Al Gore dialing for dollars from his office.

What's missing is perspective. The \$2.96 million returned by the Democratic National Committee constitutes only 1.3 percent of all DNC contributions. Questionable gifts didn't affect the election's outcome, and there's no evidence that donations changed any major policy. Much fund-raising is sleazy. But no one should forget that giving money to a candidate or party is a form of political speech. Donations can't easily be limited without compromising free speech. The present hysteria—nurtured by self-proclaimed reformers—intentionally obscures this point.

All the crusading doesn't reassure the public. Just the opposite. Because most people grasp that the process has been corrupted—being moved by ambition and politics—they put the attackers and the accused increasingly on the same moral plane. A plague on everyone. We become desensitized to genuine scandal because the artificial variety is so common. All democracies need to examine their officials; an enduring dilemma is how to prevent legitimate inquiry from sliding into sanctioned tyranny. When everything's a scandal, we're losing the proper balance.

THE ECONOMY

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 1997

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, March 5, 1997, into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

THE ECONOMY

One of the nation's leading economists recently said that the economic performance of the United States today is like being at the top of a mountain. He said, "There is an exhilaration form getting there and the view is great, but all paths are downhill." In a fundamental sense, of course, he was right, because the challenge confronting policymakers today is to preserve the expansion and the economic good times we are now enjoying.

STATE OF ECONOMY

The fundamentals in the American economy today look very solid. Experts tell us that the economy is on track with no imbal-

ances, only moderate inflation, an outlook for solid growth at sustainable levels, with nothing obvious on the horizon that would throw the economy off track.

The facts are impressive. The economic expansion has been growing at a solid, non-inflationary pace in recent years, last year growing by 2.5 percent. Much of the recent growth has been fueled by stronger investment and exports. The 70-month expansion that the economy is enjoying has outlasted all but two of the other eight post-war expansions. The unemployment rate stands at 5.4 percent, down from 7.5 percent in 1992. Much of the job growth has been in sectors paying above-average wages. Inflation, which peaked at 6.1 percent in 1990, has remained below 3 percent in recent years. The combination of low unemployment and stable inflation has given the U.S. the lowest "misery index" since the 1960s. The federal budget deficit, which peaked at \$290 billion in 1992, was down to \$107 billion last year. That has helped keep long-term interest rates low.

There is a broad consensus among the experts that the nation's growth, inflation, and unemployment rates this year will be similar to those of 1996, and that unless something unexpected develops, interest rates will fluctuate within relatively narrow ranges. So the U.S. economy is heading into its seventh straight year of expansion.

OTHER COUNTRIES

It is not hard to find good things to say about the American economy, especially when comparing to what's happening in other countries. The United States was again recently judged to be first in international competitiveness, and our global market share of goods continues to increase. Our trade deficit is still too large, but it has declined by almost 50 percent as a percentage of our gross domestic product (GDP).

In addition, the United States continues to lead the world in per capita GDP. We lead the major industrial nations in growth, and have achieved the lowest budget deficit as a percentage of GDP of any of the industrial countries. Job creation in the United States has exceeded all the other major industrial countries combined, and the U.S. unemployment rate has dropped below that of all industrialized countries but Japan.

CONCERNS

But we ought not to spend too much time congratulating ourselves. The U.S. economy still shows some vulnerabilities and there are some areas of concern.

One is wage stagnation and inequality. Although we have seen some improvement recently, median family income has in recent years stagnated and the wage gap between the rich and the poor has widened. Wage inequality in the United States is more pronounced than in all the other industrialized countries. It bothers me that large segments of our population have seen little or no growth in their own incomes.

Even though the federal budget deficit has been reduced sharply in recent years, it is important to remember that the United States is still the world's largest debtor. I am very uneasy with the fact that the world's largest and richest economy, the great superpower, has become such a huge and chronic borrower.

We continue to have shortfalls in savings. We have the lowest personal savings rate among the industrialized countries and it has declined from 4.9% in 1985 to only 4.4% in 1995. The domestic savings simply are not meeting the nation's investment needs. That means we have to rely more on foreign capital and we reduce funds available to invest in future growth.

Although investment has increased in the 1990s, we are still not investing enough. Real

U.S. investment in plant and equipment has declined since 1985. While we continue to lead the world in spending on research and development, our long-term investment as a percentage of our total wealth is falling just as other competitor nations are increasing their programs. While we spend more money than other countries on education, most of the education experts say that our overall performance, especially in the basic science and math skills, is disappointing. And productivity growth in the United States has been less than 1% over the past decade. That is the second lowest rate among the major industrial countries.

PRIORITIES

It is not difficult to identify where our national priorities in economic policy should be. The education and skill levels of the workforce need to be improved. Savings and investment must increase. The budget deficit has to continue to come down to increase savings, and science and technology policy and regulatory reform need urgent attention.

Looking to the future, what worries me the most is the increasing performance of the world's lower-wage economies. They are now competing more effectively in global markets. I worry about our ability to sustain high-wage jobs in that kind of competitive environment. The challenge from these countries is both direct competition in product services but also with firms which might otherwise be located in the United States moving to these countries. I think we have to focus much more urgently on boosting productivity, stepping up the rate of private sector investment, and improving and broadening the skills of the American work force.

CONCLUSION

The U.S. economy has improved in recent years, but more needs to be done. We especially need to bring the budget deficit down further and expand our investment in education, research, and infrastructure. These help build the foundation for the long-term economic health of our country, and should help improve the lives of average working families.

IRISH-AMERICAN PARADE

HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 1997

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following for the RECORD:

Resolution for the 22d Annual Brooklyn Irish American Parade, Park Slope, New York

Commending the Brooklyn Irish American Parade Committee on its Twenty Second Annual Parade March 16, 1997.

Whereas this parade encourages an appreciation of an ancient Irish heritage; and

Whereas this event is a celebration of Brooklyn's cultural diversity and richness; and

Whereas this parade takes place on the historic site of the Battle of Brooklyn in which Irish Freedom Fighters—Marylanders and other ethnic groups gave their lives to secure independence for our America; and

Whereas the Spirit of '76 was, and still is, the ideal of the Brooklyn Irish American Parade; and

Whereas this year the Parade Committee, its members and officers remember "The Great Famine" (An Gorta Mor) 1845-1850 and Erin's Exiles; and

Whereas "The Great Famine" caused the death of over 1,500,000 in Ireland and tens of

thousands on the coffinships which sailed to America; and

Whereas America is a nation of immigrants and a home to the descendants of the victims and survivors of "The Great Famine" and the Irish Diaspora; and

Whereas it is only fitting that this year's Grand Marshal is Father Colm Joseph Campbell of North Belfast, Chaplain & Co-Ordinator of the Irish Apostolate, Diocese of Brooklyn and Queens and a friend and spiritual counselor to the newest sons and daughters of Erin; now therefore, be it

Resolved, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend the Brooklyn Irish American Parade Committee on its twenty second Annual Parade to be held on Sunday, March 16, 1997; its Grand Marshal, Father Colm Joseph Campbell, Chaplain & Co-Ordinator of the Irish Apostolate, Diocese of Brooklyn and Queens and his Aides; Eleanor Morrissey, Ladies A.O.H. Kings County; Brian Joseph Coughlan (Irish Culture) Pipe Major, Pipes & Drums of the NYC Police Department Emerald Society; Edward J. Cush (Labor/Business) Iron Workers Union Local #361; Vincent O'Connor (Education) Retired District Supervisor Board of Education; Treasa Goodwin (Gaelic Sports) N.Y. Young Irelands Camogie Club; Cody McCone (Kings County Ancient Order of Hibernians); John McGrath (Grand Council United Emerald Societies/Sanitation Dept.); Parade Chairperson, Kathleen McDonagh; Dance Chairperson, Eileen O'Dea; Journal Chairperson, Martin Cottingham; Raffle Chairperson, Ronnie Killen; Parade Officers, Members and all the citizens of Brooklyn, participating in this important and memorable event; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed be transmitted to Father Colm Joseph Campbell, his Aides and the Brooklyn Irish American Parade Committee in Brooklyn.

HONG KONG REVERSION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 1997

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, on July 1, 1997, Hong Kong concludes one challenging but prosperous chapter, and inaugurates another of equal potential. While continued prosperity marks Hong Kong's future, a thriving economic, and autonomous course is not guaranteed under the shadow of mainland China's stale political and economic policies. The United States must strive to assist Hong Kong and its people in preserving and pursuing economic and political values so close to our own.

Thus, I support the objectives of H.R. 750, the Hong Kong Reversion Act. This bill reiterates an unyielding support for the autonomy of Hong Kong and future well-being of its people. The act is not insignificant. For the benefit of my colleagues in understanding the importance of this measure, I include for the record April Lynch's analytical account in today's San Francisco Chronicle. The author skillfully catalogs the concerns Californians have respecting Chinese rule over Hong Kong. Let us hope, Mr. Speaker, that our action today is clearly understood in Beijing. The Hong Kong people deserve no less than our unwavering support.

[From the San Francisco Chronicle, Mar. 11, 1997]

BAY AREA'S BIG STAKE IN HONG KONG—ECONOMIC, CULTURAL TIES AT RISK UNDER CHINA RULE

(By April Lynch)

When the flag of the People's Republic of China is raised over Hong Kong this summer, few other places will have more at stake than the Bay Area and California.

