

FIRE PREVENTION

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 30, 1996

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, we are continually bombarded by news of disasters in our country. But unfortunately, the disaster that befalls more than 400,000 families each year is fire. While the number of household fires has been reduced, these fires continue to cause more than \$4 billion in damage. According to the National Fire Protection Association, the most frequent cause of household fires is something that seems so simple—careless cooking.

Recognizing this situation exists, the Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers, representing the producers of kitchen ranges and ovens, has stepped forward to create awareness to this issue and focus educational efforts toward reducing the incidence of these needless fires.

The home appliance manufacturers joined with the National Association of State Fire Marshals and conducted an intense survey of careless cooking fires in 10 major jurisdictions in the United States. The survey results tell us some interesting things about careless cooking fires.

First, in nearly three-fourths of fires, the person responsible for the cooking was not in the area at the time the fire broke out. Unattended cooking has long been the single greatest cause of these fires.

Second, in nearly two-thirds of the fires, the person left the area rather than fight the fire. But in those cases where someone stayed to try and deal with it, nearly half used incorrect methods to do so, often increasing their risk of injury and damage to the home.

Third, half of the people responsible for careless cooking fires were between the ages of 30 and 49, not the very old or very young. This number is far larger than the population represented by this age group.

Fourth, consistent with other studies of inner-city and disadvantaged populations, a disproportionately high number of careless cooking fires seem to have occurred in minority households. Minority populations appear to be at particular risk for fire and should receive special attention in any education effort.

Using this study, the Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers and several other public safety groups, fire departments, and the U.S. Fire Administration are working together to help change the basic behavior. Special projects made possible by the appliance manufacturers are underway. For example, nearly 10 million special teaching brochures are being distributed this year. This includes the manufacturers inserting one in every new range as well as several million being distributed by school teachers, fire educators, and public service groups. In addition, a teaching video is being developed for fire educators. Finally, public service announcements and video news releases have been prepared and special educational grants have been made to fire educators to try new avenues to reach and educate the public.

The most important messages are rather simple. Stay focused on your cooking. If you have to leave the kitchen, turn off the range. If you have a fire, get the family out of the

house and call 911 or the emergency service number.

I commend the appliance manufacturers on this program and urge public service groups and all fire departments across the country to join together to fight careless cooking fires. Together we can reduce the numbers of these fires and the effects of such a disaster on our citizens.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE BERGEN COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 30, 1996

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Bergen County, NJ, Housing Authority on receiving the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Sustained Performance Award.

Presented by the Office of Public and Indian Housing, this award recognizes the Bergen County Housing Authority for "excellence in overall management performance" in the years 1993, 1994, and 1995. The housing authority received a perfect score of 100 in fiscal 1995 as measured by the Office's Public Housing Management Assessment Program.

This award is a well-deserved honor for the staff, management, and tenants of the Bergen County Housing Authority. Their hard work and dedication to making the 503 units operated by the authority some of the finest public housing in the Nation is exemplary. I am particularly pleased that the entire Nation will now know what we in Bergen County have known for a long time.

No organization can succeed without strong leadership and much of the credit in this case must go to Jack R. D'Ambrosio, Jr., executive director of the housing authority.

Responsible for the administration of all affairs of the authority and for the formulation of plans for new programs and their implementation, Mr. D'Ambrosio has held his position since April 1988. He is responsible for an annual operating budget of more than \$24 million and supervises a staff of 75 full- and part-time employees who work with 51 member municipalities within Bergen County.

Mr. D'Ambrosio is also executive director of the Housing Development Corp. of Bergen County, a unit of the housing authority created so the authority can engage in the financing and development of affordable housing for low- and moderate-income individuals and families.

The first major project of the development corporation was a 135-unit senior citizens building. Since then, the corporation has been responsible for the construction of affordable condominium and townhouse units on 26 different sites throughout Bergen County.

Mr. D'Ambrosio is the former ombudsman for the institutionalized elderly for the State of New Jersey. An attorney admitted to the bar in both New Jersey and Texas, his past and current activities have included member of the board at Bergen Pines County Hospital in Paramus, the board of Holy Name Hospital in Teaneck, the Bergen County Human Services Advisory Board, the Alumni Executive Council of William Paterson College in Wayne and many other groups.

Again, I congratulate the Bergen County Housing Authority and Mr. D'Ambrosio on the receipt of this high honor. I wholeheartedly agree that it is well-deserved. I am confident their fine work will continue for many years to come. Bergen County is fortunate to have such caring and dedicated individuals among its leaders.

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN ROBERT WALKER ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. G.V. (SONNY) MONTGOMERY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 30, 1996

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Mr. Speaker, It has been my pleasure to have served with Representative BOB WALKER. We have worked together as Members of this House for more years than I care to remember. During that time, I cannot recall anyone with more knowledge on the rules of the House. In fact, I would say that he is an expert in parliamentary procedure.

