

director should be recognized as an expert in the area of religious persecution and is barred specifically by the language of the bill, from holding any other federal position while serving in this capacity. More importantly though, this office is empowered by the bill to make findings of fact on any potential violations as discovered by the State Department and submit these findings to the Secretary (of State) and President with recommendations for action. Additionally, the office will create and issue an "Annual Report on Religions Persecution" that can be used by this Congress and other policy-makers to ensure that no oppression go un-noticed. This bill, in sum, is a powerful statement to nations of the world, that we will not countenance the rampant disregard of our fellow man's unalienable rights.

As for the bill's remaining provisions, in regard to the sanctions against aid given to countries that violate the religious freedom of their citizens; we should not, we must not, and we can not sit back and enrich governments that either conduct or condone the persecution of citizens on the basis of their religious beliefs. In all of our policy decisions, we need to show our displeasure with this kind of heinous conduct. This bill mandates that the President of the United States take action against all countries that engage in violations of religious freedom. It offers the President a list of options from which to choose an appropriate response, ranging from diplomatic protest to economic sanctions. That flexibility is important because it allows us to tailor our action so that more innocents are not hurt because of our mandated retaliation. Finally and importantly, this bill causes the creation of a structured asylum program for religious refugees a noble objective which is long overdue.

Millions of persecuted people around the world are waiting for this bill. I hope that we can send it to them unanimously.

CELEBRATING THE FRESNO BUSINESS COUNCIL'S 5TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 16, 1998

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to today to congratulate the Fresno Business Council on the occasion of its fifth Anniversary. This dedicated group of community leaders plays an important role in the community.

The Fresno Business Council began with just seven members, pulled together by president Bob Carter, who set out to discuss the problems facing the community and what they could do to help. They began to organize and focus their efforts to assist the public sector in addressing the challenges faced by Fresno County. The Council currently has 125 members, each of whom is selected from the highest level of local executives in business or major institutions in the public sector.

The Council operates four standing committees: Crime, Jobs and Economic Development, Education and Public Policy and Government Relations.

As part of their work, Crime Committee members have assisted the Fresno Police Department in getting past political barriers to implement policies involving real property and

burglar alarms. Through analysis and advocacy the Council provided merit-based arguments convincing the Fresno Bee not to pander to the public. In the coming year the focus of the council will be on consolidation of policing services whenever an improvement in efficiency or effectiveness can be demonstrated.

The Jobs and Economic Development Committee has a number of leaders, each putting their own mark on the agenda. Under its first chairman, Roger Flynn, the committee helped to create the one stop permitting center and began an incubator project. With Rich Olsson as chairman, the committee began exploration of permitting issues and training dollars. Current chairman Claude Laval has recently taken over the committee and they are now focused on regional strategic planning and collaboration among organizations.

The Education Committee has approached education in both comprehensive and specific ways. Committee members helped pass the Fresno Unified and Clovis Unified school bond measures, and sponsors Commission on the Future of Education in Fresno County with the County Office of Education. The Commission is studying all the aspects of how education is delivered in Fresno County.

The fourth standing committee is the Public Policy and Governmental Relations committee. It is through public and private partnerships that the Council implements its Agenda. The committee has hosted numerous meetings with elected officials to increase communication and build relationships.

Mr. Speaker I rise today to pay tribute to the Fresno Business Council in celebration of its fifth Anniversary. This group of leaders has done great things for the community. I urge all my colleagues to join me in wishing the Fresno Business Council many years of continued success.

EDUCATION DEBATE

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 16, 1998

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to express my thoughts on the education debate that has consumed much of this Congress in recent days. For all the sound and fury generated by the argument over education, the truth is that the difference between the congressional leadership and the administration are not that significant; both wish to strengthen the unconstitutional system of centralized education. I trust I need not go into the flaws with President Clinton's command-and-control approach to education. However, this Congress has failed to present a true, constitutional alternative to President Clinton's proposals to further nationalize education.

It is becoming increasingly clear that the experiment in centralized control of education has failed. Even data from the National Assessment of Education Progress [NAEP] shows that students in States where control over education is decentralized score approximately 10 percentage points higher on NAEP's tests in math and reading than students from States with highly-centralized education systems. Clearly, the drafters of the Constitution knew what they were doing when they forbade the Federal Government from meddling in education.