A web of multimillion-dollar businesses, strong cultural ties and 150 years of shared history link the Gold State and the City on China's southern coast. Hong Kong and San Francisco, founded about the same time, have long exchanged money, people and plans for the future of the Pacific Rim.

"California and Hong Kong are like neighbors, even with an ocean in the middle," said Richard So, 29, a computer consultant who grew up in Hong Kong, went to school in this country and now commutes to work between Sunnyvale and Hong Kong. "It is hard to imagine one without the other." The Bay Area is a favorite destination for people leaving Hong Kong for the United States—since 1993, 25 percent of them settled in San Francisco, Oakland or San Jose.

With only 6 million people, tiny Hong Kong is California's ninth-largest export market, buying about \$2.6 billion in goods from the state in the first nine months of last year. China, by comparison, has one-fifth of the world's population but ranks 16th on California's list of export buyers. More than 100 California companies—including Bank of America, Walt Disney and Netscape—have offices or their Asia headquarters in Hong Kong.

Now, four months before Britain turns one of the world's most lively capitalist hubs over to the world's biggest communist country on July 1, those ties face an uncertain future.

People with business or family links to Hong Kong hope that China will allow the territory to remain an economic powerhouse, and many Chinese and Chinese Americans take pride that Hong Kong's transition will all but end the Western colonial presence in China. But those feelings are tempered with caution.

"Hong Kong will continue to be of paramount importance," said Jesus Arredondo, spokesman for the California Department of Trade. "It all depends on what the Chinese government does."

COLONY'S ESTABLISHMENT

Since the mid-1800s, California and Hong Kong have never been far apart. Once a few scattered fishing villages, Hong Kong was seized by Great Britain in 1842, after the first Opium War. The colony's establishment encouraged foreign interests that wanted trade and influence in China, but it was a humiliation China has never forgotten.

Britain expanded the colony in 1860 with the Kowloon Peninsula and the New Territories in 1898 and along the way turned Hong Kong into a major international port. San Francisco interests quickly looked to Hong Kong to recruit laborers to work the state's gold mines and the railroads.

Trade, travel and immigration between Hong Kong and California grew—especially after the colony rebuilt from the devastation of World War II and became Asia's financial hub. Hong Kong now has about as many people and covers as much territory as the Bay Area, but it boasts the world's eighth-largest trading economy and stock market, the world's busiest container port and 9 million visitor-arrivals each year.

The mix of Chinese and foreign residents—about 120,000 people in Hong Kong are from other parts of the world, including the United States, England, India, the Philippines

and Vietnam—has created a striking cultural blend. A day in Hong Kong can easily mean speaking more than one language at work, choosing between Shanghai, Italian or Indian cuisine for dinner, playing a mean game of billiards and finishing the night with a plate of chow fun at a street-corner stall.

The Chinese Communist party stopped short of seizing the colony when it took control of China in 1949 but always made it clear that it wanted Hong Kong back in 1997, when a key lease that gave Britain most of the territory was to expire. In 1984, the two countries reached a deal that would return Hong Kong to China in 1997 but allow the territory remain a "special administrative region" with its basic systems intact for 50 years.

TIANANMEN CRACKDOWN

Goodwill about that plan fell apart with the Tiananmen Square crackdown in 1989. More than 1 million people filled Hong Kong's streets to protest the bloodshed. Emigration from the colony jumped, and many of Hong Kong's business leaders began moving their holdings or strengthening ties overseas, including in California.

Take, for example, Jimmy Lai, the Hong Kong founder of the Giordano clothing chain and publisher of several popular magazines and newspapers. Giordano recently followed many Hong Kong companies in moving its incorporation to Bermuda, and Lai has expressed interest in investing in Silicon Valley. He has good reason to want to expand his business overseas.

After the Tiananmen Square crackdown in Beijing, Giordano printed up tens of thousands of bright red bumper stickers decrying the bloodshed and distributed them for free. The stickers became a must-wear item at the huge protests that filled Hong Kong streets. In 1994, Chinese officials shut down Giordano's Beijing store after Lai wrote a magazine editorial describing Chinese premier Li Peng as a "turtle's egg with a zero IQ." Lai resigned as chairman of Giordano shortly thereafter.

Lawrence Chan, head of the Hong Kong-based Park Lane Hotels International chain, owns both the Parc Fifty Five Hotel in San Francisco and the Parc Oakland hotel. He said the people who drive Hong Kong's economic machine will take a constructive but cautious approach to the transition.

"As businessmen in Hong Kong, we don't listen much to rhetoric," said Chan, who is also president of the Hong Kong Association, a prominent local business group. "We look for what is going on. We look for actions. . . . Recently, we have been seeing the Chinese government pouring huge amounts of capital into Hong Kong, and that is encouraging. China has a huge stake in Hong Kong's future."

CORRUPTION WORRIES

Some China watchers are not so optimistic. There are worries that the corruption that has accompanied China's economic reforms will spill into Hong Kong and that the Chinese government will be fundamentally uncomfortable with having so much free enterprise and private property within its borders.

"I can't see Hong Kong operating at its current level once China takes over," said George Lee, professor of international business at San Francisco State University. "The Communist officials are going to try to control everything they can get their hands on."

Those worries go beyond big business and multinational corporations to the crowded highrise neighborhoods and outlying islands where most of Hong Kong's people live. Hundreds of thousands of Chinese emigrants

have passed through Hong Kong on their way to the United States since 1850, with a sharp increase after anti-Chinese immigration restrictions were lifted after World War II.

Thousands have chosen the Bay Area as their new home—about 20,000 in the past 10 years, according to U.S. immigration statistics.

For many Hong Kong immigrants, the coming changes bring concern for friends and relatives still there.

Underneath its fancy facade, Hong Kong is an expensive place to live. A small flat in a crowded jumble of concrete highrises can cost hundreds of thousands of dollars, and many families have worked for decades to buy a home or business. Now, with the handover, people worry that their friends or family see the life they have built slip away.

"There is a lot of apprehension and mixed feelings," said Rose Pak, spokeswoman for San Francisco's Chinese Chamber of Commerce, who was born in Hong Kong and moved here in 1967. "There is pride in reuniting with China. But no one wants to see people there lose their property, or their freedom to travel or speak their mind."

Still, people in California know there is not much they can do. China's economic modernization in the past decade gives some faith that the Chinese government will shore up Hong Kong, not undermine it. Any unraveling of Hong Kong's economic might would also be a huge loss of face for Beijing, where many Chinese leaders want to show the world they can improve on the way Great Britain ran the colony.

"There is so much there worth keeping and expanding on," said So, the computer consultant. "The big highrises with their wild architecture that stand over little markets a few streets away, and the harbor full of big tankers next to old Chinese junks and fishing boats. It can be a crazy place, but it is always exciting. I hope it will all survive."

HONG KONG AT A GLANCE

Hong Kong is about the same size and has about as many people as the Bay Area—but the territory has become one of the world's economic powerhouses. Its pivotal role in the economies of Asia and the Pacific Rim, as well as Hong Kong's long-standing cultural ties to California, give the Bay Area a huge stake in Hong Kong's future.

Population: 6.2 million.

Origins: Once a group of quiet Chinese fishing villages, Hong Kong was seized by Great Britain in 1842 following the first Opium War. Great Britain expanded the size of the colony in 1860 with the Kowloon Peninsula and the New Territories in 1898.

Economy: Hong Kong has thrived on unfettered capitalism, with an import-export economy driven by its huge harbor, powerful banks, many small factories and busy stock market. The colony exported about \$150 billion worth of goods all over the world in 1994.

Politics: Hong Kong is run by a British governor, a locally elected legislature and a powerful civil service. China has been increasing its influence behind the scenes in recent years. Following the Tiananmen Square crackdown in 1989, a million Hong Kong people took to the streets to protest the bloodshed and to call for greater democracy.

Culture: Hong Kong's population has always been predominately Chinese, but expatriates from all over the world have long flocked to the colony. The mix has created a blend of cultures and traditions that exists nowhere else. Many of Asia's top artists, film-makers, chefs and designers have come from Hong Kong.

Dollars to California: Hong Kong is California's ninth-largest export market, importing \$3.8 billion in California goods in 1995. Top

goods purchased included electronics and industrial machinery. Exports to Hong Kong support more than 70,000 jobs in the state.

California, a favorite destination: In recent years, about 25 percent of all immigrants from Hong Kong to the United States settled in the Bay Area. Hong Kong has been a major point of departure for hundreds of thousands of immigrants headed to California for 150 years.

The future: China will retake control of Hong Kong on July 1 under an agreement reached with Great Britain in 1984. The plan called for making Hong Kong a special region within China and leaving Hong Kong's systems in place for 50 years. Since then, however, China has moved to replace the elected legislature with one made up of representatives approved by Beijing and will undo parts of a Bill of Rights passed four years ago. Chinese leaders continue to say Hong Kong's economy and other systems will be left untouched.

TRIBUTE TO MAGNUS ELLEN, SR.

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 1997

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention the memory of Magnus Ellen, Sr. of Passaic, NJ, who passed away recently on February 25, 1997.

Magnus' life was one of dedication and commitment to the community, serving the city of Passaic as its only African-American councilman and as a member of the board of the United Passaic Organization, the city's branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

As well as being a community activist, Magnus also served the community as deacon of St. Paul Baptist Church, and as chairman of the board of directors at St. Paul Baptist Church for two decades. Through his involvement in the community, Deacon Ellen—as he was affectionately known—led several city-wide improvement campaigns which included an antilitter program that saw the participation of hundreds of residents and students picking up trash from the city's streets while city officials were debating the management of the program.

