

are in the works for establishment of a New Bedford national park and a commuter-rail link to Boston.

These projects are being over-shadowed today by the debate over casino gaming in Massachusetts and, in particular, the Wampanoag proposals to develop a casino/entertainment complex in New Bedford. Critics argue that gaming will only provide short-term economic gains, while the cost to society in regulation, diversion of funds, crime and related social problems will outweigh the benefits. Implicit in these arguments is that New Bedford is susceptible to promises by developers of a better tomorrow because of the plight of its local economy. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The Wampanoag gaming proposal is the most comprehensive economic development initiative in the history of southeastern Massachusetts. It will provide some 5,000 jobs (plus 3,000 construction and temporary jobs), spur tourism, generate millions of dollars in revenues for the state and cities and towns, and allow Massachusetts vendors the opportunity to contract for services and goods to support the gaming and entertainment complex.

This is not just a New Bedford issue. It is a Worcester issue, a Springfield issue, a Fall River issue, a Taunton issue, a Brockton issue, a Lowell issue. It is an issue each mayor understands: job creation and economic development go hand-in-hand. New jobs can give hope and opportunity to thousands of hard working men and women—and can help build a stronger economic future for generations to come.

New Bedford does not look upon gaming as a cure-all or quick fix for the local economy. The impact of the casino falls in two categories: employment and tax revenues. New jobs create new earning and new spending. New spending in turn increases the demands on suppliers, vendor, merchants, contractors. Thus new jobs create the need for yet more employment throughout the economy.

If the local unemployment rate of 9.3 percent can be reduced to the statewide average of 5.1 percent, business in New Bedford and the area will certainly benefit. It has been the failure to reduce unemployment through new or expanded industry that has plagued this area for years. The Wampanoag project offers the city the opportunity to couple the project to other initiative, such as the harbor, airport and rail, to make them a reality.

It is estimated 25 percent of the gross revenue at the Foxwoods casino in Connecticut comes from Massachusetts residents. Those are revenues that leave this state by the busload every day. As Congress shifts federal responsibilities to the states, I urge the Legislature not to reject revenue sources that will be sorely needed in the not-too-distant future. Twenty-three states across the nation are beneficiaries of 130 compacts with 115 tribes. Massachusetts would not be reinventing the wheel.

Aside from minimizing or dismissing the economic potential of gaming, opponents employ the strategy of fear based upon threats of increased crime. As mayor of the host community, I am mindful of this threat. But there is no better prevention for crime than a job. The Wampanoag tribe not only supports strong regulation and has indicated a willingness to find its cost, it has encouraged the Legislature to maintain strict oversight over the new regulatory agency to ensure that it is composed of top professionals with knowledge of accounting and law enforcement. Instead of attempting to undermine a proposal legitimately put forward under federal law that will benefit this state and its people with economic opportunities, law enforcement personnel and prosecutors should insist the Gaming Commission be

staffed by people who will have impeccable reputations and integrity and be supported by a staff adequate to meet the job.

The task of rebuilding New Bedford and the region is vital to southeastern Massachusetts. The Legislature has an opportunity to make an important contribution to this effort by approving the compact between the state and the Wampanoag tribe. The area has always had an enormous potential for economic growth and development. The gaming/entertainment complex offers New Bedford a catalyst for the full economic recovery. I urge the Legislature to approve the compact expeditiously and to avoid arguments that seem more focused on scoring short-term political points than on seeking pragmatic solutions to bring to this state a well regulated and managed gaming industry.

COMMEMORATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 1995

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, by Presidential proclamation, December 10–16 has been designated Human Rights Week. As Americans prepare to celebrate the holidays and the coming new year, I hope that each of us will reflect upon the blessings we reap because of the deep commitment to human rights that America stands for. Indeed the world looks to us as a beacon or hope because of our tradition of respect for and continual effort to bring to life the freedoms enshrined in our Constitution.

Those who have suffered from a denial of the basic human rights and fundamental freedoms, that we, in this country, often take for granted, known how important the achievement of human rights really is. In countries such as North Korea, China, Vietnam, Cuba, Burma, and Bosnia, people struggle to win the liberty that we have enjoyed for over 200 years.

In the United States, respect for international human rights has long been supported on a bipartisan basis. We have enjoyed many successes in advancing human rights, evidenced by the collapse of communism in Europe, the defeat of Communist subversion in Central America, and in the defeat of aggression in the Persian Gulf. We understand the role that human rights can play in advancing democracy and economic development with free markets. For instance, in the collapse of communism in the Soviet Union and its satellites, human rights was a key aspect of the difference between the quality of life in Western and Communist societies, and therefore became decisive as the people of the Communist bloc rose against their governments.

The importance of restoring human rights has been recognized in the Dayton peace agreement for Bosnia. We hope and pray that as our troops are deployed, the Bosnian people will seize the opportunity for justice and reconciliation, so that all the people of Bosnia can rejoin the community of nations as a free people. In Rwanda, success in restoring an acceptable standard of human rights will determine whether Rwandan refugees can return home in peace and safety, and rebuild shattered lives.

