

THE SPIRIT OF RURAL AMERICA

HON. GEORGE R. NETHERCUTT, JR.

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 1996

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, the first 2 months of 1996 brought the Pacific Northwest bitter cold, heavy snow, torrential rains, and disastrous floods.

I had the opportunity to witness some of the worst flooding in our State in 30 years. Railroads have been washed out, highways are crumbling, and homes have been carpeted with river mud. However, outside of the heavy mud rose a spirit from eastern Washington that lightened the hearts of everyone who was touched by this force of nature. Without phone calls, whistles, or an official call, the eastern Washington community has come together to work day and night to take their town back from overflowing rivers. Working as one, they created an awe-inspiring relief team. This effort is a tribute to the strength and capability of the people of the Pacific Northwest.

Nothing tears at the fabric of a community like a natural disaster and nothing else can bring out the best in human beings. The people of Dayton, Walla Walla, Waitsburg, Pullman, Colfax, Elberton, Palouse, and all surrounding towns should be commended for what they have endured and how they have welcomed their neighbors' help with open arms.

The employees of FEMA, the Red Cross, Corps of Engineers, and the Small Business Administration must be congratulated as well. Working among disaster areas and dealing with human concerns day after day challenged public and private citizens alike. My visit to these towns to view the damage was not only inspiring but an encouraging opportunity to observe Federal employees at work. These agencies have received high marks in Washington State and our residents thank their personnel for what they have done to assist.

When spring arrives in the Pacific Northwest, the scars will remain visible, but the work will continue. Crops will be replanted and roads will be repaired. As a Member of Congress, I will be doing my best to help our small towns get back on their feet, back in their homes, and their lives back to normal. It will all take time and it will also preparation to avoid flood damage in the future.

America's small towns must be preserved. Rural communities are certainly a window into our past and, I hope, a picture of what America can be. We are faced with daily reports of bad news about the condition of our society, but the citizens of Dayton, Waitsburg, Palouse, and all the other affected towns in eastern Washington give me hope. Community leaders like Waitsburg Mayor Tom Baker, Columbia County Commissioner Jon McFarland, and Walla Walla County Commissioner David Carey have given so much to their constituents under adverse circumstances. John Vachal, the mayor of Dayton, has done an excellent job coordinating his responsibilities to the town and contending with the damage to his own neighborhood. Great commitment and leadership has also been recognized in Columbia County Commissioners George Touchette and Charles Reeves, Colfax Mayor Norma Becker, Palouse Mayor Bruce Baldwin, and Pullman Mayor Mitch Chandler, to name only a few.

Countless families have endured this winter's heartbreaking events, like the Marshall family of Starbuck, whose living room was flooded with 3 feet of water. Flint and Megan Gilbertson were both moved to tears, not simply because they nearly lost their home, but because their community opened hearts and wallets and donated needed money to the family. Nevertheless, few complain and everybody works for the good of the community. I believe Darlene Burrill of Walla Walla said it best. "May each one find hope and encouragement in knowing that there are many people who care."

I will do all that I can to make recovery proceed as smoothly as possible for the people of the Fifth Congressional District. America has much to learn from my part of the country, and I have a renewed respect and a continuing deep appreciation for the spirit of rural America and eastern Washington.

IRAN OIL SANCTIONS ACT OF 1996

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 1996

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce H.R. 3107, a bill that would impose sanctions on companies that provide key oilfield equipment and technology and investment to Iran and Libya. The Iran Oil Sanctions Act of 1996 will ensure that these terrorist states will have more limited access to outside capital and technology. It will be a major deterrent to their efforts in attracting new investment and luring European and Asian firms into developing Iranian offshore oil resources.

The Iran Oil Sanctions Act of 1996 imposes sanctions on persons exporting key oilfield goods of technology or making investments of \$40 million or more that would enhance the ability of Iran and Libya to develop their petroleum resources.

The measure would require the President to impose two or more penalties on a sanctioned person. These penalties include a denial of Exibank assistance; a denial of specific licenses for the export of controlled technology and a prohibition on imports from that company; a prohibition on a sanctioned financial institution from serving as a primary dealer in U.S. Government debt instruments; a prohibition on any U.S. financial institution from making any loan to a sanctioned person over \$10 million a year; and a ban on any U.S. Government procurement of any goods or services from a sanctioned person.

The legislation allows the President to delay imposition of sanctions for 90 days to pursue consultations with the Government of the sanctioned person to terminate the sanctionable activities. An additional 90-day delay is provided if that Government is in the process of terminating these activities. The President may waive any of the sanctions if he determines that doing so is in the U.S. national interest.

The adoption of a companion bill in the Senate on December 22, 1995, as well as the prospect for the enactment of a more comprehensive sanctions regime contained in this bill has already had a deterrent effect on potential investors and oilfield suppliers in Iran and Libya.

