

many people. I am proud to recognize his contributions and work.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR,
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 1997

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2264) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes:

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Chairman, I rise to join my colleagues, Mr. BURTON of Indiana and Ms. DeGETTE, in celebrating the democracy that makes this Nation so unique. I join my colleagues in their efforts to strengthen the invaluable education that is provided by the We the People Program.

It is so critical that we raise our children to understand the pillars upon which this Nation was founded and still stands today. Our children need to know the history and principles of the Constitution and Bill of Rights. They need to understand how the American political traditions and institutions at the Federal, State, and local levels were created and function both in the past and present. Our children need to learn about the crucial steps our forefathers and mothers took to make this great democracy. And with this knowledge, our children will feel compelled to act with the civic responsibility it takes to make this an even stronger, greater Nation.

Through simulated congressional hearings and a national competition of such hearings for secondary school students, this Nation's children learn how this country ever became such an envied democracy by so many other countries. We must ensure that every school is provided with the opportunity to educate students on the history of our political system and the need for active civic participation. I encourage my colleagues to join me in celebrating and enriching the democracy that defines America by voting for the Burton-DeGette amendment.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR,
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 1997

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2264) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education,

and related agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes:

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the amendment offered by the chairman of the Education and the Workforce Committee, BILL GOODLING, which will prevent the Department of Education from spending funds on its national testing proposal.

I can think of no other administration in recent years that has demonstrated a stronger commitment to and advocacy for public education in this country than the Clinton administration. The leadership of President Clinton and Secretary of Education Richard Riley has yielded positive results in the expansion and improvement of Federal education programs.

This is why I come to the House with some reluctance today to respectfully disagree with an initiative proposed by our administration to establish national tests at the fourth and eighth grade levels in reading and math.

The debate on national testing is not new. It has been around for decades. Presidential administrations have come and gone, advocates and opponents of national testing have changed, but the issues and concerns remain the same. I have taken a strong stand against national testing in the past and will do so again today.

The implementation of national tests does little to improve the education system of our country, and indeed may actually harm the very children we seek to help. It is based on an idea that improvement of our education system is dependent upon knowing where the problems are and who is doing poorly. Well, if this is the case, then we are already there, because we already know which schools are doing poorly and we know which children are having difficulty.

Our teachers make this assessment on a daily basis, and school districts and States already have a myriad of tests to determine whether students are meeting high academic standards. We don't need the Federal Government to tell teachers, parents and school administrators who is achieving and who isn't.

We do need the Federal Government to help school districts to provide the resources to assure that children who have difficulties have the help they need. The Federal Government can assist in eliminating the financial inequities that continue to exist among school districts and in providing resources to improve teacher training, math and science education, to rebuild and renovate our crumbling education infrastructure, to expand early childhood education, and to assure that students have up-to-date text books, lab equipment, and computer technology.

We have long held that issues of curriculum and tests should be the responsibility of each school district and State. In implementing tests and the corresponding curriculum school districts can provide appropriate oversight, coordination and safeguards. I fear that the temptation to use a national test established by the Federal Government, without appropriate safeguards could be misused for high-stakes purposes beyond their criterion, to track children because of low test scores. In its inception the proposed national test for all children would not test limited English proficient children and other special needs students.

The diversity of our country requires that we have locally driven education systems which

are flexible enough to meet the needs of our diverse population.

The guidance the Federal Government has provided up to the present is adequate and fulfilling. As the States identify the needs of their local schools the Federal Government needs to respond fully and quickly.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
FRESNO BEE

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 1997

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Fresno Bee for receiving the first-place General Excellence award from the Newspaper Publishers Association. The Fresno Bee has been instrumental in providing news and information to the Central San Joaquin Valley.

The California Newspaper Publishers Association awarded the Fresno Bee with its highest honor on July 19, 1997. This General Excellence award was presented to newspapers with a circulation of 75,000 to 200,000 recipients. The Bee's coverage of a September Presidential visit and a series on troubled municipal bonds contributed to the winning of this highest honor.

