

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

surrounding schools districts as a denial of a student's fundamental right to an equal education under the Connecticut Constitution. After 7 years of litigation, the Connecticut Supreme Court issued a precedent-setting ruling, finding, in July 1996, that Hartford students were being denied equal educational opportunity. Although the State has not yet determined how best to address this, it is certain that Professor Brittain's efforts will only result in improving education, not only in Hartford but throughout the State.

Professor Brittain will soon join the faculty at Texas Southern University's Thurgood Marshall School of Law, writing what I am sure will be a fascinating book about his involvement in the Sheff case. I know I join with his Connecticut friends and colleagues in wishing him well in this latest chapter of his extraordinary life, and hoping that we will some day welcome him back to our State.

AMERICA ONLINE NEEDS TO
OFFER ITS SUBSCRIBERS IN-
FORMED CONSENT ON TELE-
MARKETING ISSUE

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 1997

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge America Online [AOL] to be up front with its customers over the issue of informed consent for telemarketing purposes.

An AOL subscriber myself, I was outraged when I learned the company planned to market its 8.5 million customers' telephone numbers to scores of telemarketing hucksters, without informing them or getting their consent. Under a siege of protests, the Internet provider canceled that plan but instituted another that still breaks faith with its subscribers. Now it plans to allow its own employees to make the telemarketing calls.

AOL still doesn't get it. Families sitting down to dinner do not want to be disturbed by unsolicited vendors. The company needs to make it clear to its customers up front what use it plans to make of their private information and then give them an easy option for protecting themselves from the unauthorized use of that data. And I emphasize "easy." If you've ever tried to opt out of AOL's marketing gimmicks, you know how hard it is. Good luck in even finding the option on the company's Web site.

What AOL should do is display a pop-up notification box informing subscribers of any new marketing schemes using customers' phone numbers and other personal information. This notification box should contain a simple yes or no option for customers to inform AOL of their decision whether to allow the company to release their personal information, or to permit AOL's own employees to market other companies' products to them.

AOL also needs to call itself to a higher standard. Originally, it said it was collecting its subscribers' phone numbers so it could call them if their account was tampered with or if their credit card was stolen—not for telemarketing purposes. Its revised plan amounts to a bait-and-switch tactic.

This whole saga is another example of how an incredibly useful and powerful medium can abuse the public trust. With power must come

responsibility. And if online companies aren't willing to police themselves, Congress may very well do it for them.

I have sponsored a bipartisan bill to safeguard the privacy of citizens' Social Security numbers and other personal information by restricting their marketability by credit bureaus, departments of motor vehicles, and the Internet. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor H.R. 1813, the Personal Information Privacy Act.

THANK YOU, SISTER CARLA
DOLCE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 1997

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a champion of the poor and disenfranchised in Mississippi, Sister Carla Dolce. Sister Carla was born in New Orleans, LA, where she served as a co-director of the New Orleans Training Center for Community Organizers, School Administrator and Teachers. She has served as president of three high schools in Dallas, TX; St. Louis, MO; and Alton, IL.

Sister Carla began her work as a community developer in Tunica, MS, through the Sacred Heart Southern Mission. She was the catalyst for the Tunica Organization of Women [TOW] an organization of women of color. TOW, together with five other northern Mississippi women's groups, formed the North Mississippi Leadership Network which is associated with other groups in a regional and technical network.

Sister Carla was also instrumental in forming the Tunica Citizens Committee for Education, a biracial group to support public education in Tunica. She has also supported education by working with Northwest Community College, the YOU (alternative education) Program, developing a credit union workshop and parent participation mini conference sponsored by TOW in partnership with the Education for the Mid-South and the Agriculture Extension Services.

Sister Carla has served as the eyes, ears, and body of support for the ill-housed in Tunica. Working tirelessly to see that maximum of government programs and funds are delivered to Tunica residents. Together Sister Carla and I worked with the State and national offices of Rural Development to provide over \$600,000 in housing loans for new construction and repairs. In general, Sister Carla's efforts were to support movement for change that worked to assist the people in their efforts to bring benefits equitably to all citizens. Sister Carla Dolce, teacher, motivator, and bridge-builder is now leaving Mississippi to bring her love and attention to those in need in Illinois. We will miss her greatly. Mississippi's loss is Illinois' gain.

IN TRIBUTE TO AND IN MEMORY
OF DR. ROBERT C. WEAVER

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 1997

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great American and civil rights pioneer who died last Thursday. Mr. Speaker, Robert C. Weaver, had a life of many firsts. The great-grandson of a slave, and the son of a postal worker, Robert Weaver earned undergraduate, masters and doctoral degrees in economics from Harvard University. Dr. Weaver served as a college president, State rent administrator, this Nation's first Secretary for Housing and Urban Development—and first black member of any Cabinet—Presidential adviser, and chairman of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Before the landmark decades of civil rights advances, Weaver was one of a small group of African-American officials in the New Deal era who, as part of the "Black Cabinet," pressured President Franklin D. Roosevelt to strike down racial barriers in Government employment, housing, and education. Working for the U.S. Department of the Interior, and copious experience as an educator and economist led to Weaver's appointment as New York State rent administrator, making him the first African-American with a State cabinet rank.

Through a host of government and private jobs, Weaver emerged as a preeminent candidate to head a national cabinet department. But when President John F. Kennedy sought congressional support to create the Housing and Urban Development Department in 1961, and named Weaver to head it, the President encountered strong southern opposition and the plan was shelved.

From the time he became an aide to Interior Secretary, Harold Ickes in 1933, through his tenure at Housing and Urban Affairs in the late 1960's, Dr. Weaver was a crusader for civil rights, housing, and education. He was regarded as an intellectual, both pragmatic and visionary, who worked to improve the lives of blacks and other Americans both by expanding their opportunities and by bettering their communities.

After being a catalyst in the Kennedy and Johnson administrations, Dr. Weaver turned to education in 1968. He taught at Hunter College, Carnegie-Mellon University, New York University, and even became president at Baruch College. He was honored for his hard work and dedication with at least 30 honorary degrees from elite institutions like Columbia University, the University of Michigan, and the University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Weaver was known as a man who was only interested in doing his job, rather than promoting himself. His lifelong toil got urban legislation on the books and nurtured our country's first commitment to improve the quality of life in our Nation's cities. All of us who believe we can build an even greater society, are forever indebted to him.

Dr. Weaver served as a beacon of light, wisdom, and fairness. His appointments paved the path for numerous African-Americans and were monumental to many other African-Americans who found lower barriers and increased opportunity in the last third of the 20th