

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THE POLICEMAN'S BILL OF RIGHTS

HON. JIM LIGHTFOOT

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 1995

Mr. LIGHTFOOT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer an important piece of legislation, the policeman's bill of rights. It is fitting to offer a legislation at this time when the House is focused on the issue of crime control. If we are to successfully combat crime, there is no greater resource than the men and women who put their lives on the line everyday to protect their communities. I'm talking, of course, about our law enforcement officers. We owe it to them to give them every resource necessary to do their jobs well and with a certain level of security. That is the purpose of this bill.

This legislation guarantees basic due process rights to law enforcement officers who are charged with administrative disciplinary infractions. I want to stress this legislation does not apply to criminal matters. I also want to stress that the rights under this measure apply to all law enforcement officers. Furthermore, this measure does not apply to emergency situations where the police officer is suspected of committing a crime or where that officer is a threat to others.

But police officers should have the right to be informed of the charges against him or her, to respond to those charges, and to be represented by a lawyer. These are fundamental rights, and I think this legislation is the least we can give to those who risk their lives for us and I urge Members to support this legislation. Also, I would like to express my thanks to my colleague, BART STUPAK of Michigan for his work on this issue. I hope all Members will give this measure their support.

REPUBLICANS LEAVE WORKING AMERICANS BEHIND

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 1995

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, in the Ways and Means Committee, the contrast between the Democratic and Republican parties was made clear.

The purpose of yesterday's committee activity was to help expand the net of health insurance coverage to a few more Americans. What began as a bipartisan effort was turned into a purely partisan affair by the new Republican majority.

In vote after vote, the new Republican majority struck down on straight party-line votes measures that would bring fairness and assistance to working Americans. Some measures had no cost to the Government. Others that did were fully paid for.

One amendment I proposed would have removed the time limitations on COBRA health

continuation coverage. This would have had no cost to the Government nor to employers, because under COBRA former employees and their family members pay full health insurance premium plus an administrative fee. Our amendment would allow individuals and families to continue coverage at a group policy rate rather than convert to an individual policy rate—the difference is often the difference between having and losing coverage. This was voted down by the Republican majority.

In the clearest example of how Republican partisanship operated without regard to the good of American workers and taxpayers, Republicans unanimously voted down an amendment offered by my colleague from Washington, Mr. McDERMOTT, to extend deductibility of health insurance costs to employees when an employee is not eligible to participate in employer-sponsored health insurance coverage. Under the bill to be amended, self-employed individuals would be allowed to deduct 25 percent of the cost of health insurance. The cost of this assistance to working Americans was fully paid for—in large part by a change in tax law for individuals who renounce their U.S. citizenship in order to evade paying U.S. taxes.

How anyone can justify creating a new permanent entitlement for the benefit of employers and leave out employees is amazing. But it appears to be the new order of the Republican day.

I hope that before deliberations begin in the full House of Representatives on this bill, Republicans will have rethought their partisanship just long enough to allow the interests of all American workers to prevail.

FAMILY SERVICE ASSOCIATION OF WYOMING VALLEY CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 1995

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Family Service Association of Wyoming Valley. I am pleased to join with the community in commending the professionals involved in this vital social service agency for 100 years of caring for those in need.

In 1895, a meeting was held at St. Stephen's Church in Wilkes-Barre in an effort to consolidate charity organizations in the area. The Charity Organization Society of Wilkes-Barre was formed, with George Riddle Wright as its first president. Membership dues were \$1. A year later, the group changed its name to United Charities Society, calling it a refuge for the poor, and it undertook the task of feeding and housing the homeless. Moneys were raised by sending donation forms home with school children, a method which was the predecessor to the fair share pledge system used today by the United Way. A building was renovated to be used as its headquarters, and by

1914, electric lights were installed. By this time, the agency was providing lodging for women and children awaiting trial and, at the request of the county commissioners, added a room for wayward women.

In the early 1990's, the agency also obtained work for the unemployed, found foster homes for orphans, and actually oversaw the humane treatment of animals and the proper shoeing of horses. The influenza epidemic of 1918 brought normal operations to a near standstill and the floors of the building were literally lined with the ill and dying. Hundreds of children were orphaned. Over the following years, the agency provided almost every social service to those in need. When the Children's Service Center was formed in 1938, the agency was left with the family as its primary concern. In 1941, the agency became known as the Family Service Association. They moved into new quarters and began providing professional counseling services for members of the community, regardless of economic status.