A giving and honest man, Deacon Ellen never turned away those in need of help and even unofficially adopted two young musicians from St. Paul Baptist Church, who were members of the Inspirational Choir, a program organized by Deacon Ellen. Another popular church program begun by Deacon Ellen is the annually celebrated, Youth Day.

In addition to being a community activist and a man of God, Deacon Ellen was also a traveler who counted as one of his greatest personal achievements, a trip made to Jerusalem nearly two decades ago.

Deacon Ellen and his wife, Christine, who passed away 4 years ago, had raised a loving family of five children including Magnus, Jr., a retired Passaic detective, and Carl, owner of the Ellen Agency, his insurance company.

Deacon Ellen was planning to remarry on August 2, of this year to his fiancée, Loretta Bradley.

Surviving Deacon Ellen are his five children, a sister living in Chicago, and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me, our colleagues, Deacon Ellen's fiancée Loretta, his

family, and the city of Passaic in remembering Deacon Magnus Ellen, Sr., and his many invaluable contributions to the community.

SALUTING KARL ANTON

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 1997

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with my constituents and the members and friends of the Long Island, Nassau/Suffolk Chapter of the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation International as they gather on March 15, at the Garden City Hotel to celebrate their outstanding accomplishments and honor a most unique and dedicated individual, Karl V. Anton, Jr.

When describing Karl Anton, one usually says, "He has ink in his blood." This healthy dose of printer's ink was given to him by his father, who published a community paper in Freeport, as well as the Nassau News. It very soon became the family tradition to both report and create history. As Karl became more involved with his father's journalistic efforts, the concept of community service took hold and very soon merged with his dedication to publishing. What resulted were newspapers that served to both enhance and inform the community. Many of today's Long Island newspapers have greatly benefited from contact with Karl Anton.

Karl is indefatigable in all he undertakes and successful in all his endeavors. The intimate knowledge of the community gained by Karl through his newspapers generated a sense of duty to the various neighborhoods he covered. Very quickly he became a multifaceted workman devoting his knowledge and skills to a variety of community organizations and projects.

Karl Anton's involvement in the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation came about when his oldest granddaughter, Christine, was diagnosed with the illness. Since then, a second daughter, Mary, was similarly diagnosed. Much to the great love and dedication of Karl, these children have been blessed with a compassionate, selfless and dedicated grandfather who has devoted his total self in aiding the search for a cure.

Mr. Speaker, at a time when we search for heroes to lead us by dint of personality and hard work, we have been blessed with such a man as Karl Anton. I ask all my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me now in saluting Karl Anton for a lifetime of selfless contribution to his community.

BLACK HISTORY MILITARY
HERITAGE

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 1997

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, last month I had the opportunity to attend a ground breaking ceremony for the Afro-American Memorial Museum at Camp Blanding, FL. The museum hopes to foster understanding, interest and pride in the military history of Florida and in particular of black Floridians.

The dedicating speech at this event was given by Prof. Robert Hawk, a former Navy corpsman and current professor of American and Florida history. To put it simply, Professor Hawk is the exemplification of the museum itself. He has authored many books on the Armed Forces and on Florida; he has worked for the Florida Department of Military Affairs as a historical site interpreter; he has assembled and published 150 volumes of archival material on Florida history; and he has co-designed and created three public museums devoted to Florida history. We all have a lot to learn from a man like Professor Hawk. His speech at the ground breaking struck a chord with me; it enlightened me; and it made me proud to be an American and a Floridian.

Mr. Speaker, attached is the text of Professor Hawk's speech from the ground breaking. It is to be made part of the RECORD. I urge my colleagues, and indeed all Americans, to read through what he has to say. His message is invaluable in understanding the history behind our great country, and is therefore invaluable in understanding the pride in being an American, a Floridian, and a neighbor of great men like Professor Hawk.

BLACK FLORIDA MILITARY HERITAGE

(By Robert Hawk)

A narrative version, based on the notes prepared, of the speech I gave the Black History Month groundbreaking ceremony for the "Walk Through Time" memorial project at Camp Blanding, Florida; February 21, 1997. Its pretty rough as it was designed as a speech and not a finished product for publication. Anyway, here it is as best I could reconstruct it! I am also enclosing a copy of the historical background material for the project grant that was handed out at the ceremony as I wrote that as well and it tells the story a bit more coherently.

As a professional historian and teacher, I am frequently surprised, indeed depressed to realize how very little the average American knows of our country's history. And for Florida history; even among individuals born and raised here, with long family histories associated with the state, their knowledge of our state's history is generally extremely limited, often non-existent. There is virtually no knowledge or appreciation of our peninsula's long, interesting and distinguished history which extends over more than four centuries.

And knowledge of Florida's Black military historical heritage? Even less is known.

Contemporary, popular or "politically correct" view of Florida, and its Black history, suggests cotton fields and slaves and, for virtually everyone, Florida history begins when the Americans take over in 1821.

But this view completely overlooks the more than 350 years of Florida's history which precedes American control and, it ignores the important military service which Black Floridians have given their new world home for all those preceding centuries.

Our "Walk Through Time" memorial is designed to commemorate the entire 430 years of dedicated military service by Black Floridians. And that unique heritage begins where it should; at the beginning!

1565

When Pedro Menendez de Aviles established the military or presidio settlement of St. Augustine in September 1565, he mustered all his troops and the settler militia. The company of local militia contained at least two men of African origins. As a note, under Spanish law, in a presidio or military settlement, all males, black/white, free and slave; Indians, mixed bloods; even convicts were liable for military or militia service.

From 1565 on, there was never a time when there were no men of African origin serving in the Florida militia or local garrison. By the middle of the 17th century, at least one entire company of Florida militia infantry was composed entirely of free and slave black local residents.

During the War of Jenkins Ear, Florida was partially defended by a Black infantry company of former slaves and free citizens attached to the Fort Mose settlement north of St. Augustine commanded by Francisco Menendez, a former slave and now wealthy free man of color in Florida. In June 1740 after the British invaded Florida and laid siege to the city of St. Augustine, those Black soldier, along with their Spanish Regular compatriots, successfully assaulted the British positions at the occupied Ft. Mose, precipitating the subsequent evacuation of Florida by the British.

Few Floridians and fewer Americans seem aware that Florida was a Loyalist colony during the war of the American Revolution. The colony raised a regiment of East Florida Rangers of nine companies, at least one of which was entirely composed of local Black citizens. The Rangers fought the Rebels from the north several times and never lost a battle, eventually helping the British occupy east Georgia which they held until war's end.

During the Second Spanish period following the Revolution, Florida had many Black infantry and artillery militiamen.

In 1821 the Americans took over Florida. Things would change as the Americans had different institutions and values. There would be a much reduced, almost non-existent role for Blacks in the local militia but some Florida Blacks did serve in the Seminole Indians Wars.

And then there is America's most devastating war; the Civil War or the War of Northern Aggression.

Most people believe all Southern Blacks who serve in the war did so in the Union Army. Not so. Throughout the South, approximately 40,000 Southern Blacks, both free men and slave, actively served in or with the Confederate Army and they fought for their homeland; the South.

Some did serve in the Union Army. From Florida, most local Blacks who served the Union did so in the 1st South Carolina, later re-named the 33rd US Colored Infantry.

But other Florida Blacks served the South. For example, at least twelve local men of color served in Company B, 3rd Florida Infantry, Confederate States Army, one of whom was Corporal Emmanuel Osborne. His brother Samuel Osborne, served as a Private in the 33rd US Colored Infantry, Union Army. Not only white families were divided by this terrible war.

After the Civil War, Florida, and America's military and militia units were segregated. Black militia units in Florida did not receive official recognition but Black Floridians continued to organize and train their own militia units right up to the beginning of the First World War. Some Florida Blacks served in the Black Regiments of the Army fighting Indians in the West, in Cuba and the Philippines. At least three members of those regiments from Florida were killed in action at the Battle of San Juan Hill in 1898 and are buried in the National cemetery in St. Augustine.

During World War I and World War II, America's military remained segregated. But thousands of Black Floridians served in the military, some died and some were killed in action fighting the Germans in the First War and Germans and Japanese during the Second.

Largely desegregated after the Second War, Black Floridians continued to serve their state and nation in Korea, Vietnam,

Desert Storm and in all the many military deployments and associated activities of our nation since 1945.

And, finally, three African American Floridians have received our nation's highest medal for valor; the Medal of Honor. Adam Paine, Clifford Sims and Robert Jenkins.

Adam Paine was a Seminole Negro Indian Scout with the 4th US Cavalry and earned his medal 20 September 1874 on the Staked Plains of Texas. He was born in Florida and moved to Mexico just before the outbreak of the Civil War and crossed into Texas after the war to join the Army. To quote from his citation; "Seminole Negro Indian Scout Adam Paine; for gallantry when attacked by a hugely superior party of Indians. This is a Scout of great courage" signed Colonel Ranald MacKenzie; commanding the regiment.

Clifford Sims of Port St. Joe, Florida, was a Staff Sergeant with the 101st Airborne in Vietnam when he earned his medal 21 February 1968 in a battle associated with the Communist Tet Offensive near Hue.

