

gradual homogenization and rising prosperity of entire peoples. It included giving credit to the masses, financially and otherwise: "On ne prete qu'aux riches"—credit is only for the rich—was not just a French aphorism but the established capitalist practice in Europe until about 1948.

By the 1950s, the social structure of Western Europe was starting to resemble that of the United States. Now, this transformation is largely completed and the differences between the United States and other democratic societies are no longer mainly economic or social, but national and cultural.

The Truman administration was able to push the Marshall Plan through a predominantly Republican Congress in 1947-48, in which the main opponents of the European Recovery Program were right-wing Republicans, the very people who accused Truman and his government of being soft on communism. Most of these people had been isolationists before and during the first years of World War II. Their conversion to another kind of internationalism (more precisely: supranationalism) was easy. By 1956, the Republican party adopted a platform calling for "the establishment of American air and naval bases all around the world"—proposed by a party that was even then called "isolationist" by its opponents, wrongly so.

The Marshall Plan in 1947 was followed, less than two years later, by the creation of NATO, an alliance that, for all its merits, contributed to a political division of Europe lasting for 40 years. With the retreat of the Russians from Eastern Europe in 1989, the Cold War—and the partition of Europe—came to an end. Some people called for a new Marshall Plan for Eastern Europe and, perhaps, for Russia. But this did not come about, for many reasons. In 1947, the United States was the only economic superpower in the world; 40 years later, this was no longer the case. In 1947, the countries of Western Europe were threatened by a possible expansion of communism; the opposite was true of Eastern Europe 40 years later. In 1947, the global financial economy was in its embryonic stage; 40 years later, principal investments abroad no longer required the principal thrust of a government.

But with all of these differences in mind, there remains one similarity. History does not repeat itself, but some historical conditions do. The main beneficial result of the Marshall Plan was Western Europeans' confidence that the United States was committed to maintaining their freedom. The American commitment to Eastern Europe now is not clear. It is suggested here and there by American actions, as in Bosnia, but it is not a commitment. Yet it is in the interest of most European countries—yes, including even Russia—that a new division of Europe should not occur. The main instrument for its avoidance may no longer be an Eastern European Marshall Plan; but it is certainly not an extension of NATO.

TRIBUTE TO THE NATIONAL PUERTO RICAN PARADE, 40 YEARS OF HISTORY

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 1997

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great joy that I rise today to pay tribute to the National Puerto Rican Parade on its 40 years of history. The parade, to be held on June 8 in New York City, is the largest celebration of Puerto Rican culture in the United States.

Throughout its history, the parade has grown into a national event under the leadership of its president, Ramón S. Vélez. The event attracts thousands of Puerto Ricans from across the Nation and from Puerto Rico, as well as many other individuals, their families and children, from all ethnic backgrounds.

This year's parade will honor the life of a Puerto Rican hero, Roberto Clemente. Mr. Clemente's exceptional athletic talent was paired with his outstanding humanitarian and charitable contributions to this Nation. He died 25 years ago in an airplane crash, while he was on a mission to help the victims of an earthquake in Nicaragua.

Mr. Clemente's memory has also been honored with the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian award bestowed to an individual by the U.S. Congress. Clemente's legacy is an inspiration and an example to the children of Puerto Rico, as well as those of this Nation.

As a Puerto Rican, a New Yorker, and a Member of Congress, it is an honor to once again participate in this national event, in which thousands of individuals will march along Fifth Avenue, in Manhattan, in celebration of our Puerto Rican heritage and our achievements in this Nation. Among other accomplishments, Puerto Ricans have been instrumental in transforming New York City into a great bilingual city. Moreover, the parade has served as a national landmark in which people from all ethnic groups unite to commemorate our Nation's glorious immigrant history.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Roberto Clemente and the National Puerto Rican Parade, in its celebration of our Puerto Rican legacy, and the many contributions made by the sons and daughters of Puerto Rico to the greatness of this Nation.

THE REDUCTION IN MEDICARE OVERPAYMENT COSTS ACT OF 1997

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 1997

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Reduction in Medicare Overpayment Costs Act of 1997, which imposes an administrative fee on providers who submit inaccurate Medicare claims.

The American taxpayer spends nearly \$200 billion on Medicare every year. However, billions are lost due to inaccurate claims or overpayment. This burdens the Nation with serious financial costs, threatening the quality of medical care and endangering the long-term sustainability of the Medicare Program.

The Reduction in Medicare Overpayment Costs Act of 1997, which was introduced in the Senate by Senator MCCAIN, will help eliminate overpayments by imposing an administrative fee to offset recovery costs. The purpose is to discourage doctors from submitting false or misleading claims and to prevent hospitals from excessively overestimating Medicare costs.

