

indiscriminate firing on civilian populations. Such abuses can erode support for Turkey in the Congress.

In your response to my letter, you indicated that internal security, along with self-defense is recognized as an acceptable use of U.S.-supplied defense articles but that the United States is troubled about reports that a large number of civilians have been killed in Turkish government counter-insurgency operations against the PKK. Questions remain:

What precisely are you doing about these reports?

Is it the U.S. policy, for example, to tell the Turks when we see reports of the destruction of villages or the killing of civilians, that we do not like it and cannot tolerate such abuses in the use of U.S.-supplied equipment?

What is the U.S. strategy to insure that such practices end?

Second, I have further questions regarding a related aspect of U.S. policy toward Turkey—resolution of the Kurdish issue in southeast Turkey.

There is considerable sympathy in Congress for the plight of the Kurdish population in Turkey, although none for terrorist acts by the Kurdish Worker's Party (PKK). I do not know of any Member support for Kurdish separatism or the break up of Turkey, but there is strong support for full equality of rights, including cultural and linguistic rights, for all Turkish citizens, including the Kurds. Members are troubled by the Turkish government's dominant reliance on force to put down the insurrection in the southeast, and would like to see the United States take a more active role in promoting negotiations among a broad base of Turkish citizens to end the violence.

I am concerned that if the present situation persists, the United States will have difficulty sustaining its Turkey policy. An amendment this summer to the Foreign Operations Appropriations bill in the House which limits aid to Turkey because of human rights concerns illustrates some of the problems that arise if these issues are not adequately addressed.

I understand that it is U.S. policy to support Turkey's territorial integrity and its legitimate right to combat terrorism, including terrorist acts by the PKK. I also understand that the U.S. supports democratic reform in Turkey as an integral part of the effort to improve human rights conditions and to undercut support for PKK violence. In this context, I would like to pose the following questions:

What is the United States doing to push efforts in Turkey to amend Article 8 of the antiterrorism law?

What are the implications for U.S. policy and for the situation in the Southeast if efforts to amend Article 8 fail or are abandoned?

What is the United States doing to promote efforts to provide Kurds with equal rights in Turkey? Is it United States policy to support the legitimate political, cultural and linguistic rights of Turkish citizens of the Southeast of Kurdish origin? How do you react to recent comments by senior Turkish officials that the extension of such rights are not a priority of the Turkish government?

In our human rights dialogue, is the U.S. pressing the Turkish government and General Staff to abandon tactics that target the Kurdish civilian population, such as forced evacuation and burning of Kurdish villages?

What is United States policy doing to address allegations that the Turkish government is either sponsoring or tolerating the activities of death squads reported to have killed hundreds of Kurdish activists in the southeast?

What is United States policy on meeting and dealing with the elected representatives of Turkish citizens in the Southeast regardless of whether they are able to sit in the National Assembly at this time? Does the United States support negotiations between several exiled Turkish Kurdish parliamentarians and the Turkish government? With whom do you think the Turkish Government should negotiate?

What kind of political engagement between the Turkish government and Kurdish nationalists does the United States seek to promote in order to encourage Turkey to move away from reliance on a solely military solution?

I look forward to your reply.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

LEE H. HAMILTON,
Ranking Democratic Member.

THE ENTERPRISE RESOURCE BANK ACT OF 1996

HON. RICHARD H. BAKER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 27, 1996

Mr. BAKER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing comprehensive legislation to provide the Federal Home Loan Bank System [FHLB] the tools it needs to expand on the significant contributions it has already made to the Nation's housing finance delivery system. It is especially fitting today, as we debate the role of the Federal Government in providing and stimulating economic development in the 104th Congress, to work with an existing private entity to deliver a much-needed and public purpose.

The Federal Home Loan Bank System was established in 1932 primarily to provide a source of intermediate- and long-term credit for savings institutions to finance long-term residential mortgages and to provide a source of liquidity loans for such institutions, neither of which was readily available for savings institutions at that time the Federal Home Loan Bank System was created.

In recent years, the System's membership has expanded to include other depository institutions that are significant housing lenders.

The segment of savings institutions and other depository institutions that are specialized mortgage lenders has decreased in size and market share and may continue to decrease. The establishment of the Federal National Mortgage Association [Fannie Mae], the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation [Freddie Mac], and the Government National Mortgage Association [Ginnie Mae], and the subsequent development of an extensive private secondary market for residential mortgages has challenged the Federal Home Loan Bank System as a source of intermediate- and long-term credit to support primary residential mortgage lenders.

