

Mr. Speaker, as I continue to develop this important legislation, I encourage my colleagues to discuss this important matter with families, teachers, school staffs, employers and universities in their own congressional districts. Recommendations and suggestions are most welcome, and should be directed to my Washington office.

SMALL COMMUNITIES CDBG
MULTIPURPOSE FACILITIES ACT

HON. BILL RICHARDSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 1997

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce legislation that will enable small towns across our Nation to fully benefit from the community development block grant program available through the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

My bill would amend the community development block grant regulations to allow municipal employees in towns of 5,000 or less population to use not more than 25 percent of the square footage in facilities purchased, constructed or renovated with CDBG funds.

I am introducing this legislation after learning of a problem in the Village of Grady, a small community in eastern New Mexico. Strapped for adequate office space, municipal employees sought and received what they thought was appropriate Government approval to move into a small space in a facility built with CDBG funds. But lo and behold, once the move took place, a further examination of Government regulations revealed that the village is prohibited by law from occupying any space in a building built with CDBG funds. The financially strapped village is now stuck with a \$13,500 expense to remain in the building.

A small town has a severely limited tax base. It cannot afford to construct separate buildings for every essential service offered its residents. It cannot afford to purchase duplicate office equipment and supplies nor to pay insurance, utilities, and maintenance expenses on several buildings.

Citizens who are hired for municipal jobs in small communities, such as clerks, policemen, firemen, and emergency medical service employees, must often share job responsibilities. Not only is it not economically feasible, but it is very difficult for these employees to work from separate buildings in terms of job communication and coordination.

Small towns must provide vital services to their residents. To do so efficiently, municipal employees must be able to conduct business in decent, affordable, and convenient facilities. We must give our small communities special consideration and enable them to make the best use of limited funding resources. A multipurpose use of facilities purchased, built or renovated with community development block grants is the only answer.

IN HONOR OF THE FAIRPORT FIRE
DEPARTMENT MARCHING BAND

HON. LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 1997

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Fairport Fire Department Marching Band, which celebrated its 25th anniversary on January 4, 1997.

Over the past 25 years, this group of talented musicians has spread its reputation across New York State. The band regularly participates in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Syracuse, NY, and the "Christmas In July" Parade in Clayton, NY. It has received numerous prizes and honors, including winning the State championship 5 of the past 7 years. The band also has had the honor of displaying its musical talent to Vice President AL GORE.

In addition to parading and competing, the players perform numerous concerts throughout the Rochester area. The Rochester community benefits immeasurably from the contributions of this dedicated and talented group of people.

I extend my congratulations to them as they celebrate 25 years of making music.

BEACON-OF-HOPE FOR ALL
AMERICANS: EYV PAPILLON

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 1997

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, with the 1996 election behind us, this Nation has completed another cycle for the ongoing democratic process which makes America great. The electoral process and the public officials selected through this process are invaluable assets in our quest to promote the general welfare and to guarantee the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. It is important, however, Mr. Speaker, that we also give due recognition to the equally valuable contribution of non-elected leaders throughout our Nation. The fabric of our society is generally enhanced and enriched by the hard work done year after year by ordinary volunteer citizens. Especially in our inner-city communities which suffer from long public policy neglect, local grassroots leaders provide invaluable service. These are men and women who engage in activities which generate hope. I salute all such heroes and heroines as BEACONS-OF-HOPE.

Evy Papillon is one of these BEACONS-OF-HOPE residing in the Central Brooklyn community of New York City and New York State. Throughout the years, Evy Papillon has worked diligently in positions that she found to be beneficial to the community. She is directly responsible for community enhancement efforts that impact the social-human services and health care. Every Saturday, Ms. Papillon devotes her time toward feeding the homeless at her own expense. A member of Foyer Chretien since 1993, she assists Haitians and Haitian-Americans with problems regarding illiteracy and financial challenges. She also helps individuals obtain visas, gain residency, and encourages them to fulfill civic responsibilities.

Recognizing the importance of early detection of breast cancer, Evy Papillon brought the

annual Community Health Fair to her church, St. Catherine's of Genoa in Brooklyn. Her socially conscious political work has brought her talents to a number of important organizations. She is one of the founding members of two organizations: Caribbean Women's Health Association and Community Action Project [CAP]. Ms. Papillon's community focus continues in her work with the Community Affairs Department of the New York City Police 67th Precinct. She is also an enthusiastic member of 100 Women for Major Owens; second vice president of the Martin Luther King Commission; member and past membership chair of the Brooklyn Women's Political Caucus, and a liaison for the Democratic Party for Haitian-American Democrats in Brooklyn.

