

and not the refiners and processors. I do not fault them for their support of this amendment and the desired changes they seek in the sugar program, and I know we will work together on future issues of mutual concern.

I believe the virtual elimination of this program as now proposed would place the U.S. sugar industry as a whole, and the American consumer in particular, at the mercy of the inconsistent and heavily subsidized world sugar market.

Unlike my colleagues who support the amendment, I simply do not believe the American consumer is likely to realize a significant, if any, benefit should the amendment prevail. But, I am concerned that the domestic producers of sugar could suffer from reduced prices and would be made particularly vulnerable to foreign sources of sugar.

While refiners may pass along their savings, I seriously doubt many processors are likely to reciprocate. While the cumulative amounts being banded about today are significant, and represent real money regardless of one's social standing, the bottom-line is that we are talking about pennies or fractions of pennies on a commodity basis.

Quite frankly, I do not even know how one would calculate the savings that say a manufacturer should pass along for their finished product that now may cost them a fraction of a cent less to produce. Are we likely to see cans of soda from a machine selling for 59 cents instead of 60 cents?

At this point, Mr. Chairman, I would like to refer to some very basic statistics which I believe make clear the short-sightedness of the amendment.

The current sugar program operates at no cost to the Federal Government, and a special marketing tax on sugar farmers is earmarked for deficit reduction;

U.S. consumers pay an average of 25–28 cents less for sugar than do shoppers in other developed countries;

From 1990 to 1995, the retail price of sugar actually decreased approximately 7 percent;

U.S. retail sugar prices are approximately 32 percent below the average of other developed countries and the third lowest in the developed world;

New York consumers pay 5 percent less for sugar than the average consumer worldwide;

Close to a billion dollars are generated each year by the U.S. sugar industry in the State of New York alone; and, finally,

More than 5,690 jobs in New York State rely on the sugar industry.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to reject this amendment, and cast a vote in favor of a strong, fair and balanced domestic sugar program and product to the American farmer.

A BILL TO AMEND THE FEDERAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ACT

HON. CARLOS A. ROMERO-BARCELÓ

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 1997

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Mr. Speaker, today, as the sole representative of the 3.8 million disenfranchised U.S. citizens living in Puerto Rico, I am introducing a bill to amend section 301(h) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act that would allow the Puerto Rico

Aqueduct and Sewer Authority [PRASA] to apply for a waiver from certain wastewater treatment requirements affecting its Mayaguez facility.

Under existing law the Environmental Protection Agency [EPA] is not allowed to accept new applications for waivers from secondary treatment requirements. The proposal does not alter the rigorous criteria for issuing a waiver nor does it override the judgment of EPA. Our proposal reflects the goal of both Congress and the administration to find innovative, alternative and less-costly ways to apply existing statutes without compromising the environmental objectives underlying existing law.

Many scientists and experts agree that plans to construct deep ocean outfalls at locations can provide the best environmental and economic alternative for wastewater treatment. The plans would not only preserve but would even improve the coastal environments where these discharges occur.

PRASA proposes the construction of a deep ocean outfall that would release primary treated wastewater miles from shore at a depth and location that will have no adverse impact on human and marine life.

This alternative would improve the coral environment where the current outfall discharges and would also save the Government of Puerto Rico about \$65 million over 20 years that can be spent to address other water supply and infrastructure problems affecting the island.

EPA and the Department of Justice have agreed to enter into a consent order with PRASA that provides for deep water ocean outfall alternative to a secondary treatment plant. However, this alternative cannot even be considered without this legislation; and under the terms of the consent order, this alternative can only be considered if this legislation is enacted by August 1, 1998.

PRASA is currently conducting an Environmental Impact Statement review to assess relative benefits of the two treatment alternatives. This EIS will be completed before August 1, 1998 and will help EPA determine which alternative is preferable. If this legislation is enacted, EPA will have this choice; if it is not enacted, there will be no choice, regardless of the environmental or economic consequences. This is what this proposal will accomplish. It is a sound approach to environmental regulations.

It is imperative to stress the fact that this is only a limited and technical amendment that allows PRASA to refile under section 301(h). PRASA would be required by EPA to meet the same stringent legal and scientific tests, conduct the same environmental studies and implement the same monitoring program applicable to existing recipients of section 301(h) waivers. This amendment would not assure that a waiver would be granted; that decision would remain entirely within EPA's discretion.

EPA will be the ultimate decisionmaker, and will determine if PRASA's proposed alternative is feasible and environmentally beneficial. If after the review, that alternative is acceptable, then PRASA will immediately begin construction on the facility, with discharge location approved by the EPA. If EPA finds the alternative unacceptable, then PRASA will proceed with construction of the secondary treatment plant.

