

## TRIBUTE TO MARK BISCOE

**HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 7, 1995*

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding educator, Mr. Mark Biscoe.

For 36 years, Mr. Biscoe was a member of the Fenn School family. He dedicated life to teaching, coaching, and guiding young students at this small school for boys in Concord, MA.

Mr. Biscoe began his distinguished career in 1958. Throughout his career, he has assisted countless numbers of students. Each of his students has been a recipient of his sincere kindness, care, and responsible guidance. His supervision and instruction have been significant factors in shaping Fenn boys into young men and preparing them for the future.

In his role as teacher, coach, and sometimes parent, Mr. Biscoe has provided emotional as well as educational support. He has made many invaluable contributions to the Fenn community. Unfortunately, our society often takes its teachers for granted. But, when we consider the positive effects a teacher can have on the lives of children, we begin to appreciate the value of the profession.

Mr. Biscoe's commitment is a lesson about teaching through example. He dedicated himself to improving his community and he succeeded. He is held in the highest esteem by all who know him. I know many parents, students, and colleagues are grateful to Mark Biscoe for his contributions. I extend my congratulations and best wishes to him on his retirement. I know that the Fenn School will continue to benefit from Mr. Biscoe's involvement and contributions.

**HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN CHINA:  
MILLIONS SUFFER WHILE THE  
GOVERNMENT IS REWARDED BY  
THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION**

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 7, 1995*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, two significant events marking the tragic human rights record of the People's Republic of China must not be allowed to pass without this body pausing to remember the victims in China who are not allowed to speak out for themselves without fear of persecution, imprisonment, torture, and death. There are even those victims who will never have the opportunity to cry out for their lives.

On June 1, the Maternal and Infantile Health Care Law went into effect in the People's Republic of China. This law, though titled a "health care" policy, is nothing short of Nazi-style eugenics policy added to an already oppressive, nonvoluntary, coercive one-child-per-couple family planning policy being implemented in China.

China's coercive population control policy is already well known and is a crime against women. Xiaorong Li, the vice-chair of Human Rights in China's Executive Committee and a research fellow at the Institute of Philosophy

and Public Policy at the University of Maryland recently wrote: "In assessing the population policy, the unfair burdens that women have been made to bear in recent history for mistaken national policies must not be ignored \* \* \* If China faces a population crisis, is it just to make women (and children) primarily bear the cost of reducing birth rates?" She goes on to note that "75 percent of urban women would like to have two children, but most settled for having one child to avoid losing subsidies, housing, medical care, retirement benefits, and even their jobs. Rural women seem to suffer more from pressures of all kinds \* \* \* to evade the quotas set by the policy and produce more, preferably male, babies. They alone have to endure abortions in the 7th and 8th months of pregnancy, use IUD's, take the pill, get sterilized, bear the children, and suffer the health consequences of all these things. In most cases, they alone are punished for their extra-quota births, having to escape the harassment of family planning workers, lying about their pregnancies, and eluding the teams sent to take them for abortions and sterilizations."

The new law goes even further than setting quotas, it is aimed at ensuring that parents can have a perfect child, according to Sun Nianfu, senior obstetrician at Beijing's Capital Hospital. To this end, the law prohibits marriage between people if one of them has a serious hereditary disease, which is medically deemed unsuitable for reproduction unless the couple would agree to take long lasting contraceptive measures or give up childbearing by undergoing tubal ligation. Further, the law indicates that when a woman is determined to be carrying a child that may have serious hereditary diseases or have a serious deformity, the pregnancy should be terminated.

What will this mean for the people of China? According to one report "couples discovered to have a genetic predisposition toward conditions like diabetes, mild retardation, or even rheumatoid arthritis \* \* \* could be forced by the government's medical establishment to abort their child." The law, so vague in its definition of serious diseases would allow the government and medical officials to determine in each case which people may get married, which couples may have children, which children may be born.

Three days after the eugenics law went into effect, on June 4, the world remembered the brave men and women who filled Tiananmen Square 6 years ago calling for democratic reform and greater freedoms. Tragically, that peaceful protest, watched by millions the world over, turned violent when the government ordered military troops into Tiananmen Square and opened fire on peaceful, unarmed citizens.

Hundreds were killed. The Chinese Government has never given an accounting of the exact number. More were rounded up and imprisoned. Many of these peaceful protesters remain in Chinese prison, many of them are imprisoned in labor camps, where they are forced to participate in China's slave labor system, producing items exported to the United States under the administration's tragic trade policy which sacrifices human lives and dignity on the altar of the dollar. On Friday the President once again renewed MFN with China, while paying lip service to the human rights situation in China. While unborn children are being called undesirable, while women are

forced to undergo coerced abortions and sterilizations, while hundreds of political dissidents are imprisoned and their voices silenced, the government which inflicts these horrors on the people is rewarded.

