

was good. I could do anything I wanted to, when I wanted to do it. Unfortunately, with that freedom came dangers like gangs. Eventually I joined one and became the delinquent in every parents' nightmare.

My whole life came to a stop when the only person who believed in me, my grandmother, died. After she left me, I had nothing more to live for. I went deeper into the gangs and led the gangster life to the fullest. I left home at the age of 16 and have never gone back. I lived where I could and dropped out of school. My life was going nowhere.

One day, I called my little brother and we were casually talking about what I was doing with my life when I brought up Job Corps. He told me that Job Corps was an okay place where you could get a diploma, learn a trade and meet a lot of different people. He told me it was free and they would even pay me to go there. In my mind, there was no way that could be true. The screener proved me wrong and I was accepted two months later.

My first impression of the small center was that there was too much snow, and it was too cold. I met my dorm staff and began my stay at Weber Basin. The trade I took was welding, and I was finally doing well for once. I could see my life changing. I was offered a job in the recreation center and accepted. Shortly afterward, I became the Rec. President. With all of my friends, I had no problems fitting in.

One of the changes I made was that I didn't have to be mean or rude to people anymore. Most of the people I was around were nice and helpful; I didn't have to get in trouble to be recognized. Then I started noticing that I was doing better in school, and it was actually fun. About my third month in education, I did what I thought I never could: I received my GED! But I'm not going to stop there; I plan to get my diploma and be the first person in my family to attend college.

Throughout my stay of seven months, I have never been in trouble. In return for this, I have been in Gold for four and a half months and have currently obtained the position of Student Body Vice President of Weber Basin Job Corps. This Center has supported me, and I, in return, have supported it. I can only better myself at Weber Basin and maybe someday I will have the chance to work at a Job Corps Center. I know now that whatever I put my mind to do, I can accomplish. My dreams are becoming my realities

AN APPEAL OF CONSCIENCE

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 1995

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, the following advertisement by the Appeal of Conscience Foundation appeared in today's edition of the Washington Post. The foundation is presided over by Rabbi Arthur Schneier who is internationally known for his leadership on behalf of human rights and religious freedom. He has served our Government in many capacities including as a delegate to the United Nations, and his accomplishments have been recognized by several U.S. Presidents. Rabbi Schneier's continuing work to involve religious leaders in the critical issues of our time deserves our strong support.

I am calling the attention of my colleagues to today's appeal and I hope Americans of all religions will take time during their weekly worship to pray for peace in Bosnia, a country

which has suffered a tragic war for nearly 4 years with enormous human suffering. Accordingly, I hereby insert the text of the letter of the Appeal of Conscience:

AN APPEAL OF CONSCIENCE TO THE LEADERS OF BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA, CROATIA AND SERBIA TO WORK FOR PEACE, AND TO SEE THIS WORK AS A RESPONSIBILITY BEFORE HISTORY, BEFORE THEIR PEOPLES, AND ULTIMATELY BEFORE GOD

True faith stands for peace. Whatever our differences, this has been our common ground since the Appeal of Conscience Foundation conferences in Bern, Istanbul and Vienna. The declarations we adopted proclaim that "a crime in the name of religion is the greatest crime against religion."

This call elicited worldwide support from statesmen and religious leaders of different faiths. Most recently, we received messages from Presidents Izetbegovic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Milosevic of Serbia and Tudjman of Croatia encouraging our religious commitment to peace and search for reconciliation.

Today, we salute President Clinton for bringing together in Dayton Ohio, the three Presidents in search of a peaceful solution. On this day, we ask all men and women of goodwill to pray that these leaders be granted the wisdom to find the way to peace.

Next Friday, Saturday and Sunday, in churches, synagogues and mosques, let us pray that the people who have suffered the agonies of war will be free to enjoy the peace that is rightfully theirs.

HIS EMINENCE CARDINAL

FRANJO KUHARIC,

Archbishop of Zagreb, President of Catholic Bishops Conference of Croatia.

HIS HOLINESS PATRIARCH

PAVLE,

Patriarch of the Serbian Orthodox Church.

HIS EXCELLENCY DR.

MUSTAFA CERIC,

Rais ul Ulema of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

HIS EMINENCE CARDINAL

VINKO PULJIC,

Archbishop of Sarajevo, President of Catholic Bishops Conference of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

RABBI ARTHUR SCHNEIER,

President, Appeal of Conscience Foundation.

HIV/AIDS TRAINING PROGRAMS

HON. RONALD D. COLEMAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 1995

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am disappointed the conference report on the Transportation appropriations bill fails to modify the provision regarding Federal training programs in a manner that could have averted some potential harmful effects of the provision. We may be back here in a year or two being implored by Federal agencies to fix some major obstacles to effective training programs we have created, perhaps inadvertently, with this provision. I would certainly not be surprised to see this provision the subject of litigation as Federal officials attempt to comply with its various components, without running afoul of the first amendment guarantees of freedom of speech and religion.

