

experiences emerge a belief in the very real possibility of future peace.

While at the dinner, I had the pleasure of listening to a speech by an extremely insightful, young woman, Saleela Salahuddin, on the ways of the Israeli people. Saleela Salahuddin was the 1995 Youth Ambassador to Israel. I was very moved by this speech, and I am honored to share it with you:

Tonight, I bring you greetings from Maya, who was my host sister in Netanya, Israel, and Roy, who was my host brother in Arad, Israel. As Sabras, proud natives of Israel, they are two bright youths of the admirable community of democracy which defines the nation. Thanks to AIFL, I was enriched by their modernism, patriotic idealism, and the optimism for the future.

"Everyone in Israel goes there," said Maya. "It's a life-changing experience." She was talking about the Wailing Wall. Less than two hours later, I was standing in front of it, remembering her words and realizing how true they were.

There was a combined quality of awe and appreciation when visiting the holy site on the holy day of Shabbat. I approached the wall slowly, briefly pausing by a small wicker basket that held many brightly colored scarves. I took one out and covered my hair, following the example of a few women who had gone ahead of me.

When I laid my hand on the Wailing Wall, I felt its coolness as well as its strength. The large stones sit atop one another with the assurity that defines millennia of heritage. I was experiencing one of the most transforming moments of my life. I realize that as an American Muslim, I was undoubtedly the first person in my family of many generations to be at this very sacred place. The universality of it all struck me. To my right, a young woman wearing blue jeans prayed; to my left, an old woman in a long black dress devotedly swayed in rhythm with her reading from the Torah. And there I was, standing in the middle, praying with them and understanding the "change" that Maya had spoken of. The diversity and unity of the situation, young and old, Jewish and Muslim, left a very strong impact on me. I added a prayer that I had written on a tiny piece of paper to the many that were inserted into cracks in the ancient wall. In it, I had written a message hoping for peace and democracy to prosper in our world.

This moment shall always be with me, and my message shall forever remain in the Wailing Wall.

On behalf of myself, Maya, and Roy, I bid you Shalom.

#### AN ACT TO SAVE AMERICA'S FORESTS

HON. JOHN BRYANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 1996

Mr. BRYANT of Texas. Mr. Speaker, for years I have sought to protect native biodiversity in our forests by ending clearcutting and other forms of even-age logging, and allowing only selection management of Federal forest lands where logging is permitted. Since the 101st Congress, I have sponsored forest biodiversity legislation, and over the years, support for my legislation has grown steadily. In the 103d Congress, 107 Representatives co-sponsored my bill, and 142 voted for a version of it as a floor amendment.

Scientists, however, tell us that banning clearcutting alone is not enough to guarantee

the protection of forest biodiversity on our public lands. It is clear that core areas of pristine forests must be left unlogged altogether, and that these wellsprings of nature should be surrounded by areas where only the most environmentally responsible logging is permitted. In order to direct our forest management agencies to follow these scientific recommendations to protect core areas of biodiversity, I am adding a new title to my bill which will prohibit logging in three categories of Federal forest lands: Northwest ancient forests, roadless areas, and designated special areas.

By adding these new provisions, I believe that my legislation now represents the most complete solution to the deforestation crisis facing our public lands. With this in mind, I have retitled this measure the act to save America's forests.

The Forest Service and other Federal agencies are primarily using the logging techniques of clearcutting and other forms of even-age forestry, despite overwhelming evidence that selection management—cutting individual trees, leaving the canopy and undergrowth relatively undisturbed—is more cost-efficient and is more ecologically sound.

Selection logging is more labor intensive, and therefore creates more jobs for timber workers. It also avoids the high up-front costs of site preparation and replanting required by even-age timber management.

The result of selection logging is a permanent, sustainable supply of high quality timber, and the protection of native biodiversity in the forests. This contrasts with clearcutting's indiscriminate destruction of huge stands of trees, leaving only shrubs and bare ground, leading to erosion, the demineralization of the soil, and allowing the creation of artificial tree farms and extinction of the original native forest in its wake. Wherever we allow logging to occur on our Federal forests, only the selection logging technique should be permitted.

If current plans are followed, the remaining native biodiversity in the approximately 60 million acres available for commercial logging on Federal land will be eliminated and each of those acres transformed into monoculture timber plantations within the next 15 to 20 years.

The legacy of the Forest Service and other Federal agencies' unrestrained use of commercial logging based on even-age logging techniques has left our Federal forests devastated, and has brought countless plant and animal species to the brink of extinction.

