

The Company's founder and president, Dr. Donald S. Orkand, is an individualist, a man who believes in equal opportunity for all men and women. On the occasion of the company's milestone anniversary, Dr. Orkand has taken the opportunity to reflect on the accomplishments of the past and to launch his company's plans to deliver its unique brand of client-centered information into the 21st century. I am proud to pay tribute to the Orkand Corp., and I am honored to add my voice to the praises of the many friends and colleagues who gather to salute Dr. Donald Orkand and his outstanding company.

“BE YOUR BEST DAY”

HON. DEBORAH PRYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 1995

Mr. PRYCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to applaud the efforts of our Nation's Girl Scouts and the activities that they took part in as part of Be Your Best Day on March 14, 1995.

On this day, Girl Scouts across the country encouraged people of all ages and walks of life to improve themselves, help a friend, or better their community.

I would particularly like to submit for the RECORD the activities of several Girl Scout troops in Columbus, OH:

Eighty girls participated in conducting science experiments on the Darby Creek, a National Scenic River, to determine the kinds of service projects they will need to maintain its pristine condition.

Approximately 50 girls participated in an I'm Safe, Alert and Alive program that enabled them to take the information and share it with young girls.

Brownie Girl Scouts, age 6 to 8, participated in dancercize, an activity that taught them how to remain fit through dancing.

Fifty girls participated in a 1-day seminar on health and fitness, focusing on basic nutrition and fitness techniques. Junior Girl Scouts were paired with Brownie Girl Scouts to share the information with them.

Two Girl Scouts troops collected food and clothing items and donated them to a social service agency for distribution.

Brownie and Junior Girl Scouts participated in a computer basics course to learn more about technology and to encourage them to pursue math and science curricula.

Several Girl Scout troops filled out pledge cards to be their best on that day and to emphasize community service throughout the year.

Mr. Speaker, as a former Girl Scout myself, I would like to commend these Scouts for their efforts. They are true examples of young women dedicated to improving their own lives and making their communities better places to live.

SEAL OF OHIO GIRL SCOUT
COUNCIL, INC.,

Columbus, OH, March 1, 1995.

Memo To: Deb Fiddelke, Ass't. to U.S. Representative Deborah Pryce
From: Donna Hughes, Public Relations Director

Re: Be Your Best Day activities in Columbus
Below are some of the activities Girl Scout troops in Seal of Ohio Girl Council have planned to do for Girl Scouts of the U.S.A.'s BE YOUR BEST DAY, Tuesday, March 14 or during Girl Scout Week, March 12-18.

1. 80 girls will participate in conducting science experiments on the Darby Creek, a National Scenic River, to determine the kinds of service projects they will need to establish to maintain its pristine condition.

2. Approximately 50 girls will participate in a "I'm Safe, Alert and Alive" program that will enable them to take the information and share it with younger girls.

3. Brownie Girl Scouts, ages 6-8, will participate in Dancercize, an activity that will teach them how to remain fit through dancing. This also enables them to earn a Try-It badge.

4. Scheduled later in the week, primarily due to time, 50 girls will participate in a one-day seminar on health and fitness. It will focus on basic nutrition and fitness techniques. The Junior Girl Scouts will then be paired with Brownie Girl Scouts to share the information with them.

5. Two troops are collecting food and clothing items to donate to a social service agency to distribute to clients.

6. Brownie and Junior Girl Scouts are participating in Computer Basics to learn more about the technology and how it can help them in school by encouraging them to pursue math and science curricula.

7. Troops are filling out pledge cards they have designed, pledging to be their best on March 14 and to put an increase emphasis on community service throughout the year.

The main thrust behind Be Your Best Day is to highlight the values of Girl Scouts and raise the visibility of the kind of contemporary issues Girl Scouts are confronting on a daily basis, and to get the community involved with Girl Scouts to address some of these concerns. If you need additional information about Be Your Best Day, do not hesitate to call.

GIRL SCOUTS OF THE U.S.A.,

Washington, DC, February 21, 1995.

Hon. DEBORAH PRYCE,

U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN PRYCE: As a woman who has risen to the top in government because of your commitment to contemporary issues, you have shown how important it is for people to pull together and make their community a better place to live.

We would like to invite you to help us call other Americans to action on March 14, 1995. The event is "Girl Scouts' Be Your Best Day." On that day we are encouraging people—children, teens, adults and senior citizens to improve themselves, help a friend or better the community.

In the spirit of the day, we would like you to get involved, perhaps in your hometown, either individually working with a special cause, or with a local Girl Scouts troop. Should you not be with your constituents on that day, perhaps you would consider joining Girl Scouts in our nation's capital who will be participating in a series of very special activities, including an intergenerational aerobics workout program.

