

issues affecting their community. Students at the University of California at Santa Barbara expressed their disapproval of Proposition 209 by protesting on campus. More recently, students have petitioned to raise the political awareness that the Nike industry is thriving under the operation of numerous sweat shops. These events, in which people were entitled to be heard under the public light, were only possible because of the First Amendment—freedom of speech and the right to peaceably assemble and petition.

Furthermore, the extent to which democracy can exist is most dependent upon Americans' political culture to tolerate one another's right to his or her opinion as exemplified in the peaceful assemblies and petitions previously mentioned. At least minimal political tolerance must be expected in order to preserve the objective of a democracy. If Catholics were denied the right to hold public meetings, if government militia were the norm to breaking up peaceful immigrant protesters, if pro-life groups bombed every abortion clinic, then democracy would fail. National Opinion polls, conducted by Samuel Barnes and Max Kasse, have shown that under the American political culture the public has become more tolerant over the last few decades. These surveys reveal that as more citizens support an oppression-free atmosphere, democracy is able to meet its goal of a participatory government.

American democracy distinguishes itself from all other systems of government by maintaining the exercise of its Constitutional bureaucratic framework, the Bill of Rights, and political tolerance. The United States' participatory democracy genuinely allows for equal representation in an environment where the voice and concerns of the people can be heard.

IRISH DEPORTEES

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 1997

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call attention to the plight of several Irish nationals facing deportation from the United States.

As an executive board member of the Ad Hoc Committee on Irish Affairs, I am deeply disappointed by our Government's policy. These men facing deportation left their homeland in the face of political persecution and now live peaceful, productive lives in the United States.

Even so, in what we know as the land of freedom, they are now pursued by our own government. Most of the subjects of deportation proceedings are married to American citizens or legal permanent residents. Most have children who are American citizens. Most would be entitled to permanent residence in the United States, except for their involvement in the Irish political struggle. And, most would face severe persecution if forced to return to Northern Ireland.

Two of those facing deportation, Gabriel Megahey and Robert McErlan, live in my congressional district. Two days ago, a person named Sean Brown, a man from Mr. McErlan's village in the north of Ireland, was brutally assassinated. Only 59 years old and not deeply involved in politics, Sean Brown's death only adds weight to my constituents' assertions that they would face persecution if forced to be deported to their homeland.

Mr. Speaker, 3 months ago, the Ad Hoc Committee for Irish Affairs held an unprecedented forum on the Irish deportees. After hearing from a representative of the administration and family members of the deportees, more than 60 Members of the House of Representatives wrote to President Clinton pleading for justice for those facing deportation. Today, I renew that appeal and once again request that President Clinton meet with a delegation from the Ad Hoc Committee to discuss our Government's unjust policy toward the deportation cases.

CONCERNING THE DEATH OF CHAIM HERZOG

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM BUNNING

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 1997

Mr. BUNNING. Mr. Speaker, it is with sadness that I rise today to recognize the passing of a true hero of Israel, President Chaim Herzog. His leadership and perseverance are examples of why Israel remains the only freely elected country in the Middle East.

Chaim Herzog dedicated his life to the creation and preservation of a free and independent Israel. As a true patriot, Mr. Herzog bravely fought the Nazis as Director of British Intelligence in northern Germany and after the war served as an officer in the Israeli Army during the war of independence in 1948. With Israel's independence secured, Chaim Herzog took on the responsibility of heading Israel's military intelligence branch and served as the country's defense attaché here in Washington, DC until 1954. After a long and distinguished career, Mr. Herzog retired from the army in 1962, with the rank of major-general.

Even after leaving military service, Mr. Herzog continued his work to ensure Israel's freedom. During the Six-Day War, Mr. Herzog was a voice for his people by providing in-depth analysis of the victorious Israeli Army and Air Force. Afterward, he became the first military governor of the West Bank.

Mr. Herzog soon returned to public service by serving as Israel's Ambassador to the U.N. from 1975 to 1978, where he argued against the U.N. resolution equating Zionism with racism and led the charge in defending the triumphant rescue of Israeli hostages in Uganda.

Mr. Herzog, returned to Israel where he was elected to the Knesset in 1981, serving until 1983. In 1983, Mr. Herzog was chosen as the sixth President of the State of Israel and served two terms, until 1993. During this time he improved relations between our two countries and continued Israel's efforts to bring peace to the Middle East.

Israel has lost a great hero with the passing of Chaim Herzog and America has lost a great friend.

