

HONORING THE CITIZENS ADVICE
BUREAU**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 1997

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to praise the Citizens Advice Bureau, an organization started in the Bronx 25 years ago which has helped thousands of people to make a better life.

The CAB is a multiservice organization founded by clergy, community activists, and social workers who were concerned about the rising level of poverty and the massive housing loss the Bronx was suffering. From a single office it has expanded to 20 offices serving an area with a population of 600,000.

It was a pioneer in the consumer protection field, entitlements and advocacy for senior citizens. In its initial years, it worked for affordable housing and tenant protection. In the late 1980's, CAB was one of the first Bronx organizations to implement an AIDS services program. In the 1990's, its transitional housing program and family relocation services enabled more than 1,000 families to stabilize their lives and secure permanent housing. Its eviction prevention program has kept 10,000 families in permanent housing.

The CAB now works to provide immigrants with help and guidance. Every year more than 1,500 young people participate in its early childhood development programs, summer camp, and teen programs.

The Homeless Outreach Team patrols 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in streets, highways, and parks to find and help homeless people. Because of their efforts not a single homeless person has died in the Bronx during the past two winters.

The CAB helps those in need, making the Bronx a better place for people of all ages. It deserves thanks from all of us.

HELPING EMPOWER LOW-INCOME
PARENTS [HELP] SCHOLARSHIPS
AMENDMENTS OF 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 1997

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I would like to address the comments made earlier in this debate by the gentleman from California [Mr. MARTINEZ]. I would refer the House to the RECORD on this matter, for the gentleman misquoted my remarks and blatantly mischaracterized by comments which were clearly made in support of competitive schools and free-market economics.

Observations previously expressed by me on the House floor were obviously directed at those Government-owned schools which are absolutely terrified by school choice. Without question, this excludes the majority of education institutions in America today which embrace competition and are competitive. In fact, they compete very well. I would suggest the gentleman visit Colorado and see for himself how charter schools, intradistrict choice, and post-secondary enrollment options have re-

sulted in more opportunities for schoolchildren. Perhaps these kinds of schools exist in his State too.

Mr. Speaker, never have I equated America's public schools with a Communist legacy, as the gentleman from California suggested. In fact, I have never before mentioned both in one speech.

Any comments I have made regarding Government monopolies were plainly an indication that centrally planned economies found in other countries are models of failure. In fact the Communist legacy was a failure because that party's economic policies guaranteed mediocrity. The purpose of this observation was also plainly meant as a warning to avoid allowing our Federal Government to trample on our federalist traditions and restrain competitiveness with respect to educating children.

Quite the contrary, our Government should resist such tendencies of some bureaucracies to limit competition and establish monopolies. That was the clear point of my speech which was properly received by the majority of our colleagues.

It is regrettable that anyone would misinterpret these remarks as anything other than an admonition against Government monopolies and in favor of competitive schools which again constitute the vast majority of American institutions.

I hereby reaffirm my strong support for a thriving public education system. I restate my rejection of increased Federal intrusion in local school settings, and I fully approve of the innovations in public education that are improving education quality for America's schoolchildren.

Mr. Speaker, we should resent any suggestions to the contrary and regard them as malicious in intent, certainly reckless in use. At these times, we do well to call upon the faculties of statesmanship and honor than invective.

The American people demand full and honest debate by their Representative in Congress, on the topics which matter most. Useful dialog should be encouraged through intellectual discourse, not suppressed by partisan sniping, as is the effect of the mischaracterizations made by the gentleman from California.

Our devotion, instead should be toward the American children who have a right to expect first-rate learning opportunities. Perhaps today's lesson is one on the difference between statesmanship and imprudence.

FREEDOM OF SPEECH, FREEDOM
OF THE PRESS**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 1997

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I want to address the House for a time about the sanctity of one of America's most treasured rights: the freedom of speech.

Freedom of speech is central to most every other right that we hold dear in the United States and serves to strengthen the democracy of our great country.

It is unfortunate, then, when actions occur that might be interpreted as contrary to this honored tenet.

Currently there is a dispute between journalists in my district and the new owners of the Monterey County Herald newspapers. All employees of the newspaper were required to re-apply for their jobs when the new owners took over the paper. Several of the employees—some of them prize-winning journalists—were not rehired.