Maintaining international standards for human rights, promoting these standards, and

encouraging their adoption where necessary remain a key aspiration of our Nation's policy. Let us resolve to continue our efforts to ensure for all the enjoyment of human rights.

HUMAN RIGHTS

HON. BILL RICHARDSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 1995

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I want to submit for the RECORD Ambassador Madeleine Albright's remarks on the human rights situation in Burma to the U.N. General Assembly Third Committee. I join Ambassador Albright's endorsement of the U.N. resolution to urge the Government of Burma to cease its violations of internationally recognized human rights.

I also want to take this opportunity to commend Ambassador Albright for her tremendous work on this issue. I encourage all Members to support the work of our U.N. Representative as she relentlessly pursues the cause of Burmese democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi. Ambassador Albright had a great meeting in Burma this fall Aung San Suu Kyi.

Recent developments in Burma have given us cause for great concern. It is imperative that the governing State Law and Order Restoration Council understand that the United States and the international community will not tolerate threats or actions that suppress the advancement of the democratic movement in Burma.

STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR MADELEINE K. ALBRIGHT, U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS, UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, THIRD COMMITTEE, HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN BURMA, DECEMBER 11, 1995

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate this opportunity to discuss my Government's decision to join consensus on the resolution concerning the human rights situation in Burma, despite some reservations that prevented us from cosponsoring.

The resolution reflects a tremendous effort by the Swedish mission to develop a strong consensus text, and my government endorses strongly the purposes and recommendations contained in that text.

We join with the other members of this Assembly in urging the Burmese Government to cease its violations of internationally recognized human rights. And we urge the government to begin a substantive political dialogue with Aung San Suu Kyi, other democratic leaders and representatives of ethnic groups concerning the future of the country. These recommendations are at the heart of the Assembly resolution, and we believe the Government of Burma should respond favorably to them.

The United States was not able to cosponsor the resolution because of three issues that we believe could have been dealt with more precisely or urgently.

First, we would have tempered the language in paragraph 17, which welcomes the cessation of hostilities between the Government of Burma and various ethnic groups, because the Burmese Army has not fully honored those ceasefires.

Second, we believe the resolution should have included language similar to that adopted by the UN Human Rights Commission last spring, encouraging the Secretary-General to hold discussions with the Burmese Government for the purpose of stimulating progress towards democratization and national reconciliation.

Third, we believe specific mention should have been made of the International Labor Organization's decision last June to condemn Burma's continued use of forced labor and forced portage, especially of members of ethnic minorities, for military and civilian infrastructure projects. The ILO recommends, and my government strongly agrees, that Burma should bring both its laws and its practices into compliance with internationally recognized standards of workers' rights.

Finally, we believe that more specific and urgent attention should have been given in the resolution to important events that occurred in Rangoon near the end of last month. I refer, of course, to the withdrawal and subsequent expulsion from the National Convention of delegates from the National League for Democracy.

The governing State Law and Order Restoration Council, or SLORC, has asked the world to view the Convention as a representative mechanism for drafting a new constitution and facilitating a transition to democracy. Clearly, it is not that if the National League for Democracy, which received 60 percent of the votes in the 1990 election, is not free to participate openly, freely and without fear of intimidation. We must remember that the SLORC handpicked all the delegates, greatly under-representing those from the democratic movement.

Following the release from detention last July of Aung San Suu Kyi, there were hopes that the National Convention would, in fact, become a meaningful forum for discussion about Burma's future. Instead, the Government has maintained its habit of rigid control, and the few representatives of the democratic movement and of the various ethnic groups have been prohibited from voicing dissenting views.

The SLORC has said that its goals for Burma include economic prosperity and multiparty democracy. Burma's democratic leaders share those goals. The General Assembly should continue to express strong and unyielding support for actions that would close the great divide that now exists between what the SLORC professes to want and what it has thus far been prepared to do.

In this connection, my Government also wants to express its very great concern about recent statements from Rangoon that brand Aung San Suu Kyi and her supporters as "traitors" and speak of "annihilating" those who criticize the National Convention. The SLORC should have no doubt that it will be held responsible for any actions that result in physical harm or unjust punishment against those who have simply engaged in the peaceful exercise of internationally recognized rights.

In closing, Mr. President, let me once again congratulate the Swedish mission for its leadership on this resolution. Let me restate my Government's strong endorsement of its core recommendations in support of human rights and a substantive political dialogue. And let me re-emphasize my Government's concern about recent events and its hope that the Government of Burma will reconsider its policies and begin now to move down a democratic path.

LET'S HEAR IT FOR QUEEN ISABELLA

HON. JON D. FOX

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 1995

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I would like to share with my colleagues the fol-

lowing letter to the Editor in the Trenton Times on November 26, 1995.