The act promotes these purposes in three ways. First, the act imposes an up to 1 percent administrative fee if the repayment is more than 30 days late. Second, the act will

impose an up to 1 percent administrative fee if the provider overestimates Medicare needs by greater than 30 percent. Third, the act requires the issuance of a report detailing which services typically result in overpayments.

This act is needed to crack down on incorrect or inflated claim practices in Medicare. I urge my fellow members to vote in favor of this bill to ensure claim accuracy by Medicare providers.

IN MEMORY OF SERGEANT MARLIN C. CARROLL

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 1997

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I inform the House of the death of Sergeant Marlin C. Carroll of Warsaw, MO. Sergeant Carroll had a distinguished 30-year career in the Missouri State Highway Patrol before his retirement in 1988. I knew him as a friend, as a dedicated law enforcement officer, and as a man of honor and integrity.

Sgt. Carroll was born on a farm in Worth County, MO, in 1933, the son of Ralph Wayne and Aloha June Morin Carroll. He grew up in Worth County and graduated from Grant City High School in 1951. He married Gerry Heisman on May 18, 1952. He served his country with distinction in the U.S. Army and in the U.S. Air Force Reserve.

In 1958, Sgt. Carroll joined the Missouri State Highway Patrol, and was stationed in my hometown of Lexington, MO. In 1965, he received the American Red Cross Life Saving Award for his prompt and professional actions in rescuing a child from a life-threatening accident. In 1967, he was promoted to Corporal and transferred to Carrollton, MO, and in 1971, he was promoted to Sergeant and moved to Warsaw where he served as zone sergeant for Benton and Henry Counties until his retirement.

Sgt. Carroll was an active member of his community, and he will be missed by all who had the privilege to know him. I know the Members of the House will join me in extending heartfelt condolences to his family: his wife, Gerry; his daughter, Patty; his two sons, David and Eddie; his nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren; and his mother, brother, and two sisters.

TRIBUTE TO BOB BLONSKI

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 1997

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay heartfelt tribute to my long-time friend, Mr. Robert J. Blonski, of Milwaukee, who is leaving Lincoln Community Bank on July 1. After many years of dedicated service to Lincoln, Bob is moving on to new challenges as president of M&M Services, a subsidiary of Merchants and Manufacturers Bancorporation.

Bob and his wife, Kathleen, are the proud parents of two wonderful boys. Bob has diligently served as a member of my academy selection board, helping with the difficult and

all-important task of selecting which of our area's fine young men and women will receive a congressional nomination to our Nation's service academies.

Professionally, Bob has contributed to the growth of Lincoln Community Bank for 30 years beginning on July 1, 1967. He has worked in various capacities during those years, serving as treasurer, secretary, senior vice president, executive vice president, and most recently as president. Under his leadership, Lincoln has truly been a bank of the community on Milwaukee's southside—helping families finance their first homes and send their children to college.

Bob will be honored at an appreciation dinner May 21 where his many friends and colleagues will appropriately thank him for his leadership and hard work. I am confident that the skills and knowledge he has gained over the years will serve him well in his new position. Bet wishes, Bob.

IN HONOR OF DAVID H. BROWN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 1997

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life achievements of David H. Brown, who retires after 33 years of Federal service assuring safe and efficient airways.

During his long career, Mr. Brown worked with the Federal Aviation Administration as an air traffic control specialist in Oberlin and in Toledo, OH. As Mr. Brown's career progressed, he moved to Cleveland's Hopkins Air Traffic Control Tower, Detroit's Air Traffic Control Tower, and was promoted to supervisor, in which capacity he served in Boston and Toledo.

Mr. Brown was selected as an evaluation inspector for the Office of Air Traffic System Effectiveness, Evaluation Division at Washington Headquarters and ended his service as the assistant manager for operations in Cleveland.

Mr. Brown earned the respect and recognition of his superiors and peers. He is known for his vast knowledge and experience with air traffic control. He possesses a wide array of management and leadership skills.

Throughout his career, Mr. Brown received numerous performance awards, achievement awards, letters of commendation and of appreciation.

The airways of the midwest and northern Ohio are safer for Mr. Brown's vigilance and experience. We acknowledge his retirement from Government service with deep appreciation and supreme gratitude.

HONORING HAROLD SHOWALTER

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 1997

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the outstanding service of Harold Showalter, who is retiring after 41 years of service to Fayetteville-Perry Local Schools. During his remarkable career, he has been a music-drama teacher, English teacher, librar-

ian, high school principal, director of District Media/Computer, and director of District Library/Media.

Among his numerous awards and honors, Mr. Showalter is the recipient of the 1996 Governor's Award for Innovation and the 1996 SOITA Technology Leadership Award. But perhaps the most fitting recognition he has received is the establishment of a scholarship fund in his honor by the faculty and administration of the Fayetteville-Perry Local School District.

