

banned or suspended their use, and 20 have announced no production.

In 1996, the UN General Assembly passed by a vote of 156-0, with 10 abstentions, a resolution calling upon states "to pursue vigorously" an international treaty banning APMs "as soon as possible." The world now boasts two "mine-free zones"—Central America, in a joint declaration by its six Foreign Ministers to ban the weapon throughout the region, and the CARICOM states. Additionally, both the OAS and the OAU have passed resolutions calling upon their member states to make their regions mine-free.

This momentum has also brought other change. After pressure from the ICBL, the 1980 Convention on Conventional Weapons (CCW) was reviewed from 1994-96. The two and a half year process of review of the CCW is widely held to have brought minimal change to the flawed treaty. But through the focus of attention on the process, the pro-ban movement gained tremendous momentum and has moved rapidly beyond the limits of the CCW. It was in the review sessions themselves that the ICBL helped to ignite a true governmental "pro-ban movement" by hosting the first meetings of pro-ban states. This series of meetings led the Canadian Government to call for a strategy conference of pro-ban governments in October of last year in Ottawa. The conference was attended by 50 pro-ban states and 24 observer nations.

At the conclusion of the Ottawa conference, Canada's Foreign Minister closed the conference with the dramatic invitation to states to return to Canada in December of 1997 to sign a treaty banning AP mines. The conference chairman, in close cooperation with the ICBL, had prepared an "Action Plan" that would lead to that goal. A series of preparatory meetings are now scheduled in 1997 with a target of a ban treaty by the end of the year.

While the Landmine Campaign never saw its goal as utopian, it did not envision such change in so short a period of time. Governments and individuals around the world, including former Secretary General of the United Nations Boutros Boutros Ghali, have recognized that it is the work of the ICBL that has made the difference. One UN official, speaking at the Ottawa Conference, noted that this change has come about because of the original impetus and ongoing coordinated work of the ICBL. He called the coalition the "single most important and effective exercise by civil society since the Second World War."

The goal is in sight. There remains a huge amount of work to ensure its fruition. The ICBL, which initiated this movement, will continue to work in close cooperation throughout the year—and beyond—with pro-ban states to rid the world of this indiscriminate weapon.

The ICBL represents a dramatic expression of the will of civil society to change international norms. That is why I nominate Ms. Williams and the International Campaign to Ban Landmines for the Nobel Peace Prize in 1997. An award to them of the Peace Prize in this critical year would send a powerful signal that such models for social change are recognized as critical and important as we move into the next century.

Yours respectfully,

JAMES MCGOVERN,
Member of Congress.

□ 2130

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. METCALF). Under the Speaker's an-

nounced policy of January 7, 1997, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. NEUMANN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. NEUMANN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

COMMENDING THE WHITNEY M. YOUNG HIGH SCHOOL OF CHICAGO FOR ITS ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. DAVIS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a group of superstars in the Seventh Congressional District in the State of Illinois. Often when we talk about superstars it is in the context of athletics, athletes, entertainment and entertainers such as Michael Jordan, Oprah Winfrey, the Bulls, and I am very proud that I represent all of them. It would be impossible to argue that Michael Jordan, the leader of the Chicago Bulls, based in the Seventh District of Illinois, the man who dazzles us with his amazing agility and ball handling skills, is anything but a superstar or that Scottie Pippin, who grew up in a little town in Arkansas not very far from my original home, he in Hamburg and I in Parkdale. Scottie is indeed a superstar, and I am proud to represent him. Likewise, Kevin Garnett, who also lived in the Seventh District, attended Farragut High School and went directly into the National Basketball Association with the Minnesota Timberwolves based upon his exceptional ability to master the game of basketball.

But what about our academic superstars who have proven themselves capable of their ability and with their ability to master the quest for knowledge?

So tonight, Mr. Speaker, I come to talk about another group of superstars.