He was a squad leader leading his men in an attack against heavily fortified enemy positions. He exhibited excellent leadership throughout the battle and saved his men from serious injury when an enemy ammo position exploded. Shortly afterward, when the unmistakable sound of an enemy booby trap being sprung was heard, he threw himself on the enemy device and was killed. His men lived.

Robert Jenkins Jr., of Interlachen, Florida was a Private First Class in the United States Marine Corps when he earned his medal on 5 March 1969 near the DMZ in northern Vietnam. He was serving as a machine gunner with Recon unit when his position was assaulted by NVA Regular troops. He and his assistant gunner fought back effectively, but when an enemy grenade was thrown into their position, Jenkins, without hesitation, placed himself between the grenade and his comrade, thus receiving the wounds from which he died later that day. His fellow Marine lived. He came to visit Robert's grave in Florida just this past year.

Well, this is but a sample of Florida's Black military heritage which we wish to commemorate with this memorial project. It is an interesting, unusual and distinguished heritage; one that needs to be made known to all Floridians. Out "Walk Through Time" memorial exhibit will be a start toward making this part of our state's long and incredibly diverse history available to the general public.

We extend our most profound thanks and appreciation to all of those who have, or who will, assist us in the creation and completion of this project.

RECOGNITION OF THE AMERICAN
JEWISH COMMITTEE FOR THEIR
SIGNIFICANT DONATION TO THE
GAY'S HILL BAPTIST CHURCH IN
MILLEN, GA

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 1997

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, in response to the malicious burning of the Gay's Hill Baptist Church in Millen, GA, the American Jewish Committee presented a donation of more than \$87,000 to the church's congregants for reconstruction on December 15, 1996. The remarks that David A. Harris, the executive director of the American Jewish Committee,

gave at the presentation were especially inspirational and carried the message of racial healing. Mr. Harris' apt remarks follow:

GAY'S HILL BAPTIST CHURCH
GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY

(By David A. Harris, Executive Director,
American Jewish Committee)

Reverend Baldwin, Ladies and Gentlemen, Brothers and Sisters, Perhaps they're out there right now, maybe hiding behind that tree, or over in that field, or behind that car. I'm speaking of those who would commit such an act as burning a church. Maybe they're out there right now, watching us. I hope so.

Perhaps they thought they had found an isolated church to burn down, a church no one would notice, much less care about.

They were wrong. This church is now at the center of the universe. It might as well be located in the middle of Times Square in New York, or between the White House and the U.S. Congress in Washington.

Perhaps they thought only Baptists would care.

They were wrong. It's not just Baptists who care. It's all caring people who care. And if this was an assault against Baptists, then all of us—of many religions—are today Baptists.

Perhaps they thought only African Americans would care.

They were wrong. It's not just African Americans who care. It's all caring people who care. And if this was an assault against African Americans, then all of us—of many races—are today African Americans.

Perhaps they thought only Christians would care.

They were wrong. It's not just Christians who care. It's all caring people who care. And if this was an assault against Christians, then all of us—of many faiths—are today Christians.

Perhaps they thought their hate would prevail.

They were wrong. Our love will. Our bonds—across race, religion, geography—will prevail. As we stand here today, hand in hand, arm in arm, shoulder to shoulder, we know that to be true.

Perhaps they thought destruction would prevail.

They were wrong. Construction will prevail. We are builders, not destroyers. The rebuilding of this church is but one example.

Perhaps they thought an exclusive view of America would prevail.

They were wrong. An inclusive vision of America—of all its people and their rich diversity—will prevail. We reaffirm that vision today, as we must every day. An America where we will learn to live together as brothers and sisters, else we die together as fools, as the late Reverend King so poignantly stated.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Brothers and Sisters,

When we at the American Jewish Committee learned about the spate of church burnings, we wanted to extend a helping hand—not just in words, words can be quite cheap, but in deeds. We wanted to rise up as part of the community of conscience and stand with those in pain and in need. We wanted to do something tangible.

For many of us, the sight of church burnings was all too familiar. Near and far, we have witnessed many of our synagogues, far too many, go down in ashes—targets of hate. We have experienced the sense of fear, of vulnerability, of anger, and of isolation that comes with such tragedies. And we know what can happen when we are alone. Yes, we know.

For too long, we were alone, as you have been alone.

But no more. Enough. Many good people are waking up and want to be counted. You are not alone. We are not alone. Just this past week, for example, Jews around the world were celebrating the holiday of Chanukah, the eight days marking the first recorded struggle for religious freedom, the freedom to be different. A Jewish family outside Philadelphia experienced a frightening event.

During the night, someone came, broke a window and destroyed the candelabra, the menorah as we call it, shining bright in their window. But what happened next? By the end of that day, virtually every home in the immediate neighborhood, Christian and Jewish, had placed a menorah in their front window. And something very similar happened in Billings, Montana three years earlier when thousands of Christian homes placed menorahs in their windows after a similar attack.

That's true faith, that's genuine kindness, that's real brotherly and sisterly love.

No, none of us should be alone. None of us should ever again experience the fear of isolation. And none of us should ever again remain quiet or inactive at such moments. That would be akin to acquiescence, to defeat.

And that's why we wanted to help, to stand up and be counted, to affirm that we are all God's children, all created in the Divine image. In doing so, we were motivated by the words of Samuel:

"The Lord declares to you that He, the Lord, will build a house for you . . . He shall build a house for God's name . . . Be pleased, therefore, to bless your servant's house, that it may abide before You forever; for You, O Lord God, have spoken. May your servant's house be blessed forever by Your blessing."

Joining me here today are a number of American Jewish Committee colleagues whom I'd like to ask to join me now. From Atlanta: Lois Frank, Steve Kleber, Sherry Frank and Sunny Stern. From Philadelphia: Lisa Weinberger and Eric Kantor.

And though technically not a colleague, I'd also like to ask my 17-year-old son, Danny, to come up. I asked Danny if he would come with me from New York because I wanted him to experience this day for himself and hopefully to draw strength and inspiration from it.

Reverend Baldwin, my colleagues and I at the American Jewish Committee said we wanted to do something tangible. As you know, we and the whole family of the American Jewish Committee undertook a fund raising effort to help you and your congregation rebuild the Gay's Hill Baptist Church. I am pleased today to be able to give you these checks totalling more than \$87,000 that resulted from the effort.

And now, may I ask you all—Christian and Jew, black and white, we who seek to build, not destroy; to love, not hate; to heal, not wound—to join hands for a moment of prayer.

"Our God and God of all Generations, We rejoice at the gift of friendship and fellowship that is ours this day.

We ask Your blessing upon those who lead and serve this Congregation. Bless them in their endeavors to build a new House of Prayer.

Give special strength, wisdom and courage to those who will labor to build this new House. Be with them in the days and months ahead.

And may they achieve the goal we all seek, the gift we Jews call Shalom, the gift of peace. And let us say, Amen."

TRIBUTE TO GIRL SCOUTS OF THE
USA

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 1997

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join in celebration of the 85th anniversary of the Girl Scouts of the USA. The Girl Scouts of the USA, since its inception in 1912, has stood for the highest principles of honesty, fairness, and service to others.

Juliette Gordon Low registered the first group of 18 Girl Scouts on March 12, 1912, in Savannah, GA—conceiving the idea from England's Sir Robert Baden-Powell, who in 1911 had founded an organization called the Boy Scouts.

The birth of the Girl Scouts of the USA in the early part of this century introduced unprecedented opportunities for girls to expand their lives. While girls and women in those years were unable to break into traditionally male activities, sports, fields of academics and jobs, the Girl Scouts of the USA handbook in 1913 included instructions on how to fly an airplane.

The Girl Scouts sisterhood gained enormous popularity in the years to follow, leading to its incorporation in Washington, DC, on June 10, 1915, its first nationally organized cookie sale in 1936, and its chartering by the U.S. Congress on March 16, 1950.

In the decades since then, the Girl Scouts of the USA has grown to nearly 3½ million members—2.6 million Daisy, Brownie, Junior, Cadette and Senior Girl Scouts, and 827,000 adult volunteer leaders, consultants, board members, and staff specialists. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton serves as its National Honorary President. A total of 174 million boxes of Girl Scout cookies sold last year for \$435 million, to support activities of 331 local councils established nationwide. The Girl Scouts of the USA has enjoyed tremendous success.

We must continue to support and acknowledge the value of an organization that teaches a young girl through its basic law to do her best, to be honest, to be fair, to help where she is needed, to be cheerful, to be friendly and considerate, to be a sister to every Girl Scout, to respect authority, to use resources wisely, to protect and improve the world around her, and to show respect for herself and others through her words and actions.

These responsibilities in Girl Scout Law and words in the Girl Scout Promise to "serve God and my country" have prevailed throughout the 85 years of its organization, despite new challenges marked by evolving times. In cities such as Milwaukee, Honolulu, and here in Washington DC. Girl Scout troops are having an incredible impact on the lives of girls. Today's Girl Scouts are taught duty and obligation to others and themselves, and are offered opportunities to do so through a broad range of activities. Girl Scouts each week are participating in positive activities to discover the worlds of science, the arts, the outdoors, and people—as well as to find their ability to excel in these worlds.

The Girl Scouts of the USA will continue to mean for millions of our girls a source of friendship, a positive creed by which to live, and endless opportunities at self-discovery.

Happy 85th birthday, Girl Scouts of the USA. I wish you many more to come.

"DEMOCRACY—ABOVE AND
BEYOND"

HON. ROBERT E. WISE, JR.

