

After leaving the public defenders office, Jo established her own practice, quickly becoming a recognized expert in juvenile law in Los Angeles County. During this period she continued to work for better conditions for juveniles housed in mental hospitals, camps, group homes, and local county-run detention facilities. In recent years, Jo has broadened her area of advocacy to include reasons why children turn to crime. She concluded that almost all her clients started out as abandoned, abused, and/or neglected children. She has represented both parents and children in Los Angeles County Dependency Court with the idea that the parties need help, not punishment.

Since 1990, Jo has been head of one of the law firms of Dependency Court Legal Services. Currently, her firm represents over 10,000 children, ranging from infants born with drugs in their system to legally orphaned 19-year-olds who have been raised in our foster care system.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in saluting Jo Kaplan, whose dedication to the rights and well-being of children is an inspiration to us all.

IN HONOR OF WARD CONNERLY

HON. CHARLES T. CANADY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 1997

Mr. CANADY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in commendation of Ward Connerly for his singular contributions to the fight for equal opportunity for all Americans. Ward Connerly has fought tirelessly to bring an end to the discriminatory practice of giving preferential treatment to individuals based on race or gender. His accomplishments in the cause of equality are a tribute to his strong will and character.

As a member of the University of California Board of Regents, Ward Connerly successfully led the fight to end the university's practice of using race as a factor in admissions. His example should be a beacon to national academic institutions, illuminating a brighter path toward policies which truly reflect the American understanding of equal opportunity.

Ward Connerly continued his struggle against preferences as the leader of the grassroots movement that brought the California civil rights initiative to fruition. Through his efforts, more than 1 million signatures were obtained in support of CCR1, which was placed on the November ballot. After a vicious campaign of distortions waged by its opponents, the initiative received 54 percent of the vote: The people of California let it be known that they wanted an end to the unjust policy of race and gender preferences in hiring, contracting, and college admissions.

Today, Ward Connerly is chairman of the American Civil Rights Institute. This new civil rights organization is dedicated to educating the American public about race and gender preferences. Through the institute, Mr. Connerly will again be at the forefront of this debate, carrying the banner of equal opportunity throughout the Nation and to Washington. I know of few other people who can shoulder such a burden with the exemplary combination of determination and grace that Mr. Connerly has demonstrated.

In a world where rhetoric rarely matches action, Ward Connerly practices what he preaches. As a young man, he did not stand outside the ring, waiting for an invitation to enter. He climbed in, fighting difficult odds. Through hard work and sacrifice, he paid his way through college. Then, he would not let the color of his skin hold him back; now, he refuses to let it win him favor.

Ward Connerly fights for the belief in fairness that lies at the heart of the American spirit. What lessons are we teaching our children if, on the one hand we say discrimination is wrong, yet on the other, practice the very discrimination we denounce? Our actions must reflect our principles. We simply cannot build a colorblind society by requiring that people be color-coded. The examples we set for our children should reflect the principles of equal treatment that this great Nation embodies.

Ward Connerly is living proof of what we can accomplish through hard work and devotion to principle. When others have shied away, he has stood his ground. When others have quit, he has persevered. And where others have failed, he has succeeded. Today, despite the worst kind of personal attacks, Ward Connerly maintains his dignity and courage. It is people like Ward Connerly, who are determined to unite America—not fragment it along racial, ethnic, or gender lines—that will lead this Nation into the 21st century. Indeed, Ward Connerly is worthy of our praise and admiration.

LEGISLATION TO BAN THE USE OF PANTOPAQUE IN MYELOGRAMS

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 1997

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, arachnoiditis easily qualifies as a disease of the nineties. It has been described as "the greatest enigma in the field of spinal surgery" with few surgeons ever having seen it, and even fewer knowing how to treat it. In simple terms, arachnoiditis means "inflammation of the arachnoid," and is characterized by chronic inflammation and thickening of the arachnoid matter, the middle of the three membranes that cover and protect the brain and spinal cord.

Arachnoiditis may develop up to several years after an episode of meningitis or sub-arachnoid hemorrhage—bleeding beneath the arachnoid. It may be a feature in diseases and disorders such as syphilis or it may result from trauma during a diagnostic procedure known as a myelogram. According to the Arachnoiditis Information and Support Network, more than 300,000 myelograms are performed in this country every year. Of the 12 million Americans who suffer from arachnoiditis, the cases resulting from myelograms could have been avoided.