For most depository institutions, residential mortgage lending has been incorporated into the product mix of community banking that typically provides a range of mortgage, consumer, and commercial loans in their communities.

Community banks, particularly those in rural markets, have a difficult time funding their intermediate- and long-term assets held in portfolio and accessing capital markets. For

example rural nonfarm businesses tend to rely heavily on community banks as their primary lender. Like the savings association in the 1930's these rural community banks draw most of their funds from local deposits. Longer term credit for many borrowers in rural areas may therefore be difficult to obtain. In short, the economy of rural America may benefit from increased completion if rural community banks are provided enhanced access to capital markets.

Access to liquidity through the FHLB System benefits well-managed, adequately capitalized community banks. For these banks, term advances reduce interest rate risk. In addition, the ability of a community bank to obtain advances to offset deposit decreases or to temporarily fund portfolios during an increase in loan demand reduces the bank's overall cost of operation and allows the institution to better serve their markets and community.

Used prudently, the FHLB System is an integral tool to assist properly regulated, well-capitalized community banks, particularly those who lend in rural areas and underserved neighborhoods, a more stable funding resource for intermediate- and long-term assets.

With that in mind, I have introduced this legislation today to enhance the utility of the Federal Home Loan Bank System. I want the mission of the System to remain strong in the ability to help Americans realize the dream of home ownership, but equally as important: I want the System to enrich the communities in which Americans build their dreams.

America is the world capital of free enterprise. Free enterprise is the foundation on which the American dream is built, and it is the engine by which American ingenuity is driven. My legislation will help nurture American free enterprise. That is why I call this bill the Enterprise Resource Bank Act.

The Enterprise Resource Bank Act will strengthen the System's mission to promote residential mortgage lending—including mortgages on housing for low- and moderate-income families. Enterprise Resource Banks will facilitate community and economic development lending, including rural economic development lending. And Enterprise Resource Banks will facilitate this lending safely and soundly, through a program of collateralized advances and other financial services that provide long-term funding, liquidity, and interest-rate risk management to its stockholders and certain nonmember mortgagees.

Since 1932, the Bank System has served as a link between the capital markets and local housing lenders, quietly making more money available for housing loans at better rates for Americans. Today the Federal Home Loan Banks' 5,700 member financial institutions provide for one out of every four mortgage loans outstanding in this country, including many loans that would not qualify for funding under secondary market criteria. The bank system accomplishes this without a penny of taxpayer money through an exemplary partnership between private capital and public purpose.

More than 3,500 of the bank system's current members are commercial banks, credit unions, and insurance companies that became eligible for bank membership in 1989. They demonstrate the market's value of the bank system by investing in the capital stock of the regional home loan banks. These institutions have recognized the advantages of access to

the bank system's credit programs and have responded to their loan communities' needs for mortgage lending. As the financial marketplace grows larger and more complex, I envision the bank system as a necessary vehicle for serving community lending needs especially in rural and inner-city areas.

The Federal Home Loan Bank System serves an active and successful role in financing community lending and affordable housing through the Affordable Housing Program [AHP] and the Community Investment Program [CIP]. The AHP Program provides low-cost funds for member institutions to finance affordable housing, and the CIP Program supports loans made by members to community-based organizations involved in commercial and economic development activities to benefit low-income areas.

The Federal Home Loan Banks' loans—advances—to their members have increased steadily since 1992 to the current level of more than \$122 billion. Since 1990, the banks have made \$7.1 billion in targeted Community Investment Program advances to finance housing units for low- and moderate-income families and economic development projects. In addition, the banks have contributed more than \$350 million through their Affordable Housing Programs to projects that facilitate housing for low- and moderate-income families.

While these figures are impressive, the Federal Home Loan Bank System needs some fine tuning to enable it to continue to meet the needs of all its members in a rapidly changing financial marketplace. The Enterprise Resource Bank Act of 1996 recognizes the changes that have occurred in home lending markets in recent years, which is reflected in the present composition of the bank system's membership. Enacting this legislation will enhance the attractiveness of the banks as a source of funds for housing and related community development lending, and will encourage the banks to maintain their well-recognized financial strength.

