

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE YWCA
WOMEN OF INFLUENCE

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 9, 1997

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, October 18, the YWCA of Essex and West Hudson will honor the winners of their Annual Women of Influence Awards. I ask my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating these special women of achievement.

Among the honorees is Ms. Antoinette (Tony) O'Flaherty, a dear friend of mine and a person whom I greatly admire for her strong spirit, her generosity, and her tremendous contributions to our community. Ms. O'Flaherty, who holds a degree in economics from Mount Holyoke College, has been a tireless crusader in behalf of the poor and homeless of our community. After a distinguished career in the labor movement and county government where she held a number of positions including public information officer and coordinator for the Essex County Department of Citizen Services, Ms. O'Flaherty devoted her considerable talent and energy to community service. She served as chairperson of the Homeless Task Force established by the Newark Emergency Services for Families. Under her creative leadership, the task force brought together a group of homeless women from hotels and shelters to exchange information and ideas. It also provided a forum for exchanges among service providers, State, county and government representatives. Ms. O'Flaherty has championed the cause of those who are still struggling to succeed in our society, giving a voice to their concerns, hopes and aspirations for the future. Her many volunteer commitments include service on the New Jersey Child Care Advisory; the Newark Preschool Council, Inc.; chairperson of the Newark Emergency Services for Families Homeless Task Force; chair of the Essex County Advisory Board of the Salvation Army; board member of the Isaiah House; board member of the United Labor Agency; member of the League of Women Voters; and chair of the Essex Advisory Board of the Catholic Community Services.

One of her many accomplishments while working with the county was that Ms. O'Flaherty was able to create employment opportunities for qualified minorities who had previously encountered difficulties in breaking barriers. She understood that employment was the key to the economic success of the community. After I was elected to Congress, I was honored that she agreed to serve on my child care task force, sharing her vast knowledge and expertise for the betterment of the 10<G5th congressional district.

Ms. O'Flaherty remains a vibrant force in our community. Just yesterday, she was personally greeted by President Clinton when he arrived at the Metropolitan Baptist Church in Newark, where he discussed an issue close to her heart—child care.

The other Women of Influence honorees who have also distinguished themselves through outstanding professional achievements and dedicated community service are: Susan Jenkins, business, executive at Merck and a member of the YWCA Board; Bernice

Davis, education, past superintendent, Orange Board of Education; Cheryl Hudson, entrepreneur, proprietor/publisher, Just Us Books; Dr. M. Calhoun Thomas, medicine, pediatrician with 21 years of service to the Orange community; Dr. Byrte Johnson, religion, a life of dedication to the ministry of music and youth; Michele Williams, religion, youth Sunday school teacher, and minister of music; Angela Hayes, youth president of Senior Teens of Jack and Jill of America; Harriett Johnson, nursing, assistant executive director, Board of Nursing, Orange.

Mr. Speaker, our community is proud of these women of accomplishment, and I know my colleagues join me in extending congratulations and best wishes for continued success.

HONORING CHARO FOR 30 YEARS
OF OUTSTANDING AND INVALU-
ABLE SERVICE TO THE COMMU-
NITY

HON. ESTEBAN EDWARD TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 9, 1997

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize CHARO Community Development Corporation on the occasion of its 30 Anniversary. For 30 years, CHARO has provided exemplary service to the greater East Los Angeles community.

Incorporated as a non-profit in 1967, Richard Amador, then Chief of Field Operations, Office of the President and Federal Coordinator, President's Committee on Manpower, took a leave of office from the President Johnson administration to start CHARO. CHARO is an innovative and progressive community organization that seeks to develop self sustaining economic development initiatives that create jobs and wealth for the community.

Its first program was initiated to bridge Federal, State, and local government agencies with community based organizations. CHARO developed the Manpower Information and Technical Assistance Services Program (MITAS) to more effectively provide human resource development services to communities. Since its inception it has continued to expand and develop the services it offers to address the needs of the community.

In 1969, CHARO created HEART (Hospital Employment and Related Training Project). HEART was the first program to design and develop new job classifications and on the job training in non-certified positions in health services. This was the first program of its kind to link community residents with training in the health care profession.

In 1970, CHARO was the first non-government entity to develop an On the Job Training (OJT) Program in the private sector with support services called Instant Job. Previously OJT was only available through a trade union. This program expanded the opportunities for the community to learn a trade through apprenticeship.

In 1971, with the assistance from the Carnegie Foundation and the PEDR Corporation, CHARO developed the Institute for Leadership Development, a certificate Management Development Program. Through the certificate program, Hispanic business professional were empowered with the tools to succeed in business and become community leaders.

CHARO developed the first Vocational Training with English as a second language program to serve non-English and limited English proficient clients. VocESL was established in 1972, opening the doors for Latinos, stymied by a language barrier, to gainful employment.

