

league gave me during his tenure as President. I wish only the best for Ed, his wife, Marion, their children and grandchildren.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 29, 1996*

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, today, May 29, I was not present to record my votes on the Omnibus Civilian Science Authorization Act for fiscal year 1997 [H.R. 3322]. I was absent due to the arrival of my adopted son, Scott Kirby Pomeroy, from Korea.

I would like to emphasize that, had I been present, I would have strongly supported two important amendments: The Zimmer amendment to eliminate funding for the space station, and the Cramer amendment to reinstate the certification requirement for closing a National Weather Service office. I have submitted statements in support of these amendments that will appear at the appropriate point in the RECORD.

#### STATEMENT BY SARAH SNIDER AND STEPHANIE PETROLITO REGARDING POST-HIGH SCHOOL JOB TRAINING AND SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 29, 1996*

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, for the benefit of my colleagues I would like to have printed in the RECORD this statement by Sarah Snider and Stephanie Petrolito, high school students at the People's Academy in Vermont. They were speaking at my recent town meeting on issues facing young people.

(Alternated speaking):

We represent the U.S. History class at People's Academy in Morrisville.

As high school students, we worry every day about our post-secondary plans, such as college, a vocational or trade school, or perhaps even joining the workforce directly after graduation.

As a class we've done some research on the subject, as a result we have lots of questions. We have more questions than answers, because many of us have not been through the financial aid process. Our questions begin with average students, from average families in average American towns.

Most American students are average, who don't get straight A's, and who aren't necessarily gifted in athletics or the arts. This is especially true in other larger states, where student-teacher ratio's are higher, and less attention is given to the student as an individual, and their talents. Also, the majority of American families belong to the middle class, and are not particularly wealthy or incredibly poor.

A major part of financial aid is based on students' academic and extracurricular achievements, as well as their families' income. Many of these students have incredible potential that is not expressed in their high school transcripts. Most of the students in the class that I represent fall into this

category. I know that I do. We'd like to know what can be done to insure that we receive a college education.

The idea of spending 20 years paying off a debt is very discouraging, and although we are told that it is worth the money, most students are hesitant. As average students in the middle class, what kind of scholarships or financial aids, if any, are available to us? Many students are left so discouraged at these prospects that they decide, instead of furthering their education, to join the workforce. Education is a right for every American student, not a privilege.

Congressman Sanders: That is an incredible presentation. You've raised a lot of very important questions. I certainly don't know all the answers. But if basically what you're saying—let's say you have a middle class family making \$20 or \$30 or \$40,000/year, and it costs \$20-30,000 for one year to send one kid to college. That equation doesn't make sense, right? You can't do it.

Answer. Right.

Congressman Sanders: Further, I think you've made the point that if you don't have a college education, you won't make it into the middle class. So let me throw it back to you. If you were sitting in my seat in Congress, what would you do?

Answer. I would probably be inclined to \* \* \* have the government be more involved. Like, what the girl from Brattleboro said about other countries where the government is more involved in college, and it costs less. And I totally agree that's the way it should be in this country, and that the government should spend less money on the military.

Congressman Sanders: Okay, as it happens I agree with you. But what is the other argument that is being made? What do you hear a whole lot of about the government lately? What do some people say about the government? Have you heard much?

Answer. Not much.

Congressman Sanders: Does everybody agree with your point of view?

Answer. No, not everybody. A lot of people think \* \* \* that there is enough financial aid out there, and that there are other things that we need to worry about also. \* \* \* But I just think really that education is incredibly important, and everybody thinks that.

Congressman Sanders: And a lot of people think, in fact, that the government should play less of a role.

Answer. Right.

Congressman Sanders: There's a whole line of thought out there, in which probably a majority of members of Congress now believe in exact contradiction to what you're saying. They're saying the government should get out of the issue. That Americorps—you mentioned Americorps—there's an effort to defund Americorps completely, not put one penny into Americorps.

Answer. But these are the people who've already been through college, and are not worrying about it now. There are three children in my family, and there's no way unless we each get a job during college, and try to go to college and do extracurricular activities, that we're going to be able to go to college.

Congressman Sanders: I agree with you. But when you hear the discussion going on in Congress about the role of government, what they have advocated, if I'm not mistaken, is that government should play a strong role in assuring that the middle class is able to send their kids to college, okay? Okay. So \* \* \* they are defining a role of government. Right now in Congress there are many who strongly disagree with what they are asserting. I happen to agree. Thank you very much for your excellent presentation.

