

mailings over 250 pieces, excluding solicited responses, federal publications, town meeting notices, communications to other Members of Congress, Federal, State or local government officials, and news releases to the media. An exemption is also provided for a single follow-up to any direct responses, if it is made before the end of the Congress in which the direct response was made, and occurs within six weeks after any significant congressional action. Under current law, mailings are defined as 500 pieces or more, which allows members to mail thousands of letters in up to 499 piece bundles of mail within days of an election.

Clarify definition of town meeting notice. A town meeting notice relates solely to a notice, $5\frac{1}{2} \times 8\frac{1}{2}$ or smaller, of the time and place at which a Member or Members' staff will be available to meet with constituents regarding legislative issues or problems with federal programs. The notice cannot include more than 3 references to the Member, and cannot include a picture, sketch, or other likeness of the Member.

SECTION 3—PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE MEMBERS' OFFICIAL MAIL ALLOWANCE

(a) Reduce the funding available for franked mail to a maximum level equivalent to one mailing per address. The total of the funding allowed for the Official Mail Account and the Official Mass Mail Account would be equivalent to a level of 1 first class mailing per district address each year. Funding of the Official Mail Account would be limited to a level of $\frac{1}{2}$ the district addresses at first class rates (the Mass Mail Account could be funded at a level no greater than the Official Mail Account).

(b) Ban transfers of funds into the Official Mass Mail Account. The bill would prohibit transfers of funds into the Official Mass Mail Account. Funds could be transferred out of the Official Mass Mail Account into the Official Mail Account.

SECTION 4—EFFECTIVE DATE

The bill would take effect the first session of Congress after the date of enactment.

TRIBUTE TO COBB COUNTY, GA

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 1997

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, as we in Congress continue to search for ways to bring the Federal budget into balance and repay the mountain of debt that resulted from years of reckless Washington spending, I am pleased to have the opportunity to commend my home county for establishing a record of sound fiscal policy that is the envy of local governments all across America.

Cobb County, GA, has been awarded a coveted triple-triple A bond rating. To put this amendment in perspective, only 10 counties out of 3,033 in the entire Nation have managed their finances successfully enough to earn this coveted bond rating.

Cobb owes its success to several factors. Chief among them are local officials who are willing to make the hard choices necessary to balance spending with revenues, and residents who continue to work hard and pay taxes. By cutting government costs and financing projects with capital rather than going into debt, the Cobb County Commission has helped to win Cobb a place among the Nation's elite with regard to fiscal soundness.

Cobb County is a great place to live and work because its government and its citizens realize that a smaller and more efficient government is better and that under no circumstances do you spend money you can't repay. The Federal Government would be well advised to learn from this example.

LEGISLATION REGARDING
DONATING FOOD TO THE NEEDY

HON. TONY P. HALL

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 1997

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my colleague from California, Mr. CAMPBELL, in introducing legislation to amend the Internal Revenue Code to remove a significant barrier that discourages businesses and farmers from donating wholesome food to the needy.

Providing food to the poor can be a costly undertaking, especially with regard to perishable food. The food must be collected, packaged, transported, and distributed. However, businesses do not receive the same tax deduction for charitable donations of food as for other inventory. Food that is not sold through normal distribution channels is considered by the IRS to have no market value; and therefore, the deduction is limited only to cost of the raw materials. This means that it makes more economic sense for businesses to discard the food than to donate it. The bill that we are introducing today will encourage donations by treating food as other inventory for tax purposes.

Our bill is supported by industry and charitable organizations that deal with food including Second Harvest, the National Council of Chain Restaurants; the National Farmers Union; and Food Chain.

Incentives for food donations is one of the topics that will be discussed at the National Summit on Food Recovery and Gleaning which is sponsored by the Department of Agriculture and several groups including the Congressional Hunger Center. The opening session will be held 10 a.m. to 12 noon on Monday, September 15 at Mellon Auditorium (Constitution Avenue between 12th and 14th Streets, NW).

The text of the bill follows:

H.R.—

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled.

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Good Samaritan Tax Act".

SEC. 2. CHARITABLE DEDUCTION FOR CONTRIBUTIONS OF FOOD INVENTORY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (e) of section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to certain contributions of ordinary income and capital gain property) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(7) SPECIAL RULE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS OF FOOD INVENTORY.—

"(A) CONTRIBUTIONS BY NON-CORPORATE TAXPAYERS.—In the case of a charitable contribution of food, paragraph (3) shall be applied without regard to whether or not the contribution is made by a corporation.

