

much better place to live than she found it. She will be missed by those who knew her, but her example of commitment and concern will remain a part of her legacy.

AMERICAN OVERSEAS INTERESTS
ACT OF 1995

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 1995

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1561), to consolidate the foreign affairs agencies of the United States; to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and related agencies for fiscal years 1996 and 1997; to responsibly reduce the authorizations of appropriations for United States foreign assistance programs for fiscal years 1996 and 1997, and for other purposes:

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Chairman, I want to express my strongest opposition to the amendment proposed by my distinguished friend from New Jersey [Mr. SMITH]. I have the highest regard for my colleague, Mr. SMITH. He and I have worked together on many issues on human rights, and I fully share his abhorrence of coerced abortions that have been carried out in China. I have joined him on many occasions to protest in the strongest terms this egregious violation of human rights. While we have worked closely together on a large number of human rights issues, including coercive population control programs, and I look forward to working with him on a number of other issues in the future, I disagree in the strongest terms with this amendment that he has offered to the bill H.R. 1561.

I support the reasoned alternative that has been presented by our distinguished colleague from Maryland, Mrs. MORELLA, which is the same provision that Mrs. MEYERS of Kansas presented during full committee markup, and which was approved by a significant margin during that markup by the entire International Relations Committee.

Mr. Chairman, unchecked population growth in developing countries poses a serious and a growing threat to United States national interests throughout the world. It has serious implications for our international policy in areas of trade, security, environment and international migration.

To reduce the whole range of U.S. population assistance to the issue of abortion—which is what the amendment of our colleague from New Jersey does—does a great injustice to our pioneering work in the field of population planning, where the United States is a recognized leader and innovator.

U.S. population assistance addresses a broad range of critical needs—maternal health; child survival; primary health care, including the prevention of death due to pregnancy-related causes; and the prevention of the spread of sexually transmitted diseases; and contraception.

The aim of a family planning organization is not to promote abortion, but quite to the contrary—to prevent unwanted pregnancies and abortion, which is the leading cause of maternal mortality. The principal objectives of the Agency for International Development's Popu-

lation Program are to enable couples and individuals to decide freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children, to improve individual health, and to reduce population growth rates to levels that are consistent with sustainable development.

U.S. population assistance is very much in our Nation's interest and—dollar for dollar—probably offers the best return on investment of any of our foreign assistance programs.

If effective action is not taken with this decade as today's 1.6 billion children in the developing world under the age of 15 reach their childbearing years, then the Earth's population could nearly quadruple to over 19 billion people by the end of the next century.

Such an unchecked explosion in population threatens the international community just as much as the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction or the increase in international crime, because the alarming rate of population growth underlies virtually every developmental, environmental, and national security problem facing the world today. In Algeria, Brazil, and India—to name but a few examples—we are seeing how growing populations hinder economic development, foster serious environmental degradation, and exacerbate political instability.

Experts estimate, Mr. Chairman, that 125 million people in developing countries want to delay or avoid childbirth, but they are not using contraception because they do not have access to means of birth control.

Population growth is outstripping the capacity of many nations to make even modest gains in economic development, leading to growing political instability in many countries. At best, this undermines the ability of these countries to be reliable members of the international community or good trading partners of the United States. At worst, it can contribute to massive unrest and violence, as we have witnessed in Rwanda.

The impact of exponential population growth is also evident in the mounting signs of depletion and overuse of the world's natural resources. We have only to see what is happening throughout the continent of Africa, in South Asia, and in many areas of South America to realize the serious and, I fear, irreversible environmental consequences of unchecked population growth.

At the International Conference on Population in 1984 in Mexico City, the Officials of the Reagan administration speaking for the United States Government announced a new policy of denying United States foreign aid funds to any foreign nongovernmental organization that provided abortion counseling, referral, or services. Initially called the Mexico City Policy, because it was announced at the U.N. conference in that city, it came to be known as the International Gag Rule.

While the ostensible purpose of that policy was to prevent abortion, the evidence has shown that restrictions did nothing to reduce reliance on abortion. In fact, the only impact of the restrictions was to interfere with the delivery of effective family planning services and appropriate medical care.

