

of U.S. foreign and domestic policy interests that do not rise to the level of a direct threat to our national security (e.g. regional peacemaking and stability, environmental protection, there have been security interest in the past, on occasion). Under the bill, in addition, a presidential waiver would not take effect for forty-five days, absent emergency conditions. Affording the President such limited discretion in the area of foreign affairs is contrary to the national interest and is constitutionally suspect.

Fourth, the bill would create a new and unnecessary bureaucracy which would duplicate, and possibly undercut, the functions of the Secretary of State by the creation of an "Office of Religious Persecution Monitoring" within the Executive Office of the President. Creating the position of Director of this office, who would be subject to Senate confirmation, would duplicate existing State Department functions including, promoting religious freedom. The Secretary of State is best situated to report and advise the President on religious persecution abroad. The State Department's reporting channels and annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices represent the most accurate, cost-effective and appropriate method for the U.S. Government to obtain and report information on religious persecution. Determinations that affect fundamental aspects of our foreign policy, including those regarding sanctions, should be made by the President with the assistance of the Secretary of State and other relevant Department heads, not by the Director of a new specialized office on religious freedom which has no other foreign affairs expertise or responsibility.

Fifth, the proposed administrative structure in the bill in reality would marginalize religious freedom rather than "mainstreaming" religious freedom and other human right issues in our foreign policy. The Secretary of State's Advisory Committee on Religious Freedom Abroad represents a significant example of mainstreaming. The Advisory Committee reports to the Secretary of State, and through her to the President and other parts of our government. Enhancing existing structures would represent the most effective way to ensure the prominence of religious freedom in our foreign policy. We would be pleased to work with the Congress to accomplish that.

Sixth, the bill would impose several new obligations that would have significant financial implications, without providing any indication of how these mandates would be carried out without new resources. These requirements affect not only the State Department, but also Commerce and the INS. Speaking for my own bureau, I can tell you that additional unfunded mandates require diversions of resources from what we are doing in other areas to promote human rights.

Seventh, the bill would pose the risk of challenge as being inconsistent without international legal obligations, including through the WTO agreement and under other trade laws. The bill poses a similar risk with respect to international obligating contained in the Articles of Agreement of most international financial institutions in which the U.S. participates.

Eighth, while we welcome and share the sponsors' concerns about fairness in asylum adjudications, the bill's proposed changes to asylum procedures would create troubling disparities and threaten to unravel many recent improvements. For example, for persons making asylum claims based on religious persecution in the context of expedited procedures at ports of entry, the bill would create effective presumptions that ease evidentiary burdens and that are not available to others fleeing persecution. Let me be

clear: we support procedural protections for all applicants at ports of entry. In fact, before passage of last year's immigration bill, we urged that expedited procedures apply only in exceptional, emergency-like circumstances, but Congress determined that such procedures should be applied more broadly. While we are prepared to readdress this issue, we hope that Members can appreciate our desire to do so with respect to all classes of applicants. Furthermore, we are deeply concerned that changes the bill would make to regular, affirmative asylum procedures (claims made by those already in the country) would recreate unnecessary burdens and inefficiencies that made asylum vulnerable to abuse in the past. We fear that such changes would hurt all legitimate asylum seekers, including those making claims based on religious persecution.

Ninth, the bill contains numerous sanctions specific to Sudan. The United States, of course, already has in place sanctions against the Sudanese government as a result of its support for international terrorism. The Administration nevertheless remains willing to consider a reasonable and workable expansion of our Sudan sanctions to reflect the lack of Sudanese government actions on issues of concern: state sponsorship of terrorism; support for aggressive actions against its neighbors; failure to come to terms with the opposition in the longstanding civil war; and an abysmal human rights record, including violations of religious freedom. We value the opportunity to continue discussions on this subject with Members in connection with the State Department authorization bill. For that reason, continued inclusion of Sudan sanctions in this bill would seem both unnecessary and counterproductive.

Having highlighted our concerns with some of the provisions of this bill, let me conclude by repeating that we welcome the opportunity to work with this committee and the rest of the Congress to fashion appropriate legislation that will underscore and strengthen the commitment of the United States to promote religious freedom. The President and the Secretary of State have made it crystal clear that this issue is now a foreign policy priority. In the endless battle for freedom, we do not claim that we have all the answers. Nor can we assert that the United States alone has the power to bring about an end to all religious persecution abroad. What we can and must proclaim, however, is that we are committed to making the effort, and to working in the most effective way to combat the persecution now victimizing so many people of faith around the world.

THE NATIONAL YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 1997

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, the National Youth Sports Program at Adams State College in Alamosa, CO, recently entered its 22d year of existence. This program has proven to be a valuable and meaningful outlet for those youths who would not otherwise have access to the activities and instruction the program offers.