We hope you will join us on "Girl Scouts' Be Your Best Day," and would like to assure you that you do not need to make a major time commitment. We will be alerting the media about people's involvement in this day. Even half an hour of your time, whether it be speaking out to an important issue or promising to adhere to a personal resolution will help increase visibility for the hundreds of volunteers across the United States who will be participating that day.

Sincerely,

B. LARAE ORULLIAN,
National President.

CONGRESSIONAL REFORM

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 1995

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, March 22, 1995, into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

IMPROVING CONGRESSIONAL REFORM EFFORTS

The House got off to a good start this session by passing a series of internal reforms aimed at making the institution more open, efficient, and accountable. Yet in some ways the reforms are not working as well as expected. We need to revisit the changes made, as well as expand the scope of our reform effort into new areas.

Procedural reforms: On the first day of the 104th Congress, the House passed several procedural reforms—including measures to open up floor procedures, simplify the committee structure, and require Congress to comply with the same laws it passes for everyone else. These will not revolutionize the House, but they do move us in the right direction. Many were based on the work of last session's Joint Committee on the Organization of Congress. Yet there is some disappointment about the overall impact of the reforms. In many ways the House is less open and deliberative than it was last session.

A central theme of the reforms was to improve the work of congressional committees, since that is where the real work of Congress takes place. Yet the effectiveness of the committee reforms—reducing Members' committee assignments, banning proxy voting, and opening up committees further to the public—has been undermined by the new leadership's desire to pass key legislation within 100 days. The new congressional compliance bill, for example, passed the House without a single day of consideration by a House committee, even though much of the language was entirely new. No committee hearings were held on the highly complex unfunded mandates bill and only cursory hearings were held on the crime bills. Passing reforms to ban proxy voting or to open up committee deliberations makes little difference if an important bill simply bypasses the committee.

Another major reform was the promise by the new leadership to open up floor proceedings by allowing Members more opportunities to offer amendments. Yet this has simply not happened for several key bills. Many bills—from congressional compliance to the balanced budget amendment—came to the floor with limited or no opportunity for Members to amend them. The spending cut bill considered by the House last week put four-fifths of discretionary spending off limits to amendments—only those areas the committee wanted cut could be cut. It is unrealistic to expect every bill to come to the floor under open rules. That would be too unwieldy, and most Members recognize that. What is needed is that we have generous enough rules so Members can vote on the major policy issues on a particular bill; and that has not happened several times this year.

Rushing legislation through leads to mistakes. Sometimes we need to slow down to do things right and to make sure that all voices have been heard. We need a balance. The pace of legislation is important to the work product—too slow and the result is gridlock, too fast and the result is mistakes and unintended consequences.

Hearings are expected this summer on how well the new reforms are working. That is

certainly appropriate. We also should consider additional procedural reforms. One change I favor is having the House regularize the congressional reform process—taking reform up every Congress rather than having one-shot, omnibus packages every twenty years. Reform should be a continual, ongoing process. We should also streamline the budget process, publicize hidden spending projects and tax breaks, and take steps to improve public understanding of Congress.

Ethics reforms: Although we have made some progress on procedural reform in the House, not enough attention has been given to other kinds of institutional reforms—in particular various ethics reforms. It is worthwhile to change our committee or floor procedures, but at a more basic level we need to ensure the basic integrity of the legislative process. We need to pass strong lobbying reform and a ban on lobbyists' gifts to Members, as well as pass campaign finance reform that reduces the role of PACs and monied special interests. Such measures will make it clear to the American people that special interests are not getting favored consideration from policymakers.

We also need to improve our procedures for enforcing House ethics rules. I have introduced a proposal to set up an outside panel of citizens to investigate Member misconduct. That will give our disciplinary proceedings much more credibility. Another priority should be broadening our "preventive ethics" efforts—greater informational, outreach efforts by the Ethics Committee to head off possible cases of Member or staff misconduct before they occur.

One of our top priorities in institutional reform should be making sure that the American people have confidence in the integrity and accountability of the legislative process.

Excessive partisanship: I am also concerned about the heightened partisan tensions in Congress and the increased interest among Members on both sides of the aisle in scoring political points and embarrassing the other side. Many observers feel that the House has become too negative, too bitter, too contentious. That has a clear impact on our ability to come together to pass legislation for the good of the country—indeed it can be a much greater roadblock to effective governance than many of the procedures we reformed on the first day of this session.

Excessive partisanship is not easily addressed through rules changes or reform packages, but it is a problem that we need to start thinking seriously about. One option might be to ask the Ethics Committee to issue clearer guidelines for Members on when spirited debate has stepped over the line and is bringing discredit upon the institution. Another step would be better enforcement of rules now in place to encourage basic civility among Members.

Conclusion: The House has taken some initial steps this session toward reform, but much more needs to be done. To really improve the way we do business, our reforms need to be more effective and much broader in scope.

