

business leaders throughout the region, Nader has produced a magazine of distinction and high quality. Leaders such as Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, PLO Leader Yassir Arafat, the late Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Morocco's King Hassan II, and Presidents Bush and Clinton have all been featured in *Middle East Insight*.

It is a tribute to George Nader and his vision to publish a magazine that is respected for its contribution to public policy debate. Both he and *Middle East Insight* deserve special recognition on their 15th anniversary.

45TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE ASSOCIATION

HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 15, 1996

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Automotive Service Association [ASA] on the occasion of its 45th anniversary. ASA is the oldest and largest trade association of its kind representing all segments of the independent automotive repair industry, including transmission, mechanical, and collision repair facilities. The association now includes more than 12,000 businesses. The association now includes more than 12,000 businesses, 28 State groups and 220 chapters located throughout the world.

Over the past 45 years, ASA has merged with a variety of automotive repair associations to enable the industry to speak with a singular and unified voice. These groups include the Independent Garagemen's Association of Texas [IGA], the Independent Garage Owners of America [IGO], the Auto Body Association of America [ABAA], the Automotive Service Councils [ASC] and, the Independent Automotive Service Association [IASA].

In addition to providing a host of member benefits, ASA annually sponsors the world's largest collision repair event, the International Autobody Congress and Exposition [NACE], the Congress of Automotive Repair and Service [CARS], the Northern Autobody Congress and Exposition and the ASA Annual Convention. In fact, NACE has been selected from a wide range of applicants to participate in the U.S. Department of Commerce's International Buyer Program. This recognition serves as acknowledgement of the quality of the event and the export potential of the industry it serves.

ASA members recognize their obligation to professionalism. Members subscribe to a code of ethics, which governs the methods by which they conduct their business practices. Among other things, an ASA member is sworn to perform high quality repair service at a fair and just price; use only proven merchandise of high quality distributed by reputable firms; employ the best skilled technicians; recommend corrective and maintenance services, explaining to the customer which of these are required to correct existing problems and which are for preventive maintenance.

ASA also endeavors to assist its members to improve the quality of repairs through management and technician training programs. The Automotive Service Association Management Institute [ASAMI] provides continuing management education in the areas of leadership, business, finance, personnel, operations, and personal enrichment.

The ASA anniversary will be recognized throughout the year at ASA-sponsored events and ASA's official publication *AutoInc.* will feature a special anniversary issue. I am pleased to honor the association today on this special occasion.

TRIBUTE TO I. DONALD TERNER

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 15, 1996

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, Mr. I. Donald Turner was one of the 32 Americans accompanying Secretary Ron Brown on his mission to contribute to the rebuilding of Bosnia. He was aboard the military transport plane which crashed, killing all aboard. My most sincere condolences go out to his wife, Deirdre English, his children, and to all those whose lives Donald Turner improved with his many good works.

Donald Turner was a man of truly extraordinary energy and commitment, and we are extremely fortunate that he chose to devote his talents to improving the lives of low-income families throughout California. As founder and president of Bridge Housing Corp., Donald Turner created a low-income housing enterprise which constructed nearly 6,000 homes in the 13 years the organization has been in business. Both the continuing success of the solid organization Donald Turner built and the thousands of families who will have a roof over their heads for years to come will serve as a lasting testament to the life of Donald Turner.

Commerce Secretary Ron Brown was so impressed with the remarkable achievements of Donald Turner that he invited Mr. Turner to accompany him on a humanitarian mission to restore the housing resources destroyed by years of all-out war in Bosnia. Donald Turner was not deterred by the overwhelming difficulty of rebuilding this devastated region. Secretary Brown recognized in Donald Turner the same qualities that those who have worked with him have appreciated for decades. His humanitarian spirit combined with his unrelenting commitment to success in the face of adversity has allowed him to succeed in California and it would have propelled him to success in Bosnia.

Donald Turner was known as a relentless promoter of low-income housing in California and throughout the world. Building affordable housing entails not only raising the necessary funds, but also the often more difficult task of convincing homeowners to allow the housing to be built in their neighborhoods. It was impossible, however, to say "no" to Donald Turner. He was able to convince lenders and neighbors to support to projects because he believed that what he was doing would help people, and that made his persuasive powers all but irresistible.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in to Donald Turner for his commitment to making the world more livable for low-income people. His efforts in behalf of the community should serve as a model for all Americans. While we cannot all devote the time and energy that Donald Turner did, we can invoke his memory when our communities ask something of us.

CONGRATULATING THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE ON THEIR FIRST MULTIPARTY, DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS IN NEARLY 30 YEARS

HON. AMO HOUGHTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 15, 1996

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, I've come to the floor today with some of my colleagues to introduce a concurrent resolution congratulating the people of the Republic of Sierra Leone who just held their first democratic, multiparty elections in nearly 30 years.

