

ideals in a pervasively secular and materialistic environment. The positive contribution religion can and should make to the individual and community. The obligation to consciously remedy the ills and shortcomings we face.

Working together on these weighty themes which unite us all, would hopefully provide us the indispensable platform to discuss differences of purpose and approach. Our opponents need to know that a wrong kind of medication can be fatal to a patient. So it is with improper means employed toward beneficial ends.

We Jews are not alone in our apprehension, joined as we are by concerned fellow-Americans across lines of religious and political affiliation. Only through such a wide coalition, will we respond most effectively to the challenges confronting the entire American system. A time of crisis is a time of opportunity. May we all dedicate ourselves anew to the kind of America we dare not do without.

Rabbi Israel Zoberman is the spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Chaverim in Virginia Beach, Virginia, and past president of the Hampton Roads Board of Rabbis and the Virginia Beach Clergy Association.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 6, 1996

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share the experiences of Pamela Ferguson-Brey. She is the Honolulu League of Women Voters Human Resource chair and she attended the U.N. Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China.

In September, 1995, I joined women from around the world at the United Nations Fourth World Conference in China. The Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) conference provided a platform for community organizations from around the world to influence their governments to move more quickly toward equal rights and human rights for women and girls. The NGO forum also provided women from around the world with a forum to highlight issues from their neighborhood, town, city, region, and country and brought participants together to discuss local, national, international solutions to these issues.

The NGO conference was an overwhelming experience. From the moment that I first boarded the plane to China and during the conference there was an unspoken acknowledgment, a bond and an excitement between the conference participants. Tens of thousands of women from around the world together for one purpose—to accelerate the movement of governments toward equal human rights for women and girls. While we were strangers and did not all speak the same language or have the same customs, we all shared a unique understanding about our status as women. As women, we know what it means to be denied human rights because of our gender status. As women, we know what it means to be afraid of violence because we are not safe in our streets or in our homes. We know what it means to be denied equal access to reproductive and medical care. We know what it means to be denied a seat at the table when policy decisions are being made about our lives and rights. And we know that in over a dozen countries, through infanticide and dowry deaths,

women and girls are killed because of their gender.

The bond between women at the conference was also a reflection of the commitment that these thousands of women had to make to realize the changes that are necessary at the local, national and international level to assure that women have equal human rights.

At the opening ceremony to the NGO conference NGO participants sang "I'm going to fight for women's freedom, never turning back, never turning back." I think of these words and the conference and I am re-committed and energized to help my own community move forward more quickly toward equal human rights for women and girls.

TEEN PREGNANCY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 1996

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the President's National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy.

The mission of the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy is to reduce teen pregnancy by promoting values and stimulating actions that are consistent with a pregnancy-free adolescence. This is a mission that everyone can support. Furthermore, the campaign establishes the goal of reducing the national teenage pregnancy rate by one-third by the year 2005.

I wholeheartedly support the methods and targets set by the President's campaign. If we are to stop the cycle of children having babies in this country we must make the President's goal a reality. The success of this campaign is imperative to the healthy development of young girls and children throughout the Nation.

As poverty is a strong predictor for teen pregnancy, teen pregnancy is a near certain predictor of poverty. In my home State of Connecticut, the Department of Public Health Records reported 3,757 teen births in 1993. In New Haven, the biggest city in my district, there were 354 teen births reported that year. These figures do not account for all the teen pregnancies in a given year, but they do indicate the enormity of the problem and the need for immediate action.

We must instill in our children the importance of making responsible choices in life. Clearly, bringing a baby into the world without the emotional maturity and financial resources to raise a healthy child is not in the best interest of either the parents or the newborn. Discussing the value of personal responsibility and providing information to children on this issue are tools that will work to prevent teen mothers and fathers. The President's campaign expands the scope and reach of this dialogue through the media, schools, and civic activities.

I am a proud supporter of the National Campaign to Reduce Teen Pregnancy. Through education and communication the campaign will be an effective tool to assist young women and young men with the dilemma of teen pregnancy.

FOREIGN RELATIONS AUTHORIZATION ACT

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 1996

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, the Foreign Relations Authorization Act which the House passed today in a vote that went largely, though not entirely, along party lines, was an uneven piece of legislation at best. I opposed the bill because I think it represents a retreat from America's historic mission to promote democracy—particularly in those lands that were until recently ruled by tyranny and dictatorship, such as those nations formerly part of the Soviet Union.

