

ground as members were preparing for a New Year's Eve Gala. But the members did not let this tragic incident stop them. They went back to meeting in basements, homes, and businesses until they purchased from the city of Long Branch, in 1959, a piece of land on West End avenue. The facility was later physically moved to the corner of West End and Indiana avenues, with IAMA members pitching in to do the construction, carpentry, and other work.

Into the 1990's, IAMA continues its work of promoting social, cultural, and recreational activities for the citizens of Long Branch, especially the young people. In addition to starting the baseball league, the IAMA organized a Pop Warner football team and the Long Branch Boxing Association, and holds drug and alcohol-free dances for high school students. Each holiday season, the organization donates to the Long Branch Middle School Thanksgiving Food Drive and Christmas food baskets, as well as the school's Operation Sleighbell project, which distributes toys to kids who might not get Christmas gifts otherwise. IAMA has raised money for children in need of special medical attention at Ronald McDonald House. It supports forensic and debating teams at Long Branch High School, as well as special programs for disabled athletes. The IAMA building also houses a variety of athletic facilities and equipment. The association always comes up with a variety of exciting and enjoyable activities to raise funds for these worthy goals.

Albano Hall was dedicated last November in memory of Anthony Albano, a life member who was noted for bridging the gap between the new and the old organization, and the man responsible for restarting the memorial services after a 25-year lapse.

As a recent article in the Atlanticville newspaper of Long Branch put it, the IAMA is an organization that has become part of the identity of the community it serves. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to pay tribute to the 50th anniversary of the IAMA, and I look forward to participating in the celebration of this momentous occasion.

A TRIBUTE TO ALFRED AND DARYL SAUNDERS

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 1997

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of a remarkable couple, Alfred and Daryl Saunders. Their work as educators, entrepreneurs, parents, and community leaders has been a model of civic duty within our community. This commitment to their community is not a recent trend, rather it is a lifelong pursuit.

As a young man, Al followed his dream and became a baseball umpire, after several years of umpiring he returned home to his family in California. A short time later he was called to serve his country and did so as a supply sergeant in the Korean war. Upon completing his tour of duty he entered the publishing business and he later established Newcastle Publishing Co. where he now serves as president and chief financial officer.

Daryl's family moved to southern California when she was a young girl. She graduated

from California State University-Northridge and went on to teach at the elementary school level. After years of teaching she elected to use her skills to assist low-income families by helping them find quality child care. She currently assists Al in the family's publishing business.

In the Saunders' 30 years of marriage they have volunteered their time to several charitable organizations. The Shriners, Valley Jewish Business Leaders and City of Hope just to name a few. They also have served as volunteers and leaders in their local temple, the Temple Ner Maarav. In their 20 years at the temple, they have each served as president and vice-president on various committees and have been involved in virtually all aspects of the temple. Their dedication to their local community through their leadership and voluntarism is truly remarkable.

It is an honor to represent Al and Daryl. In their hard work, close knit family and spirit of voluntarism they exemplify those characteristics that make this Nation great.

COMMENDING THE HUMAN INVESTMENT PROJECT FOR OUTSTANDING WORK IN PROVIDING AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN SAN MATEO COUNTY

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 1997

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in commending the Human Investment Project, Inc. [HIP] for its outstanding efforts to provide affordable housing opportunities to low-income persons who wish to reside in San Mateo County, CA. I am enormously proud of HIP's record of accomplishment and am honored to be able to praise its good work.

In these times of budgetary constraints, when Federal, State, and local governments are forcing the most vulnerable members of our society to fend for themselves, we inevitably turn to private, nonprofit organizations to step in and help. HIP meets that challenge by serving the housing needs of the community with an emphasis on those with special needs including single parent families, seniors, and the homeless.

Founded in 1972, HIP set out to assist the disadvantaged and disabled living in San Mateo County. As times changed and new housing challenges arose, however, HIP developed new and innovative responses. HIP began with the homesharing help and information program, a service linking people with housing to share with others needing a place to live at an affordable price. Since its creation, HIP has made more than 7,000 homesharing placements and has become the largest provider of shared housing in the Nation.

In 1985, HIP created the lease-a-home program where it leases properties on the open market and then sublets them to people with special needs at an affordable price. HIP also manages properties through its property development program where it manages group share homes and apartment units for low-income and homeless persons and developmentally disabled adults.

In 1987, HIP established the home equity conversion program to assist seniors in turning their home equity into cash that allows them to keep living at home. Due to this program's outstanding reputation statewide, lenders and services providers have been referring clients to HIP for counseling.