Puerto Rico is not asking for preferential treatment. Rather, we are only requesting that

EPA balance the cost of constructing a secondary treatment facility against the environmental, economic, and social benefits of constructing an outfall at a deep water location.

There are precedents for such limited amendment to section 301(h), recently for San Diego during the 105th Congress. In the instance of San Diego, legislation was enacted to permit EPA to consider a section 301(h) waiver application proposing a similar alternative to secondary treatment. I believe we deserve the same opportunity to implement alternatives and seek a section 301(h) waiver.

My environmental record speaks for itself. I would not support any measure that I believe compromises our resources or the environment of the island. I urge my colleagues to consider this proposal and its commonsense approach. The proposal is limited and targeted, provides for an efficient process, does not modify existing standards and would be implemented by EPA only if environmental and economic objectives are accomplished. I am hopeful that it will receive favorable congressional action at an early date.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 1997

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, last week I missed a series of postponed votes because my pager did not function. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on Rollcall No. 270, "no" on Rollcall No. 271, "no" on Rollcall No. 272, and "no" on Rollcall No. 273.

A TRIBUTE TO LEWIS H. VAN DUSEN, JR.

HON. JON D. FOX

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 1997

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to tell you that Lewis Harlow Van Dusen, Jr., of Pennsylvania is this year's winner of the American Bar Association's Michael Franck Professional Responsibility Award. This important award is given annually by the American Bar Association to a lawyer for outstanding contribution to the field of professional responsibility. The award is to be formally presented to Mr. Van Dusen by N. Lee Cooper, the president of the ABA, on Friday, August 1 in San Francisco, CA, in connection with the American Bar Association's annual meeting.

Mr. Van Dusen received his undergraduate degree from Princeton University and his bachelor of civil law from Oxford University in England. He served with distinction on the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on Ethics and Professional Responsibility longer than any lawyer in the history of the ABA except his own partner, Henry S. Drinker—from 1953 to 1956 and then again from 1962 to 1974, chairing the committee for the last 3 years. During his tenure the ABA adopted the model code of professional responsibility which is still the current ethics code in a dozen jurisdictions. The committee, under Van

Dusen's leadership, tackled some of the most difficult ethics issues confronting the modern bar and his entire career has been dedicated to maintaining and improving the ethics of his chosen profession.

Mr. Van Dusen led the esteemed firm of Drinker Biddle & Reath for 35 years, beginning his law career at Drinker in 1935. He is currently counsel to the firm. His areas of concentration have included litigation, labor, transportation, estate planning, environmental and international law.

Mr. Van Dusen was chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association in 1968 and president of the Pennsylvania Bar Association in 1974 and 1975. In addition, Mr. Van Dusen is also a member of the International Bar Association.

Mr. Van Dusen served with distinction in the U.S. Army from 1942 to 1945 ultimately as lieutenant colonel. Mr. Van Dusen was honored for his service when awarded the Bronze Star Medal, Decorated Purple Heart, Legion of Merit of the United States, and Legion of Honor, Croix de Guerre of France.

Mr. Van Dusen was one of the founders of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization [NATO]. In addition, he has been active in the American Philosophical Society, the American Judicature Society, the American Law Institute, the American Bar Foundation and the American College of Trial Lawyers. He also serves as a permanent member of the Judicial Conference for the Third Circuit and from 1980 to 1982, he served on the Committee to Study Pennsylvania's Unified Judicial System.

Mr. Van Dusen is the consummate Philadelphia lawyer. I am proud to bring this well deserved honor to the attention of my colleagues in the House of Representatives.

TRIBUTE TO THE FIRST ARMENIAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF FRESNO

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 1997

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the First Armenian Presbyterian Church of Fresno, CA, which is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. The Armenian commitment to religion is symbolized by the birth and expansion of this church.

The First Armenian Presbyterian Church of Fresno was the first Armenian church organized in the State of California. It began on July 25, 1897 when 40 men and women met in a hall in Fresno. The church was duly received and enrolled in the fellowship of Presbyterian churches by the Presbytery of Stockton at a meeting in Oakland, CA, on October 20, 1897. The first session was formed and the Reverend Avedis Vartanian, Khachig Michaelian, and Hagop Azhderian were elected as the first ruling elders.

The church had its origins in the Armenian Ladies' Patriotic Society established in Fresno on May 1, 1892. The declared purpose of the society was to support orphans, ministers, and evangelists in Armenia. In 1913, the society changed its name to the Women's Benevolent Society of the First Armenian Presbyterian Church and is now commonly known as the Ladies' Aid Society.

