

peace-keepers in powderkegs like Bosnia, the allies will suffer us to lead them, yes, but only where they want to go, as Lyndon Johnson discovered over Vietnam. Leadership means pointless, unending subsidy.

Moreover, it is insulting to the Europeans to carry on as if they are cock-a-hoop without us. Just as a welfare check can inhibit your will to work, so being led by others can inhibit your will and weaken your capacity to lead. The Europeans must find their own way.

Is it "isolationist" to leave them to it? No. It is realism. We should trade places with the French: They are the major land power in Europe. Let them lead; it will do wonders for their hauteur. Our political role should be as a French-like kibitzer around the edges of NATO, ready to build up in Europe, if necessary, to answer any buildup from a nationalist Russia. Our proper geostrategic role is offshore, as a maritime power. Walter Lippmann called this the "blue water strategy." Unlike the continuance of forward deployment against a phantom enemy, it has the merit of being sane.

Besides, as conservatives will soon be warning in Congress, we face security threats that the cost of forward deployment in Europe simply won't permit us to address. It is, for example, just a matter of time before some rogue regime or stateless band of terrorists learn how to make and transport nuclear weapons. We have no defense against such threats now. The Republicans want to revive the Strategic Defense Initiative, but even if that celestial Maginot Line could be constructed for less than hundreds of billions of dollars, it would only work against ballistic missile attack. A border patrol scaled to national security dimensions would make far more sense as protection against bomb-carrying terrorists. Estimates are that \$20 billion annually, about half what NATO will cost in the year 2000, would pay for a real military-style border between the United States and Mexico. That would also keep out both illegal immigrants and drug traffickers, which would benefit both our lowest wage earners and inner-city kids. What a novelty that would be: American defense spending defending Americans.

In short, getting Europe out of our pockets is a requirement of both economic and national security. The burden should be on those who want to maintain the somnolent commitment to NATO.

LESLIE MERLIN CELEBRATES 15TH ANNIVERSARY WITH THE BRICK CHURCH

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 11, 1995

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues a wonderful woman who recently marked her 15th year with the Brick Presbyterian Church in Manhattan.

Since 1979, Associate Pastor Leslie Merlin has devoted her considerable talents and deep compassion to the Brick Church as Associate Pastor. As a parishioner at the Brick Church, I have enjoyed her sermons and been a beneficiary of her wisdom many times.

When she arrived in 1979, Pastor Merlin brought with her to the Brick Church a long-standing commitment to helping others, and a devotion to making the world around her a better place. After graduating from Wagner College in Staten Island, she served as a vol-

unteer teacher in Papua New Guinea. Shortly thereafter, she blended her interest in teaching with a calling to the church by earning a master of divinity at Princeton Seminary. After a brief stay with the Nassau Presbyterian Church in Princeton, she came to the Brick Church, which has enjoyed her presence ever since.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating Leslie Merlin's 15th anniversary with the Brick Church. She has been both a friend and an inspiration to the parishioners of the Brick Church, and I wish her many more years of happiness and joy.

REPEAL NAFTA!

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 11, 1995

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the NAFTA Withdrawal Act, legislation to pull the United States out of the North American Free-Trade Agreement [NAFTA].

When I cast my vote against NAFTA, I did so knowing full well the devastating impact such an agreement would have on U.S. workers. To date, because of NAFTA, over 8,000 American workers have lost their jobs.

Since NAFTA took effect, United States imports from Mexico have been increasing at a rate faster than United States exports to Mexico. This distinction is important because in order to create jobs, United States exports must be expanding faster than imports. This imbalance between imports and exports has cut the United States trade surplus with Mexico down to little more than \$1 billion.

Likewise, from January through July of last year, United States automakers exported about 22,000 vehicles to Mexico. The United States, however, imported 221,000 from Mexico—an imbalance of 199,000 vehicles in Mexico's favor. Moreover, in the short-time since NAFTA passed, Honda, BMW, Volkswagen, Toyota, and Samsung have all announced plans to build new or expanded production facilities in Mexico.

In passing NAFTA, too many of my colleagues failed to see NAFTA for what it really was—a continuation of policies that have undermined the hard won benefits of our Nation's labor movement. Passage of the NAFTA Withdrawal Act is essential if we are to restore justice to the working people of America.

THE ROBERT J. LAGOMARSINO VISITORS CENTER

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 11, 1995

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I am today re-introducing legislation to designate the visitors center at the Channel Islands National Park, CA, as the Robert J. Lagomarsino Visitors Center.

