

AMERICAN OVERSEAS INTERESTS
ACT OF 1995

SPEECH OF

HON. WILLIAM P. LUTHER

OF MINNESOTA

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 year 1996 and 1997; to responsibly reduce the authorizations of appropriations for United States foreign assistance programs for fiscal year 1996 and 1997, and for other purposes:

Mr. LUTHER. Mr. Chairman, I am committed to ensuring that all efforts are taken to recover our American POW's and MIA's from the Vietnam and Korean wars. After 27 years of families waiting for news and information about loved ones, the time has come to renew our national commitment to those American soldiers still unaccounted for in Southeast Asia.

We must do all we can to achieve the fullest possible accounting of our POW/MIA's. We must reach out to the families of POW/MIA's and listen to their stories. We must continue to seek answers to the questions that remain, and we must address our past failures and develop more positive future solutions.

One of those stories is the story of Joan O'Brien, a constituent of mine and an active member of the Minnesota League of POW/MIA's. Her brother, Sgt. Eugene Allen Handrahan has been missing in action since October 10, 1968. She is convinced that the POW/MIA's issue has been seriously mishandled and is frustrated by our inability to adequately address the lack of information available to her family about her brother. She feels as though our Government has stopped looking for positive solutions. I understand her feelings and am concerned with the Department of Defense's unwillingness to provide this family with complete information.

Today we have before us a positive approach. I applaud my colleague, Representative FRED UPTON for his provision in the American Overseas Interest Act, adopted in the manager's amendment, which I voted for and fully support. Representative UPTON's language enables us to reach out to citizens of countries who may have access to information about our missing service personnel. This provision grants asylum in the United States to any citizen of Laos, Vietnam, or Cambodia who personally delivers into the custody of the U.S. Government a living American POW or MIA from the Vietnam war, and to any citizen of North Korea, South Korea, or China who delivers an American POW or MIA from the Korean war.

Mr. Chairman, this is the least we can do to show our support and appreciation to those who risk their lives to bring American soldiers home. It is the least we can do to answer to the millions of families still waiting for positive solutions.

SAUDI ARABIA STILL DELAYS
PAYMENT TO UNITED STATES
COMPANY**HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 1995

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my continued and growing concern and frustration over the delay by the Saudi Arabian Government in paying the \$43.4 million claim of my constituent Gibbs & Hill Inc. I have risen numerous times on the floor of this House to urge Saudi Ambassador Bandar to favorably resolve this last remaining claim, as has been committed to repeatedly by the Kingdom, and thereby complete his mandate for satisfactory resolution of these claims under the special claims process.

On Friday, we passed the American Oversight Interest Act (HR 1561) which contained a provision sponsored by myself and Representative SMITH to further this policy objective of our Nation. Section 3312, Notification of Arms Sales to Saudi Arabia, requires the President to notify to Congress of all arms sales to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia until such a time as the Secretary of State certifies that the Kingdom has satisfactorily resolved all claims identified in the June 30, 1993, report of the Secretary of Defense pursuant to the section 9401(c) of the fiscal year 1993 Department of Defense Appropriations Act.

Now is the time for Ambassador Bandar to address this issue, meet with the company, and implement the payment of the claim. Ambassador Bandar's authority to implement payment of the claim is certain as was confirmed to Members of Congress and the company as recently as May 2, 1995, by U.S. Ambassador Raymond Mabus. Ambassador Mabus has steadfastly advocated the State Department's position that the claims be satisfactorily resolved by Ambassador Bandar under this mandate. In his May 22, 1995, conversation with the company and Members of Congress, Ambassador Mabus noted that he had been assured by a member of the Saudi royal court, on the authority of the King, that the claim would soon be paid. Despite this direct and unequivocal commitment, the Kingdom has yet to pay the claim. The unresolved claims between American companies and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia continue to place a strain on our relationship with the Kingdom. On April 7, 1995, I and several of my colleagues wrote to Chairman GILMAN requesting that a hearing be scheduled as soon as practical to consider U.S. bilateral relations with the Kingdom. I renew my call to Chairman GILMAN to schedule hearings on this subject so that we may fully explore our commercial relationship with the Kingdom.

