

Together, we can make a difference for this great industry, for the millions of Americans who work in you companies, and for our country's future.

AMERICA WELCOMES PRIME
MINISTER PERES

HON. TIM ROEMER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 1995

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to welcome the remarks made earlier today by Prime Minister Shimon Peres before the joint session of Congress.

In appearing before the joint session, Prime Minister Peres joins a small group of foreign leaders who have been asked to speak before the combined House and Senate. Mr. Peres richly deserves this honor. He is the leader of Israel, one of our most important allies, and he now bears the heavy burden of following the footsteps of Yitzhak Rabin in promoting a strong Israel and a lasting peace in the Middle East.

While listening to Mr. Peres's tribute to Prime Minister Rabin, one could not help but remember the great loss suffered by the people of Israel and the cause of peace.

Although Rabin's leadership is sorely missed, I take heart in the thought that the cause of peace continues. Indeed, our most fitting tribute to Mr. Rabin would be a continued effort to promote peace, democracy, and freedom in the Middle East and across the globe.

The United States and Israel must continue to work together toward a brighter future; a future of peace and security. Israel, our steadfast ally in times of peace or war, deserves our strong support in pursuing this goal.

There is now a new impetus toward peace in the Middle East. We should not miss this opportunity to end the hatred and violence that have plagued that region. This would be a fitting legacy to Yitzhak Rabin and everyone who has sacrificed for a just peace.

SENIOR CITIZENS' RIGHT TO WORK
ACT OF 1995

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM KOLBE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 1995

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2684, the Senior Citizens Right to Work Act of which I am a cosponsor. This legislation increases the earnings limit of \$30,000 by 2002. It is fair legislation. It is fair to the long-term solvency of the Social Security trust fund by offsetting costs within the program. And, most importantly, it is fair to working seniors, allowing seniors to continue to work without being denied their Social Security benefits.

It is ludicrous that seniors in the work force are subject to this impractical and outdated procedure.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. By increasing the earnings limit to \$30,000 by the year 2002 seniors will be able to hold up their heads as they continue to work without fear of losing their earned Social Security benefits.

IN HONOR OF FRANCIS ALBERT
SINATRA ON HIS 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 1995

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Hoboken's favorite native son, Francis Albert Sinatra, who will celebrate his 80th birthday on December 12, 1995. No voice in America today brings with it more sweet memories.

No speech could possibly do justice to the "Chairman of the Board." Sinatra has redefined American popular music with such classics as "Strangers in the Night," "Summer Wind," "The Lady Is a Tramp," "Witchcraft," "Young at Heart," "My Way" and countless others. Every generation of Americans from the late 1930's onward has been wowed by his magnetic voice and unique ability to tell a story through his music.

In addition, to a spectacular singing career, Sinatra has distinguished himself on the big screen, with starring roles in "The Manchurian Candidate," "From Here To Eternity" and "Pal Joey." His performance in "From Here to Eternity" earned him an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor in 1953. Prior to that, Sinatra earned a special Oscar for "The House I Live In," a sensitive documentary that made an eloquent plea for an end to all prejudice.

His accomplishments in the field of entertainment are legendary, but of equal importance, although less well known, are his charitable and philanthropic work. He has performed benefit concerts for among others, the Red Cross, the Palm Springs' Desert Hospital, the New York Police Athletic League, Cabrini Medical Center, the World Mercy Fund, and the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Frank Sinatra is a cultural icon, but even more than that he is a hero to millions of Americans of all races and nationalities, most particularly, of course, to Italian-Americans. Please join me in honoring a true American legend, who will always be an honorary citizen

of Hoboken and the 13th Congressional District, on his 80th birthday.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF
DR. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

HON. EVA M. CLAYTON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 1995

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, November 28, 1995, at 2 p.m., the family and legions of friends gathered to acclaim the life of their beloved, Dr. George Kenneth Butterfield. A near centurion, he spent 95 years of life before God called him to rest and to reside in a place of total peace.

I regret that official business did not allow me to attend the celebration of Dr. Butterfield's life, however, he has left a lasting impression on me, and the principles which guided him now serve as guideposts for those he leaves behind.

