Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination: International treaty upholding individuals' human rights to be free of discrimination on the basis of race.


ICCHR—International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights: International treaty protecting individuals' civil and political human rights.


Treaty Monitoring Bodies (TMBs)—United Nations Treaty Monitoring Bodies refer to the six committees which monitor governmental compliance with the major UN human rights treaties. While the TMBs are not judicial bodies; they influence governments by issuing specific observations about states’ progress and compliance with human rights obligations. Four committees also hear individual complaints.


THE CENTER FOR REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS BOARD OF DIRECTORS—PRIMARY AFFILIATION INFORMATION

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Deluxe Hotel

HON. WILLIAM J. JANKLOW
OF SOUTH DAKOTA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. JANKLOW. Mr. Speaker, on August 12, 2003, the Deluxe Hotel, a small business in Woonsneck, South Dakota, commemorated 100 years of family ownership and operation of the hotel.

The hotel itself is an original structure built in 1883—two months before there was a town of Woonsneck and six years before South Dakota became a state—by railroad supervisor, Charles H. Prior and his wife. On August 12, 1903, Joseph Lane and Margaret Kirby Brown bought the hotel for $2,250 in cash plus a Springfield, South Dakota hotel valued at $1,500.

Currently, J.L. and Margaret Brown’s granddaughter—Delores Brown Bissel—owns and operates the hotel. She was born in the hotel in 1926, and has been involved in its operation ever since. The descendants of Joseph Lane and Margaret Kirby Brown gathered in Woonsneck on August 2nd to commemorate 100 years of family and business history.

Family-owned businesses, such as the Deluxe Hotel, are the backbone of many small, rural South Dakota communities. I congratulate the Brown Family for this remarkable milestone, and hope that this longstanding contribution to the Woonsneck community and surrounding area will continue far into the 21st century.

Tribute to the Fannie E. Rippel Foundation

HON. RODNEY P. FREILINGHUYSEN
OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. FREILINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Fannie E. Rippel Foundation, a New Jersey philanthropic organization which is highly esteemed nationally and especially in the Northeast, and that will celebrate its 100 years of grant making on December 11, 2003.

The Rippel Foundation, established under the will of Julius S. Rippel, provides funds to aid the aged and women of all ages, to aid hospitals and to support institutions involved in heart disease or cancer treatment and research.

In the past, for example, the Foundation has provided and furnished funds for the construction of or to aid in the erection of hospitals and provided funds for their equipment as well as hospital maintenance.

The Foundation has also supported humanitarian programs, emphasizing ethical issues in medicine, pastoral education, programs in rural health, better case and disease management. In particular, the Foundation has supported most generously women’s health programs for elderly women with chronic conditions, academic and educational programs for women, and programs that promote better advocacy of women’s health. The Foundation also stresses what is known as “humanistic medicine,” and advances the importance of belief, support, communications and relationships in the healing process.

Mr. Speaker, there can be no doubt that each and every dollar the Fannie E. Rippel Foundation gives to a hospital or a medical research facility is much appreciated. And, we can all be grateful for the Foundation’s efforts because of its dedication to helping under-served rural and urban populations, and its interest in changing the wellness behavior of people through research and preventive care.

Throughout the years, the Fannie E. Rippel Foundation has earned an incredibly positive reputation for the many generous acts of its Board of Trustees, Officers and Staff.

Mr. Speaker, I know that you join me and my colleagues in recognizing and honoring the Fannie E. Rippel Foundation for its outstanding services to humankind for fifty years, and I ask that you all and our colleagues extend the best wishes for a successful Rippel Foundation Reception on December 11, 2003.

Introducing the War Profiteering Prevention Act of 2003

HON. RAHM EMANUEL
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise with Representatives DeFAZIO, and DELAURO as original cosponsors to introduce the War Profiteering Prevention Act of 2003. This is an identical companion to legislation introduced by Senators LEAHY, CLINTON, DURBAN and FEINSTEIN.

This bill closely resembles an amendment that I offered during consideration of the Iraq reconstruction bill. Unfortunately, the Rules Committee declined to allow debate on my amendment, which would have established tough criminal penalties for individuals who deliberately evade the government’s contracts related to the war or reconstruction of Iraq.

As the government begins to spend the roughly $20 billion appropriated for rebuilding Iraq, it is essential that we protect these funds from waste, fraud and abuse. To that end, the War Profiteering Prevention Act establishes a maximum criminal penalty of 20 years in prison and fines up to $1 million for war profiteers and cheats who exploit the postwar relief efforts.

Unlike most nations where we send foreign aid, there is no functioning government in Iraq. While I believe the Coalition Provisional Authority is doing the best it can, it simply does not maintain the manpower necessary to adequately monitor reconstruction funds. Regrettably, a handful of politically connected corporations, including those with scandal-ridden business records, are taking advantage of this situation.

While anti-fraud laws protect against wasteful spending here at home, there are no such laws prohibiting war profiteering overseas. In response, my bill criminalizes overcharging government contractors for goods or services with the specific intent to excessively profit from reconstruction. The legislation also prohibits fraud...
and false statements in any matter involving a contract.

