

the upper bay and the connecting channels in the Kill Van Kull and the Arthur Kill. It is only the exceptional skill and dedication of the pilots serving the Port of New York and New Jersey that have prevented a catastrophe, but there have been a number of near collisions.

To reduce this threat, this legislation requires the Coast Guard to develop requirements for lightering and towing operations. It provides incentives for converting to the use of double hull vessels. The bill will also reduce the economic hardship on the victims of oil spills, particularly in fishing communities. This bill is a good starting point at improving the Oil Pollution Act and improving the safety of barges that move a commodity that is essential for our economy safely and without harm to the environment.

INTRODUCTION OF RABBI DAVIS

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 1996

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to introduce to my colleagues, Rabbi Edward Davis, who will be giving today's opening prayer. Rabbi Davis leads the Young Israel Congregation of Hollywood, FL. Yet, Rabbi Davis is far more than just the spiritual leader of his south Florida congregation. After serving as Young Israel's rabbi for over 15 years, he has emerged as a well-respected leader throughout the community. He is a man that people can turn to in their time of need and someone people seek out to share in their joyous occasions. Moreover, he has become a dear friend whose ability to enrich people's religious experience is a treasure and a gift.

Rabbi Edward Davis is married to Meira Davis and is the father of nine children. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Rabbi Davis on all that he has accomplished and I ask my colleagues to join me in welcoming Rabbi Davis to the floor.

STATEMENT REGARDING STUDENT VOICE AND EMPOWERMENT

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 1996

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, for the benefit of my colleagues I would like to have printed in the RECORD this statement by several high school students at Champlain Valley Union High School in Vermont, who were speaking at my recent town meeting on issues facing young people.

Through our high school years, we have discovered the power and voice that we as students have in our school; and we have realized that this power of student voice is an incredibly valuable and meaningful learning experience.

It's important to recognize that education reform, especially when it concerns the students that say their education . . . can be very slow. And we hope that some of the ideas that we present today will be a springboard for further action on the part of both students in the audience as well as for Vermont.

It's our hope that . . . we be more of a voice, both in schools and on a national level. And, for that reason, our presentation is both for Congressman Sanders and for the teachers and the students in the audience.

We believe that student voice is fundamental to provide the necessary quality of education to our nation's youth. Student voice empowers our students, instilling confidence and providing opportunities for participation in the democratic process. Student voice gives students control over their own education, getting them interested and excited about it, and making it more meaningful.

Student voice improves the tone and level of respect among students, teachers and administration and other members of the school community, building a stronger community. Incorporating student voice into the educational experience is a tool for developing contributing members of a democratic society.

We attended a national conference last November, where we came together with students and teachers from across the country re: policy changes for student voice. And we came up with a general policy at that conference. This first handout that we've given Congressman Sanders (and if anyone else we would like to copy, we'll have them available afterwards) is kind of our own version of general policy that we created. It's something you can bring back to your own schools, and share with other people. The following is the policy:

School government: schools should incorporate a democratic decision-making process where all students can be recognized; all people in the school community should have equal opportunity to be heard; there should be a commitment to building this process by making it accessible, and by providing students and staff with the time necessary to plan and implement the school's plan of action.

For curriculum, students need to have a voice in what and how they learn; open dialogue should exist between teachers and students, about teacher and student evaluation.

For school tone and culture: a school should have an atmosphere that reflects its values of student empowerment; this includes allowing students to help shape the atmosphere of the school; the climate of the school should be one of open communication between all its members; students and faculty should feel equally comfortable in discussing concerns and suggestions. The first step towards creating a school culture that allows for Student Voice lies within each individual, and . . . we want to stress that each person is responsible for speaking out, and listening, and encouraging the voice of others. The school atmosphere should reflect the democratic ideals of our society. In an ideal world, as well as a democracy, every person has a voice, and so each person's voice should be listened to and respected.

And the most important thing is "how" and "what can you do;" and that's the second handout that we have available if you want it. (signal) We're just going to go through reading this is all. Here are some suggestions:

Create more funding for education; let's think about the future; if students are empowered today, we will be prepared tomorrow to contribute to society in an active and productive way. But this cannot be accomplished on a shoestring budget. . . . What is more important than education, what is more important than our future?

Encourage students to teach each other; everyone is good at something; finding strengths build upon them by creating opportunities for students to teach their peers. Through this teaching process, students will gain confidence in leadership skills. Invite

students to serve on national committees and panels concerning education skills. Create positions for students to advise the Secretary of Education: a student representative in Washington.

