

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 1997

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 397, S. 562, I was in the Chamber and voted "yes," but apparently my vote was not recorded by the electronic voting system.

Had the voting system worked, I would have been recorded as voting "Yes."

IN PRAISE OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 1997

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in praise of two outstanding young people who have been interning in my office for 2½ weeks, Christiana Hodge of Eastern High School and Calvin Wingfield of Bancker High School.

Thanks to the internship program for District of Columbia high school students organized by my colleague, Representative ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON, I have had the pleasure to work with these two bright and dedicated students whose contribution to my office has been invaluable.

Mr. Speaker, I have been so impressed by Christiana and Calvin's willingness to spend 3 weeks interning on Capitol Hill—and working hard—while waiting for the school year and new challenges to begin. It is my hope that this experience has been as rewarding for them as it has for me.

I know Christiana and Calvin will go far in life, because of their outstanding qualities. I thank them for their help over these past weeks, and I thank ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON for bringing me in contact with them.

IN SUPPORT OF REPEAL OF SECTION 1555 OF FASA

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 1997

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, in 1994, the 103d Congress voted to turn the General Services Administration into a competitor with private employers for billions of procurement dollars generated by State and local governments. That something of this magnitude can be enacted into Federal law without so much as a hearing is a prime example of how disconnected Washington can become from the American people.

Let me briefly discuss what I understand to be the conceptual case for this program. In a nutshell, proponents seem to contend that non-Federal public entities will get more bang for their procurement buck by purchasing items off the Federal supply schedules, making State and local taxpayers the ultimate beneficiaries of the cooperative purchasing program.

Now I certainly support saving taxpayers' money, but where is the evidence in this instance? On the contrary, I am not convinced the cooperative purchasing program will provide anticipated savings to State and local governments and their taxpayers on a sustained basis.

Despite the moratorium, the cooperative purchasing program has already had a disruptive effect in the marketplace, and the potential for further disruption is far, far greater. In what I am sure is reflective of the experiences of my colleagues, I have heard from small business persons in my district who fear for their futures if the cooperative purchasing program goes into effect.

The more I hear, the more I am convinced section 1555 of the Federal Acquisition Streamlining Act should be repealed. The sooner we get rid of this program, the better. If we fail to do so, it is highly unlikely that appropriate remedial action will be taken prior to implementation of the program, and countless small business persons and their employees—our constituents will see their worst fears about the future materialize.

This issue quite simply pits big government against small business, and it's pretty clear that small business won't make out very well in that competition. That's what my constituents are telling me. These small companies which compete each and every day with very little if any margins for error, are fearful not of competition, but rather of unfair competition. All they ask for, I would say to the members of this committee, is a level playing field. They have a right to that, and by repealing the cooperative purchasing program we can meet their rightful expectation.

JUVENILE CRIME PREVENTION: SOUND POLICIES VS. SOUND BITES

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 1997

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, the following statement from the Indianapolis, IN, deputy chief of police is offered for insertion into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Mr. Turner provides provocative thoughts and sensible responses to the challenges we face in "Juvenile Crime Prevention: Sound Policies Vs. Sound Bites."

JUVENILE CRIME: SOUND POLICIES VS. SOUND BITE ISSUES FORUM
(By Robert B. Turner)

Ladies and gentleman, members of Congress, and fellow panelists; I am truly honored to be here today, the opportunity to address you and the opportunity to participate in this forum is an opportunity of a lifetime for me. I have been a member of The Indianapolis Police Department for approximately twenty-five years and I have been a licensed attorney for more than twelve years. During these often conflicting and competitive professions, I have always held a sincere and religious commitment to my fellow man; but, I especially love children. I believe that children are the most sincere and genuine people on earth. When I think of children I often think of the biblical passage in the Book of Luke, chapter 8,5. "A sower went out to sow his seed: and as he sowed, some fell by the way side; and it was trodden down, and the fowls of the air devoured it. Some fell upon rock, and as soon as it was sprung up, it

withered away, because it lacked moisture . . . And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprang up with it, and choked it . . . And some fell on good ground, and sprang up, and bore fruit a hundredfold." The topic of this forum is Juvenile Crime: Sound Policies vs. Sound Bite Issues. The real question that we are asking ourselves today is in fact "Where Are We as a Society, as a Community, Sowing Our Seeds?"

In the city of Indianapolis we recently arrested a young African-American male for murdering another young African-American male for the purpose of taking his tennis shoes. In very similar incidents involving knives, guns, and other deadly weapons, young people have committed homicides and aggravated assaults while stealing items such as "Starter Jackets," "Cheap gold chains," "designer wheels on cars," and other ego based articles.

A young woman recently gave birth to an infant and abandoned her newborn child inside of a latrine in an Indiana State Park. The young lady left her living child in the latrine; fortunately the child's life was saved by a stranger who happened by.