Mr. Speaker, fortunately there are others who have more integrity. And these people are paying a high price for standing up for human rights. Several appeals, signed by dozens of China's leading intellectuals have been issued calling for a commemoration of the Tiananmen Square victims and the release of those who are still detained for their participation in the peaceful protests. Some of those who have signed the petitions have been arrested, including Wang Dan, the 26-year-old former student leader at Tiananmen Square. Others arrested include Wang Xizhe who was imprisoned for 12 years for his participation in the 1978 Democracy Wall movement, Liu Xiaobo, a professor, Huang Xiang, a poet, and Liu Nianchun.

And, Mr. Speaker, we must not forget that Wei Jingsheng, the father of China's democracy movement was detained on April 1, 1994 and has vanished without a trace. He had already spent over 14 years in prison. He was released in September 1993 during China's bid to host the Olympics in the year 2000. Once this no longer served their purpose, Wei was picked up by authorities and has not been heard from since. At this point he has not been charged with any crime nor have there been any judicial proceedings against him.

Mr. Speaker, today the government of China enjoys most-favored-nation trade status with the United States. Government officials and the military are reaping the rewards of unlimited trade with our Nation while at the same time they trample the rights, dignity, and lives of millions of women and men in the name of population control and stability.

These victims of China's human rights abuses must not be forgotten. Today I honor the forgotten women and men of China, who are victims of Nazi-like eugenic policies, who cannot choose the number and spacing of their children, whose bodies are violated, whose voices are silenced, but whose hopes and dreams remain alive.

**BROWN INTRODUCES PATIENT  
CHOICE LEGISLATION**

**HON. SHERROD BROWN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 7, 1995*

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker. I rise on behalf of myself and my colleague, Mr. LATOURETTE, to introduce legislation to ensure patient choice of medical equipment under Medicare.

Under current law, the Medicare Program will reimburse beneficiaries for durable medical equipment only if they choose the basic model. Those beneficiaries who wish to choose an upgraded piece of equipment for convenience or comfort reasons must pay for the equipment themselves. In fact, some beneficiaries are forced to use the basic model of equipment even if it may make their condition worse because they cannot afford to pay the full amount for an upgraded model.

I do not believe that Medicare should not be dictating choices to elderly beneficiaries, If an

85 year-old Medicare patient wishes to use an electric wheelchair because it helps her get around better, she ought to be assured that Medicare will cover up to the amount for a basic model.

During last year's debate on health care reform, one of the comments I heard most often from the families of northeast Ohio was concern about restrictions on patient choices. Health care is too personal to allow choices to be determined by Government bureaucrats.

This legislation would ensure beneficiaries true choice of medical equipment such as wheelchairs, hospital beds, walkers and other aids. In addition, the bill includes measure to protect beneficiaries from high pressure sales and allows the Health Care Financing Administration [HCFA] to establish guidelines for the purchase or rental of upgraded equipment.

Restrictions on coverage for medical equipment were established in response to fraud and abuse in the program. However, these restrictions have become outmoded and inflexible. This legislation would protect older Americans from the hard sell by equipment suppliers while providing the flexibility in their equipment choices.

It is not my intent to allow the industry to oversell grandma on the luxury models of all equipment, but we need to have some common sense about Medicare coverage. Why shouldn't Medicare beneficiaries have access to equipment that all Americans do? Why should they be penalized?

Furthermore, while this legislation ensures that additional choices are available to the elderly, this bill is revenue neutral to the Medicare Program. Medicare current covers medical equipment at a standard level. My legislation would simply ensure that Medicare beneficiaries could choose an upgraded model and be reimbursed from Medicare at the standard level. Thus, the U.S. taxpayer will pay no more for this choice legislation.

I urge my colleagues to join in cosponsoring this necessary legislation.

#### THE PASSING OF AN AMERICAN HERO

**HON. RON WYDEN**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 7, 1995*

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. Speaker, let us take a moment today to remember one of the great advocates for justice who died at the age of 89 on April 22—my friend and Gray Panthers colleague, Margaret Eliza Kuhn. I had the pleasure of knowing Maggie for 20 years. She was the inspiration for the Oregon Gray Panthers, pioneer advocacy organization that has worked to bring seniors and young people together in Oregon since 1975. Maggie is truly an American hero.

Maggie Kuhn founded the Gray Panthers in response to her forced retirement. Her goal was simple: unite the generations to serve as advocates for fundamental social change that would reduce injustice, discrimination, and oppression in our society.

Maggie was given a sewing machine to celebrate her retirement, a seemingly appropriate gift, but she never even found time to open it. She was too busy. Instead, she served as a tireless champion for those without a voice in our society.