In a myelogram, a radiopaque dye is injected into the spinal subarachnoid space. After the x-ray examination, as much of the oil as possible is withdrawn; however, a small amount is left behind and is slowly absorbed. Studies have implicated the iodized oil contrast medium, Pantopaque, in arachnoiditis. Water-soluble dyes such as Amipaque, Omipaque, and Isovue were once thought to

be safer for use, however, recent evidence proves they also cause arachnoiditis. In fact, Harry Feffer, Professor of Orthopedic Surgery at George Washington University states that patients who have had two or more myelograms stand a 50-percent chance of developing arachnoiditis. Numerous studies on animals have confirmed these findings.

Symptoms of arachnoiditis include chronic severe pain and a burning sensation which may attack the back, groin, leg, knee, or foot and can result in loss of movement to almost total disability. Other symptoms include bladder, bowel, thyroid, and sexual dysfunction, as well as headaches, epileptic seizures, blindness, and progressive spastic paralysis affecting the legs and arms.

In the past few years, arachnoiditis sufferers and Members of Congress alike have repeatedly asked the FDA to recall the use of Pantopaque. The FDA has clearly not reviewed the safety of Pantopaque—oil-based—as well as waterbased dyes, in spite of medical evidence. As a result, I have introduced a bill to ban myelograms involving the use of Pantopaque, Amipaque, Omipaque, or Isovue.

This legislation is not a new idea. Since 1990, Britain and Sweden have banned the use of Pantopaque in myelograms. In fact, a class action suit is still pending in Britain consisting of 25,000 people, 1,500 of which are nurses. In 1986, Kodak, the company that makes Pantopaque, voluntarily stopped distributing the drug in the United States, due to public pressure. Pantopaque has a 5-year shelf life. The last batch was due to expire April 1, 1991. However, the use of Pantopaque has continued, with the Arachnoiditis Information and Support Network having documented a case in September 1993 and hospitals stocking the dye as recently as April 1994. Undocumented cases of use continue.

A large number of medical professionals do not know how to diagnose myelogram-related arachnoiditis, and when they do, they cannot treat it. Medical journals and case studies from around the world document the connection between radiopaque dyes and arachnoiditis. Despite this documentation, the medical profession as a whole has not been effectively informed and still persists in its use. Moreover, the lack of information prevents the physician from recognizing the disease or side effects of the residual dyes after the fact. The time has come for thorough research to study this painful, disabling condition. The legislation I have introduced today will direct the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke to estimate the number of Americans suffering from myelogram-related arachnoiditis and determine the extent of this relationship.

Every year, chronic back pain is responsible for billions of dollars in lost revenues and millions more in health care costs. The American Journal reports that chronic low-back pain is estimated to cost \$16 billion annually in the United States. Occupational research finds that back injuries, pain, and complications cost an average of \$15,000 per incident. According to The Power of Pain by Shirley Kraus, 100 million Americans are either permanently disabled or are less productive due to back pain. Those who do work lose about 5 work days per year, a productivity loss of \$55 billion. Interestingly enough, these figures only refer to chronic back pain patients. Almost all arachnoiditis sufferers eventually become totally disabled, becoming permanent fixtures on

the rolls of social security, disability, welfare, and Medicaid.

Arachnoiditis sufferers want to become functioning, contributing members of society again. The Traficant legislation will provide research for treatments for arachnoiditis sufferers, including treatments to manage pain. Pain-management treatments would enable sufferers to once again become active, working members of society.

It's time to protect unsuspecting Americans from this debilitating and preventable condition. I ask Members of Congress to join me by cosponsoring my legislation.

SALUTE TO BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 1997

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me this February in celebrating Black History Month. I would like to take a moment to reflect on the courageous leadership and civic duty that has shaped the communities of New York throughout this decade. As we approach a new century, New Yorkers of all ethnic backgrounds will face a new set of economic, social, and political challenges. If we stop and recognize the perseverance of African-Americans in times of change, their record of commitment to the pursuit of prosperity, integrity and opportunity for their families and friends speaks for itself.

The tireless work of community and religious leaders in guiding African-American communities have done much to improve the quality of life in our city. I am proud to honor this important occasion where African-Americans join hands to acknowledge their accomplishments and their unique contributions to our society and the world.

The level of civic participation in today's culture is depressingly low among average American citizens. However, I am always inspired by the surge of community spirit and leadership from African-Americans in New York. Our society would be a better place if more Americans emulated the civic duty and moral strength of their African-American counterparts. I hope that Black History Month is recognized and honored by citizens of all backgrounds. I honor the work and vision of my African-American colleagues in Congress and throughout New York. May our city continue to be blessed with their leadership.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM ROEMER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 1997

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, on February 5, 1997, I was not present for rollcall votes No. 9 and No. 10 due to the birth of my daughter Sarah Kathryn Roemer.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" for rollcall vote No. 9 and I would have voted "yea" for rollcall vote No. 10.

