

Policy Act, the Resource Recovery Act, the Critical Areas Act, the Power Plant Siting Act, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the Waste Management Act, Reinvest in Minnesota, the Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling Act, and the 1991 Wetlands Conservation Act. I was very privileged to work on some of these very measures in Gov. Wendell Anderson's "Minnesota Golden Years," 1971–1976. Willard was also instrumental in establishing the Western Lake Superior Sanitary District in the 1960's, which provided wastewater treatment along the St. Louis River and ended a major source of pollution in Lake Superior.

The tireless efforts of Willard Munger on natural resource policy over the past 40 years have rightfully earned him the title "the environmental conscience of the Minnesota Legislature." I was pleased to participate in a joint Minnesota House of Representatives and Senate program organized by former Minnesota Gov. Elmer L. Anderson, January 18, 1996. It is fitting that Minnesota has declared January 18 "Willard Munger Day." He has made and continues to make a difference. On behalf of today's and tomorrow's generations I thank Willard for standing up for what is right and wish him the best in the coming years.

TRIBUTE TO AMBASSADOR S.S.
RAY OF INDIA

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 24, 1996

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to pay tribute to a superb diplomat who has done a great deal to improve relations between the world's two largest democracies, the United States and India. Ambassador Siddhartha Shankar Ray, India's envoy to the United States since 1992, will be leaving Washington on February 20 and returning to domestic politics in his country. While many of our colleagues are sad to see Ambassador Ray finish his tour in Washington, we all gratefully acknowledge his many contributions to the improved climate in Indo-U.S. relations.

Ambassador Ray's appointment to Washington with the status of a Federal Cabinet Minister is indicative of the great confidence his Government has in his abilities. That confidence was well-placed. During Ambassador Ray's years in Washington, he was tireless in his promotion of India, not only as the world's largest secular democratic nation, but as a major emerging market for United States consumer products and business investment.

The last 4 years have been trying times in South Asia. Sharing a long border with China and facing an insurgency in Kashmir supported by outside forces, India has had its share of challenges. Throughout these years, my colleagues and I could always rely on Ambassador Ray to articulate India's concerns with eloquence and precision.

But, Mr. Speaker, these past 4 years have also been extremely exciting times. India, under the leadership of Prime Minister P.V. Narosimha Rao, has embarked upon a historic economic reform policy that has opened up unprecedented opportunities for United States companies, large and small, as well as for Indian entrepreneurs. At the same time, the end

of the cold war has forced all nations to rethink their security arrangements. Both of these historic developments are leading the United States and India to seek greater cooperation and partnership on many fronts. Many Members of this body were greatly impressed by the Prime Minister's address to this Chamber in 1994 in which he addressed many of these same points. The appointment of a statesman with the stature and experience of S.S. Ray—with his years of service as an attorney, Member of Parliament, Cabinet Minister, and top posts at the state level—shows the degree of importance that the Government of India attaches to its relations with the United States.

Mr. Speaker, we will also miss the Ambassador's extraordinary wife, Mrs. Maya Ray. Prior to their service in Washington, both Mr. and Mrs. Ray enjoyed distinguished legal careers as barristers, as well as Members of Parliament. Mrs. Ray's contributions to her husband's work in Washington will indeed be remembered with fondness and appreciation.

In my capacity as cochairman of the bipartisan Congressional Caucus on India and Indian-Americans, I look forward to working with Ambassador Ray's successor during this period of strengthened partnership between our two great nations, building on Ambassador Ray's excellent work.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I want to express my good wishes and those of my colleagues to Siddhartha and Maya Ray as they enter the next phase of their careers back home in India. Their many friends in the Congress and throughout our Nation hope they will return to visit frequently.

AMERICA NEEDS A NEW RUSSIAN
POLICY

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 24, 1996

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, the departures of Andrei Kozyrev, Anatoly Chubais, and Sergei Filatov from the Yeltsin administration and the appointment of a Brezhnev-era hard-liner to be foreign minister should be the final wake-up call for the Clinton administration.

These reformers have been all but powerless for a long time, but their presence has allowed the administration to claim that Russia is on the right track and that any criticism of Russian policy would embolden the hard-liners. We see now that the hard-liners were emboldened long ago and are now in complete control.

For over 2 years, Russia has been engaged in a myriad of activities that range from the legal to the illegal to the morally repugnant, but all of which are contrary to United States national interests. These include Chechnya, nuclear dealings with Iran and Cuba, intimidation and subversion of nearly every former Soviet State, violations of numerous arms-control agreements, and strategic nuclear modernization, among many others.

All of this has been met by the Clinton administration with silence, arms control concessions, and a steady flow of U.S. taxpayer dollars. In other words, appeasement. True to its unvarnished record in history, appeasement has failed again. It is time for a new approach.