But I rise to express praise for one provision of the bill included by the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. SMITH], known as the Humanitarian Aid Corridor Act. I was an original cosponsor of this legislation, which has broad bipartisan support. As the cochairman of the Armenian Issue Caucus, along with the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. PORTER], I have worked for enactment of this provision.

Mr. Speaker, the Humanitarian Aid Corridor Act would withhold U.S. aid to nations which are blocking congressionally approved humanitarian assistance to other countries. It requires all U.S. aid recipients to allow unencumbered delivery of humanitarian assistance. The Republic of Turkey has imposed a blockade on the neighboring Republic of Armenia, preventing the delivery of food, medicine, and other humanitarian relief supplies to Armenia. Much of this aid originates in the United States. While we may not be able to deter every country in the world from resorting to the disruption of humanitarian aid as a weapon against their neighbors, we can make sure that such countries do not get a dime of American aid as long as they undermine our foreign policy objectives.

Luckily, Mr. Speaker, this provision was also included in the Foreign Operations Appropriations bill that the President signed into law last month. Mr. PORTER and I currently have a Dear Colleague letter circulating urging the administration to strictly enforce this provision of law. While it is my hope that we can ultimately enact the Corridor Act as a permanent law in a constructive, bipartisan manner, I am prepared to work through the appropriations process, as we successfully did last year, to keep the Corridor Act in force.

BALANCED BUDGET DOWNPAYMENT ACT, II

SPEECH OF

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 7, 1996

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3019) making appropriations for fiscal year 1996 to make a further downpayment toward a balanced budget.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to day in strong support of the Lowey amendment, which deletes the provision in this legislation

permitting States to decide whether to use Medicaid funds for abortions in the case of rape or incest.

This provision is cruel, unfair, and has no place in any legislation, but most particularly not in this already troubled omnibus appropriations bill.

States should not be given the option of providing coverage of these services under the guise of States' rights. States have the choice whether or not to participate in the Medicaid Program—they do not and should not have the option to pick and choose which procedures they will cover.

The provision in this bill clearly discriminates against victims of crime. It blames the victim and forces her to accept the responsibility and consequences resulting from the violent crime perpetrated against her. Indigent women who are victims of rape or incest have already been brutally assaulted once by their attacker—this provision will make them victims of a second brutal assault, this time by the Government that pledges to assist and protect them.

I urge my colleagues to protect the rights of poor and vulnerable victims and vote "yes" on the Lowey amendment.

CONGRATULATIONS ON 25 SUCCESSFUL YEARS

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 1996

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor any friends at Southfield Christian School on their 25th anniversary celebration.

With a deep-seated commitment to a strong program of moral and character development, Southfield Christian has set new standards for excellence among Christian schools.

In fact, Southfield Christian was one of only two schools nationally to receive the prestigious Blue Ribbon Exemplary School Award from the U.S. Department of Education.

With a program emphasizing both academic excellence and a commitment to developing character and integrity, Southfield Christian has a solid track record of success.

More than 75 percent of their student body achieves honor roll status. The annual college acceptance average is over 95 percent and, in last year's senior class, 99 percent were accepted to colleges. And finally, nearly 77 percent of the students at Southfield Christian score nationally in the top quarter on national standardized tests.

Not only are they academically outstanding, the school and its student body is involved in the local community as well. The annual fall drive for the needy yielded more than 800 winter coats, hundreds of cans of food and more than 7,000 quarters—in honor of their 25th anniversary—for the purchase of children's Bibles.

With state-of-the-art facilities and a loyal, committed alumni, the future looks very bright for the next 25 years and beyond.

Strengthened by their commitment and resolve to install morals and values in our future leaders, I extend my heartiest congratulations on your 25th anniversary. I am very proud of Southfield Christian, their staff, and the student body. Keep up the great work.

SPEAKER PRINGLE'S STRAIGHT TALK ON WELFARE REFORM

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 1996

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, President Clinton has talked a good game on welfare reform, particularly when the cameras were focused on him during the State of the Union Address. But his two vetoes of welfare reform legislation speak much louder than his crowd-pleasing rhetoric. As we, in Congress, continue to pursue an overhaul of the current system, the California legislature has moved ahead with its own welfare reform legislation, designed to restore work incentives and help people on welfare become independent and productive citizens.

