

industrious and young individuals coordinated plans to erect a church. Through their conscientious efforts, construction on the church was completed in 1938. The first parish priest was Reverend Demetriades. The church, named after a Roman soldier who was martyred for his faith, moved from East Chicago to Schererville in March, 1992. Today, St. George, which is currently under the leadership of the Reverend Constantine Aliferakis, proudly boasts a membership of over 300 families.

The consecration celebration is similar to the baptism of a child in that it symbolizes the setting apart of the church as a temple of God and its dedication to Him. This ceremony dates back to the fourth century, when St. Constantine dedicated the church after the Christian persecution ended. This once-in-a-lifetime ceremony for any church, will be conducted by Bishop Iakovos of the Greek Orthodox Diocese of Chicago. At the ceremony, the Bishop will dedicate the new furniture and painted wall hangings of six saints and martyrs.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other colleagues to join me in a heartfelt message of congratulations to the Reverend Aliferakis and the congregation of St. George Hellenic Orthodox Church on this wonderful day of celebration. The members of St. George should be proud of their efforts to successfully preserve their Greek heritage.

A TRIBUTE TO FLOYD I. STUMBO

HON. LARRY COMBEST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 1995

Mr. COMBEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Floyd I. Stumbo. On October 1, 1995, Mr. Stumbo retired after 38 years of service to the Children's Home of Lubbock, TX.

Floyd has been associated with the Children's Home of Lubbock for the past 38 years. Since 1957 he has selflessly served in many roles with the home. In 1970 he was named their chief executive officer, in which capacity he served until 1989, when he was named president. During these years the Children's Home of Lubbock flourished and steadily grew under his leadership and service. Today, the home stands as a modern progressive institution which provides care for over 4,200 children. It operates as a debt-free campus, which boast 20 buildings, thanks to his guidance.

Floyd has also given of himself to many other professional and community organizations. He has served in the Lubbock Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club of Lubbock, Texas Association of Executives of Homes for Children, Texas Association of Licensed Homes for Children, Southwest Association of Executives of Homes for Children, the National Association of Homes for Children, and the Texas Association of Licensed Children's Services, as its President. Even with the demands of these many organizations and responsibilities, he still has the time and energy to serve as an elder of his church, the Broadway Church of Christ in Lubbock.

His leadership abilities have not gone unnoticed; he has received numerous awards for his dedication to the children of Lubbock,

among which are the Lubbock Christian University Leadership Award of 1986, the Christian Child Care Recognition for Leadership for 1985, the Pepperdine University Christian Service Award for 1983 and Citizen of the Year, Lubbock Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers for 1976. Now that he has stepped down from the Presidency, he has taken up the directorship of the Children's Home Foundation. This will enable him to enjoy some of life's finer pleasures such as golfing, travelling, visiting with friends of the Home, and spending more time with his family.

Mr. Speaker, I wholeheartedly thank Floyd for his dedication, untiring efforts, and his giving spirit of which the Children's Home of Lubbock is the greatest benefactor. I would also like to wish Floyd and Pat, his beloved wife, a happy and fulfilling retirement.

MEDICARE PRESERVATION ACT OF 1995

SPEECH OF

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 1995

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2425) to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to preserve and reform the Medicare Program, with Mr. LINDER in the chair.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Chairman, last year Republicans in Congress blocked efforts to pass legislation that would have guaranteed health care to all Americans. Now Republicans propose a bill, H.R. 2425, which guts the health care safety net for older Americans. Medicare is our contract with American families, illustrating our commitment to enabling seniors to live in dignity and independence. H.R. 2425 is a direct attack on this contract and reneges on our commitment to older Americans, leaving them to face the high cost of health care alone at a time when they are at their most vulnerable.

H.R. 2425 cuts the Medicare Program by \$270 billion over the next 7 years. The Republicans in Congress state that these cuts are necessary to save the Medicare Program, but the cuts are far too deep and would create increased uncertainty and instability. The Medicare Trustees' Report states that Medicare will become insolvent in 2002, a fact that we must seriously address. However, by reducing Medicare funding by \$90 billion, we can assure the Medicare trust fund's viability through 2006. H.R. 2425, despite the massive \$270 billion cut, would still only assure Medicare solvency through 2006—the same year.

Instead of saving Medicare, Republicans are more interested in providing a \$245 billion tax-giveaway for the wealthiest Americans. Clearly, without the tax break, a smaller and more reasonable reduction in Medicare spending would be possible. However, Republicans refuse to acknowledge the recklessness of their actions and insist on maintaining a tax windfall for their wealthy friends. My commitment, I can assure you, remains with senior citizens, not these fat cat contributors and I intend to oppose H.R. 2425.

