

(Public Law 104-188) by eliminating the principal tax incentive for economic development in Puerto Rico, section 936 of the Internal Revenue Code. While I supported this measure, it was unfortunate that we could not use this opportunity to construct a long-term replacement incentive program, as urged by Puerto Rico Governor Pedro Rossello. I believe it is very important that we return to this subject in the next Congress to build a new long-term economic incentive for Puerto Rico using as its base the new section 30A of the Tax Code, which we established in the small business legislation.

There is consensus that the job creation incentives in section 30A, while a useful start, do not provide the dynamic incentives needed by the 3.7 million American citizens of Puerto Rico to become economically self sufficient, along with Ways and Means Committee Chairman BILL ARCHER, I would like to work with Governor Rossello and other elected leaders of Puerto Rico to develop a sound long-term economic program to achieve this goal.

Although section 936 has been eliminated because its benefits were deemed overly generous in the current budgetary climate, the last chapter for Puerto Rico economic incentives has not been written. I look forward to working in the next Congress toward long-term, effective incentives that foster new investment and create high-quality jobs in Puerto Rico.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM BROWER

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 1996

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to note the recent retirement from the Blade newspaper of Toledoan, William Brower, a well-known veteran journalist of more than 50 years. He became one of the first African-Americans to work for a daily Ohio newspaper. He was officially recognized this year by the National Association of Black Journalists for its Lifetime Achievement Award.

A Wilberforce University graduate, Bill began his journalism career writing for African-American newspapers in Baltimore, Philadelphia, and Richmond, VA. Hired by Toledo's newspaper, the Blade, in 1947, Bill began as a general assignment reporter. Throughout his years with the paper, he held positions covering the police, courthouse, and education beats, and served as an assistant city editor, news editor, and associate editor. His thrice weekly editorial columns covering politics, sports, and topics of interest to African-Americans became a staple of Toledo area news.

In 1951, he was awarded a Pulitzer Prize nomination for a series of stories written after a tour of 20 States on the conditions experienced by black Americans. In 1971, he followed that story with a series, "Black America—20 Years Later," which won him a Robert F. Kennedy Foundation Award.

The National Association of Black Journalists paid tribute to Bill for his "pioneering spirit" and "outstanding leadership in the media industry." The same can be said of his role in our community. Bill Brower and his wife Edna have been groundbreakers, trailblazers, and voices of strength and wisdom in Toledo. Their dedication to one another continues to

be a source of inspiration to us all. His writings have often required us to look at a reflection of ourselves, and in doing so, have moved us to become better people.

No commendation could sum up fully half a century of journalistic achievement. But in honoring his life, the Blade has endorsed independent thought and the advancement of our common heritage as a free people.

ETHNIC TENSIONS CONTINUE IN THE BALKANS

HON. SUSAN MOLINARI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 1996

Ms. MOLINARI. Mr. Speaker, as the international community awaits analysis of last Saturday's Bosnian elections, it is now time to focus the spotlight on the other ethnic conflicts that continue to fester in the Balkans. A lasting peace in the region can never be obtained without a satisfactory resolution of the ethnic tensions there.

With that in mind, I commend the Congressional Human Rights Caucus for holding a briefing last week to report on the situation in Sanjak, a small region of the former Yugoslavia that is bordered on one side by Bosnia and on the other by Kosovo. Testifying at the briefing was Mr. Bajram Omeragic, president of the external board of the Muslim National Council of Sanjak. His statement provides an illuminating discussion of the plight of the Bosniac people of Sanjak, and why they believe the international community must come to their assistance.

TESTIMONY OF MR. BAJRAM OMERAGIC

I.

Mr. Chairman an Distinguished Members of the Caucus. It is an honor for me to testify before you this morning to discuss the problems facing the Bosniac people of Sanjak, a region of former Yugoslavia that has largely been ignored by the international community. We are grateful for the growing interest in Sanjak among Members of the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate.

We have suffered in relative obscurity until now, and you are helping us generate the attention our people deserve and recognition that the intolerable situation we face cannot be prolonged.

II.

On the eve of the elections in Bosnia Saturday, the eyes of America and the world are focused on the Balkans. Regardless of the outcome of the Bosnian elections, the struggle to achieve lasting peace and freedom in the Balkans has just begun. As U.S. mediator Richard Holbrooke said recently, the Bosnia elections do not constitute the end of the game, but rather the beginning of establishing democracy in former Yugoslavia.

Mr. Holbrooke's recognition that the Dayton agreement was incomplete and inadequate implies that there is indeed unfinished business that must be resolved. We agree with Mr. Holbrooke that a new Dayton-type international conference on former Yugoslavia should occur soon after the Bosnian elections to address the wide range of issues that were intentionally left out of last year's agreements.

The "Dayton II" agenda should include resolution of the status of the Sanjak region and other troubling, and potentially dangerous conflicts that must be resolved before lasting peace can be achieved in the Balkans.