TRIBUTE TO EL CENTRO DE AMISTAD

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 1997

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to El Centro de Amistad, which this

year is celebrating its 20th anniversary. Now led by Angel Perez, El Centro has established an impressive record of providing help to at-risk youth and their families in the San Fernando Valley. Anyone who wants to see young people off drugs and away from gangs is grateful to El Centro for its efforts.

Founded in 1977, the original advisory board worked directly with the agency responsible for its development, the San Fernando Community Mental Health Centers, Inc. Seven years later the advisory board assumed the role of governing board, and El Centro de Amistad was born. A bilingual/bicultural non-profit organization, El Centro offers health, mental health, education, and community action services. Many of its clients are poor Latinos, and many of these are recent immigrants.

El Centro focuses on reducing risk factors that can lead to violence, school failure, gang affiliation, and child abuse. The organization offers youth counseling, afterschool tutoring, and summer activities/youth job placement as healthy alternatives to destructive behavior. In 1996 El Centro provided direct services to 13,000 clients and an additional 10,000 family members. It's numbers such as these that vividly illustrate the importance of El Centro to the entire San Fernando Valley.

In 1989 El Centro opened a satellite center in the city of San Fernando to address the needs of an overwhelmingly Latino population. Eight years later, the San Fernando Satellite Center is an unqualified success. Among its many important duties, the Satellite Center has provided psychological counseling to residents in the aftermath of the devastating Northridge earthquake.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in saluting El Centro de Amistad, which has made a difference in the lives of so many people. Its dedication to making this a better world inspires us all.

IRISH DEPORTEES

HON. RICK LAZIO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 1997

Mr. LAZIO of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of seven families now living in the United States. The fathers in these families, Noel Gaynor, Robbie McErlan, Gabriel Megahey, Matt Morrison, Charles Caufield, Kevin Crossan, Brian Pearson, are all Irish nationals, all married to American citizens or legal residents, and are facing deportation.

Earlier this year, I listened to the testimony of many of these families at a hearing before the Congressional Ad Hoc Committee for Irish Affairs. They have been living and working in the United States for many years, some for more than two decades. However, they live under the constant threat of deportation. Because of past political involvement, these men, their wives, even their children would most likely face violence and harassment if forced to live in Northern Ireland.

After years of living in turmoil, these men came to the United States to settle and raise their families. Mr. Speaker, they deserve no less than true, unbiased judgment by our laws.

A TRIBUTE TO SIMON GRATZ HIGH SCHOOL ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 70TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. THOMAS M. FOGLIETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 1997

Mr. FOGLIETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Philadelphia's Simon Gratz High School in my district, which this year celebrates its 70th anniversary. Named for the noted Philadelphia civic leader, legislator, educator, and philanthropist, Simon Gratz High School has been serving the north Philadelphia community since 1927. This is a truly comprehensive high school that provides a sound education to over 2,200 students with diverse needs and backgrounds, and serves as the "flagship school" of the Gratz cluster.

Simon Gratz has established six small learning communities within the school, designed to meet the needs and special interests of the students. These small learning communities include: the Automotive Academy, the Business Institute, the Center for Creative Communications, Crossroads for the Arts and Sciences, Magna Carta—Learning through Law, and Springboard—Allied Health and Teaching Careers. In addition to these special programs, Simon Gratz has a job training program and a teen parent educational center, the Constance E. Clayton Teen Parent Center, this named after our great, former superintendent of schools.

A matter of great pride for Simon Gratz High School and the surrounding community is its great tradition of excellence in athletics. The high school's comprehensive athletic program boasts particularly strong wrestling, football, baseball, and basketball teams. In fact, two recent Simon Gratz graduates were just in the national spotlight as teammates on the Portland Trailblazers team that made this year's NBA playoffs. Those two young men, Rasheed Wallace and Aaron McKie, are the latest in a long line of Simon Gratz scholar/athletes who have gone on to national prominence from their Philadelphia roots. Other famous Simon Gratz graduates include: Pat Kelly, former manager of the Minnesota Twins; Meldrick Taylor, a 1984 Olympic boxing gold medalist; Leroy Kelly, formerly of the Cleveland Browns; and Baseball Hall of Famer, Roy Campanella.

Other outstanding graduates include: our former colleague, William Gray III; the Honorable John Green, sheriff of Philadelphia County; Herman Mattleman, former president of the Philadelphia Board of Education; the Honorable Judge Katherine Streeter Lewis of the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas; and the current principal of Simon Gratz High School, James G. Slaughter.