The Democrat's substitute, addresses the real issues facing Medicare. By reducing fund-

ing by \$90 billion over the next 7 years, we will shore up the Medicare trust fund through 2006. This gives us more than a decade to work on significant and sensible reforms to assure Medicare will always be there for those who need it. In addition, a major component of the Democratic proposal would combat fraud and abuse which costs Medicare \$18 billion each year. The Republican plan does not adequately address this issue and in fact makes it easier for fraud to go undetected.

I prevail upon my colleagues to stand up for America's senior citizens. Vote against H.R. 2425. Do not abandon your commitment to their health and security in old age.

PROSPECTS FOR DEMOCRACY IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 1995

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, while we do not hear much about it, the struggle for democracy continues in Central and Eastern Europe. It is hard work, but it is important work because it affects the stability of Europe. Earlier this week, at a conference in Washington organized by Indiana University, a former colleague of ours, John Brademas, who represented the Third District of Indiana, delivered some very incisive remarks on the prospects for democracy in these countries. I commend these remarks to my colleagues.

CAN U.S.-STYLE DEMOCRACY WORK IN THE CEE REPUBLICS?

Allow me to welcome everyone to our panel on "Can U.S. Style Democracy Work in the CEE Republics?", part of the Indiana University International Forum on "Economic, Political & Military Security in Central and Eastern Europe."

I congratulate Indiana University on its initiative in organizing this Forum and I want to salute the Forum co-chairs, my fellow Hoosiers and distinguished former colleagues, Senator Richard Lugar and Representative Lee Hamilton; and to say how pleased I am that Congressman Hamilton, a valued friend of many years, is serving on this panel with Susan Atwood of the National Democratic Institute and Charles Gati of Interinvest. I am pleased also that two other friends, Rozanne Ridgeway and John Whitehead, both outstanding public servants, are chairing the other two panels at this Forum.

NED

At the outset, I would like to say a few words about why I am particularly interested in the issue of promoting democracy in Central and Eastern Europe and elsewhere.

First, since 1993 I have been chairman of the National Endowment for Democracy, one of the principal vehicles through which American Presidents, Senators and Representatives of both our political parties have sought over the last decade to promote free, open and democratic societies around the world.

Founded in 1983 by Act of Congress, NED is a bipartisan, non-governmental organization that champions, through grants to private organizations in other countries, the institutions of democracy. Although not a government entity, the Endowment is financed by an annual appropriation by Congress. The current budget is \$34 million.

I note that the National Endowment for Democracy is the only private association in

the country with two presidential candidates on its board, Senator Richard Lugar and Malcolm S. Forbes, Jr., and I am also pleased to add that our eminent keynote speaker today, Zbigniew Brzezinski, is also a member of the NED board and that Congressman Hamilton is one of our strongest supporters on Capitol Hill.

NED grants are made to organizations dedicated to promoting the rule of law, free and fair elections, a free press, human rights and the other components of a genuinely democratic culture. The Endowment has a long-standing and successful program of grants in Central, Southern and Eastern Europe.

I also note that to expand its role as a center of ideas about democracy, the National Endowment for Democracy established in 1990 the quarterly *Journal of Democracy* and, in 1994, the International Forum for Democratic Studies. The Forum serves as a center for the study of democratic developments, a repository of published research and documents on democracy and an electronic communications network for democratic thinkers and activists. The Forum's staff conducts regular seminars and twice yearly holds a major conference on a central issue in democracy-building. Last August, for example, the International Forum co-hosted in Taiwan a very successful conference on "Consolidating the Third Wave Democracies."

Of course, we must acknowledge that those of us in the West who look to building democracy around the globe should not assume that it is we who have all the answers.

CULTURE OF DEMOCRACY

Because of my interest in issues of democracy building, you will not be surprised to hear that I believe we in the United States as well as our compatriots in Eastern Europe must do all we can to stimulate, in our own countries and abroad, a culture of open and accountable government.

This means, among other things, promoting the revival of civil society through the creation of "social capital." "Social capital," Professor Robert D. Putnam of Harvard University, writing, by the way, in the *Journal of Democracy*, describes the bonds of trust and cooperation that develop among citizens actively involved in non-governmental organizations and associations. And Putnam asserts that activity in such voluntary associations generates involvement in the institutions of democratic government.

Building a culture of open and accountable government also means encouraging respect for diversity of views and tolerance of those of different racial, religious, ethnic and national backgrounds.

ORTHODOXY AND DEMOCRACY

Now, in this vein I want to close these introductory remarks by briefly raising one issue, not widely discussed or even acknowledged, concerning our topic—"Can U.S. Style Democracy Work in the CEE Republics?"

The issue is whether the countries of the Balkans, with an Eastern Orthodox heritage or "civilization," as Samuel Huntington would put it, are capable of building fundamentally democratic institutions. Can those countries—the inheritors of the Byzantine and Ottoman Empires—develop a thriving civil society after decades of communist rule and centuries of church-state interpenetration? Will the former communist countries north and west of the Balkans be uniquely successful in the transition to democracy because they have inherited a different legacy, that of Western Christendom?

