

In addition to his outstanding work with the Steelworkers, Joel has played a crucial role in directing the course of Wisconsin's labor movement and has also been very active in a variety of local and community affairs. From 1981 until his retirement, Joel served as a member of the executive board of the Wisconsin State AFL-CIO. He also was a member of the Worker's Compensation Advisory Council and the University of Wisconsin Board of Regents. His outstanding efforts with these and many other organizations have helped to improve and maintain the quality of life for people throughout our State.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the working men and women of the State of Wisconsin, I would like to thank Joel Vattendahl for his three decades of service and dedication. I wish him a happy and healthy retirement.

COMMEMORATION OF WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. RONALD V. DELLUMS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 1996

Mr. DELLUMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Women's History Month. This is a time to remember that women in this country and all over the world have historically been subject to oppression. This is a time to remember that women in this country and all over the world have been fighting and overcoming this oppression within the context of their own cultural traditions. This is a time to mourn the oppression of the past and present and celebrate the empowerment of women in the present and in the future.

Let us remember that the same fundamental rights and freedoms held by men are also held by women, that women have the same rights to freedom of expression and religion, to individual autonomy and privacy, and to vote and hold government office; that women have the right to an equal education, equal opportunity in employment, and equal pay for equal work; and that women have the right to be free from sexual discrimination and harassment, sexual and physical assault, and spousal abuse.

I challenge my colleagues to remember and honor women who have made their mark on history, and whose work for recognition of women's rights and freedoms has benefited both women and men. These countless women include: Susan B. Anthony, Sojourner Truth, Belle Hooks, and Flo Kennedy, advocates for the rights of women and African Americans; Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucy Stone, Lucretia Mott, Eleanor Roosevelt, Hillary Clinton, Gloria Steinem, Eleanor Smeal, and Dr. Homa Darabe, advocates for women's rights; and Margaret Sanger and Emma Goldman, advocates for education, autonomy, and responsibility concerning sexuality, reproduction, and birth control.

We should also remember and honor women civil rights leaders, such as Rosa Parks, Dorothy West, Dorothy Height, Juanita Jones Abernathy, LaDonna Harris, Loretta Armenta, Nadine Gardimer, Lani Guinier, and Fannie Lou Hamer. We should remember and honor other social reformers, such as Harriet Tubman, Jane Addams, Mother Jones, Dorothy Day, Clara Barton, Dorothy Dix, Helen Keller, Florence Nightingale, Mother Theresa, and

Marian Wright Edelman. We should remember and honor women scientists, such as Marie Curie, Margaret Mead, and Rachel Carson; and women educators, such as Mary McCleod Bethune and Maria Montessori.

We should remember and honor women writers, such as Jane Austen, Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Gertrude Stein, Virginia Woolf, Amy Chan, Alice Walker, Maxine Hong Kingston, Toni Morrison, Simone de Beauvoir, Bing Xin, and Taslima Nasrin; and poets, such as Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Emily Dickinson, Maya Angelou, and Juana Ines de la Cruz. We should likewise remember and honor women artists, such as Georgia O'Keeffe, Maria Martinez of San Ildefonso, and Frieda Kahlo.

And we should remember and honor women government leaders, such as Barbara Jordan, Bella Abzug, Shirley Chisholm, Geraldine Ferraro, Janet Reno, Dr. Joycelyn Elders, Wilma Mankiller, and Agnes Dill; and such international women leaders as Sylvia Kinigi, Prime Minister of Burundi, Lidia Geiler, President of Bolivia; Siramezo Bandaranaike, Prime Minister of Ceylon; Corazon Aquino, President of the Philippines; Indira Gandhi, Prime Minister of India, Benazir Bhutto, Prime Minister of Pakistan; and Mary Robinson, President of Ireland. We should also remember such international leaders as Wangari Maathai, Kenyan environmentalist; Aung San Suu Kyi, Burmese democracy activist and Nobel Peace Prize winner; Rigoberta Menchu', Guatemalan Nobel Peace Prize winner; Radhika Coomaraswamy, Sri Lankan academic and U.N. Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women; Gabriela Mistral, Chilean educator, poet, and member of the U.N. Subcommission on Women; Sonia Picado, Judge on the Inter-American Court of Human Rights; and Gertrude Mongella, Tanzanian government minister and organizer of the Fourth U.N. Conference on Women.

These are only a few of the many noted women of the arts, sciences, and leadership who deserve mention. In addition to these women, we should acknowledge and honor all the unsung women who work tirelessly for little or no pay in the home and in the charitable sector.

Women's rights has been on the international agenda since 1975, when the U.N. General Assembly declared 1975 the International Women's Year, and when 1976-85 was declared the U.N. Decade for Women. In 1985, a U.N. Conference on Women was held to evaluate achievements made and work still to be done to realize women's rights. Much progress has been made since 1975, but still much remained to be done.

Consequently, last September, in Beijing, China, the United Nations held the Fourth World Conference on Women. At that conference, women from all over the world came together. These women came from every continent, from every cultural and religious tradition, from countries of every economic situation, but these women all agreed that women's rights are human rights. They reached consensus on a Platform for Action that will be the cornerstone for realizing equal rights and freedoms for women throughout the world.

