

in support by Senators HEFLIN, COVERDELL, and NUNN.

During the 104th Congress, I look forward to gaining the support of the House in advancing this legislation expeditiously, as it has already been approved by the States of Alabama and Georgia.

SYLACAUGA, AL, HONORS SINGER,
ACTOR JIM NABORS AS NATIVE
SON

HON. GLEN BROWDER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 1995

Mr. BROWDER. Mr. Speaker, Sylacauga, AL, is an exceptionally pleasant, attractive community in the Third District of Alabama, which I have the honor to represent in this House of Representatives. Members of the House may be familiar with the fact that the Capitol contains marble from Sylacauga. So does the U.S. Supreme Court, the Lincoln Memorial and a number of other beautiful buildings across America.

Sylacauga is a small, progressive city with almost 25,000 residents. It has good schools, libraries, museums, parks, churches, and a diversified industrial base—all of the things that would make a person want to call Sylacauga home.

One of the city's best known native sons is Jim Nabors, who will be coming back home to Alabama on July 28. The occasion will be Jim's presentation of the memorabilia from his career in entertainment to the native son collection at Sylacauga's Isabel Anderson Comer Museum.

Jim's collection was assembled during more than 35 years as a singer, actor, and comedian. As many of us remember, Jim appeared for years as the star of "Gomer Pyle USMC" and later in the "Jim Nabors Hour," where his remarkable singing ability was featured.

Despite his international fame as a singer and entertainer, Jim has always taken pride in introducing himself to the world as a small town guy "from Sylacauga, AL." Obviously he has not forgotten where he came from and it is equally apparent that Sylacauga has not forgotten him.

In addition to the presentation and reception at the museum, Jim will participate in the grand finale of Sylacauga's outstanding program in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II. He will open the celebration with his popular rendition of the Star Spangled Banner. He also will present awards and certificates of appreciation to veterans of World War II.

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the city of Sylacauga on this valuable gift of Jim Nabors' memorabilia and to commend Jim for being the kind of person that his hometown is proud to remember.

FOURTH ANNIVERSARY OF
UKRAINIAN INDEPENDENCE

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 1995

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, on July 16 I had the privilege of addressing a group of Ukrain-

ian-Americans in Glen Spey, NY, concerning developments in the New Independent State of Ukraine.

In honor of the upcoming fourth anniversary of the independence of Ukraine, I would like to insert some of my remarks into the RECORD at this point for the review of my colleagues.

As we approach the anniversary of Ukrainian independence this August 24, I invite my colleagues to join me in expressing our very best wishes for the success of political and economic reforms in that important European State.

Mr. Speaker the text of my speech follows. I am hopeful that my colleagues may find it of interest.

It is good to be here with some of my good friends from the Ukrainian-American community.

I would like to take a moment to say a few things about Ukraine, now approaching the fourth anniversary of its independence.

The last few years have not been easy ones for the Ukrainian people.

Despite Ukraine's natural wealth—particularly in its agricultural resources—it has suffered greatly from its dependence on trade links purposely created by the former communist regime to control Ukraine—and from the physical and psychological residue left in the wake of many decades of communist repression, propaganda and corruption.

By no means, however, can Ukraine be considered as down and out.

As we all well know, Ukraine and its people have weathered far worse times—times of world war, times of civil war, times of mass starvation, and times of fascist and communist dictatorship and atrocities.

I am very confident that, with the help and understanding of its friends—particularly that of the United States—Ukraine will begin to gain its feet and move forward to the long-term prosperity and democracy it richly deserves.

I am more confident of this than ever before, given the strong leadership of Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma.

Since his election last year, President Kuchma and his government have moved with determination to implement the economic reforms that Ukraine so badly needs.

In closing, let me note how the United States has helped and is continuing to help Ukraine in this difficult time.

We have provided vital assistance to Ukraine to help it begin retraining its military forces and to settle and retrain those of its troops that are demobilized as Ukraine dismantles its soviet-era nuclear missiles.

We have assisted Ukraine in arriving at agreements with Russia concerning Russian compensation for Ukrainian nuclear warheads and concerning Russian energy supplies for Ukraine.

I am also certain that at this time our government is continuing to advise the Ukrainian government on how to arrive at an acceptable agreement with Russia concerning the division and basing of the Soviet-era Black Sea Fleet.

The United States quite frankly played a crucial role in arranging the recent agreement of Ukrainian debt rescheduling.

That agreement helped Ukraine qualify for the billions of dollars in loans and credits it is now receiving from international financial institutions.

Finally, assistance from the United States in support of economic reforms in Ukraine is helping that country in several very important ways.

The United States is helping the Ukrainian government target its limited resources to

best help the most needy segments of its population during the transformation to a market-based economy commences.