Maggie Kuhn led the fight to root out discrimination against older Americans. Kuhn thought it was absurd to waste the valuable talents of older Americans, and helped to shatter the myth that growing older is synonymous with powerlessness, decrepitude, and weakness.

Kuhn saw a natural connection between young and old. She said that the mind needs exercise to stay healthy. Kuhn encouraged seniors to return to school. She encouraged older Americans to teach children, based on their vast life experiences.

Maggie Kuhn and the Gray Panthers have always had an aggressive agenda of social action. Maggie refused to let government and society stunt the productivity of seniors by forcing them to retire at age 65. She argued that forced retirement damages self-esteem and leads to feelings of uselessness. She felt it was unconscionable that this physical and psychological damage could be forcibly imposed as a person ages. Maggie fought mandatory retirement until she won.

Maggie Kuhn would be outraged today by the recent attacks on the role of seniors in our society. When talking about Medicare much of the media says seniors, not out of control health costs, are the problem. When talking about Social Security, seniors, not the use of the Social Security surplus to fund other programs, are again described as the problem. When it comes to the economy, again seniors are described as the problem and held out as takers, not producers.

The fact is millions of seniors are producers, not takers, and Maggie led the way for older people to use their skills to make our communities better places every day. Seniors are part of the solution, not problems as so often portrayed in today's media.

Older Americans are making valuable contributions every day in many ways around the country. Stop in at your local blood bank, school lunch program, or your favorite charity. You'll see that seniors are the glue that holds these programs together. They are the National Senior Service Corps, the Peace Corps, the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program [RSVP], and AmeriCorps. Just look around—seniors are helping—because Maggie Kuhn helped open the doors for older Americans.

Maggie's credo was age and youth in action, and I'm pleased that this House is beginning to understand the need for policies that bring the generations together. Recently, the House voted for my amendment to promote kinship care, which gives seniors and other adult relatives the opportunity to support and raise children, as an alternative to forcing children from broken homes into foster care run by strangers. Enacting a national plan to promote kinship care would be an ideal way to honor Maggie Kuhn, who led the fight to bring younger and older people together.

Maggie hated waste and foolish bureaucracy. Democrats and Republicans alike can work together to reduce fraud and waste in vital government services and protect consumers. In support of this objective, Congress should pass the bipartisan legislation introduced by the chairs of the House Older Americans Caucus that would attack fraudulent and unethical practices in the sale of private long-term care insurance.

In the days ahead, Congress will debate many important issues of social justice. Let us remember Maggie Kuhn's life and support

government policies that empower and liberate our citizens.

Maggie Kuhn led a life of unselfish service to others. She felt that the greatest sin was to waste time and to waste human potential. She lived her life to the fullest. Millions of Americans, young and old, have been touched by her work.

Maggie Kuhn was once asked how she would like to be remembered. She recited her favorite epitaph: "Here lies so-and-so, under the only stone she left unturned."

Maggie Kuhn, a true American hero, will be much missed.

#### BIENNIAL CONGRESSIONAL REFORM

**HON. LEE H. HAMILTON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 7, 1995*

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a resolution providing for the biennial review of the structure and organization of Congress.

One of my major conclusions from my work last Congress on the Joint Committee on the Organization of Congress is that the institution is better served if congressional reform is treated more as an ongoing, continual process rather than something taken up in an omnibus way every few decades. Congress has set up three major bipartisan, bicameral reform efforts in recent times—the 1945, 1965, and 1993 Joint Committees on the Organization of Congress. All three panels were given extremely broad mandates—to look at virtually all aspects of Congress in order to improve efficiency and effectiveness. The panel last Congress took up everything from committee jurisdiction reform and the congressional budget process to ethics reform and congressional compliance with the laws we pass for everyone else. We conducted scores of hearings, heard from hundreds of witnesses, looked over thousands of pages of testimony, considered hundreds of reform ideas, and issued reports totalling several thousand pages.

In my view, it would be far preferable to have the House take up a congressional reform resolution each Congress:

First, the task would be much more manageable. Members would be able to focus attention on the key reform issues of the day, rather than consider the entire range of procedural and organizational matters over from previous Congresses.

Second, political tensions would be lessened. Letting systematic institutional reform slide for several years only allows problems to fester and heightens partisan tensions.

Third, continual attention to reform is needed. We live in a rapidly changing world and need to keep the institution of Congress up to date on a regular basis.

Fourth, public confidence in Congress would be bolstered. Regular, systematic reform of Congress should help improve its operations and remove unnecessary impediments to legislative action.

Thus I strongly favor bringing a congressional reform resolution to the House floor every Congress, and letting Members work their will on the major reform issues of the