"(B) DETERMINATION OF FAIR MARKET VALUE.—For purposes of this section, in the case of a charitable contribution of food

which is a qualified contribution (within the meaning of paragraph (3)) and which, solely by reason of internal standards of the taxpayer, lack of market, or similar circumstances, cannot or will not be sold, the fair market value of such contribution shall be determined—

"(i) without regard to such internal standards, such lack of market, or such circumstances, and

"(ii) if applicable, by taking into account the price at which the same or similar food items are sold by the taxpayer at the time of the contribution (or, if not so sold at such time, in the recent past)."

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to taxable years beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

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

SPEECH OF

HON. LOUIS B. STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 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. STOKES. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 2159, which provides foreign operations appropriations for fiscal year 1998. This \$12.3 billion bill has aspects which give cause for reservation, but overall, addresses critical funding for areas that are consequential for the global interests of the United States.

There is no doubt that with the end of the cold war America now reigns supreme as the world's only superpower. Over the past several years, our foreign policy has undergone a massive undertaking to adjust to a post-cold-war world which has allowed us to maintain a better balance of our domestic and foreign interests.

The world faces the proliferation of dangers that have the possibility to grow unchecked without our leadership. These dangers include terrorism and extremism, acquisition of weapons by hostile regimes, poverty and disease, economic instability, narcotics trafficking, and global environmental hazards. American national security eventually becomes an issue as these problems spread across the globe.

President Clinton's foreign operations request reasonably addressed the overseas interests of the United States by maintaining our obligations to our friends and the world's neediest people. H.R. 2159 still falls \$4.6 billion short of President Clinton's request, but is still an improvement over recent years in which devastating cuts were proposed by the Republican majority. The overall funding level of H.R. 2159 is near that of fiscal year 1997.

This bill provides \$7.4 billion for bilateral economic assistance, \$3.3 billion for military assistance, \$1.1 billion for multilateral economic assistance, and \$451 million for export assistance.

Foreign aid is no giveaway. This is demonstrated by the dollars that work as an effective means of developing and expanding U.S.

export markets. In fact, the recipients of U.S. foreign aid constitute the fastest growing market for U.S. exports. Over the past decade, our exports to developing countries have more than doubled from \$71 to \$180 billion. This valuable trade results in thousands of much needed jobs for American workers.

Mr. Speaker, a particular element of this bill that I strongly support is the total of \$3.1 billion in aid to Israel. This funding level consists of \$1.8 billion for foreign military financing [FMF] grants, and \$1.2 billion in economic support fund [ESF] assistance. H.R. 2159 also expresses the sense of Congress that Arab League countries should immediately renounce their resumption of the boycott against Israel and its trading partners, and calls on the President to consider a country's participation in the boycott when determining whether to sell United States weapons to the country.

I am also encouraged by the House adoption of an amendment which doubles the level of the African Development Fund [AfDF], to fully fund the President's request of \$50 million. This fund addresses poverty reduction in sub-Saharan African through loans to borrowing countries. Areas of focus include agriculture, health care, education, micro-enterprise, and basic infrastructure. This funding plays an important role to a region in need at relatively small cost.

Contrary to critics of international assistance, foreign aid constitutes less than 1 percent of the U.S. budget. This small investment is leveraged further by a public-private partnership involving several hundred U.S.-based charitable organizations.

Greatly troubling to me about H.R. 2159, however, is the inclusion of highly restrictive provisions to international family planning assistance to developing countries. These restrictions, which unreasonably strike at reproductive rights as they pertain to current law, will draw a veto if they are contained in this bill upon arrival to the President. The Senate has not included such abortion restrictions, and it is my hope that the House restrictions will be removed in conference.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, because of dramatic changes in world politics, the U.S. is faced with a tremendous opportunity to direct funds to relieve problems here at home and help improve the lives of our friends overseas. H.R. 2159 is a reasonable step toward the latter, and it is my hope such steps will further expand for the global good.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CASS BALLINGER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 1997

Mr. BALLINGER. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on rollcall vote No. 367 on September 5, 1997. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of Mr. McINTOSH's amendment to transfer funds from the wage and hour enforcement provisions under H.R. 2264 to programs under the Individuals With Disabilities in Education Act.

