

You want to get rid of the Interstate Commerce Commission?

Fine. But let's do it right. Vote "no" on the Hefley amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time

CRIME IS ON THE RISE

HON. WILLIAM J. MARTINI

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 1995

Mr. MARTINI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the House of Representatives with regard to a tragedy that has become far too common in this day and age. I am referring to the acts of senseless violence committed against our children that tear at the fabric of our society.

On a street in Paterson, NJ, a town in my congressional district, a young woman's dream to become a Wall Street entrepreneur or a scholar was shattered on Friday. She was attacked by unknown assailants who had approached her car and demanded money. When the young woman told her attackers that she had no money one of the men fired shots through the driver's side window. She was struck by the barrage of bullets; her best friend and the community were left in tears, by her side.

Cindy Del Carmen Villalba was 20 years old. She died 5 days short of her 21st birthday. Cindy was the valedictorian of her high school class, the first member of her family to attend college, and an honor student at Rutgers University in New Jersey where she studied business communications and Spanish. Cindy had just returned from a foreign study program where she taught, as well as learned from, schoolchildren in Costa Rica. She was 1 of 12 students chosen from Rutgers University to participate in the 6 week service, study program. In addition to her scholarly activities, she also was active in a dance troupe whose work explored Colombian themes and folklore, and she taught catechism at St. John's Cathedral.

Crime in our country is on the rise and the insecurity it breeds will erode the American peoples faith in the land of opportunity. It is with this passing that we as the Congress, as a Nation, and as a people need to summon the strength to dedicate ourselves to ending crime. Such an action will keep the memory of this young woman alive.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in extending my condolences to the family and friends of Cindy Del Carmen Villalba. It is a shame when a woman with such a bright future is taken from this world in such a senseless manner. She will be missed by everyone whose heart she touched and whose life she brightened.

THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CONVENTION CENTER AND SPORTS ARENA AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1995

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 1995

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill that advances the process for

realizing two major projects in the District of Columbia: The District of Columbia Convention Center and Sports Arena Authorization Act of 1995. This bill combines and refines two bills that were previously introduced, taking each of these projects another step forward.

The sections addressing the convention center project allow for the expenditure of previously collected taxes for preconstruction work so that cost estimates and time lines can be confirmed before the building process begins. Additionally, it allows for the expenditure of funds to operate the present convention center. This language goes greatly unchanged from that in the previously introduced bill, H.R. 1862.

The sections addressing the sports arena refine the language in previously introduced bill, H.R. 1843. These sections allow the District to use an annually collected tax to finance the land acquisition and other background work for the sports arena project. Once these steps are taken, the sports arena can be built.

Both of these projects are being financed by District and private resources, and will bring significant revenue into the District's shrinking coffers. Additionally, both projects will bring additional and much needed jobs to District residents, both while the projects are in development and during the future operations of these facilities.

I am pleased to be joined in cosponsorship and support of this bill by so many of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle. I hope we can work together for speedy passage of this bill.

IMPORTANT FINDINGS ON VISION IMPAIRMENT AMONG OLDER AMERICANS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 1995

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues new findings on a problem that affects millions of middle-aged and older Americans: impaired vision.

Recently, The Lighthouse, Inc.—a vision rehabilitation organization—commissioned a poll on vision loss which was conducted by Louis Harris and Associates. As part of this comprehensive study, over 1,200 Americans 45 or older were interviewed to determine the prevalence and severity of impaired vision. The results of the survey are stunning. Approximately one in six Americans 45 years of age or older report that he or she experiences moderately or severely impaired vision. Many suffer even while wearing corrective glasses or contact lenses. For adults 75 years or older, the number is even more startling: one in four have vision difficulties. When applied to the entire Nation, the survey shows that 13.5 million Americans aged 45 or older suffer some degree of vision impairment.

One of the most disturbing aspects of this problem is the lack of public awareness about treatment options and facilities. Thirty-five percent of Americans surveyed were found to be unaware of local services for people with impaired vision. Also, while 89 percent of those surveyed think health insurance for vision im-

pairment is somewhat or very important, only 75 percent are covered for severe vision impairment.

While many people suffering from vision impairment realize there are a variety of options to help correct vision loss—optical devices, adaptive aids, and rehabilitation—the Lighthouse survey shows that all of these options are under-utilized. Clearly, in combating vision impairment, one of our first targets must be to wipe out widespread ignorance about a problem that afflicts one in six Americans.

