

Waste Policy Act of 1997. This legislation, through its used nuclear fuel management program, would ensure that we can continue to produce energy cleanly at nuclear power plants—many of which are running out of storage capacity for used reactor fuel. This legislation would make us guardians of a cleaner planet. Supporting H.R. 1270 is the right thing to do.

**GILMAN SPONSORS LEGISLATION  
URGING WAR CRIMES TRIBUNAL  
AGAINST SADDAM HUSSEIN,  
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLU-  
TION 137**

**HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 31, 1997*

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to inform my colleagues that today, on behalf of myself and the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. PORTER], I am introducing legislation that calls for the formation of an international criminal tribunal against Saddam Hussein and other members of his despotic and cruel Iraqi regime.

The dictatorship of Saddam Hussein has created an environment of fear and terror within Iraq and throughout the region, with its gross violations of international law and human rights. The people of Iraq are subject to summary and arbitrary execution, torture, and repression of the freedom of speech.

Saddam Hussein is reported to have used chemical weapons to annihilate entire Kurdish villages. Over 182,000 Kurdish civilians disappeared, and over 400 villages have been destroyed in these attacks, known as the Anfal campaigns. The Iraqi use of chemical weapons is the most severe use of such inhumane devices since the First World War. The United States cannot allow such atrocities to go unpunished if we want to prevent the proliferation of these weapons of mass destruction.

Under Saddam Hussein, the Iraqi Government has been particularly active in its persecution of indigenous minority groups. Members of Shiite Muslim groups along with members of the Turkomen minority have been massacred and arrested. Assyro-Chaldean churches have also been destroyed.

A war crimes tribunal will go a long way to eliminate such flouting of international law and treaties. The tribunal would bring Saddam Hussein to justice as well as his henchmen, by prosecuting them for their crimes against humanity. Because the Republic of Iraq is a signatory to both the Geneva Convention and the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, it should be compelled to comply with these obligations.

Moreover, over 600 Kuwaitis who were taken prisoner by Iraqi soldiers during the Persian Gulf war remain unaccounted for. It has been 6 years since the war, and the families of these MIA's deserve answers and the return of their loved ones. Iraq must be made to account for these individuals under the terms of the Geneva Convention.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, it is clear that a war crimes tribunal is necessary. I urge my colleagues to join Congressman PORTER and me by cosponsoring this measure, House Concurrent Resolution 137.

IN HONOR OF CONGREGATION  
BETH JACOB

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 31, 1997*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay a respectful tribute to Congregation Beth Jacob of Astoria on the 70th anniversary of its founding. The congregation's history is one of perseverance and growth, supported by a foundation of worship, education, and dedication.

Beth Jacob was founded in 1927 by a small group of Hungarian Jews who were determined to have their own congregation. These founders had very little money and could only afford to erect a fragile, one story structure which leaked badly after the first rain. However, the congregants were determined to have a home.

Their weak structure never fell. In fact, it grew, as did the number of people who prayed there. And in 1938, in the midst of the destruction of synagogues throughout Germany, the growing congregation rebuilt their temple.

In 1951, upon the completion of a second story, Beth Jacob truly began to flourish. At this time, it housed a Hebrew school with 126 students and three teachers. The Yeshiva of West Queens also began at Beth Jacob and had to move when its students overfilled the available classrooms. Worshipers filled the synagogue beyond capacity on holidays.

Since the 1960's, the size of the Jewish community in Astoria has decreased. However, Congregation Beth Jacob has maintained its lively atmosphere, providing a center for Jewish life for residents from Astoria and nearby communities.

Consistent with its tradition of growth, Congregation Beth Jacob now has a young new rabbi, Rabbi Zev Itzkowitz, and is always expanding its educational offerings, including adult classes and special programming.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues rise with me in this tribute to Congregation Beth Jacob as it celebrates 70 years of a most vibrant history. I am honored to have such a thriving synagogue in my district, serving as a center for Jewish life and a home for Jewish education and worship.

INDIA'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
INDEPENDENCE

**HON. BOB FILNER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 31, 1997*

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, August 15, 1997 will mark the 50th anniversary of India's independence, and I, as a United States Congressman, am excited about it.

Why am I excited about another nation's independence? For the same reasons that all Americans should be excited. As the largest democracy in Asia, India is celebrating the very same liberties and values which America cherishes. Over 500 million people turned out for India's free elections. 500 million. That is twice the population of the United States. India is not just a democracy—it is a democratic powerhouse.

I am also excited about India's development as an economic market. As one of the top 10 emerging open markets, India has crossed the threshold of global commercial competition. Large U.S. enterprises such as Coca-Cola, GM, Enron, and Sun Microsystems, among others, are expanding to the Indian Subcontinent, creating employment opportunities for Americans and Indians alike.