As Western powers meet with Balkan leaders at the December London conference, the issue of Sanjak must be on the agenda of unfinished business.

III.

While the world focuses on the Bosnia elections Saturday, there is another election coming up that demands the attention of the international community and world news media.

On November 3, the citizens of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, that is Serbia and Montenegro, will go to the polls to elect federal leaders. In Sanjak, we have decided to participate in the elections.

A boycott by our people would mean that we would have absolutely no opposition voice in federal government decisions. We prefer to fight for change from within.

While we are committed to democratic and fair elections, the Belgrade regime is not. We have evidence that Milosevic is trying to rig the elections in Sanjak in favor of the Serbs. By arbitrarily changing the number of voters comprising an election unit, based on numbers of Serbs in each voting district, Milosevic is trying to steal the election in Sanjak. There are election districts in which 200 Serbs will elect candidates, while similar districts will require 2,000 Bosniacs to elect a candidate. Such undemocratic, unfair and illegal tactics must be exposed. This cynical manipulation of the election process should alarm the U.S. and other democratic nations.

The president of our Council, Dr. Sulkeman Ugljanin, is meeting in Sarajevo this week with Carl Bildt, the international community's representative in former Yugoslavia, to express our outrage at such tactics. We are urgently requesting international election monitors to observe and report on such election irregularities and abuses.

We call on the U.S. Congress to send observers to Sanjak to see for themselves.

IV.

Sanjak is a small region of Yugoslavia, some 8,687 square kilometers, bordered on one side by Bosnia and Kosovo on the other. Two-thirds, or 350,000, of our people are Bosniacs who have historically maintained strong ties to Bosnia.

Throughout its history, Sanjak has been subjected to a deliberate, premeditated campaign of brutality and repression at the hands of the Serbs and Montenegrins. Conditions became much worse since the Milosevic regime unleashed its campaign of terror against non-Serbs and Bosnia exploded into war.

In April 1992, the Bosniac people were expelled from the constitution of Yugoslavia. Bosniacs living near the border were subjected to "ethnic cleansing" even though they lived within Serbia.

Over 60,000 Bosniacs have fled our homeland, dispersed throughout Europe and America;

250 Bosniacs have been killed, kidnapped and/or disappeared;

In the townships of Priboj and Pljevlja, 51 villages have been ethnically cleansed with homes looted and demolished;

317 homes have been destroyed;

Over 17,000 Bosniacs have been subjected to some form of state military-police brutality and terrorism;

During 1993 and 1994, our political leaders, including Mr. Hadzic, were arrested and organized political processes were halted;

An arrest warrant was issued for the President of the Muslim National Council of Sanjak and SDA, when he was going to a peace conference in Geneva; he has been living in exile for three years.

Please allow us to remind you that Sanjak is the only territory in the Federal Republic

of Yugoslavia where citizens do not have freedom of movement. People from Priboj and Pljevlja are forbidden from returning to their villages from which they were expelled.

Many Bosniac citizens have been sacked from their jobs with state companies, leading to a serious humanitarian situation in the country.

V.

I can tell you today that President Ugljanin will return to Sanjak before the end of this month. When he does, we are afraid he could be arrested by Yugoslav authorities. This must not be allowed to happen.

We appeal to Members of the U.S. Congress and parliamentarians around the world who are committed to political freedom and liberty to join us in an unprecedented demonstration of support for democracy. We invite Members of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus to come to Sanjak, to accompany President Ugljanin as he returns, and to lend their opposition to the antidemocratic Yugoslav regime at this critical time.

We encourage U.S. and international journalists to shine the revealing spotlight of media coverage on the Yugoslav autocratic, repressive and undemocratic regime.

We need your help, and we need it now.

VI.

There are other peoples in the Balkans who have suffered tremendous hardships and atrocities, confirmed by dozens of investigations and reports by officials such as Tadeusz Mazowiecki, former U.N. Special Rapporteur for human rights in former Yugoslavia, and his successor, Mrs. Elisabeth Rhen. Reports from the U.N. Human Rights Commission, U.S. State Department, Amnesty International, Helsinki Watch, and many others have documented the Serbian-Montenegrin reign of terror and human rights violations.

In 1991, the Muslim National Council of Sanjak encouraged all young men from Sanjak and other parts of Yugoslavia not to participate in the war in Slovenia and Croatia. We have chosen a path of peaceful resistance to achieve a special status or autonomy within Yugoslavia. So far, the international community has not addressed our problem, in spite of the fact that we have chosen peaceful means to achieve that goal. That is a bad message for the future.

While we accept, if not fully understand, why the Dayton Agreements focused solely on the situation in Bosnia, now is the time to look beyond Bosnia to the range of ethnic problems that will cause continued unrest in the Balkans until they are satisfactorily addressed.

In Dayton, the United States assumed a leadership role toward seeking peace in the Balkans. We applaud that leadership, and ask that you now take the next steps to begin soon after Saturday's elections. On the agenda should be a special status for Sanjak which recognizes the rights and freedoms of our people.

