

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

DRUNK DRIVING PREVENTION ACT

HON. BILL K. BREWSTER

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 30, 1995

Mr. BREWSTER. Mr. Speaker, the last decade has witnessed great strides in the battle against drunk driving. The facts speak for themselves: Alcohol-related traffic fatalities in 1993 were 21 percent below the 1990 level. The original drunk driving target for the year 2000 set by the Federal Government was met and exceeded by 19 percent in 1992, and the number of teenage drunk drivers involved in fatal accidents in down 62 percent since 1982.

The reduction in drunk driving is due to an effective comprehensive approach combining sound laws, strict enforcement, even-handed adjudication, education, and treatment. To continue to address the problem and prevent the abuse of beverage alcohol products we must continue a two-pronged effort that ensures strict and consistent law enforcement for those who break the law and education concerning the responsible consumption of beverage alcohol products.

While recognizing that there is certainly still much to be done, the Distilled Spirits Council of the United States [DISCUS], a leader in the beverage alcohol industry and a proponent of responsible initiatives to combat drunk driving, has developed a model State law, the Drunk Driving Prevention Act. The strong provisions contained in this model State legislation will deter and penalize those who drive while under the influence. DISCUS is to be commended for its exemplary effort to build a working partnership at the Federal, State and local community levels in an effort to enact passage of this measure. The Drunk Driving Prevention Act will help ensure that progress continues in the fight to stop alcohol-related fatalities on our Nation's highways.

The following is a synopsis of the act's provisions:

Alcohol and drug education for drivers: Every first-time applicant for a driver's license would complete a mandatory course of instruction that provides alcohol and drug education concerning the effects of consumption of beverage alcohol products; the use of illegal, prescription and nonprescription drugs; the ability to operate a motor vehicle, and the financial and legal consequences of driving while under the influence. The driver's license test would also include written questions on these issues.

Open container: Drivers and passengers would be prohibited from carrying or possessing any beverage alcohol product in the passenger area, except in the original container with the seal unbroken. Partially filled containers must be stored in the trunk or lacking a trunk, in the compartment area least accessible to the driver. This provision does not apply to passengers in chartered buses, taxis,

limousines for hire, or motor vehicles with a contract driver.

Administrative license revocation: Administrative license revocation for drivers who refuse to submit to the State's implied consent chemical testing, or who are arrested for the violation of the State's driving while under the influence law prior to court appearance. This provides for the arresting officer to physically take possession of the offender's driver's license and issue a temporary license with a notice of revocation. The driver would then have 15 days to request a hearing. If no hearing was requested, immediate revocation would take effect. Upon the expiration of the revocation period, the party would be eligible to apply for another driver's license upon payment of all applicable fees. It would be unlawful for the individual to drive while his/her license is revoked and for any person to knowingly permit his/her motor vehicle to be driven by an individual with a revoked license.

Tough laws against underage drinking: Administrative license revocation penalties for minors who drive with any measurable and detectable alcohol concentration, or who illegally purchase or possess beverage alcohol products. A minor may not enter premises licensed for the retail sale of beverage alcohol for the purpose of purchasing, being served, or having delivered to him/her any beverage alcohol product. A minor may not consume beverage alcohol on premises licensed for the retail sale of beverage alcohol, may not purchase, attempt to purchase, or have another purchase for him/her any beverage alcohol product, and may not misrepresent or misstate his/her age, or the age of any person, for the purpose of purchasing or having served or delivered to him/her any beverage alcohol product.

Mandatory alcohol and drug testing of drivers involved in fatal motor vehicle accidents: Chemical testing is required of every driver involved in an accident resulting in loss of human life where there exists probable cause to believe that the driver is guilty of violating the State's driving while under the influence law. It would also require the establishment and maintenance of a database of the number of fatal motor vehicle accidents that are alcohol-related with the percentage of alcohol concentration involved, and/or drug-related involvement and list the class of drugs so found and their amount.

Mr. Speaker, there are no easy answers or quick remedies to drunk driving. What is evident, however, is this country would greatly benefit from a cooperative partnership between the U.S. Government, the beverage alcohol industry, and the American public. Let us set aside any differences in our quest for a common goal. We must recognize personal responsibility as the first step toward the ultimate end to drunk driving. Drunk driving is everyone's problem, the solution must be as well.