Congressman WALKER was elected to the House of Representatives in 1976. Since then, he has spent much of his time on the House floor working on different pieces of legislation. He was an original sponsor of the only statutory provision in present law protecting a student's right to voluntary school prayer.

As chairman of the House Science Committee, he has strongly supported basic research. He has worked on legislation that allows for the research and development of hydrogen as an alternative fuel source, and he authored legislation on the viability of space as our next economic frontier.

As he prepares to retire and head back home to Pennsylvania, I wish Representative BOB WALKER and his wife, Sue, the best. Maybe now he will have more time to dedicate to his writing.

ACDA—35TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 30, 1996

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, on September 26, the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency [ACDA], celebrated its 35th anniversary. I am proud to have been one of the architects of the Arms Control and Non-Proliferation Act of 1994 which underscored the necessity of maintaining bipartisan support for a revitalized ACDA to address the immense arms control agenda facing the United States in the post-cold war world.

The arms control agenda remains a vital issue, one which demands our continued vigilance and support. On September 24, President Clinton because the first world leader to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty [CTBT] at the United Nations—a commitment from virtually all the world's nations to end nuclear tests for all time.

The greatest danger to our security is from a nexus of new threats—rogue states, terrorism, international crime, drug trafficking, and weapons of mass destruction. We must seize

every opportunity for more people to enjoy peace, freedom, security, and prosperity, while at the same time, moving strongly and swiftly against the dangers they face.

The CTBT is the shared work of hard negotiation. The signature of the world's declared nuclear power—the United States, China, France, Russia, and the United Kingdom—along with those of the vast majority of its nations, will immediately create an international norm against nuclear testing. In light of these global realities, proponent of ACDA's disappearance or absorption by the Department of State seem grossly out of step with reality.

ACDA brings to the table an expert and independent arms control perspective, one which often differs from the viewpoint of the Department of State. That is why ACDA was created. For example, in the 1960's, ACDA pressed for the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. The State Department initially opposed the original negotiation. ACDA's independent voice, then and now, serves to ensure a policy that is more fully informed and better framed to serve arms control and nonproliferation.

ACDA has had a major impact. Allow me to enumerate some examples.

ACEA insisted under the Salt I agreement that the Soviet Union be held to precise numerical limits on Backfires Bombers.

In developing the INF Treaty, ACDA argued successfully for the development of irrefutable evidence of the nuclear capabilities of Soviet SS-23s in Eastern Europe.

It was ACDA that provided the analysis that the Soviet Krasnoyarsk radar was in violation of the ABM Treaty, ultimately leading to its dismantlement.

The same agency demanded the preservation of the Cobra Dane ground-based phased array radar at Shemya, Alaska, an asset essential for verifying Russian compliance with the START Treaties. The U.S. needs this radar to determine independently whether or not the Russians are testing new or modified missile systems.

ACDA provided the positions leading toward a comprehensive test ban, including opposition to a "peaceful nuclear explosions" loophole, a zero-yield threshold, and no-first-test policy.

The agency successfully retained the proper interpretation of the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) treaty, which was, in turn, instrumental in facilitating negotiation of the START treaties.

ACDA is responsible for the present U.S. policy regarding landmines and their use.

The decision to press for an effective, verifiable, and complete ban on chemical weapons, resulting in conclusion of the worldwide Chemical Weapons Convention in 1992, came about thanks to ACDA. Now, it remains for the Senate to ratify the convention. It should do so immediately.

ACDA spearheaded U.S. Government efforts to conclude a ban on biological and toxin weapons in the early 1970's, followed in the 1990s by negotiations to enhance transparency and strengthen compliance with that ban.

Since ACDA's initiation under President Eisenhower and its founding under President Kennedy, Republican and Democratic administrations have recognized that, to pursue arms control effectively, an independent, expert agency is essential.

That consensus is now reflected in the number of arms control agreements painstakingly achieved by both Democratic and Republican administrations. For example:

Start I—negotiated under President Reagan, ratified under President Bush, implemented by President Clinton; Start II, Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, Intermediate Nuclear Forces agreement, Conventional Forces in Europe agreement, and the Convention on Conventional Weapons. Let me add to that list the Chemical Weapons convention. This treaty has been ratified by 63 countries and, if the Senate does not move to ratify it, is likely to go into force without U.S. participation. The convention bans the production, sale and possession of poison gas weapons and requires signatory nations to destroy their existing stocks. It was negotiated under President Reagan and signed by President Bush. President Clinton has given the convention his full support. The remaining step is ratification by the Senate.

Why is the convention so important? After the gulf war, we underestimated Saddam Hussein's ability to develop chemical weapons. It does not take a missile to bring about destruction. One person with a small vial can do that. Witness the impact of a small amount of Sarin gas in the Tokyo subway.

We must not be lulled into thinking that arms control implementation and compliance can take care of itself or that the dangers of proliferation are overblown. We must continue to support a strong, independent, streamlined and effective Arms Control Disarmament Agency to pursue one of the Nation's most urgent missions in a transformed world.