HIP's efforts to help low-income single-parent families—undoubtedly the most underserved segment of the population in terms of affordable housing—resulted in several programs aimed at self-sufficiency for single parents. The group share program established in 1988 provides shared living for single-parent families with two or more children. In 1991, HIP began its self-sufficiency program to subsidize rent and utilities for single parents who live in HIP owned or managed property so that they can continue their education or job training and find employment. HIP's mentor program supplements the self-sufficiency program by matching participants with volunteer mentors. Mentors provide guidance and support for professional growth and career advancement.

Most recently in 1993, HIP embarked on its homelessness prevention program. This effort targets those who are homeless or at the greatest risk of homelessness: the disabled, persons with special needs, single parents, the working poor, and others in affordable housing. The program matches these candidates with very low rent opportunities or opportunities to provide services in lieu of rent.

As a result of its commitment to the citizens of San Mateo County, HIP has received well-deserved recognition. The 102d U.S. Congress cited HIP for its "innovative solution to vexing housing problems." In addition, the American Society on Aging granted HIP its Best Practice Award for its work with the elderly.

Mr. Speaker, once again, I urge my colleagues to join me in commending the Human Investment Project for making a tremendous and lasting contribution to the citizens of San Mateo County. Standing out among the myriad activities and projects that occupy our daily lives, HIP struggles to keep homelessness at bay for thousands of people. In its perseverance and dedication, the Human Investment Project humbly reminds us that we are our brothers' and sisters' keeper.

FRANKLIN COUNTY WELCOMES NISSAN

HON. VAN HILLEARY

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 1997

Mr. HILLEARY. Mr. Speaker, this is a proud and happy day for the citizens of Franklin County, TN. Today, Nissan will formally dedicate its all-new \$80 million powertrain assembly plant in Decherd, TN.

This new plant—Nissan Motor Manufacturing Corp.'s first expansion site outside of Smyrna, TN—will assemble 200,000 engines and 300,000 transaxles annually. The engines will be installed on Nissan's Altima passenger sedans manufactured in Smyrna, and the transaxles will be placed on Altimas and Nissan/Quest/Mercury Villager minivans built in Avon Lake, OH.

Nissan's expansion means that over 400 new jobs will be created in middle Tennessee.

These are good jobs, which also serve as a catalyst for economic growth in Franklin County. That's good for everybody, not just the people who get jobs with Nissan.

The opening of this new plant is only the latest chapter in Nissan's long record of investment in Tennessee and in America. Nearly 40 years ago, Nissan sold its first vehicle in the United States. Almost 15 years ago, Nissan built its first truck in Tennessee. Since then, Nissan has grown tremendously, changing from a company that exclusively imported cars and trucks to a major U.S. automotive manufacturer with investment in the United States totalling over \$2 billion. Fifteen years ago, Nissan made no vehicles here and bought few parts from U.S. suppliers. Now, over 70 percent of the Nissan cars and trucks sold in America are made here, and Nissan buys over \$4 billion worth of parts and materials from U.S. suppliers each year.

Nissan's powertrain assembly plant is a good example of how international investment and trade can benefit people in places like Franklin County. We all hear about companies shutting down their American plants and moving operations overseas. Nissan, however, has turned this "conventional wisdom" on its head. The engines that will be made in Decherd have up till now been produced in Mexico and imported into the United States. Likewise, the transaxles that will be made at the Decherd facility have previously been assembled in Japan.

I applaud Nissan's confidence in America and extend our warmest welcome to Franklin County, TN.

THE BUDGET AGREEMENT

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 1997

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I am inserting my Washington Report for Wednesday, May 14, 1997, into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

THE BUDGET AGREEMENT

President Clinton and congressional leaders recently reached an outline agreement on a plan to balance the budget in the year 2002. The agreement was reached principally because of the benefits of a roaring economy. Some tough decisions were made; many more were postponed. The agreed outline is a significant political achievement, but its economic impact remains to be seen.

Balancing the budget would be a major accomplishment. It would show that the federal government can get its fiscal house in order, and it would boost the economy. But I have been uneasy with the extravagant rhetoric accompanying the agreement. Several proponents have labeled it "historic", yet the plan makes fewer tough fiscal choices than the 1990 and 1993 budget agreements. I think there is a little less here than meets the eye.

The agreement is only a broad outline of budget policies. It calls for Medicare savings of \$115 billion and Medicaid savings of \$15 billion. Tax changes include \$135 billion in reduced taxes, which may include a child tax credit and modest capital gains and estate tax relief. The agreement also reportedly includes education tax credits.

