

of the time allowed for the extended questioning of witnesses, and in the determination of which witnesses may be subjected to such extended questioning.

I hope this will help to further clarify the rule's intent for any questions directed to your office, and for the purposes of any committee rules or motions developed to implement this rule.

Sincerely,

GERALD B.H. SOLOMON,
Chairman.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SARA AND SIMHA LAINER

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 21, 1997

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Sara and Simha Lainer, close friends of mine for more than 40 years and people passionately dedicated to the welfare of the Jewish community of Los Angeles. This year the couple are receiving the Lifetime Humanitarian Achievement Award from the West Coast Friends of Bar-Ilan University in Israel. I cannot think of two more deserving recipients.

Sara Lainer, a distinguished author of scholarly articles, has been an active volunteer on behalf of Hadassah, Pioneer Women, General Israel Orphans Home, the Yiddish Culture Club, and many other organizations. She continues to lecture in Hebrew and Yiddish to groups in Los Angeles, and she holds an honorary doctorate from the Hebrew Theological College, Jewish University of America. Her commitment to the intellectual and spiritual components of Judaism is extraordinary.

Simha Lainer, who ran a successful real estate business in the San Fernando Valley, is a strong supporter of, and a dedicated volunteer with, the University of Judaism, the Jewish Community Foundation, the ADL, and West Coast Friends of the Hebrew University. Anyone who cares about the Jewish community of Los Angeles owes a huge thanks to him.

In 1989, the Lainers established the Simha and Sara Lainer Fund for Jewish Education, which has thus far awarded \$290,000 in scholarships to 400 children around the city. I can think of nothing more important than ensuring Judaism remains vibrant and alive in Los Angeles.

Simha and Sara raised three sons, Mark, Nahum, and Luis, who have followed in the tradition of their parents in working hard on behalf of their community. I am indeed lucky to be good friends with all three, as well as their wives, Ellie, Alice, and Lee.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Sara and Simha Lainer, whose tireless efforts to make this a better world inspire us all.

HONORING THE ROTARY GREATER MIAMI URBAN PEACE CON- FERENCE

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 21, 1997

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on February 8, 1997, the Rotary Clubs of Dade

County will sponsor the Greater Miami Urban Peace Conference at the Wolfson Campus of Miami-Dade Community College.

Inspired by Rotary International President Luis Giay, the conference will focus on solutions to the problems of youth and violence. Rotary seeks to identify effective programs which demonstrate results, but which could benefit from additional assistance to reach their full potential. Rotary's purpose is to go beyond merely examining problems. They want to connect hundreds of Dade County Rotary volunteers with projects to stem youth violence.

I commend the work of Rotary to constructively address a matter of growing local and national concern. It is easy to rush toward punitive measures before providing positive role models to those most in need. Rotary is assembling forces who have the ability to provide real solutions to a very real challenge. I am sure that my colleagues will join me recognizing the Dade County Rotary Clubs for their endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. ISABEL MÉNDEZ

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 21, 1997

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding Puerto Rican woman, Mrs. Isabel Méndez, who has dedicated her life to taking care of others, especially Hispanics in New York City.

Mrs. Méndez was honored by the House of Puerto Rican Cultural Heritage, known as "La Casa de la Herencia Cultural Puertorriqueña," on January 11 in New York City for her long-time commitment to the advancement of the Hispanic community.

She was born in Yabucoa, Puerto Rico. In 1926, at the age of 17, she came to New York City. Since her arrival, she has fought every day to improve the living conditions of Hispanics and has helped them overcome the difficulties that are a part of the experience of immigrating to a new land.

In 1932, Mrs. Méndez was instrumental in founding the first Hispanic Catholic Church, "La Milagrosa Church," in El Barrio, east Harlem. Together with her husband, Tony Mendez, who was the first Puerto Rican male district leader of the Democratic Party, she fought tirelessly for the welfare of Hispanics in the city.

In 1950, she founded the Puerto Rican Association of Women Voters, which is still in existence. Through this organization she assisted in furthering the advancement of Puerto Rican women. Mrs. Méndez also served as an interpreter for 24 years, first as a volunteer and later on as an employee, at the New York City civil court.

Through her community activism, she has helped to ease the road for those who have come after and who have embraced New York City as their new home. She is the widow of Tony Méndez and the mother-in-law of State Senator Olga A. Méndez.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Isabel Méndez for her devotion to our community and for making all of us Puerto Ricans and fellow Americans proud.

THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION IN AMERICA

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 21, 1997

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, let me commend to you the following article from an editorial in the Post Star newspaper in Glen Falls, NY. This article succinctly expresses my reasons for calling for the abolishment of the U.S. Education Department. While this Department was created with a noble eye toward protecting and advancing public education in this country, in reality it has only created dubious Federal mandates while siphoning scarce Federal dollars away from the students that truly need it. By creating an Office of Education to continue to represent public school interests and allowing more parental involvement, students will ultimately be much better served.

[From the Post Star, Glen Falls, NY]

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT NEEDS TO BE
DISMANTLED

If you wonder what big idea Bill Clinton intends to ride into history, consider this one: Education.

Everybody agrees education is a wonderful thing, but increasingly, Americans fret about the quality of public schooling. The issue of instructional quality has split the educational establishment. On one side stand votaries of the National Education Association, which has worked long and hard to define mediocrity down. On the other are devotees of educational choice and home schooling, programs designed to spare kids the travail of politically correct education.

Enter President Clinton, promising to bridge the chasm. In a recent speech to the Democratic Leadership Council, he echoed Americans' apprehensions about the state of education: "We must dramatically reform our public schools, demanding high standards and accountability from every teacher and every student, promoting reforms like public choice, school choice and charter schools in every state."

At the same time, he staked out new ground for Uncle Sam: "I am not for federal government national standards. But I am for national standards of excellence and a means of measuring it so we know what our children are learning."

Here is Bill Clinton doing what he does best: bending a conservative issue to liberal ends. He has made it clear in subsequent talks that he wants to defend teachers unions, while creating a larger federal role in determining what students should and shouldn't learn.

That's not an encouraging sign, given recent trends in government-sponsored instruction. As Lynne Cheney has noted to devastating effect, school textbooks today subject students to politically correct nonsense. Some standard history books, for instance, mention Harriet Tubman more often than George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and Robert E. Lee combined!

Meanwhile, self-esteem programs assure students that accuracy isn't everything in mathematics: If you come close, that's good enough. (Tell that to the Internal Revenue Service.)

The President's case for standards rests on the beguiling but dubious notion that experts know enough to set "proper" standards. There are no data to support that claim, and considerable evidence that schools tend to thrive in direct proportion to parental involvement in school. In other words, mother and father know best.

Clinton's talk to the Democratic Leadership Council framed the upcoming reform debate. If you want a larger federal role, you're "for" education; if you want decentralized control, you're "against" standards that could guarantee excellence.

Republicans ought to hop into the fray immediately. The best way to protect the sovereignty of local systems is not to hand more power to the Department of Education. Just the opposite: The goals of excellence and local sovereignty would best be served by dismantling the department, and spinning off the Office of Educational Research and Improvement, which provides important and useful educational research.

Today, the federal government makes educators do everything from diagnosing sexual abuse and distributing condoms to serving as guardians for messed-up kids. At the same time it has heaped new duties on educators, it has clamped down on innovations Washington bureaucrats don't like. This happened to Detroit when local authorities tried to set up all-boys schools to deal with their very real problems.

By shutting down the education department while saving its research office, Congress could give Americans just what Bill Clinton is promising—a revitalized sense of local control, aided by a federal clearinghouse that could offer useful data about what does and doesn't work in the classroom.

TRIBUTE TO JON A. KASTRUP

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 21, 1997

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the personal achievement of one of our community's most talented and dedicated young men, Mr. Jon A. Kastrup. Jon's own success is sweeter than most, as he not only had to overcome the regular stresses of daily living but, also had to accomplish this while being profoundly deaf.

Many people like Jon would surrender to their condition, but Jon, never questioning his resolve, earned dual degrees in the fields of mechanical engineering and law and now holds the distinction of being one of only four functionally deaf attorneys in the United States. After his graduation from the Brigham Young University's J. Reuben Clark School of Law, Jon served as a legal intern for the U.S. Court of Federal Claims in Washington, DC. Previously, Jon lent his valuable services to the California Center for the Law and Deaf in Oakland, CA where he served as a legal assistant and law clerk, and in the State of Utah as a court appointed special advocate for the Guardian Ad Litem Program.

Jon has also served in several notable capacities for private and public sector institutions, including the Department of Human Development at the Rochester Institute of Technology, where he served as a student development assistant. He was also an engineering aide for the U.S. Navy and previously served as an engineer drafter for the Unidynamic Corp. of St. Louis, MO. Jon has excelled in everything he has set out to accomplish. Despite his physical limitations, he never once relented in his ambition to succeed. Jon has proven that through steadfast dedication and a deep belief in oneself, "if you can dream it, you can do it."

TRIBUTE TO BETTE JANE RODRIGUEZ

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 21, 1997

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend, Bette Jane Rodriguez, who is being recognized by the city of Cudahy on February 13, 1997, as she retired after serving the Treasurer's Office for 33½ year.