The new logging prohibitions contained in my bill are a necessary response to the extraordinarily destructive antienvironmental laws passed by this 104th Congress, especially the timber salvage rider to the fiscal year 1995 rescissions legislation. Under this salvage rider, environmental protection has been suspended. Many northwest ancient forests with trees up to 1,000 years old are being logged, and pristine, roadless, and perfectly healthy forests are now fraudulently being logged as salvage. The salvage rider targeted for clearcutting the very forests that scientists tell us are most urgently in need of protection.

As long as northwest ancient forests and roadless areas remain in the timber base of the Forest Service, and other Federal agencies, these irreplaceable areas are perpetually at risk of being logged and destroyed. It is time to make these magnificent remnants of America's original untouched forests perma-

nently off-limits to logging, protecting them forever from the devastation of any future timber salvage rider, or similarly destructive legislation. My new bill would achieve this.

In the development of a plan for the northwest ancient forests, Forest Service experts and other Federal scientists mapped the ancient forests of the region. These scientists determined no logging should be allowed in many of these ancient forest areas in order to give the ancient forests and their dependent species the highest possibility of survival and recovery. My bill prohibits commercial logging in these northwest ancient forests.

The bill also prohibits commercial logging in roadless areas. Federal roadless areas contain many of the largest unfragmented forests in America and are important reservoirs of our Nation's remaining native biodiversity. I have used the Forest Service's definition of roadless areas in my revised legislation.

My bill also identifies certain Federal forests, call special areas, which may not be roadless areas or northwest ancient forests, but are deserving of protection from commercial logging because of important ecological reasons. Many of these areas also have important cultural, scenic, or recreational qualities, which deserve as much protection as trees and wildlife.

Passage of this legislation will usher in a new era of forest management on our Federal lands, with long-term ecological integrity as the guiding principle.

The public supports environmental protection as never before, and opinion polls express the public's demand that Congress prevent the permanent loss of our Nation's native forests.

I invite every Member to join me in seeking this badly needed forest reform.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 1996

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was absent from the U.S. Congress on Wednesday, September 18, but I was attending a funeral in my home State of Florida.

THE 3.8 MILLION AMERICAN CITIZENS OF PUERTO RICO DESERVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME ECONOMICALLY SOLVENT AND SELF-SUFFICIENT

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 1996

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my concern for our fellow citizens in Puerto Rico, who have been greatly affected by our recent action to eliminate economic development incentives under section 936 of the Internal Revenue Code without providing them with an alternative program. In dealing with important national issues such as the increase on minimum wage we must not ignore the needs of the people of Puerto Rico, my homeland. The 3.8 million American citizens of

Puerto Rico deserve the opportunity to become economically solvent and self-sufficient. We must work hand in hand with the island to develop a sound economic development program that helps achieve those goals. I believe we must consider improvements and expansion of a wage credit for Puerto Rico under existing legislation. I urge my colleagues to give prompt attention to this issue early next year.

IN HONOR OF THE 50TH  
ANNIVERSARY OF WICH RADIO

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 1996*

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of WICH Radio 1310 in Norwich, CT. Known as WNOC at its inception, WICH operates out of 91 Main Street, and transmits from its facilities off of Lucas Park Road in the Second Congressional District. Today, WICH is the hub of a four-station radio system.

While, as we might expect, personalities and formats have changes over the years, WICH has throughout its tenure on our airwaves maintained its commitment to community service. The radio station's history is replete with example of having contributed to the public good of eastern Connecticut.

During times of emergencies natural disasters, and the like, WICH has provided special and exemplary service to its listeners and has most appropriately received several awards for its work.

Since its beginning under the guidance of the late Ross Perkins of Essex, CT, through the extraordinary contributions of Dick Reed, WICH has made extraordinary contributions to the radio industry.

Congratulations to WICH of Norwich on its 50 year anniversary and best wishes for another 50 years of future service and great programming.

WORKING TOGETHER FOR BAY  
CITY: CITIZENS, LABOR, AND  
UNITED WAY

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 1996*

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, in addition to keeping full-time jobs, volunteers spend long tireless hours helping others while in return they are not paid and receive no financial gain. Volunteers selflessly sacrifice their free time. Organizations would not be nearly as effective without volunteers who are essential to the success of achieving their goals.

Today I would like to congratulate and recognize some dedicated volunteers from my hometown of Bay City, MI, whose efforts earned them the Model City in Community Service Award. One of five model cities nationwide, the citizens of Bay City, the United Way, and the Central Labor Council should be proud of their accomplishments. By working together they improved their community and serve as a model for other communities to follow.

