

RECOGNIZING THE EIGHTH AVENUE SENIOR CENTER'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 8, 2003

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives to recognize the 10th anniversary of the Brooklyn Chinese-American Association's Eighth Avenue Senior Center.

As part of the tradition, this very special anniversary will be marked by millennial tables, which seat twelve seniors, each with a combined age of over 1,000 years. It is anticipated that over 2,000 senior members will be in attendance at this year's celebration to be held in a local Brooklyn restaurant.

The Eighth Avenue Senior Center is part of the Brooklyn Chinese-American Association (BCA), which was founded in 1987 as a community-based social services agency to meet the growing needs of the Asian-American community in the Brooklyn neighborhoods of Sunset Park, Borough Park, and Bay Ridge.

Now BCA has developed into a community development organization with centers along Eighth Avenue for employment training, day care, youth and cultural activities, and the senior center, which celebrates its decade-long existence this month. Combined, the BCA's facilities make our Brooklyn neighborhoods better, safer, more vibrant places to live.

Over the past 10 years, the Eighth Avenue Senior Center has provided critical services to Brooklyn's senior community. This includes providing meals, bilingual information, English and citizenship classes, health services and recreational activities. The Eighth Avenue Senior Center is now a cornerstone of our community, and will continue to be for many decades to come.

COMMENDING NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR DEMOCRACY FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT AROUND THE WORLD ON THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS ESTABLISHMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 2003

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise to express my grave concerns over H. Con. Res 274. The misnamed National Endowment for Democracy (NED) is nothing more than a costly program that takes U.S. taxpayer funds to promote favored politicians and political parties abroad. Madam Speaker, what the NED does in foreign countries, through its recipient organizations the National Democratic Institute (NDI) and the International Republican Institute (IRI), would be rightly illegal in the United States. The NED injects "soft money" into the domestic elections of foreign countries in favor of one party or the other. Imagine what a couple of hundred thousand dollars will do to assist a politician or political party in a relatively poor country abroad. It is particularly Orwellian to call U.S. manipulation of foreign elections

"promoting democracy." How would Americans feel if the Chinese arrived with millions of dollars to support certain candidates deemed friendly to China? Would this be viewed as a democratic development?

In an excellent study of the folly of the National Endowment for Democracy, CATO Institute scholar Barbara Conry notes that:

"NED, which also has a history of corruption and financial mismanagement, is superfluous at best and often destructive. Through the endowment, the American taxpayer has paid for special-interest groups to harass the duly elected governments of friendly countries, interfere in foreign elections, and foster the corruption of democratic movements . . .

" . . . the controversy surrounding NED questions the wisdom of giving a quasi-private organization the fiat to pursue what is effectively an independent foreign policy under the guise of "promoting democracy." Proponents of NED maintain that a private organization is necessary to overcome the restraints that limit the activities of a government agency, yet they insist that the American taxpayer provide full funding for this initiative. NED's detractors point to the inherent contradiction of a publicly funded organization that is charged with executing foreign policy (a power expressly given to the federal government in the Constitution) yet exempt from nearly all political and administrative controls . . .

" . . . In the final analysis, the endowment embodies the most negative aspects of both private aid and official foreign aid—the pitfalls of decentralized 'loose cannon' foreign policy efforts combined with the impression that the United States is trying to 'run the show' around the world."

The National Endowment for Democracy is dependent on the U.S. taxpayer for funding, but because NED is not a government agency, it is not subject to Congressional oversight. It is indeed a heavily subsidized foreign policy loose cannon.

Since its founding in 1983, the National Endowment for Democracy has been headed by Carl Gershman, a member of the neo-Trotskyite Social Democrats/USA.

Perhaps that is one reason much of what NED has done in the former Communist Bloc has ended up benefiting former communists in those countries. As British Helsinki Human Rights Group Director Christine Stone has written:

Both (IRI and NDI) are largely funded by the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) . . . which, in turn, receive money from the American taxpayer. Both have favoured the return to power of former high-ranking Communists which has also meant co-opting foot-soldiers from the new left who have extremely liberal ideas . . .

Skender Gjinushi, speaker of the Albanian parliament, thanks the IRI for its assistance in drafting the Albanian constitution in 1998. What the IRI does not say is that Gjinushi was a member of the brutal Stalinist Politburo of Enver Hoxha's Communist Party until 1990 and one of the main organizers of the unrest that led to the fall of the Democratic Party government in 1997 and the death of over 2000 people.

President Stoyanov of Bulgaria drools: "Without IRI's support we could not have come so far so fast." Indeed. So far did they come that Ivan Kostov (who supplies another encomium to IRI) was catapulted from his job teaching Marxism-Leninism at Sofia University to being prime minister of Bulgaria and a leader of 'reform.'

In Slovakia, NED funded several initiatives aimed at defeating the freely-elected government of Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar, who, interestingly, had been persecuted by the previous Communist regime. After the election, an IRI newsletter boasted that "IRI polls changed the nature of the campaign," adding that IRI efforts secured "a victory for reformers in Slovakia." What the IRI does not say is that many of these "reformers" had been leading members of the former Communist regime of then-Czechoslovakia. Is this democracy?

More recently, IRI president George A. Folsom last year praised a coup against Venezuela's democratically-elected president, saying, "Last night, led by every sector of civil society, the Venezuelan people rose up to defend democracy in their country." It was later revealed that the National Endowment for Democracy provided funds to those organizations that initiated the violent revolt in the streets against Venezuela's legal leaders. More than a dozen civilians were killed and hundreds were injured in this attempted coup. Is this promoting democracy?

Madam Speaker, the National Endowment for Democracy, by meddling in the elections and internal politics of foreign countries, does more harm to the United States than good. It creates resentment and ill-will toward the United States among millions abroad. It is beyond time to de-fund this Cold War relic and return to the foreign policy of our founders, based on open relations and trade with all countries and free from meddling and manipulation in the internal affairs of others.

IN HONOR OF REV. EMANUEL CLEAVER, II AND HIS THIRTY YEARS OF SERVICE TO ST. JAMES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH AND THE KANSAS CITY COMMUNITY

HON. KAREN McCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 8, 2003

Ms. McCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor "A Man of Vision," the venerable Rev. Emanuel Cleaver, II, whose leadership, ministry, and public service have enhanced the Kansas City community for three decades. A former mayor of Kansas City and the senior pastor at St. James United Methodist Church, Rev. Cleaver is being honored on October 11 for his accomplishments, exceptional vision and contributions to our community as we celebrate the 30th anniversary of his service to St. James Church.

Growing up in a humble household, Rev. Cleaver daily witnessed the need to serve the urban core and its poor. His service as City Council Member and Chairman of the Planning and Zoning Committee, Mayor Pro Tem, Mayor and ordained United Methodist minister reflect the legacy of the Cleaver family tradition of giving back to one's community. Rev. Cleaver's accomplishments are vast and impressive. His dream to complete an \$8 million contemporary sanctuary connected to the old building of St. James will allow many more parishioners to join those who gather to hear his inspirational counsel.

An advocate of jobs for the Fifth District, Mayor Cleaver was a pioneer in persuading