CHARO Industries, established in 1972, addresses the lack of vocational opportunities for the developmentally disabled population. CHARO met this need by establishing the first bilingual/bicultural sheltered workshop for developmentally disabled adults. CHARO contracted assembly, packaging, and fulfillment services with private and public entities.

In 1973, CHARO created the first non-government employment and training center, CHARO Career Center. For over 20 years, the Center has facilitated in the placement of over 10,000 individuals. CHARO has been a leader in fixed price contract services, often placing long term unemployed and those formerly on welfare assistance or recently released from correctional facilities in to full time employment.

To serve families visiting relatives or friends in the hospital, CHARO established in 1976 an emergency drop-in child care center at the U.S.C.—Los Angeles County Medical Center. And in 1978, CHARO created the Child Development Center to address the child care needs of the Los Nietos-Whittier School District. Now serving over 150 pre-school children, the program operates as a child development center, providing educational enhancement exercises and food service program to local low income families. Seeing a rise in latch-key children, the Los Nietos-Whittier School District again called upon CHARO to meet the needs of working families. Using its own funds, in 1983, CHARO established two before and after school care facilities. Both programs provide homework assistance and tutoring programs for the after school youth program.

Addressing the need for affordable housing, in 1989, CHARO developed one of the first complexes in East Los Angeles, Morengo Apartments, comprised of 24 one, two, three, and four bedroom units for low and moderate income families. In 1991, AMCAL, a subsidiary of CHARO, developed Arroyo Villas, a 22 unit complex of one, two, and three bedroom units for very low, low, and moderate income families in Highland Park.

In 1990, the CHARO Industrial Park was established on 2.7 acres in East Los Angeles for economic development. Recognizing that CHARO could provide competitive quality services, employing local residents, CHARO became the first non-profit to contract with Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, providing environmental services and installation of energy and water saving devices in home located in the City of Los Angeles. In 1993, CHARO created the Mid City Property Management to provide design and remodeling services to CHARO subsidiaries and divisions, and property management.

Since 1993, CHARO has trained over 400 Angelenos through the Entrepreneur Training Center. Utilizing the Cornell University/Wharton School of business, CHARO established the first bilingual/bicultural entrepreneur training program, resulting in over 110 new jobs and over 102 new businesses. The Los Angeles Career Center was established in 1994 as one of the first One Stop Employment and

Training Center serving East Los Angeles. Over the last two years, the Center has assisted over 700 residents in re-employment, generating over \$18.5 million in new wages. This year, CHARO implemented the East Los Angeles Business Assistance Center. Close to 100 clients received services, totaling over 500 hours of technical assistance, with a number of businesses referred to lenders for banking and financial services.

Mr. Speaker, it is with pride that I rise to recognize the 30 years of dedicated community service and exemplary leadership CHARO has provided the residents on my congressional district and throughout the greater East Los Angeles area. I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Richard Amador and the men and women of CHARO Community Development Corporation on its 30th Anniversary.

AMERICAN LAND SOVEREIGNTY PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES C. GREENWOOD

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 1997

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 901) to preserve the sovereignty of the United States over public lands and acquired lands owned by the United States, and to preserve State sovereignty and private property rights in non-Federal lands surrounding these public lands and acquired lands:

Mr. GREENWOOD. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to express my support for H.R. 901, the American Land Sovereignty Act.

Unfortunately, on October 8, 1997, when the full House of Representatives voted on final passage of H.R. 901, I, in error, cast a "nay" vote on final passage. Mr. Speaker, I had intended to vote "yea" on final passage for H.R. 901.

I had assumed that when I cast my "nay" vote, that I was voting against a Miller of California amendment that would have weakened the bill. Mr. Speaker, only when I returned to my office did I realize that I made this error.

Mr. Chairman, I have always been a supporter of the American Land Sovereignty Act and voted in favor of similar legislation that the House acted on in the 104th Congress.

Furthermore, in the 105th Congress I voted in favor of several amendments, that were offered by my colleague, Congressman COBURN, to various appropriations bills, that would prohibit any funds appropriated in those bills from being used to support the U.S. Man and the Biosphere Program or the World Heritage Program.

Mr. Chairman, I regret that I made this error and wanted to take this opportunity to reiterate my support for this type of legislation.

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION REGULATORY MODERNIZATION ACT OF 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 1997

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I will support this bill today, because I believe this legislation will begin an important process in modernizing and improving the operations of the Food and Drug Administration. In addition, the bill will reauthorize and improve the highly successful Prescription Drug User Fees Act.

However, I am concerned that we should not take up a bill of this magnitude on the Suspension Calendar. While it is true that Chairman BILEY and Ranking Member DINGELL informed members of the Commerce Committee of their intentions, I do not believe this is an appropriate process.

First, not every member of this body is a member of the Commerce Committee. We should not restrict the rights of the members of the House to debate and offer amendments to this legislation. We cannot know if members planned to offer amendments, since the regular order was not followed and the Rules Committee did not meet on this bill.