American children deserve nothing less than the best educational opportunities, not warmed-over versions of the disastrous educational policies of the past. That is why I introduced H.R. 1816, the Family Education Freedom Act. This bill would give parents an inflation-adjusted \$3,000 per annum tax credit, per child for educational expenses. The credit applies to those in public, private, parochial, or home schooling.

This bill is the largest tax credit for education in the history of our great Republic and it returns the fundamental principal of a truly free economy to America's education system: what the great economist Ludwig von Mises called "consumer sovereignty." Consumer sovereignty simply means consumers decide who succeeds or fails in the market. Businesses that best satisfy consumer demand will be the most successful. Consumer sovereignty is the means by which the free market maximizes human happiness.

Currently, consumers are less than sovereign in the education "market." Funding decisions are increasingly controlled by the Federal Government. Because "he who pays the piper calls the tune," public, and even private schools, are paying greater attention to the dictates of Federal "educrats" while ignoring the wishes of the parents to an ever-greater degree. As such, the lack of consumer sovereignty in education is destroying parental control of education and replacing it with State control. Restoring parental control is the key to improving education.

Of course I applaud all efforts which move in this direction. the Gingrich/Coverdell education tax cut, The Granger/Dunn bill, and, yes, President Clinton's college tax credits are good first steps in the direction I advocate. However, Congress must act boldly, we can ill afford to waste another year without a revolutionary change in our policy. I believe my bill sparks this revolution and I am disappointed that the leadership of this Congress chose to ignore this fundamental reform and instead focused on reauthorizing great society programs, creating new Federal education programs (such as those contained in the Reading Excellence Act and the four new Federal programs created by the Higher Education Act), and promoting the pseudo-federalism of block grants.

One area where this Congress was successful in fighting for a constitutional education policy was in resisting President Clinton's drive for national testing. I do wish to express my support for the provisions banning the development of national testing and thank Mr. GOODLING for his leadership in this struggle. However, I wish this provision did no come at the price of \$1.1 billion in new Federal spending. In addition, I note that this Congress is taking several steps toward creating a national curriculum, particularly through the Reading Excellence Act, which dictates teaching methodologies to every classroom in the Nation and creates a Federal definition of reading, thus making compliance with Federal standards the goal of education.

So, even when Congress resists one proposal to further nationalize education, it supports another form of nationalization. Some Members will claim they are resisting nationalization and even standing up for the 10th amendment by fighting to spend billions of taxpayer dollars on block grants. These Members say that the expenditure levels do not matter,

it is the way the money that is spent which is important. Contrary to the view of these well-meaning but misguided members, the amount of taxpayer dollars spent on Federal education programs do matter.

First of all, the Federal Government lacks constitutional authority to redistribute monies between States and taxpayers for the purpose of education, regardless of whether the monies are redistributed through Federal programs or through grants. There is no "block grant exception" to the principles of federalism embodied in the U.S. Constitution.

Furthermore, the Federal Government's power to treat State governments as their administrative subordinates stems from an abuse of Congress' taxing-and-spending power. Submitting to Federal control is the only way State and local officials can recapture any part of the monies of the Federal Government has illegitimately taken from a State's citizens. Of course, this is also the only way State officials can tax citizens of other States to support their education programs. It is the rare official who can afford not to bow to Federal dictates in exchange for Federal funding!

As long as the Federal Government controls education dollars, States and local schools will obey Federal mandates; the core problem is not that Federal monies are given with the inevitable strings attached, the real problem is the existence of Federal taxation and funding.

Since Federal spending is the root of Federal control, by increasing Federal spending this Congress is laying the groundwork for future Congresses to fasten more and more mandates on the States. Because State and even local officials, not Federal bureaucrats, will be carrying out these mandates, this system could complete the transformation of the State governments into mere agents of the Federal Government.

Congress has used block grants to avoid addressing philosophical and constitutional questions of the role of the Federal and State governments by means of adjustments in management in the name of devolution. Devolution is said to return to State's rights by decentralizing the management of Federal programs. This is a new 1990's definition of the original concept of federalism and is a poor substitute for the original, constitutional definition of federalism.

While it is true that lower levels of intervention are not as bad as micro-management at the Federal level, Congress' constitutional and moral responsibility is not to make the Federal education bureaucracy "less bad." Rather, we must act now to put parents back in charge of education and thus make American education once again the envy of the world.

Hopefully the next Congress will be more reverent toward their duty to the U.S. Constitution and America's children. The price of Congress' failure to return to the Constitution in the area of education will be paid by the next generation of American children. In short, we cannot afford to continue on the policy road we have been going down. The cost of inaction to our future generations is simply too great.

