

JOHN has been an institution on the Appropriations Committee. He has served as chairman of the Energy and Water Development Subcommittee during the 104th Congress, after being ranking Republican on the full committee for several years. He also has served as ranking Republican on the Ethics Committee and on the old Post Office and Civil Service Committee.

JOHN's intelligence, fairness, and integrity are unquestionable. JOHN is known to be an independent thinker and is one of those congressmen who really thought hard about an issue before deciding how he should vote. His record of achievement has earned him the respect of everyone on both sides of the aisle.

JOHN has served the 7th District and the State of Indiana in an exemplary manner these past 30 years. I'm really going to miss him. This place won't be the same without him. I wish JOHN and Carol a very long and happy retirement.

LET'S HEAR IT FOR FIRE SAFETY: TEST YOUR DETECTORS

HON. ROBERT E. WISE, JR.

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 3, 1996

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to Fire Prevention Week. This year's Fire Prevention Week theme is "Let's Hear it for Fire Safety: Test Your Detectors."

One life lost to fire is a great tragedy. When that tragedy could have been prevented, it compounds the loss. Smoke detectors are necessary equipment in every home to prevent tragedies from occurring. Every home in West Virginia should be equipped with properly installed and maintained smoke detectors outside sleeping areas as well as one on each level of the house, basement included.

Statistics show that 13 out of every 14 homes have at least one smoke detector, but far too many are not working. I am trying to raise that statistic in West Virginia to 100 percent. With the assistance of the Berkeley County Office of Emergency Services and State Farm Insurance, I have made a fire prevention video which teaches children how smoke detectors operate and how to maintain them. This video is distributed to every elementary school in West Virginia.

Obtaining a smoke detector can be as easy as contacting the local fire department. Many fire departments and local organizations participate in free give-aways of smoke detectors.

Over the past 2 weeks the Congressional Fire Services Institute hand delivered to every Member of Congress, a Fire Prevention Week Community Awareness Kit, courtesy of the National Fire Protection Association. I urge all my colleagues to use the information contained in those kits.

USTR ANNOUNCEMENT ON ARGENTINEAN FOOTWEAR

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 3, 1996

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I support the action taken by United States

Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky on October 1, 1996, concerning Argentinean footwear. USTR announced the United States has filed a section 301 complaint with the World Trade Organization [WTO] against Argentina due to their practices concerning footwear and textiles. This action is necessary to curb Argentina's unfair trade practices.

Argentina maintains specific import duties on textiles, apparel, and footwear that are above the 35-percent ad valorem tariff rate to which Argentina committed under the WTO agreements. USTR has decided to invoke WTO dispute settlement procedure. The WTO should take action to make Argentina comply with the WTO agreement.

Argentina has taken action in the past and this action is unacceptable. USTR realizes the actions taken by Argentina are insufficient and inappropriate. Consultation with the WTO has become necessary. I commend Ambassador Barshefsky for taking the appropriate action.

For companies in Massachusetts, this action by Argentina is dangerous. The action taken by USTR will help those businesses who have been discriminated against because of the unfair trade practices of Argentina. In Massachusetts, companies such as Reebok and thousands of Massachusetts employees, depend upon fair access to foreign consumer markets for their livelihoods.

Once again, I congratulate Ambassador Barshefsky and offer my continuing support for firm steps to enforce our international trade treaties to benefit U.S. interests.

STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE DON RITTER

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 3, 1996

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I insert the following for the RECORD:

STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE DON RITTER—FORMER CO-CHAIRMAN, U.S. CONGRESSIONAL TASK FORCE ON AFGHANISTAN, JUNE 6, 1996, NEAR EAST AND SOUTH ASIAN AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE, SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE

I want to thank you Chairman Brown and the other distinguished Members of this Committee for holding this important and timely hearing on Afghanistan. I would also like to express my appreciation to my former colleagues, Congressman Dana Rohrabacher and Congressman Charles Wilson, as well as the other witnesses offering testimony today before this Committee. Congressional leadership on this issue has always played an important and historic role.

We are gathered here today out of concern for the people of Afghanistan and that war-torn country that has suffered unspeakable brutality and neglect. Clearly, the United States, so active over so many crucial years, needs to place a higher priority now on the agony and devastation of Afghanistan and its people.

Mr. Chairman, the United States has a moral obligation to the people of Afghanistan because of their pivotal role in defeating the Red Army at a time when Communism was on the march around the globe. This seems like ancient history sometimes but, ultimately, Afghanistan proved to be the Achilles Heel of the Soviet Communism and military expansion. One can make a

strong case that the Soviet Empire would not have met its demise, nor would the Berlin Wall have come down and the people of eastern Europe and the former U.S.S.R. made free, if the people of Afghanistan had not had the courage to fight the Red Army when it invaded. For over a decade, the Afghan people paid a heavy and horrible price fighting the Soviet Union for their beloved country—mass executions, chemical attacks, cities destroyed, villages burned, the countryside mined, children orphaned. Millions of Afghans fled or were murdered by the communists. The point is this Mr. Chairman: Freedom loving people in the United States and around the world thus owe an important debt to the Afghans for helping to win the Cold War and the course of world history.

