

Danzis Bier, a New Jersey resident, who died on July 8, at the age of 91. Throughout most of her life, she was deeply tied to the 13th Congressional District of New Jersey; and those ties continue to enrich this area of New Jersey.

Mrs. Bier was born in Newark, delivered by her uncle, Dr. Max Danzis, a founding physician of Newark Beth Israel Medical Center. Her youth was spent growing up in Highland Park, Bayonne, and Newark, where she graduated from Newark's South Side High School in 1922. After graduating from the Newark Normal School, which is now Kean College, Mrs. Bier received her teaching certificate and taught in the Newark school system.

In 1929, Mrs. Bier married David Bier and, shortly thereafter, the couple settled in Jersey City. Their only child Marcia was born at Beth Israel Medical Center in 1930.

Mr. and Mrs. Bier owned and operated Mother Bier's Bakery at 121 Madison Street in Hoboken until the mid-1960's when poor health forced Mr. Bier to close the business. At that time, although in her 60's, Mrs. Bier returned to the education field and taught preschool children in Jersey City from 1965 until 1970 under the Head Start Program. She retired in 1970 and moved to Millburn, NJ, to be near her daughter, son-in-law Cyril Greenstein; and her beloved grandchildren, Scott and Randy. She moved once again, to Miami, FL, in 1987 where her daughter and son-in-law had relocated.

Surviving her are her daughter and son-in-law of Aventura, FL; her grandsons, Scott Greenstein, M.D., of Middlebury, CT; and Randy Greenstein of Rockville, MD. She was also the great-grandmother of Max and Jesse Greenstein of Middlebury, CT; and a nephew, Alan Danzis of Berkeley Heights, NJ. Her husband David passed away in 1969; and her only sibling, Leo Danzis of Elizabeth, NJ, and vice president of the Ketchum Pharmaceutical Co., died in 1977.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Bier was a unique woman; witty, intelligent, and politically astute throughout her life. I know that she was adored by her family; and that she adored them. I extend my condolences to her daughter and her grandsons. They lost the matriarch of their family. New Jersey lost a beloved daughter who truly has left my area poorer for her passing.

#### “THWARTING OUR IMMIGRATION LAWS”

#### HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 1997

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, this administration has proved once again that they are soft on illegal immigration. Two weeks ago, I was outraged when Attorney General Janet Reno had defied the clear will of Congress and halted the deportation of thousands of illegal aliens. Mr. Speaker, the very person appointed to uphold the laws passed by this legislative body is now trying to find ways around them. I find that absolutely unacceptable.

Yesterday, the Clinton administration presented to this Congress a proposal to weaken the immigration reform law the President signed less than a year ago. They claim there

are special circumstances for some that should allow them to stay in this country beyond what the law allows. Mr. Speaker, I believe there may be a heart-wrenching story behind every man, woman or child that wishes to enter this country and tries to do so illegally. But we cannot begin to arbitrarily pick winners and losers. I urge my colleagues to reject this and any other proposal to revisit this issue and weaken our immigration laws.

Last year, we purposely raised the bar on those seeking to enter this country by means of political asylum because we knew the process was being abused. It was not an oversight and it was not done secretly. If the administration had an objection, it should have been addressed at that time. To come back to this argument is not only a mistake, but a breach of the delicate relationship between Congress and the administration. To use the Attorney General of the United States to undermine the laws we pass is unacceptable.

Mr. Speaker, several of my colleagues and I have sent a letter to the Attorney General urging her not to find ways to break our laws for the political will of the President. I hope my colleagues will stand with us in blocking any attempt to try and weaken our immigration laws by either stopping deportations by an administrative order or by new legislation. It is not just a violation of what this Congress passed less than a year ago, it is an act of defiance against those citizens who have suffered from the effects of illegal immigration. Mr. Speaker, this is just one more way in which this President and his administration have tried to weaken what it means to be a citizen of the United States.

#### STATE DEPARTMENT REPORT ON U.S. POLICIES IN SUPPORT OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

#### HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 1997

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, our Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights, John Shattuck, appeared before a meeting of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus to present to the Members of Congress the State Department Report “United States Policies in Support of Religious Freedom: Focus on Christians.” This report is an indepth summary of the particular measures taken by the administration to address the issue of Christian persecution as an element of U.S. Government policy to fight against religious persecution and discrimination around the world.

