

I comment Mr. Eric Buermann, chairman of the board of trustees, Mr. John Cotton, headmaster of Ransom Everglades, and his hard-working team for their efforts and all those individuals from within and outside the Ransom Everglades community for making the new Middle School Science Center a reality that present and future students will be able to enjoy and learn from.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. SCOTTY BAESLER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 1997

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2159) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes:

Mr. BAESLER. Mr. Chairman, some of our colleagues continue their efforts to limit or eliminate development assistance to India as part of the foreign operations appropriations bill. I strongly oppose these efforts.

On August 15, India celebrated its 50th anniversary of democratic self-rule. Last year, India held the world's largest democratic elections. With nearly 300 million people going to the polls, the election was called epic by the New York Times, and extraordinary by the Washington Times. Any attempt to unfairly stigmatize India by placing limits on the small amounts of development assistance that the United States provides would have a devastating impact on United States-India relations.

The relationship between the United States and India continues to thrive and the United States is now India's largest overseas investor and its biggest trading partner. During the past 6 years, India's ambitious economic reform program has allowed United States business in India to grow dramatically. Exports from the United States were up 40 percent in 1996, and between 1991 and 1996 United States investment in India was 29.5 percent of all investment.

And throughout this economic boom, India's human rights record has steadily improved. India abolished the Terrorist and Disruptive (Prevention) Act which was the subject of objection by several human rights activists. An independent National Human Rights Commission has been established and is widely believed to be aggressively pursuing human rights. And the most recent United States State Department human rights report praised the commission's independence and noted that India has made substantial progress in the area of human rights.

Any effort to limit or eliminate development assistance should be opposed. As India continues to develop politically, economically, and socially, I believe it is important that the United States continue to send positive signals of support and understanding to the world's largest democracy.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2014,
TAXPAYER RELIEF ACT OF 1997

CAMPBELL AMENDMENT TO H.R.
2159

SPEECH OF

HON. VINCE SNOWBARGER

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 1997

Mr. SNOWBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I proudly support this landmark tax relief bill. Today, we give American families their first significant tax cut in 16 years. Families with children will receive a \$400 credit for each child in 1998 and \$500 per child beginning in 1999. Investors, most of whom are hard-working middle-class citizens, will get a significant reduction in the capital gains tax. Millions of parents will be able to pass on the family business or farm to their children without worrying whether they can pay the estate taxes. Expanded IRA's will make home ownership and education possible for more families than before. And all of this is done within the context of the Republican commitment to the first balanced budget in three decades.

Along with most Americans, I wish this bill provided even more tax relief. In fact, I believe we should have cut tax rates across the board. And I regret that the President insisted on continuing to tax Americans on income that is solely the result of inflation. But with President Clinton in the White House, a more comprehensive tax relief plan simply was not possible.

This is not a perfect bill, but it is a reasonable compromise between Republican efforts to win tax relief for American families and President Clinton's insistence on more Government spending. We should consider how far we have come in the 4 short years since President Clinton and the Democrats raised taxes on every working—and nonworking—American. The American people rejected the big-government Democrats in 1994 and 1996 and elected Republicans to Congress to restrain the growth of Government and allow families to keep more of what they earn. Republicans heard that plea and today we are delivering.

Last week, when the President and many Members of Congress were considering bowing to the President's attempt to renege on the size of the tax relief we had pledged to the American people, I wrote the members of the conference committee, insisting they give us a bill that would allow us to keep our word. I am very pleased to say that since my letter was sent, the tax relief in this bill was restored to its full amount. I thank the conferees for responding to my concern.

American families can keep more of their money because we kept our word.

Now we should turn our attention toward simplifying the Tax Code and reforming the IRS. I will introduce legislation after the August recess to provide for a flat tax at the option of each individual taxpayer and I expect to be involved in congressional oversight of gross abuses at the IRS.

SPEECH OF

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 1997

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the Campbell-Payne amendment.

This amendment is very timely in that it seems fashionable today to cut the Africa accounts by any amount necessary. Last year the African Development Fund received \$40 million—which is low compared to the previous years.

