

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to publicly commend the achievements of Ron Pettengill and to wish him a long and healthy retirement.

SIXTH ANNUAL HONOREES BANQUET

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 1996

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, this Sunday, May 19, the Interracial Religious Coalition in my community will hold its Sixth Annual Honorees Banquet at the Islamic Center of Greater Toledo. The coalition is to be commended for its celebration of interracial and interreligious harmony and unity.

Four individuals who have contributed to the quality of community relations in our city will be honored at the banquet, Rev. Claude Christopher, pastor of St. Paul AME Zion Church; Joan Coleman, Toledo city councilwoman; Rev. Martin Donnelly, pastor of St. Martin DePorres; and Larry Sykes, division of business development and retail lending, Fifth Third Bank.

I also rise to commend the coalition for passing a recent resolution in response to current strife and loss of life in Lebanon:

Be it resolved that the Interracial Religious Coalition called upon its Members to pray for peace in the Middle East, pray for those who have lost their lives in the strife, and to ask our government to stop the bombing on both sides and continue the pursuit of peace.

The diplomats of Syria, Lebanon, Israel, and France brought together by the Clinton administration in Washington, DC, to arrange for monitoring of the ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah guerrillas would do well to follow their lead.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MIRA COSTA HIGH SCHOOL

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 1996

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to salute Mira Costa High School, in the beautiful community of Manhattan Beach, on being selected for a Department of Education Blue Ribbon School Award. Mira Costa High School was 1 of only 266 schools in the Nation recognized for outstanding achievement by the students, teachers, and staff, and an education environment of the highest quality.

The Department of Education awarded Mira Costa the highest rating in areas such as instructional leadership, curriculum, student environment, and parent and community support. I am particularly impressed with Mira Costa's emphasis on technology, which is the backbone of the South Bay's economy now and in the future. In areas such as the Integrated Learning Systems Wastch Lab, the MAC lab, the school library, and as a part of the ADTECH consortium, the students of Mira Costa are developing the technological skills necessary for the 21st century.

I congratulate Mira Costa principal John Giovati, Manhattan schools superintendent

Gerald Davis, and school board trustees Kathy Campbell, Barbara Dunsmoor, Michele Memmott, Leroy Nelson, and Mary Rogers. And I especially congratulate the students and teachers of Mira Costa for setting an excellent example for other schools to follow.

A TRIBUTE TO MADELINE TAYLOR DUCKLES

HON. RONALD V. DELLUMS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 1996

Mr. DELLUMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize an extraordinary human being in my district, Madeline Taylor Duckles, on the occasion of her 80th birthday. The phrase, "my district" only serves to highlight the world-wide breadth of this woman's interests and achievements. Madeline Duckles, born in rural California, was fortunate to have attended the tuition-free, University of California at Berkeley and to graduate in 1937, as the first in her family to go beyond high school. While she reveled in her academic pursuits, her earlier awareness of the commonality of humankind was strengthened by the diversities of the people she met at Berkeley.

Her life at the University of California confirmed her childhood understanding that differences in peoples' outward appearance were not measures of their worth, that discrimination and hatred based on such attributes had no place in her life. The seeds of her work in opposition to discrimination, inequality, hate and war were firmly implanted during these university years.

In the 1950's the Congressional House Un-American Activities Committee [HUAC] loomed large over the country. California had its "Little Hoover" commission, and the University of California felt its own anticommunist pressures as the specter of the loyalty oath blighted freedom and integrity. Madeline, joined the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom in the mid-1940's, braved the pressures and spoke out, with WILPF, against the witch hunting.

The Vietnam war grew from a buzz heard across many campuses to an early roar in Berkeley and the bay area. Madeline was one of the first American women to visit North Vietnam and was accused of providing aid and comfort to the enemy. Providing no aid or comfort, she did bring out the first information on prisoners of war held in the north. In the 1960's Madeline accepted an invitation from a women's group to address an outdoor rally in Florence. Her speech on Vietnam did not advocate the violent or otherwise overthrow of the American Government, but a report on her speech in the press brought a warning from the U.S. Consul that she might be dismissed from Italy.

A dossier on Madeline's activities exists in the FBI files, over several decades. This FBI surveillance led to concern by her family, particularly during her first trip to Vietnam, whether she would return in one piece. Despite the official intimidation, hate mail and telephone calls, Madeline visited areas and spoke with people thought by others as enemy. In each case, her choice to make that visit has been based in part or in whole on the belief that the way to peace begins by talking with those with

whom one currently has no peace. Madeline has consistently used her skills and strengths to join with those of others to make positive differences in this world.