Another young mother assaulted and killed her infant child because the child would not stop crying. In all major cities throughout the nation, young people are being abandoned by their parents, communities, schools, and governments and are in fact being raised, educated, and motivated by television, computer networks, nintendo games, violent movies, local gangs, drug organizations, and experienced criminals. These young people being products of their nonconventional environments, are using drugs, selling drugs, resorting to criminal behavior, resorting to violence; and they are being arrested, imprisoned and warehoused at very young ages, and for extended periods of time. So where in fact are we sowing our seeds if more and more of our children are using drugs, using deadly weapons, being murdered, or being arrested?

There is a popular soft drink in America called the "Uncola". It is transparent/clear and you can see right through it. It would be totally invisible if it did not contain the carbonation which creates and bubbles. I often refer to the lost children of our nation, "our lost seeds" as the "the unchildren," "the uns" for short.

They are un-cared for, un-supervised, un-supported, un-educated, un-employed, unhealthy, un-popular, un-cooperative, un-conventional, un-grateful, un-sympathetic, and generally un-wanted. They are invisible in our society, and but for their rebelliousness, "their carbonation," we would see right through them.

I currently serve as the Deputy Chief of Police in the city of Indianapolis and I supervise the Criminal Investigations Division which includes units such as the Homicide Branch, the Robbery Branch, Metro-Gang Task Force, Narcotics-Metro Drug, Sex Crimes Unit, Domestic Violence Unit, White Collar Crime Unit, the Vice Unit and the Juvenile Branch. When these young people are brought into the criminal justice system after being arrested and incarcerated by our officers, I often ask myself "What can I do with this child?" The standard, customary, typical, and conventional responses are incarceration, home detention, probation, rehabilitation, and recirculation. More often than not, it is simply too late; "Our seeds have fallen by the way side, they have been trodden down, the fowls of the earth have devoured them, they have withered away because they lacked moisture, the thorns of the earth have choked them."

We as a society, we as a community, have foreclosed our options because we have been careless, we have failed to do as the Bible

suggests, we have failed to sow our seeds on good ground. I admire both the courage and the lasting wisdom of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. I often think of and refer to the words of Dr. King, in his famous "Letter from Birmingham Jail," because he spoke of a people "smothering in an airtight cage of poverty in the midst of an affluent society; of ominous clouds of inferiority beginning to form in the little mental sky of children; of observing the children as they begin to distort their personalities by developing an unconscious bitterness toward people who are different; and, of those children forever fighting a degenerating sense of nobodiness." Think about that word, "Nobodiness." Does the term "Nobodiness" apply to the young African-American male that killed another young man for a pair of tennis shoes? Does the term "Nobodiness" apply to the young woman who delivered a living fetus alone in a secluded place and immediately abandoned it, leaving her living child alone and unloved, to die in a filthy latrine? Does the term "Nobodiness" apply to young people all over this nation who take up arms against their neighbors, former friends and school mates in the name of gang honor, colors and territories? Does the term "Nobodiness" apply when educational institutions, govern-

mental agencies, prospective employers, and medical service providers treat certain people with disrespect because of their nationality, poverty, color, or ethnicity; or when individual law enforcement officers acting under color of law, use inhumane methods, weapons, or tools such as toilet plungers to "Break a person down?" To break a person down to "Nobodiness."

As an attorney and a law enforcement officer, I believe that our society must develop both a desire and a plan that allows us to sow our seeds upon good ground long before our seeds are trodden down; long before our children develop this degenerating sense of nobodiness; long before we invest in the standardize methods of incarceration, probation, or rehabilitation. Our plan, and our duty as leaders and parents is to plant the seeds of "Somebodiness" in our children. The seeds of "justice," "equality," "education," "self-esteem," "love," and "opportunity," in "all" of our children, not simply as individual parents of our specific children, but as true sowers of all of God's seeds; it truly takes a village to raise a child.

We must raise our children on a solid foundation of love, self-respect, parental commitment, education, opportunity, family, community, character, and religion. We must

plant our seeds and our future on good ground. We must serve as examples for our children, and we must nurture, support and protect our children. We must invest our hearts and our future in them long before the thorns of the earth choke them out.

Long before the drugs, guns, and gangs act to devour our children's futures. When we act to care for our children as God directed us to do, only then will they "spring up and bare fruit a hundred fold"; only then may we say that we are truly sowers of God's seeds; only then may we say that we have terminated the evils that drugs, guns, gangs, and crime have visited upon our children, families, and communities. I can proudly tell you that the children, the sick, the elderly, the poor, the weak and the oppressed in the city of Indianapolis and in the Tenth Congressional District, truly have friend, a supporter, a good sower of seeds, and an excellent Congressional Representative in the Honorable Julia Carson, and based upon the history of the Congressional Black Caucus, I know that all of the people in this great nation have support, friendship, understanding, love and very good ground in all of you. Thank you so much for this opportunity to address you.