On the same day, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 368. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of Mr. TRAFICANT's motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 1119, to insist upon the provisions of section 1032 of the

House bill relating to the assignment of Department of Defense personnel to Border Patrol and control.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN E. MOON ON THE OCCASION OF HIS INSTALLATION AS THE NATIONAL COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 1997

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen of Ohio. On August 21, 1997, John E. Moon was installed as the national Commander in Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

A resident of Grover Hill, OH, John Moon entered the U.S. Marine Corps in 1967. He served with the 2d Battalion, 3d Marine Division in South Vietnam. His military honors include the Vietnam Service Medal with three bronze stars, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, Vietnam Civil Action Campaign Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, and the National Defense Service Medal.

John Moon joined the Sherwood, Ohio Post of Veterans of Foreign Wars in 1970. He joined the Grover Hill VFW in 1975. He has served in numerous positions in the VFW, including terms as post commander, district commander, and State commander.

John Moon is only the second Ohioan selected to serve as the national Commander in Chief of the VFW. His selection is most certainly humbling to him since the membership roster of the VFW reads as an honor roll of those who answered their country's most dire call and successfully defended freedom.

Mr. Speaker, John Moon is a former marine whose life of service is an inspiration to every American who believes our Nation's future is built on the sacrifices of today. I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to John Moon and to wish him well as he continues his dedicated service to country as national Commander in Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

CELEBRATING THE LEGACY OF ANNE FRANK

HON. WALTER H. CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 1997

Mr. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, on October 14, I will be privileged to join with hundreds of my friends and constituents in Santa Barbara, CA, for a truly momentous event—the grand opening of the "Anne Frank in the World" exhibit.

The Anne Frank exhibit, which will be open to the public from October 15 to November 16, is a traveling lesson about the life of this heroic young victim of the Holocaust which specifically explores the topics of racism, discrimination, and intolerance. "Anne Frank in the World" will be housed at the Karpeles Manuscript Museum and is being sponsored by the Santa Barbara Jewish Federation and many

leading corporations, civic organizations, and individuals.

Mr. Speaker, anyone who has read the "Diary of Anne Frank" knows that this profoundly moving book has been enormously influential for a number of reasons. First, the book can be enjoyed as an outstanding work of literature whose prose is even more impressive when you consider the youth of the author. Second, the diary has been a valuable tool in teaching about the Holocaust, especially to young readers. Finally, the book contains many lessons for those who seek to eradicate the stains of prejudice and intolerance in our own society.

As a teacher, I am very pleased that "Anne Frank in the World" will be viewed by thousands of schoolchildren from in and around my district. By looking at photographs of the Franks—a normal family much like any other—students will identify with Anne and easily absorb the lessons offered to us by her life and death. In addition, during the life of the exhibit, numerous related events will be held around Santa Barbara. These include theatrical, artistic, educational, and religious presentations intended to highlight the themes of diversity and tolerance.

Mr. Speaker, over half a century has passed the end of World War II and the closing of the most horrible chapter in the history of man's inhumanity to man. To sustain the memory of those who died and honor the sacrifice of those who survived, it is incumbent on us to teach the lessons of the Holocaust to our children and future generations. We must all rededicate ourselves to the elimination of bigotry and discrimination from the communities in which we live. I am proud that my community of Santa Barbara will soon play an instrumental role in this mission, and I congratulate all of those whose hard work and dedication helped make "Anne Frank in the World" a reality.

EXPRESSING THE CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE ON THE DEATH OF DIANA, PRINCESS OF WALES

SPEECH OF

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 1997

Mrs. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, it is so difficult to make sense of the tragic death of Princess Diana. At the young age of 36, Diana had already become one of the greatest humanitarians of our time. She crusaded against antipersonnel land mines with high-profile visits to Bosnia and Angola and worked to address many of the issues surrounding AIDS through organizations and charities for children. Although she made a beautiful princess, her true beauty shone through in her kind and generous actions on behalf of those less fortunate than herself.

Diana was deeply moved by the senseless deaths due to antipersonnel land mines in Bosnia. With as many as 70 people a month becoming injured by land mines left over from the 3½-year war that split the country, she was determined to get rid of these lethal underground bombs. Efforts to remove the explosives were dragging, but Diana worked hard to speed up this process right up to the time of her death.