The bipartisan Congressional Task Force on Afghanistan that I helped lead with Senator Gordon Humphrey, Congressman Charles Wilson, Congressman Bob Latham, and others pressed for U.S. humanitarian and military support for the Afghan people during some of the darkest and most brutal periods of Soviet military operations in Afghanistan. In recent years, after the Soviet withdrawal and the communist defeat, I have grown increasingly troubled by the tragic fate that has overtaken Afghanistan. The United States must again reassert a leadership role to help the people of Afghanistan.

The point is this: We fought together with the Afghan people to win the war. In a very real sense they served on the front lines for us. Now is the time to fight together to win the peace. Its the right thing to do. We have the responsibility.

Although I no longer serve in Congress, I am willing to step forward once again to join you, Mr. Chairman, along with Congressman Wilson, Congressman Rohrabacher and others committed to helping to find solutions to the situation in Afghanistan. I would encourage others to join me in this effort—Americans and Afghans, those in government as well as in the private sector. Now is the hour. Now is the time for the United States to launch a new initiative to help bring peace, stability and prosperity to the war-weary and suffering people of Afghanistan.

Finally, the United States, as this Committee well knows and will explore today, ignores the situation in Afghanistan at great peril. Afghanistan remains important to the national interest of the United States for geostrategic and national security reasons because of its pivotal role regarding Central Asia, the Middle East, and South Asia. If the United States will not take a leadership role in Afghanistan, Iran and other hostile terrorist forces will. In a world that for us grows ever smaller and more integrated all the time, this prospect in South Asia is more threatening to the United States. America must act with resolve and courage to help the people of Afghanistan while there is yet time.

TRIBUTE TO THE CIRCLES OF SERBIAN SISTERS OF NORTHWEST INDIANA

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 3, 1996

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to commend the Circles of Serbian Sisters of Northwest Indiana. This distinguished organization is holding its fourth annual benefit at St. George Serbian Orthodox Church in East Chicago, IN this Sunday, October 6, 1996.

The Circles of Serbian Sisters of Northwest Indiana is the combined effort of four separate Circles of Serbian Sisters organizations, each of which contains about 200 members. The presidents of the Circles of Serbian Sisters are: Ms. Helen Tezich, from St. George Serbian Orthodox Church in East Chicago; Ms. Natalie Tieca, from St. George Serbian Orthodox Church in Schererville; Ms. Ann Rudman, from St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church in Merrillville; and Ms. Milica Bodrozic, from St. Elijah Serbian Orthodox Church in Merrillville.

Four years ago, these organizations unified to assemble this humanitarian fundraiser in order to provide aid to orphaned and refugee children in the former Yugoslavia. Last year alone, the Circles of Serbian Sisters sent over 7,000 packages and vaccines to these displaced children, who are forced to live in refugee camps and shelters. These individually wrapped packages consisted of underwear, sweat suits, and candy. Circles of Serbian Sisters of Northwest Indiana works with the International Orthodox Christian Charities and the Serbian Orthodox Church in the former Yugoslavia.

Four priests, who have supported this effort from the very beginning are: Father Steve Kovacevich, from St. George Serbian Orthodox Church in East Chicago; the Very Reverend Father Milan Savich, from St. George Serbian Orthodox Church in Schererville; the Arch Priest John Todorovich, from St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church; and Father Lazar Kostur, from St. Elijah Serbian Orthodox Church.

The following distinguished clergymen from the Serbian Orthodox Church have sent their blessings for the event Metro Bishop Irney—Kovacevich—Serbian Orthodox Hierarchy of the New Granica Metropolitanate, seated in Third Lake, IL; His Eminence Metropolitan Christopher—Kovacevich—Serbian Orthodox Hierarchy for Midwestern America, seated in Libertyville, IL; and His Grace Bishop Sava—Jurich—Serbian Orthodox Bishop of Australia and New Zealand, Surrogate Bishop to His Holiness Serbian Orthodox Patriarch Pavle, administrator of the Serbian Orthodox Diocese of USA and Canada.

During this year's banquet, which is held at a different church each year, two sisters, Ms. Milica Bodrozic and Mara Dobrijevic, who have been involved in this movement from the very beginning, will describe what they experienced as they traveled to the former Yugoslavia to deliver the aid packages. Thank you notes from the orphaned children will also be read during this benefit.