Under the capable leadership of Steve Rajewski, labor liaison for the United Way of Bay County and coordinator for community service programs through the United Way of Bay County, the volunteers have provided many valuable services to the community including: union counseling, blood drives, service for retirees, food drives and many other valuable programs aimed to improve the quality of life for citizens of Bay City.

Established in 1991, the AFL-CIO Model City in Community Service Award recognizes outstanding community service activities and programs provided by the AFL-CIO and developed in cooperation with the United Way. The programs are designed to give union members the opportunity to serve, support, and improve human services in their communities.

The selection is based on a detailed survey and application process that focuses on health and human service programs that work in the local communities. Volunteer activities on the boards and committees of the United Way and its member agencies are an important criterion for model city consideration.

The United Way, the Central Labor Council, and citizens of Bay City deserve recognition for their cooperation which resulted in their being honored with this prestigious award. The loyal volunteers represent the spirit of volunteerism and community service which makes our county one of the greatest national in the world. I am proud to be a son and product of the great city and I ask my colleges to join me in wishing the citizens of Bay City a hearty congratulations for a job well done.

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF  
H.R. 2092

HON. MATTHEW G. MARTINEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 1996*

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to join the gentleman from Georgia in support of the Private Security Officer Quality Assurance Act, a bill which we jointly introduced last year. Mr. BARR deserves enormous credit for his diligence, skill, and hard work in bringing this important measure to the floor.

The public deserves the assurance that the security guard they meet in the mall, the bank, or at school is not a felon or a person who has a history of violent behavior. Recently, USA Today printed a story about the tragedies which can occur when inadequate background checks are made—tragedies that involved security guards who committed murder, rape, and theft.

Mr. Speaker, there are now thousands of security companies employing close to 1.8 million guards. The vast majority of these security guards are professionals, many acting heroically in performing their duties. However, right now, we cannot be sure that the security officers that we meet in virtually every facet of our lives are not armed and dangerous.

H.R. 2092 will provide an expedited procedure for State officials to check the backgrounds of applicants for guard licenses. A similar procedure is in place for the banking and parimutuel industries. Currently, it takes up to 18 months to complete background checks in some States. This bill can reduce

that time to the approximately 3 weeks it takes for banks to get results under their expedited process.

H.R. 2092 contains no mandates of any kind. No State or individual is compelled to use it. Fees will be paid by the applicants or their employers. There is no cost to the FBI.

H.R. 2092 has broad support. Most notably, the National Association of Security and Investigative Regulators has endorsed the bill as well as representatives of the guard, alarm, and armored car industries.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is a bipartisan effort which has the support of Members on both sides of the aisle. Security should not be a partisan issue. By establishing an expedited procedure for State regulators of security guards to receive FBI background checks in a timely manner, H.R. 2092 will greatly improve the safety of the public.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this straightforward, modest, and reasonable bill that will improve public safety where ever security guards are present.

HEALING VICTIMS OF TORTURE

HON. JOHN EDWARD PORTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 1996*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, the brutal and violent practice of torture is a critical issue; yet, there is little information on the subject and even less action in the fight against it. For some governments, torture is used as a matter of policy where low-level functionaries carry out high-level orders of state violence. During the mid-1970's, core-Communist countries such as China, Cuba, the Soviet Union and Vietnam relied on torture as a most effective tool against democracy. As recently as 1995, there were 72 governments who systematically implemented the practice of torture.

For victims of torture, however, there is hope. Dr. Inge Genefke is a Danish doctor who has devoted her career to the treatment and rehabilitation of victims of torture. She began her career in this field in 1973 after Amnesty International issued a plea to physicians throughout the world to assist those who had been tortured. As director of both the Rehabilitation and Research Center for Torture Victims and the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims in Copenhagen, Dr. Genefke keeps an impressive schedule speaking in countries where victims of torture are receiving medical attention.

Earlier this year, Dr. Genefke testified before the House International Relations subcommittee on international operations and human rights. Her testimony included basic information on the issue and stressed the need for increased American awareness of torture victims and their struggles. Dr. Genefke believes that through greater understanding and awareness, we can make gains in the fight against torture.

I commend to Member's attention the following column on this remarkable woman by the respected Colman McCarthy which appeared in the Washington Post on September 3, 1996.

[From the Washington Post, Sept. 3, 1996]

FIGHTING TORTURE WITH MEDICINE

(By Colman McCarthy)

As a young physician earning her medical degree from the University of Copenhagen in