IN SUPPORT OF AN OPEN MEDIA
IN TAIWAN

HON. TORRICELLI

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 1995

Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. Speaker, I commend the following for the RECORD:

A PLEA TO AMERICAN FRIENDS OF TAIWAN FOR
A FAIRER TELEVISION MEDIA SYSTEM IN MY
COUNTRY

(By Trong R. Chai, Ph.D.)

Distinguished Members of Congress, Ladies and Gentlemen: Every time I revisited Capitol, I felt so good, as if I came back to my old sweet home. During my long residency in America, I frequently visited this place, as an advocate for human rights for the Taiwanese and for security and independence for Taiwan, my country. Since I left the U.S. for Taiwan at the turn of the last decade, I have continued to champion the same cause and values.

I am here today to call your attention to the problem of equal opportunity for the opposition to access the television media in Taiwan.

At the present, all the three nationwide television stations have been firmly controlled by the ruling Koumintang (KMT) party. By manipulation of content and twist of reporting language, in the gubernatorial and mayoral elections of last December, for example, all television stations depicted the KMT as the defender of order, stability, and prosperity, while demeaning the Democrat progressive party (the DPP), the largest opposition party, as an underminer toward social unrest and a solicitor of China's military attack. In addition, by disparity of coverage, the KMT candidates were given close to 90 percent of news coverage, whereas the DPP candidates, receiving more than 40% of popular votes, were given less than 10% of exposure, thereby creating unfair elections.

The government of Taiwan has decided to license one more nationwide television station next month to three groups submitted applications for the license last June, and one of them was submitted a KMT leader. The followup question is, "Will the fourth television station be granted to a non-KMT group?" This question is so important to the process of democratization in Taiwan that I believe each of you here in this room will be concerned with.

Distinguished Members, and dear friends of Taiwan: Your past influence on Taiwan's democratic development has been enormous and deeply appreciated by the people of Taiwan. Especially, at crucial milestones in the last decade, your voices helped Taiwan successfully end the old one-party dictatorship and create a two-party system, lift the 38 year-old martial law, and close the darkest record of human rights violations; thereby bringing real hopes for democratic reforms and freedom from fear. Now, at this critical juncture in selecting the winner of the fourth nationwide television station, would you give us a timely and most crucial support to ensure that this winner will be a non-KMT applicant so that democracy will not be an empty slogan but a real way of life in Taiwan.

Thank you for your attention and support.

HONORING GREEK INDEPENDENCE
DAY

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 23, 1995

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join the Greek community to celebrate the 174th anniversary of Greek independence.

On March 25, 1821, the Archbishop of Patras blessed the Greek flag at the Aghia Lavra monastery near Kalavrita, marking the beginning of the Greek war of independence

in which nearly 400 years of Ottoman rule was turned aside.

Since the war for independence, Greece has become a steadfast ally of the United States. But that alliance and freedom have not come without a price. More than 600,000 Greeks died while fighting with the Allied forces in World War II against fascism.

Ancient Greece was the birthplace of democratic values. It brought forth the notion that the ultimate power to govern belongs in the hands of the people. It inspired a system of checks and balances to ensure that one branch of government does not dominate any other branch.

These ideals inspired our Founding Fathers as they wrote the Constitution. In the words of Thomas Jefferson, "to the ancient Greeks * * * we are all indebted for the light which led ourselves out of Gothic darkness."

These democratic principles, formed more than 2,500 years ago, have affected change around the world. Witness our own Revolutionary War, the renewal of Greek independence, and the dramatic recent changes in Eastern Europe, the former Soviet States, and around the globe.

Today, the United States is enriched not only by Greek principles but also by its sons and daughters. Greek-Americans have made major contributions to American society, including our arts, sports, medicine, religion, and politics.

My home State of Michigan has been enhanced by the Greek community. In Macomb and St. Clair Counties, we are served by St. John's Greek Orthodox Church and Assumption Greek Orthodox Church. These institutions provide a multitude of community services and add to the rich diversity of the area.

In this changing world of ours, the challenges today include protecting the integrity of the borders of Greece and promoting the democratic ideals which originated in that country. Let us not forget the sacrifices Greeks have made to preserve freedom and enhance democracy.

Mr. Speaker, I join the people of Greece and those of Greek ancestry around the world celebrating Greek Independence Day. I salute all of them for the tremendous contributions to freedom and human dignity which they have made.

TRIBUTE TO LEROY HARRIS

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 23, 1995

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great sadness to ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our respects and sympathies to the family of Leroy Harris, who passed from this life on March 20, 1995, at the age of 81.

Mr. Harris was born in Mobile, AL. He was both a businessman and professional athlete, having been a semi-professional baseball player in the old Negro Baseball League from 1935–45. After his career as a pitcher, which was reported to be exemplary, Mr. Harris worked at American Radiators and later was an employee for the New York Telephone Co. in Buffalo, N.Y. until his retirement in 1977. Always a hard worker, Mr. Harris bought a taxi