A more realistic policy toward Russia would involve several things: First, we must stop the mindless policy of giving foreign aid to Russia, especially its government. At this very moment, the Clinton administration and the IMF are preparing a \$9 billion infusion into the Russian treasury. In addition to fostering complacency among economic policymakers in Russia, our aid, especially multilateral loans and Nunn-Lugar, has been subsidizing the dangerous activities listed above.

Second, we should give immediate and concrete assurances to qualifying countries in central Europe that they will become full members of NATO in the nearest possible future. With Primakov as Foreign Minister, there can be no doubt that Russia will attempt at least to "Finlandize" the former Warsaw Pact countries. It is silly to oppose NATO expansion with talk of drawing lines in Europe. There already is a line, and because of it, stability has been fostered in those countries west of it. Quite frankly, the farther east that line is, the better. Furthermore, the virtual military reabsorption of Belarus by Russia has resulted in the stationing of Russian border troops on the Polish border. They have already moved the line—to the west.

Third, it is high time we start to resist Russian policy in the near abroad and the Third World. For over 2 years, Russia has been methodically sapping the sovereignty of its neighbors, and is clearly moving toward reestablishing some sort of Russian-dominated union. Using classic Soviet-style divide and rule tactics, Russia has helped topple the democratic government of Azerbaijan, brought Georgia to heel, and pushed Armenia to allow Russian bases on its soil. Russia continues its illegal occupation of Moldova, routinely violates Lithuanian territory, and has threatened annexation of the Baltic States. This uncivilized behavior is not only outrageous, it is potentially highly destabilizing to Europe. The same can be said about Russia's renewed affinity for some of the world's worst rogue regimes, such as Iran, Cuba, Syria, and Iraq. We must make it plain to the Russians that their membership in Western organizations is directly linked to their international behavior. Right now, they don't make the grade.

Fourth, we must extricate ourselves from our slavish devotion to arms control. To the Clinton administration, what this means is that any agreement is a good agreement, Russian violations of existing agreements are to be hushed up, and protecting American citizens from ballistic missiles is bad. Thus, recent and clear Russian violations of the Biological Weapons Convention, CFE and START I and many others, have been excused. The administration's only response has been a rash drive to ratify the flawed START II and a stubborn insistence on unilateral adherence to the ridiculous ABM treaty, from which we can walk away legally anytime.

Mr. Speaker, the key issue is not whether Russia has 3,500 or 10,000 nuclear warheads. What is in our interest and what will ensure the security of our European friends is a Russia that behaves in civilized fashion internationally. So far, not a thing the Clinton administration has done has goaded Russia in this direction. Indeed, the administration has tolerated and even condoned, as in Chechnya, uncivilized and dangerous Russian behavior.

The past 3 years of behaving as though we feel guilty that we won the cold war have

yielded us a Russia that thinks and acts much like the old Soviet Union. Unfortunately, we can have little hope that the Clinton administration will meet this challenge with a reorientation of its Russia policy because this would be to admit that Ronald Reagan got it right on the cold war. After all, Strobe Talbott wrote in 1990 that the cold war doves were right all along, and he has been trying to prove this bizarre conclusion ever since.

Some of these naive policies can be overturned by us in Congress, Mr. Speaker, and I am hopeful we will. For instance, we can cut off aid, and I would urge support for my legislation, H.R. 519, that would do exactly that. We can back-burner START II, and I would urge the Senate to do that. And we can force the President to withdraw from the ABM Treaty, and I would urge everyone to cosponsor our colleague MARTIN HOKE's excellent bill, H.R. 2483, which would do exactly that.

The rest, alas, will have to wait for January 1997, when, hopefully, we will have a more clear-eyed team in the White House.

RESTORE COLA EQUITY FOR MILITARY RETIREES

HON. LINDA SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 24, 1996

Mrs. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, today the House of Representatives passed legislation that is of utmost importance to the veterans who have honorably served our country. I'm speaking of the fiscal year 1996 Defense authorization bill that restores COLA equity between military and civilian retirees.

Historically, Congress treated Federal civilian and military pensioners the same under the law. However, the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 contained a provision delaying Federal civilian retirees' COLAs until April for fiscal years 1994-96. In contrast, military retirees were delayed until April of 1994 and until October for fiscal year 1995-98. I found this to be a flawed policy. Inflation does not discriminate and neither should the U.S. Congress.

The bill we approved today restores COLA equity for military and civilian retirees. While the House approved this measure on December 15, it was vetoed by the President. We should not play politics with COLA's. A system which puts COLA's on different schedules for different groups is bad public policy. It is also a disservice to dedicated Americans who served this country, often in harm's way.

I urge the President to quickly sign this legislation. The veterans in Washington State deserve nothing less.