On February 26, 1996, the West African nation of Sierra Leone held their first round of elections amid much uncertainty. There had just been a military coup less than a month before the election and a civil war that had displaced almost half the population raged in the countryside.

Sponsored by the African-American Institute [AAI], a delegation visited Sierra Leone as part of a U.N. team of international observers. In that delegation were several congressional staffers who deal with African issues in the Congress, including Joyce Brayboy Dalton with Representative MEL WATT, Tim Trenkle, Senator NANCY KASSEBAUM, Michael Pelletier, legislative fellow in the office of Senator JIM JEFFORDS, and my legislative assistant Bob Van Wicklin.

Despite some inadequacies, the group deemed the election to be free and fair. AAI issued the following statement after the election:

STATEMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL OBSERVER DELEGATION OF THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN INSTITUTE

FREETOWN, February 29, 1996.—The African-American Institute (AAI), has spent the last three weeks preparing for and conducting an observation of the presidential and parliamentary elections of Sierra Leone. The AAI delegation feels that the elections of February 26-27, 1996 were transparent, open, and substantially fair. Despite certain irregularities and disruptions due to breaches of security, the delegation is convinced these elections reflect the freely expressed choices of the people of Sierra Leone.

Working in affiliation with the United Nations Joint International Observer Group and funded by the United States Agency for International Development, the 17-member AAI delegation was deployed throughout Freetown and its environs, Lungi, Bo, Kenema, Makeni and Kono. The AAI team observed two crucial phases of the elections which were held on February 26-27, 1996.

During the first phase, the delegation met throughout the country with government officials, the staff of the Interim National Electoral Commission, leaders of political parties and major civic organizations, representatives of the media, government officials, and other sections of civil society including organized labor. The delegation also carefully studied the electoral laws, examined the relevance of several training materials, scrutinized the voter registration process and samples of voter registers, observed training of electoral staff and domestic monitors, and attended civic education programs in many parts of the country.

During the second phase, the delegation observed the electoral campaigning, the voting which began on February 26 and was extended through February 27, and the counting process on February 27-28, 1996. In the

areas of their deployment, AAI observers visited over 250 polling places nationwide.

AAI found that the elections were held under a cloud of uncertainty and substantial logistical difficulty caused by a lack of adequate infrastructure, minimal election experience and training, and the displacement of sectors of the population due to hostile military actions on or just prior to the date of the elections. This situation often led to the late opening and numerical overtaxing of many polling stations and, in some areas, disruption of the vote and count. Still, in the majority of the areas observed by AAI delegates, the vote went forward in a procedurally correct manner, with materials provided and correctly utilized. Polling station officials, political party representatives and domestic observers, in most cases, were adequately prepared and conducted their duties in an exemplary manner. In the areas of the country observed by AAI delegates, the difficulties cited above were overcome by the fierce determination of an overwhelming majority of the population to hold the elections on schedule, even in the face of serious attempts to obstruct and disrupt the process.

Despite these administrative inadequacies and certain instances of violence and intimidation in Freetown, as well as deadly conflicts between citizens and those seeking to disrupt the election in Bo and Kenema, the electoral process was largely peaceful and free of threats and confrontations. Voting took place in an orderly fashion in most polling stations. There was little evidence of fraud or irregularity.

The AAI delegation wishes to salute the people of Sierra Leone for their strong commitment to democratic practices and their determination to hold elections on schedule. This unflinching commitment to democratic values and procedures, as well as the courage that the citizens demonstrated in the face of great danger, augurs well for the future of democracy in this country.

The AAI delegation also wishes to congratulate the Chairman of the Interim National Electoral Commission, Dr. James Jonah, and his colleagues for their impartiality and inspiring and tenacious leadership under difficult conditions.

Finally, the AAI delegation thanks the people of Sierra Leone for their hospitality and warm welcome.

On March 29, 1996, Ahmad Tejan Kabbah of the Sierra Leone People's Party was sworn in as the President of the Republic of Sierra Leone. This peaceful transition of power from a military regime to a freely elected civilian government is a tremendous step onto the road to democracy, and I think will have a very positive effect on some of Sierra Leone's authoritarian neighbors.

In fact, just last week, when United States citizens located in the neighboring country of Liberia were threatened by the ongoing violence in that country, the Government of Sierra Leone allowed the United States to use their airport to help with the evacuation of Americans and other internationals from the Liberian capital city of Monrovia. For this, we are very grateful, and thank the new Government of Sierra Leone for their cooperation and assistance.