In late 1966 physicians and concerned individuals formed the Committee of Responsibility, which sent observers to Vietnam to find war-injured children who could benefit from medical treatment in the United States. Madeline became the west coast organizer at the outset, and supervised the transit, treatment, housing, and other activities necessary for the numbers of children treated under this privately funded program. Every child whose injuries allowed for safe return to Vietnam was sent home; those who would not survive at home were helped to remain in this country where available medical skills would allow them to live. Each child, now adult, who remained in the United States is self-supporting. Madeline continued her work with WILPF/Women for Peace, which became synonymous with peaceful protest, and finally, the end to the American war in Vietnam. She served during this time as chair of the World Council for Peace.

Her activism continued after the Vietnam war. She educated us on the growth of American military power and the continued high level of armaments. She supported congressional efforts to eliminate arms stockpiling, reduction of nuclear weapons, and to focus governmental spending on strengthening our social infrastructure to enhance the lives of the children today and tomorrow.

Madeline Taylor Duckles' 80th birthday, on May 19, 1996, is the occasion for celebration by her family, friends and colleagues, and provides us the opportunity to recognize her life and dedicated work of more than half a century in support of the cherished American principles of the freedoms of speech, liberty, and equality and the right to live one's life, anywhere in peace. Madeline Taylor Duckles is a visionary who has been practicing the concept of thinking globally and acting locally throughout her lifetime; she has been a feminist before the term was coined, a humanist of the greatest kind and an American with a world vision. I am proud to have had a chance to work with her and join with her many friends in the ninth Congressional District, and all over the world to recognize her work and to salute this wonderful American.

CZECH CITIZENSHIP LAW UNAIDED BY AMENDMENT

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 1996

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my disappointment regarding the progress of the Czech Republic in its on-going transition from Communist dictatorship to democracy. Overall, the Czech record is quite good. And the Czech Republic has made, possibly, the greatest strides of any countries in the region in its efforts to establishing a functioning free market. But in one particular area, the Czech record has been abysmal. Since the breakup of the Czechoslovak Federation at the end of 1992, the Czech Republic has imposed a citizenship law that discriminates against the Czech Republic's

largest minority group, the Roma, and violates international law.

The Helsinki Commission, which I now chair, flagged this problem in a report in 1994. More recently, in early April, the Council of Europe and the UNHCR each released reports on the Czech Republic. Although the reports differ in their specific mandate and analysis, their final conclusions are consistent: The current Czech citizenship law, both as drafted and applied, violates international standards. In particular, both reports found that—contrary to the previous assertions of the Czech Government—the Czech law has created both de jure and de facto statelessness. The Council of Europe report used particularly pointed language, noting that while some of the practices associated with the implementation of the law “might have been lawful under the Czech law of 1967. * * * [they] clearly do not meet European legal standards.” Moreover, according to the recently released State Department country report, some who are affected by this law have been deported, contrary to the assurances I had previously received from Czech officials.

I appreciate that efforts have been made to improve the citizenship law and strengthen its association with international human rights norms. In particular, I understand an amendment to the law was passed on April 26. That amendment, however, fails to address the fundamental shortcomings of the law.

For example, it appears that former Czechoslovaks who were long-term residents of the Czech Republic must still make cumbersome applications and pay so-called administrative fees in order to be considered for citizenship in the only homeland they have ever known. In addition, it has been reported that the amended law gives the Ministry of Interior complete discretion to require those applicants to have a clean criminal record. It seems to me that this would be like telling charter 77 dissidents that of course they have a right to free speech—provided they got a waiver from the Ministry of Interior before exercising it. In short, even as amended, the Czech citizenship law still stands in violation of the Czech Republic's international commitments.

In a few weeks, Czechs will return to the polls to elect a new parliament. In that context, the significance of the citizenship law is all the more poignant: those wrongly denied citizenship are also wrongly denied the right to vote.

Mr. Speaker, I do not understand what benefit the Czech Government sees in maintaining provisions of this law that have generated international criticism. Those who have criticized this law, including the Helsinki Commission, are not proposing that the Czech Republic adopt dual citizenship; we are not proposing that former Czechoslovaks who were or are permanent residents in Slovakia be given citizenship; and we are not saying that the Czech Republic does not have a right to protect its borders. Instead, a finite number of people, all of whom are, by definition, permanent residents in the Czech Republic anyway, must have their citizenship restored if the Czech Republic is to bring its law into conformity with the international standards it has adopted.

