

THE NATIONAL YOUTH VIOLENCE
COMMISSION**HON. DAN BURTON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 1999

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, the Columbine High School tragedy and its aftershocks still haunt our memories. Statesmen, pundits and ordinary citizens ask questions every day as to why our children are murdering their peers. Clearly, the mere fact that we must ask these questions demonstrates that a real crisis exists and needs to be addressed immediately. While no one has any definitive answers, many opinions have been put forth without reaching any consensus. These opinions are multi-faceted and have included: the de-moralization and de-humanization of our youth due to a "culture of violence" perpetuated by the media, the non-enforcement of existing laws regarding firearms, and the degradation of families and communities due to this "culture of violence."

All of these opinions likely point to sources of the problem of teen violence, but they do not reveal the possibility of one single and simple solution. In order to put a halt to the specter of teen violence, an investigation should be made into its causes and to its probable solutions. Such a Commission should be bi-partisan, and it should be appointed equally by the President of the United States and Leaders in Congress from both the Majority and Minority parties. In the best interests of the Nation, the Commission will come to some form of a consensus concerning the various natures of, and the solutions to, the extreme teen violence that is plaguing our society.

These tragedies are too important to ignore, and too important not to focus all of our resources on discovering their root causes and possible solutions. That is why I, along with Representatives MARKEY and TIERNEY, am introducing legislation to create a national Commission that will be asked to conduct an in-depth analysis of teen violence. The Commission would be made up of a panel of experts that include religious figures, teachers, law enforcement officials, counselors, psychologists, and research groups that deal with family issues. Hopefully, a Commission that contains such experts will be able to appraise the situation accurately and make the necessary recommendations.

Upon completion of its work, the commission will be responsible for submitting to Congress and the President a report detailing possible steps to reduce the level of juvenile violence in America. While this is not a problem that will be solved overnight, and there are some serious ideological differences that need be overcome, I am hopeful that this Commission can help us in preventing similar tragedies from occurring in the future, and at least begin to address the plague of youth violence that is tearing the very fabric of our nation.

THE NATIONAL YOUTH VIOLENCE
COMMISSION**HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 1999

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, weeks after the tragedy at Columbine High School, we as a national community are still cognizant of the ordeal and attempting to make sense of this horrific incident and the other school massacres that followed it. Many of us are still asking questions and searching for reasons why our children are senselessly murdering each other in classrooms, schoolyards, streetcorners and their homes; why there is so much violence surrounding and savaging the youth of our country.

There have been several factors cited as the possible causes for this emphasis on violence: the disconnection so many youths feel from their parents, peers, schools and communities; the harmful influence of the entertainment media; the easy access children have to guns; lack of support services for alienated and mentally ill teens; and the weakening of our moral and communal safety nets.

While there are many informed opinions and hypotheses, there are very few definitive conclusions and little consensus as to who or what is responsible for this atrocity. This is a problem that can not be solved with definitive answers—there is no one answer. As a country Americans do agree that we must come together as a nation to stop this menace, which is putting all of our communities and way of life at risk.

In order to combat this difficult challenge, we must reach a national consensus on how to respond. We must carefully, deliberately, dispassionately analyze the depths of the problem. Today, Mr. BURTON, Mr. TIERNEY and I are introducing legislation to create a national commission on youth violence that will examine the many possible reasons why so many children are becoming killers and help us find solutions to diminish this imminent threat.

In order to thoroughly study the many dimensions of the problem this panel should be composed of the country's finest experts in the fields of law enforcement, teaching and counseling, parenting and family studies, child and adolescent psychology, Cabinet members, and religious leaders.

After 18 months of work, the commission would be responsible to report its conclusions to the President and Congress and recommend a series of tangible steps to take in order to reduce the level of youth violence and prevent another community from feeling the same pain and grief as the residents of Littleton.

There are several steps that must be taken by Congress and the citizens of our country in order to preserve the safety of our children. We understand that this problem is not one that can be solved overnight, or with any single piece of legislation. Despite this we have legitimate policy and philosophical differences to overcome in order to tackle this problem. There is not a guarantee that with this commission that we will find these answers and solve our problems, but we believe there is hope for doing so and therefore deserves our support.