Mr. Speaker, America has maintained a strong relationship with India that began long before its independence in 1947. Woodrow Wilson and Franklin D. Roosevelt both championed a free India. We must continue to uphold this friendship and help celebrate this momentous occasion. I urge all Members of Congress and the people of America to join in the festivities sponsored nationwide by Indian-Americans to commemorate India's 50th anniversary of independence. Through this participation, we will strengthen the democratic bonds between our countries and realize the value and potential of India.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2015,  
BALANCED BUDGET ACT OF 1997

SPEECH OF

**HON. STENY H. HOYER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 30, 1997*

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the balanced budget agreement recently negotiated between the President and congressional leaders. And, while this agreement is not perfect in the eyes of many, it is an example of the democratic process and the consensus building and compromise that it embodies. It is an agreement which incorporates all of the principles which I believe are essential in a budget agreement. In this legislation, we will achieve a balanced budget for the first time in a generation, invest in our people for the future, and provide substantial middle-class tax relief.

Four and a half years ago, we set out on a course toward economic recovery, striving to get our fiscal house in order. And, as we revel in our accomplishments on this day, to finish the job of balancing the budget, we must not overlook the magnitude and importance of the 1993 budget plan. For it was that historic and courageous vote that cut the deficit from \$290 billion in 1992 to a projected \$41 billion this year. That comprehensive budget strategy made difficult spending cuts and raised needed revenues by asking our Nation's wealthiest to contribute to our economic recovery. The leadership of the President and the Democratic Congress in adopting that budget plan has contributed to record economic growth, low inflation, the creation of over 12½ million new jobs in our Nation, and a deficit that has shrunk by more than 80 percent. The bipartisan budget plan that we enact today would not be possible had we not made the tough choices, politically and substantively, that we did in 1993.

Mr. Speaker, there are some today who advocate finishing the job of balancing the budget before we enact tax cuts of any kind. Others in the Congress believe that enacting tax cuts will help spur the economy and contribute to the economic stability we all seek. I believe that this is a sound agreement and a good

compromise that melds the priorities of Democrats and Republicans in a way that will allow all Americans to prosper.

At the heart of this balanced budget is a historic investment in education—the most significant increase in education funding in 30 years. It includes \$40 billion in tax relief to help make a college education a reality for millions of Americans. It includes the largest increase in Pell grant scholarships in three decades and will give communities substantial tax cuts to help build and modernize our schools.

Second, this budget agreement extends health insurance coverage to 5 million children by investing \$24 billion in quality medical care. One of our greatest challenges, in this era of budget cutting, is to ensure that we continue to invest in our children and their future and this is a major step toward that goal. At the same time, this agreement honors our commitment to our parents by preserving the Medicare trust fund for a decade and implementing new market-oriented reforms.

This agreement bolsters environmental enforcement by doubling the pace of Superfund cleanups and delivers tax cuts to clean up and revitalize urban areas. It protects the community oriented policing services [COPS] initiative, which will put 100,000 more police officers on the street by 2000. And, it improves upon the welfare reform legislation that enacted last year by protecting our most vulnerable people. While providing \$3 million to move willing and motivated Americans from welfare to private sector jobs, the agreement treats 350,000 legal immigrants fairly by restoring their disability and health benefits.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, for the first time in a generation, this agreement provides mainstream, middle-class tax relief while spelling out specific, sufficient spending and entitlement reductions to pay for it and balance the budget at the same time. The final budget deal provides the \$500 child tax credit to the Americans most in need: 27 million middle- and low-income, hard-working families; 13 million children from families with incomes below \$30,000 will receive the child tax credit, nearly 7.5 million more than the Republican plan would have covered.

Democrats have succeeded in providing tax relief which invests in our children by helping middle-class parents trying to pay for their children's college tuition. The budget plan includes the President's \$1,500 HOPE scholarship to make the first 2 years of college universally available. And, it provides for a 20-percent tuition tax credit for college juniors, seniors, and graduate students, and for working Americans trying to upgrade their skills.

I am also pleased to see that the estate tax provisions resemble the President's proposal and legislation which I introduced earlier this year which seeks to provide relief, immediately, to those most in need: small businesses and family farms.

Mr. Speaker, this agreement continues the job started in 1993. It balances the budget by 2002 and puts the budget in surplus at least through 2007. The job is not done, Mr. Speaker. We must never allow ourselves to revert back to the irresponsible policies of Regonomics which today still confront our generation and generations to come in the form of a \$5½ trillion national debt. We must ensure that we follow through with the spending cuts outlined in this agreement while not allowing ourselves to succumb to future pres-

ures to borrow from future generations to pay for what we buy today. And, we must vigorously ensure that the budget deficit goals included in this agreement are enforced and reached.

