

long overdue. Cesar's dream is moving towards reality. Whether it be by increasing education, work and training opportunities; continuing the fight to gain a liveable wage, benefits, and working conditions; or guaranteeing their access to full citizenship and the right to have their grievance addressed by whether legal means available.

As we move forward as a community towards ensuring equal opportunity, equal protections and equal membership for all peoples in our society, let us remember the contributions of one of the greatest teachers on the means and importance of this pursuit—Cesar Chavez.

TRIBUTE TO ALPHONSE AUCLAIR

HON. JACK REED

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 1995

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute Alphonse Auclair, a distinguished individual from Rhode Island who through his dedication and hard work, has selflessly served the people of Rhode Island in many capacities.

Mr. Auclair is a lifelong resident of Rhode Island. He was born in Woonsocket, RI and was educated in area schools. On his 18th birthday, November 9, 1942, Alphonse enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. After serving his country with valor and distinction in the Pacific, including the battle for Iwo Jima, Alphonse Auclair returned to Rhode Island.

Mr. Auclair served as a police officer in the city of Woonsocket from 1952 through 1977, when he was elected to represent his community in the Rhode Island State Senate. In this capacity, Mr. Auclair was a champion of veterans issues in Rhode Island. In 1962 he helped to found the St. Joseph's Veterans Association, which has played a key role in veterans affairs in Woonsocket ever since. In addition to working to improve the lives of Woonsocket's veterans, Mr. Auclair was instrumental in the building of a monument dedicated to the many Rhode Islander's that made the supreme sacrifice in the Vietnam war.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the citizens of Rhode Island, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring a truly exceptional individual, Alphonse Auclair.

TURKEY MUST CEASE ITS RELENTLESS ATTACKS AGAINST THE KURDISH PEOPLE

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 1995

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my extreme dismay and strong concerns about the recent actions of the Turkish Government.

The government in Turkey has once again decided that it is easier to address dissension around its borders with military force than to sit down to talk with those whose only wish is to seek freedom from overwhelming oppression.

You will hear from the Turkish Government that this recent excursion into Kurdish-held areas in Iraq is only aimed at stopping Kurdish

rebel groups from making raids into Turkey. We must not be fooled by what they say.

It is accepted policy in that country to deny official acknowledgement of a group that comprises close to 20 percent of its total population. Because they have no special protection under Turkish law, Kurdish civilians have been victim to a policy of discriminate harassment, persecution, even killing and wounding at the hands of the Turkish establishment.

The Turkish Government has been condemned time and time again by the United Nations, Helsinki Watch, and Amnesty International for denying Kurds the basic civil liberties. These include the right to freedom of self-determination and the right to freely express the richness of their cultural heritage.

Mr. Speaker, this current situation is no different. Thousands of Turkish-born Kurds are now living in northern Iraq, after fleeing Turkey last year because of harassment from Turkish officials. Their lives have been shattered because of the incessant attacks on their heritage, culture, and indeed, their very existence.

These civilians have been caught in the crossfire for too long. These civilians only seek the freedom to choose their own destinies. At the very least, this Government's response should be to say in no uncertain terms that they be allowed to pursue this very basic right.

However, Mr. Speaker, we may be also partly to blame for the ongoing crisis in the mountains of Iraq.

Not only does the Turkish Government receive vast amounts of United States financial aid, we and our allies also supply their government with large amounts of military hardware. These weapons are in turn being used to wipe out whole villages, to kill innocent women and children. We should follow the lead of the German Government and look to end our weapons trade with Turkey.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, all United States aid to Turkey should be reviewed in light of their history with other ethnic groups in Cyprus and Armenia. And just as important, that government's current activities in the mountains of Iraq should further make us question our priorities in that region.

Mr. Speaker, Turkey does have the right to protect its borders and to protect its citizens from terrorism. However, this very right cannot be used to justify continued harassment and persecution of innocent civilian populations.

We have supported the right of Iraqi-born Kurds to pursue independence from the regime in Baghdad. Our troops are in the mountains of northern Iraq at this moment, protecting Kurds from the Iraqi military. However, Mr. Speaker, we should look to protect the rights of all Kurds, regardless of where they were born.

The United States has warned the Turkish Government that we are watching. I will say also that the whole world should watch this situation very closely. This will not only hold that government accountable but will also force this country to reevaluate its foreign priorities and practices.

A TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE NATHANIEL R. JONES

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 1995

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to stand here today to honor a remarkable man from the 17th Congressional District of Ohio. Please join me today in honoring the Honorable Judge Nathaniel R. Jones on his retirement from the U.S. Court of Appeals.