The speaker of the assembly, Curt Pringle, has been a leader in California's welfare reform effort. In the March 4, Los Angeles Times, Speaker Pringle correctly pointed out that President Clinton, far from being a leader in welfare reform, is actually its major impediment. California and the other States cannot reform their welfare programs without Federal approval. If President Clinton had approved the legislation sent to him by the 104th Congress, California would not have to go through an extremely difficult and time-consuming Federal waiver process in order to implement its own reforms. California could be moving forward with its reforms right now.

Given the continued urgency of this issue, I would like to request that Speaker Pringle's excellent commentary be entered into the RECORD at this point.

[From the Los Angeles Times, March 4, 1996]

CLINTON ISN'T DOING CALIFORNIA'S POOR ANY FAVORS

(By Curt Pringle)

President Clinton said, "I believe we should ship decision-making responsibility and resources from bureaucracies in Washington to communities, to states and, where we can, directly to individuals." When he makes statements like that about welfare reform, does he seriously expect us to believe him any more?

Since his campaign pledge in 1992 to end welfare, the president has blocked every serious reform effort presented. Last year he vetoed important congressional block grant legislation, for which he had earlier indicated support, which would have given state and local governments more flexibility and control over reform efforts. And last week before a Senate panel, Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala announced that the president will reject the National Governors Assn.'s bipartisan plan to salvage welfare reform this year.

The president's words of reform offer up hope, but his actions betray us at our most desperate hour.

California, like so many states, is hurting. Our social fabric is being ripped apart by federal welfare programs that discourage work, deprive citizens of self-respect and dignity, create long-term intergenerational dependency and compromise the well-being of our children. After \$5.4 trillion spent over the last 30 years for social welfare, we now realize that the federal government's failed "war on poverty" has actually been a war on the values of its own citizens.

We must replace the welfare system in California immediately, before we lose another generation of poor children. Unfortu-

nately, the Clinton administration is standing in our way.

In July 1994, California passed common-sense "family cap" welfare reform legislation to end the perverse practice of increasing payments to welfare recipients who have additional children. This practice usurps the role of husbands and drives men away from their families. But officials at the federal Department of Health and Human Services have denied the necessary federal waiver that would allow California to implement its law.

Our citizens are being held hostage by the federal welfare system, and there is nothing we can do about it.

How can we possibly move Californians into the work force when federal welfare programs pay them the equivalent of \$11.59 an hour not to work? That's 270% more than they can earn with a full-time, minimum-wage job. And how can we discourage teenage girls from getting pregnant and dropping out of school when Washington tells them that for as long as they don't work, don't get married and don't live at home, the government will provide them with free money, free food and a free apartment?

We must take matters into our own hands. California will soon pass the most sweeping welfare reform legislation in the nation's history. The plan will replace the current welfare system with temporary assistance that focuses on reuniting broken families and moving the abled-bodied back into jobs.

The plan also removes disincentives to marriage, work and self-responsibility by establishing flat grants, no higher than minimum wage, that do not increase according to family size. After all, it is unfair to tax low-income working mothers whose wages are not based on family size and use the money to subsidize welfare recipients who choose to have more children. Fairness and self-reliance will be the cornerstones of California's new welfare system.

But without federal approval, these reforms cannot be implemented.

The president says that states must be given more flexibility to do the things they want to without seeking waivers. But by blocking reform efforts in Washington, the president has proved again that he cannot be trusted.

California must be allowed to implement its welfare reform measures without seeking waivers.

We will fight destructive federal welfare programs all the way to the Supreme Court if necessary, until out citizens and families can once again set their own course for opportunity.

TRIBUTE TO JOEL VATTENDAHL

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 1996

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend, Mr. Joel Vattendahl, who retired from the United Steelworkers of America in December 1995.

Throughout his career, Joel worked tirelessly on behalf of the working men and women of Wisconsin. Joel's career in the labor movement began in 1965 when he was appointed staff representative with the United Steelworkers. In 1981, he was elected to the position of director of United Steelworkers District 32. Joel effectively served in this position until June 1995. He announced his retirement in December 1995.