

BEN GILMAN: A REAL FRIEND OF
THE IRISH

HON. TOM DELAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 1996

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I commend to our colleagues an article written by Father Sean McManus, the president of the Irish National Caucus, that appeared in the Irish Echo on April 3, 1996, about our colleague, Chairman BEN GILMAN of New York.

This article describes the efforts of the Republican Congress to fight for fairness and peace in Ireland, and the great leadership of BEN GILMAN on these issues.

BEN GILMAN is proving that Republicans in the Congress do fight for justice around the world, especially in Ireland. I applaud him for his leadership, and I urge my colleagues to read the following article:

MY IRISH HERO IS A JEWISH CONGRESSMAN

(By Fr. Sean McManus)

I don't think that Irish Americans are sufficiently aware of the extraordinary revolution that has taken place in the U.S. Congress regarding Irish affairs.

For over 20 years the Irish National Caucus had campaigned for Congressional Hearings on Northern Ireland. But famous Irish-Catholic speakers of the house—with names like O'Neill and Foley—steadfastly blocked all hearings. They didn't want to offend Her majesty's government:

"An ad hoc Irish committee of 119 members has been formed in Congress. But the committee's attempts to publicize the outrages being committed in Northern Ireland, along with the efforts of the Irish National Caucus, have been blocked by House Speaker Tip O'Neill and other congressional leaders (Jack Anderson, "Carter Pressured on Northern Ireland," Detroit Free Press, Oct. 29, 1978).

When the MacBride Principles were launched in 1984 we had an even more legitimate reason for hearings because U.S. dollars were subsidizing anti-Catholic discrimination in Northern Ireland, where Catholics are twice likely to be unemployed as Protestants. But again—and now under speaker Tom Foley—hearings or legislative action were blocked. Furthermore, the then-chairman of House Foreign Affairs (now called International Relations Committee, Rep. Lee Hamilton, the Indiana Democrat, kept telling me there was no interest in the MacBride Principles among members of the Committee.

This was a deeply distressing experience. We knew we had a perfectly valid case for a hearing, yet it was being unfairly and undemocratically blocked in the interest of the English government (with the connivance of the then Dublin Government).

Yet oddly enough, some Irish Americans thought that when the Republicans seized control of both House and Senate in 1995, the Irish cause would suffer. But not this Fermanagh man. The first thing the Republican takeover meant to me was that our very best ally, Rep. Ben Gilman of New York would become chairman of the House International Relations Committee.

Ireland has never had a more dedicated, consistent, or genuine friend than Ben Gilman.

As far back as July 1979, Rep. Gilman, then a member of both the Committee of Foreign Relations and the Subcommittee on International Economic Policy and Trade, commissioned Rita Mullan, executive director of

the Irish National Caucus, to conduct an investigation of the hiring practices of U.S. companies doing business in Northern Ireland. This was the first-ever American study of those companies and it marked the genesis of the MacBride Principles.

Rep. Gilman has been a champion of every Irish issue: the Birmingham Six, the Guilford Four, the right of political prisoners etc. He has been absolutely fearless on the Irish issue, never allowing the State Department or any foreign government to silence him.

One of the first things Chairman Gilman did early on in the 104th Congress was to hold hearings, the first on Northern Ireland since 1972. Then, despite heavy lobbying and pressure, he attached the MacBride Principles to the International Fund for Ireland. The House International Relations Committee, after spirited debate, voted on the issue on May 15, 1995. There are 41 Members of the Committee. Thirty-two voted for MacBride Principles, only 8 voted against. And yet for all those years I had to listen to Lee Hamilton tell me there was no interest in the Committee on MacBride.

The MacBride legislation is part of the American Overseas Interest Act, H.R. 1561. The legislation has now been passed twice by the House of Representatives. It has also been endorsed by the House and Senate Conference. And the entire Republican Leadership—from Sen. Jesse Helms—are all on record of supporting the MacBride Principles, while the State Department opposes these efforts.

What an extraordinary political realignment. None of which could have happened without Ben Gilman's leadership.

For years I have been preaching the message: "Human Rights for Ireland is an American issue—not just an Irish-American issue." And I deeply believe that. Nonetheless, I am still deeply touched when someone who is not Irish stands up for Ireland. And there are many in the Congress who do: African-Americans, Italians, Polish, Jewish, etc.

Rep. Gilman is Jewish American. Isn't it extraordinary that it took a Jewish American to move the Irish agenda to the very top of the U.S. Congress? Isn't it truly amazing that while some powerful Irish Americans in Congress were too scared to take a stand, this quiet, unassuming man has emerged as Ireland's best friend in the U.S. Congress.

Every Irish-American worth his or her salt must stand up and cheer Ben Gilman. He is my Irish Hero.

I should end by explaining that the Irish National Caucus is nonpartisan: neither Democrat nor Republican. So I do not want readers to think this is a pro-Republican article. It is not. In fact, I've personally never voted Republican in my life. But then, I've never lived in Ben Gilman's district.