Among the many awards and commendations received by Evy Papillon are: Kingsboro Psychiatric Center Family Care Program Award; New York City State Employees Federated Appeal Recognition Award; Director's Award, Kingsboro Psychiatric Center; and the Central Brooklyn Martin Luther King Commission Award.

Evy Papillon emigrated to the United States from Jeremie, Haiti in 1959. She is a graduate of St. Joseph's College LaChine at the University of Montreal where she received a bachelor of arts degree in nursing and attended St. Joseph's College in New York where she received a bachelor of arts in 1983, and a master of arts in 1986 in health administration.

Evy Papillon is a BEACONS-OF-HOPE for Central Brooklyn and for all Americans.

COMPREHENSIVE FETAL ALCOHOL
SYNDROME PREVENTION ACT

HON. BILL RICHARDSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 1997

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, today, I am pleased to be introducing legislation to help lead the battle to end fetal alcohol syndrome. The Comprehensive Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Prevention Act will establish a well-coordinated prevention program to help end one of the most devastating conditions afflicting our Nation's children today.

Fetal alcohol syndrome is a frustrating problem in our society today. It is completely preventable. Very simple. No alcohol. No birth defects. It sounds like it would be easy to eliminate this problem but it's not.

Fetal alcohol syndrome remains one of the top three causes of birth defects in this Nation and the leading known cause of mental retardation. In my home State of New Mexico, some parts of the State have rates of fetal alcohol syndrome from two to five times higher than the national average.

The bill being introduced in the House today is an important step in the right direction toward eliminating this problem. This legislation will help create comprehensive public education, prevention, and research programs within the Department of Health and Human Services. The bill will give us a coordinated system to begin to really reduce the incidence of this very costly birth defect.

The bottom line is that we must get Federal funds to the areas that count: to schools, to community health centers, and to clinics. In those places, the funds can be used to spread

the word about the dangers of consuming alcohol during pregnancy.

It's obvious that we have not yet found an effective way to prevent women from consuming alcohol during pregnancy. In fact, recent studies have shown that the number of those born with fetal alcohol syndrome is actually on the rise. We have been given a challenge to our Nation's public health and we have so far failed to meet it.

As we begin to earnestly debate how to reform our health care system, it only makes sense that we work to eliminate health care problems in our country that can be completely prevented.

We must face these challenges and meet them head on. Eliminating these completely preventable problems will not only go a long ways toward improving our health care system, but also the lives of our people.

MACBRIDE PRINCIPLES BILL

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 1997

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce the Federal MacBride Principles bill. I am pleased once again to be joined by my distinguished colleague and Ad Hoc Committee for Irish Affairs co-chair, Mr. MANTON of New York, as an original cosponsor of this important bipartisan antidiscrimination measure dealing with employment practices in Northern Ireland.

Fair employment for Catholics in Northern Ireland is an issue that has for many years concerned me, as well as millions of Irish here in America, and all around the globe.

I was very pleased in the 104th Congress to not only hold congressional hearings on this subject matter, but to also lead the effort for the first ever congressional passage of the MacBride Fair Employment Principles as part of our United States taxpayer contribution to the International Fund for Ireland [IFI].

This bill, which we introduce today, incorporates all of the minor changes we made in the MacBride Principles, i.e., principles of economic justice as defined and passed by the last Congress as part of the U.S. contribution to the IFI in the foreign aid bill I referenced earlier. The MacBride Principles have not been changed in any substantive way.

We must treat equally those who would receive any United States foreign assistance, the very same as we do United States employers doing business in Northern Ireland. The changes made in the Federal MacBride bill I am introducing today governing these United States employers doing business there, will also serve to make our approach to both recipients of foreign aid and United States employers doing business in Northern Ireland, totally consistent, and identical, as well.

Our bill would prohibit all United States companies in Northern Ireland from exporting their products back to the United States, unless they are in compliance with these simply straightforward MacBride Principles intended to deal with, and help promote economic justice in the north of Ireland. These principles serve as a set of guidelines for fair employment by establishing a code of corporate conduct, which explicitly does not require quotas, or any form of reverse discrimination.

The MacBride Principles campaign has been the most effective and meaningful effort by Irish America, and their many allies around the world, against the systemic and longstanding anti-Catholic discrimination in employment practices in Northern Ireland. I have been pleased to work with the Irish National Caucus, and AOH, and other outstanding Irish-American groups, and the American labor movement, in this very important cause.