MURLI DEORA, INDIAN M.P.,
ELECTED PRESIDENT OF PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR GLOBAL ACTION

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 30, 1995

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week Parliamentarians for Global Action unanimously elected Murli Deora as its international president. Parliamentarians for Global Action is an association of more than 1,000 legislators from more than 80 countries who are committed to solving global problems in a spirit of cooperation that transcends national and ideological boundaries.

Murli Deora's election to this position marks the first time a parliamentarian from Asia has been voted to head this prestigious organization. It also is a recognition of Murli's many years as a staunch advocate of a strong relationship between the United States and India. Murli has been a key leader in promoting United States-Indo ties while he served as a Member of Parliament representing the financial center of Bombay. Murli has worked diligently both in his capacity as a Member of Parliament and as the chairman of the Congress Party in Bombay to make certain that the economic bonds between the United States and India grow stronger every year. He has offered invaluable advice and assistance to me and many other Members of Congress who share his vision of a vibrant Indo-United States relationship.

Mr. Speaker, India is the world's largest democracy. The United States is not only India's friend and ally, but also its largest trading partner. Therefore, I believe it is entirely appropriate for my colleagues and I to join together in congratulating Murli on this high honor which he so richly deserves. As we move toward the beginning of the 21st century I am certain that the Congress can continue to look to Murli for guidance and leadership as the relationship between the United States and India grows even stronger. He will be a dynamic president of Parliamentarians for Global Action at a time when his creative leadership and expansive vision will be utilized to the fullest. I know every member of this body joins me in wishing him continued success as he undertakes this important new responsibility.

TRIBUTE TO ED MADIGAN

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES W. STENHOLM

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 11, 1995

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Honorable Ed Madigan. In the Congress, we use the term "honorable" as a matter of decorum and protocol; but when I think of my friend and colleague Ed Madigan, the word "honorable" is truly appropriate.

Having served with Ed since coming to Congress, I invariably found him to be a shining example of decency and civility in an environment that, all too often, can be adversarial and contentious. He was a consensus builder—one who warranted respect on both sides of the aisle as a reliable, sincere, and extremely capable statesman who stood tall and proud on behalf of his fundamental values, his constituents, and his country.

As a fellow member of the House Agriculture Committee, Ed was a joy to work with in developing and deliberating our Nation's agriculture policy. He worked tirelessly on behalf of farmers and ranchers and all that rural America represents. Having earned the respect and admiration for his years of service in Congress, he was suitably appointed to the President's Cabinet as this Nation's 24th Secretary of Agriculture, where he again served with dignity and honor on behalf of the agriculture community and consumers of food and fiber. Without question, Ed has left an indelible legacy and high standard for which all of us should strive to follow.

Although I join the countless many in expressing regret and sorrow for a tremendous loss, I consider us all to be extremely blessed with the opportunity to have known and worked with the Honorable Ed Madigan.

TRIBUTE TO RON ESAU

HON. NORMAN Y. MINETA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 30, 1995

Mr. MINETA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to a dedicated public servant and a personal friend. As Ron Esau retires from his position as general manager of the Santa Clara Water District, in San Jose, CA, this month, he caps a remarkable career as a major water resources force in Santa Clara County. This is a man whose interest in public service is so important to him that he made it his duty for more than half of his life.

Since 1957, Ron Esau has been serving the citizens of Santa Clara County. He first joined the Santa Clara Valley Water District as an assistant civil engineer and has held various posts, including assistant general manager, until appointment to his present position as general manager.

During his 37 years of dedicated service, Ron Esau has been appointed to numerous directorships on water boards across the State including the State Water Contractors, the Central Valley Project Water Association, the California Water Resources Association, the California Urban Water Agencies, the Western Urban Water Coalition, the Bay Policy Board, and others.

Aside from his prestige as a high-ranking water resources and community official, Mr. Esau has also been praised for the substantial contributions he has made as a hard-working volunteer. He is known for the work he has done as a cabinet member of the United Way

of Santa Clara County, and for his extensive work with his church.