TRIBUTE TO LARRY PETERSON

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 1999

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize the accomplishments and contributions of one of Colorado's great businessmen, Larry Peterson. In doing so, I would like to honor this individual who, for so many years, has exemplified the notion of public service civic duty.

Larry Peterson is a self made man who has always exhibited strong morals and family values. After graduating high school, he spent a short time attending Colorado State University. Larry chose to leave college to return home and help care for his family in a time of need. He experienced many areas of the work field, before settling into a career. Late in the 1960's Larry Peterson began working at a pharmacy, which he would later own.

Larry Peterson is a successful businessman and has always sought to share his success with others. He finds time to get involved with charities such as Make A Wish Foundation, and the Children Miracle Network. His contributions to charities are too numerous to list, which indicates just how many there are.

Aside from his contributions to charities, Larry Peterson has been very active in Republican party politics. As a precinct captain since 1998, Larry has helped many candidates who have run, or are running, for office, including Colorado Governor Bill Owens, President George Bush and Senator Bob Dole. Larry has also played a key role in the organizational efforts of the GOP throughout Colorado. He was very effective in assisting former GOP Chairman Don Bain with important grassroots events from throughout 1993–1996. He even participated as a member of the Colorado Delegation to the National Convention in 1996.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to say thank you to Larry Peterson for his truly exceptional contributions to numerous charities, and to the state of Colorado alike. People like Larry, who give so selflessly to others, are a rare breed. Fellow citizens have gained immensely by knowing him, and for that we owe Larry Peterson a debt of gratitude.

A TRIBUTE TO BEVERLY A.
SHAUGHNESSY FOR HER 35
YEARS OF SERVICE**HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 1999

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable public servant in my district, Beverly A. Shaughnessy, who is retiring after 35 years of service to the Fourth District Cook County Court.

Mrs. Beverly Shaughnessy, the former Beverly Thomas, has been a life-long resident of Berwyn, Illinois. Mrs. Shaughnessy began her career in the Berwyn Health Department. In the early 1950's she moved to Berwyn City Hall as a Court Clerk. When Berwyn and other surrounding communities became a part of the Fourth District, Beverly moved to the District offices in Oak Park. As the Fourth District outgrew its facilities, a new District office was

built in Maywood, where Mrs. Shaughnessy has served since its opening. She has progressed from a Circuit Court Clerk to Supervisor of Clerks for the felony division. Many lawyers and judges credit Mrs. Shaughnessy for their knowledge of how the court system functions.

Mrs. Shaughnessy became acquainted with Tom Shaughnessy, mayor of the city of Berwyn, and they were married on June 21, 1947. They have two children, Tom Jr. (Mark) and Patte (Kathy) Kennedy, as well as grandchildren Bryan, Kelly, Courtney, Danny, Ashley, Leigha and Jack.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mrs. Shaughnessy for her years of dedicated service and extend to her my best wishes in the future.

IRAN'S LATEST TERRORIST ACTION

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 1999

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, over the past month, we have been reading with increasing concern, reports of terrorist attacks by the mullahs' regime against the forces of the Iranian opposition outside Iran. Today, I regret to say that there has been another attack. This time, the target was a city bus carrying members of the Mojahedin in Baghdad. Six of the freedom fighters were killed, and 21 more are in the hospital with serious injuries. Another city bus carrying Iraqi citizens was also heavily damaged and a number of its passengers injured in the blast, which left a 6 ft. by 9 ft. crater.

This car bombing is but the latest in a series of two dozen terrorist attacks against the Mojahedin since Mohammad Khatami was elected president two years ago. That is a startling increase over the numbers racked up by his predecessors. Clearly, such statistics contradict all the talk we have heard about Khatami being a "moderate" who will do things differently. Terrorism is on the rise outside Iran, members of religious minorities and dissidents are being arrested and even executed inside Iran, and terrorist groups violently opposing the Middle East peace process are receiving more funds, more training and more support from the Khatami government.

International silence in response to Khatami's flagrant violations of international law and human rights only emboldens his regime. The bomb blast today was the fifth such terrorist strike against the Mojahedin on Iraqi soil in the past month. Against the backdrop of Khatami's open support of regional terrorists, and the wave of disappearances and assassinations targeting dissidents and minorities in Iran, it hardly paints a picture of moderation. Obviously, goodwill gestures, trade concessions, and apologies have not succeeded in modifying the government's behavior. It is time for our State Department to change its tune, to adopt a decisive Iran policy which insists that the mullahs be held accountable for their deeds, and to strongly condemn the terrorist attacks launched by Tehran.

