

IMF practice that has cost the U.S. \$2.7 billion to date. Although many issues involving the IMF are controversial, the IMF's full and fair payment of interest on all U.S. reserves provided is one area in which wide agreement should be possible. The current IMF practice of shortchanging the U.S. simply is not defensible.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO THE OAK HARBOR HOTEL ON THE OCCASION OF ITS ONE-HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 21, 1999

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor and privilege to rise today to pay tribute to a special event taking place this weekend in Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. Beginning today and continuing through Sunday, October 24, 1999, the Oak Harbor Hotel will celebrate its One-Hundredth Anniversary.

In the final year of the Nineteenth Century, the Keubler Brewing Company of Sandusky decided to take an enormous step and build a hotel in Oak Harbor, Ohio. With a new railway line linking Toledo to points in the east, the hotel would be used to serve the many who came through Oak Harbor in search of a restful night's lodging. The three-story hotel, complete with its thirty-four rooms, lounges, and dining rooms, has served many travelers in the last one-hundred years. Its very presence in Oak Harbor and its grandiose appearance make it a truly remarkable building.

For the past century, the Oak Harbor Hotel has long been a centerpiece of this wonderful community. Located on the shores of Lake Erie, the Oak Harbor Hotel continues to fill its rooms to capacity with travelers throughout the year. Its history is long and its décor is breathtaking. Through all its changes—from operating the first telephone in town to housing the area Post Office—this elegant and vibrant hotel has remained strong in its service and dedicated to those who occupied its rooms.

Mr. Speaker, the Oak Harbor Hotel symbolizes all that is good in our communities—grace, elegance, and beauty. Over the last one-hundred years, the Oak Harbor Hotel has hosted many community groups, organizations, and clubs. In fact, the Rotary Club has met there nearly continuously since 1941. With its spacious and stylish dining, reception rooms, and state-of-the-art kitchen, the Oak Harbor Hotel is often the site of wedding rehearsals and receptions, banquets, and community events.

Mr. Speaker, the individuality of our culture and the warmth of our spirit are embodied in our communities and places like the Oak Harbor Hotel. I would urge my colleagues to stand and join me in paying special tribute to the Oak Harbor Hotel on its One-Hundredth Anniversary.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2670,
DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE,
JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDICIARY,
AND RELATED AGENCIES
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 20, 1999

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the Conference Report of H.R. 2670, the Commerce, Justice, State appropriations bill for FY 2000. This legislation fails to provide for adequate funding for many issues important to the safety of our communities and our families. Programs such as the President's Community Oriented Policing initiative requires full funding to put more officers in our neighborhoods and on our streets to safeguard our children. I am also disappointed that Conference did not include legislation that would have expanded the definition of hate crimes to include acts committed against a person based on sexual orientation, gender or disability. Furthermore, I oppose this Conference Report because it also does not include any federal reimbursement to the Territory of Guam for taking on the federal responsibility to detain illegal aliens seeking asylum in the United States. In this first half of this year alone, Guam has spent more than \$8 million in behalf of the Immigration and Naturalization Service for housing illegal aliens attempting to enter the U.S. through Guam. From this month until the end of the year, an additional \$5 million will be spent.

In recent years, Guam has been subject to illegal immigration from Asian countries, particularly from the People's Republic of China, partly because of the Asian economic crisis. In just the first four months of 1999, Guam was the recipient of more than 700 Chinese illegal aliens seeking political asylum in the United States. Never before had Guam experienced such a surge of illegal immigration from Asia. This surge depleted INS financial resources on Guam and forced the Government of Guam to incur detention costs to our local correctional facility, which is already overcrowded, at a cost of nearly \$45,000 per day for more than 430 current alien detainees.

Since the start of the year, I along with Governor of Guam Carl Gutierrez, have been working with the Clinton Administration to address the surge of illegal immigration from China. With their cooperation and also with the collaboration of the U.S. Coast Guard and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, illegal immigration—for now—has slowed. However, there remains more than 430 alien detainees that are housed in Guam's correctional facility awaiting for the INS asylum process to run its course.

Illegal immigration into the United States is a federal responsibility. Because of Guam's proximity to Asia, it is incumbent that federal agencies assist the Government of Guam in combating this serious problem on our shores. Guam's size of only 212 square miles and a population of 150,000 does not lend itself to unexpected and significant increases in the immigrant population. Any increases translate into serious social and financial repercussions because our resources have been strained by the Asian economic crisis and we do not have

alternative resources available for non-criminal immigrants that are available on the U.S. mainland to supplement federal resources.

I believe that special budget requests from U.S. Territories in Congress are perhaps the greatest challenges territorial delegates face during our terms in office. Our needs and our states are often misunderstood because our distances from the mainland U.S. are great. Apart from federal programs that both states and territories can participate, any other requests outside of the norm can be a frustrating ordeal. We are vulnerable to federal interagency differences about how to treat the territories as well as having little leverage during the appropriations process.