Details Unknown: The outline of this agreement is vague and missing critical details. Al-

most nothing is in writing. Negotiators disagree on interpreting key details, and the entire agreement may be in jeopardy. Congress must divide the money for tax cuts among popular competing proposals. New education programs must be fleshed out, and politically unpopular spending cuts must be approved. Disagreement on any of these unknown details could derail the agreement.

Economic Projections: One thing is clear: this agreement will fail to balance the budget if we have a recession before 2002. The longest period without a recession in the United States was 8 years and 10 months, from 1961 to 1969. We are now 6 years and 2 months into the expansion that began in March 1991; five more years without a recession would be unprecedented.

Final agreement was reached only when last-minute favorable economic forecasts gave negotiators an additional \$225 billion to play with. This dramatic, overnight change demonstrates the power the economy has on the federal budget. With strong growth, deficits remain low. But if the economy falters, income falls and deficits soar, and it is difficult to rejuvenate economic activity. For this reason, budgets should be evaluated not just on bottom-line spending, but on the specific details with potential for long-term economic growth. The specifics in the following areas will be critical for the economy's future.

Tax Cuts: The proposed tax cuts include some measures, such as a child tax credit, that few economists believe will increase economic activity. They also do not reform payroll taxes, which hit low- and moderate-income families hardest and deter job creation.

Education: Investing in education can increase economic potential, but we must be careful to avoid tax credits or spending programs that will just drive up college tuition. The focus must be on training skilled workers for today's competitive, hi-tech markets.

Infrastructure: A successful budget will provide and maintain the roads, bridges, airports, water systems, and information networks necessary to keep the economy running smoothly. In southern Indiana, virtually all of the growth in the past few decades has coincided with improved infrastructure.

Long-term outlook: There is little in this agreement to avert the spending problems caused by our aging population. No serious Medicare policy changes are in this agreement, and negotiators did not consider proposals to improve the long-term health of Social Security. Also worrisome is the long-term impact of the proposed tax cuts. The proposed tax cuts will reduce revenue by \$85 billion in the first five years, but they double in cost over the next five years. The previous five budget plans (1978, 1981, 1983, 1986, and 1990) all projected long-term balance, but Congress backed down when confronted with later-year tough decisions.

Winners and Losers: I have concerns about the fairness and equity of this plan. It will further imbalance a society that already has a sharp divide between well-to-do and moderate-income Americans. The agreement apparently gives tax breaks to the well-to-do and the middle class. These cuts are attractive, but they are offset by spending reductions in programs for the poor. We continue our recent habit of putting most of the balanced budget burden on the backs of people with modest means. The cuts in food stamps, job training, and public assistance have been substantial.

Like most successful negotiations, each party claimed victory, but they also gave things away. The congressional majority will get tax cuts for investors and the middle class, but they had to accept many of the President's spending priorities. The President got some extra money for education, children's health, and environmental protection, but he had to accept some of congressional leaders' tax and spending cuts. For this budget to be enacted, both parties will have to vote for specific proposals they find distasteful.

If a balanced budget is achieved, many Americans will gain. Interest rates will fall, savings and investment will rise, the trade deficit will shrink, and the economy should grow a little faster for a longer period of time. But older persons will pay more for Medicare, and physicians and hospitals will be squeezed. Defense industries will see some reductions, and airline travelers will continue to pay a ticket tax. Lower income Americans, who receive housing, heating, and nutrition support, are likely to see those programs reduced.

Conclusion: This budget agreement is significant more for the political consensus it represents than any great policy shift. I will reserve judgment until I see more than a vague outline. The plan may or may not reach balance in 2002, but it was achieved in an atmosphere of civility that can be important for the future. I am hopeful this spirit will give all parties confidence to work together on greater challenges in the future. These challenges must include a serious effort to address the longer-term budget issues that have been pushed to the side.

IN RECOGNITION OF IRISH FAMILIES FACING DEPORTATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 1997

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to bring attention to the cases of Mr. McErlean, Mr. Megahey, Mr. Morrison, Mr. Crossan, Mr. Caulfield, and Mr. Pearson—Irish men who live in fear of being deported. They are all here legally, some have been here for over 20 years. They are married to American women or legal citizens and have American children and grandchildren.

They are not criminals, nor wanted for any crime in Ireland, Britain, or America.

However, these men are being targeted by the INS because they were imprisoned in Britain as political prisoners.

If the INS proceeds with their deportation, American families will suffer either the specter of having their family torn apart or having to move back to the North of Ireland where the persecution will resume.

There is no good reason to pursue these deportations. I think our justice system is the fairest in the world, but I think if we allow these men to be pulled away from their productive lives in America, justice will not be served and may endanger the lives of these American families.

I stand by my friends in the Committee for Irish Affairs who are making only a small plea for basic human rights for people who are our neighbors.