

CDFI, rewards traditional financial institutions that serve the credit needs of distressed communities. The money from CDFI is used to create new jobs, promote small businesses, and build affordable housing.

Congress authorized nearly \$400 million for CDFI between fiscal year 1995 and fiscal year 1998. As part of the budget agreement, the President prevailed in increasing the authorization to \$125 million for fiscal year 1998.

CDFI and BEA have issued one round of awards. Out of 268 applicants requesting over \$300 million last year, CDFI selected 31 community development organizations to receive \$35 million. BEA awarded 38 banks and thrifts \$13.1 million. The demand for increased funding is evident by the level of interest that has been displayed by the increase in applicants and it is apparent that there is a lack of capital in the communities these institutions serve.

It has been alleged that the CDFI fund has no demonstrable record of success and raises questions about its practices in selecting grantees. After reviewing these allegations, the VA-HUD Appropriations Subcommittee and the full Appropriations Committee dismissed the charges. The subcommittee said in its report "the Committee wholeheartedly endorses the goals of the program" and voted to appropriate the full administration budget request.

I would like to further expand on the merits of the CDFI program by citing an example from the district which I represent. The Shore Bank Corp. received \$3 million from the CDFI program that were matched with \$8 million of private funds. These funds will go toward a new effort for a comprehensive community development bank holding company with a strategic plan to revitalize a well defined investment area on the east side of Detroit. This presents a promising approach to achieve large-scale community revitalization in Detroit.

The Detroit holding company, which is being established in stages, is designed to have three subsidiaries. One, a full service bank in the target area, is providing small business loans and housing loans to minority entrepreneurs and can leverage its equity many times over through deposits. The second a for-profit real estate development company, will initially focus on the development of 500 affordable houses to homeownership in a 30-square block area. The third, a nonprofit enterprise development affiliate, will have three functions—small business assistance to strengthen small manufacturers in the region and businesses in the target area, creation of a labor force development strategy to link potential workers with employers' skill needs, and homebuyer training and prepurchase services for first time homebuyers. Mr. Chairman, these services are much needed in my district, and in fact I wish I could have more financial institutions in my district with the same objective and purpose.

It has also been suggested that CDFI was making awards based on connections to the Clinton administration. In a letter to Secretary of the Treasury Robert Rubin, more than 220 CDFI's around the country said that recipients of the first round awards include "some of the strongest CDFI's in the field" and called the funds's evaluation process "exhaustive, competitive, and careful, assessing the management strength, systems, and business planning of each applicant."

Shore Bank has pioneered the field of community development finance, for over 25

years. Their work has attracted bipartisan national and international support. Mr. Chairman, I strongly urge all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to oppose the Foley-Bachus-Miller amendment.

AMERICAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRY

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 1997

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing 11 duty suspensions that should promote international commerce and improve the productivity of our American chemical industry. They include three general product categories. Four of the requests are in the category of antioxidant products which protect against heat damage during the manufacturing of finished products. Five are in the category of photoinitiators permitting the curing of varnishes and paints by ultraviolet light. And the remaining two are in the category of corrosion inhibitors.

OUTSTANDING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS FROM THE FIRST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF NEW MEXICO

HON. STEVEN SCHIFF

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 1997

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, the following graduating high school students from the First Congressional District of New Mexico have been awarded the Congressional Certificate of Merit. These students have excelled during their academic careers and proven themselves to be exceptional students and leaders with their scholastic achievements, community service, and participation in school and civic activities. It is my pleasure to be able to recognize these outstanding students for their accomplishments. Their parents, their teachers, their classmates, the people of New Mexico and I are proud of them.***HD***Certificate of Merit Award Winners 1997

Albuquerque Evening High School, Jonathan Baird. Bernalillo High School, Melissa Anne Martinez. Cibola High School, Rebecca Wong. Del Norte High School, Jay M. English. Estancia High School, William D. Neish. Freedom High School, Marcio Lujan. Hope Christian School, Geoffrey Luke McKinnon. Albuquerque High School, Albert Leija. Bernalillo High School, Jennifer M. Rivera. Sandia Preparatory School, Leslie Siegal. Eldorado High School, Matt Byers. Evangel Christian Academy, Amanda Brown. Highland High School, Matthew Sullivan. La Cueva High School, John B. Wenz. Los Lunas High School, Sarah Archer. Menaul High School, Jedidiah Garcia Glazener. Mountainair High School, Jessica Dawn Barber. Rio Grande High School, Anthony Baca. Menaul High School, Anna Chrzanowski. Menaul High School, Haven Annette Scogin. New Futures High School, Angelita Garcia. St. Pius X High School, Shabbon P. Walsh.

