

In 1985, Albert Boscov, the owner of Boscov's Department in downtown Wilkes-Barre became interested in renovating the theater. Mr. Boscov had a dream of turning the theater into a centerpiece performing arts center which would host local and national talent. He began a fund-raising campaign which in a little over a year and half raised \$4.3 million from thousands of members of the community, in large and small contributions. A major benefactor of the project was F.M. Kirby II, the son of the cofounder of the Woolworth's Department Store chain. In March of 1986 work was underway on what was to become the F.M. Kirby Center for the Performing Arts. In September 1986, the theater hosted opening night with a gala performance attended by local dignitaries and community leaders.

Mr. Speaker, the 10 years since that opening night have had many high and low points. Like most artistic institutions in our country, the members of the Kirby Center board have endured some economic hardship. In response to diminishing funding for the arts, patron memberships were established and the board of directors forged a profitable alliance with local business leaders to make the center a vibrant and active facility.

Demonstrating its commitment to the Wyoming Valley community, the center provides quality entertainment to over 15,000 school children a year. The center underwrites ticket costs to children's social service agencies and each year introduces a new class of children to the wonders of the arts through its International Children's Theater Festival which draws thousands of children to experience this spectacular event.

As the home of the Northeast Philharmonic Orchestra to its hosting of ballet, Broadway and Sesame Street Live, the Kirby Center has become the center for cultural activity in northeastern Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, the entire community of the Wyoming Valley owes a debt to Mr. Al Boscov and Mr. Fred Kirby for their financial generosity and visionary thinking. They are responsible for taking a forlorn theater and converting it into the vibrant arts center it is today. They believed in the promise of downtown Wilkes-Barre and its long-term economic growth. I am proud to join in the tribute to these outstanding community leaders and to be part of this anniversary celebration.

CAMDEN CITY POLICE

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 1996

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring a group of citizens that glorify the State of New Jersey. On May 14 of this year the city of Camden held its' police awards banquet. The event recognized citizens and police officers that went beyond the call of duty in their particular areas of service. While I have formerly acknowledged some of these individuals, due to a clerical error certain police officers were not mentioned by name. Therefore, I would like to highlight these officers who protect our communities and place our lives before their own. Their dedication and service to the people enables us to live in safety. Moreover, their example serves as a model for all citizens.

The following Rutgers University Police should be recognized for their meritorious service: Capt. Guy Still; Lt. Edmund Johnson; Sgt. Michael Amorim; Sgt. Louis Capelli; Officer John Denmark; Officer William Singleton; Officer Lynn Vrooman; Officer Tracy McGriff; and Officer William Princiotta.

The following officers were killed in the line of duty: Officer George F. Jefferis (1951); Sgt. Carmin Fuscillaro (1961); Officer George Schultz (1969); Officer Charles Sutman (1969); Officer Rand Chandler (1969); Officer Elwood Ridge (1973); and Officer Stuart Roberts (1975).

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL INDIAN EDUCATION BONDING AUTHORITY PILOT PROJECT ACT OF 1996

HON. TIM JOHNSON

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 1996

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing legislation to establish an innovative funding mechanism to enhance the ability of Indian tribes to construct, repair, and maintain quality educational facilities. Representatives from tribal schools in my State of South Dakota have been working with tribes nationwide to develop an initiative which I believe will be a positive first step toward addressing the serious crisis we are facing in Indian education. The National Indian Education Bonding Authority Pilot Project Act is currently in draft form. I am introducing this legislation at this stage to begin dialog and debate among my colleagues on this important funding initiative.

Mr. Speaker, 56 percent of the American Indian population in this country is age 24 or younger. Consequently, the need for improved educational programs and facilities, and for training the American Indian workforce is pressing. American Indians have been, and continue to be, disproportionately affected by both poverty and low educational achievement. The high school completion rate for Indian people aged 20 to 24 was 12.5 percent below the national average. American Indian students, on average, have scored far lower on the National Assessment for Education Progress indicators than all other students. In 1994, the combined average score for Indian students on the Scholastic Achievement Test was 65 points lower than the average for all students. These statistics reflect the continued neglect of America's underserved Indian student population and are unacceptable.

By ignoring the most fundamental aspect of education; that is, safe, quality educational facilities, there is little hope of breaking the cycle of low educational achievement, and the unemployment and poverty that result from neglected academic potential.

The National Indian Education Bonding Authority Pilot Project Act establishes a bonding authority to use existing tribal education funds for bonds in the municipal finance market which currently serves local governments across the Nation. Instead of funding construction projects directly, these existing funds will be leveraged through bonds to fund substantially more tribal school construction, maintenance and repair projects.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs estimates the tribal school construction and repair backlog at \$850 million. Confounding this backlog, inflation and facility deterioration increases this amount by an estimated \$80 million per year. The administration's school construction request for fiscal year 1997 was \$23 million, and the House-passed level was a mere \$21 million. In this budgetary climate, I believe every avenue for efficiently stretching the Federal dollar should be explored.