TRIBUTE TO DICK HOAK

HON. RON KLINK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 1996

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, when I think of the past 35 years of the Pittsburgh Steelers organization, certain memories come to mind. The rough and tumble Steelers of the early sixties with Bobby Layne and John Henry Johnson; the glory years of the seventies when the Steelers won an unprecedented four Super Bowls coached by Chuck Noll and under the leadership of Terry Bradshaw, Mean Joe Greene, Jack Lambert, Franco Harris, and

other stars too numerous to mention; and finally the current Steelers, the reigning AFC champions. All these memories have one constant. That constant is Dick Hoak.

As we honor Dick Hoak this evening, we remember the enormous contribution he has given to the Steelers as both player and coach. When Dick graduated from Penn State in 1961, he was drafted by the Steelers in the seventh round. During his 9 years as a player, Dick led the Steelers in rushing for 3 years and also was named to the Pro Bowl in 1969. Dick is the fourth highest leading rusher in Steelers' history.

Dick also has made a profound impact as a Steelers' coach. For the past 24 years, Dick has been in charge of the offensive backfield and most recently has exclusively coached the running backs. Under Hoak's guidance, the Steelers have produced such notable running backs as Franco Harris, Rocky Bleier, Frank Pollard, Earnest Jackson, and more recently Barry Foster and Bam Morris. Dick has the distinction of being the longest-tenured coach in Steelers' history.

I am honored to present Dick with this letter of commendation. The city of Jeanette is truly blessed to call Dick one of its own.

A VISION OF VALUES

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 1996

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, all too often people dwell upon the failings of our society, and ignore the true accomplishments of many devoted Americans. Nowhere is this more evident than in the case of talking about the misfortunes of those who either lose their jobs or simply fail to find one all together. I want our colleagues to know about a man who believes that success breeds success, and who for more than 30 years has worked to have that success serve as the foundation for even more success. I am talking about Rev. Leon H. Sullivan, the founder of the Opportunities Industrialization Centers of America, Inc.

There are many people in our society who need retraining to gain improved skills to find new jobs, and others who need basic training to find meaningful jobs. Since 1964, Reverend Sullivan has worked to provide comprehensive employment training and placement for disadvantaged, unemployed, and unskilled Americans. Many of us recognize the symbol, OIC, and have seen it in our congressional districts. I am sure, however, that not many fully appreciate the effort and devotion demonstrated by Reverend Sullivan over these years.

The first OIC was founded in an abandoned Philadelphia jailhouse. It expanded to more than 70 centers around the country, and 28 centers overseas. In its more than 30 years of operation, OIC has trained and provided assistance to more than 1.5 million people.

Particularly at times like these when we are looking for private solutions to significant national problems like unemployment, Opportunities Industrialization Centers are more important than ever before. Growing from his ministry at the Zion Baptist Church in Philadelphia, Reverend Sullivan established a day care center, a credit union, an employment agency, a community center for youth and

adults, adult education reading classes, athletic teams, choral groups, and family counseling services. This wonderful range of programs that became OIC goes to the heart of recognizing that the true solution to any difficulty lies within each of us personally as we take greater responsibility for solving the problems life presents to us, while taking the fullest advantage of the opportunities the same life presents to us.

Rev. Leon Sullivan has been rightly honored before for his work, having won more than 100 national and international awards, as well as the Presidential Medal of Freedom. His position on the boards of numerous corporations gives him a unique opportunity to see the kind of workers that successful businesses need so that OIC can train the best possible candidates.

Mr. Speaker, as the members of the OIC of Metropolitan Saginaw greet Reverend Sullivan at the dedication of their new facility, I ask you and all of our colleagues to join me in thanking this great man for bringing hope and opportunity to the many that OIC has touched, and pledging to work with him and his associates to restore the American dream for those who are still waiting.

COMMEMORATING A 25TH ANNIVERSARY—AND CREATING A NEW OSHA

HON. CASS BALLENGER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 1996

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, this week marks the 25th anniversary of the Federal Occupational Safety and Health Act [OSH Act] and the agency it helped to create, OSHA. Throughout the week events will commemorate not only the anniversary of OSHA, but highlight the importance of workplace safety. It is certainly appropriate and important for employers, employees, and public officials to be reminded of the importance of workplace safety—and of the cost to lives, families, and businesses when safety is not emphasized and accidents occur.

The 25th anniversary of the OSH Act is being used by some people for something else as well: to criticize Republicans who have been critical of OSHA.

Indeed, many of us in Congress have been critical of OSHA. We've claimed that it has too often been overreaching and lacking in common sense in its regulations, and adversarial and punitive in its enforcement. And we've said that it has not been cost effective in promoting worker safety and health.

The Clinton administration has agreed with many of our criticisms of OSHA. For example, just 1 year ago, President Clinton, speaking at a small business in Washington, DC, called for creation of "a new OSHA," an OSHA that puts emphasis on "prevention, not punishment" and uses "commonsense and market incentives to save lives." Vice President GORE was even more direct when he spoke to the White House Conference on Small Business last year: "I know that OSHA has been the subject of more small business complaints than any other agency. And I know that it is not because you don't care about keeping your workers safe. It is because the rules are too

rigid and the inspections are often adversarial."