NORTHERN MARIANAS DELEGATE ACT

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 24, 1996

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, today I have introduced the Northern Marianas Delegate Act, to provide for a nonvoting Delegate to the House of Representatives to represent

the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands became the newest territory of the United States and an American commonwealth in 1976. This commonwealth is comprised of the northern islands in the Mariana Island chain, the principal islands being Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. Guam is also a part of the Mariana Island chain, and it is fitting that the people of Guam have the honor today to share in the introduction of this bill for our Pacific neighbors, and for our brothers and sisters of Chamorro heritage in the Northern Marianas who share Guam's indigenous identity.

It is important that the Northern Marianas be accorded representation in Congress, not just for fair and just representation of an American community whose interests are affected by the actions of Congress, but more importantly for what the people of Northern Marianas can contribute to the Nation through their Delegate.

The American relationship with the Northern Marianas began just over 50 years ago when American forces fought on the beaches of Saipan and Tinian, and at great human cost expelled a colonial power that had acquired these islands as part of a Pacific empire. The Americans, in the years to come, established the seeds of democracy that have resulted in this new American commonwealth. This commonwealth, whose roots to America are traced to a violent military encounter in World War II, is the first American soil acquired by conquest in this century. That the people of the Northern Marianas have freely chosen to become a part of the American family is a great credit to the United States; that they do not enjoy full participation in the political process as citizens should be a matter of great concern to all of us.

Today the American citizens who live in the Northern Marianas contribute to the Nation and participate in the life of our Nation in all the same ways that every other American citizen does in his own community. They pay taxes, serve in the military and work hard for the progress of their communities. They are part of the fabric of our great Nation.

Participation in this American democracy is not based on a particular citizen's tax contribution to the Treasury and it is not based on a preordained size of a community. It is based on a community's commitment to our democratic form of government and our Nation. Our American citizenship has as its foundation a promise of fair and equal treatment by our Government and that promise extends to Congress where fair and equal treatment demands that the Northern Marianas be represented by a Delegate.

The bill that I have introduced today mirrors the legislation which granted Guam and the United States Virgin Islands representation in 1972 and the legislation which granted American Samoa representation in 1980. The Northern Marianas will join the ranks of Delegates representing these islands, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia, and the Northern Marianas will add its voice to those who represent American citizens who do not reside in the 50 states, but who do reside in a diverse group of American communities on American soil.

In introducing this bill today I commend the work of the Resident Representative of the

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Mr. Juan N. Babauta, and his staff. I also commend the unity of purpose in the leadership of the Northern Marianas expressed by Senate Joint Resolution No. 9-6 of the Ninth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature, the Majors of Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and the Northern Islands, and the Municipal Councils of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota in the adoption of resolutions requesting the United States Congress to grant Delegate status to the Resident Representative to the United States. I further commend the leadership of the Honorable Diego T. Benavente, Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Honorable Jesus R. Sablan, President of the Senate of the 10th Commonwealth Legislature, as well as the Honorable Crispin I. DeLeon Guerrero, in their support of this bill. I hope that the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate will act on this legislation in this session, and I urge my colleagues to cosponsor the Northern Marianas Delegate Act.

TRIBUTE TO A.G. GASTON

HON. EARL F. HILLIARD

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 24, 1996

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute of Dr. A.G. Gaston, a leader among men, who recently died in Birmingham at the age of 103.

Dr. Gaston was a pioneer, who developed businesses in Alabama in an age when blacks simply did not do such things. Dr. Gaston was a pioneer in the area of building a business empire which propelled him to become Alabama's first black millionaire.

Dr. Gaston's life reads much like a literary rags-to-riches story. He was born on July 4, 1892, in Demopolis, AL, the grandson of slaves. Early in his life he moved to Birmingham and began working a variety of jobs before serving in the U.S. Army during World War I.

When the war was over, Dr. Gaston and his mother got the idea of starting their own business by preparing box lunches, and the rest is history.

From a meager beginning, Dr. Gaston eventually started a funeral business, from the funeral business emerged the Booker T. Washington Insurance Business in 1923, and from the insurance company came nine corporations with combined assets of more than \$35 million. Among Dr. Gaston's other corporate ventures were: Vulcan Realty & Investment Corp.; Citizen's Federal Savings & Loan; Zion Memorial Cemetery; Smith & Gaston Funeral Homes; Wenn & Wagg Radio Stations; A.G. Gaston Senior Citizens Home; Booker T. Washington Business College, and A.G. Gaston Motel & Lounge—now A.G. Gaston Gardens.

Dr. Gaston's interests were not limited to just his business ventures. Dr. Gaston is also well known as a trailblazer in the area of civil rights and equal justice for all men and women.

When Dr. King was in Birmingham, he stayed at the A.G. Gaston Hotel and when Dr. King was arrested and put in jail for marching for equality by Police Commissioner Bull Connor, it was Dr. Gaston who bailed him out, so he could continue his fight for freedom.