In 1980, Bob Lagomarsino successfully guided legislation through Congress which established the Channel Islands National Park in Ventura County, CA. He then worked tirelessly during the next dozen years to obtain land ac-

quisition funds to buy the islands from their previous owners. Because of his efforts, virtually all of the islands are now protected, ensuring that they will remain free of development and in their pristine state which will be open to the public for generations to come.

Unquestionably, without Bob Lagomarsino's perseverance, it's safe to say that the islands would not be protected today. It's only fitting that the visitors center at Ventura Harbor serve as a living monument for the outstanding service Bob Lagomarsino provided to Ventura County residents for almost 35 years in public office.

Identical legislation was passed by the House in the 103d Congress; regrettably it was not considered in the Senate prior to adjournment.

I urge my colleagues to support and to co-sponsor this legislation.

INTERSTATE BANKING REVISITED

HON. BILL MCCOLLUM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 11, 1995

Mr. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, last year, Congress enacted the Riegle-Neal Interstate Banking and Branching Efficiency Act of 1994. This was certainly one of the Banking Committee's most important accomplishments. One provision in the interstate law, the applicable law provision, generated considerable discussion by the conference committee.

The applicable law provision is relevant when a national bank branches into a second State. With respect to four kinds of State laws specified in the statute, the branch is subject to State law as if it were a bank chartered by the host State, unless the State law is preempted. However, we were clear in the language of the statute and the legislative history that the applicable law provision in the interstate law applies only when a bank actually has branches in a second State. If a bank does not branch into a second State, the applicable law provision does not come into play.

Another provision of the interstate law, the savings clause of section 111, is also important in this regard. The savings clause provides that nothing in the interstate law affects section 85 of the National Bank Act and section 27 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act. These provisions, as we explained in the legislative history, authorize banks to make loans, including interstate loans, and the savings clause therefore preserved the preexisting lending authority of banks to collect all lending charges, without regard to the changes in branching authority made by the interstate law.

I believe it is important to reemphasize these points as courts, regulators, and others interpret the applicable law provision and other parts of the new interstate banking law. It has come to my attention that a State court in Pennsylvania recently interpreted the applicable law provision in a decision concerning whether a national bank located in Ohio was authorized by section 85 of the National Bank Act to collect certain credit card charges from Pennsylvania residents. I would certainly hope that all courts recognize that the applicable law provision has no bearing on or relevance

to a case in which a national bank has no branches in a second State.

HONORING THOSE FIRE FIGHTERS, EMERGENCY PERSONNEL, AND VOLUNTEERS WHO CONTAINED THE LOGAN VALLEY MALL FIRE IN ALTOONA, PA ON DECEMBER 16, 1994

HON. BUD SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 11, 1995

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a group of people who exemplified the utmost professionalism and courage in their efforts to battle the devastating Logan Valley Mall fire in Altoona, PA during the early hours of Friday, December 16, 1994. These firefighters, emergency personnel, and volunteers all came together in a desperate time of need to contain this fire which has left an everlasting impression on the Altoona economy and its people. Over 300 firefighters, from 63 departments, stationed in Blair and four surrounding counties were called upon to extinguish the fire. Considering the fact that there are 81,000 firefighters in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, 73,000 of which are volunteer, one can realize the magnitude of this fire by the number of personnel involved. Along with these numerous firefighters were emergency assistance workers and volunteers on site to provide any needed support throughout the ordeal. I applaud the job done by the local police, sheriffs, dispatch centers, and community organizations which all played a part during the fire and the aftermath.

Due to the quick action by all of the participating fire departments the powerful blaze was contained, saving a majority of the mall stores, and even allowing a handful to reopen in the following days. Hopefully, the reconstruction of the mall will be completed by the fall of 1995 thanks in part to this team of people.

I know I speak for everyone involved in this tragedy when I say that without the support and cooperation demonstrated by this crew of professionals and volunteers the damage sustained from the fire surely would have been greater, and we are all very thankful that no one was seriously injured from the dangerous blaze. In fact, with hundreds of people on the scene, only one minor injury was reported. Even though a disaster such as this is never welcome, it is reassuring to know that there are top notch emergency services in central Pennsylvania, committed to a profession in which they face life and death situations every time that station bell goes off.

I hope that in the future our communities will be able to maintain the necessary resources needed to maintain such readiness when called into action in times of serious emergencies. The Altoona region is indeed fortunate to have such a dedicated fire and rescue service on hand.