Mr. Speaker, as the Lighthouse study shows, we must take steps to guarantee that Americans can see with clarity. Such steps will improve the health, productivity and quality of life for millions of Americans. I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the efforts of the Lighthouse, Inc. and to urge further action on this important topic.

VISITOR SERVICES IMPROVEMENT AND OUTDOOR LEGACY ACT OF 1995

HON. JAMES V. HANSEN

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 1995

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to improve the recreation experience on our Federal lands. Currently, funding to support recreational use of Federal lands is declining at the same time that recreational use is increasing. The staffing of the Federal land management agencies is inadequate and facilities, many of which are undersized, are deteriorating beyond the point where cost-effective repairs can be undertaken.

Some have urged that we simply appropriate more money for these purposes. However, in this time of deficient reduction, no one is approaching me volunteering programs with surplus funds. We must find ways to spend existing funds more wisely and to generate more funds within the programs themselves. The bill I am introducing today moves a long way in that direction.

Recreational use of Federal lands is one of the best deals in America today. It is such a good deal because 90 percent of the costs of services provided to recreational users are paid by persons who don't use the Federal lands. In recent years, recreational use on Federal lands has been subsidized by nearly \$1 billion annually. However, if we could develop a way for recreational users of Federal lands to pay just \$1 per person for their recreational use, Federal recreation programs would be self-sufficient.

The current Federal recreation fee program, as codified in section 4 of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act, is in need of a complete overhaul. There are three major problems with the existing law: First, inadequate cost recovery, second, lack of incentives for fee collection, and third, complex and often conflicting policies as a result of past congressional micromanagement of this program.

The legislation I am introducing today reflects a total revision of the existing law. Under my legislation, recreation user will be required to pay 75 percent of the annual costs of services provided to them. However, this legislation is not just a fee offset bill. It provides for

Congress to pay for not only the balance of the annual operating costs, but to provide funds for recreation facility construction and rehabilitation as well. As visitation goes up, so will fees and ultimately overall program funding. This legislation is designed to reverse the current trend of decreasing appropriations for visitor services.

One of the key features of this legislation, and of any successful fee program, is providing program incentives. By permitting the agencies to retain all funds without further appropriation, my legislation provides substantial incentives for both the public and the agencies administering the program. Further, most of the funds would be kept right in the area they are collected, with some allowance made for areas which cannot collect adequate recreational fees.

Other important features of this bill include the following: First, developing a consistent recreation fee policy for the 5 primary Federal land management agencies; second, providing flexibility in the amount of fees charged, but ensuring that fees collected are fair; third, limiting recreational fees to developed recreation sites and other specific recreational services provided by the federal agencies; fourth, ensuring congressional oversight of rates charged; fifth, permitting the use of volunteers to collect fees; sixth, ensuring accountability of fees collected; seventh, prohibiting fees for Federal hunting and fishing licenses; and eighth, guaranteeing access to private property without requiring the payment of any fee.

Taken together, these reforms will fundamentally change the manner in which the fee programs on Federal lands currently operate. These are changes which will work to the benefit of all recreational users of Federal lands. I look forward to working with my colleagues on this legislation, I welcome their input, and that of the public who uses our Federal lands.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANDREA H. SEASTRAND

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 1995

Mrs. SEASTRAND. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 552 through 557 I was unavoidably detained due to district travel plans and therefore unable to vote.

Had I been present I would have voted "no" on rollcalls 552, 555, and 556 and "yes" on rollcalls 553, 554, and 557.

THE EMPLOYMENT OF U.S. CITIZENS IN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 1995

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that U.S. citizens are allocated approximately 15 percent of U.N. posts, despite the fact that U.S. assessed contributions amount to 25 percent of the organization's regular budget. The geographic distribution formula for U.N. employees, which includes

population and membership as well as contributions, does not appear to reflect the disproportionate responsibilities born by the United States within the U.N. system. A separate concern is that the U.N. Secretariat consistently fails to meet even this relatively low employment allocation; only 10 percent of all U.N. employees are U.S. citizens.

I believe this is a serious problem that deserves high-level consideration. My reservations about U.N. employment policies are outlined in a letter I sent recently to the Department of State. I ask that my letter, and the Department's response, be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

COMMITTEE ON
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS,
Washington, DC, June 16, 1995.

