

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CDC

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 1996

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, on July 1, 1996, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC]—the Nation's prevention agency—will celebrate its 50th anniversary. This represents 50 years of commitment to improvement in the public health, a commitment that has been carried out by a dedicated and highly professional work force.

Over the years, I have been a strong supporter of this unique Federal agency. Along with my colleagues, I have helped authorize and expand CDC prevention programs which have made and will continue to make significant improvements in the public's health. These programs include: immunization, HIV prevention, tuberculosis control, lead-paint poisoning prevention, and the Breast and Cervical Cancer Mortality Prevention Program, to name a few.

Throughout that period, and indeed its entire history, CDC's scientists and epidemiologists have responded to countless challenges domestically and around the world, including Legionnaire's disease, environmental and workplace hazards, smallpox, plague, and Ebola.

In recognition of this 50-year milestone, I am pleased to share with my colleagues a message from CDC's distinguished Director, Dr. David Satcher. I heartily commend the CDC for its accomplishments and look forward to its achievements in the next 50 years.

REMARKS BY DR. DAVID SATCHER, DIRECTOR,
AT THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CDC

During 1996, Atlanta will be the site of several events of worldwide significance—the Centennial Olympics, the Paralympic Games, the 200th anniversary of the development of the vaccine ultimately responsible for the eradication of smallpox, and the 50th anniversary of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC].

As CDC celebrates a half century of public health excellence, we are mindful of the skill and courage of these early public health pioneers, who risked their lives in order to address environmental hazards and control diseases such as smallpox, polio, malaria, and diphtheria. We are honored to continue on in their work and committed to the difficult challenges that lie ahead.

CDC has contributed to the control of infectious diseases such as the Ebola outbreak in Africa and tuberculosis in the United States. We also have protected workers from environmental hazards, improved early detection and control systems for breast cancer and cervical cancer, recommended fortification of foods with folic acid to prevent birth defects, and conducted research to identify potential dangers of airbags to infants.

Now, more than ever, public health programs and services are needed to ensure the best possible health for everyone. Providing safe living and work environments, developing methods to immunize populations against infectious diseases, and maintaining

good prenatal care for expectant mothers are vital endeavors. Prevention measures and interventions can mean the difference not only between life and death but also in the quality of life.

In meeting these challenges, we will work closely with our traditional partners—local and state health departments, departments of education, voluntary and professional organizations, partnerships with churches, schools, and businesses. CDC brings to these partnerships a comprehensive, systematic approach to health promotion and disease prevention and expertise in laboratory science, epidemiology, surveillance, infectious disease control, environmental and occupational safeguards, and quality assurance.

The anniversary is a milestone for our Nation. It is a sobering reminder of the challenges we face as we enter the 21st century, when, clearly, public health will be a global concern. Increased disruption to the tropical environment will result in diseases that are no longer contained in a localized habitat but, rather, migrate with their human hosts to cities and neighboring continents. The mobility of people, through air travel, natural disaster, or civil war, is reshaping the routes of infection and the course of epidemics.

Our work and that of our partners during CDC's first 50 years has contributed to powerful scientific discovery and momentous public health achievements that have improved health throughout the world. As we review our past accomplishments, we are proud. As we look forward to our exciting future, we are energized.

CDC's 50th Anniversary Celebration is an excellent opportunity to reinforce our commitment to our vision, "Healthy People in the Healthy World Through Prevention".

CDC'S 50 YEARS OF PREVENTION EFFORTS SHOULD BE COMMENDED

HON. RICHARD J. DURBIN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 1996

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. Speaker, on July 1, our Nation's preventive health agency, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC], will turn 50. As a strong proponent of prevention strategies to enhance public health in the United States, I would like to commend the CDC for its prevention efforts. As co-chairman of the Congressional Task Force on Tobacco and Health, I would like to specifically acknowledge CDC's efforts to lead and coordinate strategic activities that prevent tobacco use.

For example, CDC has worked extensively to reduce teen access to tobacco and the appeal of tobacco among young people, reduce exposure to secondhand smoke, strengthen and expand the scientific foundation of tobacco control and prevention, and build the capacity of States and organizations to conduct tobacco control programs.

CDC has also served as a primary resource for tobacco and health information to educate

the public and specific segments of the population about the hazards of tobacco use. In addition, it has worked closely with partners to ensure a strong tobacco use prevention network.