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 1997

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce for the RECORD a script written by Mr. William "Jamie" O'Brien, a constituent of mine from Buckhannon, WV. This script was West Virginia's winning entry into the Veterans of Foreign Wars—Voice of Democracy broadcast scriptwriting contest.

Jamie's script does a tremendous job of blending the history of our country with examples of the shortcomings of other types of government to explain why, "Democracy, against all other forms of government, is above and beyond." I encourage my colleagues to keep Jamie's script in mind as we seek to find effective solutions to the problems that currently face our Nation.

"DEMOCRACY—ABOVE AND BEYOND"

(By William O'Brien)

As I watched the sun set upon the Pennsylvania battlefield, I could see the men charging forth over the crest of the hill. Valor raging in their eyes. The name Gettysburg itself carries a foreboding presence, but being there to witness the landscape is an eye opening experience. This place is one example, of many, where brave men laid down their lives for the protection of the precious institution democracy.

Throughout the history of the United States, we have strived to protect freedom and be an example of democracy at work. When the very existence of the nation was threatened in the 1860's, President Lincoln's main objective was not the Emancipation Proclamation or to punish the South for its defiance. His chief war aim was to preserve the Union. Lincoln knew that the war would shape us into a new nation. When Lincoln visited the Gettysburg battlefield to dedicate a cemetery, he included in his remarks an eloquent description of democracy—"a government of the people, by the people, and for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

Just down the road from the battlefield is the Eisenhower farm. Eisenhower worked his whole life for the cause of peace. He served his country in the struggle against the Nazi party in World War II. After all his military accomplishments he returned to his homeland and retired to this spot in Pennsylvania. As president of the United States and as leader of the free world, "IKE" returned here—bringing many world leaders. The leader of the communist USSR, Nikita Khrushchev, viewed and walked this same ground. The communist leader's famous phrase, "we shall bury you," is now only ashes.

Democracy, being derived from the highlights of other governments, is the best form of government. A monarchy is too naive, to think that one person can rule a diverse group of people. It's strong suit is that it puts one person at the head so things can get done quickly. Totalitarianism is not good for an advancing society. If the government controlled all aspects of life creativity would be lost. The government has the responsibility, however, to control the safety of its people. The tyrannical power of a dictator does not allow people to be free in their own homes.

At any time, their life can be expended. They have no rights. Yet, the maintaining of an army for defense and the war is essential. For these reasons, democracy is above all forms of government.

The protection of the people and their rights are two of democracy's greatest assets. But most important is how apt the government is to change. Our government is not defined by the time in which it was developed. It's molded by the present. The United States Constitution is a living document. The soldier at Gettysburg, President Lincoln, and General Eisenhower, all fought to preserve the Constitution and what it stands for. Depending on what is needed by the people, our government provides. Our democracy has lasted for over two hundred years, while other governments have fallen to the wayside. Democracy goes beyond all forms of government.

I have no fear that when I reach adulthood, democracy will be able to provide for me. We shall shape it for ourselves. Because democracy, against all other forms of government, is above and beyond.

TRIBUTE TO LARRY MANCINO

HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 1997

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, at its most recent convention, the Communications Workers of America elected as vice president of its district I, Larry Mancino.

District I is the largest jurisdiction in CWA in terms of membership, with nearly 100,000 dues payers residing in the States spanning the area between New Jersey and Maine.

I take special pride in Larry's election because he is not only a native of the Empire State, but also was born in Brooklyn.

Most significant, Larry Mancino brings a proven track record to the position of vice president, having served for more than 30 years as an effective and enlightened labor leader.

After completing military duty in the Air Force, he began work as a communications technician with the Western Union Telegraph Co. In 1966, Larry assisted the CWA by becoming the collective bargaining representative for the 4,000 employees of Western Union. Six years later, he was appointed to CWA's national staff. He later advanced to director of the union's downstate region, including New York City.

Most noteworthy, Larry was promoted in 1991 to assistant to Morton Bahr, the president of CWA. A responsibility that Larry carried out diligently and successfully until his election as vice president of district I.

Mr. Speaker, Larry Mancino is not only eminently qualified to be vice president of CWA but he and the world's largest telecommunications union are a nearly perfect match.

The CWA is a prime example of an outstanding "public citizen" in our pluralistic society, an organization that enhances the quality of life of all Americans. It is an activist organization with grassroots rank-and-file members residing in all 50 States and in each of the 435 congressional districts.

I am pleased that the leadership of CWA's district I is in the hands of Larry Mancino. He is an invaluable asset not only to CWA but also to working families throughout the Nation.

I also want to acknowledge Larry's indispensable partner, Connie, their three children and their grandson. I know that they are proud of his extraordinary career and the latest honor he has richly earned.

LEGISLATION TO ENCOURAGE HOUSE MEMBERS TO HIRE WELFARE RECIPIENTS BY INCREASING THE MEMBER STAFF ALLOTMENT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 1997

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce a bill to encourage Members of the House of Representatives to act in the spirit of welfare reform and to set an example by hiring at least one welfare recipient to work in either their Capitol Hill or their district office. The bill increases the number of staff that Members are now permitted to hire from 22 to 23 without any increase in their budgets, provided that the extra staff member is full-time and a welfare recipient. Members may hire welfare recipients now, as some have done, but others feel constrained by the limit on the total number of employees. By allowing an additional position, this legislation may also encourage the hiring of welfare recipients who are hard to place because of lack of experience and opportunities. Members may credit a welfare recipient from this city or region to her own home State's work participation rate, if desired.

The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 requires that, by the year 2002, 50 percent of all families—including 90 percent of two-parent families—receiving welfare be in the workforce or in work activities. In only 1 year, this year, half that number or 25 percent must be working—including 75 percent of two-parent families. This is a daunting goal to achieve nationwide, especially considering the wide differences in the economies of the States, cities, and rural areas and great differences in the skills and background of welfare recipients today. Yet large penalties ultimately totaling up to 21 percent of a State's grant may result if the quotas are not met. At a time when we are asking private employers to hire welfare recipients, we must take the lead.

The President has directed Federal agencies to take steps within the next 30 days to hire welfare recipients. Congress must also do its part. While this revenue neutral bill contemplates no increase in a Member's allowance, it removes a hurdle to hiring a welfare recipient for offices that already have the authorized number of staff or must use their full complement.

Under current rules, Members are allowed to hire 22 staff members, 18 permanent and 4 nonpermanent, in their Washington and district offices. The last time the number of permanent staffers was increased was in 1975—from 16 to 18—and the 4 nonpermanent staff positions were added in 1979. There is no corresponding increase in Member allowance.

Several Members have already begun to hire recipients of public assistance. This legislation encourages others to follow by reducing one possible impediment. This legislation is

also in the spirit of the Congressional Accountability Act that applies the same laws to Congress as to other Americans. Employers are not required to hire welfare recipients, and neither are we. They are encouraged to hire welfare recipients, and so should we. I urge each and every Member to cosponsor this bill and to help ensure its early passage.

JOHN T. BARTOSIEWICZ HONORED AS MAN OF THE YEAR BY THE PULASKI ASSOCIATION OF BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL MEN, INC.

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 1997

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to John Bartosiewicz of Greenpoint, Brooklyn, who is being honored this Sunday as the Pulaski Association of Business and Professional Men's Man of the Year.

John grew up in a musical family, and his success as a musician was identified quickly. During his childhood, he was known for his musical talent whether he was singing or playing an instrument. In 1967, he joined the St. Cecilia Choir of St. Stanislaus Kostka Church in Greenpoint, Brooklyn, as a bass section voice. In 1974, John took over as the music director and conductor of the choir. Under his aggressive and masterful style of teaching and conducting, the St. Cecilia Choir has recorded four record albums, made numerous television appearances, and performed numerous times throughout the New York metropolitan area including at an ecumenical service for Pope John Paul II.

In addition to his musical achievements, John has also been involved in politics, business, and community affairs throughout his entire life. While attending St. Francis College and majoring in political science, he interned with the newly city councilman, Abraham G. Gerges. Bartosiewicz worked on the successful election campaign and became part of the councilman's staff for almost 2 years. From 1976 to 1988, John managed six campaigns for reelection to the New York State Senate on behalf of his brother, Tom Bartosiewicz. He worked closely with community leaders, volunteers, and a dedicated hard-working staff, and that work resulted in landslide victories. Following his brother's retirement from the Senate, John kept active in Greenpoint politics.

In 1976, John Bartosiewicz joined his mother and father in the family-owned business of Newell Fuel Co. as general manager. Through his efforts the company modernized its operations and office location establishing itself as a creative energy efficient leader in the fuel oil industry.

John is also very active in fund-raising campaigns benefiting his parish of St. Stanislaus Kostka Church and the community. In particular, he was instrumental in raising funds for the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center in Washington, DC.

In June 1996, Bartosiewicz joined Vijax Fuel Corp., where he presently serves as marketing and heating installations manager. Through Vijax, John instituted a "give back to the community" program which benefits the youth of

Greenpoint. Entitled "Energy for Youth," the program provided financial support to the activities of the Greenpoint YMCA, the St. Stanislaus Kostka Athletic League, and the Greenpoint Lions Club Toys for Tots Program.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating John Bartosiewicz on this well-deserved honor.

