

and making a profit on these properties. The President was given the authority to waive this last provision in exceptional circumstances if it would expedite the transition to democracy in Cuba and if it were in the national interest of the United States.

Unfortunately, the President has somehow come to the ridiculous conclusion that waiving the provision allowing suits to be filed has expedited the transition to democracy. As far as I can tell, there are absolutely no signs of democracy in Cuba. There is, in fact, no transition to expedite. Furthermore, U.S. nationals continue to suffer the loss of their property, now being used for profit by Castro and businesses of our trading allies. Apparently the President believes this is in our national interest—helping our European allies, Canada and Mexico profit at the expense of United States nationals. This is outrageous.

Mr. Speaker, as a result of this continued charade by the President, I am introducing legislation that will allow Helms-Burton to go into full effect despite the President's continued caving to pressure from our allies. Our colleagues, Mr. BURTON, Mr. GOSS, Mr. GILMAN, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mrs. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. SOLOMON, Mr. LIVINGSTON, Mr. COX, and Mr. BALLENGER, are also joining in this effort. The bill is the LIBERTAD Enforcement Act, which would repeal the waiver authority granted to the President in the original Helms-Burton legislation. It is clear that the President has abused his authority, waiving critical provisions of Helms-Burton without making even a remotely convincing case that it is expediting democracy in Cuba or that it is in our national interest. Therefore, the authority should be repealed.

Let me explain why the repeal of the waiver authority is so important. Cuba has been under a dictatorship for about 38 years now. Castro's dictatorship makes a mockery of human rights and it is an absolute disgrace that we allow this to happen 90 miles from my home State of Florida. We need to end this situation, and we should have done so long ago. The biggest problem facing us is no mystery at all. It is our allies in Europe, Canada, and Mexico who sustain Castro's regime through continued economic activity. These accomplices have continued to argue that their involvement was used as leverage against Castro and his tyrannical regime to improve human rights and promote democracy in Cuba. To date, these efforts have had zero success. In fact, the economic relationships of their businesses have not only profited these foreign corporations at the expense of American owners of Cuba property, but also hurt efforts to end Castro's dictatorship. The continued flow of hard currency into the island has helped Castro maintain an otherwise difficult situation. The threat of Helms-Burton enforcement has at least forced some lip service from our allies about human rights and democracy in Cuba. Unfortunately, the President has received little more from them than that as he continues to bow to our allies' pressures to waive the right to file lawsuits against those who traffic in confiscated property.

It is these lawsuits that would curtail some, certainly not all, of the trade activity in Cuba. The cost and potential penalties involved in these suits would make dealing in stolen goods less appealing. It is this hit in the purse that will force our allies to confront the reality of abuses in Cuba. If their bottom line is af-

fected, maybe then our allies would do the right thing in Cuba and end their trafficking in stolen property while working more effectively toward democracy.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to stress that that is all we are talking about here. This is not whether people trade with Cuba. That is another topic for another day. This is only about dealing in stolen U.S. property—otherwise known as unjust enrichment. It is our obligation to ensure that property rights of U.S. citizens is protected. I realize that this is not a situation unique to Cuba. There are other countries around the world that share similar problems which also need to be addressed. We should work for a multilateral agreement recognizing unjust enrichment rights of owners of confiscated property. However, Cuba's natural relationship (geography, culture, etc.) to the United States is unique. Therefore, we must take unparalleled steps against this practice now. That is what Helms-Burton was all about.

Helms-Burton was designed to make tough action a reality. For whatever reason, the President has continued to kowtow to European pressure and eviscerate the legislation by waiving title III for patently phony reasons. This outrageous practice must stop. I urge my colleagues to support the LIBERTAD Enforcement Act.

A RECOGNITION OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE KARTAR SINGH DHALIWAL PROFESSORSHIP OF PUNJAB/INDIAN STUDIES

HON. THOMAS M. BARRETT

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 1997

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize the establishment of the Kartar Singh Dhaliwal Professorship of Punjab/Indian Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. This professorship, provided through a generous gift from Darshan Singh Dhaliwal to honor his father, will promote the study of the civilization of Punjab and India.

The professorship will focus on the study of the culture, religion, history, and civilization of this fascinating region. This professorship will allow American students to learn about an area that has existed since the beginning of civilization and whose constant development makes it one of the most exciting and innovative parts of the world. The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee will appoint a professor whose teaching will include Indian languages and courses in Sikh and Indian civilization. In addition, there will be collaborative research projects undertaken with universities in Punjab, an exchange of faculty and students with these universities and a biannual conference on Sikhs, Punjab, and its culture.

As the world we live in becomes more multicultural and our communities become truly international, the gift of this professorship will ensure that this generation and future generations will learn about and appreciate the rich history and culture of Punjab and India. Milwaukee, and indeed, all communities can only benefit from this endeavor. Therefore, I commend and congratulate Darshan Singh

Dhaliwal and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee on the establishment of the Kartar Singh Dhaliwal Professorship.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 1997

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill, H.R. 2107, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes: **SHD***STERLING FOREST

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Chairman, this is a proud day for the people of New Jersey and New York, and I want to thank Chairman REGULA for his diligence in seeing that the purchase of Sterling Forest becomes a reality. The \$8.5 million included in this legislation will ensure that northern New Jersey's drinking water will remain clean and safe.