Dr. Butterfield began his legacy in a foreign land, when he was born in St. George's, Bermuda, on February 9, 1900. He left Bermuda in search of a better life and migrated to the United States. He soon enlisted in the army and served in World War I before being honorably discharged on March 18, 1919. During his service, in the midst of a bitter, cold winter, he fought at the battle of Alsace-Lorraine in France.

Following military service, he attended and graduated from Shaw University in Raleigh, NC, and later attended and graduated, with a doctor of dental surgery degree, from Meharry Medical College in Nashville, TN. Upon graduating from dental school, however, he was not able to afford the equipment to establish a dental practice, and he worked for a period of time in maintenance at a hotel. Fate, however, joined him with an aging dentist in Henderson, NC, and a dental practice which spanned 50 years was launched.

An advocate of justice, equal treatment and fair play, Dr. Butterfield was on the cutting edge of many important changes throughout North Carolina. He fought for integration, pushed for voting rights, led the way in opening up employment opportunities and still managed time for important civic duties. Through it all, he remained a caring friend, a devoted family member, a loving brother, a committed father, and a dedicated husband.

May God comfort and help his family and friends to hold on to treasured yesterdays; and reach out with courage and hope for tomorrow, knowing that their beloved is with God. Death is not the end of life. It is the beginning of an eternal sleep. Rest, Brother George, you have labored long.

LEBANON MAYOR KENNETH
COWAN DIES

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 1995

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, a leading Missouri citizen, the mayor of Lebanon, and a good friend, Kenneth Cowan, died October 17, 1995. He was 79 years of age. During his tenure as mayor, Cowan led the city of Lebanon

into an era of major growth. He was known for his vision and devotion to duty.

Cowan had served on the city council during the administration of mayor Wallace Earp. Earp resigned on April 18, 1977, and Cowan was elected mayor in a special election on June 7, 1977. He was re-elected to office in 1980, 1984, 1988 and 1992.

He was born in Richland, Missouri where he graduated from high school. He attended Southwest Missouri State University in Springfield and served in the U.S. Air Force during World War II.

Cowan entered into public service in Richland in 1948 when he was elected to the city council. He served in that capacity 10 years. He moved to Lebanon in 1958 and bought Burley's Department Store, which he operated until he was elected mayor.

During his years in office, he received the support of Lebanon voters on key issues including a sales tax, transportation sales tax, and a capital improvements sales tax.

Mayor Cowan set a high standard for public service. His ability to lead and to get things done for his community should inspire those who follow. The people of Lebanon have lost an exceptional leader, and I have lost a friend.

DEVELOPMENTS IN LEBANON

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 1995

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues a recent exchange of letters I had with the Department of State regarding the situation in Lebanon.

I wrote the State Department October 27 to express concerns about the extra-Constitutional means used to extend the term of the President of Lebanon and the role of Syria in this matter. The State Department replied December 5 indicating that our concerns over interference in Lebanon's Democratic processes have been expressed directly to the Syrians.

The correspondence follows:

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, DC, December 5, 1995.

Hon. LEE HAMILTON,
House of Representatives.

DEAR MR. HAMILTON: On behalf of Secretary Christopher, I am writing in response to your letter of October 27, concerning the extension of Lebanese President Harawi's term and other developments in Lebanon.

We share entirely your view that our interests are served by a free and independent Lebanon, and we have firmly maintained that no peace in the Middle East will be lasting or comprehensive without an agreement between Israel and an independent Lebanon. In an effort to support this objective, we continue to do much to further Lebanese political reconciliation and lend support to the reconstruction of Lebanon's economy and institutions. Last year, we provided Lebanon approximately six million dollars in development assistance and half million dollars to support military training.

We agree that the growth of Lebanon's democratic political institutions requires free elections which the Lebanese people believe to be credible, and the results of which

can be accepted as credible. We have made this point very clear in public positions, and directly to the Governments of Lebanon and Syria. Indeed, Secretary Christopher's concern over interference in Lebanon's democratic process led him to make this point personally at senior levels of the Syrian government, as did other senior U.S. officials in the period leading up to President Harawi's extension. Despite our interest in maintaining Syrian engagement in peace negotiations with Israel, we are not conditioning our policy toward Lebanon on Syrian reaction.