IN HONOR OF THE PIONEER TOTAL ABSTINENCE ASSOCIATION OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 16, 1998

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Pioneer Abstinence Association of the Sacred Heart. Pioneers promote a pure and Christian way of life through temperance and virtue.

Founded in 1898 in Dublin, Ireland, the Pioneer Total Abstinence Association of the Sacred Heart was created to encourage a pristine lifestyle among its members, while striving to preserve tradition and uphold membership obligations. Each member of the PTAA belongs to one of the four membership categories, each with their own distinct emblem pin and membership certificate.

Much of the membership in the PTAA is centered around the youth of the world. Each phase of the youth membership, which is divided into three categories, is designed to teach young members how to live a pure and Christian life. The Juvenile Pioneer (age 9–12 years), Junior Pioneer (age 12–15 years) and the Young Pioneer (Age 15 and upwards) pledge never to abuse drugs and prepare themselves to become permanent Pioneers. Permanent Pioneers act as mentors to the youth, pledge to abstain from alcohol for life, and must complete one year of total abstinence. In addition to their membership obligations, permanent Pioneers dedicate themselves to enhancing and strengthening the youth of the world as well as supporting victims of drug and alcohol abuse.

Today, the PTAA has over 500,000 Pioneers in the United States and around the world. Structured on spirituality, leisure, education and training, youth, centenary and finance, the Pioneers have managed to maintain a strong tradition throughout history and they continue to spread their membership around the globe.

My fellow colleagues, join me in honoring the Pioneer Total Abstinence Association of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, an organization that has lifted spirits, restored faith and purified lives all over the world.

TRIBUTE TO ROGER HAGERTY

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 16, 1998

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of a gentleman who embodies the virtue of service above self. He is a role model and example to his friends and peers throughout his community of Grand Junction, Colorado.

Roger Hagerty, a long-time resident of Grand Junction, received the Volunteer of the Year Award for 1997 by the Colorado Division of the American Cancer Society. This honor was given in recognition of his extraordinary efforts in the fight against cancer. He exemplifies the word volunteer. Roger Hagerty frequently visits with patients and inspires them with his own personal battle with cancer. He

labors as a Resource Information and Guidance Counselor at the local American Cancer Society office three afternoons per week. Mr. Hagerty also serves as Chairman of the Legacy and Planned Giving Program, conducting several seminars each year. Furthermore, he has been chosen to lead still other endeavors such as the jail and Bail program and the organization's annual Golf Tournament Fund Raiser in Grand Junction. Finally, Mr. Hagerty serves as an advocate and speaker on television and radio promoting the American Cancer Society's programs.

Roger Hagerty is the embodiment of American patriotism. He is responsible for the local Veteran's Day parades and remarkably, Mr. Hagerty still fits into his 35 year-old military uniform. He is also politically active in and around the community. Besides serving as Treasurer for the local Sheriff's campaign, he also regularly participates in raising money for various local organizations. Friends and family claim that the Hagerty's home telephone never stops ringing as they work to help others.

In addition to his volunteer activities with the American Cancer Society and other organizations, Roger Hagerty assists his wife Eva, also a cancer survivor, who is the honored coordinator for the Reach To Recovery program. This effort specifically targets breast cancer patients by advocating for regular health checkups. Mrs. Hagerty also works tirelessly on behalf of others, and is often found actively participating in community health fairs and screenings.

I ask my colleagues today to join me in commending Roger Hagerty for his integrity and dedication in the service of others. His selfless acts have indeed made a difference to many, and serve as an excellent example of what is best in our society. His work has been invaluable to the Grand Junction community. I wish him and his family continued health and success in the future.

AMENDING OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF LANDS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 1998

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for H.R. 3972, a bill to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to prohibit the Interior Secretary from charging state and local government agencies for certain uses of the sand, gravel, and shell resources of the outer continental shelf.

For too long, Congress has treated outer continental sand resources differently than other minerals under federal control. While land-based oil and gas royalties are shared with states and off-shore oil and gas royalties are shared with state critical habitat land acquisition programs, royalties from off-shore sand resources are not shared with the states. In fact, coastal states are taxed for using these resources, which adds to the already expensive task of beach restoration. This bill is a compromise. It does not ask the federal government to share royalties from the sale of sand and gravel. Instead, it treats state and local governments the same as the federal