This report, Mr. Speaker, was prepared by the Department of State in response to a request by the Congress in the statement that accompanied the Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Act for fiscal year 1997. That request is principally the effort of our colleague from Virginia, Congressman FRANK WOLF, who is one of the most active of our Members in leading the fight against religious persecution around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the administration for its efforts in dealing with the problem of religious persecution. The State Department's annual “Country Reports on Human Rights Practices” provides indepth information about

religious freedom issues, and in the most recent editions of this important human rights document, Secretary Shattuck singled out religious persecution as an area of special attention and concern. Last year, then-Secretary of State Warren Christopher established the Advisory Committee on Religious Freedom Abroad, with a membership of some 20 prominent Americans representing a wide range of religious groups and nongovernmental organizations. This group has had an auspicious beginning to its work, and I look forward to its recommendations and activities in support of religious liberty around the world. I applaud Secretary Shattuck and our Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, for their commitment to human rights and to dealing with religious liberty.

Mr. Speaker, Secretary Albright was particularly eloquent in her foreword to the report in expressing the commitment and the reasons for the commitment of the United States to the principles of religious freedom. I would like to quote for the benefit of my colleagues her statement in the introduction of the report:

Religious liberty, the freedom to proclaim a religious identity and practice it without fear, is an aspiration and an inalienable right of people everywhere. When practiced with tolerance, it can be one of the keys to a stable, productive society. But generations of hatred may be sown when it is delayed or denied. It is central to the strength of free peoples. Its protection and promotion are important elements of America's support for human rights around the globe.

First, because the right to profess and practice one's religion is basic to the life of every human being and is recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Second, people who are free to profess their beliefs without fear and to live by them without impediment will do more to enrich their societies than people held back by prejudice. Where the rights of persons of any faith are not secure, no one's rights are secure. And violent persecution that begins with one group all too often engulfs whole nations in conflict.

And third, freedom of religion is central to American history and identity. Because our country has chosen ever since its creation to stand for universal principles of tolerance and liberty, free people around the world have chosen to stand with us.

That is why our commitment to religious liberty is even more than the expression of American ideals: it is a fundamental source of our strength in the world. We simply could not lead without it. We would be naive to think we could advance our interests without it.

Mr. Speaker, I wholeheartedly endorse this statement by our distinguished Secretary of State. Freedom of religion is a fundamental principle of human rights, a fundamental aspect of our foreign policy, and I welcome the support of the administration for this fundamental right.

Mr. Speaker, Secretary John Shattuck made an outstanding presentation regarding the administration's report to the members of the Human Rights Caucus yesterday. Secretary Shattuck, as always, was well prepared, articulate, and concise. The report deals primarily with the restrictions and persecution against Christians, although as I and my colleagues in the Congressional Human Rights Caucus have repeatedly emphasized, human rights are indivisible. A government that abuses ethnic minorities is also likely to restrict religious freedom, and a government that

abuses its Jewish or its Muslim or its Baha's believers is also a government that is likely to persecute members or portions of its Christian community as well. The death, imprisonment, and persecution of Christians for their religious beliefs affects some 150 million people around the world. The violation of the rights of Christian believers include discrimination in employment, political harassment, restrictions on the exercise of political rights, the imposition of harsh prison sentences, torture and inhumane conditions in prison, and in some cases the enslavement of women and children.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to the attention of my colleagues some of the countries which are serious violators and which were identified in the State Department report. China is one of the principal violators of freedom of religion, despite its own constitutional promises of freedom of belief. The report notes: "The government of China has sought to restrict all actual religious practice to government-authorized religious organizations and registered places of worship." In a classic catch-22 situation, Roman Catholic church organizations which recognize the authority of the Pope will not be registered because they recognize and owe spiritual allegiance to an authority out of China. Any Vatican-affiliated Catholics are considered unregistered.

The Government in Beijing has cracked down on unregistered Roman Catholic and Protestant groups, and it has raided and closed down groups that simply gather to worship in each other's homes. Religious leaders of these groups have been detained and been subjected to lengthy interrogation and in some cases beating and physical abuse.

A number of other countries were identified in the report because of official policies limiting or prohibiting freedom of religious expression. In Sudan religious persecution of Christians has reached incredible levels, including torture, outrageously long prison sentences, and enslavement of women and children. Similar problems exist in a number of Islamic countries. Saudi Arabia prohibits public and private religious observances by members of all non-Muslim religions. Countries which recognize Islamic Shari's Court rulings also have a serious record of violations of religious freedom. A Lebanese Christian, Elie Dib Ghalib, was arrested in the United Arab Emirates some 18 months ago in connection with his marriage to a Muslim woman. A Shari's Court ruled that the marriage was null and void, their relationship was determined to be immoral, and he was sentenced to 39 lashes and a year of imprisonment.

