

the inspector general of the Department of Agriculture. We are both convinced that this toughened penalty is absolutely necessary to discourage trafficking, and close down what amounts to a nearly no-fault avenue to criminal success now present in the system.

Second, we allow the Secretary of Agriculture to require that owners of food stores certified to exchange food stamps submit a valid business license. The intent of this section is to verify that persons in the food stamp networks are actual retailers, and not criminal fronts set-up primarily to illegally launder the stamps.

Third, the bill requires periodic reporting by certified stores to ensure that they are indeed in a bona fide business, and are not merely fronts for laundering. This can be accomplished in a user-friendly way by requesting copies of Federal tax forms which delineate volume and scope of business activity.

Again, the inspector general has argued that this verification procedure is crucial to the program's sound and honest functioning, and I believe my bill creates a system that will be relatively easy and inexpensive for retailers certified for food stamp business.

Mr. Speaker, as Congress moves forward with the welfare reform debate, the holes in system integrity must be closed. Effective welfare reform must be built on a strong foundation in order to guarantee taxpayer support and ensure that resources go not to the crooks but to the people who are most in need.

NATIONAL SECURITY REVITALIZATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. FLOYD SPENCE

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 1995

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, we are here today considering H.R. 872. This legislation responds to the concerns of the American people. We on this side of the aisle listen to the American people in many ways. We listen and we learn, and we are trying to respond to their concerns.

The American people want to restore and revitalize our national security. They are outraged when they find that we have no defense against ballistic missiles, which could do irreparable harm to them and their loved ones in our country.

They cannot understand why we do not have a national missile defense. They want to know who is responsible. We are trying to respond to those concerns and tell them who is responsible, and we will try to fix this. They do not want and do not deserve to be unprotected and naked to something that could destroy all their lives.

I understand that our liberal friends on the other side of the aisle have a real problem with what we are about. Because we are trying to protect the American people, it is difficult for them not to join in with us. So they have to resort to all kind of tactics.

I have always been amazed at the liberal mind, what it can conjure up with a limited vocabulary and fantasize, turn night into day and day into night, wrong into right, right into wrong by using words and smoke screens.

They would have you believe, for instance, that what we are doing is harmful to national security. People who have dedicated their lives to tearing down our national security are now telling us that what we are doing is harmful to national security.

A while ago, I went down in the well, I was sitting back in the back of the Chamber, because down home we have got a saying that "when people say outrageous things, don't stand too close to them because lightning might strike." I don't want to be too close when it strikes.

Mr. Chairman, we are about doing our duty to protect the American people and we are going to do it. We want our colleagues on the other side of the aisle, liberal as they might be, and how they play their game, I do not care. We want their help in protecting the American people. We want them to join us. If they do not want to do it, that is their problem. We are going to do it, anyway. And it is going to be done here on this floor.

WASHINGTON MONUMENT FLAGS OF THE STATES ACT

HON. PAT WILLIAMS

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 1995

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing legislation to assist in the observation of the Washington Monument's 110th anniversary. My legislation would ring the Washington Monument with the flags of each of our 50 States. This was the original intent of the planners of the Mall and I believe an appropriate way of demonstrating our unique Federal and State partnership.

All Americans are rightfully proud of the beauty and symbolism of the Nation's Capital and its national monuments. The designers of our Capital City, from L'Enfant since, have sought not only to present our national monuments but also to present with them expression of American ideals. For example, as one stands in the Jefferson Memorial one has an unobstructed view of the White House. This symbolizes that Jefferson is considered to have given the Presidency the context it has held since his time. As one stands at the feet of Lincoln in the Lincoln Memorial, one can see the U.S. Capitol, as a symbol of the necessary linkage of the executive with the legislative branch of Government.

The Capitol grounds are rich with this type of symbolism, adding to each American's understanding.

I have noted that the flags of our 50 States are not exhibited together anywhere within the Capitol or monument grounds. Around the base of the Washington Monument, one finds 50 flag poles. However, the poles, not inappropriately, fly American flags. Flying State flags would provide the symbolism of the co-

operation between and among the various States and the Federal Government.

Americans owe our stability and strength to our system of government—a system that clearly established a constant dynamic between local and Federal jurisdiction. It is the defining and reexamining of these basic strengths which provides the appropriate tension to our system. The foundation of our Democracy is in the understanding that folks from Butte, MT to Charlottesville, VA, from Hillsboro, OR to Greenville, MS sustain a common bond: Through the orderliness of representative government they can truly determine their own destiny; and that of their country.

I urge my colleagues to join me in this celebration of the 110th anniversary of the Washington Monument by having the flags of their States flown at the base of the monument to America's first President.

