

bloom is a sphere, the component parts of which represent the blue sky, green earth, blue-green water. A white circle within the sphere denotes either the sun or the moon. All are symbolic of a clean environment and are superimposed on a disc with a white background, circled by the title 'UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY' in blue letters."

Mr. Bloomhorst, in an interview with the Fairborn Daily Herald in November 1971, said, "The symbol at a quick glance represents a flower, but it means even more when inspected closely. The flower is like the mother earth. If it is not protected, it will wither and die. The purpose of the EPA is to keep the environment clean, alive and beautiful."

Symbols are important in our society, just as are our actions. Mr. Bloomhorst's seal was created at the dawn of the American environmental movement. Today, a quarter century later, environmental protection remains one of Americans' most important values. Yet too often, this value has been portrayed as in conflict with other values, such as economic growth and job creation even though it has been shown time and again that environmental protection and economic growth can, and I would argue must, go hand in hand to guarantee a sustainable future for ourselves, our children, and the many generations to come.

The test for our society as we enter the next century is to preserve the value that Mr. Bloomhorst portrayed in the EPA seal and to integrate this value of environmental protection into the activities of all Americans and into the policies of our Government. Without the work of the EPA and the environmental laws that it has overseen, such as the Clean Water Act and the Clean Air Act, America would be a far more dangerous and unhealthy place than it is today. Those who have tried to undermine this agency on behalf of shortsighted, narrow interests have learned that the environment remains a perilous political battleground.

Mr. Bloomhorst today continues to be an illustrator with an interest in the environment. As environmental protection has been such an important focus in current events, I believed it was important to rise today to congratulate Mr. Bloomhorst for seeing his seal become a permanent fixture in our country's landscape and to thank him for his important contribution to our history.

THE BANK EXAMINATION REPORT PROTECTION ACT OF 1997

HON. BILL MCCOLLUM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, November 9, 1997

Mr. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of legislation I am introducing, the Bank Examination Report Protection Act [BERPA] of 1997. This bill would establish that all confidential supervisory information shall be the property of the Federal banking agency that created or requested the information and shall be privileged from disclosure to any other person. The Federal banking agency may waive this privilege at its discretion. There are other appropriate exceptions in the bill, such as for the Comptroller General of the United States and for law enforcement.

Essentially, the issue of privilege is one that must be addressed. The fact that financial institutions may lose their privilege on information turned over to a regulator has made them more hesitant to share all relevant information with their regulators. This, in turn, makes it more difficult for the regulators to do a thorough job in their examinations of the institutions.

In fact, this legislation is strongly supported by all the affected Federal banking regulators. I would like to introduce into the record the letter that they have forwarded to me supporting this legislation. It is signed by: Alan Greenspan, Chairman of Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Eugene A. Ludwig, Comptroller of the Currency, Norman E. D'Amours, Chairman of the National Credit Union Administration, Nicolas P. Retsinas, Director of the Office of Thrift Supervision, and Andrew C. Hove, Chairman of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

I would like to make sure my colleagues are aware that this legislation would maintain existing privileges and protect any materials created by the regulators. This would not prevent litigants from discovering the underlying facts of any action. All nonprivileged sources would still be available in discovery. This would simply ensure that examination materials—the critically important function of which is facilitate free-flowing communication between the examiner and the institution to maximize the effectiveness of the supervisory process—are not turned into a weapon against the regulated financial institution.

BERPA would ensure that the safety and soundness of our institutions is maintained through a vigorous and thorough supervisory process. This process is not complete when institutions are not forthcoming with information for fear of having information that was at one time privileged suddenly become subject to subpoena. Therefore, not only does this help the supervisory process, but also the consumers and taxpayers that insure these institutions. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM, FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION, NATIONAL CREDIT UNION ADMINISTRATION, OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER OF THE CURRENCY, OFFICE OF THRIFT SUPERVISION,

September 17, 1997.

Hon. BILL MCCOLLUM,

U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN MCCOLLUM: Thank you for requesting our comments on the draft Bank Examination Report Protection Act of 1997. The Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Federal Reserve System, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Office of Thrift Supervision, and the National Credit Union Administration (Agencies) support the proposed legislation because it will help protect the integrity of the examination process.