Today, the President allocated \$50 million for the fund and it is now being cut by \$25 million, which represents a 50 percent cut. The fund is the largest source of capital for the 39 poorest African countries outside the World Bank.

It uses a grassroots approach and it is unique within the development community in Africa. All of the fund's grants are made with indigenous, nongovernmental organizations, in response to African-defined problems and proposals.

It is also the largest co-financing partner for IDA in Africa and it reaches many levels of African society that other development banks do not, including IDA. Let me just say that it costs the fund a small amount to operate a country office in Africa. In fact, the fund's whole country operation costs less than half of what a single expatriate costs a bilateral or multilateral donor organization.

As I stated earlier, the administration requested \$50 million for fiscal year 1998. \$50 million is a small amount of money considering that we spent \$2.2 billion on 20 B-2 bombers. For \$1 billion it will ultimately cost for additional B-2 bombers, we could: immunize all children in developing countries, immunize children, support family planning, end malnutrition, illiteracy and help emerging democracies. The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the use of ballistic weapons is no longer a viable solution to solve our foreign policy problems.

Yet we can do the minimal amount for the less developed countries of Africa. This year the fund will lend 4 times more than USAid which takes the strain out of this organization. It supports poverty reduction, agriculture sector production, basic education, health and economic reform.

As a member of the Subcommittee on Africa, let me just say that we should stop thrashing the African accounts. It is unfair and discriminates against the less fortunate.

In 1996, the fund increased its net income to \$150 million and that same year, the fund's procurement resulted in \$170 million in contracts for American business, a 100 percent increase over last year's figures. As you know, any reduction impacts heavily on the lives of millions of vulnerable Africans every day.

The tools of U.S. foreign assistance is needed to maintain our leadership around the world. Every President, Democrat or Republican, needs sufficient resources to carry out critical foreign policy objectives. These resources are even more essential today in the post-cold-war era as threats to U.S. interests are more closely linked to political and economic stability and regional conflicts.

We can see where it has helped there has been sweeping change in the Congo, Liberia, and Kenya. These and other cuts to the African accounts have put our Nation's global leadership role at risk. Today Japan, and the European countries provided more aid and support than the United States has done in the last 2 years combined.

Restore the small amount of money to the African Development Fund. It will ultimately save money and lives. We have a moral responsibility to do so.

This is right for America!

PUTTING CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY ON PAR WITH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR OTHER DISEASES

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 1997

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Substance Abuse Treatment Parity Act, a bill to give alcoholics and drug addicts more access to treatment by prohibiting health insurers from placing discriminatory caps, financial requirements, or other restrictions on treatment that are different from other medical and surgical services.

As a grateful recovering alcoholic, I've seen first hand the value of treatment for people who are chemically dependent. As someone who stays close to recovering people and treatment professionals in Minnesota, I've been alarmed by the dwindling access to treatment for people who need help. That's why I believe it is time to put chemical dependency on par with insurance coverage for other diseases.

Alcoholism and drug addiction are painful, private struggles with staggering public costs. In fact, the direct and indirect costs of alcoholism alone in this country exceed \$90 billion each year. Assuring access to treatment will not only combat this insidious disease—it will save health care dollars in the long run. Treatment helps people stay healthier longer and saves the health care system money.

The empirical evidence supports what I already know as a recovering alcoholic—providing treatment is good preventive medicine.

A Minnesota study to extensively evaluate its treatment programs' effectiveness found that Minnesota saves \$22 million in annual health care costs because of treatment.

A California study reported a 17 percent improvement in health conditions after treatment—and dramatic decreases in hospitalizations.

A Rutgers University study found that untreated alcoholics incur general health care costs that are 100 percent higher. It also found that after treatment, days lost to illness, sickness claims, and hospitalization dropped by half.

A report printed in the 1992 Journal of Mental Health Administration sampled 63,873 hospitalized alcoholics and found medical complications are far more severe among those not treated for alcoholism.

This legislation will help eliminate barriers to treatment—without significantly increasing health care premiums. We have the empirical evidence to support this assertion: A Milliman and Robertson study released today found full

and complete substance abuse treatment parity would increase per capita health insurance premiums by only one half of one percent—without even considering the obvious savings that will result from treatment.