Mr. Speaker, when the Susquehanna River spilled her banks following Hurricane Agnes in 1972, the need became clear for a central phone number where any and all information could be obtained. Family Services undertook this task and a 24-hour hotline was initiated. Now called Help Line, this division of Family Services handles more than 40,000 phone calls annually. The agency extended its services many times in the following years and today provides family education, assistance, and counseling to thousands each year.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud that the people of Northeastern Pennsylvania have a strong tradition of taking care of each other. From the very beginning, the community has joined together to help those less fortunate and those in need. The Family Service Association today employs the finest professional staff and is funded entirely by donations and foundation sources. This is a true example of the humanity of the American people and I send my sincere appreciation and congratulations to the board of trustees, directors, and the outstanding staff of this historic agency on the occasion of its 100th anniversary.

EFFECTIVE DEATH PENALTY ACT OF 1995

SPEECH OF

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 1995

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 729) to control crime by a more effective death penalty.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of H.R. 729, the Effective Death Penalty Act. This legislation is long overdue. I am pleased that the House has moved so quickly to bring it to the floor.

• 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.

A majority of Americans believes that certain crimes are so vicious and heinous that capital punishment is appropriate. Most of the States have enacted laws to conform with the Supreme Court's opinion on when capital punishment is constitutional.

In August 1989, a commission chaired by Justice Powell concluded that the Federal habeas corpus process "has led to piecemeal and repetitious litigation," "years of delay between sentencing and judicial resolution," and an "undermining of public confidence in our criminal justice system."

But the efforts of the States and the Congress to make capital punishment more than a paper tiger have been frustrated by endless habeas corpus appeals by prisoners on death row. The bill before us changes laws affecting the death penalty in an effort to create consistent and fair procedures for its application and to streamline the appeals process.

Our current system doesn't work. There are endless and often frivolous appeals, with few limits on prisoners raising the same issues repeatedly. Today, prisoners on death row can appeal whenever there is a change in the law or a new Supreme Court ruling. This endless litigation costs the taxpayers millions of dollars and more importantly, denies justice to the victims of crime.

H.R. 729 establishes strict, but fair limits on appeals. It creates a 1-year limitation period for filing a Federal habeas corpus petition contesting a State court conviction and a 2-year limitation period for a Federal conviction. The bill outlines special habeas corpus procedures that States may adopt for capital cases and limits the granting of stays when prisoners have failed to file a timely appeal. The bill also directs the courts to accelerate the process, by imposing a 60-day deadline for Federal district courts to decide a habeas corpus petition and a 90-day deadline for appeals courts to decide an appeal. Finally, in keeping with this Congress' commitment to stop passing mandates on the States, H.R. 729 will help States pay for the costs of defending their convictions against habeas corpus claims in capital cases.

Mr. Chairman, this legislation is in line with the 1991 ruling of the Supreme Court that death row prisoners may file only one habeas corpus petition in Federal court unless there is a sound reason why any new constitutional claim was not raised the first time.

I note that the California District Attorneys Association unanimously adopted a resolution in support of H.R. 729, calling it a significant step in the right direction.

Let us heed the advice of those who know best—the district attorneys, the Powell Commission, and leading constitutional experts. Let's pass H.R. 729 and enact meaningful capital punishment reform.

SUPPORTING MOVEMENTS FOR
FREEDOM, DEMOCRACY, AND
HUMAN RIGHTS IN IRAN

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 1995

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, it is fitting that today Iranians who hope for free-

dom and democracy in their own country stood at the Capitol Building of the United States—a symbol of democracy and freedom for millions of people all over the world—to remember that 16 years ago this Saturday the dreams and hopes for democracy and freedom in Iran were destroyed with the creation of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Since then Iran has unleashed a reign of terror from the streets of Tehran to nations all over the world. Through their support, encouragement and perpetuation of international terrorism the Islamic Republic of Iran has burdened, maimed and stolen the lives of innocent citizens of the world community. In the last 16 years, the Iranian Government has held hostage United States, British, French and other foreign nationals. The government continues to hold its own entire nation hostage with millions of people paralyzed due to fear of imprisonment, torture and death.

