

School, 1993. She is the author of "Alimony, Child Support, and Counsel Fees"—1988—and has been active in many charitable and community service organizations in Montgomery County and throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, I join the residents of Pennsylvania in honoring Justice Sandra Schultz Newman as a revered member of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. Her legal skills, outstanding judgment, compassionate heart, and fundamental fairness marks her as one of the most outstanding leaders in the United States. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

PEARL HARBOR '41, BOSNIA '95

HON. FRANK A. LOBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 29, 1996

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, I commend to my colleagues an excellent editorial which appeared in the January issue of the Township of Hamilton Veterans Bulletin. As our Nation embarks on yet another military mission overseas, we should all keep the following points in mind.

PEARL HARBOR '41, BOSNIA '95

(By John Heint)

This is the last of the 50th Anniversary Celebrations of World War II and the 54th remembrance of Pearl Harbor. December 7, 1941, is a day etched in my politically incorrect memory with the hope that this day will forever live in infamy.

Veterans are often guilty of tell the adventures of the war as the fun of youth. Our minds forbid us to recall we were bit players in massive tableaux of horror. Let's tell our children and grandchildren that our war stories are not grand heroic adventures.

Accordingly, I take this opportunity to warn of this nation's neglect of three bitter history lessons. They are: Our failure to prepare, our nation's unity during WWII, and our responsibilities after WWII. Today, we teeter on the brink of a similar disastrous day. We plan to risk the blood of our sons, daughters, grandsons and granddaughters for peace in Bosnia?

First, in WWII and Korea, unprepared we sacrificed young people to buy time. Pearl Harbor and Bataan were such sacrifices. Unprepared heroes saved the Pusan perimeter. Our WWII bazookas were no match for North Korea's tanks. In Vietnam our troops had to fight a new type of war. Since Generals prepare for the last war, have we trained our armed forces for peacekeeping and nation building? I shudder when young men shout happily when told they will create peace by force of arms. Peace by standing between armed forces while arming one at the expense of the other. I doubt these young men are ready for the realities of war.

Second, before we go to war, our forces in the field need our resources, and our government. However, even more, they need the hearts of their countrymen. War is not a television side show. It involves life and death for real people with feelings and families. We must not permit the spin doctors, or the Jane Fondas, to shift the blame for Bosnia's war to the warriors.

However, this media shift has begun. A recent Brinkley show (Ms. Roberts) and a CNN & Company guest stated, "Since this is an all volunteer army, what's wrong in letting them fight?" I'll tell you. Today, our voluntary armed services consist of those who

joined for education benefits, to learn leadership or to learn work skills, and patriots, they are our best, our brightest and our bravest. The sons and daughters of those who can afford these benefits without joining the services are not part of today's armed, volunteer services. Thus, the "talking heads" advocate putting those "volunteers" in harm's way. Our service people are your, or your neighbor's, sons and daughters. Remember, those who would dodge a draft won't protest for those who go to Bosnia.

Further, isn't our government's prime duty to "provide for the common defense?" Does the military oath permit our nation's defenders to act as mercenaries? Our Constitution doesn't say we will send our troops to enforce "peace" or build new nations. If we want a mercenary army, let's change their oath. Let's drop the part that says to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States.

After Bosnia, will this nation have a future? Who, in their right mind, would counsel their sons and daughters to enter such a military service? Who will protect our country when our government wastes our sons and daughters so recklessly? When they use their blood trying to build foreign nations and keep the peace in foreign lands by force of arms.

The U.N. has had 39 peacekeeping operations that involved fatalities. The U.S. is in 3 of the 13 still operating. Were Somalia or Haiti successful uses or our military, or money? Do you remember the 263 Marines in Beirut? Was Iraq worth the risk?

Third, after any war, as a nation we must know the cost and should honor our debts. After WWII, we funded the Marshall Plan—aid to the nations suffering the ravages of war. This was not intervention in their affairs. That should be the model for aiding foreign nations—not the misuse of our sons and daughters for armed intervention as mercenaries.

But, after any war we have a higher debt, a debt to our own people. War doesn't end when the shooting stops. Those crippled or wounded continue to pay the price. PTSD, Agent Orange, and now the Gulf War Syndrome affects the veterans of our wars. They are our wounded just as if they were maimed by shells or bullets. Some wives and children of Vietnam, and the families of the over 51,000 Gulf War veterans with the syndrome, have the same problems as the veterans. These people are not getting help today.

We bought our freedoms with those shattered lives . . . we are forever in their debt. It is a duty yours and mine, to see that the VA system functions properly. Congress must find honorable places to care for all who suffer for us.

Thus, we go to Bosnia, as we have gone to other recent battlefields. We go without a patriotic cause, without a national interest, and without an economic interest. Our government forgot these three terrible lessons: A united cause—Bosnia is not such a cause; preparation—these troops don't know what perils they face; and without aftermath responsibility—we will again turn our backs on those who suffer for us.