This action has left many in the community feeling that the newspaper is acting unfairly toward the reporters and fearing that it will affect the tenor of the news reported. Further there are suspicions that the owners may be engaging in antiunion efforts, casting further pall on the ability of the paper to serve the reading public.

I urge every American—no matter the position they hold in this society of ours—to carefully consider the actions they take when those actions concern the dissemination of public information. Freedom of speech and freedom of the press are much too powerful rights to be lost to squabbles over the union or nonunion status of employees. They are too basic to the structure and fabric of American life to fall victim to bottom line dollar equations.

I know the fired employees and the new owners of the Herald continue to negotiate over this matter. I am hopeful that the two sides can come to a mutually satisfactory arrangement that leaves the journalists reporting, the paper profiting, and the reading public informed.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL
CHEMISTRY WEEK**HON. TIM ROEMER**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 1997

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, November 2 to 8, 1997 is the 10th celebration of National Chemistry Week. I rise, today, in recognition of the members of the American Chemical Society who are volunteering their time this week to increase the public's understanding about the important role chemistry plays in the success of this Nation and in our everyday lives. Through hands-on activities, chemical demonstration programs, and a variety of other events, kids of all ages will learn and do chemistry.

The feature activity of the week is a national effort to test water hardness in local neighborhoods. Children are receiving copies of a Planet Chemistry activities booklet through their schools that allows them to be part of the national effort. They then go out and get a water sample from their local stream, lake, or well and use the test strip included in the booklet to determine the hardness of the water, and report their results through the ACS site on the Web. The test strips were produced by a company in my district, Environmental Test Systems of Elkhart, IN. I am proud to tell you that 2.6 million of these strips distributed in 650,000 copies of the booklet allowed this project to get children all over the country involved.

Volunteer chemists and chemical engineers of the ACS St. Joseph Valley Section in my home district also scheduled events, such as panel discussions and hands-on educational demonstrations, to highlight chemistry for their

neighbors. Efforts like these are planned in almost every congressional district throughout the Nation.

Our ability to improve the living standards of citizens in America and around the globe depends upon our understanding of sciences like chemistry. Our food, clothing, houses, cars, medicines, defense—all the things we can see, taste, touch, or smell—depend on modern chemistry. Additionally, those involved in the chemistry field represent the type of skilled, high quality workers that are essential to this Nation's competitiveness.

So please join me, and the 152,000 chemists and chemical engineers of the American Chemical Society, in highlighting the fact that every single thing in our lives is in some way a result of chemistry in action.

THE TROPICAL RAINFOREST CONSERVATION ACT OF 1998

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 1997

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, today Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. KASICH, and I are introducing, the Tropical Rainforest Conservation Act of 1998. The purpose of this bill is to facilitate the protection of tropical rainforests through debt reduction with developing countries with tropical rainforests.

It is the established policy of the United States to seek the protection of the world's tropical rainforests, which provide a wide range of benefits to humankind. In spite of international assistance programs to conserve forest resources, tropical deforestation continues unabated.

Debt reduction can reduce economic pressures on developing countries and result in increased protection for tropical rainforests. This bill will revitalize U.S. "debt-for-nature" programs, giving priority to countries that have rainforests with the highest level of biodiversity and under the most severe threat.

HONORING WESTCHESTER-PUTNAM AFFIRMATIVE ACTION PROGRAM

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 1997

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, the Westchester-Putnam Affirmative Action Program is a non-profit, nonpartisan, interracial organization dedicated to providing job training and finding employment in the construction trades for minorities, women, and the economically disadvantaged. It is comprised of representatives of the construction trades, building contractors, minority and women's groups and is celebrating its 25th anniversary as a successful force for bringing minorities, women, and others into the construction trade.

It has placed more than 4,000 such people in construction related jobs throughout Westchester and Putnam Counties. It administers the only federally approved hometown plan to achieve compliance for the Executive order requiring minimum goals for the employment of women and minorities in the biconity area.

I am proud to say that all of its placements are from among the poor, bringing these people in the mainstream of productivity.