We seek:

Natural equality within former Yugoslavia;
A special status (autonomy) as a mechanism to achieve national equality;

The maintenance of the "outer wall" of sanctions in Serbia-Montenegro until the status of Sanjak is resolved;

Return of the OSCE permanent mission to Sanjak to help establish the necessary conditions for observing elections.

An end to political persecution such as that in Novi Pazar, our capital, where our elected political representatives have no freedom of movement. Their passports have been confiscated by Serbian police, making it impossible for them to travel. They are forced to come to so-called "informative

talks" with the Serb authorities during which they are abused and terrorized.

U.S. pressure on the War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague to charge those who destroyed 51 villages and kidnapped and killed Bosniac people in Sanjak.

VII.

Since 1991, the world has witnessed in the Balkans the worst crimes against humanity since World War II. At the War Crimes Tribunal meeting in The Hague is demonstrating, the overwhelming preponderance of atrocities have been committed by the Serbs, in quest of a "Great Serbia." With the Bosnian elections Saturday a key benchmark in implementation of the Dayton agreement, the future is far from settled.

Indeed, the elections with the expected fraud, manipulation, intimidation and incompleteness will most likely perpetuate the confusion and fall short of moving toward a unified Bosnia.

The Bosnia people of Sanjak have endured a lot, and while we are prepared to negotiate our fate in good faith, we call on the United States of America, the one champion of human rights and political freedom in the world, to come to our aid.

Thank you, again, for providing us this opportunity to appear before you today. We are prepared to respond to your questions.

IN HONOR OF HELEN L. SEVERNS

HON. GLENN POSHARD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 1996

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Helen L. Severns, who passed away May 2, 1996.

Born and raised in Decatur, IL, Helen Severns was a pillar of the community who served in countless ways up to the very day of her passing.

The daughter of the late Russell Waggoner and Goldie Waggoner Watson, Helen Severns was an active member of the Concordia Lutheran Church. She was a tireless volunteer for the Retired Senior Citizen Program, Meals-On-Wheels and other civic groups, including being given a lifetime membership award from the Parent-Teachers Association.

Being a political volunteer was perhaps the most colorful thread she wove into the fabric of her hometown. Helen Severns began her remarkable career when she served as Democratic election judge from 1972 to 1976. She was a precinct committeewoman from 1976 to 1992. She coordinated Macon County for Senator PAUL SIMON, was a member of the Independent Democratic Women's Organization, served as cochair of the Illinois Electoral College in 1992 and represented Illinois as an elector to President Clinton's inauguration in 1993.

Despite all of these lofty achievements, Helen's greatest joy was when her daughter won her first State Senate race. I have been honored to serve in the Illinois State Senate with Senator Penny Severns and to share the responsibility of dealing with the issues important to our many mutual constituents. With Penny and Helen Severns, the apple did not fall far from the tree.

Helen Severns is survived by her husband, Donald, her sons Donald Severns, Jr. and

Rodney Severns, and her daughters Patty Severns Love and Penny Severns. She is dearly missed, but we are comforted by her memory and inspired by her legacy.

LEO BALCER INDUCTED INTO THE MICHIGAN POLKA MUSIC HALL OF FAME

HON. DICK CHRYSLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 1996

Mr. CHRYSLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Leo A. Balcer.

Leo A. Balcer was born in Bay City, MI, in 1932. Keeping with a family tradition of music, Leo became a first-rate accordion player. I am pleased to witness Leo Balcer become the newest member of the Michigan Polka Music Hall of Fame.

From playing with the "Melody Makers" in Bay City St. Stanislaus High School, Leo continued his musical career in the U.S. Air Force in 1952. His dance bands were fabulous entertainment, and were competitive in band contests in the United States and abroad.

After graduating from Michigan State University in 1960, Leo and his family settled in the Lansing area. Soon, Leo and his seven piece band became a cornerstone of the mid-Michigan music scene. Leo has brought joy to thousands of people as he led his band to restaurants, bars, dance clubs, and community events.

Leo's career has not been confined to the United States. Along with performing competitively in Libya while in the Air Force, Leo has performed twice in Austria at the International Polkafest.

I salute the musical accomplishments of Leo Balcer, and commend him for his years of dedicated entertainment to the people of Michigan and around the world. In the words of our Polish forefathers, "gratulacje!"

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA ECONOMIC RECOVERY ACT OF 1996

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 1996

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, this replacement bill contains an amendment which was meant to be incorporated into H.R. 3244, the District of Columbia Economic Recovery Act of 1996. Only because of the rush to get H.R. 3244 in on April 15, 1996, income tax day, was it omitted from the bill. This amendment is not an unusual provision. As is often the case with a bill which strives for particular effects, this amendment provides a mechanism to measure those effects. The primary importance of this amendment is to provide for course corrections, if necessary. Because no bill of this kind has been attempted before, unintended consequences could arise and changes may be needed. The data the Treasury will provide will alert Congress of any need for changes or improvements in the bill based on actual experience.