#### SMALL BUSINESS JOB PROTECTION ACT OF 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER G. TORKILDSEN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 22, 1996*

Mr. TORKILDSEN. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the time to speak on this important small business issue.

The Small Business Job Protection Act is a package of tax incentives aimed at increasing the productivity of small business by promoting the opportunity for expansion. The bill contains a number of small business tax provisions. But, most importantly, there is a provision to increase expensing for small business.

Part of the Contract with America, this provision will increase from \$17,500 to \$25,000 the amount of money a small business can deduct for the purchase of equipment, such as computers, cash registers, or office furniture, for example. By increasing the deduction, small businesses will not only be able to modernize, giving their workers the tools they need to remain competitive, but they will also be in a stronger financial position to do business and interact within their communities.

Specifically, the bill phases in over 8 years a \$7,500 increase in the amount a business may deduct from their tax liability for capital investment. As I stated before, current law allows a maximum amount of \$17,500—bringing the new total deduction to \$25,000.

In closing, I strongly support passage of this long overdue legislation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the time.

#### WHITEWATER VERDICT

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 29, 1996*

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, yesterday's verdicts in the Whitewater trial is about more than just the Madison Savings and Loan. The investigation does not stand or fall on any one person, one transaction, or one trial. Whitewater is about the arrogance of power. It is about public officials using their office for personal gain and not telling the truth about it.

The White House is spinning the verdicts already, repeating the lead prosecutor's closing argument that the President was not on trial. Yet, the total vindication the White House claims is premature. At the very least, these indictments prove just how poor the President's judgment is. Since coming to office, one of his advisors has been sent to prison; two of his close friends and business partners were convicted yesterday; and the sitting Governor of Arkansas—the President's hand-picked successor to the governorship—was also convicted. The people the President chooses to surround himself by present yet another credibility problem.

Mr. Speaker, perhaps now we will get down to the bottom of the Clintons' involvement in the scandal. A new trial focusing on the financing of Governor Clinton's 1990 campaign will begin next month—and many questions remain unanswered ranging from Mrs. Clinton's billing record to alleged jobs-for-contributions trades in the 1990 Clinton campaign.

Americans must have faith in their elected officials. They must believe that those given the public's trust will use it for the public good; that those in power will not abuse this trust, cover up the abuse, and then interfere with the investigation.

The American people take this case seriously. It is time the Clintons' did as well.

STATEMENT BY KELLEY WILLIAMS, RYAN DRISCOLL, AND PATRICK WEBSTER ON GUN CONTROL

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 29, 1996

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, for the benefit of my colleagues I would like to have printed in the RECORD this statement by Kelley Williams, Ryan Driscoll, and Patrick Webster, high school students from Vermont. They were speaking at my recent town meeting on issues facing young people.

Patrick: Our topic was on gun control, and as Ryan's going to tell you, we have four specific things we think need to be improved on gun control.

Ryan: We think that Congress should increase regulations by: having a 6 month waiting period; no sales to persons under 25; there should be more safety features on guns; there should be required gun education programs.

(Dialogue with alternating speakers): If nothing's done about this rising problem, the ownership will continue to increase from the current estimated 150 million to 175 million firearms.

The ATF estimates that there are 52 million handguns circulating in the U.S., and 2 million more bought each year.

About 2 million handguns were manufactured in the U.S. in 1989.

It's estimated that 135,000 students each day now carry guns to school.

One out of six pediatricians have treated a young gunshot victim.

80% of homicide victims knew their killers as a relative or friend?

Of 12,000 men and women who have committed suicide, nearly 60% used handguns.

We've got some statistics that we're going to put on the overhead. The first one shows the amount of gun distribution and how much it's gone up from 1988-91, and it's still rising.

The second graph shows that guns are becoming more and more commonplace in today's society. This is from a school in Los Angeles, from students, showing: people carrying guns in the last 30 days, carrying guns to school in the past year, if they've shot a gun at someone, if they were shot in the past year, or if they know someone who has been killed or injured by gunfire.

The most important fact to us Vermonters: over 41% of gun accidents in Vermont involved handguns.

TRIBUTE TO ENRIQUETA "QUETA" JIMENEZ LA GRAN AMIGA DE AMIGOS DEL VALLE, INC.

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 29, 1996

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and pay tribute to Enriqueta

"Queta" Jimenez, selected as La Gran Amiga by a local organization in my district, Amigos del Valle, Inc.

Queta Jimenez, "La Prieta Linda", was born in Salamanca, Guanajuato, Mexico. As a child her dream was to become a great singer. She went on to become one of Mexico's greatest artists in the fields of music and film.