Also deserving special recognition are all of the United States citizens living in Sierra Leone, especially the people who work at the United States Embassy in Freetown led by Ambassador John Hirsch, a very dynamic individual who has given so much of himself to help the people of Sierra Leone.

It seems that we hear so much bad news from Africa—it's good to be able to emphasize the good news when it comes along.

With that in mind, I hope that all of my colleagues in the House and Senate will join us in congratulating the people of the Republic of Sierra Leone by helping to pass this resolution.

RIVER RIDGE (FL) HIGH SCHOOL'S MOCK STATE LEGISLATURE

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 15, 1996

Mr. KING. Mr. Speaker, I would like to include in the RECORD an article from the Tampa Tribune which describes River Ridge (FL) High School's mock State legislature and what its student participants learned about the legislative process. Of special interest are the reflections of Kevin Miller, "Speaker of the House."

STUDENTS FIND LEGISLATOR SEAT NO EASY
CHAIR

(By Tiffany Anderson)

NEW PORT RICHEY.—For at least a few hours, seniors became senators.

The 12th-grade class at River Ridge High School got a chance to play politics by participating Friday in the school's mock state legislative session.

To earn class credit in American government, more than 328 students served as state representatives and senators and sat on committees.

The bills they wrote won't ever make it outside the school's auditorium. But that didn't keep most seniors from taking the event any less seriously.

"People told me that I would run everything," said Kevin Miller, 18-year-old speaker of the "House." "In a way, that's true. I just didn't realize how much power Newt Gingrich has. If he doesn't like someone he can make it really hard for people."

State Rep. Mike Fasano spoke to the seniors on the first day of the two-day event. Later, students spent hours heatedly debating dozens of issues from abortion education to education reform.

By Friday, the make-believe legislators had learned that life in the Capitol isn't easy and that getting a law passed is even harder.

More than 275 bills were discussed in committee. Only 40 were heard on the House and Senate floor.

Students proposed such legislation as:

The Dumb Teachers Act, requiring instructors to be recertified every year.

Mandating that school administrators keep toilet paper and soap in the bathroom or be subject to fines plus tar and feathering.

Increasing the speed limit on state highways to 85 miles per hour.

Ultimately, only five bills became "law," making it more difficult to use lottery money to supplement school funding; allowing a vehicle's tinted windows to be as dark as the driver wanted; permitting students to work as many hours a week as they wanted as long as they maintained a "C" average; requiring boating licenses for those 14 and older; and making it easier to get an "A" at River Ridge, but abolishing extra points for attendance.

The mock legislative session has been staged for the past four years, said teacher Tom Fleming.

"It's better if they live the legislative process," he said.

Students agreed.

"Even though they're not real laws, you still learn a lot," said Gena Deluigi, 18. "It's

just good to see how a bill gets passed. Now, I can look at a bill and even though it may already exist, I can see why this or that wasn't included in it . . . because it could have come up in our session, too."

HAPPY 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY TO MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM QUESENBERRY

HON. CHRISTOPHER COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 15, 1996

Mr. COX of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in celebration of the 50th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. William Quesenberry of Coral Gables, FL.

Bill, a graduate of Shenandoah Junior High and Miami Senior High, first met Mary Belle Gardner when she was a wintertime resident of Miami Beach. Bill courted Mary Belle throughout high school and his days at the University of the South at Sewanee, TN. On April 13, 1946, Bill and Mary Belle were married on a beautiful, sunny day in Nashville, TN.

After college, Bill flew in World War II as a naval aviator. Upon returning from the war, Bill followed his father's footsteps into the wholesale grocery business. As a wholesale grocer, Bill provided consumers with a wide variety of products and competitive retail prices.

Bill and Mary Belle share a joy of traveling that has led them across the globe. Their sense of adventure has taken them to the frozen land of Antarctica, a far cry from their home in sunny Coral Gables, and even beneath the surface of the sea itself—Bill and Mary Belle are accomplished scuba drivers and snorkelers.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of their children and grandchildren as well as their many friends, I wish Bill and Mary Belle a happy golden wedding anniversary in the hopes of many more to come.

CONGRATULATIONS TO RED BANK CATHOLIC

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 15, 1996

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Red Bank Catholic Women's Basketball Team for winning the New Jersey State High School Basketball Championship.

Back in the Sixth Congressional District, these young women have provided their fans and myself with much excitement and sense of pride. From reaching the finals of the Shore Conference Tournament to winning the State Championship at the Meadowlands, Red Bank Catholic has demonstrated its commitment to excellence.

Throughout the year, Red Bank Catholic has stressed the importance of team unity as a major component of victory. This approach to the season, in addition to its dedication and hard work, provided the team with the necessary drive to become the best high school basketball team in the State of New Jersey.

In addition to the athletic abilities possessed by this team, the players of Red Bank Catholic