And the final suggestion today: create charters for student rights within your local schools, and send these charters to other schools, and encourage them to create their own charters. Let's begin a grassroots Student Voice Movement. (APPLAUSE)

Congressman Sanders: I would strongly encourage all of the schools here to get copies of these very excellent documents. The second I'd like to ask you: to what degree are these principles in existence now at CVU—are they in existence?

Answer. I think we're here because we have gotten these principles from our school and from our education; and that's not to say that every student at CVU has gotten the same things that we have. I think that our school does an excellent job of providing opportunities for students, but it doesn't do quite as well in making . . . sure that all students realize and recognize that opportunity.

Congressman Sanders: Let me ask you the last question: in the last election nationally, only 38% of the American people came out to vote. What do you see as the relationship between student democracy and democracy within our country as a whole?

Answer. It's building on the future; if we start in schools. The problem with our democracy today is that as students grow up in our educational system, they don't learn that much about it. Then once they get out there into the real world they haven't had very much practice with it, and don't know what to do. One of the best ways to remedy that problem is to start dealing with democracy in the schools.

HONORING JOSEPH JACOBSON

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 1996

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with my colleagues, and the members of the Harry Van Arsdale Jr. Memorial Association as they present their Humanitarian Award to Joseph Jacobson. The Memorial Association recognizes individuals who pay tribute to educational and social projects that express the lifelong philosophy and personal commitments of Harry Van Arsdale, Jr., the long time, and much beloved labor leader.

Throughout his life, Joe Jacobson has strived to help others. In 1921, Mr. Jacobson was initiated into the Local 3, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. From there he held a position on the Board of Directors of the Electrical Workers Benefit Society. He has served as president to the Electrical Welfare Club, and the Bronx Acorn Social Club. Mr. Jacobson was also a representative of Local 3, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, and an employee representative of the Joint Industry Board of the Electrical Industry, and of the vacation committee.

While becoming active in the community, he still remained a loving husband to his late wife Rose, and a father to his son Stanley, who has blessed the Jacobsons with three grandchildren and one great-grandson.

This is not the first time Mr. Jacobson has been honored with such prestigious recognition. Mr. Jacobson's accomplishments were

also acknowledged by the Electrical Industry Division of the State of Israel Bonds, the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of the Electrical Sign Division, and the United Jewish Appeal and the Bronx Council of Scouting.

The dedication of this man to better his community continued even after his retirement on March 1, 1967. He was instrumental in organizing the thirteen chapters of the Retirees Association of Local 3, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. He served as their first treasurer in 1969, and has served as president since 1975, while continuing to remain a board member on the National Council of Senior Citizens. He still remains active in his community, always putting others before himself. There is no doubt in my mind that this country would benefit by having more people like Joseph Jacobson.

Mr. Speaker, it is with the utmost sincerity and gratitude, that I pay tribute to this man, and thank him for the generosity he has proffered on others throughout his life. He is an outstanding citizen and an inspiration to us all. Therefore, I ask my colleagues to rise with me, and the people of the Fifth Congressional District, as we extend to Joseph Jacobson our sincere appreciation for his life's work and dedication to others.

SERVING NEW JERSEY'S VETERANS BETTER

HON. BOB FRANKS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 1996

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3376, a bill which authorizes major medical construction projects for the Department of Veterans Affairs in fiscal year 1997. Among these projects, there is one which is special importance to me and to my constituents: an allocation of \$21.1 million for a new building on the grounds of the Veterans Medical Center at Lyons, NJ.

Lyons Medical Center has served New Jersey's veterans since 1930. The Center started life as a long-term care facility with 400 beds for the mentally ill. With over 1,000 nursing home and hospital beds and outpatient visits totaling over 90,000 a year, Lyons is now the largest medical center in the VA's health care system.

H.R. 3376 will provide Lyons with the funds for a two-story building that will replace an aging building currently on site. This new building will enable the Center to provide better service in a more cost-effective manner. The Center will be able to consolidate the hospital's emergency department, diagnostic and treatment services, and ambulatory care clinic.

I regard this work at Lyons as one small part of our country's ongoing commitment to its veterans. My father served during World War II as a fighter pilot. He and his generation successfully met the challenge of defending democracy against the fascist threat.

I think our generation now is confronted with another kind of threat, one from within—that is, our every-growing national debt. In light of this problem, we must review our Nation's spending priorities. The 1997 budget resolution reaches a balanced budget in 2002 while increasing spending for Veterans Affairs from \$37.8 billion in 1996 to \$39.9 billion in 2002.