DR. JIMMY SIMON RECEIVES JOSEPH W. ST. GEME, JR., LEADERSHIP AWARD

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 1996

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Dr. Jimmy Simon, one of the preeminent practitioners of pediatric medicine in the United States. I join with the American pediatric community, who honored Dr. Simon here in Washington last week with the Joseph W. St. Geme, Jr., Leadership Award for Distinguished Service in Pediatrics, in expressing our most heartfelt gratitude for his work and continued leadership.

It is extremely important to recognize the extraordinary accomplishments of great Americans like Dr. Simon. Dr. Simon has not only been an excellent physician and teacher for 40 years, he has also provided for a bright and productive future for the field of pediatrics.

Dr. Simon, born and raised in San Francisco, CA, is currently the chairman of the Department of Pediatrics at the Bowman Gray School of Medicine in Winston-Salem, NC. Shortly after completing his medical and postdoctoral training, Dr. Simon served his country with distinction as a captain in the Air Force. He has been a physician and professor at the University of Oklahoma School of Medicine, at the Kern County General Hospital in Bakersfield, CA, at the University of Texas Medical Branch, and, since 1974, at the Bowman Gray School of Medicine.

Dr. Simon has served in numerous public service and policymaking capacities throughout his long and productive career. Through his wide-ranging memberships in professional organizations, Dr. Simon has helped develop a vision for pediatric medicine in the 21st century.

The Joseph W. St. Geme, Jr., Award is an annual award given to a practicing pediatrician who has contributed to an extraordinarily broad range of areas of pediatrics and who has created a future for pediatrics. I am extremely pleased that Dr. Simon has been recognized for possessing these outstanding qualities.

Dr. Jimmy Simon has shown us that one person dedicated to a cause can make a difference. Dr. Simon inspires us all to strive for excellence out of love for one's profession and all the benefits it can bring. I invite my colleagues to join me in expressing our appreciation of Dr. Simon's remarkable career.

TOM TRACY: DISTINGUISHED IRISH-AMERICAN LEADER

HON. ROBERT K. DORNAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 1996

Mr. DORNAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the honorable achievement of a good friend and fellow Irish-American, Tom Tracy. Tom recently received the 1996 Distinguished Leadership Award by the American Ireland Fund. The award acknowledges an American of Irish heritage whose lifetime accomplishments personify the spirit of the Irish

immigrants who contributed to making our Nation the greatest in the history of mankind.

I am especially proud of Tom because I share his Irish roots. I value my ancestry because it has given me a feeling of being connected to a long history of a people in love with life. The Irish have suffered mightily through history, but the essence of life is to persevere and conquer the challenges that life presents. Irish-Americans like Tom Tracy have excelled at that task.

Tom has been associated with about 28 Irish-related organizations, including many devoted to achieving peace in Northern Ireland. Over the last 5 years, Tom has spent much time and money trying to work towards that peace.

I also share one of Mr. Tracy's other passions: our Catholic Church. We have both been dedicated to strengthening and protecting the church and our particular dioceses. Mr. Tracy has been deeply involved in the Diocese of Orange, CA, where he has served on key committees and numerous other Catholic organizations, including the effort to gain sainthood for Father Junipero Serra.

I thank Tom for his many contributions. He honors all Irish-Americans for his dedication and his good will.

THE AGENCY FOR HEALTH CARE POLICY AND RESEARCH

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 1996

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, as the chairman of the Ways and Means Health Subcommittee, I want to take this opportunity to comment on the Budget Committee's report language relating to the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research [AHCPR] that was included with its discussion of the major discretionary health programs funded under function 550. The report language refers to the committee's objections to AHCPR's role in the development of outcomes research-based clinical practice guidelines and the need to better integrate survey and data collection efforts at a number of agencies, including AHCPR. This is an important goal but think it is important to note that AHCPR has already addressed the two issues raised in this report.

First, in the area of clinical practice guidelines, AHCPR has been responsive to the committee's concerns. The Agency took this criticism seriously, engaged in a dialog with the health care community, and announced last month that it will no longer directly support the development of clinical practice guidelines. Instead, AHCPR will concentrate on its strength, the development and assessment of the scientific evidence that physicians, health plans, and other providers need so that they, not AHCPR, can develop guidelines or other quality improvement strategies. This approach will provide physicians and health plans with the information they need to develop better, evidence-based guidelines, without the implication that the Federal Government is telling them how to practice medicine.

Second, the agency has been responsive in attempting to minimize their overlap with other Health and Human Services agencies in the area of the data collection. Despite the fact