Current law and the explicit text of the Morella/Meyers language make it very clear that no United States funds can be used now or in the future to perform abortions abroad except in cases of rape, incest, or endangerment of the mother's life. No United States funds may be used to lobby for or

against abortion, and no United States funds will be spent by the U.N. Family Planning Agency in China.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to reject this effort to return us to the era of the International Gag Rule. The counter-productive and self-defeating Mexico City Policy was appropriately and rightfully rejected by the American people, and it was repudiated in the past by the Congress as well. It is necessary for us to reject this effort to turn back the clock. The Smith amendment is contrary to American national interests, and it is a policy that is contrary to the interest of stability and economic development in the Third World. It is time for us to move forward and face realistically and meaningfully the very serious population problems that we face in the world.

PROTECTING THE FLAG

HON. TOBY ROTH

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 1995

Mr. ROTH. Mr. Speaker, today Americans across the Nation will unfurl Old Glory to celebrate Flag Day. Last Saturday, June 10, Appleton, WI held the Nation's largest Flag Day parade to honor our veterans who won World War II 50 years ago.

Fifty years ago, the U.S. Marine Corps invaded the rocky island of Iwo Jima. The month-long assault marked the beginning of the United States forces freeing the South Pacific from Japanese occupation. This epic battle was won at the staggering cost of 6,821 American lives.

One of the veterans of this battle was John H. Bradley, a native of Antigo, WI. When he died last year, Mr. Bradley was the last survivor of the six American servicemen who raised the U.S. flag on Iwo Jima. Their valor was captured in the unforgettable 1945 Pulitzer Prize-winning photograph by Joe Rosenthal.

Across the Potomac River from the Capitol, that flag-raising scene is brought to life in the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial. Day and night, American citizens and visitors from around the world come to pay homage to the six Americans who struggled to raise the flag on Mount Suribachi, the highest point on Iwo Jima.

The raising of the flag brought tears to the valiant Americans who were still struggling to vanquish the nearly impregnable Japanese defenses. The rippling red, white, and blue of Old Glory overhead instilled hope and courage to these weary marines.

To Americans, the flag is a symbol to revere, respect, and honor. At the 45th annual Appleton Flag Day parade, I saw rugged World War II veterans, as well as little boys and girls, snap to attention when the flag passed by.

For many years, Federal law and 48 State laws protected the flag from physical desecration. While Americans have always defended political dissent, we draw the line at burning our national symbol.

But in 1989, the U.S. Supreme Court nullified these laws with a nonsensical interpretation of the first amendment protection of freedom of speech.

Congress responded by passing a law to restore the protection of the flag, but the Court again defied the will of the people.

After that defeat, Congress tried but failed to pass a constitutional amendment that would allow flag protection laws.

Mr. Speaker, we didn't have the votes then. But this is a new Congress, a Congress that believes our national symbol deserves the protection of law.

In the coming weeks, the House of Representatives will try again—and this time, I believe we will win. House Joint Resolution 79, the American flag protection amendment, will restore the flag to its rightful honor. This amendment has sailed through the Committee on the Judiciary and is scheduled for vote in the near future.

On behalf of the patriotic citizens of Appleton, and of all the people in northeast Wisconsin, and of every State in America, I rise to urge the House to pass this amendment.

Flag Day is not just a celebration of the American flag, but a celebration of the American people and American ideals. Let us remember the stirring words of Longfellow:

"Take thy banner! May it wave
Proudly o'er the good and brave."

Mr. Speaker, the flag deserves protection from those who would defile it. On this Flag Day, as we remember the brave Americans who won World War II 50 years ago, this Congress must restore to the flag its rightful standing as a symbol to be honored, saluted, respected, and protected.

If we fail, then the tears of pride shed by the World War II veteran I saw in Appleton last Saturday will turn to tears of shame. Let us not disappoint this patriot who crossed an ocean and fought a war to defend the ideals embodied in our American flag.

TRIBUTE TO THE WILLIAMS HIGH SCHOOL GOLF TEAM

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 1995

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, it took them a year to avenge a heartbreaking defeat, but on May 16, 1995, the Williams High School golf team completed a yearlong quest by capturing the North Carolina 3-A high school golf championship. The Sixth District of North Carolina is proud of the Bulldogs for winning the State golf title with a 2-day total of 614, two strokes better than its closest rival, Northwest Guilford High School, another Sixth District high school.

What made the victory even sweeter was that it came over the same team, Northwest Guilford, that defeated Williams High School last year by one stroke. Head Coach Tommy Cole told the Burlington, NC Times-News that the bitter memory of last year's defeat drove the team all year long. "It feels good to come back and win this after the heartbreak of last year," Cole told the newspaper. "Everybody left here last year saying, 'If I hadn't missed that shot here,' or 'If I just made a putt there.' The mental stress on these kids has been unbelievable. They handled it great."