For the past 8 years the Whitney M. Young High School's Academic Decathlon teams have been superstars in the academic arena. They are the Michael Jordans and Scottie Pippins of education. The decathlon team's mental ability and problem solving skills have placed them in the top 10 in the United States Academic Decathlon's national competition 8 consecutive times, winning third place three times and second place once when the decathlon was held in Chicago in 1995. Whitney Young's most recent team placed third in the 1997 U.S. Academic Decathlon's national competition. The 9 students from Whitney Young High School who placed in the 1997 U.S. Academic Decathlon and the individuals who coached them are students, Ed Bailey,

Katherine Megquier, Emmett Hogan, Julienna Ar, Long Truong, Maryanne Ar, Robert Jefferson, Brian Piechowski, and Robert Iu; coaches, Brian Tennison and Ms. Susanne McCannon.

The Whitney Young High School has produced a dynasty of superstars who have competed successfully over the years in the decathlon. Whitney Young has been the Illinois champion for the past 12 years, defeating teams from such academic powerhouses as the Illinois Math and Science Academy, New Trier, Stevens on and Niles West. One or two years might be a fluke. Three or four years might be viewed to exceptional hard work. Five or six years might be due to a few individuals making inordinate sacrifices. But 12 years, 12 years can only be due to an exceptional educational environment.

Therefore, I commend and congratulate an outstanding principal, Ms. Joyce Kenner; Mr. Billy Williams, chairman; Mr. Paul Levin, vice chairman; Ms. Susan Hirsch, recording secretary; Ms. Anita Andrews, Mr. Miguel Ayala, Ms. Mary Baldwin, Ms. Estrelita Dukes, Judge Teicival Herman; Ms. Barbara Keys, Ms. Martha Miller, and Ms. Deborah Sawyer, all members of the local advisory council.

Mr. Speaker, making the final three in the U.S. Academic Decathlon is no small feat. The decathlon takes months and even years of hard work and preparation. The Academic Decathlon is the supreme measure of educational achievement. It is the World Series of academics. It is the NBA finals of scholastic attainment.

So again we salute Whitney M. Young, all of the members of the team. I congratulate each and every one of the outstanding young men and women and their coaches. I congratulate the Chicago Board of Education, the local advisory council, the principal and a great staff. It does indeed take a whole community to make a great school.

INTERNATIONAL LEGAL ISSUE HAS BEEN LINGERING TOO LONG

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. LINDER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I bring to the attention of this body an international legal issue of expropriation that has been lingering since the early 1980's, but began off the coast of Cartagena well over two hundred years ago. It is a tale of buried treasure that has resulted in the foreign defiance of accepted property rights in salvage laws at the expense of an American company.

By way of background, after encountering an enemy British fleet, the Spanish galleon *San Jose* was sunk with a treasury estimated at over \$2 billion in today's value. The *San Jose* and its treasure remained hidden at the bottom of the ocean for hundreds of years, until a United States company—known today as Sea Search Armada—discovered the wreck of the *San Jose*. Under recognized international salvage and admiralty laws, the discoverer of this find has the right to salvage the

wreck and receive half of the value of the recovered treasures. Sea Search Armada discovered the *San Jose* wreck in 1983.

Unfortunately, the past 14 years have witnessed an extraordinary effort by the Government of Colombia to claim exclusive ownership of the treasure of the sunken galleon. In clear disregard of accepted law, the government enacted retroactive changes in its salvage law that would have reduced the share of the treasure payable to the American company from the accepted 50 percent to a taxable 5 percent. Thankfully, the Colombian Constitutional Court declared the order unconstitutional.

In an August 1996 letter to International Relations Committee Chairman Ben Gilman, the Columbia government stated that a ruled had not yet been uttered by the Superior Court of Barranquilla and that the Government "will not make any decisions until after a verdict" is made by this judicial court. The decision of the Magistrates of the Superior of Barranquilla—like all previous court decisions—was in Sea Search Armada's favor and recognized its claim to 50 percent of the treasure of the *San Jose*. Regrettably, the Colombian government's attorney general will now be appealing the decision once again.