First, the legislation will help preserve the cooperative, non-adversarial exchange of information by supervised institutions with their examiners and the candid internal analysis of examiners, by codifying and strengthening the examination privilege. Second, the proposed legislation will enforce existing, nationwide uniform procedures for handling and accessing supervisory information requiring third party litigants to seek supervisory information directly from the

Agencies and not indirectly from the supervised institutions. Third, the proposed legislation will resolve the supervised institutions' concerns that their privileges will be waived if they voluntarily permit the Agencies to have access to privileged information that is otherwise essential to an examiner's assessment of safety and soundness. We believe that the proposed legislation favorably resolves many of the unsettled issues regarding the handling of and access to supervisory information, while preserving a process, including judicial review, by which third parties may seek access to supervisory information. Indeed, the Agencies will continue to seek to accommodate the reasonable requests of third party litigants and to release information in appropriate circumstances.

We hope this responds fully to your request. If we may be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact our respective Agencies.

Sincerely,

EUGENE A. LUDWIG,
Comptroller, Office
of the Comptroller
of the Currency.

ANDREW C. HOVE,
Chairman, Federal
Deposit Insurance
Corporation.

ALAN GREENSPAN,
Chairman, Board
of Governors of the
Federal Reserve
System.

NICOLAS P. RETSINAS,
Director, Office of
Thrift Supervision.

NORMAN E. D'AMOURS,
Chairman, National
Credit Union Administration.

HONORING JOSEPH WASSER

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, November 9, 1997

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take just a moment to congratulate Joe Wasser upon his retirement at the end of this year. Joe has served as Sheriff of Sullivan County up in my district for the past 20 years. But that alone far from captures the breadth and depth of his service to the public. Joe has served as a wonderful role model to us all by being not only a very fine public servant but also a plain old-fashioned good citizen. Joe's many achievements truly are too numerous to mention, but with this session of Congress winding to a close I just wanted to say congratulations to him and wish him many more years of happiness and good health.

THE PARENTS AND TEACHERS KNOW BEST ACT

HON. LINDSEY O. GRAHAM

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, November 9, 1997

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing legislation today, the Parents and Teachers Know Best Act, that would send funds currently appropriated to the Goals 2000 Program directly to every local school district in the Nation with few strings attached.

All Members of Congress care about our Nation's children. We all want to see America's education system work better, our children obtain the best education they can and succeed to the best of their abilities.

But our debate over Federal policy is not about who cares more, but how to effectively improve education in America.

Goals 2000 is a Federal program where the Department of Education administers and monitors national education standards. The establishment of this program was the beginning of the Clinton administration's strategy to substantially increase the role of the Federal Government in our local schools. It is the hallmark of the Clinton administration's attempt to transfer authority to run our country's schools from local communities to Washington.

While this administration failed to nationalize our Nation's health care system, they are trying through a slow, step-by-step process to federalize our Nation's schools. For example, as part of this process, the Clinton administration and the Department of Education are continuing to pursue, without congressional authorization and in direct contravention of current law, their proposal for a system of national testing. These national tests will clearly and quickly lead to a national curriculum designed by favored interest groups and Federal bureaucrats.

My legislation begins an effort to roll back the rising tide of nationalization and federalization. This bill will significantly reduce the Federal role in determining standards but will maintain the funding. It cuts the layers of bureaucracy and red tape that bog down our goal of improving our children's education. It requires money go directly to every school district in America with few strings attached.

The Goals 2000 Program has done little, if anything, to improve the performance of America's students in the classroom. Indeed, by taking money that could best be used by a teacher in a classroom and giving it to a bureaucrat, this program has prevented local school districts from using their tax dollars to improve schools.

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, Federal spending for education was estimated to be \$100.5 billion in fiscal year 1997, an increase of \$37.7 billion, or 60 percent, since fiscal year 1990. Even after adjusting for inflation, Federal support for education increased 31 percent. We certainly have not seen a 31-percent improvement in our education system. We are spending enough money, but we are spending it in the wrong ways.

My bill will abolish the increasingly intrusive role of the Federal Government in education and give educators at the local level the freedom they need to educate students in a way that meets the unique needs of their community. I believe decisions about education should be left up to local communities, principals, teachers and parents.

Because of this growing Federal interference, State and local governments are spending too little money in the classroom, and too much money on bureaucracy. According to the Digest of Education Statistics, in 1993 only \$141 billion out of \$265 billion spent on elementary and secondary education was spent on instruction. The National Center for Education Statistics pointed out that in 1994 only 52 percent of staff employed in public elementary and secondary school systems were

teachers. These statistics clearly demonstrate the need to get more funding into the classroom.