I must say, however, I am pleased supporters of the provision have made clear they do not intend the provision, flawed as it is, to be interpreted in a manner that would severely reduce the effectiveness of AIDS training pro-

grams. As my colleague from California [Mr. PACKARD], the author of the provision, and my colleague from Louisiana [Mr. LIVINGSTON], the chairman of the full Appropriations Committee, have both taken great pains to explain, this provision is not designed to interfere with the ability of the Federal Government to provide life-saving HIV training to their employees, just as hundreds of other American business have done across the country for their employees.

Mr. colleagues have clearly explained that graphic sexual depictions, which may be very objectional to many Federal employees, will not be acceptable in AIDS training programs under this provision. However, as my colleagues have also taken pains to note, the provision is not intended to hinder trainers from developing effective programs designed to prevent the transmission of HIV, by providing the sensitive education necessary to prevent such transmissions.

SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING SOCIAL SECURITY EARNINGS TEST REFORM

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM KOLBE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 1995

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of increasing the earnings limit for senior citizens and will work with the Congress to see that legislation to do this comes to the floor of the House before the end of the year. If any Member of Congress were to propose a 33-percent surtax on seniors incomes earning more than \$11,280 a year today, the American people would not stand for it. However, this is the current situation. The earnings test is bad policy and bad economics for the country.

It is ludicrous that seniors in the work force are subject to this impractical and outdated procedure. Our seniors deserve more. It is time for Congress to vote for changes to this archaic practice of reducing Social Security benefits for seniors that continue to work after the age of 65. We are robbing seniors of their right to support themselves and live with dignity. In many instances seniors stay in the work force out of necessity, not choice, and should be allowed to earn more without losing a portion of their earned Social Security benefits. The earnings test harms those individuals who do not have supplemental pension income for their retirement and need to work. Therefore, we are penalizing seniors who are trying to be self sufficient rather than rewarding beneficiaries who continue to work.

The Social Security earnings limit sends a message to the elderly community that we do not respect their ability to contribute in the work force after retirement. It is time to give seniors back their dignity. This Congress has already taken the first step with the passage of the Medicare Preservation Act which strengthens and protects the Medicare system and allows seniors access to the same type of health care services as offered to all Americans. And by years end, with passage of the increased earning limit, seniors will be able to hold up their heads as they continue to work without fear of losing their earned Social Security benefits.

SUPPORTING DEMOCRACY IN
HONG KONG

HON. JOHN EDWARD PORTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 1995

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, a recent Washington Post article outlined Hong Kong Gov. Chris Patten's steadfast determination and commitment to democracy in Hong Kong. In the wake of the 1989 Tiananmen Massacre, in October, 1992, newly arrived Governor Patten unveiled proposals to expand the voting franchise in Hong Kong and broaden the scope of democracy. Governor Patten's proposals reflected a growing desire on the part of the colonial government and the people of Hong Kong to erect safeguards against the totalitarian mainland—Communist China. I commended Governor Patten then, as I do today. Governor Patten's reforms are consistent with general U.S. goals of promoting human rights and political freedom.

Mr. Speaker, last month Hong Kong voters demonstrated their devotion to democracy by repudiating most legislative candidates allied with Beijing and handing an overwhelming victory to advocates of democracy, led by Martin Lee, who avows to take a tougher stance in dealing with the mainland. This vote reinforced Hong Kong voters' commitment to Governor Patten's proposals. Britain's Minister for Hong Kong Jeremy Hanley commented that "more voters than ever before have played their part in an atmosphere of calm moderation to elect the most broadly-based, fairly elected Legislative Council in Hong Kong's history. As a result, the people of Hong Kong will have a fully represented legislature, equipped to help shape the next chapter in Hong Kong's history."

But how will this next chapter read when China has vowed to dismantle the Hong Kong legislature and continues to try to destroy any hope of a free democratic future? Despite international pressure, China continues to violate the human rights of its own citizens. As the date for the return of Hong Kong fast approaches, there are signs that Beijing's policy of intimidation and fear may be working. According to recent polls, public support for Governor Patten is at an all time low. Former British Ambassador to Beijing, Percy Cradock, said that Patten "is being rapidly marginalized as the Chinese and British Governments work together to reduce the damage his reforms have done." On the contrary, Governor Patten has done tremendous good in the last 3 years, and he deserves steadfast support from the United States and the rest of the world community, including Britain. Any damage resulting from Hong Kong's making democratic reforms has been caused by Beijing's refusal to accept them and London's fear of supporting them.