The bombings and slaughter of innocent civilians in Israel over the past several months demands an immediate and concrete plan to punish those states providing financing and other support to the perpetrators of these unspeakable crimes.

While the convening of an antiterrorism summit in Egypt earlier this month was a laudable step in fighting the challenge of state-supported terrorism around the world, much more needs to be done in focusing the spotlight directly on states such as Libya and Iran. Adoption of this measure would be the first step in developing such a plan.

It can be the cornerstone in the foundation of our policy of cutting off the key sources of funding to those regimes aiding and funding these acts of terrorism and actively developing weapons of mass destruction.

In my view, the most effective way to advance the goals of the antiterrorism summit is to adopt a comprehensive policy designed to stop the flow of oilfield technology and investments to Iran and Libya. This bill accomplishes this objective by sanctioning any company providing goods or the capital to develop the oil resources of these rogue regimes.

To our trading partners in Europe and Japan who have expressed reservations about our approach in this bill, I would only ask them to examine the actions and public statements coming from Teheran and Tripoli, including their continued support for terrorist activities throughout Europe, their advocacy of the destruction of Israel, their efforts to develop chemical and nuclear weapons of mass destruction, their characterization of the murder of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin as "divine revenge", and their unwillingness to extradite those responsible for the murder of the passengers of the Pan Am 103 flight.

I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to send a strong message that future trade and investment in the petroleum sector in Iran and Libya will restrict a company's access to the United States economy. I ask you to join me in supporting this very important legislation which will be considered later this week by the International Relations Committee.

TRIBUTE TO MSGR. JOHN PATRICK CARROLL-ABBING

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 1996

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of Lou Marsh, a close friend and constituent. Mr. Marsh is the Florida chairman of the national board of the Boys' Town of Italy as well as its tireless advocate. It is through his commitment that I have become familiar with the Boys' Town of Italy and how I come to pay tribute to the humanitarian efforts of Msgr. John Patrick Carroll-Abbing and this years Boys' Town honorees.

The monsignor's work has spanned the course of the last half-century and has served to establish and preserve the Boys' Town of Italy. In 1945, Monsignor Carroll-Abbing founded his first Boys' Town 45 miles from Rome. The purpose of the town was simple, to give orphaned or abandoned children a home. The Boys' Towns were run completely by the children. They shared in the work responsibilities and learned to respect one another.

The dreams of monsignor Carroll-Abbing have been realized today with nine Boys' Towns and one Girls' Town in Italy, all run by the monsignor's International Boys' Towns of Italy—the organization which he established. Today, orphans in Italy no longer go without homes. Besides the towns which he established, the monsignor's organization also donates money, clothes, medical care, furniture, and time to children in need.

Today, Monsignor Carroll-Abbing's touch is felt around the world. He has extended his aid across seas and continents. The monsignor's Boys' Towns have provided homes for hundreds who have suffered due to war, famine, and disaster. In addition, the monsignor travels around the world to disaster sights to assist in relief efforts on each occasion with the help of children.

Monsignor Carroll-Abbing's major contribution to the world has been to give opportunity to a group of forgotten children who would have otherwise lacked it. Msgr. John Patrick Carroll-Abbing has served humanity throughout his life; whether they be orphans, delinquents, or children in need. Monsignor Carroll-Abbing is a man who has touched, changed, and saved the lives of thousands of children. For more than 50 years he has dedicated himself to improving the lives of children. Monsignor Carroll-Abbing is a man who should be revered by all, and overlooked by none, as one of the greatest humanitarians in history.

This year the Boys' Towns of Italy are honoring two outstanding Italian-Americans for their various achievements and contributions. The Boys' Town Entertainer of the Year Award will go to Mr. Dennis Farina. Mr. Farina has long been acknowledged as one of Hollywood's busiest actors, and has appeared in such hits as "Get Shorty," "Little Big League," and "Striking Distance."

The Boys' Town of Italy Man of the Year is Mr. Chuck Curico. Mr. Curico at the age of 17 joined the U.S. Marine Corps where he served for 3 years. He received the Navy Achievement Medal for his service in the Vietnam war. He returned home, married, and graduated from college in 1972, the same year he founded Tire Kingdom with a modest investment of \$150. Tire Kingdom is now America's third largest independent tire dealer, and is currently listed as one of Florida's top 50 companies. Believing strongly in giving something back to his community, Mr. Curico has been actively involved in community service projects such as: Homesafe, Junior Achievement, the American Cancer Society, the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, the March of Dimes, Boys and Girls Clubs, and many others. Mr. Curico, with his exemplary and tireless dedication to improving the lives of others serves as an illustration of what we all should strive to become.