Second, the Suspension of the Rules procedure is generally used to approve measures that are non-controversial or do not require large authorizations. This historical practice is reflected in Rule 28 of the House Republican Conference Rules that admonishes the Speaker not to schedule Suspension bills of over \$100 million in authorization, except if he seeks a waiver from the leadership. When Democrats had control of the House, they instituted a similar procedure. This legislation authorizes user fees in great excess of the \$100 million threshold and should be debated through regular order.

Third, this legislation creates a number of new responsibilities for the Food and Drug Administration. In addition, the FDA will need to divert a substantial amount of resources to implement the new policy changes contained in this legislation. This year the President requested \$68 million less than in FY 1997. Even though Congress appropriated substantially more, we must continue to ensure that the FDA has the resources to meet all its mandates, not just prescription drug reviews. I co-signed a letter with 85 other members of the House to request the President to expend more resources inspecting imported food. I have included a copy of the letter for the record and want to urge this body not to stretch the FDA so thin that it cannot perform its necessary public health functions.

Finally, I intended to speak in support of my amendment to the legislation authorizing a notification procedure at the FDA in relation to Food Contact Substances. Although the substance of my legislation was adopted by the Committee, a portion of my proposed authorizing user fees, a concept supported by the industry that would pay the user fees, was not accepted. I want to make it clear that although I acceded to the request of the majority to drop the user fees, it is my sincere hope and belief that the House should accede to the Senate position in conference and adopt the user fees.

In short Mr. Speaker, the issues surrounding this legislation are very complex. They do not lend themselves to suspending the rules of the House and expediting consideration, just because it is convenient. The Rules of the House protect the members in their rights to debate and thoughtfully consider legislation. I do not believe they should be suspended so lightly.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,

WASHINGTON, DC, SEPTEMBER 24, 1997.

Hon. WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: We urge you to give serious consideration to remedying the inadequate food safety provisions in the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). Because of your commitment to ensuring the safety of our nation's food supply, we expect that you will not agree to fast track authority that does not contain adequate food safety protections. Current fast track proposals do not address these concerns.

In an effort to increase trade with Mexico, NAFTA limited border inspections of food and allowed Mexican trucks to enter the U.S. with limited inspection.

These lax inspection practices contributed to a sharp increase in food imports from Mexico: imports of Mexican fruit have increased 45 percent, and vegetable imports have risen 31 percent. More than 70 percent of these imports are carried into the U.S. on trucks. The General Accounting Office (GAO) recently found that 99 percent of Mexican trucks enter the U.S. without any inspection.

These provisions in NAFTA have resulted in imports of fruits and vegetables contaminated with diseases and unhealthy pesticides. We were alarmed earlier this year when 179 Michigan school children contracted hepatitis after eating tainted Mexican strawberries. In order to prevent similar incidents in the future, we urge you to take the following action:

Renegotiate the provisions in NAFTA that relate to border inspections and food safety, and ensure that any fast track authority include strong food safety protections.

Increase the funding for border inspections or, alternatively, limit the increasing rate of food imports to ensure the safety of our food supply.

Begin an aggressive program to label all food stuffs—including fresh and frozen fruits, vegetables and meats—with their country of origin.

We look forward to working with you on these vital public health issues.

Sincerely,

Sherrod Brown (D-13-OH), Bart Stupak (D-1-MI), Neil Abercrombie (D-1-HI), Tom Allen (D-1-ME), John E. Baldacci (D-2-ME), Jim Barcia (D-5-MI), Rod Blagojevich (D-5-IL), David Bonior (D-10-MI), Sonny Bono (R-44-CA), Bob Borski (D-3-PA), George Brown Jr. (D-42-CA), Julia Carson (D-1-OR), Tom Coburn (R-2-OK), Jerry Costello (D-12-IL), John Conyers (D-14-MI), William J. Coyne (D-14-PA), Pat Danner (D-6-MO), Danny Davis (D-7-IL), Jim Davis (D-11-FL), Peter DeFazio (D-4-OR), Rosa Delauro (D-3-CT), William Delahunt (D-10-MA), Ronald Dellums (D-9-CA), Mike Doyle (D-18-PA).

Eliot Engel (D-17-NY), Lane Evans (D-17-IL), Vic Fazio (D-3-CA), Marc Foley (R-16-FL), Martin Frost (D-24-TX), Elizabeth Furse (D-1-OR), Sam Gejdenson (D-2-CT), Luis Gutierrez (D-4-IL), Maurice D. Hinchey (D-26-NY), Jay Johnson (D-8-WI), Paul E. Kanjorski (D-11-PA), Marcy Kaptur (D-9-OH), Joseph Kennedy (D-8-MA), Patrick Kennedy (D-1-RI), Dale Kildee (D-9-MI),