In recognition of this significant 50-year milestone, I would also like to commend CDC for its outstanding efforts to protect women's health through preventive health services, research, and surveillance and for its important research and surveillance activities for preventing HIV/AIDS.

I congratulate the agency and its dedicated workforce, and I look forward to another 50 years of outstanding work to enhance the health of the American people.

A TRIBUTE TO ED POSHARD

HON. GLENN POSHARD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 1996

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to my brother Ed Poshard who is retiring on July 31 after 36 years of service with State Farm Insurance Co.

Throughout my entire life, my brother has been a great inspiration to me, having given me the benefit of his love and wisdom since I was a small boy. I could not begin to count the benefits that have accrued to me over my lifetime as a result of my brother's influence on my life.

Some of my earliest memories as a child was Ed getting up at 4 a.m., still in his teens, packing a lunch bucket and heading out over ice slickened roads to work in the oil fields. Whatever money he made, he shared with the family, especially with my sister Jolene and me, who were still young and in school. Going into Norris City with him every Saturday morning, getting a burr haircut at Will Harlow's barber shop, and washing his car, always washing his car, for his Saturday night date were some of the highlights of my youth. He was my big brother who I always looked up to and was always proud of.

He finished high school, went to college while he was still in the Army, sent pictures to our home of far away places, told me in every letter to get a good education, and fueled my own dreams of learning and contributing to my fellow man.

But more than the dreams he inspired and the encouragement he gave and the wisdom he shared there was something else he gave me that only had to be observed. It's called work ethic and it's a little out of vogue today. But not with my brother. Ed has worked hard at everything he's done. He's worked hard at being a good husband, a good father, a good son, and a good brother. And for the folks in this room, he's worked really hard at being a good insurance agent. In fact, my brother isn't just a good insurance agent, he's a great one. He has lived and breathed and loved his work in a way few people ever do. After his family,

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

his first love has always been selling insurance. Late at night, early in the morning, anywhere or anytime a customer had a need, my brother would find a way to get there first and make the sale. He never sold them more than they required and he never misrepresented what they were getting. He worked hard to get their business, he was honest, and people came back. He built trust in his family and he built trust in his customers and his life has been successful because of it.

In a very real sense my brother represents the best of what we stand for in this country. The old values. The enduring values. Family, honesty, hard work. I'm proud of him. I'll always be proud of him. I hope his retirement is long and enjoyable and he and Phyllis travel to new and exciting places, watch a lot of fall sunsets over the Shawnee, and have lots of playtime with their grandbabies. He will always have my love and respect. GLENN.

**WATER COMING OUT OF TAPS
MUST BE SAFE FOR CHILDREN
TO DRINK**

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 1996

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, the summer of 1993 taught those of us in southeastern Michigan just how quickly our lakes and rivers can be contaminated and become unsafe. It also taught us that change is permanent and that we will continue to face new challenges. Right now the St. Clair River is being threatened by a proposed discharge into the St. Clair River from a plant in Canada. The proposed discharge would lead to 750 million gallons of contaminated water with nearly 100 chemical combinations being released into the very river from which many of us get our drinking water.

I am working to stop this discharge from happening. While I hope it can be prevented, our communities must be able to access up-to-date drinking water standards, know the best available treatment technology and have the tools they need to construct proper drinking water treatment facilities. An improved Safe Drinking Water Act will go a long way toward providing that information and those tools. Further, it will allow every parent to know exactly what is in the water coming out of their taps before they pour a glass for their children.

It has been said that water is the key to life. Human beings should drink eight glasses of water a day according to the American Dietetic Association, but for Americans to stay healthy their water must be healthy. We cannot afford to have our drinking water contaminated with parasites like cryptosporidium which caused the death of 104 people in Milwaukee 3 years ago.

That is why it is important for Congress to renew the commitment we made some 20 years ago to ensure that the water coming out of our taps is safe to drink. By passing legislation to update the Safe Drinking Water Act, I believe we took a positive step toward renewing that commitment.

The bill passed is not perfect—and there are some parts of it I disagree with—but it will ensure the public's right to know within 24 hours that contaminants have been discovered

in their drinking water. It will for the first time give us drinking water standards for arsenic, radon and sulfate. It will give our local communities the tools they need to build proper drinking water treatment facilities. Perhaps most importantly, it will continue the landmark commitment made in 1974 when Congress first enacted the Safe Drinking Water Act.