WIDENING INCOME GAP IN AMERICA

HON. MARTIN OLAV SABO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 1996

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, for many years, I have been speaking about the growing income gap in America. Due to the Republican Presidential race, this issue has finally been cata-

pulted into the forefront of the Nation's consciousness. In fact, it is hard to open a newspaper op-ed page or turn on a television news program without hearing something about declining worker wages, increased layoffs and increasing corporate profits and CEO pay. I am grateful that people have started to pay attention to this important problem. I fear, however, that as the Republican race winds down, the issue of the income gap will no longer be in vogue, and the media will turn its attention to something new.

We cannot squander this opportunity. The income gap is a growing problem that, if not addressed, threatens to undermine our Nation's prosperity and calls into question the type of nation we want America to be. We must take advantage of the attention now being paid to the problems facing working Americans.

Thanks in part to the deficit reduction measures we passed in 1993, the American economy today is in good shape: We enjoy strong growth combined with low unemployment and low inflation. The stock market is also reaching record highs, as are profits of many American companies. This should seem like good news for the average American family, for in the past, Americans at all income levels shared in our Nation's prosperity. Today, however, stock prices and corporate profits rise while the incomes of middle-class American families stagnate or drop.

If stagnating wages were the only problem that working Americans had to face, things might not be so bad. However, in recent years our Nation has also seen unprecedented worker layoffs in corporate America. Of course, it is understandable that such upheavals may occur as our economy becomes more technology-based and integrated into global markets. What is difficult to understand, however, are the tremendous bonuses and pay increases enjoyed by the very CEO's who lay off thousands of workers.

The United States has prided itself on being a nation of the middle class—one in which if you work hard and follow the rules, you can expect to do well enough to support yourself and your family. Alarming, this is no longer true for an increasing number of Americans.

In the decades following World War II, American workers shared in the successes of their employers. Over the past 20 years, however, only high-income Americans have moved ahead economically. Between 1977 and 1990, for instance, the average after-tax income of the wealthiest 1 percent of our population increased by 67 percent, after adjusting for inflation. During this same period, the average after-tax income of the bottom fifth decreased by nearly 27 percent.

This is not a problem that affects only the poor. Every year, thousands of Americans are laid off from well-paying middle class jobs, to be left with a choice between a new job that pays less or the unemployment line. Clearly, this trend cannot continue.

America's level of income inequality is already higher than that of any industrialized nation. Our middle class is evaporating, and we are well on the road to becoming a nation divided between a few very rich and many who simply struggle to get by. None of us, in the words of Labor Secretary Robert Reich, will "want to live in a society sharply divided between winners and losers."

Leaders in government and business must begin to address this problem, which will have

social consequences that far outweigh any economic impact. We must correct policies that exacerbate the income gap, and develop new ones that help to close it. Several of my Democratic colleagues have developed proposals to reduce the income gap by encouraging responsible corporate citizenship, boosting worker wages, and making our Tax Code more equitable. I commend them for these efforts, and call upon all of my colleagues to take action to restore working Americans' faith in the economy.

The widening income gap lays before us the question of what kind of country we want to be: one sharply divided between the rich and poor, or one in which all citizens can benefit from a strong economy. I believe that our choice is clear. America has always been the land of opportunity. We should work together for policies that do not favor any income group, but enable all Americans to share in our Nation's strength and prosperity.

INDIAN TYRANNY SUBJECT OF NEW VIDEO

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 1996

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, many of us have spoken repeatedly about India's repressive tyranny in Punjab, Khalistan, and in other areas where the dominant population is not Brahmin Hindu. Now a new video has come out which exposes the pervasive nature of that tyranny, at least as it relates to the Sikh nation in Punjab, Khalistan. I thank the Council of Khalistan for sending me this powerful documentary Disappearances in Punjab.

This video was not made by Sikhs, but by a human rights activist who is Hindu. It is a solid investigation of the repressive nature of India's brutal rule of Punjab, Khalistan. Khalistan, of course, is the independent Sikh country declared on October 7, 1987. The Council of Khalistan is its government in exile.

Disappearances in Punjab focuses on Sikhs who have been made to disappear by the Indian regime. According to a coalition of prominent human rights groups and individual activists, there are more than 100,000 Sikhs who have been subjected to this cruel fate. Perhaps the most prominent is the general secretary of the human rights wing—Shiromani Akali Dal—Jaswant Singh Khaira. Mr. Khaira was whisked away from his Amritsar home on September 6, less than a week after meeting with a congressional delegation to discuss a report he had published. In the report, Mr. Khaira showed that over 25,000 young Sikhs men had been abducted by the regime, tortured, and killed, then their bodies had been declared unidentified and cremated. After the report was published, the Tarn Taran police chief explicitly told Mr. Khaira that he, too, would be made to disappear. After more than 6 months in illegal detention, Mr. Khaira's whereabouts remain unknown. As the video shows, this incident is unfortunately part of a pattern of intimidation through terror by the Indian regime.

The video publicizes real victims of India's brutal repression. It shows us a policewoman talking about the disappearances and other repression in Punjab, Khalistan. It is vivid indictment of the brutality that is a way of life in