

CLEAN WATER AMENDMENTS OF
1995

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY BONILLA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 1995

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 961) to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act:

Mr. BONILLA. Mr. Chairman, I strongly urge all my fellow Members to vote for H.R. 961, Clean Water Act Amendments. This is much needed legislation. The Clean Water Act includes an unfunded Federal mandate which places a terrible toll on our State, county, and local governments and the taxpayers who pay their bills.

In my hometown of San Antonio, TX, the Federal stormwater regulation—a provision of the Clean Water Act—has forced the municipal water districts to raise taxes on property owners. This egregious assessment is listed on monthly water bills as the FED STMWTR FEE, so constituents know this levy is a direct result of Federal mandates. Let me tell you, they are upset.

Many small businesses' water bills have risen from \$30 to \$200 a month. This is money that could have gone for employee raises or company improvements and investments.

The city of Laredo, TX, also in my district, faced a \$3 million-a-year bill from unneeded stormwater regulation. This city on the border with Mexico has to comply with United States Federal regulations while Nuevo Laredo, it's sister community on the Mexican side, does not. This means that the discharged water does not get any cleaner. The stormwater fee is irrelevant in Laredo, but it's required. In fact, it is a lot like money flowing down a sewer. Well intentioned, but of no practical use.

Please vote for this sensible legislation. Far too many American communities are in dire financial situations and cannot afford these costly and, in many cases, unnecessary burdens.

THE RIVER BEND NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION, NEIGHBORHOOD
FINANCIAL CORPORATION AND
THE PRINCIPAL FINANCIAL
GROUP**HON. GREG GANSKE**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 12, 1995

Mr. GANSKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the River Bend Neighborhood Association, Neighborhood Financial Corporation and the Principal Financial Group. This partnership has been recognized for its achievements in creating and implementing a comprehensive neighborhood action plan. The partnership is one of six partnerships in the United States which will receive Social Compact's 1995 Outstanding Community Investment Award.

I had the pleasure and the privilege of visiting River Bend this past weekend. In the 6 years since the partnership began, this com-

munity which was once comprised of drug dealers, prostitutes and decaying and abandoned houses has become a neighborhood of homes and families. Residents are no longer afraid to walk down neighborhood streets and 161 homes have been salvaged or reconstructed. Crime is down. Pride is up.

Our country should follow River Bend's lead. This neighborhood is a prime example of how people can help themselves. River Bend was given a helping hand by the financial services industry, the City of Des Moines, and Polk County—not a handout by the Federal Government.

I encourage more neighborhoods in our Nation to strive to accomplish the level of excellence which River Bend has achieved.

RHODE ISLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
URGES SUPPORT OF SMALL
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 12, 1995

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, recently the General Assembly in my State of Rhode Island recently passed a resolution urging the Congress to support the 7(a) and 504 programs of the Small Business Administration.

In my age when thousands of jobs are being created by small businesses, and thousands of people are finding new career opportunities as entrepreneurs, it is more important than ever to support these two important programs. We turn back on America's future when we fail to support these two initiatives.

In the upcoming budget debate I hope my colleagues will listen to and heed the wisdom contained in this resolution which reads as follows:

Whereas, the U.S. Small Business Administration was created in 1953 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower to foster the growth of small entrepreneurs, and

Whereas, our Nation's economic prosperity is linked directly to the health of the small business community, and

Whereas, the Rhode Island business community is comprised of over 97 percent small businesses, and

Whereas, small businesses have grown 49 percent since 1982, they employ 54 percent of the American work force, account for 50 percent of the gross domestic product, and account for 71 percent in new job growth in 1993, and

Whereas, the Small Business Administration's (SBA) 504 and 7(a) financing programs are a public/private partnership that leverages private dollars and allows for continued access to capital for Rhode Island's small business community, and

Whereas, SBA's technical resources including the Small Business Development Center at Bryant College and the Service Corps of Retired Executives provide much needed counselling to the Rhode Island small business community, and

Whereas, the Rhode Island SBA District Office has approved over 800 loans totalling \$160.5 million in guarantee and 504 financing to the Rhode Island small business community from October 1992 to present, and

Whereas, this financial assistance has played a vital role in reviving the Rhode Island economy; now be it

Resolved, That the General Assembly of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plan-

tations hereby respectfully requests the United States Congress to financially support the U.S. Small Business Administration and its 7(a) and 504 financing programs, as well as its education/training and advocacy programs, and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives and the President of the United States Senate, and to the Rhode Island Delegation in the Congress of the United States.

HONORING ROBERT E. MILLS

HON. JAY KIM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 12, 1995

Mr. KIM. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today and pay tribute to one of California's outstanding citizens, Robert E. Mills on the 40th anniversary of his company, Associated Engineers.