This Congress stands firm in honoring our obligation to veterans, while also honoring our commitment to future generations of Americans by passing a balanced budget.

Mr. Speaker, with H.R. 3376 and its proposed spending to upgrade the Lyons Medical Center, the House continues to honor its obligation to New Jersey's veterans. I commend Chairman STUMP for this excellent bill, and urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3376.

NATO ENLARGEMENT FACILITATION ACT OF 1996

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 1996

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, as an outspoken supporter of NATO expansion, I am pleased to join Chairman GILMAN and others in introducing legislation designed to move this important process ahead in a timely manner. Regrettably, the Clinton administration's professed commitment to expansion of NATO has not been adequately matched by concrete deeds. The Partnership for Peace program, meant to deepen and strengthen the links between the Alliance and the emerging democracies of East Central Europe, appears stalled. The legislation we introduce today is designed to move the program forward, making much-needed resources available to Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic and others, helping them to meet the obligations which NATO membership would entail.

The United States must provide the determined leadership necessary to advance NATO enlargement and check those bent on blocking the inclusion of new states in the Alliance.

Mr. Speaker, the peoples of East Central Europe have made tremendous strides in working to overcome the legacy of communism. Many of the countries have undertaken significant steps to consolidate democracy, to protect human rights, and to rebuild economies based on market principles.

At the same time, my endorsement of an expanded NATO is tempered by a recognition of the fact that progress in the region has not been even. There is room for further improvement in each and every one of the states concerned. I would note that all 27 states which have joined the Partnership for Peace to date are participating States of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe [OSCE]. That membership has committed each to act in accordance with all OSCE documents, including the Helsinki Final Act.

As chairman of the Helsinki Commission, I am convinced of the fundamental role of human rights in advancing genuine security and stability, and, as such, must be an integral aspect of the expansion process. The human rights record of prospective candidates for NATO membership deserves close scrutiny. In fact, I would argue that a country's record should be subjected to more—not less—scrutiny the closer that country comes to being admitted into full membership in NATO. I would emphasize that none of the countries seeking NATO membership, including those considered to be leading contenders, is without problems.

The Government of Poland, for example, still has an arcane defamation law that pro-

vides criminal penalties against those who allegedly "slander" the state, similar to the laws previously used by Communist regimes to silence their opponents. In response to a letter from members of the Helsinki Commission on this issue, authorities in Warsaw have recently indicated their intention to repeal this provision as part of a general overhaul of the penal code. This step will, in my view, remove one of the last remaining vestiges of the Communist system from Poland's generally outstanding human rights record.

In the case of Hungary, there is continued concern over the use of excessive force by police, including harassment and physical abuse of Roma, Hungary's largest minority group. Some human rights organizations have suggested that Roma are also kept in pretrial detention more often and for longer periods than non-Roma.

The Czech Republic, although a human rights leader in many respects, passed a citizenship law after the dissolution of the Czechoslovak Federation that leaves thousands of people without citizenship. Regrettably, a recently passed amendment to the law failed to resolve this problem. Also, the Czech Republic has used a criminal defamation law to restrict free speech.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the tremendous progress which each of these states has made since the revolutions of the late 1980's and early 1990's which toppled the dictators of East Central Europe and the former Soviet Empire. I urge the leaders of Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic to take concrete steps to address the remaining human rights concerns in a manner consistent with OSCE principles as they pursue their goal of full NATO membership.

Mr. Speaker, the Congress has sought to play an active and constructive role in moving the NATO expansion process forward. The NATO Enlargement Facilitation Act, which we introduce today, demonstrates our firm commitment to the people of East Central Europe, including those from the Baltic States and Ukraine, as they strive to overcome the legacy of Communism and pursue democracy rooted in respect for the rights and freedoms of the individual.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 3562, WISCONSIN WORKS

HON. MARK W. NEUMANN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 1996

Mr. NEUMANN. Mr. Speaker, I am submitting for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the text of H.R. 3562, a bill to authorize the State of Wisconsin to implement the "Wisconsin Works" welfare reform plan. I am also submitting a list of the 88 Federal waivers requested by the Governor of Wisconsin, plus a summary of the Wisconsin Works plan, for the benefit of Members of Congress.

The Wisconsin Works plan was researched, written, debated, and passed into law by the citizens of Wisconsin through their elected representatives. The plan underwent the scrutiny of numerous public hearings and 18 months of public debate. The plan passed the Wisconsin state legislature with bipartisan support—both the State Assembly and State Senate passed the plan with at least a two-thirds