LET'S HEAR IT FOR QUEEN ISABELLA

Nov. 26, 1504, is a milestone in history that should never be forgotten, especially by New Jerseyans and Pennsylvanians.

Why? Because that's the date that Queen Isabella of Castile, the great woman who was instrumental in the discovery of America, passed away at her castle in Medina del Campo, Spain.

A year ago, Nov. 6—yes, that far back and the news just reaching our shores—the worldwide BBC/TV in London aired a documentary for their "Time-Watch," its peak-audience program, in which their scholarly panel exonerated Queen Isabella of Spain from historical lies attributed to her regarding the Inquisition.

That Queen Isabella did not act out of any anti-Semitic, racial or religious hatred or bigotry can be firmly substantiated by her unequivocal condemnation and personal interventions to stop riots and acts of violence against Spaniards of Jewish descent even before her formal accession to the throne, and sometimes at the loss of support of wealthy and influential partisans.

Lastly, an intelligent response to the long-time assault upon Queen Isabella and her legacy requires knowledge of the actual history of her now celebrated reign.

So, on this 491st anniversary of her death, let's tip our hats, and on April 22, her birthday, let's let loose with a big "Ole."—John Paul Paine, Philadelphia, PA.

EXPRESSING SORROW AT THE PASSING OF MRS. ELLA H. BECTON

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 1995

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, It is with great sadness that I rise to announce the passing of Mrs. Ella H. Becton on December 11, 1995. Mrs. Becton formerly served as executive director of the Phillis Wheatley Association. At the time of her death, she was an associate on the staff of the Murtis H. Taylor Multi Services Center. With her passing, the Cleveland community suffers the loss of a dedicated human being. I want to share with my colleagues and others throughout the Nation some information concerning a special individual who touched the lives of many.

Ella Becton was the daughter of Ella H. Wilson and the late Kalep Wilson. She was reared in Birmingham, AL, and went on to earn a bachelor of arts degree in psychology from Wilberforce University. Ella earned a master's degree in psychology and rehabilitation counselling at Wayne State University. After completing her education, Ella Becton began her professional career at the Lapeer State Home and Training School for the Mentally Retarded in East Lansing, MI. She relocated to Cleveland, OH where she married Leroy Becton, and began working for Vocational Guidance Rehabilitation Services.

Ella Becton's most significant career challenge came when she was selected as executive director of the Phillis Wheatley Association. The association is one of the oldest social service organizations in the area. Under Mrs. Becton's leadership, the Phillis Wheatley Association reached out to the elderly popu-

lation, families, and the youth of the community with services and programs to assist them. During her tenure, the organization developed a summer camp, an elderly meals program, a day care program, a music school, and the Youth Computer Center created in conjunction with Case Western Reserve University. Ella Becton was a dedicated individual who sought to improve the lives of others.

During her lifetime, Ella Becton also earned the respect and admiration of her colleagues and others throughout the community. She was the recipient of numerous awards and honors which recognized her commitment and dedication to service.

Mr. Speaker, the passing of Ella Becton brings to a close a life of love and compassion. Those of us who were the beneficiaries of her unselfish devotion will miss our friend and colleague. She was a woman of grace and dignity, and she was very special to all who knew her. I take this opportunity to express my sympathy to Ella's mother, Ella H. Wilson, and her loving husband, Leroy. I also extend my sympathy to her sons, Leroy, Jr., and Aaron, and other members of the Becton family. God has called Ella Becton home to rest, but she will always be in our hearts.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MEDICARE PREVENTIVE BENEFITS IMPROVEMENT ACT

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 1995

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce the Medicare Preventive Benefits Improvement Act. This bill seeks to amend Medicare by adding new preventive benefits to the program—benefits that not only save lives, but improve quality of life, and will save Medicare expenditures in the long run.

My bill would improve Medicare by adding the following new benefits:

Mammography: The benefit would be expanded so that all women over age 50 would be eligible for yearly mammographies and the deductible is waived.

Screening pap smears and pelvic exams: Expands the benefit from the 3-year limitation so that women of childbearing age or at high risk of developing cervical cancer are eligible for yearly pap smears and cervical exams. The deductible is also waived.

Colorectal cancer screening: Adds procedures for the purpose of early detection of colorectal cancer. These tests would include: screening fecal occult blood test, screening flexible sigmoidoscopy, and colonoscopy for high risk individuals. The Secretary also would make a decision within two years about covering screening barium enemas as an alternative to flexible sigmoidoscopy or colonoscopy. In addition, changes in technology would be taken into account to update the benefit in future years.

Prostate cancer screening: Adds procedures for the purpose of early detection of prostate cancer in men. The tests would include a digital rectal examination and a prostate-specific antigen blood test. In addition, changes in technology would be taken into account to update the benefit in future years.

Diabetes screening benefits: Adds two new diabetes benefits. First, coverage of diabetes