I am appreciative for the collaboration and support of the President for including reimbursement for Guam as part of his Administration's priorities during the appropriations process. I remain confident that the President is committed to reimbursing Guam for shouldering the costs of the federal government's responsibility and I remain committed to working with my colleagues to ensure that Guam is reimbursed for all past, present and future costs related to the detention of illegal aliens on Guam.

CORAL REEF CONSERVATION

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 21, 1999

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to authorize the Secretary of Commerce, through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to provide financial assistance for coral reef conservation projects, and for other purposes.

Coral reef ecosystems are the marine equivalent of tropical rain forests, containing some of the planet's richest biological diversity and supporting thousands of species of fish, invertebrates, algae, plankton, sea grasses and other organisms. The reef itself is composed of the massed calcareous skeletons of millions of sedentary, living animals (the corals). Coral reef communities are both exceptionally productive and diverse. Although coral reefs cover less than 1 percent of the Earth's surface, fully one-fourth of all ocean species live in or around the reefs of the world, including 65 percent of marine fish species. Southeast Asian reefs alone support an estimated 5 to 15 times the number of fish found in the North Atlantic Ocean. Reefs surrounding the Pacific island of Palau contain 9 species of sea-grass, more than 300 species of coral and 2,000 varieties of fish.

Coral reefs have great commercial, recreational, cultural and esthetic value to human communities. They supply shoreline protection, areas of natural beauty, and sources of food, pharmaceuticals, jobs and revenues through activities such as education, research, tourism and fishing. Coral reef ecosystems provide the main source of animal protein for more than 1 billion people in Asia.

Studies indicate that coral reefs in the United States and around the world are being degraded and severely threatened by human and environmental impacts. Land-based pollution, over-fishing, destructive fishing practices, vessel groundings, and climate change all affect coral reef ecosystems. Of particular concern is the effect of multiple impacts on coral

reef health. With increases in ocean temperatures, development in coastal areas surrounding coral reefs, and continued over-fishing, more and more reef ecosystems are showing signs of profound stress. These indicators include widespread bleaching events, when corals lose the ability to grow, and evidence that coral diseases such as black band disease, white band disease, and aspergillosis are increasing in frequency and extent.

Since 1994, under the United States Coral Reef Initiative, Federal agencies, State, local and territorial governments, non-governmental organizations, and commercial interests have worked together to design and implement management, education, monitoring, research, and restoration efforts to conserve coral reef ecosystems.

The year 1997 was recognized as the Year of the Reef to raise public awareness about the importance of conserving coral reefs and to facilitate actions to protect coral reef ecosystems. On October 21, 1997, the 105th Congress agreed to House Concurrent 8, a resolution recognizing the significance of maintaining the health and stability of coral reef ecosystems by promoting comprehensive stewardship for coral reef ecosystems, discouraging unsustainable fisheries or other practices harmful to coral reefs, encouraging research, monitoring, assessment of, and education on coral reef ecosystems, improving coordination of coral reef efforts and activities of federal agencies, academic institutions, non-governmental organizations, and industry, and promoting preservation and sustainable use of coral reef resources worldwide.

The year 1998 was declared the International Year of the Ocean to raise public awareness and increase actions to conserve and use in a sustainable manner the broader ocean environment, including coral reefs. Also in 1998, President Clinton signed Executive Order 13089 which recognizes the importance of conserving coral reef ecosystems, establishes the Coral Reef Task Force under the joint leadership of the Departments of Commerce and Interior, and directs Federal agencies whose actions may affect United States coral reef ecosystems to take steps to protect, manage, research and restore these ecosystems.

The bill would make it the policy of the United States to (1) conserve and protect the ecological integrity of coral reef ecosystems; (2) maintain the health, natural conditions, and dynamics of those ecosystems; (3) reduce and remove human stresses affecting reefs; (4) restore coral reef ecosystems injured by human activities, and (5) promote the long-term sustainable use of coral reef ecosystems.

The purposes of this legislation are to (1) preserve, sustain, and restore the health of coral reef ecosystems; (2) assist in the conservation and protection of coral reefs by supporting conservation programs; (3) provide financial resources for those programs; and (4) establish a formal mechanism for collecting and allocating monetary donations from the private sector to be used for coral reef conservation projects.

The bill establishes a Coral Reef Restoration and Conservation Program through the Secretary of Commerce. This program will provide funding for projects that: (1) restore degraded or injured coral reefs and their ecosystems, including developing and implementing cost-effective methods to restore or

enhance degraded or injured coral reefs; or (2) for the conservation of coral reefs and their ecosystems through mapping and assessment, management, protection, scientific research, and monitoring. These projects would be funded 75 percent by the Federal Government, and 25 percent by the non-Federal partner. The non-Federal partner's share could be an in-kind contribution.

