

need supportive housing services and despite this bill's increased funding, it falls short of President Clinton's request.

I was disappointed that the Republican House leadership initially had cut housing assistance to low-income Americans. It does not make sense to cut funding to assist homeless persons, the working poor, and persons with AIDS. We should not cut community development programs that revitalize impoverished neighborhoods and produce new affordable housing. I remain disappointed, but support this revised legislation.

It is significant that the conference decided to fund \$20 million for the Clinton-Gore America's Private Investment Companies Initiative (APIC). I hope my colleagues will take the next step and pass legislation as soon as possible to authorize this needed initiative. APIC will leverage this \$20 million and stimulate investments of approximately \$550 million in private issued, government guaranteed loans and an additional \$275 million in private equity capital.

The Community Builders program has provided HUD and America's communities with capable public servants responsive to local needs. These community builders have successfully staffed many locally driven projects and helped streamline HUD services. Their work should be commended.

Despite the accomplishments of this bill, millions of Americans still pay more than half their income for rent and too many Americans remain homeless. This improved bill is a step in the proper direction and will address some of these problems. Nonetheless, more steps are needed. I commend Secretary Cuomo for his leadership on these important housing issues. I hope future budgets will provide more funding to help low-income Americans obtain affordable housing.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE CHARLES BLOOMFIELD

HONORABLE SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 18, 1999

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to ask that we pause for a moment in honor of one of the finest people that I have ever had the pleasure of knowing. Charles Bloomfield was a dedicated family man, a hard working rancher and a model American. He gave selflessly to provide for his family and to help his community.

Charles joined the United States Army during World War II and after he returned from fearless duty, he married Dorothy Parkes in 1946. Together they had two children, Anne and Edward.

In 1949 Charles and his wife bought a beautiful ranch in Meeker, Colorado where Charles truly enjoyed working the land and raising cattle. He was a man of tradition, old fashioned in his ranching methods, which he maintained until just one week before his death.

Charles Bloomfield, aside from working long days on his ranch, gave greatly of his time to many community organizations. In 1946 he was named Water Commissioner, a position that he held for ten years. In the mid-1960's he was County Commissioner and he served

as the Republican Committee chairman for many years. Charles was also very involved in his church, the American Legion and Rio Blanco Lodge #80, AF&AM where he was Past Master and lodge secretary for more than 30 years.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I pay tribute to the life of Charles Bloomfield. I wish that everyone could have had the pleasure of knowing and learning from this man what I did. He was a great American and friend.

CELEBRATING THE ROLE OF WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESSES

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 18, 1999

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call my colleague's attention to the role of women-owned businesses in our economy, particularly in my home State of California. It is with great pride that I recognize California as No. 1—both in the number of women entrepreneurs and as the fastest growing state for women minority entrepreneurs.

Representing these women in the Business Women's Network (BWN), a giant network of 2,300 women's associations representing 32 million women. I have joined in the BWN's newly formed congressional committee, spearheaded by Chris Warnke and Robin Read, to support businesswomen throughout the United States, and I want to recognize the BWN for its outstanding record in uniting businesswomen.

The entire nation will be watching the International Summit of the Business Women's Network on October 18 and 19, 1999, where women from over 90 countries and from 48 states will come together in celebration of the more than 9 million women entrepreneurs today, of which 1.1 million are minorities.

The female labor force is making great strides. The Bureau of Labor Statistics has projected that 72 million women will be working by the year 2005, representing 63 percent of women 16 and older. As the decade draws to an end and a new millennium approaches, I want to recognize women entrepreneurs as the fastest growing segment in our economy.

Congratulations to the Business Women's Network on the occasion of their International Summit.

TRIBUTE TO THE NEW HAITIAN TIMES NEWSPAPER

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 18, 1999

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Yves Colon and Garry Pierre-Pierre, two budding young Haitian-American journalists who will launch, later this week, a new weekly newspaper, The Haitian Times. These two veterans of big city newspapers, Mr. Colon, a Miami Herald editor and reporter on leave from the paper, and Mr. Pierre-Pierre, a former New York Times reporter, have both taken a leap of faith to launch this new venture which is set to hit

newsstands in Miami-Dade County, New York City and Port-au-Prince on October 20, 1999.

I commend Mr. Colon and Mr. Pierre-Pierre on their new venture. It's certainly an idea who's time has come. May The Haitian Times be around for many years to come.

I enter into the RECORD the attached news article from the Miami Herald announcing the launch of the Haitian Times.

JOURNALISTS LAUNCH VOICE FOR U.S. HAITIANS

(By Curtis Morgan)

Their numbers are substantial and growing—some 300,000 in South Florida and twice that in New York City. Yet Haitian-Americans remain an often overlooked ethnic group, registering only faintly on mainstream media radar.