W-PAAP is celebrating by paying tribute to the Joseph T. Jackson Training Center and the man it was named after. The late Joseph T. Jackson was the first black master mechanic in the Nation.

Also being honored are those who helped make W-PAAP a success: the NYS Department of Labor, Westchester County, Con Edison, the contractors and labor unions, and original board members Virginia Monahan, Orial Redd, Napoleon Holmes, and Thomas Green.

The success of W-PAAP is an inspiration to all and I give them my congratulations for all they have accomplished.

TRIBUTE TO NOVATO COUNCILMEMBER ERNEST J. GRAY

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 1997

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to day to pay tribute to an outstanding public servant, Mr. Ernest J. Gray. Mr. Gray is retiring as councilmember for the city of Novato after 20 years of outstanding service. I wish I could join his family, friends, and colleagues in celebrating his distinguished career.

Mr. Gray is the city's longest serving councilmember. During his tenure, he served as Novato's mayor for four terms—more often than any other member of the council. Prior to joining the city council, he served on the Novato Planning Commission.

Ernie Gray's devotion to the community is admirable. He has been a member of the Blue Ribbon Task Force on the Homeless, the Highway 101 Corridor Action Committee, the Human rights Commission, and was involved with the Community Development Block Grant. And, he has worked tirelessly to complete the reuse of Hamilton Air Force Base.

Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay tribute to Ernie Gray. His service to the residents of Novato will be greatly missed. I wish him the best in his retirement from public office.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO PROHIBIT OSHA FROM USING PENALTY QUOTAS

HON. CASS BALLENGER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 1997

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, over the past 3 years, the Subcommittee on Workforce Protections has held numerous hearings on issues surrounding OSHA, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. While these hearings have considered a great many issues, time after time we have returned to the fundamental question: What is the purpose of OSHA? Is it to enforce rules that it has issued against supposedly recalcitrant employers? Or is it to promote workplace safety by whatever means that are most effective?

Consider these two quotes, from testimony the Subcommittee on Workforce Protections received from two recent directors of OSHA, one in the Bush administration, the second from the director of OSHA in the first Clinton administration.

Congress, for years, measured OSHA's effectiveness by the number of inspections

completed, the number of serious citations issued, the number of dollar penalties collected, the number of willful violations issued and the number of criminal cases referred to the Justice Department for prosecution. Are these the appropriate measures to determine the effectiveness of this Act? Or should the question be: "Are hazards in the workplace being abated? Are injury rates being reduced?" That really is the crux of the issue: what is the most effective approach to achieving hazard abatement and injury reduction. Again, we are talking about changing long standing, systemic problems with the agency. Because the agency's success was measured for years by its punitive activity, it has become organized accordingly.

(Testimony of Dorothy Strunk, Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, March 8, 1995).

Many employers have complained that OSHA inspectors care less about worker safety than they do about meeting perceived "quotas" for citations and penalties. While OSHA has never used quotas, it has in the past used citations and penalties as performance measures. I have put a stop to this practice.

(Testimony of Joe Dear, Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, March 8, 1995).

My legislation would simply make the Clinton administration's commitment part of the law. It makes clear that OSHA's purpose is to improve safety and health for employers and employees—not just enforcement.

Why is this legislation necessary if the Clinton administration has already stated it agrees with the policy? First, as the above statement indicates, OSHA's focus on enforcement numbers is long standing and systemic. Saying that the agency will change its personnel policies does not necessarily effectuate real change. Second, despite the Clinton administration's promise to change, the leadership of the agency continues to focus on enforcement measures as the purpose of the agency. Earlier this year, the acting assistant secretary for OSHA told all OSHA offices to increase the number of inspections in 1997, and to increase the number of large penalty cases. Third, putting this provision in the statute will help to assure employers and employees that OSHA's mission is not to collect money for the Federal Government, but to promote safety and health. I view this change as a small step, but in conjunction with other steps I am proposing, helpful to redirecting OSHA away from its focus on enforcement, rather than on safety and health.

CONGRATULATING DOZIER T. ALLEN, JR.

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 1997

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to congratulate Calumet Township Trustee, Dozier T. Allen, Jr., on his 30-year anniversary as an elected public official. Dozier will be honored for his years of dedicated service to the communities of northwest