TRIBUTE TO AN ANGEL

HON. COLLIN C. PETERSON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 1997

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an angel.

As you are aware, my district in Minnesota has been devastated by blizzards and floods for several months this past spring. The worst damage has occurred in East Grand Forks, the little city in the big flood. I was there when the dikes were breaking and we have been there ever since trying to help this brave community come back from this disastrous event.

The physical damage was an awesome sight and the water refused to recede for day after endless day. Mr. Speaker, I cannot begin to tell you the sadness we felt as we watched their hearts breaking, or the pride as we watched them struggle not to fall into despair.

And when circumstances were still at their bleakest, there appeared an angel. An anonymous donor of such generosity that all of us were astounded by her actions. A gentlewoman from another state gave the citizens of Grand Forks and East Grand Forks a total of \$15 million, to be given out in the sum of \$2,000 to each household that was evacuated by air raid sirens and lost property to the raging Red River. No other criteria. No strings attached. No delay allowed. She asked only that there be no red tape to the process and to remain anonymous.

I will always honor her wishes. So I use this forum to tell our angel, thank you. The impact was beautiful and immediate. The families were and remain moved to tears by your selfless actions. The community itself rose to a new level of courage and strength of purpose because of you. You fed their spirits and restored their souls.

This city will rise again, recover and rebuild and become a finer, stronger community. Of this there is no doubt in my mind. But it will not be because of a new downtown, or a new housing development, rebuilt schools, or a revitalized business sector. East Grand Forks will become a stronger community because you opened your heart to them in their darkest hour. You believed them worthy of a future. They will now believe it themselves. And they have learned from you, angel, they have learned that there is no shame in receiving help, and great joy in giving it. They will remember you for all their lives. As will I.

You have made a difference in our lives, and perhaps that is the highest achievement a person can attain on this earth. So I join the citizens of East Grand Forks in heartfelt thanks to you, our angel. We will never forget you.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 1997

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 307, I was unavoidably detained at the White House.

Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION
TO REAUTHORIZE THE NA-
TIONAL EARTHQUAKE HAZARD
REDUCTION ACT, H.R. 2249

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 1997

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing with my colleague on the House Science Committee, Mr. BROWN, legislation to reauthorize the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program [NEHRP]. Since its inception in 1977, NEHRP has contributed greatly to what we know about the science of earthquakes as well as to reducing our Nation's vulnerability to earthquakes. Earth science and seismological research performed through NEHRP has produced maps and seismic data from which we can determine seismic risks in a given location. And, NEHRP helped to develop the knowledge base that enables design and construction of new structures that are less likely to collapse during an earthquake.

The bill we are introducing today enables the program to continue its good work in earthquake research and hazards mitigation. Specifically, this legislation authorizes approximately \$105 million in fiscal year 1998 and \$107 million in fiscal year 1999 for the four NEHRP agencies, the Federal Emergency Management Agency [FEMA], the United States Geological Survey [USGS], the National Science Foundation [NSF], and the National Institute of Standards and Technology [NIST]. In addition, the bill provides \$3 million in each of fiscal years 1998 and 1999 to the USGS for operation of the Global Seismic Network [GSN].

There are several provisions of this legislation which I would like to highlight which we believe will strengthen NEHRP and provide for a more robust earthquake science and engineering research infrastructure into the next century: First, the legislation authorizes \$8 million specifically for the USGS's external grants programs. This action is consistent with the Science Committee's ongoing efforts to recognize and support external programs within the science agencies. Second, this bill requires the Director of USGS to develop a seismic hazard warning system which will enable our Nation's vital lifelines such as electric utilities, gas lines, and high-speed railroads, to receive warnings in advance of an earthquake. It is hoped that these warnings will be provided in time to shut down the lifelines, thereby guarding against the catastrophic effects that occur when such facilities are ruptured or damaged by earthquakes. Third, this NEHRP reauthorization requires an assessment of regional seismic monitoring networks to determine the state of facilities and equipment. Fourth, the bill authorizes the Director of NSF to use funds to develop earth science teaching materials and to make them available to local schools. Fifth, the legislation directs the Director of USGS to improve hazards assessments of seismic zones in the United States. Sixth, the bill requires the Director of FEMA to assess and report on disaster training capabilities and programs offered by the agency. Seventh, finally, the bill requires the Director of NSF to work with the other NEHRP agencies to develop a plan to effectively use earthquake

engineering research facilities, which includes upgrading facilities and equipment and integrating innovative testing approaches.