The Platform for Action recognizes that empowerment of women and equality between women and men are prerequisites for achieving political, social, economic, cultural, and environmental security among all peoples. It

aims at removing the obstacles to women's active participation in all spheres of public and private life through full and equal share in economic, social, cultural, and political decision-making. It promotes the principle of shared power and responsibility between women and men at home, in the workplace, and in the national and international communities. It advocates eradication of all forms of discrimination against women.

The Platform for Action calls for strategic action in the following areas of concern: poverty, education and training, health care, women-focused violence, armed conflict, economic structures and policies, the sharing of power and decision-making, advancement of women, promotion and protection of women's human rights, stereotyping of women in the media, natural resources and the environment, and discrimination against girls.

Realizing these goals and addressing these areas of concern will require a commitment by governments, international institutions, nongovernmental organizations, and the private sector throughout the world. Let us all here in Congress commit to doing our part to help realize these goals and address these concerns in our country and in other countries. To this end, I am pleased to join my colleagues in the House in cosponsoring and supporting H. Con. Res. 119, a resolution to support the commitments made by the United States at the Fourth World Conference on Women, and ask the entire body to do so. Additionally, we should ask our colleagues in the Senate to do their part by immediately considering giving its advice and consent to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, now before the Senate. This Convention will do much to help realize women's rights around the world. It entered into force on September 3, 1981, and more than 80 nations are already parties.

Again, Mr. Speaker, on this day, it is an honor to pay tribute to women and celebrate Women's History Month.

URGING MEMBERS TO READ ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS IN BOLIVIA

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 1996

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to enter into the RECORD this letter to Secretary of State Warren Christopher regarding human rights in Bolivia. Twenty-eight nongovernmental organizations from the United States wrote this letter to ask the United States Government to ensure that Bolivian antinarcotics police receiving United States assistance comply with Bolivian and international laws when carrying out arrests and that the United States support Bolivian measures to improve human rights.

I am particularly interested in this letter because it highlights the human rights situation in the Andean nations receiving antinarcotics assistance from the United States. I think it is important that we monitor how U.S. assistance is used to ensure that it is used for its stated purpose, and that it does not contribute to human rights violations in the Andean nations. Our commitment to support human rights around the globe requires congressional attention to this matter.

FEBRUARY 15, 1996.

Hon. WARREN M. CHRISTOPHER,
Secretary of State, Department of State,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SECRETARY: We are writing to express our deep concern regarding human rights violations occurring as a result of antinarcotics operations in Bolivia. On March 1, 1996 the Administration is slated to announce its annual "certification" of countries cooperating with U.S. antinarcotics objectives. As you undertake your review of antinarcotics efforts in Bolivia, we urge you to look closely at those violations to seek ways to work with the Bolivian government to implement measures that could improve the protection of human rights in that country.

Human rights abuses remain pervasive in the Chapare, the rural area in which most of Bolivia's coca is grown and cocaine base produced. For years, the antinarcotics police—trained and funded with U.S. assistance—has run roughshod over the local population, carrying out arbitrary searches and arrests, stealing the meager possessions encountered, and manhandling and beating individuals during raids and interrogations. Impunity for abuses committed by antinarcotics police is the norm. If investigations are initiated, they are cursory and incomplete; sanctions are rarely imposed.

Social unrest and conflict in the Chapare increased significantly over the second half of 1995, as a result of stepped-up coca eradication efforts. Last spring, the U.S. government sent the Bolivian government a letter stating that Bolivia would be treated as "decertified" and therefore ineligible for U.S. assistance if it did not, among other conditions, meet coca eradication targets. In response to the U.S. ultimatum, the Bolivian government stepped up antinarcotics operations despite well-founded fears that these actions would unleash a wave of violence. As predicted, the eradication efforts sparked violent confrontations with coca growers, resulting in at least seven deaths, scores wounded and hundreds arrested. Careless and indiscriminate use of force by the Bolivian police against those opposing coca eradication policies is disturbingly frequent.

Since mid-January, the Bolivian antinarcotics police have undertaken massive sweeps in the Chapare, arbitrarily detaining over three hundred people. Those detained are typically held several days and released without charges; indeed, without ever being presented to a judge. On January 29, the police also broke up a peaceful hunger strike in support of the women protesting the government's coca policies and threw over fifty people into jail. Neither Bolivian law nor international human rights standards permit these warrantless arrests of individuals against whom there is no evidence of participation in criminal conduct. The government is clearly using police powers to stifle lawful political opposition to its policies. Given the proximity of a decision on certification, we also suspect the Bolivian government is detaining hundreds in the hopes of impressing the United States with its antidrug commitment.

The Bolivian antinarcotics efforts also continue to rely on special judicial procedures that violate fundamental due process considerations. Under Bolivia's Law 1008, those who are formally charged with drug offenses—no matter how minor—are imprisoned without the possibility of pre-trial release and must, even if acquitted, remain in prison until the trial court's decision is reviewed by the Supreme Court, a process that takes years. The U.S. government provides funding for the salaries and expenses of special prosecutors for the antinarcotics courts.