And in criticizing OSHA we've said nothing more than OSHA's record surely shows. Stories abound of OSHA's enforcement of rules that have little or nothing to do with workers' safety. We've sometimes been accused of fabricating stories about OSHA, but in each case not only has the example been true, but OSHA has then tried to quietly undo the fabricated regulation. Last year the owner of a small bakery near Chicago told the Subcommittee on Workforce Protections about her OSHA inspection, in which she was fined for not having the required documents on the health hazards associated with laundry detergent used to clean hands and aprons in the bakery. The head of OSHA publicly denied that there was any such requirement, and then quietly sent out new instructions to OSHA inspectors to "go easy" on issuing citations for such common household items. Similarly, Labor Secretary Reich assured at least two congressional committees that OSHA had no regulation banning gum chewing by workers doing roofing work: "pure fiction" he said. Then a few weeks later his own Department of Labor issued a report highlighting the same gum-chewing regulation as one that should be deleted from OSHA's books. I'll assume that when he testified before Congress the Secretary just did not know OSHA's 3,000 pages of rules in sufficient detail. But if he were a roofing contractor, rather than the Secretary of Labor, his ignorance of OSHA's rules would be no excuse, and he could be cited and fined if one of his employees violated the gum chewing ban.

Are such examples of silly and unproductive regulations and enforcement just aberrations? Hardly. Despite spending over \$5 billion in taxpayer money over the past 25 years, there is little evidence that OSHA has made a significant difference to workers' health and safety. Example after example and study after study show that OSHA's focus on finding violations, no matter how minor and insignificant, has actually made OSHA ineffective in improving safety and health in the workplace. Why is that? One important reason appears to be that when the focus is on issuing penalties rather than fixing problems, there is much less attention paid to fixing problems. One study showed that the time required of OSHA to document citations increased an average inspection by at least 30 hours, thus greatly decreasing the number of workplaces OSHA could inspect. Penalties are sometimes necessary to compel irresponsible employers to address health and safety for their workers. But as the Clinton administration itself has said, inspections and penalties have not produced safety. OSHA must find new ways of operating.

The apparent agreement between the Clinton administration and those of us in Congress who support reform of OSHA marked a significant convergence of views. The 25 year history of OSHA has been marked by sharp partisan and philosophical differences over the value and direction of OSHA. So the unusual agreement in analysis and prescription for improving OSHA between the Clinton administration and Congress presented an unusual opportunity to use the 25th anniversary of OSHA to make meaningful changes.

Now the Clinton administration seems to be walking away from its own analysis and initia-

tives. Recently, with bipartisan cosponsorship, I introduced the Small Business OSHA Relief Act, which would enact several of the specific changes already proposed or endorsed by the Clinton administration for OSHA. We even borrowed the Clinton administration's language, so that there would be no dispute that these are initiatives to which they have already agreed.

Organized labor, which has opposed the Clinton administration's "reinvention" of OSHA all along, is also opposing the legislation, and their influence on the Clinton administration has never been stronger than it is in this election year. So the President must choose: did he really mean what he said about "a new OSHA," or will he stop meaningful change to OSHA, change which he has already said is needed, to appease his union supporters?

The 25th anniversary of OSHA is a timely opportunity to look back but also to look ahead. The President and Congress have an opportunity to enact needed reforms that will make OSHA more fair and more effective. Last May, speaking about OSHA, the President said, "Let's change this thing. Let's make it work. Let's lift unnecessary burdens and keep making sure we're committed to the health and welfare of the American workers so that we can do right and do well." If the President stands by his own words, we can in fact begin to create a "new OSHA" for the next 25 years.

BAY AREA URBAN LEAGUE CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF SERVICE FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC EQUALITY

HON. RONALD V. DELLUMS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 1996

Mr. DELLUMS. Mr. Speaker, as we approach the 21st century, our Nation faces important issues of priority for the betterment of our citizens. We need not reinvent the wheel. We need only to look at our local communities for the richness and wealth of experiences to achieve social and economic equality.

The Bay Area Urban League [BAUL], 1 of 144 affiliates of the National Urban League and founded in 1946, is a tremendous resource in the Ninth California Congressional District. It is a model of diversity, both in its members and the community it serves. BAUL is an interracial, nonprofit community service organization in the five Bay Area counties that helps African-Americans and minorities achieve equal opportunities in education and employment. It provides employment counseling, on-the-job training, sponsors job fairs, HIV-AIDS prevention projects, and runs the Oakland-Emiliano Zapata Street Academy for at-risk youth. BAUL's economic development program in low and moderate income communities advances economic development that promotes affordable housing and community and business lending as well as consumer education.

The five decades of outstanding and effective contribution to the community is equally marked with the recent appointment of Ms. Carole Watson, the first woman president in the Bay Area Urban League's history. Under her leadership and in her own words "BAUL is