Mr. Speaker, the legislation Mr. BROWN and I are introducing today is reflective of the Science Committee's bipartisan efforts on behalf of Federal science and technology programs. The bill is a manifestation of a jointly shared goal to ensure that the Nation has a vital earthquake research enterprise which will continue to greatly contribute to better earthquake awareness, more widespread and effective earthquake mitigation, and ultimately, a reduction in lives and property lost from this hazard.

NATIONAL PARENTS DAY

HON. JAY KIM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 1997

Mr. KIM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind my colleagues that this coming Sunday we will celebrate National Parents Day. Unfortunately, because of our busy legislative schedule, I will not be able to attend National Parents Day ceremonies in my district this weekend.

The purpose of this annual celebration is to recognize the important role that parents play in the future of our country, based on how they bring up their children. At a time when we see more families where both parents are forced to work, we need to remind ourselves that it is not the Government's role to raise our children. Nor is it a teacher's responsibility to raise our children.

Parents need to take the primary responsibility for raising their children, instilling morals and teaching those values that we want our Nation to represent in the next century. Through active participation in all facets of their children's lives, parents can mold and shape their children into the type of citizens that can lead the United States into the 21st century.

Mr. Speaker, the positive influence that parents can play in the upbringing of a child is of the utmost importance. I am pleased we take the time to celebrate this occasion, and I salute groups like the National Parents Day Coalition, for hosting events to bring this to our attention.

FAITH IN EVERY FOOTSTEP

HON. JOHN E. ENSIGN

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 1997

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. Speaker, "Faith in Every Footstep" is the motto of the Mormon pioneer sesquicentennial year, which culminates today with a celebration of the 150th anniversary of the arrival of members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in the Salt Lake Valley on July 24, 1847. I rise to recognize this historical milestone in the settlement of the West and important date in Nevada's early history.

Like many other western States, Nevada's initial settlements were established by Mormon pioneers—Genoa in northern Nevada in 1851, and Las Vegas in southern Nevada in 1855. In

fact, Nevada was part of the Utah Territory before becoming the Nevada Territory. The Mormon pioneers of northern Nevada were led by Orson Hyde, while the pioneer group called to settle Las Vegas were led by William Bringham. On a warm day in mid-June of 1855, these courageous pioneers began to build a diamond in the desert. The old Las Vegas Mormon Fort is the oldest standing building in the State of Nevada.

Today, amid the bustle of the fastest growing city in the Nation, beautiful chapels and a temple grace the Las Vegas Valley while serving as a place of worship for over 100,000 Latter-Day Saints. Las Vegas has become a place where Latter-Day Saints have settled to raise their families and serve their community.

On behalf of all the citizens of my congressional district and throughout Nevada, I salute those early Mormon pioneers who blazed the trails of the rugged West and built a lasting heritage for themselves and the State of Nevada.

On Pioneer Day, we should remember and honor all those brave men, women, and children who answered the call to settle new lands, and through faith, courage, and sacrifice built hundreds of settlements throughout the Western United States and made the desert bloom.

FISCAL YEAR 1998 AGRICULTURE
APPROPRIATIONS BILL

HON. ELIZABETH FURSE

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 1997

Ms. FURSE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I was blocked from offering an amendment to the Agriculture appropriations bill by an unfair gag rule. This rule was written by the Republican leadership midway through debate on the Agriculture appropriations bill to change the rules for debate from an open amending process to a closed, undemocratic process.

Although we were told that no preprinting of amendments was required, the rule arbitrarily barred any amendments that weren't preprinted 2 days prior. This meant that by the time Members first heard of the new rule, it was already too late for them to meet its new restrictions. Unless, of course, you were one of the three chosen Republicans that were inexplicably grandfathered in as exceptions to the preprinting deadline.

The Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee knew that I intended to offer this amendment. I had sent out four dear colleagues letters, including one bipartisan letter signed by six other Members. Nonetheless, I was unjustly muzzled; my opportunity to have a debate on an important policy issue was held hostage to a partisan power play.

The following paragraphs describe in detail the animal damage control amendment that I would have offered had I not been silenced by an unjust rule of the majority party.

The goal of my amendment is to reduce the Federal subsidy for a practice that many Americans believe is economically unfair, ineffective as a livestock protection method, unnecessary, inhumane, a waste of money, and harmful to the environment.

My amendment requires that those who benefit from the livestock protection services