IN MEMORIAL: SHANNON LOWNEY AND LEANNE NICHOLS

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 11, 1995

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, the violence continues and the death toll rises once again. In the wake of the recent clinic violence in Massachusetts, 25-year-old Shannon Elizabeth Lowney and 38-year-old Leanne Nichols are dead, five people are injured, and an entire Nation sits paralyzed by fear and shock.

I wish to extend my deepest sympathies to the families of Shannon and Leanne. To them we offer this promise: We will not allow these women's lives to be lost in vain and we will not allow their sacrifice to be dismissed as mere casualties of a political conflict. These were not combatants—these were health care professionals. They were brutally murdered by those that seek to do through terrorism what they can never do through the ballot box.

The time has come for an end to clinic violence. An end to the lame excuses offered on behalf of the offenders. An end to the fear that grips professionals, patients, and ordinary Americans throughout our Nation. An end to the sick belief that violence will reap political empowerment.

Our Nation must act quickly to bring to justice both the assassins and those who incite them. Make no mistake: There is no greater threat to our national security today than the domestic terrorists roaming America under the cover of anti-choice politics. Dr. David Gunn, Dr. John Bayard Britton, Lt. Col. James Barrett, Shannon Elizabeth Lowney, and Leanne Nichols are gone forever, but their cause, the cause of freedom, lives on in all of us.

Our challenge is clear, our resolve unwavering, and our cause is just. We pause now to remember those who have died, but we will not give up our freedoms and we will not capitulate to terrorism. These women expect better of us, and better we must do to honor their memory.

THE ANTI-COP-KILLER BULLET ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 11, 1995

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that would impose a tax and import controls on bullets expressly designed to penetrate the bulletproof vests of law enforcement personnel.

This legislation, the Anti-Cop-Killer Bullet Act, would impose the same tax which currently exists on controlled firearms, such as submachine guns and sawed-off shotguns, to high-technology cop killer bullets like the rhino and black talon bullet. If enacted, the bullet manufacturer would be taxed at the rate of \$200 for each bullet—a tax so high that the bullet obviously would never be produced.

Over 10 years ago, a Teflon-coated bullet designed to pierce soft body armor was introduced. Due to strong public reaction, Congress in 1986 enacted the very first law to ban

a round of ammunition. Since then other bullets manufactured from different materials but designed with the same purpose have been introduced. Only after threatening or actually carrying out our threat to ban these cop-killer bullets, have we in Congress been successful at stopping them from reaching our streets.

However, as soon as we in Congress go through the motions of preventing a cop-killer bullet from going into production, along comes another manufacturer with a new bullet designed to penetrate protective armor. This pattern will continue as long as bullet manufacturers are allowed to exploit the loophole that exists in the 1986 law banning cop-killer bullets. Under the law, only metal alloy and Teflon-coated bullets were singled out leaving the door wide open for companies such as the Signature Products Corporation to develop plastic-based ammunition like the rhino bullet.

My legislation would prevent these unscrupulous bullet manufacturers from taking advantage of this loophole in existing Federal law. Rather than attempting to add another amendment to the 1986 law, the Anti-Cop-Killer Bullet Act proposes an across-the-board tax on all bullets expressly manufactured or advertised to penetrate normal quality bulletproof vests worn by law enforcement personnel. The tax at \$200 per bullet would surely make the business of manufacturing cop-killer bullets an economic impossibility.

America's law enforcement officers are already out-gunned as it is. Having to worry about a bullet piercing their protective armor should be the last thing on their mind.

By passing the Anti-Cop-Killer Bullet Act, we will be giving our law enforcement the support they need. I urge my colleagues to join with me to pass this legislation so that we can prevent these cop-killer bullets from endangering the lives of America's law enforcement officers.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 11, 1995

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, it is a great pleasure for me to commend the League of Women Voters for their recently celebrated 75th anniversary, which we recognized in Syracuse last month with a ceremony and exhibit at our beloved Erie Canal Museum.

The league has steadfastly dedicated itself to informing voters about the choices they have and the process they are most certainly a part of.

It is fitting that our celebration in Syracuse was held at the Canal Museum, inside a symbol of our regional—and in fact our national—history and our local heritage. Decisions by elected government are by their nature best made after consultation with an informed citizenry. Just as the Erie Canal was the work of governmental leaders enlightened by a populace requiring economic salvation, so too is democracy exercised best when groups such as the League of Women Voters have done their work.

My personal experience with the Syracuse Metro League has been positive. I believe I have benefited by their efforts. They have