LEGISLATION TO REPEAL PERSONAL HOLDING COMPANY TAX PROVISIONS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 1999

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to repeal the personal holding company tax provisions of the Internal Revenue Code. I am introducing this legislation because the circumstances that gave rise to the enactment of those provisions no longer exist. Some have referred to those provisions as "a crusade without a cause." Now those provisions are largely a complex trap into which unwary corporations may fall.

The personal holding company tax provisions were enacted in 1934 when the maximum individual income tax rate was substantially higher than the maximum corporate tax rate and when corporations could be liquidated on a tax-free basis. Those circumstances created a potential for abuse, and the personal holding company tax provisions were an appropriate response to that abuse. Neither of the circumstances that gave rise to the enactment of these provisions is true today.

Mr. Speaker, I am confident that we will continue to have an income tax system in this country. The failure of the Republican controlled Congress to develop an alternative tax system proposal is ample evidence of the unrealistic nature of the Republican rhetoric on this issue. Therefore, we should attempt to improve and reduce the complexity of the income tax system whenever possible. I am very pleased that Reps. COYNE and NEAL have introduced significant simplification proposals. The bill that I am introducing today is another in a series of tax simplification proposals introduced by the Democratic Members of the Committee on Ways and Means. I hope it and other simplification measures can be enacted quickly.

NATIONAL SOCIETIES URGE SUPPORT OF ELEMENTARY AND HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE AND MATH EDUCATION AND TEACHER PROGRAMS

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 1999

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and celebrate the achievements of the 24-high school students of the United States Physics Team.

This is a wonderful opportunity to extol the best in American education which these students represent. They inspire us as they learn to ask the questions of science to explore, investigate, and discover. Let us keep these students and their accomplishments in mind as was we discuss the future of American education in the coming months.

I am proud to be the Representative of one of the members of the team—Katherine Scott from Belle Mead, NJ. Katherine already holds her own patent and helped her Science Bowl team from Montgomery High School perform

well in the National Science Bowl competition in April. She plans to study aerospace engineering and hopes to work for NASA someday. I am proud to know that Katherine represents the future face of science.

I hope that my colleagues in the House will join me in extending our congratulations to the United States Physics Team and wish them well as they travel and compete in the International Physics Olympiad this summer.

On this day as we celebrate the scientific achievements of our students, I would like to direct the attention of my colleagues to a statement endorsed by national science, math, and education societies.

STATEMENT TO CONGRESS FROM THE UNDERSIGNED SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES REPRESENTING MORE THAN HALF A MILLION PEOPLE

This year, when Congress considers the future of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, the undersigned societies wish to emphasize the following: science and engineering drive our economy, extend our lives, ensure our security, and preserve our environment. Congress can help secure our nation's future by investing today in tomorrow's scientists, engineering and mathematicians. A key component of this investment is the continued federal support of our nation's science and math educators. We urge Congress to continue to support program which benefit K-12 science and math education, particularly professional development programs for teachers.

The American Association of Physics Teachers, the American Institute of Physics, the American Astronomical Society, the National Science Teachers Association, the American Geological Institute, the American Chemical Society, the National Association of Geoscience Teachers, the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF WHEELER COUNTY, OREGON

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 1999

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the one-hundredth anniversary of Wheeler County, Oregon. Wheeler County was formed by the Oregon Legislature in 1899 from parts of Grant, Gilliam, and Wasco Counties. Grant and Gilliam Counties had been carved earlier from the great Wasco County, which had a vast geographic range extending from the Cascades to the Rocky Mountains.

The Centennial Celebration, taking place over three weekends this year, honors the people and places of this very special county, one of the smallest in Oregon. Wheeler County was named for Henry H. Wheeler, who operated the first mail stage line from what is now The Dalles to the gold fields of Canyon City, Oregon. Wheeler survived gunshot by outlaws and his racing stagecoach endured experiences straight out of the Wild West. The new county consisted of 1,656 square miles and it is as uneven and rugged as any Oregon county.

Located 60 miles from the Columbia River, Wheeler County's land varies from high timbered mountains to deep river canyons. The county is sparsely populated with less than one person per square mile. Official state and