Judge Jones has served on the bench of the Sixth Circuit, U.S. Court of Appeals since his appointment during the Carter administration in 1979. This accounts for 15 years of service to his country. In addition, Judge Jones has devoted much of his time outside the office to community events and civil rights activities. Judge Jones has the further distinction of having served the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People as Chief Legal Counsel.

Mr. Speaker, it is rare that I have the opportunity to honor someone like Judge Nathaniel R. Jones who has given so much not only to his own community but also to the entire country. My sincere appreciation goes out to Judge Jones for the job he has done. May he be blessed with health, happiness and continued success in the years to come.

STATEMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE ROMERO-BARCELÓ

HON. CARLOS A. ROMERO-BARCELÓ

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 1995

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Mr. Speaker, reducing costly and unnecessary regulatory burdens has become a leading theme in the 104th Congress. Today, I am introducing legislation that promotes this goal. The Environmental Protection Agency has demanded that Puerto Rico institute costly secondary treatment at one of the island's wastewater treatment facilities despite any showing that it will improve the environment and without considering whether less costly alternatives would be equally or even more effective. This legislation, first, provides for an independent study of the relative costs, benefits, and feasibility of alternatives to secondary treatment for wastewater discharged through a deep ocean outfall from the Mayaguez wastewater treatment plant, and second, permits Puerto Rico to apply for, and EPA to consider, a waiver of secondary treatment requirements under the Clean Water Act if such a waiver is appropriate.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is a reasonable, cost-effective solution to what has become an interminable, intractable series of negotiations and court battles between Puerto Rico and the EPA over abstruse points of administrative law—at considerable expense to the American taxpayers. Section 301(h) of the Clean Water Act provides that EPA may waive secondary treatment standards for publicly owned treatment works [POTW's] that meet certain effluent standards. But the EPA contends it is time-barred from considering a waiver application for the Mayaguez POTW.

Under the 1977 Clean Water Act Amendments, coastal communities—mainland and island—were permitted a time-limited opportunity to apply for exemptions from secondary treatment requirements if they met very stringent environmental standards for ocean discharges. Overall, EPA has granted 39 waivers. All applications were required to be submitted to EPA by December 29, 1982. The Puerto Rico Aqueduct and Sewer Authority [PRASA] submitted 12 waiver applications, and 6 have been tentatively approved. Only two applications—including one for the Mayaguez treatment facility—were denied, in December 1993. The EPA insists that the Mayaguez POTW construct secondary treatment facilities costing approximately \$100 million, despite significant evidence that other, far less costly alternatives would be equally, or even more, effective in protecting the surrounding marine environment.

Puerto Rico has proposed construction of a deep water outfall situated more than 300 feet deep and several miles from shore as an alternative to secondary treatment at the Mayaguez POTW. This would save the Commonwealth about \$65 million. Substantial scientific evidence gathered from similarly situated POTW's with deep ocean outfalls indicates that such methods can achieve the equivalent of secondary treatment standards or better.

The evidence was so compelling in the instance of San Diego, CA, that Congress last year enacted, and the President signed into law, legislation permitting EPA to consider a section 301(h) waiver application proposing a similar alternative to secondary treatment— notwithstanding that such a waiver otherwise would be time-barred under the Clean Water Act. Puerto Rico deserves the same opportunity to implement cost-effective alternatives and seek a section 301(h) waiver.

This is not simply an issue of fairness or cost-effectiveness; it is also an issue of science. The Clean Water Act was intended to improve the marine environment. There is significant scientific evidence that suggesting that a new deep ocean outfall at the Mayaguez POTW would best protect the surrounding marine environment. Furthermore, this legislation would require a scientific study of the issue by the U.S. Geological Survey, an impartial agency with no interest in the outcome. Puerto Rico is willing to share 50 percent of the financing necessary for the study.

There are numerous precedents of such limited exceptions to the requirements of section 301. The municipal wastewater treatment construction grant amendments of 1981 included a provision that extended the date under which section 301(h) waivers could be requested and specifically permitted the city of Avalon, CA, to receive such a waiver. The Water Quality Act of 1987 included a specific exception for the Irvine Ranch Water District that permitted it also to file for a waiver after the deadline.