Congratulations must begin with Tommy Cole who was named North Carolina's 3-A golf coach of the year following the team's vic-

tory. The win was Cole's second State title in as many sports. Cole was the coach for the Graham High School boys basketball championships in 1983.

All five Williams golfers deserve equal praise for the team victory. Paul Daniel, Josh Moore, Tommy Ryan, Josh Petty, and Jason Nestor were better the second day than they were the first. Each improved his first-day total by at least one stroke. Paul Daniel followed his 74 on Monday with a 73 on Tuesday for a 2-day total of 147, and that was good enough to capture comedalist of the tournament.

Congratulations to principal Donald Williams, athletic director Tommy Spoon, the faculty, staff, students, and parents of Williams High School. The Sixth District of North Carolina is proud of the Williams High School golf team for winning the 3-A golf championship and keeping the title in the Sixth District.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 13, 1995

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1530) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1996 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 1996, and for other purposes:

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise to briefly discuss the amendment—included in the en bloc amendment—of the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. GILLMOR] and the gentleman from Texas [Mr. EDWARDS].

Mr. Speaker, although the Civilian Marksmanship Program is but a minuscule piece of the Federal Government, I think this is a historic occasion.

It is noteworthy because as the leading opponent of the Civilian Marksmanship Program in Congress over the past 3 years, I now support much of what the leading proponents are trying to do—change and reform this long outdated program.

My colleagues, it has taken 92 years to begin to do the right thing.

Founded in 1903 after the Spanish-American War, the program was intended to teach our new recruits how to shoot straight.

We won that War. And it is long past time to declare victory and get rid of this program.

But for nearly a century, U.S. taxpayers were called upon to spend their money—last year it was \$2.5 million—on a program which the Department of Defense said serves absolutely no military purpose.

Instead, the program gives away 40 million rounds of free ammunition, along with cut-rate guns to rifle clubs to use in target practice competitions.

It simply make no fiscal or military sense.

And lately, the Civilian Marksmanship Program took on a more sinister appearance, which the gentleman's amendment acknowledges. Investigative reporting uncovered clear links between participants in this program and extremist militias.

I am pleased that Mr. GILLMOR's proposal moves us in the right direction on a number of these issues.

First and foremost, the annual \$2.5 million giveaway of taxpayer money is gone.

The program will cease to be an instrument of the military—where it serves absolutely no purpose—and instead will become a private nonprofit corporation associated with the U.S. Olympic Committee.

I have always stated that I have no problem with teaching rifle safety and sharpshooting. But I consistently objected to the taxpayers footing the bill under the guise of military preparedness.

Mr. Speaker, I do have some very serious concerns about the amendment.

I am not at all comfortable with its provision to turn over an inventory of 70,000 M-1 rifles to the new corporation, and to allow a new type of weapon—.22 caliber rifles—to be sold as well.

It seems to me that we need less, not more, excess Government weaponry spread around our country. I will be watching this program very closely over the coming months to ensure that these weapons are not being abused.

As troubled as I am by this provision, it is clear that the gentleman from Ohio has the votes, and he and my friend from Texas, CHET EDWARDS, have made a good faith effort to reform this pork-ridden boondoggle.

The amendment, while not perfect, it a vast improvement over current law.

SALUTE TO JOAN ROSS: FOR AN OUTSTANDING 26-YEAR CAREER IN COMMUNITY SERVICE TO WEST VIRGINIA

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 1995

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, after serving southern West Virginia as head of the Southwestern Community Action Agency in Huntington, WV for 26 years, Joan Ross has made her decision to retire in order to spend more time with her husband, her children, and her grandchildren.

While her time and talents have been devoted almost solely to the Community Action Council which she has headed for 26 years, developing and implementing many "poverty programs" for the most needy people throughout southern West Virginia, Joan Ross began her public service prior to the 1964 enactment of the Economic Opportunity Act creating local and regional CAP agencies.

Joan first spearheaded a local demonstration project called Project Find, a research and demonstration program under which she trained older, low-income persons who had not dreamed of being called upon to show the kind of professional skill required of survey takers, and under Joan's supervision were more than able to conduct the necessary random survey, using a 22-page questionnaire, throughout a three-county area—Lincoln, Wayne, and Cabell. The findings determined by the questionnaires indicated specifically what and how extensive the human service needs were throughout the area, and how best to provide for those needs. Joan Ross followed up by developing a delivery system