For those of us in Macomb and St. Clair Counties, these are critical, commonsense protections which will help us know when excessive sewage discharges are made into the Clinton River and Lake St. Clair. We will know toxins are released into the St. Clair River and our down-river communities will know within 24 hours if they should shut off their water intake pipes.

The passage of this bill reminds us that our environment, the health and safety of our children, the water we drink and the air we breathe ought not to be partisan, divisive issues. There can be no cost-benefit analysis, regulatory reform, state flexibility or risk assessment which can determine the price of a healthy child or the value of a safe workplace to our community. We can never forget: we don't just inherit this land and water from our parents—we borrow it from our children. If we continue to do the right thing and adopt common-sense environmental protections like the Safe Drinking Water Act, we will give them a future of which we can all be proud.

**ADD CARRIER COMPETITION TO
PASSENGER AIR ROUTES BE-
TWEEN PAGO PAGO, AMERICAN
SAMOA AND HAWAII**

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 1996

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation which will add carrier competition to the passenger air routes between Pago Pago, American Samoa and Honolulu, HI.

Mr. Speaker, the experience of the people in the territory I represent is a good example of the difficulties we Pacific Islanders face in establishing regular and reliable air transportation at a reasonable rate for passengers, vital cargo, and mail.

American Samoa is comprised of a remote group of islands located in the South Pacific Ocean. The territory is approximately 2,200 miles from the closest State in the United States, which is the State of Hawaii. With millions of square miles of open ocean surrounding our islands, air transport is not simply a faster way for travelers to get from point to point, it is often the sole and only feasible means to bridge our isolation.

Because American Samoa is a remote destination, the U.S. Department of Transportation, in an effort to assure at least minimal air service, designated Pago Pago, American Samoa as an EAS—essential air service—community on October 26, 1979. This designation recognizes that American Samoa is a remote location in need of air service on a regular basis to ensure that certain necessities are available.

The U.S. Postal Service averages between 27,000 and 30,000 pounds of mail per week for local residents. Among other vital cargo

carried on this route are medical supplies such as Hepatitis B serum, hemodialysis supplies, insulin, samples requiring laboratory testing, and blood packs for rare blood types. Because ocean shipping can take up to 2 months, perishable food items such as bread, vegetables, dairy products, and meat must come in by air.

Currently, there is only one airline providing service between American Samoa and Honolulu. This airline reported an operating profit of 50 percent on the route for 1995, by comparison, an operating profit of 10 percent is considered good on other domestic routes. The American Samoa Government has tried for years to attract a second air carrier to the route, but history has shown that our market can only support one carrier at a time. After looking at the route, each potential carrier has determined that there is insufficient passenger traffic for two airlines and each has declined to enter the market.

This scenario provides the sole air carrier with a virtual monopoly and affords the carrier the opportunity to charge excessive rates.

The legislation I am introducing today, if enacted into law, will direct the Secretary of Transportation to solicit proposals from air carriers which are willing to provide a certain minimum level of service between American Samoa and Honolulu. The figures show that the route can be self-sustaining and does not require a subsidy when served by a single carrier. Based on the proposals received, the Secretary will, in consultation with the Governor of American Samoa, select one carrier to provide the service. The award of the air service route will be for a period not to exceed 2 years, and may be renewed.

American Samoa's economy has been hampered and our people have been inconvenienced for too long because of the lack of adequate air service to connect us to the national air transport system. I believe that this legislation will inject competition into this limited market, and I look forward to seeing this bill enacted into law.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY, CENTERS FOR
DISEASE CONTROL (C.D.C.)**

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 1996

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, on July 1, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC] will celebrate its 50th anniversary. This is an important celebration for the agency, of its own signal achievements over this half-century, but it is also a time for all of us to celebrate the contributions of this small agency to public health in America and worldwide.

Unlike many other excellent health institutions, such as the National Cancer Institute or the Food and Drug Administration, CDC is only infrequently in the limelight. But it is that very fact which provides confidence, for the lack of CDC headlines means that we are not facing a crisis requiring urgent expert action. When we do not hear about the epidemiologists, worker safety specialists, immunization gurus, laboratory scientists, and infectious disease experts of CDC, it is because they are doing quietly and efficiently what they have done every day for the last 50 years—protecting the public health.