The 1981 provision specifically reexamined section 301(h) and concluded: "failure to broaden eligibility * * * risks requiring treatment for treatment's sake, involving the expenditure of funds which could be better used to achieve additional water quality benefits elsewhere." This provision does not grant variances. It simply allows variances to be sought with the burden on the applicant to

make its case on environmental grounds.¹ Such logic applies fully to this legislation.

I urge our colleagues on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and on the Resources Committee to consider this bill and its common sense approach to the regulatory burden confronting Puerto Rico. I understand that the EPA is receptive to this change in the law, which can only improve the marine environment off the west coast of Puerto Rico, and which will apply these regulatory requirements with cost effectiveness and flexibility, rather than rigidly and without regard to their consequences.

IN HONOR OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PICO RIVERA BOBBY SOX ASSOCIATION

HON. ESTEBAN EDWARD TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 1995

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Pico Rivera Bobby Sox Association.

For the past 25 years, the Bobby Sox Association has been providing an invaluable service to the young girls, and now the young boys, of Pico Rivera. The association was established in 1970 by a group of parents determined to give their daughters the same opportunities to play on an organized team sport, as their sons. The parents, led by Bobby Sox founder and president of the board, Mr. Ray Garcia, labored countless hours laying out fields, building dugouts, and constructing and staffing a snack bar, all for the love of their children and softball.

The whole community has a vested interest in the success of this program. Countless parents have taken time out of their schedules to coach, manage, chaperon, and care for these young girls. And, because of their efforts, the return on their investment has been immeasurable.

These young women have all learned lessons in comradery and sportsmanship. In 1977, the Pico Rivera Bobby Soxers All-Stars led by coaches Jim Cafferty and Eddie Gomez experienced the thrill of winning a national championship. Indeed, the whole association is to be commended for putting forth the effort to ensure the participation of the nearly 6,000 young girls who have graced the softball diamonds at Rio Vista Park over the past 25 years.

I applaud every individual who has had a part in making the Bobby Sox of Pico Rivera a success. I know that the memories carried in the hearts of their daughters are priceless. As a new generation of young girls, and now boys, stand ready to take the fields at Rio Vista, I hope the dedicated spirit which has accompanied their predecessors will continue for many more generations of players to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 1995

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, on March 9, I was having dinner at a nearby restaurant with the Oregon State labor commissioner and apparently my electronic beeper malfunctioned and I missed a recorded vote on the Cox amendment to H.R. 956 which would cap non-economic pain and suffering damages in health care liability cases at \$250,000. If I had been present I would have voted "no."

ROBERT GARCIA BRINGS HISPANICS TOGETHER

HON. BILL RICHARDSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 1995

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, our former colleague, Bobby Garcia, has spent many years trying to forge better relations among all people. As a co-founder of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, he sought to unite Hispanic Members of Congress working toward common goals. As a private citizen, he has continued to focus his attention on uniting Hispanics in this country and throughout our hemisphere.

Recently, Mr. Garcia hosted a reception in Washington honoring the current chairman of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, our colleague, Ed PASTOR. Mr. Garcia also invited representatives of the Latin American republics and Spain to further our common interests.

I commend our former colleague for his work in improving relations between people and countries and urge my colleagues to review the following article which appeared in the Caribbean Business publication.

[From Caribbean Business, Mar. 23, 1995]

GARCIA SEES EXPANDED CAUCUS ROLE

(By John Collins)

Former Congressman Robert Garcia of New York views the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, of which he was a co-founder, as an important catalyst for bringing Hispanics, in the U.S. and elsewhere in the world, closer together for the mutual benefit of all.

Garcia and his wife, Jane, hosted a reception in honor of the new chairman of the CHC, Ed Pastor, an Arizona Democrat. To help familiarize members of the Diplomatic Corps with the workings of Congress and how Hispanic members might assist them in achieving their legislative agendas, Garcia invited representatives of the Latin American republics and Spain to the reception.

Among those attending were ambassadors Raul Granillo Ocampo (Argentina), Sonia Picado (Costa Rica), Ana Cristina Sol (El Salvador), Jesus Silva Herzog (Mexico), Ricardo Alberto Arias (Panama), Jaime de Ojeda (Spain), and Pedro Luis Echevarria (Venezuela). Countries represented by other diplomats included Brazil and Guatemala.

EXPANDED DIVERSITY

The CHC was organized in 1977 when there were only four Hispanics in Congress, including Garcia. Today, the caucus has grown to 18 members, 13 Democrats and five Republicans. The largest segment of the CHC is of Mexican descent, four are Puerto Ricans,

¹H. Rep. No. 97-270, 97th Cong. 1st Sess. at p. 17.