Two journalists, both Haitian-born veterans of big city American newsrooms, hope to change that with a small but ambitious weekly newspaper, The Haitian Times, scheduled to hit stands in Miami-Dade County, New York City and Port-au-Prince on Oct. 20.

While there are already two well-established stateside papers covering Haiti, this one is designed with significant differences, said Yves Colon, a Herald reporter and editor taking leave to serve as editor. For one, its voice will be in English not French or Creole.

The target audience, said publisher Garry Pierre-Pierre, a former New York Times and Sun-Sentinel reporter, are people not unlike himself and Colon: Of Haitian heritage, educated or raised in the States, fluent in all things American.

"It is the quintessential Haitian-American, a person who really wants to be Haitian but is also very much part of the other world," Pierre said. Thus, the message in the masthead, "Bridging The Gap."

While potential readers are reserving judgment until they see the product, some believe the paper, if it succeeds, could be a social milestone.

"I think this is going to fill a vacuum," said Jan Mapou, director of Sosyete Koukouy, a Miami-Dade organization that mounts cultural and arts shows. The two major existing papers stateside—Haiti En Marche, published in Miami, and New York-based Haiti Observateur—are both mostly French, with limited English and Creole. Mapou writes Haiti En Marche's lone Creole page, a column about cultural events.

"Having a newspaper for the Haitian community in English, that will cover the whole community," he said. "We have so many kids that are disconnected with what's going on in Haiti and the community."

Ossmann Desir, the lone Haitian-American on the North Miami council, a city with a large Haitian population, echoed Mapou. "We have a Haitian-American community that is increasing every day, and they're becoming more and more aware of English."

Author Bernard Diederich, who published the English language Haiti Sun on the island from 1950 to 1963, also was enthusiastic. While he said major papers like The New York Times and The Herald do solid coverage, the country has many critical and stubborn issues that go unexamined or are reported with clear political bias by the Haitian press.

"There is a crying need for this, a real balanced newspaper that has no agenda," he said.

Mike McQueen, chairman of Florida International University's journalism and broadcasting department, said the paper could become "a pretty important voice" and provide a sense of validation for a community.

"Even though Haitians have been in Miami-Dade County for about 20 years,

they're still sort of forgotten exiles," McQueen said. "They're black, but they're not African-American, they're Caribbean refugees but they're not Cuban or Dominican, and a lot of them aren't refugees."

McQueen had a mixed reaction to the Enligh-only decision, saying it could shut out recent arrivals. But Pierre-Pierre and Colon, who both immigrated as children, called the choice key to the paper's philosophy and identity.

In Haiti, language is loaded. The Upper-class minority favors French. Creole is the language of the vast poor majority, most of whom can't read it. Most Haitian immigrants succeed by speaking English.

"For us," Colon said, "English is the great equalizer."

With Hispanics, language isn't divisive but unifying, he said. Spanish-speakers also have the benefit of larger populations in cities like Miami, which often allows new immigrants to thrive, even without mastering the new language.

Scope and approach are the things Colon hopes will really separate the paper—an approximately 40-page tabloid with an internet site also under development (www.haitiantimes.com)—from its counterparts. The staple of both French papers is politics, dry "insider baseball," he said.

While the paper already has a bureau in Port-au-Prince, Colon intends to emphasize issues and personalities stateside, eventually expanding from the New York-Haiti-Miami triangle into other cities.

"I'm interested in holding up the mirror to the Haitian community, our successes and our failures to say, 'This is who we are,'" Colon said.

Colon, who has covered Haiti for The Herald and The Associated Press, said he will strive for objectivity. At the same time, he hopes to stir passions, a task he admits is difficult, given the collective cultural experience.

"The perfect word for it is that Haitians are inured. Haitians have seen so much—poverty, corruption, the brutality of their own brothers and sisters—but there is very little reaction to it."

The bigger challenge will be luring buyers and advertisers.

John Morton, a media analyst and president of Morton Research in Maryland, said that to last, the paper will have to leap hurdles. For one, while some ethnic newspapers—particularly Spanish-language papers in major cities—have succeeded, many others are only "marginally profitable."

"Starting up a new publication is always fraught with a lot of heavy lifting and usually loses a lot of money initially," he said. "That's often the problem that keeps these things from succeeding—they're undercapitalized."

Because the readership is spread across the map, it also may be more difficult to attract advertisers, he said. The critical key may be expanding from Haitian businesses to mainstream advertisers.

Because the readership is spread across the map, it also may be more difficult to attract advertisers, he said. The critical key may be expanding from Haitian businesses to mainstream advertisers.

Both Colon and Pierre-Pierre agree the venture is a risk but one they say is worth it. Investors are committed, Pierre-Pierre said, reaction stateside has been strong and there's also a large audience in Haiti, a country of eight million.