MIDDLE-CLASS TAX RELIEF AND JOB CREATION ACT

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 1995

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with the cochairs of the Tourism Caucus, Mr. OBERSTAR and Mr. ROTH, to introduce legislation based on a commitment to fairness for the working people of this Nation and a sense of the profound need for job creation. Specifically, this legislation would restore a 100-percent deduction for business meals and entertainment [M&E] and the spousal travel deduction.

The decision to cut the M&E deduction and the spousal travel deduction is one of those fair-sounding ideas that can have unintended and undesirable consequences.

Travel, tourism and entertainment constitute the third-largest industry in the United States. Its 1990 payroll was \$83 billion and it is an industry that employs 6 million people. This is an industry whose growth Washington should support and promote.

The next time you are eating lunch in a restaurant, take a look around at the business types. Here's what you probably won't see: the stereotype of obscenely rich tycoons sipping three-martini lunches. What you will see are sober, serious middle-class people doing business the American way: in face-to-face meetings.

Meetings are a legitimate cost of doing business. And until 1986, the cost was fully tax-deductible. At that time, the deduction was reduced to 80 percent. The effect that has on a business may be as simple as making phone calls instead of airline flights. Yet, the ramifications are enormous.

After all, when business takes its act on the road, there's a big supporting cast: airline pilots, mechanics, luggage handlers, flight attendants, waiters, waitresses, cooks and restaurant owners, food service companies and truck drivers, convention caterers and service employees, and hotel bell captains and reception clerks.

They're all middle-class working people. The people who have been victims of misguided economic policy since the 1980's.

Furthermore, we don't want to give our foreign competitors an advantage over American workers and American businesses. Thousands of foreign travelers criss-cross the country every day. They and their employers know they've got to talk to Americans face-to-face to make sales here. That's why their governments—Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, France—permit 100-percent deductibility for business expenses. If we're to be competitive, we must level the playing field for our own businesses.

In September 1994, a survey conducted on behalf of American Express examined the impact of the M&E deduction on company spending, and the ultimate impact on the restaurant industry. The study was taken among small and mid-sized companies where the impacts would be more pronounced.

The findings indicated there is a high propensity or willingness to enforce behavioral change as the financial impact of the tax law is felt.

I am sure that if a study was conducted on the spousal travel deduction the results would be similar.

I ask my colleagues to support us in this effort and work with us to ensure that it is included in any middle-class tax relief legislation that comes before the 104th Congress.

CAROLINE COX AND CHRISTIAN
SOLIDARITY INTERNATIONAL
BRINGING HOPE TO THE SUFFERING

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 1995

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I commend to our colleagues' attention a speech given recently by Baroness Caroline Cox, Deputy Speaker of Britain's House of Lords, when she received the William Wilberforce Award.

The award, named after the great 19th century political reformer who dedicated his career to outlawing the slave trade in England, is given to a person who exhibits moral witness and willingness to stand up for unpopular causes.

Lady Cox is a woman with a heart for the suffering, the oppressed, and the persecuted. Her work and that of Christian Solidarity International, an interdenominational Christian human rights organization, has brought hope to thousands. I have travelled with Lady Cox and have been a witness to the way she ministers—showing love, respect, and compassion equally for the little children and high-level government officials. She is a woman who lives out her faith in Jesus Christ by doing what He admonishes in Matthew 25:

When I was hungry you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.
* * * Whatever you do for the least of these, you also do for me.

The work of Christian Solidarity International may not be well-known to us here, but it is well-known to the Armenians in war-torn Nagorno-Karabakh who had their pain relieved when CSI brought desperately needed medical supplies to the tiny beleaguered enclave. It is well-known to the thousands of Russian or-

phans who without the help of CSI would have been left in mental institutions devoid of hope for a productive future. It is well known to the suffering people in southern Sudan whose voice has been heard due to the constant advocacy of Baroness Cox and the CSI team. And it is well-known to the Karen Christians in Burma who, as I am speaking, are fighting for their lives against the military junta that is battling for control in that country.

Baroness Cox responds in faith to bring hope to countless millions. She stands up for justice for the persecuted. In the words of Prison Fellowship founder Chuck Colson, "As William Wilberforce was a voice for the voiceless and stood against his party and fellow Parliamentarians in his campaign to end the slave trade in eighteenth-century England, so is Baroness Cox. With Christian compassion fused with fierce courage, Lady Cox continues to shun mere observation for frontline participation." William Wilberforce would have been proud.