Hong Kong is the world's best example of the prosperity that results from a strong and vibrant free enterprise system existing under the rule of law. As 1997 approaches the United States must stand with those in Hong Kong, like Governor Patten and Martin Lee, who are rightly unwilling to capitulate to Beijing's effort to strip the citizens of Hong Kong of their democratic rights and freedom.

SENSE OF HOUSE RELATING TO
DEPLOYMENT OF ARMED
FORCES IN BOSNIA AND
HERZEGOVINA

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 30, 1995

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, after three and a half years of bloody conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina, long anticipated peace negotiations will begin today at the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, OH. I applaud the efforts of President Clinton, Secretary of State Warren Christopher, and the participating leaders from Bosnia, Croatia, and Serbia, for these negotiations may be the last best chance for peace in this war torn part of our world.

It is unfortunate that Congress tarnished the optimistic spirit of this summit on Monday by considering H. Res. 247. Mr. Speaker, this resolution was a deliberate partisan attempt to undermine the President and call into question his credibility on matters relating to foreign affairs. With hardly an hour's debate and no hearings, on the eve of this historic conference, Congress has already tied one hand behind the President's back, and jeopardized the success of these talks.

I was the only member in the Tennessee delegation to vote against this resolution, which we only learned would be considered last Friday. Taking into account the short notice before voting on this legislation, lack of intelligent debate and investigation, and the premature timing for such an edict from Congress, I felt clearly this was not the right message to send to our President and the Balkan negotiators.

This vote was not the last vote regarding United States policy for deploying Armed Forces in Bosnia. Whatever proposals or agreements result from the Dayton peace talks, which involve the lives of U.S. servicemen, they will have to pass before the judgment of this body. This is inherent in our beloved Constitution. However, I pray this blatant, political attempt to embarrass the President, has not imperiled a peaceful resolution to this grisly conflict.

THE TRAVEL AND TOURISM
PARTNERSHIP ACT

HON. TOBY ROTH

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 1995

Mr. ROTH. Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the Congressional Caucus on Travel and Tourism, I have introduced legislation today to strengthen our tourism promotion efforts in the international travel market.

Earlier this week, the White House conference endorsed a new plan to bring together the resources of the private sector and the resources of the Government in a public-private partnership to improve the promotion of international travel and tourism to the United States. This partnership would be a successor to the U.S. Travel and Tourism Administration.

The partnership concept has been developed jointly by a group of industry leaders and officials of the Commerce Department.

A group of us has been working for weeks to prepare this legislation. We took the first step on September 28 when I held a hearing in my Trade Subcommittee. We used that hearing to focus congressional attention on the problems we are having in the international travel market.

Let me review the findings from our hearing. International tourism is now a \$300 billion market. The world market has tripled in the last 10 years and it will double again in the next decade. But our market share is dropping. Two years ago, the United States had 19 percent of the international tourism market.

In 1993, nearly 48 million visitors came to the United States and spent \$74 billion while in our country. In the past 2 years, the total world market has grown 10 percent, but our share dropped to less than 17 percent.

This year, we will have 2 million fewer visitors from abroad than 2 years ago. This drop has cost us 177,000 jobs which should have gone to American workers. But those jobs went to our competitors in other countries.

What's worse, this is not a temporary trend. If we stand still in our promotion efforts, our share of the world market will keep dropping. In 5 years, we will have less than 14 percent of the world travel market.

The question is: How can we turn this around? The White House conference has urged a stronger promotion effort in the overseas market. This is where we are falling down. The United States ranks 33d in tourism promotion, lower than Tunisia and Malaysia. We are being outclassed and outgunned. But, how do we get a stronger promotion program in a time of decreasing Federal spending?

The answer is the public-private partnership, which my legislation would set up. The idea is to combine together the resources and creative talents of the American tourism industry with the overseas presence and data-bases of the U.S. Government.

First, we would set up a national tourism board. This board would be comprised of industry leaders, State and regional tourism directors, and Federal officials. The board would devise a comprehensive strategy to increase our share of the world market. The board would advise the President, Congress, and the industry itself on specific steps to take.

To coordinate a new promotion campaign, we would set up a nonprofit corporation—the national tourism organization. This organization would be directed by the private sector. We would combine the advertising talents of the private sector with market data and staff help from the Federal Government. The new organization would design tourism promotion advertisements aimed at the international market and it would carry out a new and more vigorous advertising campaign. The campaign would be coordinated with the advertising that the industry already does on its own.

Initially, this new organization will get operational help from both the industry and the U.S. Government. But one of the first jobs for the tourism board will be to devise a long-term plan for financing this operation.

When this plan is up and running, we would have a two-fold campaign: First, to attract more international visitors to the United States, and second to steer them toward American companies for every part of their trip.