This case has gone on too long. It is high time that the Government of Colombia end its decade-long litigation against the Sea Search Armada company and resolve this matter.

We are faced with a situation in which the legitimate property rights of an American company have been expropriated in disregard to the recognized rights of ownership under Colombian and international law. When deprived of property in defiance of international law, American citizens should expect their government to ensure that preferential treatment is not given to the delinquent party, as this body has done in the past.

Mr. Speaker, the rulings from every Colombian court and from experts panels have defined the rights of the discovering party. Following the decision by the Superior Court, the Colombian government has been provided with an important opportunity to demonstrate its commitment to abide by the rule of law. I believe that Colombia's recognition of the judicial ruling will send a reassuring message to potential American investors and will assure that the cooperation between our nation and Colombia improves in the future.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. DREIER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. DREIER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. BROWN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Ms. BROWN of Florida addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. SMITH] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. SMITH of Michigan addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

DEMOCRATS GETTING READY TO STAND UP AND FIGHT AGAIN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Connecticut [Ms. DELAURO] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind my colleagues what we can accomplish when we stand up together and fight for what we believe in.

Last year the congressional majority attempted to cut the school lunch program, and we stood up and said that it is wrong, simply wrong to take food out of the mouths of our children, and we stood up for our nation's kids, and we won that fight.

Then the congressional majority attempted to cut billions of dollars out of the Medicare program, and once again Democrats stood up and said it is wrong, simply wrong, to take health care away from our nation's seniors. We stood up for our nation's seniors, and we won that fight.

Last month the congressional majority showed that they have not learned from their mistakes. Republicans on the House Committee on Appropriations led the charge and voted overwhelming to underfund the Women, Infants and Children program by \$38 million. Their actions would have forced 180,000 pregnant women, infants and children off of the WIC program. Once again we stood up and said it is wrong, simply wrong, to take milk, to take cereal, to take formula off of the breakfast tables. We stood up for women, for infants and for children, and we won that fight.

And as we head into this budget process, we should not be afraid to continue to stand up and fight for what we believe in because every time we have, we have won the fight.

We all agreed, Democrats and Republicans, about the need to balance the federal budget. But we need to stand up and make sure that any budget agreement includes a budget that is balanced in a way that is consistent with our priorities and our values as a Nation. We do not have a lot of details yet about the specifics of this budget agreement, but looking at the GOP tax cut plan makes me think: Get ready, guys, we are going to be forced to stand up and to fight once again, for the GOP tax cut plan mostly helps the wealthy. In fact, over 50 percent of the benefits go to the top 5 percent of wage earners.

This is not the kind of a tax cut that the working families of America are looking for. Democrats are going to stand up and fight for the folks who are not making the 6 figure salaries and incomes, the families who could really use some tax relief.

We will fight, fight to make sure that the tax cuts in this budget deal go to

the families that need it the most, to working middle class families, to small businesses, to small farmers. We will fight to make sure this budget protects and preserves the Medicare program, and we will fight to make sure that this budget provides for education and for health care for our kids.

We have stood up and we have fought before for our children, for our seniors and for the working families of America, and we will stand up and fight once again.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Utah [Mr. HANSEN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. HANSEN addressed the House. His remarks will appear in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. CUNNINGHAM] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. CUNNINGHAM addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. UPTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. UPTON addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Connecticut [Mrs. JOHNSON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

WHAT ARE THEY HIDING?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. HORN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, this morning I discussed 6 individuals that were involved in the activities of the 1996 campaign in raising money for the Democratic National Committee. As a member of the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, we have been looking at the activities of Webster Hubbell, John Huang, Charlie Trie, James Riady, and Mark Middleton, as well as Pauline Kachanalak.

The White House has stated on a number of occasions that it is fully cooperating with our committee subpoenas, but that is simply not true. The White House has given us some documents, but they consist mostly of highly censored items; the fancy word is redacted. It means they have blackened out everything on the page but perhaps one word, and we have dozens of copies of that, maybe hundreds. We asked for copies of correspondence involving