Tribal schools in my State and around the country address the unique learning needs and styles of Indian students, with sensitivity to Native cultures, ultimately promoting higher academic achievement. There are strong historical and moral reasons for continued support of tribal schools. In keeping with our special trust responsibility to sovereign Indian nations, we need to promote the self-determination and self-sufficiency of Indian communities. Education is absolutely vital to this effort. Allowing the continued deterioration and decay of tribal schools through lack of funding would violate the Government's commitment and responsibility to Indian nations and only slow the progress of self-sufficiency.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to closely examine the National Indian Education Bonding Authority Pilot Project Act and join me in working to make this innovative funding mechanism a reality.

CONGRATULATING THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON ITS 85TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ENI F.H. FALCOMAVEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 1996

Mr. FALCOMAVEGA. Mr. Speaker, on the eve of the Republic of China's 85th anniversary—this October 10, 1996—I wish to congratulate Taiwan for the outstanding accomplishments of this thriving and vibrant democracy of 21 million people.

Taiwan is one of the world's most compelling economic success stories, rising from World War II's destructiveness to become a global trading power with foreign exchange reserves today second only to Japan. Taiwan must also be commended for its significant progress toward democratization, which came to full bloom this year with Taiwan's first Presidential elections. These historic elections were conducted democratically and peacefully, despite the threats and provocations issued by the People's Republic of China.

In light of these achievements, Taiwan deserves not only our admiration, but support for Taiwan's drive for greater participation in the affairs of the international community. Taiwan's aspirations to be an active member of international organizations of the world community are well-founded. It has all the necessary qualifications: a sound political system, a much-admired world-class economy, and a genuine desire to maintain peace and stability in East Asia, and around the globe.

As noted recently by Taiwan's chief representative to Washington, Dr. Jason Hu, Taiwan's people only seek to receive fair treatment with dignity in the international community. The goal of participation within the global community of governments is, in my opinion, not the same as seeking independence.

On this 85th anniversary celebration for Taiwan, I would urge our colleagues to call upon the world's governments and international organizations to open their doors to Taiwan and extend upgraded ties to this most deserving friend and democracy.

GREECE: A VITAL ALLY IN THE BALKANS AND THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 1996

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to include in the RECORD some recent remarks of mine on the topic of Greece: A vital ally in the Balkans and the Eastern Mediterranean. The text follows:

GREECE: A VITAL ALLY IN THE BALKANS AND THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

THE IMPORTANCE OF UNITED STATES RELATIONS WITH GREECE

The civilization of ancient Greece has shaped the New World. Our democracy, and our highest ideals of citizen participation in public life, follow the Hellenic tradition. Our architecture, our arts and sciences, and the names of towns large and small across the breadth of the continent bear witness to Greece's profound influence on the American experience.

The historical legacy is great, but I also would like to speak of the importance of Greece today: the importance of strong United States relations with our friend, partner, and ally—the people and government of Greece.

A STABLE AND DEMOCRATIC GREECE

If you consider the Balkans and the Eastern Mediterranean today, you see a wide swath of instability, the result of several unresolved ethnic and national questions:

Intercommunal violence and the division of Cyprus continue; the peace process in Bosnia is at a critical stage; Albanian populations present a challenge to current governments in the former Yugoslavia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM); and Turkey is troubled by political instability and a new Islamic-led government that seems to be turning eastward.

In this uncertain environment of the southern Balkans, Greece stands out as a stable, democratic nation.

Greece's geography, as well as its long history of security cooperation with the United States and NATO, gives it a unique role to play.

The smooth transition from the Papandreu government to that of Prime Minister Costas Simitis underscores Greece's stability.

Greece is headed for another political transition now that Prime Minister Simitis has won re-election and will begin a full term as head of government. I am confident that the United States will be able to forge close working ties with him and his government.

THE GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONSHIP

Greek Prime Minister Simitis is to be commended for the peaceful resolution of the confrontation with Turkey over the Imia rocks in the Aegean earlier this year. His clear, stated desire to improve Greece's relations with all its neighbors and its European Union partners is encouraging. Once again Greece is demonstrating that it is taking steps to enhance peace and security in its part of the world.

I am also pleased that two months ago Greece agreed to lift its hold on a \$4.3 billion European Union (EU) aid package to several African and Middle East states, including Turkey.

Greece retains its hold on a \$490 million EU aid package for Turkey designed to help the Turks adjust to the demands of the EU-Turkey customs union.

GREECE'S SPECIAL CONCERNS

A sound U.S. policy in southeastern Europe must take into account Greece's special concerns and sensitivities.

The principle elements of good relations in this part of the world must be respect for international borders and respect for minority rights. In the absence of these two, there will be no stability.

We cannot contribute to political stability elsewhere in southeastern Europe and the eastern Mediterranean region if we contribute to political problems in Greece. In other words, we cannot resolve problems in Turkey, the FYROM, Albania or Cyprus at Greece's expense. In this regard, the United States has a special interest in ensuring the human rights of the Greek minority in Albania.