Robert E. "Bob" Mills, a registered engineer, founded the private consulting firm of Associated Engineers in 1955. Mr. Mills, using his acumen and entrepreneurial skills expanded the company to include all aspects of construction management, civil engineering, and survey work. This work included general civil infrastructure design and construction for industrial, commercial and residential developers, counties and municipalities, flood control districts, school districts, public and private water agencies, and State and Federal highway departments. In his ongoing pursuit of excellence Mr. Mills invented the Cutaline, an asphalt cutter which consists of a circular wheel on a special arm which is connected to a road grader. The Cutaline does in 1 hour what it would take three men, 2 days to do.

As one who believes in the value of community service, Bob has served the community as chairman of the San Bernardino County Flood Control District Zone I Advisory Committee, chairman of Economic Development for the Upland Chamber of Commerce for 9 years, the board of directors for the California Council of Civil Engineers and Land Surveyors, chairperson of the Grading Committee, which instituted changes in the State of California Uniform Building Code, the American Red Cross, the Upland Kiwanis Club, the United Fund, YMCA, and on the board of trustees of the Congregational Church in Ontario.

I commend Bob on his outstanding and worthwhile achievements and congratulate him on 40 successful years of Associated Engineers.

EUGENE AND EARL BLACK—91
YEARS OF COMBINED, DEDICATED
SERVICE**HON. GLENN POSHARD**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 12, 1995

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to two brothers who have, for over four decades, made a tremendous contribution to their communities. Eugene and Earl Black have served their friends and

neighbors throughout southern Illinois as ministers for a combined 91 years. Both Eugene and Earl will retire on June 30, 1995.

Eugene Black has ministered to the needs of his neighbors in small, rural communities throughout southern Illinois for 49 years. He has been the pastor at the First United Methodist Church in Herrin, IL, since 1989 and will step down the last day of June to start what promises to be a rewarding retirement in Mattoon. Eugene plans to continue in his retirement as an interim pastor, help his sons, Phillip and Paul, with home repairs, and travel.

Earl Black also found his life's calling in service to the church. For 42 years he has ministered to the needs of the people of southern Illinois, and currently serves as the minister of the First United Methodist Church of Marion. Earl plans to retire near Metropolis, where he anticipates a retirement full of singing with the gospel quartet, auctioneering in the community, and working in his machine shop.

Serving the needs of congregations for over 40 years has been a rewarding experience that neither brother would wish to change. Being called upon to aid in a families time of joy or sorrow is a great responsibility, and both Eugene and Earl shoulder the task with graciousness and humility. Seldom in life are people destined for careers in which they are able to directly touch the lives of those with whom they come in contact, but Eugene and Earl have done this, and I commend them for dedicating their lives for the benefit of others. They have enjoyed careers of inspiration and divine purpose, and it is with regret that their friends see them retire.

Mr. Speaker, Earl and Eugene Black have committed their lives to helping others enjoy a special moment, or endure a time of anguish, and I am proud to represent them in Congress. They have touched the lives of countless people, and I urge my colleagues to join with me in saluting these outstanding brothers.

THE PLIGHT OF THE ROMANIAN MOLDOVANS

HON. MARTIN R. HOKE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 12, 1995

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, we all know that the central and eastern European revolutions of 1989–91 marked a historic event in the European struggle for freedom, democracy, and sovereign independence after so many years of Communist rule. The revolutionary period, however, was chaotic and difficult for the ethnic minorities long held in check by Soviet imperialism and repression. The suffering was also experienced by the ethnic minorities in the republics of the former Soviet Union.

The history of the Romanian Moldovans is one of such suffering peoples. Upon the declaration of independence by Moldova in August 1991, cordial relations were established with the neighboring country of Romania. From that time forward, much has seemingly gone wrong in that fragile region.

I am inserting into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD some interesting information that has been brought to my attention regarding the plight of the Romanian Moldovans. I know this

will be of great interest to you and I hope you will have the opportunity to read this report:

MOLDOVA AND THE CASE OF ILIE ILASCU— BACKGROUND TO THE PROBLEM

Elie Wiesel, an Auschwitz survivor, once said that forgetting the victims is like killing them a second time.

Indeed, oppressors and oppressing states often insist on forgetting the past for the sake of a new start. It is particularly convenient for them because the past can be extended from yesterday to whatever date suits their interests.

In this case, Russia wants to forget Soviet Union's brutal past and injustices and to start with perestroika. Moscow conveniently ignores that Bessarabia or western Moldova was annexed from Romania in 1940 following the Nazi-Soviet secret pact signed in Moscow by Ribbentrop and Molotov in 1939.

Hundreds of thousands of Romanian Moldavians were deported, imprisoned, or summarily executed. Hundreds of thousands of families were split, uprooted, displaced, never to meet again. Hundreds of thousands of Russians and Ukrainians were brought in to reorganize and supervise the new republic of Moldova.