IN HONOR OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FRESNO SERVICE CENTER OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

HON. CALVIN M. DOOLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 1997

Mr. DOOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise before my colleagues today in order to pay tribute to the Fresno Service Center of the Internal Revenue Service which celebrates its 25th anniversary this year.

The Fresno Service Center of the Internal Revenue Service has made countless contributions to its community. More than 40,000 local residents have received valuable job training and developed lasting careers at the service center. The Fresno facility has been commended for providing meaningful job opportunities to youth, veterans, and the disabled.

In addition to job creation, the service center has played an important financial role in the community. Since it opened in 1972, the service center has contributed nearly two and a half billion dollars to the local economy through employment and related expenditures. Due to the generosity of the service center's employees, over two million dollars has been donated to local charities through the Combined Federal Campaign.

I commend the Fresno Service Center's dedicated employees—past and present—for their admirable service, and I hope that their fellow citizens will continue to support them with vigorous appreciation.

WACO

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 1997

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I was encouraged to come across this recent review in the Austin American-Statesman of a new movie which did well at the recent Sundance Film Festival. The film, "Waco: The Rules of Engagement," deals with the horrible events which occurred in Waco, TX, in 1993. This review correctly describes the hideous event—as shown in the nonfiction "Waco" documentary—which left so many innocent children dead, and so many questions left unanswered. The film apparently answers some of the questions, revealing never-before-released recordings of the conversations between Federal police and the Davidians, as well as never-before-seen footage of the final minutes of the siege. I am pleased to share this review with my colleagues.

[From the Austin American-Statesman, Jan. 20, 1997]

CELEBRATING INDEPENDENCE—FROM AUSTIN TO WACO, TEXAS IS WELL COVERED AS SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL KICKS OFF

(By Ann Hornaday)

"Waco" had crowds riveted.

As usual, many of the stand-outs of the festival have been in the non-fiction categories. Friday morning was brightened considerably with the world premier of "Riding the Rails," a film about the generation of teenagers who took to riding boxcars during the Depression. And the envelope wasn't just pushed, it was exploded by the most powerful film to be shown yet at Sundance.

Director William Gazecki presented "Waco: The Rules of Engagement" to a packed screening room on Saturday when it made its world premiere as part of the non-competitive American Spectrum sidebar. This harrowing tale of the siege at the Branch Davidian compound and its tragic end unearths shattering evidence of hidden agenda, dishonesty, religious persecution and fatal culpability on the part of the U.S. government. With tapes of never-before-heard negotiations between David Koresh and agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and the FBI, video shot by the FBI at the compound and infrared photography, as well as interviews and congressional testimony, Gazecki leads the audience to the chilling conclusion that, as one former FBI special agent puts it, the Davidians who died in the fire on April 19, 1993 "were victims of a homicide" at the hands of their own government. The audience, most of whom stayed for the three-hour entirety of "Waco," remained riveted up until its disturbing final shot—an almost unheard-of phenomenon at a Sundance screening, let alone one where everyone knows the ending.

RETURN CAPITAL TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ACT (RECAP ACT)

HON. JENNIFER DUNN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 1997

Ms. DUNN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Return Capital to the American People Act (ReCAP Act). This legislation provides a capital gains reduction for both individuals and corporations and will do more to boost our Nation's economy, more to create jobs, more to enhance U.S. competitiveness worldwide, and more to increase savings and investment than any other single legislative change we can enact.

For established, successful businesses, for struggling entrepreneurs, and for middle-class families across the country, this measure represents the most serious effort to unlock billions of dollars in investment providing for expanded growth and job creation.

While there are many reasons to support a reduction in the capital gains rate, I would like to highlight what I believe to be the most compelling case for enactment of the ReCAP Act.

A low capital gains rate benefits all Americans. This bill is fair to all income groups and sectors of our economy. Many of the so-called rich who would benefit from a cut in capital gains taxes are only rich for one year. A family in Eatonville that sells its house, an owner in Issaquah who sells a small business, a worker in Bellevue selling stock received through an

employee stock option, and a retiree in Auburn selling an asset and planning to live off the proceeds would all be considered wealthy on current tax distribution tables. For example, a review by the Joint Committee on Taxation on capital gains realizations for the period 1979–1983 shows that nearly 44 percent of tax returns claiming a capital gain during the 5-year period claimed only one capital gain. Most of these people aren't rich, regardless of what statistics say. They merely have one year of inflated income because they realized a big capital gain.

Furthermore, an analysis of 1993 tax returns found that nearly 50 percent of the tax returns reporting capital gains were filed by taxpayers with less than \$40,000 in adjusted gross income. Of tax returns claiming a capital gain, nearly 60 percent of those returns are filed by taxpayers with less than \$50,000 in adjusted gross income.

Low capital gains rate is important for our future and our Nation's ability to save and invest. Americans do not save enough. If you look at our tax laws, you will see why. Instead of encouraging people to save, the tax code often punishes people who save and invest. This is primarily due to the fact that the income tax hits savings more than once—first when income is earned and again when interest and dividends on the investment supported by the original savings are received. This system is inherently unfair because the individual or company that saves and invests pays more taxes over time than if all income were consumed and no savings took place. We need to change this. Without savings, a person cannot buy a house, a business cannot purchase new equipment, and our economy cannot create jobs. Unless we can raise our national savings rate, our standard of living, and our children's and grandchildren's standards of living will not grow.

Lowering the capital gains rate unlocks investment and America's true economic potential. High capital gains taxes can prevent someone from selling an asset and paying the tax. This is the lock-in effect: when a person will not sell an investment and reinvest the proceeds in a higher paying alternative if the capital gains taxes he or she would owe exceed the expected higher return on the original investment.

This lock-in effect limits economic growth and job creation. Capital stays locked in an investment instead of being free to go to a person who wants to hire new employees in her consulting business. Lower capital gains taxes will reduce the lock-in effect and free up capital for small businesses, first-time home buyers, and entrepreneurs.

Lower capital gains will increase Federal revenues and thus help reach the goal of a balanced budget. History indicates that lower capital gains taxes have a positive impact on Federal revenues. During the period of 1978 to 1985 the marginal Federal tax rate on capital gains was cut from almost 50 percent to 20 percent—but total individual capital gains tax receipts increased from \$9.1 billion to \$26.5 billion. After surging to \$326 billion in 1986 (the year before the 1986 rate increase took effect), capital gains realizations have trended down and remained at less than \$130 billion per year in the 1990's.

Given the increases in the stock market, inflation, and growth of the economy since the late 1980's, realizations and taxes paid are

certainly being depressed by the current high capital gains rates.

CONCLUSION

Rather than discouraging American workers and businesses, the Federal Government ought to simply get out of the way. Lower capital gains taxes—as embodied in this bill—leave more vital capital in the hands of businesses, investors, and entrepreneurs. They know a lot more than the Federal Government ever can or will about creating jobs and products in a competitive marketplace.

History proves that capital gains tax reduction is the right course to take. In the past, reductions always have boosted the Nation's economy and increased tax revenues to the Federal Government. If a goal of this Congress is to pass legislation promoting economic opportunity and growth in America, then common sense suggests that we enact the ReCAP Act.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE USCG AIR STATION, SAVANNAH, GA FOR A JOB WELL DONE

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 1997

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, when no one else was able to help, U.S. Coast Guard helicopter 6573, based at the USCG Air Station in Savannah, GA, swung into action to carry a 3-year-old burn victim from Statesboro, GA to much-needed treatment in Savannah, GA. The air station staff's heroic actions are detailed in the following letter from Bulloch Co. EMS/Rescue Director Lee Eckles:

BULLOCH COUNTY EMS/RESCUE,

Statesboro, GA, September 27, 1996.

Adm. ROBERT E. KRAMEK,
Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard,
Washington, DC.

DEAR ADMIRAL KRAMEK: I realize how busy you must be, but when it comes to expressing ones thanks for saving the life of a child, I felt like you just might have a few minutes to read this letter.

On September 25, 1996, our department was dispatched to respond to a "burn patient" some ten (10) miles away from our station. With no other information available, we responded. Arriving at the scene, our staff found a three year old female with second and third degree burns covering over seventy percent of her body. Within twenty-five minutes of our dispatch time, the child was receiving primary care treatment at our local hospital.

It was clear from first observations that this three year old would need the specialized care of the "Burn Center" ninety miles to our west, in order to have any chance of survival. Due to the extent and severity of the burns, and the fact that she had suffered extensive airway burns, transport time to the burn center would have a significant impact on her survival. Air transport was the only option. The regional Trauma Center in Savannah, fifty miles to our east has the only civilian medivac helicopter available in all of South Georgia. Upon making the request, I was notified that their helicopter was out of service for maintenance. They did however, quickly refer us to the military M.A.S.T. helicopter unit at Fort Stewart. As I dialed the phone, I remembered from my military tour of duty with the Coast Guard, (1978–1981), the bureaucratic process that

would have to be overcome in order for a military aircraft to be approved for use on a civilian medivac mission. The desk sergeant quickly transferred my call to the duty officer. My first comment to the Major was to apologize for my sense of urgency, but a child's life was on the line. Simply stated, I ask if his M.A.S.T. Helicopter could be airborne in five minutes or less for a medivac flight. His response was brief and very direct. "It will take me at least thirty minutes to find someone who is capable of giving authorization." I thanked him for his time, and hung up the phone.

