

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 Bodrožić, 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 Hierarch of the New Granica Metropolitinate, seated in Third Lake, IL; His Eminence Metropolitan Christopher—Kovacevich—Serbian Orthodox Hierarch 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 Bodrožić and Mara Dobrijević, 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 commanding 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 ROHRABACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 3, 1996

Mr. ROHRABACHER. 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,

ASACC's Vice President for the southeast Region, and a student at Thomas Nelson Community College at Hampton, Virginia, who is now a member of AmeriCorps.

In my years at Northern Virginia Community College, I have held several student leadership positions, including President of our Student Government Association, and President of our campus chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the International Honor Society of two-year colleges. These activities have made me very conscious of how important and indispensable the federal student aid programs, and especially Pell Grants, are to our students in their pursuits of marketable skills and worthwhile careers.

As popular as Pell Grants are, I believe they are under-appreciated as an engine of American competitiveness. Higher education as a community should bear the blame for not doing more research to document the economic significance of Pell Grants: but the general evidence is very plain to see.

As you already know, community colleges have become the nation's largest source, outside industry itself, of the advanced technical training (and retraining) that American workers must have to keep themselves globally competitive in the 21st Century, and to maintain the standard of living that most of us enjoy.

Approximately 11 million students of all ages are now taking credit and non-credit courses annually in the two-year colleges, most of them pursuing better job skills. In some states, the community colleges are tempted to boast that they are the largest graduate school, because they now serve more students with bachelor's or higher degrees than the senior institutions of their state.

Roughly one-third of the full-time equivalency of all this enrollment is identified with students receiving Pell Grants, according to estimates we've heard from various campuses.

Spot surveys of former Pell Grant recipients, made by three colleges at ASACC's request, are giving us a dramatic picture of how the grants have enriched the recipients' lives and work paths.

The latest returns, from Pell grant alumni of North Central Technical College in the district of Rep. David Obey of Wisconsin, typically show a very substantial economic return on the federal investment.

With such positive findings among community colleges, which serve the greater numbers of high-risk students, we have to believe that the same survey done by four-year colleges, public and private, would show equally impressive if not more striking correlations between Pell Grants and post-college success. We believe higher education owes the Congress broader and deeper data in this vein. Pell Grants have helped about three times as many Americans pursue their American Dream, as the four separate GI Bills have. We regard Pell Grants as the best competitiveness policy Congress has yet devised, and colleges essentially have been taking the program for granted.

Summing up our concerns, we emphasize the importance of smaller Pell Grants in community colleges. Our commuter and part-time enrollments are significantly higher than those of four-year colleges. Willie wants to elaborate on this point. Congress will undercut both national competitiveness and the American Dream if it caps either Pell Grant funding or the total awards. The threshold grant should remain \$400, and the grant maximum should be increased again.

Funding should also be increased for Work-Study. The benefits could be spread to greater numbers of needy students, if the local matching requirement were increased by 5 percent. Innumerable low-income students

taste their first real employment through campus work-study.

I cannot close without expressing deep concern over the expiration of tax code Section 127. The very modest federal contribution to Employee Education Assistance—modest in relative terms—has proven to be another powerful engine of competitiveness. We are actively supporting H.R. 127, which would restore EEA permanently. Because of their low cost, community colleges are the most frequent choices among workers using this incentive to upgrade their job skills. It will be a sad step backward for both the American Dream and workforce productivity if this Congress fails to reinstate Section 127 retroactively.

This policy should never be mistaken for federal give-away—employers are not about to waste tuition payments on workers who can't benefit from the courses they want. I wish I could recall the source of data a decade or so ago that showed that workers who have either two-year or four-year degrees have careers several years longer than those with only a high school diploma or equivalency. Ignoring any promotions, the added federal taxes from those longer careers would alone repay the "revenue foregone" a hundred-fold or more.

As students, we will do our best to answer your questions. We respectfully ask that the record of this hearing include the ASACC statement of priorities for this session of Congress.

Again, we thank you for investing our testimony.

THE HONORABLE DON RITTER:
HELPING THE PEOPLE OF AFGHANISTAN BUILD A BRIGHTER FUTURE

HON. CHARLES WILSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 3, 1996

Mr. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, I have devoted a significant amount of effort over the years assisting the people of Afghanistan in their struggle for freedom and peace. During difficult periods and in pivotal policy debates, I could always count on a key Member of Congress—Don Ritter. Hence, I wish to express my sincere gratitude to a remarkable individual who has consistently stood with the people of Afghanistan and other freedom loving peoples worldwide during some of their darkest hours and most critical battles. For well over a decade, I have had the distinct honor and pleasure of working with the Honorable Don Ritter, an aggressive champion for freedom and human rights.

As one of the leading congressional proponents of United States assistance to the people of Afghanistan during the Soviet invasion and occupation, Don Ritter continues to seek to build international support for solutions to Afghanistan's problems. Don Ritter is now forging the Washington, District of Columbia-based, Afghanistan Foundation. Ritter seeks to build his organization into a national and international vehicle that will help to bring peace, stability, and prosperity to Afghanistan.

Don Ritter was a leader of the American effort to help the people of Afghanistan throughout the 1980's, working closely with Afghan community and resistance leaders here and abroad. He was the first Member of Congress to act publicly using his position as senior

member of the Congressional Helsinki Commission to engage that body in the Afghan human rights and policy debate.

To discuss founding the Afghanistan Foundation, Ritter will be hosting a historic meeting on October 14th in Laguna Beach, CA, with a number of important Afghans who share his vision to help build a brighter future for Afghanistan. Among those attending this special event will be representatives from a variety of Afghan organizations as well as Afghan community and business leaders, professionals, scholars, and artists.

Ritter was the founder of the Congressional Task Force on Afghanistan, the only high level body in Congress to give consistent voice, both public and private, to the cause of freedom for Afghanistan. In this capacity, he helped lead the fight in Congress for humanitarian and military aid to the people of Afghanistan. Congressman Ritter organized a series of historic meetings of task force members with top governmental officials having responsibility for the Afghan assistance program. The Congressional Task Force on Afghanistan played a major role in moving United States policy toward a higher level of positive and practical involvement that helped free Afghanistan from the Soviet military occupation.

Today, Ritter believes that the time has come for the same kind of application of United States policy and influence to help free the people of Afghanistan from the terrible violence and division that have pervaded that country. He sees the Afghan community worldwide as increasing its influence in the professional and business world and ready to assume substantial new responsibility to contribute to Afghanistan's future. The Afghan people have an important and valuable friend in Don Ritter. I salute his efforts to help them bring about a brighter future for their nation.

SPEECH BY JOHN HOLUM, DIRECTOR, U.S. ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT AGENCY, ON THE COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN TREATY

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 3, 1996

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, since the President signed the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty at the United Nations on September 24, 1996, there are already 100 countries which have followed the U.S. lead. This is truly a significant achievement of this President and his team led by the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency. Such a diplomatic tour de force would not have been possible without the dedicated efforts and personal involvement of the Secretary of State, Warren Christopher and John Holum, Director of ACDA, who were helped by many others in and out of the U.S. Government, not to mention the contributions of many other nations and individuals.

This unique achievement was the subject of a speech by Mr. Holum at the American Bar Association on September 26, 1996. Mr. Holum, in his speech, clearly articulates the CTBT's contribution toward erecting a mighty political barrier to any more nuclear explosions