

It should be known that this tragedy has not been forgotten thanks to the efforts of some very special people. I would like to recognize my constituent and friend, Rabbi Avi Weiss and his organization AMCHA, the Coalition for Jewish Concerns, who have worked tirelessly to ensure that justice is carried out. Members of his organization will be participating in vigils simultaneously in New York and Buenos Aires today at 8:53 a.m. in remembrance of this tragedy.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my prayers for the victims of the Buenos Aires bombing and offer heartfelt condolences to their family members who survived them. At the same time, I call upon my colleagues to urge the Government of Argentina to reinvigorate its efforts at seeing the terrorists brought to justice.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ECONOMIC EQUITY ACT OF 1996

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 1996

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I am pleased to be an original sponsor of the Economic Equity Act of 1996 [EEA]. Three of my bills are included within this omnibus bill.

The first bill, included in title I of the EEA is the Federal Employees Fairness Act (H.R. 2133), will revise and improve the process for Federal employees to file employment discrimination complaints. Employees would have 180 days in which to file a discrimination complaint, and the Equal Opportunity Commission—rather than the accused agency—would be required to investigate the complaint within strict time limits. The bill also encourages sanctions to be levied against employees found guilty of discriminatory behavior.

The Equal Surety Bond Opportunity Act [ESBOA] is included within title II of the EEA, which addresses issues of economic opportunity. This title will help qualified women and minority-owned businesses to compete in the contracting business by helping them obtain adequate surety bonding.

It will create an environment in which small business firms, particularly those owned and controlled by minorities and women, can successfully obtain adequate surety bonding. This legislation will enable us to ferret out continuing biases in the industry. Whatever these prejudices may be, getting rid of them will open up the industry, creating entrepreneurial and employment opportunities and making the industry more competitive. I urge my colleagues to support this bill and help abolish the artificial impediments to the development and survival of emerging small businesses.

The last bill that I introduced this June and which is included in the EEA is the Work and Family Parental Equity Leave Act will ensure that employees who choose to care for a foster child or adopt a child will benefit from the same leave policy as their coworkers who are birth parents. This bill does not mandate that employers provide leave benefits beyond existing law, but rather that if they choose to provide such benefits they do so for all parents equitably.

IN HONOR OF THE MONK FAMILY REUNION

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 1996

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, This July, the Monk family of New Haven hosts a reunion and weekend of events worthy of this exceptional family. They are celebrating their rich family history and the musical, athletic, and civic contributions of family members to the city of New Haven and the rest of the Nation. On Sunday, July 21, 1996 they will be commemorating their family's numerous achievements with a family parade. The will also be celebrating the 33rd Anniversary of the Monk Singers. I am delighted to rise today to salute and celebrate the Monk family.

The Monk family history is truly extraordinary. Family members have carefully documented the many branches of this extended family tree and have been able to identify a history that spans the continents of Africa, Europe, and North America. Pamela Monk Kelley, carrying on the work so important to her father, the late Conley F. Monk Sr., has painstakingly recorded a detailed history. She has included documentation of the links between the Monk and Cole families and outlined the Black, White, and Native American ancestry. This labor of love is a testament to the Monk family's dedication to preserving their history for future generations.

The Monk family has produced some remarkable individuals. Thelonius Monk, Jr. was born in 1917 and became a famous musician in the early 1940's. He pioneered the genre of music known as bebop, a revolutionary form of jazz. Indeed, his innovations have shaped the direction of jazz music for years. Outstanding talent in the Monk family is not limited to music but extends to athletics as well. Art Monk played for the Washington Redskins for 14 years before moving to the New York Jets. He played in four Super Bowls and broke the National Football League record for receiving passes.

Just as important as the Monk family's contributions to music and sports is their deep commitment to the communities in which they live. Conley F. Monk Sr., and his wife Olivia raised their own 9 children and also cared for over 45 foster children. Their children continue to carry on this tradition of caring for the community. Conley F. Monk, Jr. initiated, developed, and saw to the final completion of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Monument on Long Wharf in New Haven, CT.

The Monk family teaches us a lesson about the connections between people, about endless family ties that bring us closer together. They embody the idea that the true meaning of family is knowing we are part of something greater, something larger than ourselves. I am proud to join the people of the city of New Haven in honoring this great family.

STANDING UP FOR OUR NATION'S CHILDREN

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 1996

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to join me in standing up for those who cannot stand up for themselves—our Nation's children.

