

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),

Ron Kind (D-3-WI), Ron Klink (D-4-PA); Dennis Kucinich (D-10-OH), Tom Lantos (D-12-CA), John Lewis (D-5-GA), William O. Lipinski (D-3-IL), James H. Maloney (D-5-CT), Thomas Manton (D-7-NY), Matthew Martinez (D-31-CA), Frank Mascara (D-20-PA), Carolyn McCarthy (D-4-NY), Jim McGovern (D-3-MA), Cynthia Ann McKinney (D-4-GA), Marty Meehan (D-5-MA), Jack Metcalf (R-2-WA), George Miller (D-7-CA), Patsy Mink (D-2-HI), Jerrold Nadler (D-8-NY), Jim Oberstar (D-8-MN), David R. Obey (D-7-WI), John Olver (D-1-MA), Frank Pallone (D-6-NJ), William J. Pascrell (D-8-NJ), Colin Peterson (D-7-MN), Glen Poshard (D-19-IL), Steve Rothman (D-9-NJ), Lynn Rivers (D-13-MI), Bobby Rush (D-1-IL).

Martin Sabo (D-5-MN), Bernard Sanders (I-At Large-VT), Adam Smith (D-9-WA), Debbie Stabenow (D-8-MI), Pete Stark (D-13-CA), Ted Strickland (D-6-OH), Karen Thurman (D-5-FL), John Tierney (D-6-MA), Ed Towns (D-10-NY), James A. Traficant, Jr. (D-17-OH), Bruce Vento (D-4-MN), Nydia Velasquez (D-12-NY), Peter J. Visclosky (D-1-IN), Maxine Waters (D-35-CA), Mel Watt (D-12-NC), Henry Waxman (D-29-CA), Robert Wexler (D-19-FL), Robert A. Weygand (D-2-RI), Sid Yates (D-9-IL).

IN HONOR OF JOSE ROSARIO:
FOUNDER OF FOCUS AND A
LEADER IN THE HISPANIC COM-
MUNITY

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 9, 1997

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding gentleman, Jose Rosario, who served as the founding father of FOCUS and contributor for the endowment of the Hispanic American community. On October 10, 1997, the Puerto Rican Congress Inc. will posthumously honor Mr. Rosario with a special reception at the Hilton in Secaucus, NJ.

Mr. Rosario, born in Moca, PR, passed away on August 29, 1997, in Carolina, PR. He was a hardworking accountant and a licensed real estate agent. Before moving to New Jersey 40 years ago with his wife Phyllis, he worked for the commonwealth of Puerto Rico. It is through his roots and heritage that he left a legacy of determination for improving human services in the Hispanic-American community.

Mr. Rosario, El Viejo as he was known to his friends, founded FOCUS, the Newark based social services agency, in 1967. Its mission was to provide education, job training, and other services for underprivileged Hispanics from the Newark area. Today, known as the Focus Hispanic Center for Community Development, the agency, led by Casto Maldonado, executive director, and Frank Morales, chairman of the FOCUS board of trustees, serves more than 9,000 clients every year through grants and donations to fund an annual budget of over \$1 million.

Mr. Rosario also established the New Jersey Office of Hispanic Affairs which set up the first bilingual education program in New Jersey schools and successfully pushed for passage of a law requiring Spanish interpreters in

the courts. Mr. Rosario pressed for the State high school equivalency examination to be given in Spanish, helped establish the New Jersey Puerto Rican Statewide Parade Committee, and in 1977 was awarded a seton hall honorary degree in humanities or improving the way of life for Hispanics in New Jersey.

I thank the Puerto Rican Congress for this tribute and it is an honor and a pleasure to recognize the accomplishments of this celebrated man. He is deeply respected for his tenacity in seeking the advancement of all Hispanic-Americans. I am certain that my colleagues will join me in paying tribute to this remarkable gentleman.

TRIBUTE TO HENRY B. GONZALEZ

SPEECH OF

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 1997

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to pay tribute today to a longtime friend and dean of the Texas delegation, the Honorable HENRY B. GONZALEZ, who has announced that he will resign from Congress this year after 36 years of outstanding service.

For most of his life, HENRY GONZALEZ has been a dedicated public servant, both in Congress and previously in local and State government in Texas. As chairman and ranking minority member on the Committee on Banking and Financial Services in the House of Representatives, he has made his imprint on our Nation's banking, financial, and housing laws. As Representative of the 20th Congressional district of Texas, he has been a formidable advocate for policies and programs affecting his constituents. And as dean of the Texas delegation, he has been a respected and influential colleague.

I knew HENRY GONZALEZ when he first served in the Texas State Senate. Previously, he had been a member and mayor pro-tem of the San Antonio City Council, deputy director of the San Antonio Housing Authority and probation officer for Texas County. He worked as a civilian cable and radio censor during World War II and operated a Spanish/English translating business with his father. He also taught math to veterans and citizenship classes to resident aliens. HENRY was born and raised and educated in San Antonio schools, with the exception of studying civil engineering for 3 years at the University of Texas at Austin before graduating from St. Mary's University school of law. His life has been one of giving to those who needed him.

In all that he has done in public service, HENRY GONZALEZ has been an outstanding Representative for his constituents in Texas, the Hispanic community, and our Nation. During Hispanic Heritage Month, I can think of no one more deserving of our respect and our gratitude for 36 years of dedicated service in the House of Representatives than my good friend and colleague, HENRY B. GONZALEZ. As we adjourn today, I ask that my colleagues join me in bidding him a fond farewell and in wishing him God speed in his retirement.

AMERICAN LAND SOVEREIGNTY PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB RILEY

OF ALABAMA

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 those public lands and acquired lands:

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 901, The American Land Sovereignty Act. No longer can we sit back and let the United Nations dictate US domestic policy or infringe on our national sovereignty.

This is not a new argument. How many times do we have to hear about the abuses of the United Nations. In Alabama we hear that the United Nations is mired in one boondoggle after another, how we owe them \$1 billion, or how our troops are going to be forced to miss Christmas because some foreign dignitary believes it is reassuring to have our military guarding his personal possessions. Now we learn that the UN has declared certain pieces of United States soil to possess international status, independent of US sovereignty.

This is becoming unacceptable and borders on ridiculous. How much of this are we going to stomach before we tell the UN that it does not control the United States. The People govern the United States, and, as Representatives, we here in Congress are given the honor of governing this nation on behalf of our constituents. We need to unequivocally inform the UN that this is our country, not theirs. We need to tell the UN that we are going to hold it under close scrutiny and question all its actions.

Today, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 901. This important piece of legislation is a first step into curtailing the greedy clutches of the United Nations. It requires the Administration to seek Congressional approval before it can nominate any US land for inclusion on the World Heritage List. In addition, H.R. 901 stipulates that all lands that are to be included as a Biosphere Reserve must also be brought before Congress.

This bill sends a clear message to the UN and President Clinton that we are not going to allow any organization to disregard American Sovereignty. If the UN wants to make decrees that affect the United States, it must learn that it has to go through proper channels and ask permission.

The citizens of the United States, not the UN, will determine their own lives and their own futures.

TRIBUTE TO THE ARTIST WYLAND

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 9, 1997

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dedication of the 76th Wyland