The Reverend L.T. Burbank preached the first sermon of the church in the Armenian lan-

guage and was invited and unanimously elected as the first pastor of the church. Following the ministry of Rev. Burbank came the construction of a church building at the corner of Santa Clara and Fulton Streets. This steepled, octagon sanctuary was recognized most notably through the writings of the late William Soroyan, who—as a boy—attended the church and wrote about his experiences.

The communicant membership of the church has grown from 40 charter members to 450. The Sunday school and four Bible study groups are providing Christian education to believers of every age. Fellowship groups minister to the needs of the young, the old, the married, the single, and the Armenian-speaking. Additionally, a building committee has completed the construction of a social hall, the final phase of a 25-year expansion program.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I honor the First Armenian Presbyterian Church of Fresno, CA. The focus and religious excellence of the church serves as a model for religious establishments all over the world. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing the First Armenian Presbyterian Church continued success and inspirational religious teachings.

DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION RESTORATION ACT OF 1997

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 1997

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today I have introduced legislation that will begin to address an inherent unfairness under present law that affects the surviving widows of our Nation's veterans. As you know, many of these veterans gave their lives for our country, yet their surviving spouses are now being denied benefits that were promised to them.

In 1970, Congress enacted legislation that guaranteed widows of military veterans who died from service-connected disability that their dependency and indemnity compensation [DIC] benefits would be reinstated upon the termination of the widow's subsequent marriage(s) by death or divorce.

The apparent rationale behind this reinstatement policy was twofold: first, to encourage DIC widows to remarry, thereby removing them from the DIC rolls and saving the Federal Government money; and second, bring veterans' benefits statutes in line with other Federal survivor programs, e.g. Federal Civil Service employees, Social Security annuitants, which granted reinstatement rights in this instance.

However, in 1990, Congress passed the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990 which abruptly terminated DIC reinstatement rights for widows who lost these benefits upon remarriage. To make matters worse, the Department of Veterans Affairs never formally notified DIC widows of their loss of reinstatement rights, thereby relegating notice to be disseminated by word-of-mouth or by notices in publications of military and retiree organizations.

As you would suspect, many widows continued to apply to the VA for reinstatement of their benefits, only to learn for the first time that their benefits were being denied. Imagine

the shock and surprise of these widows who were never notified of the change in the law, many making financial planning decisions under the mistaken assumption that they would be eligible for reinstatement if their subsequent marriage ended by death or divorce.

Mr. Speaker, my bill will reinstate DIC eligibility for widows who were remarried before November 1, 1990 and whose second or subsequent marriage is terminated by death or divorce. Recognizing the budget restraints under which Congress must operate, I initially have set the compensation rate at 50 percent of the current DIC rate. The bill would also require the Department of Veterans Affairs to notify all current and previously eligible DIC widows of the change.

I urge all of my colleagues to please consider supporting this bill.

TRIBUTE TO CHESTERFIELD SMITH

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 1997

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, this weekend is the 80th birthday of a U.S. institution, Chesterfield Smith. A celebration to take place in Tampa, FL will no doubt include most of the luminaries of the bar over the past half century. Most luminous among them will be the birthday boy.

Chesterfield Smith is truly America's lawyer. Few can imagine—let alone accomplish—many of the things he has. He was one of the first to conceptualize the national law firm. He built one, Holland and Knight, which is a Florida-based powerhouse.

He was also the first to conceptualize an activist agenda for the American Bar Association which he served as president in 1973, and for many years before and since. Then he accomplished it, and that institution was forever changed.

His challenge to his, and my, profession has been to provide quality, affordable legal services for all persons in need. He has fought for funding for the Legal Services Corporation, but also for personal responsibility by individuals and law firms to fill in where Government funding has been lacking. He has always been a role model.

Mr. Speaker, Chesterfield will tell you in his best Southern twang that he's "just a country lawyer." He certainly is. And he's a lot of other things. Probably more than anyone else, Chesterfield Smith has changed the way law is practiced and the way the world's largest law advocacy organization operates. Not bad.

And, Mr. Speaker, let's not speak in the past tense. As one who has collaborated with Chesterfield for more than a quarter century, I know how much he still can do. The next generation of lawyers needs him to conceptualize ever new forms of practice and advocacy.

As one of Chesterfield's many, many fortunate friends and self-appointed leader of his congressional fan club, I send warmest wishes to him, Jacqueline and his partners and colleagues on this very special milestone.