The United States also wants to ensure the rights of, and respect for, the important seat of the Ecumenical Patriarch of the Orthodox Church in Istanbul. The Patriarch is the spiritual leader of 260 million Orthodox Christians.

INSTABILITY IN TURKEY

This country, as well as Greece and our other NATO allies, are justifiably concerned by the political instability in Turkey. On July 8, the Turkish Parliament endorsed the coalition government led by Islamic Welfare Party leader Necmettin Erbakan.

This coalition includes the right-of-center True Path Party led by former Prime Minister and current Foreign Minister, Tansu Ciller.

This marks the first time in the 73-year history of the Turkish Republic that it is headed by an avowed Islamic, instead of secular, leader. The Welfare party and its leader, Erbakan, have taken a populist, anti-western and anti-NATO position on several key issues.

Regardless of the leadership in Turkey, it is in the national interests of Greece and the U.S. to keep Turkey firmly rooted in the western security alliance.

In a hopeful sign, Erbakan initially allayed U.S. and western concerns about the nature of his government. Contrary to his campaign rhetoric, he reaffirmed Turkey's status as a democratic, secular state as well as its links to NATO and the west. His Welfare Party also reversed its previous position and agreed in July in a parliamentary vote to extend the mandate of the U.S.-led Operation Provide Comfort in northern Iraq until the end of the year.

These are positive sighs. But there remain many tests ahead.

In Iraq, Saddam Hussein's invasion of Irbil, and the success of his Kurdish partner Massoud Barzani against a rival Kurdish faction, place great stress on U.S.-Turkish ties. Turkey supported U.S. military action against Iraq, but U.S. planes based in Turkey did not participate in that military action. Turkey wants to resume normal commerce and normal relations with Iraq, but the United States wants to keep Turkey part of the coalition to contain Iraqi aggression.

In southeastern Turkey, the government's attempt to stamp out an insurgency with military force is causing great hardship, and by all account appears counterproductive. The Turkish government needs to pursue a political solution that respects the rights of Kurdish citizens of Turkey if it is to defeat

the terrorist challenge of the Kurdish Worker's Party (PKK).

In Iran, Prime Minister Erbakan unfortunately has acted upon his campaign promises of closer ties to his eastern Islamic neighbors. Last month, on his first official visit abroad as Prime Minister, Erbakan signed a \$23 billion, long-term agreement to purchase natural gas from Iran.

Turkey is energy short and wanted to reduce its dependence on natural gas for Russia. But this move toward Iran is disturbing. It pushes Turkey toward a broader and more active relationship with Iran, a terrorist nation, just at a time when the U.S. is moving to further isolate that nation.

This new gas deal could also trigger economic sanctions against Turkey as a result of the new Iran-Libya sanctions law.

Greece and the United States must remain vigilant to ensure that Turkey under the leadership of the Welfare Party continues to remain an integral part of the western security alliance.

THE CYPRUS ISSUE—THE YEAR OF CYPRUS

According to former Assistant Secretary of State for Europe, Richard Holbrooke, 1996 was supposed to be the "Year of Cyprus" when the Administration was to make a big push for a negotiated settlement.

Many of us in the Congress applauded this long-awaited initiative to provide active and sustained U.S. leadership in the pursuit of a settlement of the Cyprus dispute.

But the initiative got derailed even before the new year began, with the fall of the Ciller government in Turkey and then the Imia rocks confrontation.

As I understand it, the planned U.S. initiative—if and when it gets off the ground—is more procedural than substantive. The plan is to determine if the political will for a settlement exists among the parties in Cyprus and in Athens and Ankara. If the will exists, the U.S. will begin an intensive round of shuttle diplomacy among the parties.

Substantively, the outlines of a settlement have been on the table for some time—the UN plan for a bi-communal, bi-zonal federation.

EU and UN officials are hopeful that EU accession talks with Cyprus, planned to begin in late 1997 upon completion of the EU's on-going Inter-Governmental Conference, will provide the impetus necessary—both among Greek and Turkish Cypriots—for a comprehensive solution to the Cyprus problem.

RECENT VIOLENCE IN CYPRUS

Unfortunately, the violence in Cyprus southeast of Nicosia this summer which claimed at least four lives darkens the prospects of progress toward peace.

In a press statement of August 14, I condemned the violence on Cyprus—the worst clashes since the Turkish invasion of 1974—and urged all sides to step back from further escalation. I also expressed my deep concern about the fighting between Greek and Turkish Cypriots as well as the use of force by Turkish troops which resulted in the death of two Greek Cypriots and the wounding of 11, including two UN peacekeepers.

It is clear that the current stalemate cannot be allowed to fester. If it does, further violence and escalation is predictable. The tense situation on Cyprus needs concerted and top-level attention and the involvement of the President himself.

Our priorities should be to reduce tensions along the UN buffer zone on the island, reduce the inflow of arms to the island, restart intercommunal peace talks and find a basis for direct Greek Cypriot-Turkish Cypriot talks.

THE ALBRIGHT-BEATTIE TRIP

Prior to the recent round of violence, the Administration had energized its diplomatic