It is helping train Ukrainian entrepreneurs, bankers, businessmen and students.

The United States is helping transfer state-owned enterprises to private ownership by Ukrainian citizens.

It is helping Ukrainian energy industries to become more efficient and productive.

We are helping the Ukrainian government and the Ukrainian Parliament to better organize themselves and operate in a manner that will fulfill their proper roles in a democratic government.

The United States is helping Ukraine find the means to shut down the dangerous reactors at Chernobyl—and to help the unfortunate victims of radiation poisoning from the 1986 reactor explosion, both in Ukraine and in neighboring Belarus.

Perhaps most important, United States assistance is helping fund programs to explain to the Ukrainian people the changes that are underway and how they will help build a better Ukraine for them and their children.

In closing, let us, as we look to the future, realize that we must continue to work to ensure the stability of Ukraine—because the stability of all of Europe may depend upon it.

In that regard, it makes a great deal of sense for us to continue assisting Ukraine and to work to see that Ukraine takes its rightful place in Europe, particularly with regard to organizations such as the European Union and NATO.

May God Bless America.

And, may God bless peace, democracy, and prosperity for Ukraine.

MISSED VOTE ON HOUSE
RESOLUTION 192

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 1995

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, due to the fact that I was unavoidably detained last evening, I missed the rollcall vote on House Resolution 192, which called for the House inspector general to complete a more detailed audit of the House. Had I been present on rollcall vote No. 525 I would have voted "yes."

LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS
OF THE REPUBLICAN LED CONGRESS

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 1995

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to taut a few of the accomplishments of the 104th Congress. Contrary to the claims of the Democratic Leadership Council that despite all the hype about the Republican revolution, the Republicans have offered very little, the Republican led Congress has ended business as usual in Congress and continues to lead the charge in implementing the changes mandated by the American people last November.

On the first day of the 104th Congress we passed the Congressional Accountability Act so that Congress applied all laws to itself that

it imposes on everyone else. The House then proceeded to eliminate three committees and 25 subcommittees, to cut one-third of committee staff, to implement truth-in-budgeting baseline reform, to limit the terms of the Speaker and the committee and subcommittee chairmen, to ban proxy voting in committee, to open committee meetings to the public and to order first every comprehensive audit of its books.

The House for the first time ever approved a balanced budget amendment. Even though the Senate failed to pass the amendment, the House GOP committed to balance the budget by the year 2002. Six separate bills were passed to undo last year's flawed Clinton crime bill. The House passed a sweeping welfare reform bill that ends welfare as we know it by rewarding the dignity of work and self-respect over illegitimacy, family disintegration, and non contribution to society.

We provided much needed tax fairness to families so they can keep more of their hard earned money. We repealed the unfair Clinton tax hike on Social Security benefits, raised the earning limitations on seniors who work past the age of 65 so they are not punished for staying in the work force and provided tax incentive for long-term care coverage.

The Clean Water Act continues Congress' commitment to the environmental protection of our Nation's waterways while restoring common sense to environmental protection. We have undone Clinton's efforts to hollow out the military and restored some money cut out over the past 2 years to ensure military readiness and modernization. We have eliminated and prioritized our Nation's overseas interests. We continue our commitment by eliminating three Federal agencies and two dozen foreign aid programs.

The rescission package is a first step toward a less costly Government. We cut \$16.4 billion in wasteful spending by eliminating unauthorized programs and consolidating duplicative programs. And we slashed our own spending in Congress by \$155 million.

Mr. Speaker, I venture to say that in 40 years of Democratic control, the Congress never accomplished as much as the Republican led 104th Congress. I would suggest our friends at the DLC take a closer look at their facts.

UPCOMING INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 1995

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Subcommittee on International Operations and Human Rights, which I chair, held a hearing on the upcoming Fourth International Conference on Women, currently scheduled to be held in Beijing later this summer.

Numerous eloquent witnesses called attention to certain features of the draft document that this conference will almost certainly adopt. While there is much that is positive in the document, there is also a systematic denigration of marriage, childrearing, and family. As was pointed out at our hearing by Cecilia Royals of the National Institute of Womanhood, the doc-

ument disparages a central life experience of 90 percent of the world's women, and attempts to turn women who emphasize family life into a new marginalized class.

I would like to put before my colleagues the testimony of another witness: Diane Knippers, president of the Institute on Religion and Democracy, and cochair of the Ecumenical Coalition on Women and Society [ECWS] Beijing team. Ms. Knipper's testimony offers several reasons for doubting the draft document's effectiveness as a tool for promoting the human rights of women.