TRIBUTE TO JO ANNE SIMON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 29, 1996

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, Jo Anne Simon is an outstanding community activist who represents the brownstone community of Boerum

Hill in downtown Brooklyn. Ms. Simon is the president of the Boerum Hill Association. The association serves the historic community that has thriving merchant businesses.

Jo Anne works closely with local community board and public officials to ensure that critical issues such as education, crime prevention, historical preservation, and quality of life issues are responsibly addressed on behalf of community and neighborhood members. Ms. Simon recognizes that her efforts must be special because Boerum Hill is a very special Brooklyn enclave.

An attorney and former teacher of the blind, Jo Anne has been very active in the disability rights movement. She is a founding member of the Association of Higher Education and Disability, a national organization which advocates for equal access to higher education. She currently serves on its board of directors. I am pleased to bring Jo Anne Simon's community activism to the attention of my colleagues.

SIoux FALLS, SD, SAYS GOOD-BYE TO MSGR. FRANCIS SAMPSON

HON. TIM JOHNSON

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 29, 1996

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a fellow South Dakotan who served his country as a highly decorated soldier and prominent priest, Msgr. Francis Sampson. Monsignor Sampson, 83, died of cancer Sunday, January 28, 1996. Having been born on leap day in 1912, today would have been his 21st leap year birthday. The Sioux Falls community and all of South Dakota mourn the loss of a valuable friend, educator, and hero. Monsignor Sampson's interests and influence went beyond his efforts within the church and the military. As a strong supporter of O'Gorman High School in Sioux Falls, SD, he helped many students pay for their tuition.

Monsignor Sampson briefly served as pastor at Notre Dame Cathedral and Dowling High School in Des Moines, IA, before he began his military career in the Army chaplaincy as a first lieutenant in 1942. He was captured twice and wounded by the Germans during World War II, and his efforts earned him the Distinguished Service Cross. Sampson continued to serve his country in Korea where he rescued American prisoners of war. Prior to his retirement from the Army, Sampson became a monsignor in 1963. He was named deputy chief of chaplains for the Army in 1966, and in 1967 was made chief of chaplains and promoted to major general. Sampson's outstanding military service was recognized with his many awards, including the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star.

Monsignor Sampson continues to make investments in the lives of children through the Monsignor Sampson O'Gorman Fund. In doing so, he has given the Sioux Falls community a legacy that will live on in the successes of

future generations. Monsignor Sampson's influence on our children and on so many others throughout the world should be remembered, as it will be missed.

SPRINT'S FIRING OF 235
EMPLOYEES IN SAN FRANCISCO

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 29, 1996

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on July 14, 1994, the Sprint Corp. abruptly closed down La Conexion Familiar, its San Francisco telemarketing subsidiary, and fired all 235 La Conexion Familiar workers. These employees were let go just 1 week before they were scheduled to vote in an organizing election under the supervision of the National Labor Relations Board. A majority of the employees at La Conexion Familiar had signed a petition indicating their desire to unionize. The employees said that they were seeking to improve working conditions which included restrictions on drinking water and bathroom breaks.

The National Labor Relations Board charged Sprint with over 50 Federal labor violations and with illegally closing La Conexion Familiar. An administrative law judge upheld these 50 labor violations, but offered no assistance or remedy to the fired employees. The NLRB general counsel has appealed to the full Board charging that the closing was an illegal effort to thwart a union organizing drive.

The U.S. Department of Labor held a public forum in San Francisco this week, entitled "Public Forum of the Effects of a Sudden Plant Closure and the Impact on the Principle of Freedom of Association and the Right of Workers to Organize." This forum was the first of its kind under the terms of the NAFTA agreement. I submitted testimony to this forum and would like to share my testimony with my colleagues. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I respectfully request that my testimony be entered into the RECORD.

EFFECTS OF SUDDEN PLANT CLOSURE AND THE
IMPACT ON THE PRINCIPLE OF FREEDOM OF
ASSOCIATION AND THE RIGHT OF WORKERS TO
ORGANIZE

(By Tom Lantos)

I would first like to commend you for holding this hearing which is the first of its kind under the terms of the NAFTA agreement on a case involving violations of worker rights in the United States. As you know, I was strongly opposed to NAFTA, but it is now the law of the land and we must live by its provisions. I will be the first to make sure that the spirit and intent of the principles contained in NAFTA's side agreement on labor cooperation are given maximum attention in the enforcement of NAFTA's provisions.

The North American Agreement on Labor Cooperation states plainly that every effort will be made to guarantee to all workers the right of freedom of association and the right to union representation.

The Sprint workers who are the subject of today's hearing were clearly denied these rights. Sprint's shutdown of La Conexion Familiar demonstrated that reality falls well short of the goals of the NAFTA agreement on labor cooperation. This is a case of a company which willfully violated our labor law and which was cited with more than 50 viola-

tions. It is also a case of human pain and suffering.