Prime Minister Rabin's recent, tragic death only underscores the fragility of the process we wish to advance in the Middle East. But, as important as we hold the freedom and independence of Lebanon, this is not a goal we can pursue in a vacuum. Lebanon's future, its stability and independence, can only be assured through broader progress toward extending the circle of peace in the region.

We look forward to working with you and other members of Congress to ensure such progress, in Lebanon and the region, during the important year ahead.

Sincerely,

WENDY R. SHERMAN,
Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, October 27, 1995.

Hon. WARREN CHRISTOPHER,
Secretary of State, Department of State, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SECRETARY, I write to express deep concerns about recent developments in Lebanon and to urge you and the President to speak out publicly in opposition to recent political developments in that country.

The Syrian decision to push for extra-Constitutional means to extend the term of President Harawi for three years undercuts Lebanon's independence. In addition, such a term extension will not be viewed as credible by a majority of the Lebanese people of all faiths who want to preserve Lebanon's independence and who wanted free elections this fall.

There are steps which the Lebanese can and must take to insure their future as a free and independent state. The national interest of the United States is served by a strong, free, and independent Lebanon. Conversely, our national interest is not helped when Lebanon is weak and its independence compromised. Therefore, I believe that it is incumbent upon us to disassociate ourselves from, and express opposition to, such manipulation of the political process in Lebanon. Millions of Lebanese inside the country, and around the world, are looking to the United States for leadership. Silence will send the wrong message to the entire region and only further undermine Lebanon's position.

Lebanon's independence will be eroded if the United States is silent when that very independence is threatened. The Taif Accords became dead letter in part because the United States did not speak out for implementation of the Accords when Syria moved to undercut them. We now risk further undermining that independence again.

United States policy toward, and statements on, Lebanon should not be conditioned by what we think might be the reaction in Syria. We should be acting on the basis of our own interests and what is best for Lebanon and the Lebanese people. On the face of it, this action to extend the President's term does not promote democracy in Lebanon, and

it goes against the wishes of the people. It should be condemned for what it is.

I appreciate your consideration of this letter and hope the United States will speak out on this matter.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

LEE H. HAMILTON,
Ranking Democratic Member.

IN HONOR OF MARIE BOLLINGER VOGT FOR HER PRODUCTION OF "NUTCRACKER" BALLET

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 1995

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, for 55 years in Toledo, hundreds of young boys and girls have danced and scampered across area stages and dozens of principal dancers have graced the stage with their artistry in a yearly production of "The Nutcracker" ballet. Thousands of northwest Ohioans have delighted in the Christmastime event. A production of enormous proportion has been given to us through the vision and talent of one woman, Marie Bollinger Vogt, who I rise today to honor. This year's production will be her last. Marie is retiring as the artistic director of the Toledo Ballet Association, which she founded.

Intent on imbuing her own love of dance into youngsters, Marie founded the Toledo Ballet School over 50 years ago. Under her direction, the company has performed hundreds of productions throughout our region, "The Nutcracker" being its premiere performance. During her tenure, Marie brought to the school not only her own creative choreography but also that of internationally famous artists. She also brought to northwest Ohio world renowned dance companies and performers.

Altruistic as well as artistic, under Marie's direction, the Toledo Ballet Association is involved in community service. The company stages free performances in the schools and local public housing authority. One performance of "The Nutcracker" is presented at no cost for children. Scholarships are provided by the school for children who could not otherwise afford lessons. These acts are surely fueled by Marie's passionate desire to inspire dance in young people.

Although retiring as artistic director of the Toledo Ballet Association, Marie intends to continue in her first love, that of teaching, and will remain the Toledo Ballet School's director. She also begins the ambitious project of bringing to fruition her lifelong dream of building a professional ballet company in Toledo.

In this, its 55th year, many of Marie's former students are returning to dance under her tutelage one last time. The 1995 "Nutcracker" performance will be a reunion for all who studied dance under her direction. Such a tribute gives testament to her teaching and quiet inspiration.

We thank Marie Bollinger Vogt for her yearly Christmas gift to all of us in northwest Ohio; a family evening lost in the enchantment of "The Nutcracker," her legacy.