And just like the mental health parity provision of last session, this legislation waives the requirements if premiums increase by more than 1 percent. It also exempts small businesses with fewer than 50 employees.

Mr. Speaker, removing barriers to treatment is a huge step in the right direction. Parity for substance abuse treatment is the right thing to do. It's also the cost-effective thing to do. I urge my colleagues in the House to support this important legislation and look forward to working with all Members in both the House and Senate in passing this bill.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 1997

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2159) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes:

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Chairman, I want each one of us to ask ourselves:

Can we go back to our districts and justify to our sons and daughters that we have to cut school loans, while at the School of the Americas, we have more than enough money to teach people like Manuel Noriega?

Can we go back to our districts and justify over \$200 million of hard-earned, taxpayer money spent on the School of the Americas, while we tell our senior citizens they must tighten up their belts?

And what do we have to show for our money? We have six dead Jesuit priests, four raped nuns, nine students and their professor murdered, death squads in El Salvador, death squads in Honduras, murder of United States citizens in Guatemala, manuals on how to kidnap and torture. One can go on and on. Can we go back to our places of worship and justify this?

Newspapers from our districts across this country all tell us "it is time to close this school." The San Antonio Express News editorial stated in April, 1995:

The [millions of dollars] a year the U.S. Army School of the Americas costs to operate would be better spent on aid for foreign students at U.S. colleges than at this breeding ground for human rights abusers.

If we do not stand up for this amendment * * * what do we stand for?

A TRIBUTE TO THOMAS COLLELUORI, WINNER OF GENOVESE DRUG STORES'S "FLIGHT OF ACES" CONTEST

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 1997

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Thomas Ward Colleluori, of Centereach, Long Island, the winner of Genovese Drug Stores' "Flight of Aces" essay contest. By focusing on the valor of the all-black Tuskegee Airmen fighter unit during World War II, Thomas Colleluori has helped to preserve an important, but little known piece of our American history.

Thomas' research for his essay revealed details of the role that the Tuskegee Airmen had in saving the life of his grandfather, Mario Colleluori, and the other American crewmen aboard a B-24 bomber that was under attack by German fighters during World War II. Those details so moved the 15-year-old student that he has chosen to share his contest award with one of the surviving members of the segregated unit.

On Friday, August 29, when Genovese honored the "Flight of Aces" contest winners by flying them in a formation of historic World War II bombers from Republic Airfield on Long Island, there was more than just a history lesson delivered. Thomas Colleluori, a white Long Island teenager took the opportunity to say "thank you" to George Bing, a black Brooklyn grandfather and surviving member of the Tuskegee Airmen fighter unit that saved his grandfather's life during World War II.

More than 50 years later, with his grandmother Mary Colleluori on hand, Thomas expressed his gratitude to George Bing by inviting him to sit in the position once occupied by his grandfather, during the nostalgic flight aboard one of the last remaining airworthy B-24's.

The purpose of Genovese Drug Stores essay contest was to honor the courage and sacrifices of America's veterans and retired defense workers, while encouraging today's generation of students to discover the historic legacy created by their parents and grandparents. Through his research, Thomas Colleluori learned how the Tuskegee Airmen fought prejudice as often as they did the German Luftwaffe. But it was skill and courage in battle—not the color of their skin—that mattered when his grandfather's bomber came under German fighter attack. Though more than 50 years later, that lesson remains with Thomas and lives on in the words of gratitude expressed in his essay, and in his thanks to George Bing and all Tuskegee Airmen.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in saluting Thomas Ward Colleluori for his passionate efforts to preserve the heroic legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen. May his and future generations of Americans learn from the invaluable lessons that Thomas discovered about family, duty, and race.

MY GRANDFATHER'S LEGACY OF DUTY

(By Thomas Ward Colleluori)

My name is Thomas Ward Colleluori. I am very proud to be the grandson of two WWII veterans. My Grandpa Mario Colleluori was a Radioman/Waist Gunner on B-24 heavy