As you know, on July 14, 1994, 235 individuals were thrown out of work by Sprint. Many of these workers live in my Congressional district. Today we heard from several of these workers who have told us in their own words the turmoil they have had to endure.

I have heard their pain from the beginning of this tragic situation and I have observed first hand the wrenching consequences of Sprint's behavior of these worker's lives. In a split second these workers were unemployed. Their families were in disarray. And the promise of the American dream was destroyed. "How could this happen", they asked, "After all, this is America, where laws are supposed to mean what they say and are supposed to be enforced to the letter."

When Sprint abruptly shut its "La Conexion Familiar" facility one week before an organizing election, we had a classic case of US labor law not adequately protecting American workers. Two hundred and thirty-five workers lost their jobs, victims of an illegal campaign against workers' rights. More than a year and a half after losing their jobs, the workers at La Conexion Familiar are still struggling and awaiting justice. Out of the 177 workers who were scheduled to vote in the union election, fewer than half are working—the rest are still out of work.

The National Labor Relations Board moved as quickly as current law permitted. But in spite of their efforts it took over four months until the case was heard and well over a year until a decision was issued. And the process is far from over. As of today, this case is 593 days old and it will take many more months before the Board issues a final decision, even as they expedite the case. It will take years before all parties exhaust available appeals. In the meantime, the workers are the ones paying the price for the inability of our system to provide prompt and effective remedies for this obvious and egregious violation of the law.

The Sprint case is not atypical. The latest data available from the NLRB show that by the end of 1994, the median number of days it took for an unfair labor practice case to reach a decision by an administrative law judge was 360 days and the median number of days to reach a Board decision was 601 days. What this means is that half of all these cases took even longer. The average age of cases pending before the Board (as of September 30, 1994) was 758 days. Add to that years of appeals through the courts and we have to recognize that our current system of labor law is in fact an easy and inexpensive tool for companies to use to break the law rather than abide by it.

It is simply unjust for workers who have lost their jobs as a result of unfair labor practices by their employers to have to wait so long for a remedy. Our labor laws and their enforcement mechanisms must be strengthened.

Under these circumstances, I admire the courage of the workers at La Conexion Familiar. They stepped up to the plate and took a swing at their rights. What they did not know was that the game was rigged against them and Sprint was throwing a spit ball. What would you do if you were a worker in a plant or a facility such as La Conexion Familiar and you were told by your supervisor or your manager:

"Look, don't even try to organize, because we'll shut the plant down and it will take you four to five years to prove that the company did anything wrong. In the meantime, you will be out of work."

Under these circumstances would anyone try to organize? There is no question that the average worker would say, "No."

This is what is so admirable about the Sprint workers at La Conexion Familiar. In spite of all the threats, the coercion and the spying, they still tried. They demonstrated that the importance of organizing a union is not from a bygone era, but that organizing a union is more relevant than ever. It is our system of labor law and its enforcement which must be brought into the 21st century.

This is why I am testifying today in support of Sprint workers and all workers who want to organize. I will continue to do everything I can to seek a remedy in this case and will continue to push for labor law reform which provides prompt and effective penalties against labor law violators. Workers must feel secure in their belief that they can exercise their right to organize without fear of retaliation by their employer and without running the risk of losing their job.

One reason I opposed the NAFTA agreement was that it perpetuated the ineffectiveness of US law in protecting workers rights. In the case of the right to organize, the NAFTA agreement provides only a mechanism for exposing violations of these rights and this Forum is part of that mechanism. It is important for workers to demonstrate the widespread abuse of workers rights. But it is clearly not enough.

The objectives of the NAFTA side agreement on labor cooperation are admirable. But the law itself should contain penalties against the companies who benefit from expanded trade opportunities but at the same time violate their workers' rights, whether in Mexico, Canada or the United States. I will fight hard to ensure that the NAFTA agreement is amended to include real penalties and appropriate enforcement provisions.

I support calls for an international code of conduct for all companies operating on a global scale. This code will ensure that workers' rights, which we in the United States are at least committed to on paper and which are contained in the NAFTA side agreement on labor cooperation, will become a part and parcel of acceptable behavior in international commerce.

The promise of international investment and trade must go hand in hand with the promise of improved working conditions and living standards for workers both in the United States and abroad. By recognizing and protecting the rights of workers to form unions and engage in collective bargaining, we are not giving workers entitlements or handouts. We are giving them the tools to stand up for themselves and claim their fair share of economic progress that they had a hand in producing.

Thank you.

ST. DAVID'S DAY

HON. PAT DANNER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 29, 1996

Ms. DANNER. Mr. Speaker, for more than 850 years, the legacy of St. David has been an inspiration to generations of people of Welsh descent, including such prominent American leaders as Abraham Lincoln and Thomas Jefferson.

While the annual celebration will be delayed slightly this season by leap year, St. David's Day, March 1, will recognize the legend of the patron of Wales—one of the most illustrious bishops of ancient Wales.

In fact, a 10th century manuscript refers to St. David as the spiritual leader of the Welsh.