

FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT
FINANCING, AND RELATED PRO-
GRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT,
1997

SPEECH OF

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 1996

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3540) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes:

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Chairman, on June 11, I voted in favor of H.R. 3540, the foreign operations appropriations bill.

I believe that this legislation contains some very important measures that will strengthen America's position in the world, offer critical help to allies, and bolster the Humanitarian Aid Corridor Act approved by this House earlier.

I remain troubled, however, by several measures in this bill, including the continued restrictions on international family planning, the funding of expanded IMET for Indonesia, and by the reductions in development aid to some of the poorest nations in the world.

We face a critically important stage in securing peace in the Middle East. Through hard work and commitment we have achieved much in recent years. There is much left to achieve before the people of the Middle East enjoy a true and lasting peace. H.R. 3540 allows us to build on the achievements in peace that we have already secured by giving economic and military aid to our allies, Egypt and Israel. At this important juncture in the peace process, it is important for us to reaffirm our commitment to our allies and to the peace process to which we must remain committed.

The bill also makes important steps forward in our commitment to child survival. I applaud the creation of this distinct account, with it focused mission and spending. These are some of the most important funds provided under the bill. This account will make a real difference in the lives of millions of children, and help struggling nations build more secure futures.

I was very pleased to see the House adopt two very important amendments that reaffirm our commitment to Armenia. As an original cosponsor of the Humanitarian Aid Corridor Act I am pleased to see this important, principled measure strengthened. This strengthening is needed because the measure, approved by Congress last year, was waived by the President. Congress is sending an unmistakable message to the Government of Turkey that its continued illegal occupation of Cypress and its unpardonable blockade of Armenia are criminal and must cease.

As well, I am pleased that the House passed Mr. Radanovich's amendment which withholds a portion of United States aid to Turkey until that government acknowledges the Armenian genocide. History shows us that the horrors of the past can not be forgotten. That when we allow denial and distortion to replace truth, we all reduced, and the security of the future is undermined.

I commend my colleague, Mr. OBEY, for his amendment which sets the stage for greater additional support to the War Crimes Tribunal in the Hague. As the author of a resolution affirming support for the War Crimes Tribunal I am gratified to see us stand behind this institution with the kind of support that will make a real difference in helping the tribunal successfully fulfill its mission.

I firmly believe that the tribunal is engaged in one of the most important tasks under way today. The tribunal is dedicated to bringing to justice those who have committed crimes of such horror that we barely fathom their enormity. The tribunal will bring an end to the centuries of violence and retribution. It is this cycle of lawlessness that is the breeding ground of conflict and of war. If we can break this cycle, if we subdue the instinct of revenge, we can build a more secure future where peace will be possible.

While this bill makes several important strides forward in the advancing the cause of protecting human rights, I remain deeply troubled by the House's unwillingness to revoke IMET to Indonesia. I was honored to join my colleague from Massachusetts, Mr. FRANK, in introducing an amendment that would cut off IMET to Indonesia. I am a supporter of IMET, but this is the wrong time and the wrong place for IMET.

Finally, I want to express my reservations over the reductions in aid to some of the world's poorest nations. We face very serious budget challenges that require us to make difficult choices, and many programs which mean a great deal to my constituents are being cut and they are suffering. We must, however, continue to recognize our responsibility as citizens of this planet. We are a great and wealthy nation. We are a shining example that free people all over the world look to. Assisting those who are struggling is one of the duties of leadership.

Contrary to what many think, this aid is, and always has been, a modest part of our budget and we realize a good return on this investment. A little aid can go a long way in building democracies and free economies, and when these achievements have been secured, we live in a richer and more stable world.

In the current budget environment, we must spend our limited resources very carefully. We face serious and very pressing problems here at home, and we are not able to spend all we should on these. It is in light of these challenges that I support the bill before us. It will make America stronger.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. RICHARD J.
BOXER

HON. THOMAS M. BARRETT

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 18, 1996

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I pay tribute today to one of Milwaukee County's truly outstanding citizens, Dr. Richard J. Boxer. As the Lubavitch House of Wisconsin prepares to honor Dr. Boxer for his multitude of contributions to our community, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the remarkable achievements of this great man.