His professionalism and expertise will long be remembered, and he will be greatly missed by students, faculty and administrators. I join the Fayetteville community in wishing Harold and his wife, Mary Rae, a long and enjoyable retirement.

USAID ADMINISTRATOR J. BRIAN ATWOOD ADDRESSES POST-CONFLICT PEACE TRANSITIONS

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 1997

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to my colleagues' attention an excellent article printed on May 27 in the Christian Science Monitor by U.S. Agency for International Development, Administrator J. Brian Atwood.

In the article, Atwood outlines the difficulty in achieving successful post-conflict transitions from crisis to peace in countries including Guatemala, Angola, and Bosnia. He discusses the need for continued support from Congress for organizations such as the USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives [OTI], which is working to help these countries achieve and maintain peace in the wake of political transformation. The test of his article follows:

[From the Christian Science Monitor]

HELPING COUNTRIES MAKE THE TRANSITION FROM CRISIS IS ONE OF OUR GREATEST FOREIGN POLICY CHALLENGES AFTER THE CONFLICT HAS ENDED

(By J. Brian Atwood)

No trend has been more closely scrutinized in the wake of the cold war than the proliferation of crises.

From Zaire to Bosnia to Rwanda, the international community is reeling from a series of vicious civil wars, refugee emergencies, and human catastrophes. The international system structured around the cold-war diplomatic notions of containment and détente is scrambling to adjust to the demands of peacekeeping and humanitarian relief.

One of the greatest challenges of this new world disorder is how best to assist nations emerging from conflict. The successful transition from crisis—the process of moving an entire society from conflict to enduring peace—is an extraordinarily difficult one. There are countless instances—Liberia, Afghanistan, Angola—where promising moves toward peace have quickly dissolved into shattered cease-fires and renewed conflict.

Nations emerging from conflicts confront daunting obstacles. Their governments are usually weak or nonexistent, and they often face corruption, rising public expectations, and immature political leadership. They typically operate with barely functioning economies, scant resources, scores of former combatants lacking peacetime job skills, a

proliferation of land mines, and lingering tensions that can quickly reignite into conflict.

GOVERNMENT'S WEAKNESS

Four years ago, when I came to the US Agency for International Development (USAID)—the agency responsible for delivering United States humanitarian and development assistance abroad—the US government was poorly equipped to help nations during the tenuous interlude between war and peace. For foreign policymakers, this weakness was an Achilles' heel in a world where failed states and sweeping change were everyday realities.

Donor conferences that commit millions of dollars but fail to quickly address on-the-ground problems do little to create an expectation of peace. In post-conflict situations, opportunity is fleeting, and if people don't see instant results, political violence and repression reemerge. I remember former Secretary of State Larry Eagleburger telling me, "If USAID can't deliver that, we need something that can."

The Clinton administration decided to try a new mechanism to bring fast, direct, and overt assistance to priority countries emerging from conflict.

With the support of Congress, USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI) was launched in early 1994 to help countries move beyond conflict by addressing fundamental needs of emergency rehabilitation and democratic development. Since the office worked in crisis situations, it was given special legal authorities attached to international disaster assistance funding.

EARLY SUCCESS STORIES

The early results are promising: OTI has shown it is a lean, flexible operation capable of targeting the key bottlenecks that prevent post-crisis societies from moving forward.

In Guatemala, in support of the December 1996 peace accords, OTI is helping implement the demobilization plan for the Guatemalan rebel force, known as the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity—or URNG. OTI helped build the eight camps for URNG's demobilization and is providing training and education at the camps.

In Angola we have had a transition program to strengthen compliance with that nation's post-civil-war peace agreement, the Lusaka Protocol. OTI planned the demobilization centers that were taken over by UN peacekeeping forces. OTI efforts in Angola have been guided by the notion that security comes first. Until people feel a degree of safety, they are not ready for political development. That was a lesson of the first, failed transition in Angola.

The second time around, OTI supported mine awareness and removal, civic training and demobilization activities for excombatants, community self-governance, and a flow of accurate, uncensored news.

Almost 1.4 million Angolans have been reached by mine-awareness training and about 750 were trained in mine-removal techniques. The result has been a significant reduction in mine accidents, the reopening of large areas of the country to commerce and agriculture, and, most important, the return of refugees and displaced persons to their homes.

In Bosnia we were on the ground to offer support when the federation was formed. We subsequently built on that experience to support the Dayton accords once they were signed. OTI programs in Bosnia have directly targeted the public disinformation campaigns that have fueled ethnic tensions in that region and helped train journalists and disseminate news that supports reconciliation.