Throughout her long and dedicated term, Bette Jane has served as deputy treasurer to several city treasurers. Her leadership while assisting the government of the city of Cudahy to run more effectively and efficiently should be commended.

Ms. Rodriguez has served on the Cudahy Area Business and Professional Women's Club since 1973. She has also served on the Cudahy Democratic Unit by providing assistance on several local and Presidential elections, as well as on the Cudahy Municipal Credit Union and on the Cudahy Historical Society for the last 10 years.

Bette Jane Rodriguez will truly be missed in City Hall, but knowing her as I do, she will only become more active in the community following her retirement. Therefore, it is with great pleasure I join Bette Jane's coworkers, the city of Cudahy, and many friends in honoring her many years of service and contributions to the city of Cudahy.

Best wishes, Bette Jane, and on behalf of the residents of the city of Cudahy, I offer a heartfelt "thank you" for your unselfish work over the years and for a job well done.

CONGRESSMAN BILL RICHARDSON: ON TO DIPLOMACY FOR HIS COUNTRY

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 21, 1997

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, a recent event affecting this House leaves us with mixed emotions. We are losing one of our Members, but the service to which he is going is greatly important to our Nation.

Congressman BILL RICHARDSON has been nominated to be America's next Ambassador to the United Nations. In that role, he will serve in the President's Cabinet and be a principal in the guidance and implementation of our country's foreign policy.

I salute President Clinton for his wise choice of BILL RICHARDSON. We need someone with his firmness and no-nonsense approach to represent our interests at the United Nations.

All of us are familiar with BILL RICHARDSON's record as a hostage negotiator in troubled world areas. He showed on several occasions that he can identify critical issues and find the means of resolution.

My familiarity with BILL RICHARDSON comes not alone from being aware of his creative diplomatic strategies in North Korea, Iraq, and Sudan. I had the good fortune to serve with him on the Resources Committee and on its National Parks, Forests and Lands Subcommittee, where he was the ranking Democrat.

BILL RICHARDSON, as the President said, in announcing his intention to nominate him, also is one of our Nation's most prominent and proud Hispanic leaders. His example is one that reflects pride to that community and his heritage.

In saluting our colleague as he embarks on a new set of challenges, I take pleasure in sharing with the House the following transition of an article that was published recently in the German newspaper, Handelsblatt. Written by diplomatic and political correspondent Viola Herms-Drath, this report makes plain the high hopes America's allies have for the role BILL RICHARDSON will play.

[From the Handelsblatt, Dec. 17, 1996]

CLINTON'S NEW U.N. AMBASSADOR SEEN AS UNORTHODOX DIPLOMAT

With the appointment of the long-time Congressman from New Mexico, Bill Richardson, as Washington's new U.N. Ambassador, U.S. President Bill Clinton has achieved two successful political moves. First, he has placed a politically correct Hispanic on his team and, second, he has appointed a creative diplomat with style and a great deal of tact. Clinton has no doubts that Richardson will be able to represent U.S. interests and ideals at the U.N. and in the world.

Richardson first came to public notice through his exploits in the political arena, especially because of his spontaneous actions for the release of American citizens being held by totalitarian countries, from North Korea to Bangladesh, Cuba and Iraq. Just a week ago this son of a Mexican mother and an American father was in the Sudan, negotiating an arrangement for the release of two Red Cross pilots and an Australian nurse. Richardson's extraordinary diplomatic mission began by chance when he was participating in Pjongjang in the discussion on nuclear disarmament. At the same time, a U.S. helicopter was shot down over Korea. Richardson took it upon himself to see to the release of the pilots.

In 1993 this cosmopolitan liberal Democrat helped Clinton with negotiations on the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and in efforts to achieve as balanced a budget as possible. In opposition to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, he opposed the embargo on Havana after the Cubans shot down two unarmed American planes and Clinton approved the step for tactical reasons and extended it to other countries, to the great irritation of his European trading partners.

This Democrat who is also popular with the Republicans now has the task of explaining the U.N. operations to the Senate committee which must confirm his appointment. Although the U.S., as a founding member of the U.N., has always recognized the principles of U.N., now Richardson must continually preserve U.S. prerogatives. The Clinton Administration has always, on the one hand, advocated strengthening the U.N. through reform measures, but on the other hand, has certainly made it clear that for its own economic and security interests, it intends to rely on its own strengths and alliances.

In contrast to the rather aggressive behavior of his predecessor, Madeleine Albright, who has now been elevated to the position of Secretary of State, Richardson has shown himself to be a flexible negotiator, a clever diplomat and a reliable go-between.