The MacBride effort has played a vital role in keeping the issue of anti-Catholic discrimination in Northern Ireland visible and in the public eye, including as part of any United States foreign assistance to Northern Ireland. The initial campaign was instrumental in bringing about the British Government's Fair Employment Act of 1989.

Much more still needs to be done to address a serious and continuing problem in Northern Ireland, where Catholics are still twice as likely to be unemployed as that of their Protestant counterparts. This is unfair and must change if lasting peace and justice are ever to take hold in Northern Ireland.

The bill we are introducing today will help bring about much needed additional change, at least as to employment practices of the many United States firms doing business in the north of Ireland today.

The MacBride Principles have the support of many in the Irish Government, the European Parliament, and both major political parties here in the United States we are also pleased to see this same support for MacBride included for the first time ever in both major political party platforms this past presidential election year here in the United States.

Mr. Clinton as a candidate pledged during the 1992 Presidential campaign that he would support the MacBride Principles. However, during the 104th Congress he forgot that pledge while his administration fought from the outset my efforts at inclusion of the MacBride Principles are part of the U.S. contribution to the IFI in the foreign aid bill.

The President says he continues to support the MacBride Principles. These principles have been passed into law in 16 States, including our own State of New York. Many American cities and towns have also passed laws or resolutions on the principles. Indeed, the U.S. Congress allowed the principles to become law for the District of Columbia on March 16, 1993; and we passed them last year as part of the foreign aid authorization bill, but regret some we were not able to overcome the President's veto of this bill, and make them law.

The President after his veto of the foreign aid bill during the 104th Congress, ordered his U.S. Agency for International Development Administrator Brian Atwood, and our U.S. observer to the IFI to work to ensure that the IFI complied at least as to the U.S. contribution, with our provisions included as part of the foreign aid bill (H.R. 1561). His move represented some progress, but we must do more, and codify these principles into law. We would welcome the President's support for these efforts.

We must be all we can to help address and bring focus to hear on the twin problems of unemployment and discrimination, especially in the Catholic community in Northern Ireland. The U.S. can help pay a important role in the chances for lasting peace and justice in Northern Ireland by working to ensure that Northern

Ireland had shared economic development and provides for economic justice among both traditions.

Only then can peace and justice take firm and lasting hold in Northern Ireland. The MacBride Principles provide a vital tool to help ensure that the United States neither accepts nor in any way helps maintain the totally unacceptable status quo of twice the level of Catholic unemployment as that of the other tradition which still exists in Northern Ireland today.

Accordingly, I urge all my colleagues concerned about lasting peace and justice in Northern Ireland to support this bill we are introducing today.

INTRODUCTION OF INDEPENDENT COUNSEL LAW REFORM

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 1997

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a new bill that will amend the independent counsel law to reform many of the current law's clear blemishes.

Although this bill is not intended to embarrass or target the Whitewater independent counsel Ken Starr, the need for serious revisions to the independent counsel law has become clear to me after observing the abuses taking place in the Whitewater case. Whatever your view of Whitewater, you may be surprised to learn that the investigation of Whitewater has already cost more money and involved more FBI agents than the investigation of the World Trade Center bombing.

No matter how serious you think Whitewater may be, there is absolutely no comparison between a land deal that occurred over 17 years ago and a terrorist conspiracy to blow up a major American landmark and office building, killing many people, injuring scores of others, reeking havoc and mayhem on the entire city of New York, and causing millions of dollars in damages.

The office of the independent counsel has run amok. It is time that we stopped allowing independent counsels to run off on their own with no accountability to run up bills running into the millions of dollars with little to no benefit for the American people.

The prosecution of Whitewater has also brought up many ethical matters—beginning with the initial appointment process. My bill will require all ex parte communications relating to the appointment of an independent counsel by the judges who appoint the counsel to be memorialized.

The appointment of Ken Starr has also flagged several other ethical issues that should be considered before the appointment of any future counsels.

Are lawyers who have previously represented people with interests adverse to the target of the investigation truly able to be independent? Ken Starr represented Paula Jones, the woman who is suing the President for sexual harassment, and the Bradley Foundation, a conservative organization known for its vitriolic coverage of Whitewater. Such prior representation raises, to my mind, at the very least, the appearance of a conflict.

In addition, while pursuing the Whitewater matter, Judge Starr has remained affiliated