WILBERFORCE AWARD BANQUET—PRESENTED
BY CHUCK COLSON, PRISON FELLOWSHIP

The following speech was given by the Baroness Caroline Cox of Queensbury, Deputy Speaker of Britain's House of Lords, on February 1, 1995 in Washington, DC, during the events surrounding the National Prayer Breakfast. Baroness Cox was honored for her courageous acts and stand for justice on behalf of the suffering and oppressed people of the world. In the words of Chuck Colson: "As William Wilberforce was a voice for the voiceless and stood against his party and fellow Parliamentarians in his campaign to end the slave trade in eighteenth-century England, so is Baroness Cox. With Christian compassion fused with fierce courage, Lady Cox continues to shun mere observation for frontline participation."

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Guests, Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I stand before you this evening filled with deep emotions. First, I feel both humble and proud to be associated with the name of William Wilberforce. Wilberforce used to be described as a "shrimp"; I feel about the same size as a shrimp in comparison with him and also with the distinguished predecessors who have been honored with the Award in previous years.

But I am also full of gratitude for the opportunity this occasion gives me to pay tribute to those in Christian Solidarity International (CSI) who make my work possible and, above all, I value the opportunity to honour the suffering people whom it has been our privilege to be with in dark and difficult days—people suffering from oppression, persecution, slavery and attempted genocide.

I would therefore like to spend some of my allotted time saying a few words about the work of CSI, without whom I would not be here tonight, and then to spend the rest of my time honouring those people whom we try to serve, who always inspire us with their courage, generosity, graciousness, faith and dignity.

CSI is an interdenominational Christian human rights organization which tries to help victims of repression, regardless of their colour, creed or nationality. But as Christians, we have an additional concern; we are reminded of St. Paul's message to the church in Corinth, that when one part of the body of Christ suffers, all suffer.

CSI's particular focus is on forgotten peoples in forgotten lands; on places which do not appear on your TV screens or the front pages of newspapers. We try to be with those who feel—and are—forgotten by the rest of

the world, including often, by the rest of the Christian church.

Many of the big humanitarian organizations have to respect political constraints, in order to accomplish their work. This means there are some people who are suffering in repressive regimes whom they cannot help. But we are free to put human rights and humanitarian need before political constraints and to go where others may not. This may involve some unorthodox behavior and some unofficial travel—but it gives us the priceless privilege of, as the British advertisement for a certain brand of lager beer claims, "Reaching those parts where others cannot reach."

Thus it is that CSI has made it possible for us to make several visits, for example, to some of the people of Southern Sudan, many of them have been cut off from other aid organizations by the brutal policies of the fundamentalist Islamic Government in Khartoum. The magnitude of the sufferings of the Sudanese people must rank amongst the greatest in the world today: with perhaps 1.5 million killed and over 5 million displaced by civil war. Many Southerners have been captured and enslaved by Northerners—so I believe the spirit of Wilberforce would be striving for their freedom as much as he strove for those who suffered as slaves in his own day. Just 2 Weeks ago, CSI organized another mission to people so cut off that they had absolutely no medicines; many were literally starving, many were naked and very cold as the temperatures fall steeply at night. We took medicines and we plan to return with more urgently needed supplies. We were also able to take with us the exiled Roman Catholic Bishop of El Obeid; I am not a Catholic, but I wish you could have shared with me the happiness of seeing the rejoicing of people who had not seen a Bishop or been able to celebrate mass for 20 years.

It was CSI who made it possible for me to visit the Karen people of Burma last November, an ethnic minority ferociously persecuted by the SLORC regime. Many have been forced into slave labour, others live as stateless, displaced people, trapped in the jungle. Recently, the SLORC Regime has stepped up its military offensive against the Karen, forcing tens of thousands more to flee as refugees to Thailand, and trapping many more behind their own lines, where capture will mean a fate worse than death.

It was CSI which reached the Armenian people in January 1992, when they were blockaded, besieged, bombed in their ancient homeland of Nagorno Karabakh, a beautiful part of historic Armenia cruelly relocated by Stalin as an isolated enclave in Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan has adopted an explicit policy of ethnic cleansing of the Armenians from Karabakh. Karabakh is a beautiful land with some of the most ancient Christian churches in the world, the Armenians being the first nation to accept Christianity. The Armenians who live there have been fighting for the survival of their families, homes, homeland and their—and our—Christian heritage. It has been a battle against impossible odds, like David and Goliath. 150,000 Armenians are defending their land against 7 million-strong Azerbaijan, helped by Turkey and literally thousands of mujahadeen mercenaries. In that bitter January, we found the besieged and blockaded Armenians suffering casualties caused by constant bombardment, without any anesthetics or pain-killing drugs, with only vodka to try to relieve the suffering. Returning to Britain, I could not sleep thinking about their predicament; and it was CSI which, without the requisite money, responded in faith and enabled us to obtain supplies of morphine, cocaine powder (for