

serious damage to the national security of the United States or would compromise the safety and security of intelligence sources inside or outside the United States. If the division of the court determines that the case may be heard, the division may prescribe steps that the court in which the case is to be heard shall take to protect the national security of the United States and intelligence sources and methods, which may include holding the proceedings in camera.

(d) REFERRAL OF CASES.—In any case in which an action described in subsection (a) is brought and otherwise complies with applicable procedural and statutory requirements, the court shall forthwith refer the case to the division of the court.

(e) EFFECT OF DIVISION'S DETERMINATION.—If the division of the court determines under this section that an action should be tried by the court, that court shall proceed with the trial of the action, notwithstanding any other provision of law.

(f) OTHER JUDICIAL ASSIGNMENTS NOT BARRED.—Assignment of a justice or judge to the division of the court under subsection (a) shall not be a bar to other judicial assignments during the 2-year term of such justice or judge.

(g) VACANCIES.—Any vacancy in the division of the court shall be filled only for the remainder of the 2-year period within which such vacancy occurs and in the same manner as the original appointment was made.

(h) SUPPORT SERVICES.—The Clerk of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit shall serve as the clerk of the division of the court and shall provide such services as are needed by the division of the court.

(i) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section—

(1) the term "secret Government contract" means a contract, whether express or implied, that is entered into with a member of the intelligence community, to perform activities subject to the reporting requirements of title V of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 413 and following); and

(2) the term "member of the intelligence community" means any entity in the intelligence community as defined in section 3(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. App. 401a(4)).

SEC. 2. APPLICABILITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1 applies to claims arising on or after December 1, 1976.

(b) WAIVER OF STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.—With respect to any claim arising before the enactment of this Act with would be barred because of the requirements of section 2401 or 2501 of title 28, United States Code, those sections shall not apply to an action brought on such claim within 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

TRIBUTE TO ERNEST NIEMEYER

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 1997

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to commend an outstanding citizen of Indiana's First Congressional District, Mr. Ernest Niemeyer. On Friday, January 24, 1997, a testimonial dinner at the Radisson Star Hotel in Merrillville, Indiana, was held to honor Ernie for his 28 years of dedicated public service.

Ernie has devoted most of his life to improving and maintaining an outstanding environment for Indiana's First Congressional District. Over his distinguished career, Ernie served as

a Lake County councilman for 4 years, Indiana State senator for 12 years, and Lake County commissioner for 12 years.

Ernie's public service began in 1962, when he was elected as a Lake County councilman. In 1968, Ernie was appointed to the Lake County Parks Board. Ernie was immediately elected president. Under his stewardship, the park board obtained the first two county parks: Lemon Lake and Stoney Run. In 1970, Ernie successfully ran for sixth district State senator. Ernie served his constituency as the chairman for the agricultural subcommittee. In this capacity, he introduced and was successful in passing legislation for funding projects, including the Williams Levee in the Kankakee River. Ernie was then promoted to senate majority whip. In 1984, Ernie was elected as third district Lake County commissioner, where he proudly served as a senior member. During this tenure, he served twice as commissioner board president.

Over the years, Ernie has also devoted time to numerous committees and boards. He has served as chairman of the Lake County Drainage Board and the Kankakee River Basin Commission. He also was an active member of the County Planning Commission, the Lake County Solid Waste District, and the Indiana State Association of County Commissioners.

Ernie's unselfish dedication to his civic duty must also be commended. Ernie was a member of the Lowell VFW, and Post 101 American Legion. He is a past president of the Indiana Auctioneers Association and past director of the National Auctioneers Association. Ernie was also a president of the Indiana Livestock Auction Markets Association, and he still retains membership in the Lowell Chamber of Commerce.

In addition, Ernie answered his country's call and joined the U.S. Army during World War II. He served 2 years in the South Pacific Theatre as a combat infantryman with the 158th Regimental Combat Team. This regiment was engaged in battles in the jungles of New Guinea leading to the liberation of the Philippines from the Japanese imperial forces. During those campaign battles in the Philippines, Ernie earned and was awarded the prestigious Combat Infantryman's Badge, three battle stars, and individual campaign ribbons. For bravery and dedication beyond the normal call of duty to his comrades in battle, he was honored with the Bronze Battle Star Special Award.

After returning home, Ernie took steps to begin his professional career as an auctioneer. In 1951, he graduated from auctioneers school and established one of the most successful auctioning businesses in northern Indiana. Ernie shares this business with his son, Rick.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Ernie for his tireless efforts to improve the quality of life for Indiana's First Congressional District. Ernie, his wife, Norma, and their children, Doyle, Rick, and Pam, can be proud of his record of unselfish dedication to the public. His service will forever remain a part of north-west Indiana's great history.