The Iranian Government has one of the worst human rights records in the world. They have no desire to join the international community as nations move toward democratic reform and greater freedom and protection of human rights.

In Iran today there is a complete disregard for the dignity of human life. We can see this clearly in the area of religious liberty. A Shari'a court has ruled that the members of the minority Bahai community are "unprotected infidels," not worthy of legal protections. They are described as "misguided" and the Iranian Government persecutes them in an effort to "purify" Islam.

The Christian minorities were shaken last year with the tragic deaths of Bishop Haik Mehr, Mehdi Dibaj, and Tateos Michaelian. All three were giants in Iran's small but vibrant Christian community. Eight converts from Islam were beaten and tortured in an effort to make them deny their Christian faith.

United States resident Hassan Shahjamali, a Christian visiting his family in Iran, was detained by security police and held incommunicado for several days last May. Only after the international community loudly protested and called for his release did the Iranian Government finally release him and allow him to return to the United States.

The Iranian Government's support of terrorism world wide has unleashed a wave of violence and fear. Each year thousands have died because of Iranian supported terrorist activities. Murders and bombings in Germany, Turkey, Switzerland, and Argentina; the direct attack on Americans on Pan Am Flight 103, at the United States Marine Barracks in Beirut and the bombing of the World Trade Center have all been traced to Teheran.

Yet after 16 years of terror, and repression; after 16 years of brutality and systematic abuse, the spirit of the real Iranian people lives on. Thousands of Iranian believers have not given up their dream of freedom and democracy. They continue to raise their voices and they challenge us to do the same.

Just days before his death last January Bishop Haik Mehr predicted his martyrdom. As he departed a conference in Pakistan in December he told Brother Andrew, the champion of religious freedom, justice, and tolerance that "when they kill me it will not be because of my silence." On January 20, 1994 Bishop

Haik's body was found. He had been tortured before he was killed. He knew the risks if he acted on his convictions—and he paid the price.

Today we stand with Bishop Mehr and the thousands of others of all faiths and walks of life who have raised their voices for freedom and justice in Iran. We honor them by supporting freedom, democracy and justice. We, too, look to a day when Iran will be free. Only then will the world have an opportunity for peace and stability, free from the fear of terrorism and tyranny.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. CHESTER
"CHET" ZABLOCKI

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 1995

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge an exemplary citizen who has earned the moniker of Mr. Polka in my northwest Ohio district, Mr. Chester "Chet" Zablocki. Chet has been an active leader in our community for many years and in the polka music industry since 1947. Allow me to share with my colleagues just a few of this remarkable and fine gentleman's accomplishments. His voice and name are synonymous with Toledo.

Chet became active in his community at the age of 15 by forming a polka band to entertain his family and friends. After serving in the Air Force, he married his childhood sweetheart, Helen Zdawczyk in 1942. Sharing his love for music, Chet and Helen began the "Polish Festival" radio show on the new local radio station, WIOD. In 1951, Chet recorded his first record for Continental Records, which featured him as the vocalist on "Johnny from Poland." In 1963, Chet began a local polka newspaper called the Polka Star to inform the local patrons about the polka music and dance industry.

In 1968, part of the heart of the "Helen-n-Chet's Polka Party," as the show was known then, was lost with the death of Helen. Chet continued to broadcast the show alone the next 5 years, with the occasional assistance of his sister, Carol. Chet was remarried in 1973 and the show became "Sharon and Chet's Polka Party." The show continues to air every week over northwest Ohio's airwaves reaching into the homes of thousands of listeners.

Along with the radio show, Chet unselfishly conducts benefits for the American Cancer Society, the WIOD Penny Pitch, the Diabetes Foundation and the Polish American Festival. He also serves as the executive director of the Central Lagrange Senior Center. In August, Chet was inducted in the International Polka Association's Polka Hall of Fame in Chicago for his extensive work in our community and in the polka industry.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in recognizing the efforts of Mr. Chester Zablocki, a truly devoted individual who has enriched our lives with his love for his community, family, and the music which has lightened our hearts in northwest Ohio for nearly 50 years.