Mr. Speaker, as we applaud the bipartisan budget plan which we will enact today, let us not forget the 1980's and the fiscal instability which strangled our Nation when President Clinton inherited exploding budget deficits in 1993. A decade of large deficits had weakened the foundation of our economy and challenged our Nation's power and prosperity abroad. In the President's first term he set out to cut the deficit in half. Working with the President, Democrats in Congress enacted the 1993 budget plan which has far exceeded our expectations. The President, who had the courage and vision to reverse this trend, deserves our thanks and praise.

When the President was reelected last year, he was determined to fulfill his goal of balancing the budget, but was unrelenting in his commitment to invest in our Nation's core values of education, health care, and the environment. This bipartisan budget agreement protects our priorities, solidifies the Nation's economic foundation, and bolsters America's position as the greatest economy in the world.

Policymaking is a series of tradeoffs and tough decisions. This bill unfairly targets Federal employees by asking them to pay additional retirement contributions without any increase in benefits. Nevertheless, on balance, this is a good budget and will have a positive effect on the lives of millions of Americans as we head into the next century. It reflects the values and priorities of our Nation and with the enactment of this agreement, our Nation will have taken a historic step toward a vibrant and prosperous 21st century.

#### AMERICA'S CULTURE

#### HON. HELEN CHENOWETH

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 31, 1997*

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, part of America's culture and heritage is due to the wise-use of its rivers and waterways. In the arid West, America has literally turned deserts into gardens. We barge our agricultural and manufactured products in an economically and environmentally benign manner for trade. We live, work and recreate in our rivers. Indeed, our rivers are the lifeblood of much America.

I would like to bring to the attention of the Members an editorial by Bill Hall which appeared in the July 27, 1997 edition of the Lewiston Tribune. Mr. Hall articulates the concerns many of my constituents have about the plan of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, National Marine and Fisheries Service and the Fish and Wildlife Service to breach the dams along the Snake and Columbia Rivers. These dams provide for the transportation, electricity generation, irrigation and recreation that many in the Pacific Northwest rely upon. Before these agencies take such drastic action, I ask the Members to consider Bill Hall's article.

B.H.—LEWISTON SHOULD SHARE THE MOTEL JOBS WITH BOISE  
(By Bill Hall)

The Idaho Statesman of Boise has a point when it suggests that breaching the dams

that created the ports at Lewiston and Clarkston could be offset by the return of a fish run so robust it could really kick the economy into gear through boosts in the tourist, fishing and boating industries.

Indeed, the same is true of dams throughout Idaho and of the effect their rupture or removal could have on the economy of nearby communities.

Lucky Peak Dam above Boise, for instance. That plugs what was once a wild and natural stream and could become the same again. Imagine what that could do for the Boise Valley economy once recreation-starved Californians discovered that you could fly into Boise Airport and, in less than an hour, be enjoying some of the finest bait fishing in America.

And among the richest salmon spawning streams in Idaho were the Boise, the Payette, the Weiser and the Owyhee rivers. The state, by removing dams, could have that resource back and reap the profits of what plentiful fish would do for the tourist industry of western Idaho.

For that matter, what would it do to the economy of both northern and southwestern Idaho if the three Idaho Power dams in Hells Canyon could be removed altogether creating one stupendous canyon instead of these dam-locked segments we now have, these pitiful canyonettes?

The Statesman may be on to something of general use when it outlines the concept as it applies to Lewiston specifically: "A more natural river would give Lewiston the higher quality of life it needs to attract new clean industry."

If that is true of Lewiston, it is also true of American Falls Dam near Pocatello. That dam now produces power to sustain polluting Pocatello factories. If you get rid of the factories, you won't need the dam. That would give Pocatello a chance at a new, clean more vigorous tourist industry.

And what would Idaho need of industrial jobs if the demand became heavy enough for motel maids and bait shop clerks?

Indeed, the great Idaho desert with its purple sage, its golden grasses, its delicate desert flowers and its natural populations of coyote and rabbit and grasshopper is an easy sell to a nation hungry for the original, natural places. It may have seemed at the time to be a wise idea to let Micron Technology encroach on the nearby edge of the noble desert just for a few jobs in a dangerously volatile computer chip industry. But on reflection, imagine how much kinder it would be toward the environment to close that drab factory and its few thousand jobs and reach instead for the greater wealth of helping tourists revel in the desert sights, reaping the rewards of a new clean industry.

If the state would only have the foresight and the courage to eliminate all these alleged improvements and revert to a confident investment in its natural wonders, we could lavish on all of Idaho the economic improvements that the Statesman now so generously recommends for Lewiston alone.

#### HONORING HOSPICE OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

#### HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 31, 1997*

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, it gives my colleagues, Mr. WOLF and Mr. MORAN, and me great pleasure to rise today to pay tribute to Hospice of Northern Virginia. Nineteen ninety-seven marks the 20th anniversary of this