I realized at that point we were out of options. One of my staff members, feeling helpless said "why don't you call the Coast Guard, I know they have a helicopter." With nothing but the cost of a phone call to lose, I called the Coast Guard Air Station in Savannah Georgia. Once again, I explained the urgency of my request. This time, however, the response was different. Within five minutes, USCG 6573 was airborne and enroute to the Statesboro Municipal Airport. To make a long story short, the Coast Guard answered the call for help when no one else was available. The medivac mission was carried out without a hitch. Our every request was quickly accommodated.

Everyone involved, from the pilots and air crew to the individuals operating the telephone played an extremely crucial role in the critical care transport of Stacie Martin. At this point in time, I am not certain about Stacie's outcome because of the extent and severity of her injuries. One thing that I certainly know, is the role played by All Coast Guard Personnel involved will be credited with every positive milestone that Stacie overcomes on her long road to recovery.

For four years, stationed at USCG GROUP CHARLESTON, being a SAR small boat coxswain, the Coast Guard Motto, *Semper Paratus*, seldom took on a very significant meaning. However, on Wednesday, September 25, 1996, being "Always ready" had a much greater meaning than each and every day of my brief Coast Guard career. On that Wednesday, it seemed that the bureaucracy worked against Stacie, until Coast Guard assistance was requested. No bureaucracy, no delay, no excuses, simply immediate response, few questions, and extraordinary execution of duty and responsibility by all USCG personnel involved. I have always been proud of the many roles that I was involved in while a member of the Coast Guard, but never as impressed as I was on Wednesday the 25th.

I realize how truly insignificant our language and my own vocabulary really is when trying to express my sincere Gratitude and Thanks to everybody at the Coast Guard Air Station in Savannah, and to the personnel at the District Office in Miami. This is truly a case of one of the most outstanding humanitarian missions ever undertaken by my former branch of service.

There were probably many people who were involved whose names I did not have a chance to document, but those names I do have are as follows: Captain Clark, OSR Miami; Captain Thomas W. Sechler, OIC, Coast Guard Air Station Savannah; Lieutenant Richard Craig, Pilot; Lieutenant Thomas Gaffney, Pilot; Glenn Boggs, ADI; William (Bill) DeCamp, ASM2; Lieutenant Pat Ryan; Rob Jerger, AM3; and Mike Forchette, AE1.

I know these people and all others involved in this mission were only doing their job, but, speaking in behalf of the family of Stacie Martin, the Bulloch County Department of Public Safety, Bulloch County EMS/RESCUE, and our entire community, I wish again to express a very heartfelt thanks. The entire United States Coast Guard came through in our time of need. It was truly an answered prayer.

I know we at EMS/RESCUE in Bulloch County will never be able to repay all those involved, but, if you ever have any need here in our community, please don't hesitate to call.

Very sincerely,

LEE ECKLES,
Director.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 83 RELATIVE TO BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH

HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 1997

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. GILMAN, Mr. PORTER, Mr. SHAW and Mr. STEARNS, in introducing a resolution to double the investment in medical research at the National Institutes of Health over the next 5 years. I want to set forth the reasons why the investment in biomedical research has provided major benefits to our people.

The National Institutes of Health is the engine that drives medical research for our Nation and the world. Scientists funded by the NIH have produced a steady flow of discoveries leading to the prevention and treatment of many devastating diseases; their efforts are leveraged when their research leads privately funded U.S. researchers and researchers outside the United States to follow a lead. The congressional biomedical caucus, which I proudly Co-Chair with Representatives NANCY PELOSI, SONNY CALLAHAN, and JOSEPH KENNEDY, has brought some of this country's finest scientists to Congress to describe the amazing stories of how NIH funding has armed U.S. researchers as they lead the battle to successfully discover the causes of cancer, heart conditions, Alzheimer's disease, AIDS and other conditions which devastate millions of American families. Whether it is the recent discovery of genetic causes of some breast cancers, the development of Protease inhibitor treatment of AIDS, or the completion, which is within our grasp, of the map of all human genes; every day we hear of exciting advances in medical research which were made possible by the National Institutes of Health. I have sought advice and leadership from the five scientific societies which compose the Joint Steering Committee for Public Policy [JSC]: American Society for Cell Biology, American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Biophysical Society, Genetics Society of America, American Association of Anatomists and the Association of Anatomy, Cell Biology and Neurobiology Chairpersons. I appreciate the quality and new information that the caucus briefings present under the leadership of Dr. J. Michael Bishop, University of California, San Francisco. I look forward to working with the JSC Chair Dr. Eric Lander, Director of the Whitehead Institute, Genome Center at MIT; Dr. Marc Kirschner, Chairman of Cell Biology, Harvard Medical School, and Dr. Tom Pollard, President of the Salk Institute, La Jolla, CA, to make this resolution a reality.

But this Nation's investment in the NIH is justified not just to relieve human suffering, but also to contribute to the national economy, and, in the long run, help reduce our deficit. As the world leader in biomedical research,

some 50,000 scientists in 1,700 institutions throughout the country received NIH funding. It is estimated that NIH funding leads to an annual contribution to the U.S. economy of \$44.6 billion in sales, \$17.9 billion in salaries and 726,000 jobs. Our country's leading pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries are dependent upon the research findings of NIH-funded research.

Spectacular savings are affected by singular breakthroughs: Newborn screening and treatment for hypothyroidism now prevents lifelong mental retardation for thousands of people and saves \$200 to \$400 million per year; lithium treatment for bi-polar disorder has saved an astounding \$145 billion in hospitalization costs since its introduction in the seventies. And it is estimated that delaying the onset of Alzheimer's disease by just 1 year would save \$5 billion annually.

There is no shortcut to curing disease: Only the accumulated efforts of thousands of scientists, predominately funded by the National Institutes of Health, can and will result in the realization of the promise to prevent and cure disease.

MUSIC EDUCATION: NEBRASKA LEADS THE WAY

HON. BILL BARRETT

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 1997

Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I've been asked by the Nebraska Music Educators Association to share some important news with my colleagues.

According to the association, Nebraska is implementing national standards in the visual and performing arts through the design and implementation of the Nebraska K-12 curriculum frameworks in the visual and performing arts, a project funded by the Secretary of Education's education innovation fund.

It is important our youth have a good understanding of the arts and music. I well remember growing up in Lexington, NE, where my music teachers helped instill in me a fond appreciation for music. Because of their tutelage and my parents insistence, I was able to turn my piano and trombone lessons into a job with a jazz band that helped pay my way through college. Because of music, I have developed lifelong friends and savor the memories of events on the road with the band.

There is one particular event that comes to mind. One day our jazz band was traveling in southern Kansas and we stopped to have lunch at a roadside diner. The owner of the diner informed us he wouldn't serve a black member of our band. We walked out of the diner in protest. This was my first experience in seeing racial discrimination in practice, and it made me realize that a vast segment of our population was being treated as second-class citizens. It was heartening to see later that same day people coming to the nightclub who didn't care if a member of our band was black. The music broke through racial prejudices.

Ideally, music appreciation should start at an early age and ought to be encouraged by parents. I'm pleased to see that Nebraska music and art educators are working hard to provide our youth with opportunities to learn—not just about musical scores and art technics,

but about how life should be enjoyed. I'm pleased Nebraska is leading the way once again.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 1997

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, please let the record show that had I been here I would have voted "nay" on rollcall No. 32; "aye" on rollcall No. 33; "aye" on rollcall No. 34; and "aye" on rollcall No. 35.

PARTIAL-BIRTH ABORTION

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 1997

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge support for a vote on the disturbing practice of partial-birth abortions.

Last year, President Clinton vetoed a bill to end partial-birth abortions except in the case when the mother's life was in imminent danger. In his defense, the President cited the testimony of Ron Fitzsimmons, director of the National Coalition of Abortion Providers, who claimed that the procedure was used just 500 times when no other alternative was possible.

Just last week, the President's defense was pulled right out from under him. Fitzsimmons said he "lied through his teeth" about the number of times the procedure was performed. Fitzsimmons admitted what many had already known—that partial-birth abortions are performed frequently and indiscriminately.

Mr. Speaker, this is not a pro-life or pro-choice vote. It is a common sense measure to end a procedure that amounts to infanticide. There can only be shame in promoting this horrifying practice.

I hope we can send this bill again to the President. He should admit his error and be thankful of this second chance to do what is right and sign this legislation.

BIPARTISANSHIP, COLLEGIALLY AND THE HERSHEY CONFERENCE

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 1997

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, after last weekend, Hershey, PA, may have acquired an additional identity. Congress went to Hershey to make peace. What began as a question mark turned into an exclamation point. What emerged was a truism that has not always been true: Collegiality across party lines is an essential ingredient to the work of a legislative body. This is an idea whose time has come—some would say long ago. The Nation will be watching to see whether the idea lives on in the House past last weekend.

ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 1997

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, it appears that once again the President has broken his promise to the American people. As you may recall, President Clinton once promised us the most ethical administration in history. When He signed the Lobbying Disclosure Act during the last Congress, the President also spoke of a renewed tradition in Washington that would mirror President Jackson's famous words, "Equal opportunity for all; special privileges for none." Further, he said that he would abide by the law and uphold section 21(b) of this Act. As you know, section 21(b) forbids anyone who had ever represented another country in trade negotiations with the United States to serve as the U.S. Trade Representative or Deputy U.S. Trade Representative.