Specifically, my legislation—Targets the bank system's mission in statute to emphasize the System's important role of supporting our Nation's housing finance system and its potential role of supporting economic development by providing long-term credit and liquidity to housing lenders;

Targets the bank system's mission in statute to emphasize the System's important role of supporting our Nation's housing finance system and its potential role of supporting economic development by providing long-term credit and liquidity to housing lenders;

Establishes voluntary membership and equal terms of access to the System for all institutions eligible to become bank system members, and eliminates artificial restrictions on the banks' lending to member institutions based on their qualified thrift lender status;

Equalizes and rationalizes bank members' capital stock purchase requirements, preserving the cooperative structure that has served the System well since its creation in 1932;

Separates regulation and corporate governance of the banks that reflect their low level of risk while ensuring the banks can meet their obligations; and

Modifies the methodology for allocating the bank system's annual \$300 million REFCORP obligation so that the individual banks' economic incentives are consistent with their stat-

utory mission to support primary lenders in their communities.

Taken together, these interrelated provisions address the major issues identified in a recent series of studies of the bank system that Congress required from the Federal Housing Finance Board [FHFB], the Congressional Budget Office [CBO], the General Accounting Office [GAO], the Department of Housing and Urban Development [HUD], and a Stockholder Study Committee comprised of 24 representatives of Federal Home Loan Bank stockholder institutions from across the country.

The Enterprise Resource Banks Act will make the banks more profitable by enabling them to serve a larger universe of depository institution lenders more efficiently, and it will return control of the banks to their regional boards of directors who are in the best position to determine the needs of their local markets. At the same time, it will provide for the safety and soundness oversight necessary to ensure that this large, sophisticated financial enterprise maintains its financial integrity and continues to meet its obligations.

I first offered comprehensive legislation to modernize the bank system in 1992. The legislation is the culmination of efforts over the last 3 years to address in a balanced way the concerns of the banks' member institutions, community and housing groups, and various Government agencies. I look forward to passage of this important legislation to modernize an institution that works to improve the availability of housing finance and the opportunity of credit for all Americans, particularly those who are underserved.

GUN BAN REPEAL ACT OF 1995

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 22, 1996

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, in spite of what the liberal media would have us believe, the semiautomatic weapons outlawed by the 1994 assault weapons ban are seldom used in crimes. According to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, for every 4000 violent crimes reported in this country, there was only one of these weapons involved. In fact, we would accomplish more by banning kitchen knives.

What the bill we debate today accomplishes is real crime control—by cracking down on criminals who use guns, instead of law-abiding gunowners.

The sheriffs and district attorneys in my district tell me they don't need more gun control, they need the ability to take gun-carrying criminals off the street, and that's what H.R. 125 does.

For any criminal in possession of a gun while committing a crime, this bill provides for a mandatory minimum sentence of 5 years in prison. For pulling that gun during a crime, 10 years. For firing it, 20 years. And if the weapon used is a sawed-off rifle or shotgun, they automatically get an extra 10 years in prison added to these sentences.

Furthermore, subsequent violent or drug-related crimes are punished by 20 years for having a gun, 25 years for pulling it, and 30 years for firing it. And if that gun is a machinegun,

or has a silencer or flash suppressor, the sentence is life in prison.

Compare this to the 1994 crime bill's 10-year sentence for crimes involving semiautomatic assault weapons, and it's easy for both sides of the aisle to determine that this bill does for gun-crime prevention what the assault-weapons ban will never do.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of H.R. 125 to put real teeth into gun control against criminals, instead of using the issue of crime as an excuse to attack the Bill of Rights.

GREEN EYES ARE SMILING IN CENTRAL NEW YORK

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 27, 1996

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I am proud today to bring to the attention of my colleagues the environmental work of some high school students in central New York.

A group from Marcellus High School in Onondaga County has been chosen the winners of the Operation Green Eyes competition, an Environmental Protection Agency and MCI Foundation contest with an award of \$10,000. Their project was based on a plan to use land mined by a local concrete company for a network of educational nature trails.

Schools from across the United States were challenged to complete an environmental community action project to see their community through Green Eyes and make a positive difference.

Projects were rated on innovation and originality, impact on the community, technical merit, and how well the students utilized the resources which were available to them.

On February 22 and 23 this year, three judges from the National Science Teachers Association met in Washington to judge the entries. They unanimously picked the Marcellus High School project to be the winner.

I want to add my congratulations to the students for this achievement. Using their awareness of the environment as well as their critical problem-solving skills to make such a positive contribution to our community is an outstanding accomplishment.

I want to also publicly recognize with congratulations the advisers from the school, the MCI Foundation for its award sponsorship, the W.F. Saunders Co. for its cooperation, and last but not least Sylvester Stallone, who will participate in an award ceremony at the school.

WOMEN AND ALCOHOL RESEARCH EQUITY ACT OF 1996

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 27, 1996

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Women and Alcohol Research Equity Act of 1996. This legislation will enable the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism [NIAAA] to increase their research on women and alcoholism.