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 year 1996 and 1997; to responsibly reduce the authorizations of appropriations for United States foreign assistance programs for fiscal year 1996 and 1997, and for other purposes:

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Chairman, I want to express my opposition to the amendment proposed by my distinguished friend from Illinois, Mr. HYDE. I have the highest regard for my friend from Illinois. He and I have worked together on many issues, and we agree on many of the most fundamental of those issues. I respect his principled opposition to the War Powers Act, and I have heard him express his disagreement with that legislation on many different occasions over the years as we have served together on the Foreign Relations Committee.

Like Congressman HYDE, I have serious reservations about the way in which fundamental questions regarding the decision to commit United States troops abroad have been made over the years. I have had disagreements with Republican presidents and with Democratic presidents, and it will come as no surprise to my colleagues to know that I have not hesitated to express those differences both publicly and privately. As Chairman of the Subcommittee on International Security, International Organizations, and Human Rights in the last Congress, I chaired a number of hearings related to this issue.

I have the highest regard for my distinguished friend from Illinois, and I acknowledge that his amendment to repeal the War Powers Act and to establish provisions that provide for Executive-Legislative consultations is a serious and thoughtful effort to deal with the problem of the commitment and involvement of American military forces abroad.

At the same time, however, Mr. HYDE's amendment suffers from the same fundamental flaw that undermines the entire bill that is before us today, Mr. Chairman. It is a partisan document that has been imposed by the Republican majority, first in the International Relations Committee and now, I fear, in the House of Representatives. Our foreign policy should be a bipartisan effort that jointly involves the Administration and the Congress, and both of our political parties. Furthermore, it is again being done without thoughtful deliberate consideration and evaluation by the Committee of jurisdiction.

There were no hearings in the International Relations Committee on the specific amendment Mr. HYDE is presenting to us here today; There was no effort to solicit the thoughtful views of the Administration about mechanisms to assure consultation between the Administration and the Congress; there was no effort to seek the views of scholars and lawyers and historians about the potential impact of those changes; there was no attempt to develop an amendment that had input from and reflected the concerns of the Democratic members of the International Relations Committee.

Regrettably, Mr. Chairman, with Mr. HYDE's amendment we are simply continuing the partisan politicization of our foreign policy at the very time that we should be working together to deal with the serious challenges that our Nation faces in the post-cold war world. There

may be merit in the proposals of my distinguished friend from Illinois, but this amendment should be thoughtfully considered and evaluated, not presented as an amendment to this piece of legislation without proper reflection.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly oppose the amendment.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "BOXING SAFETY, RETIREMENT, AND RE-TRAINING ACT OF 1995"

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 1995

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Boxing Safety, Retirement, and Retraining Act of 1995. This bill would create a Government corporation that would oversee the boxing industry, ensure that healthy working conditions exist, and eliminate the widespread corruption and exploitation that runs rampant within the sport. The bill places special emphasis on assuring the health and safety of boxers.

Boxers are never privileged individuals. They primarily are minorities from disadvantaged areas, easily susceptible to the unscrupulous business practices of boxing promoters. Traditionally, minority youth have viewed a boxing career as a way to leave behind a life of poverty and gain wealth and stability for themselves and their families.

Often these men have no other hope. They are poorly educated and face an inhospitable job market. Boxing promoters exploit the dreams of young boxers by promising lucrative careers. Once boxers enter the business, they surrender all control over their careers. They are used like property for the financial gain of others.

The industry is controlled by a few organizations, manipulated like puppets by a small number of immensely powerful promoters. In this equation, the boxer is powerless. He must play by their rules or not play at all. If he complains, he is not allowed to fight. If he speaks publicly about negative conditions, he faces banishment and an end to his financial support. If he wants to fight in title matches, he must sign contracts rife with clauses that direct money to the promoter's family and friends. This situation becomes especially problematic when the boxer has little education, might not speak English, and has no other financial resources.

The boxing industry might say that it is being unfairly singled out because the Government does not directly regulate any other professional sport. But the reason we do not directly regulate other sports is because we do not need to; they have proven over time that they can manage their own affairs. Through players' unions, most professional athletes have recourse against unfavorable working conditions. Golfers, bowlers, and baseball, football, and basketball players, all have an avenue that prevents them from being exploited. Boxers have none.