This legislation also promotes accountability in education. By giving the control of these funds to local school boards, parents can hold local leaders accountable. If parents are unsatisfied with the performance of their schools, they can vote their school board officials out of office. Parents can't vote a nameless, faceless Federal bureaucrat out of their office.

Some have characterized Goals 2000 as a voluntary program. Supposedly, States can receive grant money from the program without any direction or coercion. To believe the Federal bureaucracy, whether overseen by a liberal or conservative administration, would not try to mandate and control education programs through national standards, or leave their imprint on how the money is spent is, at best, naive.

Since the inception of the U.S. Department of Education in 1979, its budget has doubled to over \$32 billion. Now, 50 percent of all mandates regarding how to educate children emanate from Washington. However, they only provide 6 percent of the money. Test scores remain low, dropout rates are stagnant, and, overall, the Nation's education system is lagging behind other industrialized countries.

The Parents and Teachers Know Best Act will encourage parental involvement in education, as well as empower teachers and local school board officials to establish or continue education programs that meet the unique needs of their community.

My goal is to put the money in the hands of those who know our children's names, those who know how to educate our children best—parents, teachers and locally elected school board officials. At the end of the day, if we are not able to educate our children locally, then no amount of Washington benevolence will save us.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JOSEPH ANDERSON, JR.

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, November 9, 1997

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, the African-American Network of Kern County hosted its seventh annual community awards night on November 8, 1997, and selected several outstanding Kern County citizens in recognition of their lifelong efforts to improve the way of life that thousands of people, young and old, black and white enjoy.

Dr. Joseph Anderson, Jr. is the recipient of the African-American Network of Kern County's Humanitarian Award for 1997. A humanitarian is an individual who through personal effort has contributed with excellence to the community as a whole and this speaks directly to the life and career of Dr. Anderson.

An internal and pulmonary physician since the 1960's, Dr. Joseph Anderson has practiced medicine during 40 years of tremendous growth in technology and research in health care. He can look back knowing that the decision he made to go into medicine came at the moment in history that medicine started its most significant advances in the history of mankind.

While maintaining an active practice, Dr. Anderson gave of his time to the people of Kern County through dozens of service organizations, including those promoting the appreciation of music, young people, the environment, health care, and religion.

Dr. Anderson can proudly look back at his life and know he is seen as a great humanitarian because of the thousands of people who have a better physical and mental outlook on life due his efforts.

Dr. Anderson is one of those Americans who is a leader at home, but often through quiet bearing, is not recognized. We salute him.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CHILD ABUSE AND PREVENTION EN- FORCEMENT ACT

HON. DEBORAH PRYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, November 9, 1997

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, today, I, along with Representative TOM EWING of Illinois and Representative JIM GREENWOOD of Pennsylvania, introduced the Child Abuse Prevention and Enforcement Act, CAPE Act. This bill builds upon the foundation of the Child Abuse and Neglect Enforcement Act [CANE], which was introduced by my close friend, and former colleague, Susan Molinari.

As the mother of a wonderful young child, it breaks my heart to know that nearly 2,000 children die each year of abuse and neglect. In 1 recent year alone, there were 992,617 substantiated cases of child abuse and neglect in our country. As a Federal legislator, I believe we must continue marshaling our Federal resources in a way that helps State and local officials in their fight against child abuse and their efforts to help the innocent victims of such abuse.

The CAPE Act contains a number of important provisions designed to assist State and local law enforcement and child protective services workers in fighting child abuse and providing assistance to the innocent victims.

First, the bill helps States provide access to criminal conviction records by child protective and child welfare workers. This will help such workers identify whether troubled children may be victims of abuse at the hands of adult caregivers.

Second, the bill helps States provide law enforcement instant and timely access to court child custody, visitation, protection, guardianship, or stay away orders. This will help police establish the validity of urgent complaints that children have been snatched by an abusive ex-spouse, so that such complaints can be pursued in a timely manner, particularly when courthouses are closed. This provision addresses a very real problem which was brought to my attention by the Ohio State attorney general Betty Montgomery.

Third, this bill allows major Federal law enforcement grant funds to be used by State and local police for enforcement of child abuse and neglect law. This adds an additional \$500 million which may be used in the fight against child abuse and neglect.

Fourth, the bill doubles the amount of Federal funding to States which may be used for victims of child abuse. This will significantly increase funding for things such as training for