It will not, I am sure, surprise you to hear that I believe that Eastern Orthodoxy and

"Western" democracy can be, indeed, are compatible and can co-exist in harmony.

First, as Richard Schifter has argued in his well-known article, "Is There a Democracy Gene?," we have no reason to assume that now that the ideas of the Enlightenment "have at long last been accepted by the West, they cannot spread any further." Indeed, "the onward march of the democratic ideal," says Schifter, need not halt at "the fault line of Western civilization."

Second, I must note the obvious: Greece, of course, is the birthplace of both Eastern Orthodoxy and democracy. Its very existence and success give the lie to the idea that these two traditions cannot be combined. If Greece can throw off the ill effects of the heritage of what some have described as "non-European" civilization, then it should not be impossible for Serbs, Bulgarians, Romanians, Ukrainians, even Russians, to overcome this "burden."

Finally, as I have said, I take issue with the notion that the Orthodox church, while often identified as a nationalist institution, cannot play a productive role in developing a lively civil society in the Balkan countries. Here I commend to you an article by Elizabeth H. Prodromou of Princeton University in *Mediterranean Quarterly*. Professor Prodromou writes of utilizing Orthodox custom in crafting modern democracy in East Central Europe and the Balkans. While acknowledging "a historical record that underscores the failure of the Orthodox churches in the Balkans to assume an activist stance in favor of democratic politics," Prodromou argues for the potential to engage Orthodoxy in remaking civil society and describes in detail "Orthodoxy's emphasis on freedom, community, and choice as values compatible with democratic culture."

In other words, it is not enough to say that the peoples on one side of an imagined dividing line have not heretofore experienced democracy and therefore cannot or will not. Particularly if one believes in a universality of Western values—democracy, individual liberty, human rights, to name a few—one must look not only to the potential but also to the opportunities to construct the institutions of self-government and the habits of freedom.

So against the background of these brief observations, I should like to ask our panelists for their comments on the question we've been assigned, "Can U.S. Style Work in the Central and Eastern European Republics?"

I'll ask each person to speak for five minutes and then we'll engage in discussion.

BRIDGEWATER WINS WASTE-WATER TREATMENT AWARD

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 1995

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, because we in Congress must often focus on legislation and issues which pose problems for communities in our districts, we too rarely note those cases where municipalities we represent have complied with Federal laws in an effective manner to the benefit of their residents. I would like to take a few moments to recognize one community which has done just that: the town of Bridgewater, MA, which was recently selected as a recipient of the Environmental Protection Agency's 1995 national first place award for outstanding operation and maintenance

program in the medium advanced category.

According to the letter announcing the award, "EPA based this selection on the facility's demonstrated innovative and cost-effective achievements." The town has a lengthy history of this type of accomplishment and recognition in water treatment, having already won the EPA regional award in the same category, an award which made the town eligible for the national award. The town became eligible for the regional award by virtue of having exceeded the EPA operating standards for the past 2 years. In fact, the town has been recognized for its innovative operation and maintenance procedures—particularly in the areas of septage and odor handling, which of course constantly present themselves to a facility of this kind—since the current wastewater treatment plant first went on line in 1989.

Mr. Speaker, while any award of this kind is inevitably the result of a team effort, a great deal of the credit for this exemplary work should go to Joseph Souto, the wastewater treatment plant superintendent. In addition, the following town officials also made important contributions to this success: Charles J. Kane, Allan S. Knight and Fawn L. Gifford (chairman, clerk and member, respectively of the board of water and sewer commissioners); Robert A. Correia, (assistant superintendent); Richard W. Boss, John E. Garabee, and Michael J. Studley (plant operators); and Katharine T. Dumas and Eileen J. Weinberg (water and sewer secretaries).

I offer my congratulations to the town of Bridgewater and the hard-working people involved in the operation of the wastewater treatment plant for their work in improving their community and for showing us the positive role government can play in our society.

WORLD POPULATION AWARENESS WEEK

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 1995

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit for the RECORD an official proclamation by His Excellency John G. Rowland, Governor of the State of Connecticut. I would like to join the Governor in stressing the importance of the World Population Awareness Week for 1995, focusing on general equality. Placing family planning on top of our priority list, through eradication of female illiteracy, full employment opportunities for women, and universal access to family planning information, is of utmost importance. This is the only way to control an overpopulated world, to reduce the spread of disease and poverty, and to bring progress to many struggling areas of the world.

OFFICIAL STATEMENT

Whereas, world population is currently 5.7 billion and increasing by nearly 100 million per year, with virtually all of this growth in the poorest countries and regions—those that can least afford to accommodate their current populations, much less such massive infusions of human numbers; and

Whereas, the annual increment to world population is projected to exceed 86 million