PRIMARY CARE PROTECTION ACT OF 1997

HON. LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 1997

MS. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have the opportunity today to introduce the Primary Care Promotion Act of 1997. This thoughtful, constructive legislation would refocus and target the current Federal Government effort to reduce the number of medical specialists graduating from U.S. teaching hospitals.

There is little debate today that our Nation is experiencing a shortage of primary care physicians and an oversupply of specialists. In 1995, there were almost 650,000 active physicians in the United States. Of those, about 384,000 were specialists, while only 241,000 were primary care providers—a ratio of 1.6 specialists for every general practitioner.

As a result of this situation, some government agencies are working to change policies that appear to encourage students or medical schools toward training specialists rather than family practitioners. Last year, the Health Care Financing Administration [HCFA] issued a regulation reducing graduate medical education [GME] reimbursement for combined residencies. The apparent purpose of this action was to reduce a perceived incentive for students to enter combined residencies, which usually train doctors for a medical specialty like child psychiatry. There are, however, a small number of combined residency programs that produce primary care physicians. My legislation would restore full GME reimbursement for residents enrolled in a combined residency program where both programs are for training in primary care, like internal medicine and pediatrics.

This legislation has been carefully crafted to preserve HCFA's intent to reduce the number of specialists trained while increasing the ranks of family practitioners. The Primary Care Promotion Act has already been endorsed by: American Academy of Pediatrics, American Osteopathic Association, American College of Physicians, National Association of Children's Hospitals, Association of Professors of Medicine, American Society of Internal Medicine, Association of Program Directors in Internal Medicine, Medicine-Pediatrics Program Directors Association, American College of Osteopathic Pediatricians, Association of Osteopathic Directors and Medical Educators, Federated Council for Internal Medicine, which includes: American Board of Internal Medicine, American College of Physicians, American Society of Internal Medicine, Association of Professors of Medicine, Association of Program Directors in Internal Medicine, Association of Subspecialty Professors, and Society of General Internal Medicine.

I am pleased that Representatives RANGEL, McDERMOTT, McNULTY, and KENNEDY of Rhode Island have already joined me as original cosponsors of this legislation. I look forward to working with them and the rest of my colleagues to pass this constructive, bipartisan initiative.

IN HONOR OF ALAN L. HOFFMAN
IN RECOGNITION OF HIS OUT-
STANDING PERFORMANCE AS
SPECIAL COUNSEL TO THE AS-
SISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL
IN THE OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE
AFFAIRS

HON. PORTER J. GOSS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 1997

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the attention of the House to the dedicated work of Alan Lawrence Hoffman as special counsel to the assistant attorney general in the Office of Legislative Affairs. During the last 18 months, Mr. Hoffman was of immeasurable help to the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence by expeditiously handling a range of matters of interest to the committee.

There were many difficult issues that came before the committee during the 104th Congress. Mr. Hoffman can take great pride in knowing that he approached every issue with a spirit of nonpartisanship that is a tribute to his professionalism. Mr. Hoffman should be particularly proud of his work on the Economic Espionage Act of 1996. This act will contribute substantially to the protection of U.S. trade secrets whose compromise could endanger the national security of the United States. Mr. Hoffman also helped to develop a proposal that assisted in the clarification of the mission of the National Drug Intelligence Center in Johnstown, PA.

Mr. Hoffman will continue his public service as an assistant U.S. attorney in Philadelphia. He will be genuinely missed at the Department of Justice and by members and staff of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. It gives me great pleasure to recognize Mr. Hoffman's hard work and I want to wish him well in his new and exciting career. On behalf of the committee, I want to thank him for his continued service to our country and for the unstinting nonpartisan support he gave to the intelligence community.

CHARRO DAYS, INC., CELEBRATES
60TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 1997

Mr. ORTIZ, I rise today to commend all those associated with Charro Days, Inc.—the organization which sponsors a 4-day February festival in south Texas—for their 60th anniversary.

Each year, the communities of Brownsville, TX, in the United States and Matamoros, Tamaulipas, in Mexico, join forces to commemorate the exceptional international relationship found on the United States-Mexico border. Charro Days, Inc. is composed of members from both communities and oversees the three parades and festivities of the celebration. This festival, which features many bands and theme floats during Charro Days, represents the legends, cultures, international spirit, and sometimes difficult history that leads us to where we are today.