Dr. Boxer, or Rick, as he prefers to be known, has been nationally recognized for his

countless number of contributions to American medicine. Rick is the only member of the board of advisors to the Health Policy Institute at both the Medical College of Wisconsin and the University of Wisconsin. He has authored 435 scientific articles, chapters, and a book and has lectured throughout the world. Rick is the former chairman of the surgery department at both Sinai-Samaritan and St. Michael Hospitals in Milwaukee. Rick was voted by his peers the best urologist in Milwaukee in three separate surveys by Milwaukee Magazine in 1987, 1991, and 1996. Rick further serves as the medical director of the Bernard and Helen Soref Prostate Cancer Foundation and the Gordon Henke Cancer Foundation. In addition, he is a professor in the Health Policy Institute and in the Department of Family Medicine at the Medical College of Wisconsin.

President Clinton recognized Rick's capabilities in 1995 when he appointed him to the National Cancer Advisory Board and the National Institutes of Health. In 1996, Rick broke new international ground when he led the first physicians' mission to Israel. In addition to his professional associations, Rick selflessly devotes his personal time to numerous philanthropic organizations including the Milwaukee's Jewish Federation, the Milwaukee Jewish Council, the Wisconsin State of Israel Bonds, the Milwaukee Jewish Home and Care Center, the Weizmann Institute, and the Friends of Lubavitch.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the Wisconsin Friends of Lubavitch on its excellent selection of Dr. Richard Boxer as this year's honored guest, and I wish Rick, his wife Barbara, and their loving children continued success in all of their endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO CAPITAL
COMMITMENT

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 18, 1996

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a dynamic local organization which has brought telecommunications training and knowledge to the economically disadvantaged of the Washington area. Capital Commitment, recently celebrated its 50th anniversary. And, through its fine work, 424 disadvantaged students have graduated from programs which have prepared them for well paying jobs in telephone installation, maintenance, and repair.

Capital Commitment was born from a vision held by Ernest and La Verne Boykin who recognized in June 1991 that the telecommunications industry in which they had worked for so many years had few minorities. They also witnessed increased violence in their Washington neighborhood and had the compassion to ask themselves what they could do to help these young people bring focus to their lives. The answer to Ernest and La Verne was to leave their jobs at high technology telecommunications companies to set up Capital Commitment.

In the fall of 1991, they formed partnerships with the DC public schools, Ballou STAY and Northern Telecom [Nortel], a world leader in designing, engineering, building, and maintaining digital networks. By January 1992, they

graduated their first class, which consisted of six homeless men from the Omega-Alpha Brotherhood. They were successful in placing this class in good jobs and they used their success to solicit support from local foundations.

As they struggled financially, they continued their important program and, by the end of 1993, had graduated 150 students and had an all-time high placement record of 97.5 percent. They still had not met their most important goal, to raise \$100,000. However with continued support from Nortel as well as help from

the National Center for Neighborhood Enterprises, the Hitachi Foundation, The Beer Institute and the United Black Fund, they reached 50 percent of their money raising goal.

In the summer of 1994, their success in training and placing their students in high paying, high technology jobs—by this time they had graduated 219—attracted additional partnerships with Bell Atlantic and the Eisenhower Foundation. Things had started to turn around for them.

Capital Commitment has been featured on several TV and radio stations within the last year. They have announced further partner-

ships with the Pentagon Renovations, BISC1, the Private Industry Councils of Washington, DC, Prince Georges County and Montgomery County. Their partners provide funding and also help secure employment for Capital Commitment graduates.

It gives me great pleasure to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Ernest and La Verne Boykin and all of their partners in Capital Commitment for making a real difference in their communities by providing hope and a future to the economically disadvantaged.