25 YEARS OF GLORY

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 1997

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a person special to Livonia, MI: Father George Shalhoub.

For the last 25 years, Fr. George has been a spiritual leader, church builder, educator, loyal husband, and father. He was the driving force that built St. Mary Antiochian Orthodox Church, making the church what it is today.

Born in Lebanon, George Shalhoub immigrated to America and in 1972 he married his wife, Nouhad, was ordained as a priest, and assigned to the newly established St. Mary Orthodox Church within 2 weeks.

After the birth of their first child the following year, St. Mary's broke ground for the new church and fellowship building. In March 1976, the congregation, led by Fr. Shalhoub, celebrated its first divine liturgy in their own church.

After years of building, growth, and progress, tragedy struck in April 1996, testing the strength of the Fr. Shalhoub and the entire St. Mary's family. Their church was destroyed by fire.

But just 6 months later, thanks to the hard work, leadership, and dedication of Fr. Shalhoub, St. Mary's was resurrected from the flames like the phoenix.

This week George, Nina, their four children, and the entire St. Mary's congregation celebrate 25 years of strength, dedication, commitment, and faith. I extend my heartiest congratulations on their special anniversary.

LET'S SHOW THE PUBLIC WE'RE SERIOUS ABOUT REDUCING THE SIZE OF FEDERAL SPENDING: REFORM OUR CONGRESSIONAL PENSION SYSTEM

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 1997

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced a bill to reform the pension system for Members of Congress and their staff. My bill, the Congressional Pension Reform Act, will make the pension benefits for Members of Congress the same as other Federal employees.

The Congressional Pension Reform Act of 1997 reduces the pension accrual rates for Members of Congress and their staff members. A pension accrual rate is the percentage of pre-retirement pay earned in pension benefits for each year of service. Under my bill, those congressional Members and staff who entered Federal service before 1984 will have their accrual rates reduced from 2.5 percent to between 1.5 and 2 percent, depending on how long a person has worked for the Federal Government. For Members and staff who began Federal service after 1984, their accrual rates are reduced from 1.7 percent to 1 or 1.1 percent. These changes will save the taxpayers about \$9 million over 6 years.

As a member of the House Budget Committee, I realize that we as legislators have to make tough decisions which limit the size of

our Federal Government. We need to shift responsibilities from a bloated Federal bureaucracy to families and local communities. I want to demonstrate to the people of Lancaster and Chester Counties that I will impose sacrifices upon myself and the rest of Congress which are similar to those we ask others to make.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that Members of Congress should be treated like every other Federal employee. By reforming our own pension plan, we can reduce the perks of elected office which have no place in our Federal Government and which shake the public's confidence.

On January 30, I wrote to Budget Chairman JOHN KASICH to urge that my provisions on congressional pension reform be included in the majority's balanced budget package. Further, I plan to have my bill included in the budget reconciliation bill so that our shared goals of reducing Government spending and reviving the public's trust in this body can become a reality. I thank the Speaker, and look forward to working with him to reform our pension system.

THE STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 1997

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, February 12, 1997, into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

THE STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

Declaring that we have no imminent threat and that the enemy of our time is inaction, President Clinton issued a call to action in his State of the Union address. It was a call to keep our economy and our democracy strong, to strengthen education and harness technology, to build stronger families and communities, and to keep America the world's strongest force for peace, freedom, and prosperity. The President used more of the "bully pulpit" in the speech, often using rhetoric and challenges to the American people rather than urging new federal programs.

In many ways, the address distilled the President's thinking about what is needed to prepare the American people for the 21st century. He said we need to "take the tough decisions in the next four years that will carry our country through the next fifty years".

ROLE OF GOVERNMENT

The President sought to define himself, his agenda, and his presidency for the American people, and he certainly summed up his view of government. He said we must be committed to "a new kind of government—not to solve all our problems for us, but to give all our people the tools they need to make the most of their own lives".

The President clearly focused on small, incremental proposals rather than the sweeping federal initiatives he proposed when he first took office, such as health care reform. Even when the President promises to focus time, energy, and money on an issue—like education—he proposes something less than an all-out federal assault. Overall, he brought together many proposals from his recent speeches in an effort to frame a program that seems significant but would cost relatively little.

DOMESTIC PRIORITIES

His discussion of his domestic priorities was by far the most detailed portion of his