Charro Days was originally a pre-Lenten holiday, along the lines of Mardi Gras in New

Orleans. It has grown from a very small festival to an extraordinary international holiday that offers a variety of music, from mariachis and conjunto to modern Tejano. It has drawn the attention of visitors and has become 1 of the top 100 events in North America as highlighted by several organizations which guide tourists to North American attractions.

In this southernmost U.S. city, our hands are joined during Charro Days with the hands of our international neighbors as we celebrate all that makes us unique. We participate in events that contribute to the preservation of our border history, heritage, and traditions of our two nations. There is song, dance, costumes, food, craftsmanship, and a celebration of our past as well as our future.

Celebrations like these ensure both nations will remain friends and compaños for a very long time to come. I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Charro Days, Inc., for their 60th anniversary.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE
PALESTINIAN CHARTER?

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 1997

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 15, 1997, Israel and the Palestinian authority reached an agreement on a protocol for the redeployment of Israeli forces in Hebron. Accompanying the protocol is a note for the record, prepared by the U.S. Special Middle East Coordinator, Ambassador Dennis Ross, which specifies reciprocal actions that must be taken by both Israel and the Palestinian Authority. U.S. officials have described this note for the RECORD as a road map for further progress in the peace process.

Among its various provisions, the Note stipulates that the Palestinian side must "complete the process of revising the Palestinian National Charter" to expunge from it all clauses inimicable to Israel. Previously, both the Clinton administration and the PLO claimed that the charter had been changed by a vote taken by the Palestinian National Council [PNC] in April 1996. That vote claimed to have canceled all clauses in the charter which contradict the letters exchanged between the PLO and the Israeli Government.

But at the same time, the PNC ordered the adoption of a new charter, which would demonstrate to the world the exact textual changes made with regard to Israel. It referred the matter to a legal committee that was charged with submitting a new draft charter by October 24. Nothing happened then, and Yasir Arafat failed to meet this obligation in violation of the PLO's stated commitment. Moreover, the fact that the charter revision is included in the note drafted by Ambassador Ross is evidence that the Clinton administration know acknowledges that the Palestinian side is not in compliance.

Several weeks ago, the PNC delegated to another special legal committee the authority to draft a new charter. However, many questions still remain unanswered. In delegating authority, the PNC once again did not specify which clauses in the charter require amendment, nor did it specify a deadline for the revised text.

More recently, Chairman Arafat reportedly told two French publications that the Palestinians have already fulfilled their commitments, and that he does not intend to adopt a new charter because the Israelis do not have a constitution. "When they will have one," Mr. Arafat said, "we will do the same."

Mr. Speaker, such utterances from Mr. Arafat are not helpful to progress in the peace process. Mr. Arafat knows what he had to do. There is no reason for further delay.

Mr. Speaker, the PLO's failure to amend the Palestinian Charter is a violation of the peace agreements with Israel. That failure, along with continued hostile rhetoric toward Israel, indicates a lack of sustained commitment by Yasir Arafat to the peace process. Accordingly, I call on Chairman Arafat to demonstrate his commitment to peace by leading the effort to amend the Palestinian National Charter at the earliest possible opportunity. That is his responsibility. We will be watching his actions closely. The time has come and gone for prompt compliance. Further delay is additional evidence that Chairman Arafat and the PLO are not willing to meet.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM J. PERRY

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 1997

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to William J. Perry, who retired on January 24, 1997 as our 19th Secretary of Defense of the United States.

Dr. Perry has a long and distinguished record of serving his country. In the 1970's and 1980's, Bill's work on stealth technology for the Defense Department earned him the title "father of stealth." We all know how important this technology has become to our military and to our Nation. Bill was at the forefront of many other technology breakthroughs as well that today give America's forces the ability to dominate any potential adversary on the field of battle.

But I think crowning achievement came in quite a different arena than the scientific laboratories and high technology factories of this country. Beginning on "day one" of his tenure as Secretary of Defense, Bill Perry became a tireless advocate for the people who are the heart and soul of America's military might. He has led the fight for better pay, better housing, better health care, decent retirement benefits, and maintaining the highest standard of training for our men and women in uniform. This is not cheap and it is certainly not easy to accomplish given the competition we have for limited funds in a declining defense budget.

But Bill Perry has been true to the principle he so often recites: "Take care of the troops, and they will take care of you." Bill understands the lesson history tries to teach us again and again, but some never learn. That is, you can have the best military equipment in the world, but if you don't have well trained and well motivated people to operate that equipment, you don't have much. During his tenure Bill Perry put the men and women in