The Fresno Bee was also awarded first place awards in several individual categories by the association. Specifically, writer Jim Wasserman's story on child organ transplants won first place for a feature story. Photographer Hector Amezcua's essay complimenting Wasserman's story also took top honors for photography. Finally, Severiano Galvan was recognized for his illustration and graphic art.

The Fresno Bee has a daily circulation of more than 150,000 and a Sunday circulation of 190,000. The Bee is the paper of record throughout the Fresno metropolitan area, which includes all of Fresno County as well as the communities of Visalia, Hanford, Madera, and Mariposa. As part of McClatchy Newspapers, the Fresno Bee has diverse information resources that both educate and inform the people of Fresno.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I pay tribute to the Fresno Bee. This publication exemplifies leadership in reporting news and information. I extend to the Bee my appreciation for a job well done.

HONORING LAWRENCE H. COOKE, A
MAN OF JUSTICE

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 1997

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask my colleagues from New York and around the country to join me in honoring the former chief judge of the State of New York, Lawrence H. Cooke. Judge Cooke is a man who has served his State, his nation, and his community with a passion and dedication to fairness and justice for all Americans.

Lawrence Cooke went from being a country lawyer in his beloved Sullivan County to the

very pinnacle of the legal profession by becoming the chief judge of the New York Court of Appeals. He is and remains one of those most respected jurists of this century. While he scaled the very loftiest of positions as a judge, he is also known for retaining his common touch, his ability to relate to and converse with ordinary people about their concerns. This is all too rare a gift.

Mr. Speaker, on September 21, 1997, Judge Cooke will be honored by the people of Sullivan County by the naming of the Lawrence H. Cooke Sullivan County Courthouse in Monticello. I hope that my colleagues will join me in celebrating and applauding the life and work of this distinguished jurist, Lawrence H. Cooke.

NATIONAL HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES WEEK

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 1997

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of September 21–27 as National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week. There are presently 104 historically black institutions of higher learning throughout the United States. These cornerstones of African-American education have played an integral role in the lives of African-Americans and in American history.

Historically black colleges and universities have set a precedent for providing quality instruction and valuable, lifelong experiences to students who are often underprivileged and under-represented. These students are taught to serve as successful, productive citizens and trained to compete in our global economy and work force. Though oftentimes faced with adversity, historically black colleges and institutions provide students with the opportunity to broaden their horizons and to reach their full potential.

So, Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating and celebrating a legacy and tradition of the excellence, determination, strength, and perseverance of historically black colleges and universities during September 21–27.

COMMEMORATING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. STEPHEN'S COMMUNITY CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, LANSING, MI

HON. DEBBIE STABENOW

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 1997

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the 10th anniversary of St. Stephen's Community Church.

Founded in the fall of 1987, St. Stephen's began as an interdenominational church whose doctrine focuses on spiritually rooted in African-American religious tradition, with an emphasis on community outreach and volunteerism. In 1990, they became affiliated with the United Church of Christ, a progressive denomination that embraces and celebrates multiracial, cultural, and ethnic background.

Guided by Rev. Dr. Michael C. Murphy, the congregation lives by the proverb, "Where There Is No Vision, the People Perish." This is evident in their passion to make a real difference in the community. From their spiritual and community leadership to their involvement in many local charitable projects, the St. Stephen's Community Church is an important local institution dedicated to the Lansing community.

We are proud to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the St. Stephen's Community Church and congratulate their 300 member congregation. We thank them for their activism and we thank them for their vision.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 1997

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize James W. Almand, A. Russell Bobo, John S. Chaperon, Rick DeGraff, Robert C. Fobes, Frederick W. Leonhardt, William Pinto, Jerome Schechter, William Crampton, and James D. Turk. It is my honor to pay tribute to these gentlemen on the occasion of their visit with me in our Nation's Capital today. It has been my privilege to know each of these individuals for the past three decades. We all had the good fortune of attending the University of Florida together and being part of Delta Chi Fraternity.