The NYSP is a cost-effective partnership program between the NCAA and selected institutions of higher learning, such as Adams State and is designed to benefit the youth of America.

Adams State is one of two colleges in Colorado participating in the program which combines sports instruction with meaningful educational activities for girls and boys ages 10 to 16.

Enrollment in the program and physicals are free and open to all youngsters in the area whose parents or guardians meet the income guidelines provided by the Department of Health and Human Services.

Larry Zaragoza, the activity director for NYSP at Adams State, is stepping down after heading the program at Adams State College for the past 13 years and being involved in the program for all of its 22 years that is have been held at Adams State. He will certainly be missed.

MOTHER MEETS RECIPIENT OF SON'S HEART

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 1997

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, a heart transplant is but one of today's medical miracles, but miraculous it is when 71-year-old Bill Ellis is alive and well today with the transplanted heart of then 10-year-old Travis Robinson of Salt Lake City, Utah.

This remarkable story is well told in an article published April 24, 1996 in the Salt Lake City Tribune.

I take this opportunity to share this great story with my colleagues:

[From the Salt Lake Tribune, Apr. 24, 1996]

MOM IS HAPPY SON'S LITTLE HEART WENT TO SUCH A BIG-HEARTED MAN—MOTHER MEETS RECIPIENT OF SON'S HEART

(By Norma Wagner)

After losing her 10-year-old son Travis to a traffic accident in September, Tracy Robison was not sure she ever would want to meet the patient who received the fifth-grader's heart.

"I had mixed emotions about it," said Robison, an emergency-room nurse in Provo who was working when her son was brought into the hospital.

But through a series of unusual circumstances, 71-year-old Bill Ellis, CEO of a national snack company in Chicago, found out it was Travis' donated heart that saved his life.

Ellis had an old friend in Utah, Gordon "Boots" Barnett, whom he had not seen in 18 years. The two recently got in touch again, and when Ellis—who suffered from terminal heart disease—told Barnett his new heart had come from a young boy in Orem, Barnett knew it had to be Travis.

After all, Barnett's granddaughter was one of Tracy Robison's best friends.

After contacting the Robisons, Ellis flew to Salt Lake City last month and met his donor family.

"Talking with and seeing Bill, it's just been incredible for me," Robison, 33, said. "It just makes me so happy that Travis' heart is still beating. And Bill is a very generous person. In return for someone saving his life, he's turning around and doing good things for other people."

As for Ellis, who has become a major supporter of shelters for abused women and children in Alabama and Los Angeles, he has not only found new meaning in life, but "another family in Salt Lake City."

"I have a picture of Travis and his mother and two brothers right here in my office,"

Ellis said Tuesday from the Chicago headquarters of Farley Foods. "I met the family, and when you stand there and realize that her son's heart is in your body, well, I just, I get kind of choked up talking about it. I could tell it was the same for her when she looked at me."

Ellis and the Robisons decided to share their story to help increase awareness during National Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Week, which began Sunday and runs through Saturday.

Across the United States, transplant centers are suffering a critical shortage of organs and tissue and have launched the first nation-wide campaign to increase the number of donors. The Coalition on Donation has enlisted Michael Jordan of the Chicago Bulls as its national spokesman. Jordan will be featured in 30-second radio and television commercials, on billboards, transit advertising and through direct mailings throughout the country.

The coalition is a national, non-profit alliance that represents nearly 100 organizations involved in organ and tissue procurement and transplantation. The thrust of its campaign is to motivate more Americans to discuss with family members their decision to become donors. The coalition estimates that permission required from next-of-kin is denied in 50% to 85% of the cases where there is high potential for donation. Discussions prior to death can eliminate confusion and uncertainty about the desire to be a donor and help make it easier for family members to carry out a donor's wishes, said coalition president Howard Nathan.

More than 45,000 critically ill Americans are on waiting lists for organ transplants, with a new name added every 18 minutes. Last year, more than 19,000 transplants were performed in the United States. But 3,000 people died while waiting for a suitable donor.

In Utah, 190 people are awaiting vital organ transplants. And many more are in need of tissue such as bone, skin and corneas. During 1995, 207 patients received organ transplants from 57 Utah donors.

Utah Gov. Mike Leavitt is joining the effort by holding a press conference at 10:15 a.m. today at University Hospital in the second-floor conference room. And at noon, Intermountain Organ Recovery System will hold a tree planting ceremony in Canyon Rim Park, 3100 S. 2900 East, in a tribute to donor families and transplant recipients.

The decision to donate was an obvious choice for Tracy and Conan Robison.

As a nurse at Utah Valley Regional Medical Center, Tracy Robison witnessed miraculous changes in patients' lives after their diseased organs were replaced by healthy ones.