Much of this Congress has focused upon strengthening the American family. Family Values have been the centerpiece of much of the legislation that we have considered in these 2 years. Welfare reform should be the opportunity for us to truly demonstrate how much we value our children and our families. Today, as leaders, we can ensure that all children grow up with a roof over their heads, food to eat, and medical care should they become sick. Instead, we are faced with a mean-spirited proposal intent on punishing children for being poor.

The GOP bill does not require work and encourage financial independence; instead it singles out children, the poor, the disabled, the elderly, and legal, taxpaying immigrants and punishes them for needing a helping hand. A recent GAO report expects that at least 1 million children to be forced to live in poverty should this bill pass. Yet we will continue to subsidize wealthy corporations, helping them to grow and prosper while our children will be starving and suffering.

In an era when the richer are getting richer I find it unconscionable that we should support such legislation. In the last decade, the richest 1 percent increased their share of the Nation's wealth to 47.2 percent, while the bottom 90 percent saw their share of pie shrink to 22.7 percent.

The Republican Party's panacea for our budget troubles is known as the block grant. The fact of the matter is, Mr. Speaker, that if you are a small State with a struggling economy, block grants are a death sentence. A block grant does not reward who does the most, it rewards those who do the least. States like Rhode Island will be left to battle for funds to offer the most meager care and services and the casualties will be those in need will be left to fighting over the scraps.

Republican block grants replace and entitlement system with a lottery system. Our rights as American citizens will depend on whether we live in a State with a good economy and a low level of need. There is nothing subtle about what they are really doing when the talk about "block grants" in the same breath as "States' Rights." And our answer should be no different than it has always been, and that is: Justice should not depend on geography.

My State of Rhode Island boasts a myriad of immigrants who work hard every day, struggle to make ends meet and raise their families just like American citizens. And just like our citizens, they stumble upon hard times when a factory closes or the economy slows. By denying these individuals a helping hand in their time of need, simply because they are not American, we are rejecting the very principles this Nation was founded upon—equality, freedom, and opportunity. We are essentially demoting immigrants to second-class citizens by prohibiting them from accepting help from the system to which they contribute to every day.

If we really believe in family values, then let us do a better job of valuing our families. Let us continue the Democratic fight for what families value: job opportunities, health care, child care, and housing for everyone—not just a select few.

GREAT LAKES, GREAT FISHING

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 1996

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, sportfishing is already an extremely popular activity in Michigan. In 1994, over 884,000 fishing licenses were issued and there were almost 900,000 boaters—the largest number of boaters in any State in the entire country. 1995 was an exciting year for many Michigan sports fishermen because we set three new records. The largest Longnose Gare, Mooneye, Red ear sunfish were all caught in Michigan last year. Furthermore, one new record has already been set for 1996. A 4 pound 2 ounce Gizzard Shad was caught on Lake St. Clair on May 12.

With such a positive experience, it should be no surprise that the In-Fisherman Professional Walleye Trail anglers are holding the Lubrimatic/Stren Eastern Pro-Am tournament today through Saturday on Saginaw Bay and into Lake Huron, with its headquarters in AuGress, in my congressional district. One hundred and thirty professional anglers will be joined by amateurs as they compete over 1,300 square miles to catch the biggest walleyes they can. This is a regional tournament leading to the national championship this September in Bismark, ND.

Sportsmen are among the best environmentalists we will ever find. They know the importance of the maintenance of habitat and good management practices. In fact, in 1979 fishing groups joined with local governments to form a Saginaw Bay Consortium to raise and stock Saginaw Bay. The Saginaw Bay Walleye Club and the National Guard Construction Battalion built points and upgraded abandoned sewage treatment plants. They raised walleyes, having planted more than 1 million in the early to mid 1980's. Later they were joined by Arenac, Huron, and Losco counties in raising more fingerlings, so that now about 750,000 walleyes are stocked every other year, and northern pike are raised in the intervening year.

Many people think of Michigan as the car State. As proud as we are of our auto industry, we are equally proud of the marvelous recreational and tourism opportunities offered throughout our state. In fact, I have more shore line in my congressional district than is contained in most other States, including many coastal States.

Blue skies, blue waters, great scenery, great people, and great fishing. This is what the anglers at the In-Fisherman Professional Walleye Trail are experiencing right now, and this is what is waiting for anyone who visits the Great Lakes State, Michigan. I welcome all of our visitors, and invite many, many more.