TESTIMONY OF DIANE L. KNIPPERS

The adoption of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights in 1948 gave the world a powerful mechanism for holding nations accountable for the basic rights of all persons. Sadly, in recent years we have seen efforts to erode these basic standards as authoritarian governments argue that human rights are not universal, but are culturally relative. But another form of erosion is more subtle, more insidious, and more dangerous. It is the trend toward defining every conceivable social goal as a human right—whether or not these social goals are properly the responsibilities of governments and whether or not they are even obtainable. The result is obvious. When everything is considered a right, finally nothing can be defended as a right.

The Fourth World Conference on Women and its draft Platform for Action offer prime examples of this erosion. The adoption of this platform will undermine the pursuit of basic human rights. Even more troubling, it will also sacrifice efforts on behalf of women whose rights are the most repressed and abused in favor of the controversial social goals of Western gender feminists. This is a tragedy.

Let me cite several examples of the human rights flaws in the draft Platform for Action and the conference itself.

A. The draft Platform's commitment to universality is unsure.

Every reference to universal human rights is bracketed. If this document does not affirm universality it will mark a serious regression in the progress toward human rights within the international community.

B. The call to address the basic rights of women is blurred and minimized in the draft Platform's context of social engineering and expansive and questionable goals.

Serious abuses of rights of women, even when mentioned in the document, are diminished in the context of grandiose plans for re-engineering society. For example, achieving for all women the basic right to vote and participate in elections is a much more urgent task than working to ensure equality of outcomes such as equal numbers of men and women in all parliaments.

Let me offer examples of abuses of women that are mentioned in the draft Platform, but diminished by the larger context. There is the urgent need to combat prostitution and pornography, particularly involving children. A recent report of a religious group which operates ministries in Thailand to young women who have been forced into prostitution tells of girls as young as 12 sold to brothels. One child said the brothel owner would beat her to make her stop crying while she was "entertaining" customers.

Another example is slavery, which has not been eradicated but is still practiced in nations such as Mauritania and Sudan. A recent fact-finding team organized by Christian Solidarity International reports that local officials estimate that some 1,000 women and children have been taken into slavery in the last five years from one Sudanese town alone. Team members met a 14-year-old Sudanese girl who had been kid-

napped and sold into slavery when she was seven. Yet the atrocity of human slavery gets only passing mention in the 121-page Platform for Action.

Such blatant and egregious human rights abuses are trivialized in the context of a document that takes on the grandiose aim to re-define gender roles in every society with no reference to biological differences between men and women.

C. The Platform will result in the expansion of the coercive and intrusive powers of governments and international agencies in the lives of individuals and families.

The goals of the draft Platform for Action—particularly (1) defining equality as outcome rather than opportunity and (2) obliterating any distinctive male or female roles—will lead inexorably to the expansion of the coercive power of governments. There is no question that this will contribute to anti-democratic practices. It will also undermine the rights of individuals and families (beginning with the rights of parents to train their own children).

D. Serious human rights abuses, such as religious repression, are ignored.

The most serious omission in the draft Platform is any acknowledgement of freedom of conscience or of religion for women. Throughout the document, religion is cited as a source of repression of women. There is only one brief (and still bracketed) acknowledgement of the spiritual needs of women. But nowhere in 121 pages does the document call for religious freedom for women.

Women should have the right to engage in religious practice, to change their religion, and to propagate their religious faith, particularly to their children. Women who change their religion should be free of the threat of state-imposed divorce or the threat of having their children taken from them. The irony is that this conference on women is being held in a country which currently imprisons women for practicing their faith.

E. Holding the Fourth World Conference on Women in China also serves to undermine international human rights standards.

The Ecumenical Coalition on Women and Society is calling upon the U.S. government to boycott the Beijing women's conference unless two conditions are met. The first is that Harry Wu must be freed from prison. The second is that our government must obtain assurances from the Peoples Republic of China that U.S. citizens and other UN conference participants will enjoy the basic rights of freedom of conscience, freedom of opinion and expression, and freedom of peaceful assembly as guaranteed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Women in non-governmental organizations going to Beijing are being told that they risk interrogation if they meet in groups of more than five, that they cannot meet in hotel rooms, they can't unfurl banners, they can't take in religious literature, they can't engage in corporate prayer outside a special tent, they can't take unregistered computers or fax machines into hotel rooms. How can we begin to discuss human rights in a climate in which those rights are ignored and abused? It would be unconscionable for the United States to participate in such a sham.

CONCLUSION

Women are brutally denied basic human rights in many parts of the world. Women suffer denial of educational opportunities and property rights, forced abortion and forced sterilization, genital mutilation, prostitution, rape, female infanticide, the threat of execution for apostasy or blasphemy, slavery—the list goes on and on.

The campaign to combat the truly horrible abuses of women is undermined by linking women's rights with highly questionable economic, social, and environmental theories.