

**ACTION ON FINAL RESOLUTION OF
GIBBS AND HILL AGAINST THE
GOVERNMENT**

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 1995

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice a specific and direct concern, and a demand for action from our State Department, over the inexcusable delay in the final resolution of the \$43.4 million commercial claim of Gibbs & Hill against the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. This claim is the last remaining unpaid claim under the special claims process established by the Congress in 1992 in recognition of a pattern of commercial abuse by the Kingdom towards the American companies working there during the period of the late 1970's and early 1980's.

Gibbs & Hill's story is not unlike that of all of the other American companies whose claims were satisfactorily resolved by Saudi Ambassador Bandar under the special claims process. Gibbs & Hill provided services to the Kingdom and was not paid for the services provided. The claim was notified to the Saudi Government for resolution under Ambassador Bandar's mandate to resolve these claims' and Ambassador Bandar pledged to spare no efforts in so doing fairly and expeditiously. This was more than 2 years ago. Since that time, a message on behalf of none other than the King has been provided to our country's representative in Riyadh that the claim was soon to be paid. Yet the claim still has not been paid.

We have included legislation in the fiscal year 1996 American Overseas Interest Act to further the policy of our country that the claim be favorable resolved for the company, as has been repeatedly committed to by the Saudis to our Government and the company. This is only the first of such steps the Congress can take to ensure that the wrongful acts of the Kingdom against Gibbs & Hill are rectified.

What is needed, and what is expected from our State Department, is its immediate and unrelenting effort to bring this matter to a successful conclusion, through the full and prompt payment of the claim, so as to conclude successfully the claims issue. Nothing short of this will be tolerated, nor is acceptable. The importance of the successful conclusion of this singular issue to our bilateral relationship cannot be overemphasized. Until it is resolved, it will continue to fester and threaten to undermine our relationship with the Kingdom.

PERCELL ANTHONY BELL

HON. WALTER R. TUCKER III

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 1995

Mr. TUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a builder. Mr. Percell Anthony Bell, a self-taught masterplasterer, was born and raised in Richmond, VA.

In 1903, Mr. Bell was born to the proud parents of Charles E. Bell, Jr., and Julia Graham Bell. He attended the Baker Street School and became one of the finest masterplasterers in Virginia.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Bell's contributions to the architecture of this great country include many of the finest buildings on the east coast, including the Federal building here in Washington.

In addition, Mr. Bell's work can be seen in the Union Theological Seminary, the Federal Bank, and the Richmond City Hall.

Mr. Bell leaves, to cherish his memory, three daughters, Elinor B. Pollard, Marion Hill, and Geraldine Anderson, seven grandchildren, five great grandchildren, and one great-great grandson, and a host of other relatives and friends.

Mr. Speaker, to this good and decent man, the oldest member of the Mount Carmel Baptist Church Deacon Board, the proud father of three and a builder for all seasons, thank you.

**INTRODUCTION OF THE IMMIGRATION
ENFORCEMENT IMPROVE-
MENTS ACT OF 1995**

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 1995

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Immigration Enforcement Improvements Act of 1995 on behalf of the Clinton administration. This bill builds upon the strong effort this administration has been making to control illegal immigration.

This administration has done more to close the door on illegal immigration than any previous administration. With expected increases this year and next, border control staffing will have increased by 51 percent since President Clinton took office—including border patrols and inspectors at border crossing points and airports. Deportation of illegal immigrants has tripled and the removal of criminal aliens has been targeted. The budget of the INS has increased by over 70 percent from \$1.5 billion in 1993 to \$2.6 billion requested for 1996.

The President, the Attorney General, and INS Commissioner Doris Meissner should be credited for their effective leadership and commitment to rising to the challenge of illegal immigration.

The legislation introduced today gives the administration a number of tools to control our borders more effectively, to combat illegal hiring and to remove those who are here in violation of our laws.

The bill would make realistic increases in border enforcement personnel without jeopardizing the quality and safety of Border Patrol officers and inspectors. Border control officers know best what resources they need to do their job effectively, and this bill responds directly to their needs.

The bill imposes stiff penalties for smuggling of immigrants, document fraud and other offenses.

The bill authorizes pilot programs to test ways to verify that job applicants are eligible to work in the United States. The goal is to find simple and effective ways of denying jobs to illegal immigrants to help eliminate the reason why immigrants enter this country illegally.

The bill promotes coordination on workplace enforcement between the INS and the Department of Labor, since employers who hire undocumented workers often also violate other labor standards.

Finally, the bill expedites the removal of criminal aliens by eliminating some procedures and redtape.

I commend the administration for their initiative and I look forward to working with my colleagues to produce legislation that deals thoughtfully with the serious challenges we face.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO MELVIN
DANAO TABILAS ON HIS EAGLE
SCOUT AWARD**

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 1995

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, in my home district of Guam, we have many outstanding young people. However, one young man from Boy Scout Troop No. 38 deserves special mention. Whenever a Scout earns the rank of Eagle, the accomplishment stands out as a milestone in his life. Melvin Danao Tabilas is the only person on Guam to get the Eagle Scout Award this year. This triumph alone predicts future successes, but there are many things about Melvin worth watching.

This Eagle Scout plans to attend college and major in the fields of medicine and music. I have heard him play piano at family functions; he has the gift of harmony. A career in music would be a natural, but this fine young man plans to participate in medical missions to the Philippines after college. He wants to provide medical assistance to the less fortunate. I can close my eyes and see Melvin also soothing patients with song.

Melvin pledges to remain active as a Scout in the Order of the Arrow, and he will espouse the values learned in Scouting throughout his life. One needs only to examine his Eagle Scout Service Project to grasp the sincerity of this young adult. Melvin embarked on a beautification project for the central park in Dededo where he lives. He recruited his friends, who put in over 130 hours of labor. In return for a simple lunch, they painted the pavilion, planted trees, picked up trash, and replaced the sand around the swing and slide. When the project began, garbage was everywhere, the pavilion was covered with graffiti, and there were only a couple of trees. In this fast-paced, ever changing society, Melvin wanted his villagers to have a place to relax. From the planning stage in April, 1994, Mel and his volunteers completed the project 2 months later.

Melvin Tabilas graduated from Father Duenas Memorial High School and is a National Honor Society member. It's hard to keep up with him. He ran cross country for Father Duenas in 1992, and has been on the move ever since. He received the Governor's Art Award and a Guam legislative resolution as a member of the San Vicente School Percussionists. He performed at the Lytigo and Bodig Telethon, using his talent to help others.

Melvin has upheld the Scout oath. He has made his family, parents, and Congressman proud. Keep up the good work!