Mr. Speaker, even some of our closest allies have legislation and government practices which are surprisingly restrictive of religious freedom. Greece, a country widely acclaimed as "the birthplace of democracy," has a religious registration law that is surprisingly restrictive for all non-Orthodox religious communities. Similar serious problems exist in Russia and other republics of the former Soviet Union, where post-Communist governments are dealing with demands of existing religious organizations to limit other, primarily Christian groups, from establishing a presence in these newly independent countries.

In this context, Mr. Speaker, I was most encouraged by the decision, announced the day of our briefing with Secretary Shattuck, by Russian President, Boris Yeltsin to veto the highly restrictive law on religions that was

passed by the Russian Duma and Federation Council a few weeks ago. His action took great political courage, and I welcome his action.

I do want to call the attention of my colleagues to some countries where governments have taken action to assure religious freedom, despite strong pressures against such policies. In striking contrast with the restrictive practices of the Government of the People's Republic of China, the Government of the Republic of China on Taiwan has shown tolerance for religious diversity and respect for religious liberty. India, a country with strong indigenous religious traditions, has also shown considerable understanding of the importance of assuring freedom of religion.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to give careful consideration to this important document on U.S. Policies in Support of Religious Freedom. The Department of State has compiled an excellent report on the current status of religious liberty around the world. We must continue to work together with the administration and intensify our efforts to assure that governments around the world respect the religious rights of their citizens. As Secretary Albright noted in quoting Thomas Jefferson: "It behooves all who value liberty of conscience for themselves to resist invasions of it in the case of others; or that case may, by change of circumstances, become their own."

#### MCDADE AND FAZIO INVESTORS IN AMERICA

#### HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 1997

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, with these late night sessions, I have had the opportunity to read the report of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development. Chairman JOE MCDADE and Ranking Democrat VIC FAZIO, and their subcommittee colleagues, have crafted a document which invests in America.

Our Nation has a variety of problems concerning energy and water development throughout the land. Whether flood control, environmental problems, nuclear waste disposal, or electric power—among other key priorities—they have been judicious in their decision making.

I am particularly grateful that the Subcommittee, and now the House, have recognized the flood dangers along the Los Angeles, Rio Hondo, and San Gabriel rivers in southeastern Los Angeles County. Five hundred thousand residents live and work in 177,000 structures which are at risk of flooding. The committee's decision to increase the funding needed to implement the largest urban flood control project in the United States is deeply appreciated.

FAMILY FEST: A COMMUNITY  
EVENT TO HELP IMPROVE EDUCATION

#### HON. ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 1997

Mr. BLAGOJEVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding community event that has occurred in my district for the past 10 years. Madonna High School's Family Fest is a 5-day outdoor festival that brings families together while improving educational opportunities for young women in the city of Chicago. Offering a wide array of family-oriented activities, the festival raises an average of \$12,000 a year in scholarships and financial aid for young women hoping to attend the Madonna High School. To date, proceeds have been able to provide 37 percent of the study body at Madonna High School with financial aid.

As Abraham Lincoln said in 1832, "Upon the subject of education . . . I can only say that I view it as the most important subject which we as a people may be engaged in." These sentiments on education expressed by President Lincoln 165 years ago still hold true today. Caring teachers, motivated students, and an involved community are the essential components to improving education in our country. Family Fest should serve as a model to the rest of the Nation on how community values and hard work can help improve our system of education, and ensure a brighter future for America.

Family Fest is proof positive that a community can come together to achieve a common goal. I can think of few goals more worthy of our support than improving educational opportunities for our young people. I commend the parents, staff, and students of Madonna High School for their hard work and dedication to this cause, and wish them continued success with this outstanding program.

HONORING PROF. JOHN BRITTAIN

#### HON. BARBARA B. KENNELLY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 1997

Mrs. KENNELLY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of Connecticut's most outstanding citizens, a brilliant lawyer and a warrior for justice, John Brittain. Professor Brittain has been a member of the faculty of the University of Connecticut law schools since 1977. For those two decades, he has been a constant presence in my State, a voice of conscience that is heard whenever the rights of individuals are at stake.

John Brittain knows that the Nation's promise of equality under the law must never be allowed to become mere words. That promise is the central tenet of American life, and it must be kept for the sake of all our future generations. So John Brittain has made it his cause to see that the promise is kept—even when it is difficult and even when it is uncomfortable.

In 1989, Professor Brittain, among others, filed *Sheff versus O'Neill*, the landmark case challenging the racial, economic, and educational segregation between Hartford and the