Despite the water wars that raged in our State for years, Ron Esau has been a voice of reason with an eye to the future for how we work well to develop a reliable water supply for Santa Clara County. One of the greatest strengths Mr. Esau brought to our valley was the need to expand the diversity of our water supply base to deal with the growth of our county and the realities of drought. His thoughtful approach of developing a mix of water supplies led this county through the recent critical drought experience relatively unscathed in a much stronger position than many areas around us. This feat is a testament to his leadership and vision.

Ron Esau is a principled and honest leader and a devoted father and husband. I know that whatever area of endeavor he chooses next, he will excel. I want to wish Ron and Connie and the rest of his family all the best in the future, and thank him for the wonderful achievements and progress he has left for us to remember him by.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. WILLIAM F. CLINGER, JR.

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 30, 1995

Mr. CLINGER. Mr. Speaker, official business kept me from the Chamber during the vote on the amendment offered by my colleague from Pennsylvania, Mr. KANJORSKI. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall No. 53.

NATIONAL COMMISSION ON PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL

HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 30, 1995

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing the National Commission on Professional Baseball Act of 1995. The legislation creates a temporary regulatory authority to oversee the conduct of professional baseball to assure that our national pastime will remain available and responsive to the American public.

Like all baseball fans, I have found the events of the past year extremely disheartening. We witnessed labor negotiations that focused more on outlandish demands by both owners and players that on tangible objectives, a baseball strike that halted all major league play after August 12 and, for the first time in 90 years, the cancellation of a World Series. Recently, the major league team owners unilaterally imposed a cap on player salaries that could also jeopardize the 1995 baseball season. All these events have taken place behind closed doors, in secret negotiations without representation of, and little apparent regard for, the interests of those who pay the cost of professional baseball—baseball fans and taxpayers.

These events tend to confirm the most negative images of major league baseball in

the press as big business dominated by the interests of obstinate team owners and overpaid players. But baseball has always been more than just a business. Last year's PBS special on the history of baseball by Ken Burns offered a timely reminder that baseball is an important American institution and an historic national treasure. For more than 100 years, baseball has been one of the few constants in a changing American society. It has been the measure by which generations of Americans have recalled their past, identified their heroes and defined their values and aspirations.

Today, the values and traditions of baseball are at risk for future generations. In the struggle for financial dominance between major league owners and players, nowhere are the interests of baseball fans represented in any negotiation. Ticket and concession prices are now so high that the Nation's pastime, if available at all locally, is priced out of the reach of growing numbers of American families. Even watching baseball on commercial television, the only way many families now enjoy major league games, could be eliminated if broadcast rights are sold to pay-per-view television.

It is clear that baseball owners and players will continue to look out only for their own needs. But there is a crying need for someone to look out for the interests of fans, of taxpayers and of the communities in which both major league and minor league baseball is played. It is time for Congress to take steps to return baseball to the American people.

The legislation I am introducing today seeks to accomplish this by creating an independent National Commission on Professional Baseball. The Commission would serve as a temporary regulatory body and impartial arbitrator to oversee the conduct of professional baseball until the legal status of major league baseball can be redefined either by negotiation or by congressional legislation. Its purpose is simple—to provide a measure of protection for the interests of baseball fans and taxpayers against the near absolute control over baseball exercised by the major league baseball owners.

Major league baseball is unique among professional sports and American business in the broad exemption it enjoys from legal challenge under the Nation's antitrust laws. Major league team owners have, in effect, the ability to write all their own rules and to impose these rules on the public. No outside regulatory authority, nor any form of internal self-regulatory control, now exists to check this exercise of take-it-or-leave-it market power by major league baseball.

The current player strike is the most obvious result of this unchecked exercise of market power. Where once baseball's antitrust exemption was instrumental in allowing baseball to expand and create playing opportunities, it now encourages labor disputes and deadlock. In every renegotiation of the major league players agreement since 1972—in eight separate negotiations in 22 years—agreement was not reached without either a strike or a lock-out.

But the problems created by the major league's exemption from legal challenge go beyond the labor disputes it fosters between owners and players and its exclusiveness and