Hon. WARREN CHRISTOPHER,

Secretary of State,

Department of State,

Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SECRETARY: I write to inquire what steps the Administration has taken to increase the employment of U.S. citizens in the United Nations system.

My inquiry is prompted by the most recent report to Congress on this subject, as required by section 181 of P.L. 102-138, which was submitted on June 2.

My reading of the report indicates the following:

(1) The United States accepts the U.N. Secretariat's ability to exclude large numbers of U.N. positions from the application of the principle of equitable geographic distribution; and

(2) The United States accepts a geographic distribution formula for U.N. employees which allocates the United States roughly 15% of U.N. posts, even though the United States contributes 25% of the U.N. regular budget and about 30% of U.N. peacekeeping costs.

I would appreciate a clarification of whether these statements reflect U.S. policy, and if so, the date these policies were adopted, and why.

I am concerned that even this relatively low allocation is barely met in the U.N. Secretariat, and is not being met in eight of the nine U.N. agencies on which the report focuses. As a whole, the report states that only 10% of all U.N. employees are U.S. citizens, a level which has not increased significantly over time.

I find it difficult to believe that there are insufficiently qualified U.S. applicants for available U.N. posts, particularly in the area of humanitarian relief and aviation expertise where large numbers of U.S. citizens have unique skills and are seeking employment.

I would therefore appreciate an answer to the following questions:

(1) What are the principal obstacles to increase hiring of U.S. citizens in the U.N. system? Do these obstacles vary by agency?

(2) Is a registry kept of U.S. citizens interested in and qualified for U.N. posts which are advertised?

(3) What office within the State Department is responsible for assisting U.S. citizens seeking employment at the United Nations, and how many personnel does that office have?

(4) What specific steps has the Department taken, both with the Secretariat and with other U.N. agencies, to address the underrepresentation of U.S. citizens?

I understand that equitable geographic distribution of U.N. posts is one among several principles guiding decisions on U.N. employment, the foremost of which I hope would be competence. I am puzzled nonetheless that U.S. representation remains so persistently low within the U.N. system.

I would appreciate any information you could supply, and stand ready to work with you to address this imbalance.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

LEE H. HAMILTON,
Ranking Democratic Member.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, DC, July 19, 1995.

DEAR MR. HAMILTON: This is in response to your letter of June 16 to Secretary of State Christopher inquiring about the steps the Administration has taken to increase the employment of U.S. citizens in the United Nations system. As you are aware, the Secretary of State is responsible for leading and coordinating the U.S. Government's efforts to ensure that the staffs of UN agencies and other international organizations include an equitable number of Americans in professional positions.

In your letter, you asked for information regarding the United Nations Secretariat's geographic distribution formula, and clarification of U.S. policy regarding the application of this formula. Prior to 1962, the UN's geographic distribution system for professional staff was based simply, and informally, on member states' contributions to the regular budget. The UN first debated the geographic distribution issue during the General Assembly's seventeenth session in 1962.

In this debate, the United States proposed a resolution calling on the secretary General to consider giving weight to the factors of population and membership, as well as the financial contributions of states, and to consider widening the categories of Secretariat staff subject to geographical distribution. The formula eventually approved called for 60% of the posts to be filled on the basis of member states' assessed contributions, and the remaining 40% to be filled based on their population and membership. The GA also recognized that not all professional posts should be included within the geographic distribution formula. These included posts with special technical and language requirements, national restrictions, and all General Service (administrative) positions.

The formula in place today maintains the same three weighted factors: contributions, population and membership. Over the years, the weight given to contributions has decreased slightly, from 60% in 1962 to the current 55%. Therefore, even though the United States may contribute 25% to most UN agencies, the desirable ranges of U.S. professional representation in these agencies average between 15% to 18%. Other major contributors to the UN have similarly proportional ranges.

Following are our responses to your other four questions.

1. What are the principal obstacles to increased hiring of U.S. citizens in the UN system? Do these obstacles vary by agency?

The historical underrepresentation of Americans in many of the UN agencies is due to a number of factors, including stiff competition from nationals of other member countries, the lack of foreign language skills by some American candidates, and our lack of participation at most UN agencies in Junior Professional Officer (JPO) programs which encourage promotion from within. In addition, some Americans are deterred from considering such positions because of the high cost of living in many UN cities, the lack of employment opportunities overseas for spouses, and other family and career considerations. It is for these reasons that Americans tend to be better represented in many of the New York offices of the UN Secretariat, and at the New York headquarters