She was working at the hospital on the evening of Sept. 12 when her mother called and said Travis had been hit by a car a half-block from home. "She said he was unconscious and his legs were twisted. I didn't totally panic at that point because unconscious to me is possibly not as critical," Robison said. "We see it here all the time."

But then the E.R. got a call from the ambulance en route. "They said they were coming in Code 3, which is the worst you could come in with," she said. Travis' pupil's were fixed and he was breathing erratically. "The worst insult was to his brain."

Tests two days later confirmed Robison's worst fear: Travis was brain dead. Within a few hours, transplant technicians were removing his organs.

In addition to his heart going to Ellis, Travis' liver went to a father of five in Springville and both kidneys went to two different women in Salt Lake. And his eyes restored the sight of two others.

"I really think that somebody else should have the opportunity to improve their life

with something that somebody else doesn't need," Robison said. "It's not going to do any good for Travis to keep it. And for me, it has brought an incredible amount of peace and happiness that others have been benefited."

When looking at Ellis, she added in a choked voice, "I can see Travis in so many ways. I can't think of a better person that his little heart could have gone to. Travis had a big heart and Bill does, too."

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST ZIONIST CONGRESS

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 1997

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure I rise before you today to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the first Zionist Congress. The first meeting of the Zionist Congress occurred on August 29, 1897 with 204 participants from 17 countries. Now, 100 years later, the anniversary of this important date will be celebrated by Jewish communities across the world.

In 1897, the first Zionist Congress was called in Basle, Switzerland with the purpose of establishing the State of Israel as a homeland for the Jewish people under public law. Theodor Herzl emerged as the father of modern Zionism and founder of the World Zionist Organization. He believed a mass exodus to the Jewish homeland was the only response to the anti-Semitism the Jews were faced with in Europe. He wrote in his Zionist novel, "If you will it, it is no legend," a sentiment that became the mantra of the Zionist movement.

Though Herzl never lived to see the establishment of the State of Israel, his legacy lived on through the movement. The Zionists remained committed to their goal throughout several years of turmoil. Despite religious persecution by the Nazi regime in Europe, and an intense struggle with militant Arab opposition, the Jewish initiative prevailed. The Zionists' goal was finally realized on May 14, 1948 with the U.N. resolution of November 1947, which established the State of Israel. This resolution allowed the Jewish people to live in their historic homeland, free from the religious persecution they were facing in Europe.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, please join with me in commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Zionist Congress, an organization which has shown perseverance through adversity and a dedication to the principles of the Judaism.

WORKLINK

HON. JAMES M. TALENT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 1997

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the city of St. Peters for the successful implementation of WorkLink, the first telecommuting center in the State of Missouri and the entire Midwest. Opening in July 1996, WorkLink was designed as a community-based telecommunications center equipped to provide individuals, businesses, and organiza-

tions with a wide array of advanced telecommunications and related services. WorkLink promotes telecommuting as an efficient way of doing business and helping employees better balance their time between work and family.

WorkLink offers an alternative to many companies and employees to maintain and encourage performance and productivity; assists companies in cutting expenses by consolidating office and parking space; improves employee moral by accommodating work and family needs; and helps the community by reducing traffic congestion and improving air quality.

Currently, two-thirds of the available space at WorkLink is equipped with offices and workstations with the advanced technology and inter-connectivity to handle most advanced office telecommunication functions. The facility houses many business types, including engineering, financial, computer consulting, computer programming, sales/marketing, healthcare, publishing, distance learning, and charitable professionals.

By stepping out onto the cutting edge of telecommuting, the city of St. Peters is offering those in their community a tremendous opportunity. I am sure WorkLink will serve as a model for other communities, and I commend Mayor Tom Brown and Helen Robert, WorkLink manager, for their vision and hard work.

RECORD STATEMENT IN HONOR OF ZAIGA ANTONETTI

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 1997

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and appreciation that I rise today to express my appreciation to Zaiga Antonetti, for her tireless efforts for small businesses in the State of Connecticut.

Ms. Antonetti has served on numerous statewide and regional committees and commissions involving small business issues, and worked hard to assure that the needs of Connecticut's small businesses are met. She serves on the board of directors of the Connecticut Community Accounting Aid and Services, Inc., and the Hartford Business Advisors. She was twice honored by the U.S. Small Business Administration for her work with small business owners as Small Business Advocate of the Year and Women in Business Advocate of the Year.

Zaiga deserves the many accolades she will receive as she is honored for her accomplishments and dedication. For her tremendous contributions to small businesses in Connecticut, I salute and thank her.

THE FREEDOM FROM RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION ACT OF 1997

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 1997

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, the Committee on International Relations met last week to