We need strong disincentives for those who defraud taxpayers. These controls must be in place now because criminal statutes cannot be applied retroactively. We cannot in good faith ask American families to sacrifice for postwar reconstruction and then allow so many others to unfairly profit at their expense.

Mr. Speaker, we must send a clear message that cheating U.S. taxpayers is completely unacceptable and will not go unpunished. For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the War Profiteering Prevention Act of 2003.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF DR. ROBERT PAVILICA

HON. NITA M. LOWEY
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, December 8, 2003

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the great contributions to education made by Dr. Robert Pavilica. I also wish to congratulate him on being one of only six teachers from around the world, and one of only two from the United States, to be honored by INTEL. Innovation in Education with the prestigious 2003 “Excellence in Teaching Award.” He received this accolade for his pioneering development of the “Authentic Science Research in the High School” program.

Dr. Pavilica, a White Plains, NY, resident, who has a Ph.D. in biochemistry, along with master’s degrees in philosophy, cell biology, and biology, has been inspiring students as a science teacher at Byram Hills High School in Armonk, NY, for the past 33 years. In 1990, he began teaching scientific research after one of his students asked for his help in pursuing an independent research project.

This would lead Dr. Pavilica to create the “Authentic Science Research in the High School” program, a three-year science research course, in which sophomores, who elect to participate, are instructed in the methods and processes of research. This culminates in each student conducting an original research project into an area of particular interest to the student. To help guide his or her work, each student is mentored by a respected scientist in the student’s field of research.

This program has been enormously successful. Since its creation little more than a decade ago, thirty-nine of Dr. Pavilica’s students at Byram Hills have become semifinalists for the Intel Science Talent Search Award, formerly known as the Westinghouse. Amazingly, eleven of his students have even reached the finals of the esteemed competition. This program has also prepared many more students for the arduous research that they will face in college.

Dr. Pavilica has taught his techniques to numerous educators, who wish to replicate his success in getting students excited about scientific research. Presently, over 170 school districts throughout the country have instructors who are using his program. In fact, over seventy percent of public and private high schools in Westchester County, NY, now employ the program.

The success of the program at Byram Hills has been mirrored in these schools, as well. Indeed, in 2002 and 2003, roughly forty percent of all of New York State’s INTEL Science Talent Search semifinalists went to students who were taught using the “Authentic Science Research in the High School” program.

I am truly honored that I have this opportunity to congratulate Dr. Pavilica on his well-deserved award and to thank him for helping so many students in Westchester and around the country learn more about science and the potential that lies within them.

PROTECTING PUBLIC SAFETY IS AT THE HEART OF GUN PURCHASE BACKGROUND RECORDS

HON. FRANK R. WOLF
OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I want to provide some additional information to follow up on my RECORD statement of November 25 regarding the provision in the FY 2004 omnibus spending bill which would extend the retention of background records checks 24 hours after a gun purchase.

I submit for the RECORD letters from two law enforcement officers groups who share my deep concerns about the impact on public safety of shortening the current 90-day period for retaining data related to firearms purchase and approval. The Federal Bureau of Investigation, Agents Association, wrote: “The more the retention period is reduced, the more difficult it would become to use the paperwork to investigate or prosecute crimes related to the use of sales of the firearms in question. Any such efforts can only complicate the already difficult task of law enforcement and jeopardize public safety.”

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE

Mr. TIMOTHY MUNSON, Section Chief, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Module A-3, Clarksburg, WV.

Dear Mr. Munson: The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed rule that would reduce the amount of time that the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) maintains National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NTCS) records on approved purchasers by 90 days to one business day. The IACP is world’s largest and largest association of law enforcement executives with more than 18,000 members in 100 countries.

The IACP believes that the 90-day retention period should not be shortened. Decreasing the retention period of these records to one business day will make law enforcement with sufficient time to perform the necessary audits on the NCCS system as established by the Brady Act.

In March 2000, the Department of Justice issued a proposed rule to extend the retention period from 180 days to 90 days. They concluded that 90 days was the “shortest practicable period of time for retaining records of allowed transfers that would permit the performance of basic security audits” of the NICS system. However, the Justice Department also acknowledged that law enforcement officers groups who share my concerns regarding the retention of firearms background check records.

The FBI has stated than it requires at least 90 days to audit the records in order to ensure the accuracy and legitimacy of background checks performed by federally-licensed firearms dealers. These audits allow the FBI to search for patterns of fraud and abuse by both gun dealers and purchasers. Through these audits, the FBI can identify instances in which the NICS system is used for unauthorized purchases such as gun dealers or others other than gun buyers. In addition, audits can also help determine if gun buyers have submitted false identification in order to thwart the background check system. To run these crucial audits, the FBI needs the records on both approved and denied purchases. If these records are quickly destroyed, it will be much more difficult for law enforcement to investigate and prevent abuses of the background check system.

We believe that decreasing the amount of time the purchase records are kept will weaken the background check system and allow more criminals to illegally obtain weapons. In addition, it is important to note that there is no evidence that any information retained in the records has been misused.