SUPPORT A LOAN GUARANTEE FOR THE OLIVENHAIN WATER STORAGE PROJECT

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 1996

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that will help north San Diego County meet its water needs in the event of an emergency and also encourage the Federal Government to shift its role from that of planner and builder of expensive western water projects to the more cost-effective role of being a facilitator and partner in regional efforts to solve regional problems. My legislation will authorize the Secretary of Interior to provide a Federal loan guarantee to the developer of the Olivenhain Water Storage Project, a project currently being planned by the Olivenhain Municipal Water District in my district of north San Diego County.

The Olivenhain Water Storage Project is a critical part of the effort to increase the independence and economic stability of north San Diego County. Currently, the north county is almost 100 percent dependent on imported water from northern California and the Colorado River to meet its residential, industrial, and agricultural/horticultural needs. Potential drought conditions, environmental needs at the source, and demand elsewhere in the State all contribute to a rapidly rising cost of imported water, the cost of water to north San Diego County has risen 55 percent in the last 5 years. Additionally, an earthquake along any one of the three major faults underlying the pipelines that bring imported water to San Diego County could cut off water supply to the region for up to 2 months. The residents of north county must be assured that water will be available should a natural disaster occur.

The Olivenhain Water Storage Project will provide emergency water supplies for over 1 million people, including those living in the cities of Oceanside, Carlsbad, Solana Beach, Encinitas, and San Marcos, as well as portions of the city of San Diego. The San Diego County Water Authority supports my legislation, as they recognize that the lack of emergency water storage in San Diego County must be addressed immediately. A copy of their letter of endorsement is attached at the end of this statement.

The project is fully permitted after going through more than 10 years of environmental review. Working together with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, a biological resource management plan has been developed that will enhance regional habitat preservation while also providing 17 miles of nature, hiking and bicycle trails to the community.

The proposed loan guarantee program reflects the changing role played by the Federal Government in developing water projects in the West. Rather than having the Federal Government contribute funds, construct the project and control its management, the loan guarantee program allows the Government to leverage its limited funds to allow for cost-effective private financing alternatives and encourages public-private partnerships in the building and operation of the project. This limited Federal participation in the financing of water infrastructure projects allows the project developers to secure private loans at rates

that are competitive with municipal tax-exempt financing, while preserving the limited bonding capacity of local governments for other crucial community needs like public safety and schools.

The Olivenhain Municipal Water District is considering the possibility of utilizing a public-private partnership such as I have described for the development of the Olivenhain Water Storage Project. Under this scenario, the district would competitively select a private partner to build and finance the project, which would then be leased back to the district. No Federal taxpayer funds would be involved in the financing of the project, and the local ratepayers will benefit from the cost-efficient construction and management of the project.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that the costs of complying with the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Clean Water Act will be nearly \$200 billion in the next 15 years. Neither local governments nor the Federal Government have the unlimited resources necessary to meet these costs. However, through a loan guarantee program such as the one that will be demonstrated under this legislation, limited Federal resources can be the catalyst for the development of private capital to meet these needs.

There have already been congressional hearings on legislation to create a loan guarantee program—April 18, 1996. Opposition to that legislation (H.R. 2781) centered around the potential exposure of the Federal Government to a loan default and the elimination of the existing direct lending program at the Bureau of Reclamation. This new bill addresses those concerns by: First, limiting the loan guarantee authority to the development of one project; second, requiring that project developers secure any loans guaranteed by the Government; and third, allowing the existing loan program to remain unaffected by this new proposal.

The Overseas Private Investment Corporation provides tens of millions of loan guarantees for the private development of water infrastructure in foreign countries. Shouldn't we afford our own communities in the United States with the same opportunities for competitive infrastructure development?

My legislation will demonstrate that loan guarantees provide a cost-effective alternative for Federal assistance in financing water infrastructure development. I urge my colleagues to support this measure. I have attached a letter of support from the San Diego County Water Authority.

SAN DIEGO COUNTY
WATER AUTHORITY,
San Diego, CA, May 20, 1996.

Re support of Government loan guarantee for water storage project in San Diego County.

Hon. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM,
Congress of the United States, Cannon House
Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN CUNNINGHAM: The San Diego County Water Authority has been working diligently to complete an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) under CEQA and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) under NEPA for emergency storage in San Diego County. Currently four alternatives are under consideration. The Water Authority staff expects the Board of Directors to select a preferred alternative and certify the EIR in July 1996. Certification of the EIS and granting of a 404 Permit by the Corps of Engineers would occur months later.