We recognize the United States does not encourage or condone human rights abuses

by Bolivian antinarcotics forces. Nevertheless, the United States shares responsibility for those abuses. The U.S. government provides funds and technical assistance to all of the Bolivian agencies involved in counternarcotics activities and, as just noted, to the antinarcotics courts. Bolivia has passed laws, created institutions and adopted antinarcotics strategies shaped by U.S. concerns and pressure.

We urge you to ensure that the U.S. government no longer underwrites human rights abuses in Bolivia by adopting policies more sensitive to the political, economic and social cost of antinarcotics operations in Bolivia. Specifically, we urge the U.S. government to:

Support revisions in Law 1008 which would ensure that Bolivia's judicial procedures for drug offenses meet international due process norms and standards.

Ensure that Bolivian antinarcotics police receiving U.S. assistance and support comply with Bolivian and international laws when carrying out arrests.

Provide the necessary support to enable the Bolivian antinarcotics police to establish effective complaint and review procedures to hold abusive agents accountable.

Expand reporting on human rights abuses stemming from antinarcotics operations in the State Department's annual human rights report for 1996.

The issue of drug abuse is important to the American people and deserves the attention of our nation's leaders. U.S.-supported coca eradication efforts in Bolivia, however, have yielded little results in reducing the amount of cocaine coming into the United States, and few independent observers believe they can ever succeed in reducing the flow of cocaine to our country. At the same time, they have increased social tensions and fostered human rights abuses. In crafting future policy, adoption of the measures we have outlined could result in significant improvements in the human rights situation in Bolivia and would send an important message to the Bolivian people regarding U.S. concern for human rights.

Thank you for your attention to our concerns.

Representatives from the following organizations signed on to the February 15, 1996 letter to Secretary of State Warren Christopher addressing human rights concerns as a result of U.S. anti-narcotics policy in Bolivia:

Washington Office on Latin America.
 Maryknoll Society Justice and Peace Office.

American Friends Service Committee,
 Washington, Office.

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

Catholics For Justice, Latin American Task Force, Diocese for Kansas City-St. Joseph, Missouri.

Center for Concern.

Church of the Brethren.

Clergy for Enlightened Drug Policy.

Columban Justice and Peace Office.

Comboni Peace and Justice Office, Cincinnati, OH.

Latin American Studies Program, Cornell University.

Criminal Justice Policy Foundation.

Drug Policy Foundation.

Fellowship of Reconciliation Task Force on Latin America and the Caribbean.

Foundation on Drug Policy and Human Rights.

Inter-American Dialogue.

North American Congress on Latin America (NACLA).

Guatemala Human Rights Commission/USA.

International Labor Rights Fund.

Maryknoll Society.

Office of Social Concerns, Maryknoll Sisters.

NETWORK: A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby.

Open Society Institute.

Pax Christi U.S.A.

Peru Peace Network.

Sisters of Saint Joseph of Carondelet.

U.S. Catholic Conference.

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.

The following individuals also signed on to the letter: Melina Selverston and Cynthia McClintock.

AFTERMATH OF THE MARC TRAIN CRASH; HONORING THE CREW AND THE JOB CORPS

HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 1996

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, a few short weeks ago, many Americans were shocked by the loss of life in the Amtrak/Maryland Commuter Rail [MARC] railroad tragedy. Among those who died were eight outstanding young people who were turning their lives around: Dante Swain, 18, Baltimore; Michael Woodson, 26, Philadelphia; Diana Hanvichid, 17, Woodbridge, Virginia; Lakeisha Marshall, 17, Capitol Heights, Maryland; Carlos Byrd, 17, Baltimore; Claudius Kessoon, 20, Landover, Maryland; Thomas Loatman, 23, Vienna, Virginia; and Karis Rudder, 17, Elmhurst, New York. Three fine MARC train crew members also died while heroically trying to save the passengers instead of themselves: Richard Orr, James Quillen, James Majors, all of Maryland.

The young people were enrolled in the Job Corps at the time of their deaths. They were participants in one of the oldest and most successful Federal programs that gives at-risk youth a chance to build positive lives for themselves. They were striving to create the kind of lives that the MARC train crew members had made for themselves—responsible, productive, and hard working. The ideals of the Job Corps represent the dreams of these young people and the lives of the MARC train crewmen.

The Job Corps was born in 1964, during the Great Society of Lyndon Johnson. It is one of that era's most productive and effective offspring. As the Nation's largest and most comprehensive residential job training and education program for at-risk youth, the Job Corps has provided more than 1.6 million disadvantaged youth with a pathway to prosperity and productivity. Some Job Corps graduates have become millionaires, Ph.D.s, judges, psychologists—even a World Heavyweight Boxing champion [George Foreman].

The Job Corps was established as a public-private partnership. Under a contract with the U.S. Department of Labor, private industry operates almost 80 percent of the Job Corps centers. The remaining centers are managed through contracts with such Government agencies as the Forest Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Park Service.

Job Corps students are young people between the ages of 16 and 24 who are making a determined effort to achieve a productive, responsible life. Job Corps statistics show that their determination pays off: Seven out of ten