The paper plans a first run of 40,000 and will "probably level off to around 25,000 and work its way up," he said. "This is an idea whose time has come."

TRIBUTE TO V.F.W. JOHN MARTIN STEEL POST 6049

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 18, 1999

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Veterans of Foreign Wars John Martin Steel Post 6049 of Morris, Illinois as it celebrates the 100th year anniversary of the VFW and the 75th year anniversary of the Ladies' Auxiliary.

On May 8, 1942, Private John Martin Steel was killed in the South Pacific. Private Steel served aboard the aircraft carrier Lexington with an anti-aircraft battalion when it was sunk. Private Steel was the first local man to be killed in the Second World War. Almost a year to the day later, the USS Steel, a destroyer escort, was launched on May 4, 1943.

The charter of this VFW Post was obtained in 1947. Among the Charter Members: William G. Stratton, former Governor of Illinois; James R. Washburn, former Mayor of Morris and Illinois State Representative; August Black, a prominent attorney; William Sackett, newspaper owner; and Clark Davis, former Coroner. Not only were these men Charter Members, as you can see, they were also pillars of the community who provided great leadership.

Today, along with honoring the men, we also acknowledge the important role of the Ladies' Auxiliary. The assistance of this organization has been critical to the members of the VFW for the past 75 years. These ladies serve as the mortar in the foundation of the VFW. Post 6049 is fortunate to have the resources of a Ladies' Auxiliary.

The naming of this VFW Post after Private John Martin Steel honors his service and his ultimate sacrifice for our country. Not only does the naming of this post honor Private Steel, it also reminds us of all of the veterans who fought for our freedom overseas. It reminds us of the brave individuals who shipped off to far away lands and put their lives on the line to insure the American way of life. It reminds us, Mr. Speaker, that freedom is not free. And it reminds us that these courageous Americans should all be remembered and should all be honored.

Mr. Speaker, I believe it is fitting and appropriate to honor the service of the men of the Veterans of Foreign Wars John Martin Steel Post 6049 in Morris, Illinois and the Ladies' Auxiliary. They have shown leadership for their country and community for the last 52 years. Without them, the community would have no backbone; but because of their service we are strong, courageous and proud of a free America.

LOUISIANA-PACIFIC AND NATURE CONSERVANCY OF TEXAS ANNOUNCE JOINT MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT TO CONSERVE ECOLOGICALLY VALUABLE WILDLIFE HABITAT

HON. JIM TURNER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 18, 1999

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce that this month, Louisiana-Pacific

Corporation, a major U.S. building products company, put into motion a program designed to identify and proactively manage ecologically significant habitat located on the company's lands. More than 4,300 acres encompassing 12 sites in Texas and Louisiana will be reviewed for their ecological value and conservation potential as part of Louisiana-Pacific's Living Legacy Lands program. Joining in this effort is the Nature Conservancy of Texas which will assist in the identification and management of designated sites.

Louisiana-Pacific and The Nature Conservancy of Texas signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on October 5, 1999, to establish a framework for conservation and management actions of Louisiana-Pacific lands within the Piney Woods Ecological Region of East Texas and West Louisiana. The first conservation site designated under the MOU is located in Tyler County, Texas which is located in the 2nd Congressional District of Texas. This 1,300 acre site includes an area of woodpecker nests within one of the largest great stands of traditional longleaf pine forest in the Southern United States. Additional conservation acres will be identified and designated through the mutual agreement of Louisiana-Pacific and The Nature Conservancy.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask that you and the Congress join me in congratulating Louisiana-Pacific and The Nature Conservancy of Texas for their partnership and desire to conserve lands for generations of Americans.

DEMOCRACY SUFFERS ANOTHER BLOW IN KAZAKHSTAN—PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION IS SERIOUSLY FLAWED

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 18, 1999

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, in Kazakhstan just over a week ago, on October 10, the first round of elections were held for the Mazhilis—the lower house of the Parliament. There was little suspense or excitement about the results. In fact, there was little suspense or uncertainty even before the elections were held. These elections simply confirmed the nondemocratic nature of the Kazakh government, and they raise extremely serious questions about the future of United States relations with this country.

The elections were far from democratic in substance, although there were some cosmetic efforts to make the elections appear to be free. Furthermore, the modest efforts to make the elections appear democratic were not voluntarily adopted by the government of Kazakhstan. They were taken reluctantly and only under international pressure including a Congressional Human Caucus briefing on the electoral process which was held a few months ago. The election fell far short of the standard of free and fair elections.

Mr. Speaker, in a blatant affront to democracy, the President of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev, presented to the out-going parliament his choice for the new Prime Minister of Kazakhstan last Tuesday—the second day after the election and the day before the results of the first round of elections were announced. Standard procedure in any democratic country would be for the newly elected