Mr. Speaker, during this sad time in the former Yugoslavia, the mission of the Circles of Serbian Sisters offers renewed hope in the humanity of all people. I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending the Circles of Serbian Sisters and wishing them well on their fourth annual banquet, as well as the continued success of their humanitarian efforts.

THE SOUTH DADE/HOMESTEAD MOTORSPORTS EXHIBITION CENTER

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 3, 1996

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, Economic Development Administration [EDA]

funding of an economic development grant is being sought for the South Dade/Homestead Motorsports Exhibition Center.

Mr. Speaker, the Homestead/South Dade community is still recovering from the brunt of hurricane Andrew in 1992. We continue to seek economic revitalization assistance from the Federal Government, the State of Florida and from the private sector to bring this community back to prosperity.

The South Dade/Homestead Motorsports Speedway Complex has already attracted millions of tourists to the area and has generated jobs at all levels in the community. The city of Homestead and a nonprofit partnership involving private businesses, have proposed a motorsports exhibition center which will build on the success of this complex.

The south Florida community is hopeful that the Subcommittee on Commerce, State and Justice and the EDA will support this project in fiscal year 1997.

HONORING GATEWAY DAY HABILITATION PROGRAM

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 3, 1996

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, today begins a new program to help the developmentally disabled come into the mainstream of life. The Gateway Day Habilitation Center, a not-for-profit organization, will work to help their consumers achieve further independence and integration into the community at large. In describing the philosophy of Gateway, Sylvia Lask, the director of community relations, says Gateway has as its goal a high quality of life to be achieved, in part, by gainful employment.

Gateway will also help society embrace the developmentally disabled to foster the development of a variety of meaningful relationships. It will provide such day-to-day skills as cooking, money handling, domestic skills, reading, mathematics, writing, basic safety, travel training, therapeutic exercises, and many others. Gateway deserves the praise and cooperation of all of us for the goals it has adopted in helping our fellow citizens.

SUPPORT FOR AUNG SAN SUU KYI

HON. DANA ROHRBACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 3, 1996

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, the Burmese regime is once again cracking down on Aung San Suu Kyi and her democratic movement. The large scale repression and violence by Burma's tyrants we have witnessed over the past week justifies a tougher approach toward the Rangoon regime.

I introduced legislation this year to impose economic sanctions on Burma. Although that legislation did not become law, the American people are becoming more familiar with the tragic situation in Burma. I intend to reintroduce similar legislation concerning Burma in the 105th Congress if I am reelected.

Last month, the Burmese regime held a long press conference during which various of-

ficials criticized Aung San Suu Kyi and the United States. Specifically, the Burmese criticized the International Republican Institute, and its program officer, Mr. Michael Mitchell, for working with the democratic forces inside Burma. That kind of criticism is a badge of honor.

Although the international spotlight rarely shines on Burma, I am watching closely what is happening in that tortured land. The escalating reign of terror against democracy activists and hilltribe people belies Rangoon callous disregard for the infinite value of human life.

Mr. Speaker, the American people stand behind Aung San Suu Kyi and I am proud the International Republican Institute is doing what it can to support democracy in Burma.

THE IMPORTANCE OF FEDERAL SUPPORT FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

HON. WILLIAM (BILL) CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 3, 1996

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, in light of the \$3.5 billion increase just given to education in the omnibus spending bill, I rise today to underscore yet again the crucial role that our Federal education programs play. This apparent sudden concern on the part of my Republican colleagues for protecting education is gladly received, because millions of young Americans will benefit from these resources.

During the 104th Congress, the Democratic members of the Economic and Educational Opportunities Committee, however, were distressed by the repeated attempts by the majority to slash funds for education. In fact, earlier this year, we held a hearing to demonstrate the impact that Federal education programs have on preparing America's children for a bright future. At this hearing, we heard many witnesses testify in trenchant detail about the pain that defenseless children, students, and families were suffering from the cuts Congress had imposed on Federal education programs. The higher education student community was represented at this hearing by two outstanding students, Rob Sewell and Willie Brown, then the president and vice-president, respectively, of the American Student Association of Community Colleges. I would like to insert their testimony into the RECORD at this time, because it perfectly illustrates from a student's point of view why Democrats will always fight for education. After all, education is the true path to opportunity, and our role as legislators should be to increase access to lifelong learning for all Americans. This is the only way that our country will become stronger and more productive into the 21st century.

TESTIMONY BY MR. ROB SEWELL, PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND MR. WILLIE BROWN, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES

We appreciate this opportunity to speak to our elected Representatives about federal programs that promote college access and lifelong learning.

My name is Rob Sewell, a student at Northern Virginia Community College Annandale Campus, and President of the American Student Association of Community colleges. I am accompanied by Willie Brown,