Though we have been separated by distance and circumstance over the past years, we have always been together both in memory, spirit, and fraternal bond.

As a Member of Congress, I am pleased today to welcome Jim, Russ, Bill, John, Rick, Bob, Fred, Jerry, Bill, and Don. These gentlemen, who I am pleased to call by friends, are each outstanding family men and most valuable contributors to their respective communities.

I welcome each of them to the U.S. Congress and the House of Representatives. It had been my great honor in life to know each of these gentlemen as my friend and fraternal brother.

BILL TO AMEND THE IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT RELATING TO TREATMENT OF CERTAIN RECREATIONAL BOATERS ENTERING FROM CANADA

HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 1997

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill that will simplify procedures for recreational boaters entering the United States from Canada. The purpose of the bill is to make it easier for boat owners and their guests to cross between Canada and the United States for recreation and tourism purposes. Specifically, my bill would authorize the Attorney General to permit United States citizens traveling as passengers in small pleasure craft to enter the United States from Canada without obtaining a landing permit and would eliminate the fee for those permits known as I-68.

The I-68 Program was established in 1963 to facilitate convenience for boaters coming from Canada to the United States. It allows United States citizens, lawful permanent residents of the United States, and Canadian nationals to enter by boat along the northern border of the United States without reporting to a designated port of entry, so long as they have obtained an I-68 permit. It applies only to those traveling in boats of less than 5 net tons. Under this program, Canadian nationals may enter the United States for a period of not more than 72 hours and must remain in areas adjacent to the immediate shore.

For 32 years, the I-68 permit was issued annually to eligible boaters without any fee. In 1995, however, the Immigration and Naturalization Service began requiring a fee of \$16 for individuals, or \$32 for a family. The INS advises me that, although the I-68 was issued gratis prior to 1995, they believe that a user fee statute that has been in effect since 1952 requires the imposition of a fee absent congressional direction to the contrary.

The INS regulations implementing the I-68 Permit Program impose a costly and unnecessary burden for many recreational boaters. The regulations require each guest of a boat owner, who is not a member of his or her family, to travel to an immigration office during business hours to complete the I-68 application and pay the required fee. This requirement is virtually impossible to implement.

As a consequence, United States businesses along the Great Lakes' borders, such as Youngstown, NY, have seen a great reduction in revenue due to the decline in tourism caused by this regulation. Prior to imposition of the fee in 1995, 10,002 I-68 permits were issued, compared to only 1,091 permits issued in 1996 after imposition of the fee. In other words, the permits in 1995 were about 1,000 percent, or 10 times greater than in 1996.

My bill would address these problems in two ways. First, it would permit the Attorney General to exempt U.S. citizen passengers from obtaining an I-68 permit or submitting to inspection at a port of entry. Boat owners and operators, who are likely to make repeated trips across the border, would still be required to obtain an I-68 permit at the beginning of the boating season. The permit holder would be responsible for ensuring that all passengers on his or her vessel are U.S. citizens or have a valid I-68 permit.

Second, my bill would permit the Attorney General to issue I-68 permits without imposing a fee, as they have been for the first 32 years of the program's existence. These fees act as a deterrent to boaters in obtaining the permit, particularly in light of the fact that Canada does not require such a fee for entry. Moreover, the amount of revenue generated by such fees is negligible—only \$33,816 in all of fiscal year 1996. In my judgment, after consultation with western New York border businesses, the amount of business lost in the U.S. border areas far transcends that meager amount.

This bill will allow the I-68 Program to achieve its intended purpose of affording pleasure boaters a convenient means of entering the United States while preserving the integrity of our borders. It is my hope that the Attorney General will implement these provisions by amending Immigration and Naturalization Service Regulations governing the I-68 Program.