At the age of 14, she made her debut at the Mariscala Theater. For her, this was the most important day of her career. Soon she began to appear daily at Garibaldi or the Plaza De Los Mariachis. It was here that she met Silvestre Vargas, director of the grand Mariachi Vargas, who gave her the first opportunity to sing with a musical group.

During this time she arranged her radio and television debut on Mexico's most popular stations, XEQ and XEW. A year later, while working in XEW, she succeeded in having her first radio and TV program. It is here that she met Lola Beltran, who not only became her best friend, but helped her make her first record. Her recordings rose to the top of the charts, and she became one of Mexico's most popular artists.

Today, she has recorded 40 albums, starred in 58 Mexican and United States films, and performed in 60 different countries. She has also given private performances for President John F. Kennedy, Prince Felipe of Spain, French Prime Minister Charles deGaulle, President Lyndon B. Johnson, and numerous Mexican Presidents. Though all her memories are fond, her two most cherished performances took place at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York City and the Hollywood Bowl in Los Angeles.

Through her hard work, she has become one of Mexico's most popular television personalities, starring in both dramatic and musical performances. In 1981, she hosted her own television special in Hollywood on the ABC network, titled "The International Show of La Prieta Linda," which was made for the Mexican-American population in the United States.

"La Prieta Linda's" success as an artist is recognized through the numerous awards bestowed on her in Mexico and abroad, including: Mexico's top singer of "Cancion Ranchera," three gold records in Hollywood, two Golden Globes for greatest performer of Latin music, three Aztec calendars which signify Mexico's singer of the year, and the Artist of the Year Award from Colombia.

Queta Jimenez "La Prieta Linda" has not only achieved her childhood dream of becoming a renowned artist, but has fulfilled her personal dreams of having a family. She is married to Paul Vieyra, a journalist with the Excelsior, the newspaper of Mexico City, and has three daughters whom she loves very much.

I would like to join Los Amigos del Valle, Inc. in recognizing Mrs. Enriqueta "Queta" Jimenez "La Prieta Linda." She has brought much artistic enjoyment to south Texas through her influence in attracting other world-renowned Mexican entertainers such as Mr. Lalo Gonzalez "Piporro," Mrs. Maria Victoria, Mrs. Lucha Moreno, Mr. Jose Juan, the unforgettable and beloved Mr. David Reynoso "El Mayor," and Mrs. Lola Beltran "Lola La Grande."

I ask my colleagues to join me in extending congratulations to Enriqueta "Queta" Jimenez for being honored with the special recognition.

BEST WISHES TO LAURA SCHLOSS

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 29, 1996

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, on June 5, 1996, Laura Schloss, staff assistant on the Democratic staff of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, will be leaving the committee to pursue the study of law.

Although Laura has been with the committee only a short time, she has gained the respect and admiration of all. Things can get hectic in the front office of the largest legislative committee in the House, and Laura's contributions and organization skills have helped to make a difference.

Laura joined the committee staff after having served a 6-month stint with the office of then-Congressman Norman Y. Mineta. There, she assisted with mail operations, including the composition of constituent response letters, answered telephones, and provided help where needed.

Laura is a 1994 honors graduate of Princeton University, where she majored in political science. She is also an avid runner, having recently been a member of the Enclave, a Reebok-sponsored team.

On behalf of the Democratic members and staff of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, I want to recognize Laura and offer our heartfelt gratitude for her service on the committee and to wish her well in her future endeavors.

FLOOD CONTROL STRATEGY FOR THE GREENBRIER BASIN

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 29, 1996

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, the time for study is over. We must move now, today, with a flood control strategy for the Greenbrier River Basin. Moreover, we must move forward with a plan that is realistically achievable. A plan that does not divide the affected communities. One that is economically viable in light of the tight budgets the Federal, State, and local governments face.

Today I am proposing a flood control strategy for the Greenbrier Basin that includes both structural and nonstructural elements. This strategy does not include the construction of a main-stem dam on the river. Frankly, such a project would be difficult, if not impossible, to obtain an authorization for by the Congress.

Instead, I am proposing a strategy that is similar to what we have put into place along the Tug Fork River in southern West Virginia. The structural elements include the construction of floodwalls where necessary. The nonstructural elements include floodplain management strategies such as floodproofing and floodplain evacuations where absolutely necessary.

In formulating this approach, I have consulted with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which has raised no objections, as well as with local officials. They, as I, agree that the most feasible, the most readily achievable,