On Sunday, May 18, the administration, faculty, staff, and students of Simon Gratz High School will celebrate the 70th anniversary of the school by inviting back alumni, former faculty and administrators, and friends from the community. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join with me today in honoring Simon Gratz High School for 70 years of excellence and service to the community of north Philadelphia.

GUAM STUDENT JENNY ANDREA TOVES TO REPRESENT SIMON SANCHEZ HIGH SCHOOL AT NATIONAL YOUTH SUMMIT TO PREVENT UNDERAGE DRINKING

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 1997

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I met with Jenny Andrea Toves, a 14-year-old student from Simon Sanchez High School on Guam and her advisor, Mrs. Shirley Ruiz. Jenny was selected to represent Guam at the National Youth Summit to Prevent Underage Drinking that is being held here in Washington. The summit, which is sponsored by Mothers Against Drunk Driving, targets underage drinking as part of its overall effort to combat drunk driving.

Jenny came to attend the summit to gain ideas on how to raise the legal drinking age in Guam from 18 to 21. She is a member of her school's drug prevention club and is active in the young women's organization at her church. She is a member of the Guam Show Choir, the Board of Governing Students, and the student body association.

During our meeting, Jenny presented me with the top three youth summit recommendations that were adopted by summit participants. These include the automatic loss of license for those under 21 on their first alcohol-related offense, that zero tolerance laws for those under 21 have strong sanctions and include a strong media campaign to raise awareness, and that requirements be made for alcohol advertisers to pay for public service announcements to counter alcohol advertisements. It is clear from their recommendations that the direction from our youth is to seriously deal with these issues and to pursue them here in Washington and back home in their respective communities.

Jenny was sincerely excited about participating in the summit and has expressed her commitment to carry on with this work. I was proud to know that she will continue to lead, coordinate, and participate in educational and peer efforts designed to combat drunk driving and underage drinking at home on Guam. We should take notice of the willingness of Jenny and the other participants of the summit to work on these issues and commend them for their efforts. I know that I will be seriously considering these proposals and hope that my colleagues will do the same.

IRISH DEPORTEES

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 1997

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my personal concern about an issue of great importance to a number of families in New Jersey, an issue of fundamental fairness. Irish-Americans and their families have been discriminated against for many years. On February 6 of this year, many Irish-American families testified about their imminent deportation. These heartfelt testimonies conclude that deportation divides husband and wife, father and

son, and mother and daughter. The separation divides the family unit and causes undue stress on extended family members. So, you can see why I am particularly concerned about the deportation of innocent Irish-Americans who in many cases have been denied due process.

Cases of individuals being targeted for prosecution by the Immigration and Naturalization Service include Noel Gaynor, Robbie McErlan, Gabriel Megahey, Matt Morrison, Kevin Crossan, Charles Caulfield, and Brian Pearson, who all share a number of similarities.

These men suffered political persecution in Northern Ireland. Several served time as special category political prisoners after being convicted through torture and extorted confessions. None of these men are currently wanted for any crime in Ireland, Northern Ireland, or Britain.

These are men who have led exemplary lives as productive, law-abiding members of their community. They are no threat to national security and their threatened deportation goes against the moral fiber of the United States.

In spite of these factors, the United States is zealously pursuing deportation proceedings against these men. The legal cost and not to mention the emotional strain are overwhelming and have taken a devastating toll on each of these families.

The Justice Department is seeking to have anyone imprisoned by the British for a political offense automatically deported regardless of how long they have lived in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I would call to the attention of my colleagues the graphic portrayal of continuing British injustice toward the Irish in the movie "In the Name of the Father," based on a true and very tragic case.

I believe that due process of the law should be given to Noel Gaynor, Gabriel Megahey, and Brian Pearson, all of whom face deportation.

I have written letters to urge the administration to stop these unfair proceedings. If these individuals are deported, American families will suffer.

HONORING PATRICIA FORD, GERALD GRANTNER, AND MARVIN MCLAUGHLIN

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 1997

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to three individuals who have given so much of themselves in their duties as public servants to the citizens of Michigan. On Thursday, May 15, the staff of the Michigan Jobs Commission will recognize Ms. Patricia Ford, Mr. Gerald Grantner, and Mr. Marvin McLaughlin as they retire after many years of dedicated service.

Ms. Patricia Ford has been an advocate for disabled individuals for over the last quarter century. As a member of the group Disabled in Action, she successfully fought for the passage of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. She began her employment with the State of Michigan in 1978 as a vocational rehabilitation counselor. Throughout her career, Ms. Ford