For years, I have worked with Chairman REGULA to secure the appropriate funding levels for Sterling Forest. Last year the chairman was instrumental in seeing that language was included in the Interior appropriations bill which ranked Sterling Forest as one of the nation's top two priorities for land acquisition and he recommended that Sterling Forest receive \$9 million as downpayment on the Federal Government's \$17.5 million share of the purchase price.

Without this final \$8.5 million Federal installment of funds, the entire \$55 million project would be at risk. With the passage of this bill today, we are one step closer to celebrating the completion of this landmark project.

WALKILL RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

I am also most grateful that the chairman included \$1.3 million for the Walkill River National Wildlife Refuge. Walkill is one of the most fertile valleys and natural wildlife areas in New Jersey. The environmental education opportunities provided at the Walkill Refuge as well as the important resources protected there are certainly a worthwhile investment that will have lasting impacts for generations to come.

However, while I am grateful for the \$1.3 included in this bill, I had requested \$3 million for the project this year. That \$3 million is needed this year to complete the acquisition of critical wildlife habitat lands along the river. I want to stress that these lands are currently available and ready for purchase from willing sellers. For this reason, I will continue to push for additional money to complete the acquisition.

Earlier this year, I joined several other members in sending a letter to Appropriations Committee Chairman LIVINGSTON urging him to increase the Interior Subcommittee's spending allocation for fiscal year 1998. After several years of continuous reductions for the subcommittee charged with ensuring adequate protection of our natural resources, I was pleased that our effort was successful and that the subcommittee was given an additional \$500 million. In addition, I was pleased that

the budget agreement included an additional \$700 million for the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

I had hope that the committee would move to incorporate the additional \$700 million in Land and Water Conservation funds provided for in the Balanced Budget Agreement so that it could be used for projects like Wallkill, Delaware Water Gap Recreation Area, and other worthy projects in New Jersey.

Unfortunately, the committee chose not to allocate that \$700 million in their report. However, I will continue to push for allocation of that \$700 million as this appropriation's bill continues through the process.

I am painfully aware of how difficult a job Chairman REGULA and others on the Appropriations Committee have in this time of tight budgets. Please know that I am most grateful for the moneys included in this bill for Sterling Forest and Wallkill, and appreciate your continued support of these important New Jersey projects.

TRIBUTE TO TAVELLI
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 1997

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an excellent program that takes place in one of the schools of the 4th Congressional District in

beautiful Colorado. This is a program called Dream Team, which endeavored about 5 years ago, to give additional assistance to children who needed a little extra help in reading. Since then, it has expanded into a comprehensive mentoring program where the older children get together every morning and help the younger children, not only in reading, but in math, and computer skills. This program was designed at Travelli Elementary School in Fort Collins, CO. The sixth graders run the program with the help of Mr. Bill Patterson, a physical education teacher, who saw a need and decided to fill it. The program's success is due in large part to the extensive participation of the students enhancing their own learning and teaching themselves new skills.

The Dream Team program teaches young children crucial lessons in leadership and teamwork. Guest speakers come in each week to discuss different topics which give the students a glimpse at the working world. I would like to take this opportunity to read a letter by one of the students participating in the program which will best explain the opportunities presented by a program such as this.

MY EXCITING MOMENT BY AMBER GILMORE

My significant moment was when I was ten years old and in the fifth grade. I was attending Travelli Elementary School.

At Tavelli there was an organization involving several fifth and sixth graders coming to Tavelli an hour before school starts, and assisting children who are in the Chapter 1 program in grades first through fourth with their reading and their dreams. What we means by dreams is, if a student has a

dream to meet a specific person, he or she might dictate a letter to one of the fifth and sixth graders, the fifth or sixth grader would modify what the little kid said. We would send the letter and if he or she had the time they would come in and read us a story. One time astronaut Marty Fetman came in and told us about his experiences in the space program.

One time Sarah Smith and I (we were the people in charge of Dream Team) wrote to Bea Romer, Governor Roy Romer's wife. Mrs. Romer is very involved with literacy. Well, after we wrote her she responded and said that she would like us to visit her at her mansion in Denver. The entire Dream Team got dressed up, got onto a bus and headed for the Governor's mansion. We met her, it was so cool! I even have a napkin to prove it. She read us a story, and then she shared some cookies with us. Then her assistant showed us around the mansion. Mrs. Romer requested media there, but they didn't show. After that we went to the capitol house, and met with our state representatives. I don't think that the little kids really understood the experience but I really enjoyed it.

Mr. Speaker, this is an excellent example of how we can utilize resources outside the normal bounds and really reach children. This program is run by volunteers and the students help to write grants to assist with the funding. Involving the children themselves, teaching them how to lead and use their own capabilities is the best way to insure a good future for American's youth. Thank you Mr. Speaker for allowing me to show this fine example of a program that really works.