Well, yesterday the House was faced with its first test of section 21(b) as we considered the President's request for a waiver of the section for Ambassador Charlene Barshefsky—someone who has represented Canada in trade negotiations with our country in the past—as the United States Trade Representative. This Chamber followed the Senate in approving the waiver. Unfortunately, I did not have the opportunity to oppose this measure at the time. Here are the President's own words on his so-called commitment to section 21(b) of the Lobbying Disclosure Act:

Because as a policy matter I agree with the goal of ensuring the undivided loyalty of our representatives in trade negotiations, I intend, as a matter of practice, to act in accordance with this provision.

While I do not question Ambassador Barshefsky's ability to serve as the U.S. Trade Representative, and I understand her to be very capable and well-suited for this position, this matter is not about that. The President's appointment of Ambassador Barshefsky shows that he has chosen yet again not to uphold his promise to the American people. Mr. Speaker, waiving the law when it is convenient for him is certainly not the way for the President to win the American people's trust or to build a tradition of "no special privileges." Once again, the President's actions do not match his rhetoric.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for

printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, March 13, 1997, may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MARCH 14

9:30 a.m.

Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings on the nominations of Johnny H. Hayes, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority, Brig. Gen. Robert Bernard Flowers, USA, to be a Member of the Mississippi River Commission, and Judith M. Espinosa, of New Mexico, and Michael Rappoport, of Arizona, each to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Morris K. Udall Scholarship and Excellence in National Environmental Policy Foundation.

SD-406

Labor and Human Resources

To resume hearings on proposed legislation authorizing funds for programs of the Higher Education Act, focusing on Pell grants and tax policy.

SD-430

MARCH 18

9:00 a.m.

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To resume hearings on proposed legislation authorizing funds for agricultural research.

SR-332

9:30 a.m.

Appropriations

VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies Subcommittee

To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Room to be announced

Appropriations

Energy and Water Development Subcommittee

To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for energy research programs of the Department of Energy.

SD-124

Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings on proposals to authorize state and local governments to enact flow control laws and to regulate the interstate transportation of solid waste.

SD-406

10:00 a.m.

Appropriations

Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Department of Agriculture.

SD-138

Armed Services

To resume hearings on proposed legislation authorizing funds for the Department of Defense and the future years defense program, focusing on the unified commands military strategies and operational requirements.

SR-222

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Business meeting, to consider pending calendar business.

SR-253

- Foreign Relations
East Asian and Pacific Affairs Subcommittee
To hold hearings on issues facing China in the post Deng era. SD-419
- Labor and Human Resources
To hold hearings on the nomination of Alexis M. Herman, of Alabama, to be Secretary of Labor. SD-430
- 2:30 p.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Oceans and Fisheries Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed legislation authorizing funds for fiscal year 1998 for the United States Coast Guard. SR-253
- MARCH 19
- 9:00 a.m.
Judiciary
Technology, Terrorism, and Government Information Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine Internet crimes affecting consumers. SD-226
- 9:30 a.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Aviation Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine international aviation and United States-United Kingdom bilateral agreements. SR-253
- Environment and Public Works
Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee
To resume hearings on proposed legislation authorizing funds for programs of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act, focusing on environmental programs and statewide and metropolitan planning. SD-406
- Labor and Human Resources
To hold hearings to examine proposals to reform the operation of the Food and Drug Administration. SD-430
- Veterans Affairs
To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs on the legislative recommendations of the Disabled American Veterans. 345 Cannon Building
- 10:00 a.m.
Appropriations
Defense Subcommittee
To hold closed hearings to review proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the intelligence community. S-407, Capitol
- Joint Economic
To hold hearings to examine the problems of the current automobile insurance system and how American motorists could benefit from reform of the industry. 2226 Rayburn Building
- 2:00 p.m.
Appropriations
Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Securities and Exchange Commission. S-146, Capitol
- Armed Services
To continue hearings on proposed legislation authorizing funds for fiscal year 1998 for the Department of Defense and the future years defense program, focusing on military readiness accounts. SR-232A
- Armed Services
SeaPower Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed legislation authorizing funds for fiscal year 1998 for the Department of Defense and the future years defense program. SR-222
- Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings on S. 377, to promote electronic commerce by facilitating the use of strong encryption. SR-253
- Judiciary
To hold hearings on pending nominations. SD-226
- MARCH 20
- 9:00 a.m.
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
To resume hearings on proposed legislation authorizing funds for agricultural research. SR-332
- 9:30 a.m.
Appropriations
Energy and Water Development Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for atomic energy defense activities of the Department of Energy. SD-124
- Energy and Natural Resources
To resume hearings to examine issues with regard to competitive change in the electric power industry. SH-216
- Rules and Administration
To hold oversight hearings to review the operations and budget of the Congressional Research Service and the Library of Congress. SR-301
- Veterans Affairs
To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs on the legislative recommendations of AMVETS, the American Ex-Prisoners of War, the Veterans of World War I, and the Vietnam Veterans of America. 345 Cannon Building
- 10:00 a.m.
Appropriations
Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Department of Education. SD-192
- Appropriations
Transportation Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Department of Transportation. SD-192
- Labor and Human Resources
To resume hearings on proposed legislation authorizing funds for programs of the Higher Education Act. SD-430
- Joint Economic
To hold hearings to examine the current economic outlook and monetary policy. Room to be announced
- 2:00 p.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Subcommittee
To hold hearings on S. 414, to amend the Shipping Act of 1984 to encourage competition in international shipping and growth of United States imports and exports. SR-253
- Energy and Natural Resources
National Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation Subcommittee
To resume hearings to examine the future of the National Park System and to identify and discuss the needs, requirements, and innovative programs that will insure the Park Service will continue to meet its responsibilities well into the next century. SD-366
- MARCH 21
- 11:00 a.m.
Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe
To hold a briefing on prospects for elections, reintegration, and democratization in Croatia. 2200 Rayburn Building
- APRIL 8
- 9:30 a.m.
Appropriations
VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Environmental Protection Agency. SD-138
- 10:00 a.m.
Appropriations
Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Farm Service Agency, the Foreign Agricultural Service, and the Risk Management Agency, Department of Agriculture. SD-124
- 2:00 p.m.
Appropriations
Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine child pornography issues. S-146, Capitol
- APRIL 9
- 10:00 a.m.
Appropriations
Defense Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for Navy and Marine Corps programs. SD-192
- APRIL 10
- 10:00 a.m.
Appropriations
Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Immigration and Naturalization Service, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Drug Enforcement Administration. S-146, Capitol
- Appropriations
Transportation Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Department of Transportation. SD-192
- APRIL 15
- 9:30 a.m.
Appropriations
VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Department of Housing and Urban Development. SD-138
- 10:00 a.m.
Appropriations
Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the

<p>Rural Utilities Service, the Rural Housing Service, the Rural Business-Cooperative Service, and the Alternative Agricultural Research and Commercialization Center, all of the Department of Agriculture.</p>	<p>10:00 a.m. Appropriations Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Agricultural Research Service, the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, the Economic Research Service, and the National Agricultural Statistics Service, all of the Department of Agriculture.</p>	<p>MAY 6 9:30 a.m. Appropriations VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies Subcommittee To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.</p>
<p>2:00 p.m. Appropriations Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Subcommittee To hold hearings on counter-terrorism issues.</p>	<p>SD-124 S-146, Capitol</p>	<p>SD-138 MAY 7</p>
<p>APRIL 16</p>		
<p>10:00 a.m. Appropriations Defense Subcommittee To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Department of the Army.</p>	<p>10:00 a.m. Appropriations Defense Subcommittee To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Department of Defense, focusing on medical programs.</p>	<p>10:00 a.m. Appropriations Defense Subcommittee To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Department of Defense.</p>
<p>Appropriations Transportation Subcommittee To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Department of Transportation.</p>	<p>SD-192 MAY 14</p>	<p>SD-192 MAY 14</p>
<p>2:00 p.m. Appropriations Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Subcommittee To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Federal Communications Commission.</p>	<p>SD-124 APRIL 24 9:30 a.m. Appropriations Energy and Water Development Subcommittee To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Corp of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation, Department of the Interior.</p>	<p>SD-192 MAY 21 10:00 a.m. Appropriations Defense Subcommittee To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Department of Defense, focusing on Air Force programs.</p>
<p>APRIL 17</p>		
<p>1:30 p.m. Appropriations Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Subcommittee To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Supreme Court of the United States and the Judiciary.</p>	<p>SD-146, Capitol APRIL 29 9:30 a.m. Appropriations VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies Subcommittee To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Department of Veterans Affairs.</p>	<p>SD-192 JUNE 4 10:00 a.m. Appropriations Defense Subcommittee To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Department of Defense.</p>
<p>APRIL 22</p>		
<p>9:30 a.m. Appropriations VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies Subcommittee To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the National Science Foundation and the Office of Science and Technology Policy.</p>	<p>SD-192 APRIL 30 10:00 a.m. Appropriations Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, and the Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services.</p>	<p>SD-192 JUNE 11 10:00 a.m. Appropriations Defense Subcommittee To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Department of Defense.</p>
<p>Appropriations Energy and Water Development Subcommittee To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Environmental Management Program of the Department of Energy.</p>	<p>SD-124 APRIL 30 10:00 a.m. Appropriations Defense Subcommittee To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Department of Defense, focusing on the structure and modernization of the National Guard.</p>	<p>SD-192 CANCELLATIONS MARCH 13 10:00 a.m. Labor and Human Resources To hold hearings to examine proposals to improve the health status of children.</p>