The bill also authorizes a national program through the Secretary of Commerce to further the conservation of coral reefs and their ecosystems on a regional, national or international scale, or that furthers public awareness of and education about coral reefs on these broader scales. The activities under this program should supplement the programs under existing federal statutes.

For the past two centuries, abandoned vessels have damaged coral reefs to the detriment of our nation. Often times the owners of the vessels are unable or unwilling to pay for the damage these vessels cause. Section 8 of this bill is designated to address this problem by prohibiting the documentation of vessels the owners of which have abandoned vessels on U.S. coral reefs and the vessel either remains on a reef, or was removed from the reef using certain Federal funding, which has not been re-paid to the United States Government.

The bill also establishes legal liability to the United States for persons who destroy, cause the loss of, or injure any coral reef in the United States. The amount of liability is set at the cost to respond to the activity, including the costs of seizing and forfeiting the vessel causing the damage. The vessel causing the damage to a U.S. coral reef may be seized with the amount of liability constituting a maritime lien on the vessel. Costs recovered under this section would be used as reimbursement for past costs incurred under the section, and to restore the damaged coral reef, prevent future threats, or for educational purposes.

The bill directs the Secretary of Commerce to promulgate within 90 days regulations necessary to implement the provisions of the bill.

Finally, the bill authorizes \$20,000,000 to be appropriated for each of the fiscal years 2001 through 2005, and establishes percentages of appropriated amounts for the programs contained in the bill.

CENTRAL ASIA: THE "BLACK HOLE" OF HUMAN RIGHTS

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 21, 1999

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution on the disturbing state of democratization and human rights in Central Asia. As is evident from many sources, including the State Department's annual reports on human rights, non-governmental organizations, both in the region and the West, and the work of the Helsinki Commission, which I chair, Central Asia has become the "black hole" of human rights in the OSCE space.

True, not all Central Asia countries are equal offenders. Kyrgyzstan has not joined its neighbors in eliminating all opposition, tightly censoring the media and concentrating all

power in the hands of the president, though there are tendencies in that direction, and upcoming elections in 2000 may bring out the worst in President Akaev. But elsewhere, the promise of the early 1990's, when the five Central Asian countries along with all former Soviet republics were admitted to the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, has not been realized. Throughout the region, super-presidents pay lip service to OSCE commitments and to their own constitutional provisions on separation of powers, while dominating the legislative and judicial branches, crushing or thwarting any opposition challenges to their factual monopoly of power, and along with their families and favored few, enjoying the benefits of their countries' wealth.

Indeed, though some see the main problem of Central Asia through the prism of real or alleged Islamic fundamentalism, the Soviet legacy, or poverty, I am convinced that the essence of the problem is more simple and depressing: presidents determined to remain in office for life must necessarily develop repressive political systems. To justify their campaign to control society, Central Asian leaders constantly point to their own national traditions and argue that democracy must be built slowly. Some Western analysts, I am sorry to say, have bought this idea—in some cases, quite literally, by acting as highly paid consultants to oil companies and other business concerns. But, Mr. Speaker, building democracy is an act of political will above all. You have to want to do it. If you don't, all the excuses in the world and all the state institutions formed in Central Asia ostensibly to promote human rights will remain simply window dressing.

Moreover, the much-vaunted stability offered by such systems is shaky. The refusal of leaders to allow turnover at the top or newcomers to enter the game means that outsiders have no stake in the political process and can imagine coming to power or merely sharing in the wealth only by extra-constitutional methods. For some of those facing the prospect of permanent exclusion, especially as living standards continue to fall, the temptation to resort to any means possible to change the rules of the game, may be overwhelming. Most people, however, will simply opt out of the political system in disillusionment and despair.

Against this general context, without doubt, the most repressive countries are Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Turkmenistan's President Niyazov, in particular, has created a virtual North Korea in post-Soviet space, complete with his own bizarre cult of personality. Turkmenistan is the only country in the former Soviet bloc that remains a one-party state. Uzbekistan, on the other hand, has five parties but all of them are government-created and controlled. Under President Islam Karimov, no opposition parties or movements have been allowed to function since 1992. In both countries, communist-era controls on the media remain in place. The state, like its Soviet predecessor, prevents society from influencing policy or expressing its views and keeps the population intimidated through omnipresent secret police forces. Neither country observes the most fundamental human rights, including freedom of religion, or permits any electoral challenges to its all-powerful president.

Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbaev has played a more clever game. Pressed by the OSCE and Western capitals, he has formally permitted opposition parties to function,