This bill is not the first attempt by Congress to get involved in an industry that cannot monitor itself. When working conditions became intolerable, the Federal Government stepped in and formed the Occupational Safety and

Health Administration [OSHA]. When financial transactions became suspect, the Securities and Exchange Commission [SEC] was created. When some States proved to be irresponsible on civil rights issues, the Federal Government initiated the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. The boxing industry has had over 100 years to get its act together, and it has failed. It is time for Congress to get involved.

Only a handful of States conduct oversight over boxing, and only a few of those do it effectively. Too often, State agencies have been co-opted by those with a financial interest in the sport. My bill would create an unbiased board whose members would be unable to reap monetary reward from the industry while serving. The board would be comprised of neurological specialists, average citizens, and a representative from the boxing world. The board's members would be given the responsibility of establishing minimum standards to which States must adhere. States with effective agencies would be able to maintain autonomy, but states with little or no oversight would be forced to improve.

Without this bill, the unconscionable practices of this sport will continue. Oversight responsibility will continue to be left to those individuals who have proven that greed is their motivating force. Unsuspecting minority youth will still be exploited. Boxers will never be able to voice objections to working conditions. And an elite group of promoters will keep becoming very, very rich.

I am in no way asking for a ban of the sport, just some oversight. Amateur boxing programs in neighborhoods have been successful in getting young people off the street and giving them confidence. It is the professional arena where the problems lie. For the sake of the young men involved and fostering the integrity of the sport, I urge my colleagues to pass this legislation.

OBSERVING THE FIFTH ANNUAL DAY OF THE AFRICAN CHILD

HON. FLOYD H. FLAKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 1995

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to support the observance of the African Child on June 16, 1995.

I come to you today with this request simply because it only seems suitable, coming from a country that invests in human capital, that each and every Member should be able to look within their hearts and realize that the African, specifically the South African, child has been traumatized over the course of apartheid and the demoralization of Africa as a whole.

The Day of the African Child commemorates the June 16, 1976 massacre of school children in Soweto, South Africa. Since the original designation by the Organization of African Unity in 1991, it has become an event that has mobilized communities around the world to look at the situation of all African children and to celebrate the diverse cultures and traditions of the large continent.

The theme of this years Day of the African Child will deal with children in armed conflict. Amazingly enough, a study showed that 75 percent of the children in Rwanda has seen mass killings. In several African countries,

boys as young as 11 years old have been recruited into military training. It is quite obvious that the future of these children is very bleak, that is without proper intervention.

Moreover, since we always only focus on the hardships of Africa, this day is a time to also look at the accomplishments of the continent. For not every child in Africa suffers from disease and malnutrition, or is impoverished or illiterate.

I thank all of my colleagues for their attention to this important matter and I hope that each and everyone of you will participate in this observation.

It is up to us to let these children know that their struggles were not in vain.

A TRIBUTE TO SOUTH GLENS FALLS CENTRAL SCHOOL VOLUNTEER/MENTOR PROGRAM

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 1995

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to rise today and pay tribute to a program which provides a tremendous service to the students and community of South Glens Falls. The Volunteer/Mentor program is completing its 2nd year of service helping elementary and middle school children with their self-esteem, allowing them to meet their academic and personal potential.

Young people comprise America's greatest asset. In that respect, a program like this one is invaluable and representative of that uniquely American concept of volunteerism. In this day and age especially, our children are subject to an alarming range of negative influences. Therefore, it is critical that we call upon the entire community to assist our young people in overcoming problems with their self-esteem by countering the impact of damaging social ills. That is why the service of the 60 volunteers in this program is so critical.

Allow me to recount some of the efforts of these mentors. They meet with the students in small, or even one to one settings for at least 45 minutes per week. This relationship between mentor and child lasts for a minimum of one school year, whereby affected children receive the degree of attention they need to ensure they reach their maximum potential. These volunteers and the children often establish such strong bonds that many mentors have extended their service for a 2nd year.

This type of devotion exemplifies those qualities which make Americans, and America, great. I have always felt that there are three distinct reasons for this greatness, American pride, patriotism and volunteerism. The American people have been noted for this voluntary service, be it in the fire departments, civic and community organizations or extracurricular programs at our schools.

Mr. Speaker, the United States of America is the longest continuing democracy in the world and a model for emerging countries. In that same mold, people like those who comprise the Volunteer/Mentor program in the South Glens Falls Central School District are models for all of us here. To that end, I have always been one to judge people based on what they return to their community. By that measure, these volunteers are truly great