The former Romanian province was territorially mutilated and its borders redrawn. While the northern and southern regions of the new republic were granted to Ukraine, a small piece of land on the left bank of the Dnestr River was given to Moldova. This area was highly russified and its capital, Tiraspol, served for a very long time as a center of Soviet Marxism and Russian nationalism. In fact, Tiraspol was a spring board for Party activists to jump to power in the capital of Moldova, Chisinau, or to other Soviet places.

While imposing Marxism as a new political form of social organization, Moscow also demanded strictly that the indigenous population calls itself Moldavian rather than Romanian. And to make a modicum of distinction within an otherwise undivisible nationality, Moscow forced Moldova to adapt the Russian alphabet instead of the Latin script used by Romanians. For a while, the ploy worked, but only as long as the people was brutally suppressed.

Perestroika, nevertheless, brought along freedom of expression and of political organization. Hundreds of thousands of Moldavians gathered on many occasions in Chisinau to reclaim their history, their language, the right to be themselves, their Romanian nationality. Some of the first acts the Moldavians did, were to declare again their Romanian identity and to reimpose from within the Latin alphabet. And the Romanian tricolor was flying again everywhere.

Eventually, Perestroika caused, at least in theory, the dissolution of the former Soviet Union and it made possible wide spread declarations of independence.

Moldova too declared its independence on August 27, 1991 and a euphoric state followed. It also adopted the Romanian national anthem, it eased control at the Romanian border, while union with the old country appeared imminent. And in the avanguard of this struggle for national recognition was the Moldavian Popular Front. But the initial enthusiasm was soon replaced by the harsh realities imposed again from the center. Moscow would not give up its empire.

First, the small Gagauz minority of Moldova was pushed by the Russians to declare its independence. When this move failed, the Tiraspol Russians declared their own separate Dnestr Republic and vowed to rebuild communism and a new Soviet Union around it. The new Marxist republic readopted the former Soviet system and began to hire mercenaries to fight against

Moldova. Confronted with dismemberment, Moldova formed an army made mostly of volunteers and in 1992 the two sides were poised for war.

Moscow followed with great interest the events and manipulated the war to make sure that Moldova would not be allowed to rejoin Romania. Whenever the war turned sour for the Dnestr Republic, the 14th Russian Army located in Tiraspol openly intervened to its defense. It also armed to the teeth Cossack and Russian volunteers from all over USSR to fight against Moldova.

Within a few months, the war turned very ugly. Many Romanians from the Tiraspol area under the new Dnestr Republic were arrested, disappeared, or were murdered in a barbarous manner. Several Romanians were mutilated, skinned, or nailed to crosses.

At the same time and in order to bit Moldova into submission, Russia stopped the supply of energy and raw materials, resulting in freezing temperatures during the winter and industrial idleness. What Moscow wanted was to bring Moldova back into the newly formed CIS, to alienate it at any price from Romania, and to make its people accept the misnomer of "Moldavian."

At the beginning, the new leaders in Chisinau resisted and fought the trend, but later a new group of pro-Moscow individuals gave in to the Russian demands.

It was at the beginning of the war of 1992 that the Dnestr authorities arrested the leaders of the local Moldavian Popular Front and started a shameful process which lasts to this day. The case is now known as "The Tiraspol Five," and it has acquired international attention.

THE "TIRASPOL FIVE"

On June 2, 1992, a group of five members of the Tiraspol Branch of Moldova's Popular Front was arrested on false accusations of "terrorist acts against the Soviet Power." They were Ilie Ilascu, president of the local branch of the Front, Alexandru Lesco, Tudor Petrov-Popa, Andrei Ivantoc, and Petre Godiac. A sixth person who was arrested at the same time, Valery Garbuz, had been infiltrated by the local secret police into the organization in order to testify against the group.

It should be mentioned that at the time of the arrest, the Tiraspol branch of the Popular Front was working legally and openly within the laws of Moldova. By contrast, the authorities of the Dnestr Republic that arrested them were illegitimate and did not represent any legal state.

At first, the group was detained at the headquarters of the 14th Russian Army in Tiraspol, raising additional questions about the status of this Army. Initially, some 20 persons were detained, but most of them were freed when they retracted their pro-Romanian stand. As a matter of fact, the most insistent demand of the investigators was that they give up their claim to be Romanians and accept instead their regional identification as Moldavians.

In spite of the unbearable conditions to which the victims were subjected, no one confessed to any crimes, but this did not change anything. During the investigations, Ilascu was visited unexpectedly by the ministers of security of both Moldova and the Dnestr Republic, making him think that the two entities acted in unison. On at least one occasion, the two security ministers left Ilascu's cell together, making fun of him.

As Ilascu mentioned in a letter, the defenders were visited by people from Romania, Switzerland, Italy, Poland, and even from the United States. But never by any official of Moldova. During this ordeal, Ilascu states, they were kept alive only because the international press took an interest in them.