

been wards of the state, might see their dreams of college become a reality. He also created job training and placement programs for the unemployed and worked with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services to find families for orphaned children. And while Walter is no longer with us, the Walter Payton Foundation will continue his great humanitarian legacy for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, Walter Payton was a role model in his public life as a professional athlete in his private life as husband, father, and community leader. We will miss him.

MARGRET HOFMANN REMINDS US
OF THE MEANING OF
KRISTALLNACHT ON THE ANNI-
VERSARY OF NOVEMBER 9, 1938

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 8, 1999

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, the Holocaust must be remembered and it must be studied to prevent the real danger of repeating the experience of that horrendous nightmare. As recent conflicts in the Great Lakes Region of Africa, Kosova, East-Timor as well as many other places remind us only too well that, although we are now enjoying an era of general prosperity and relative tranquility, many peoples around the world have not yet learned to live with one another in peace. In fact in the last decade, the practice of ethnic cleansing in Bosnia, Kosova and other areas of the former Yugoslavia has only served to remind us how little progress we have made in the past half century.

In this context, Mr. Speaker, it is important that we take note of a tragic anniversary on November 9th—the first physical violence against Germany's Jews by Hitler's Nazi regime. That tragic occasion has been given the name "Kristallnacht"—Crystal Night—because of the number of broken and smashed windows that accompanied the racist violence. Years of dehumanizing anti-Semitic propaganda in Germany, which was intensified after Hitler and the Nazi party came to power in 1933, prepared the way for Kristallnacht. The aggressive racist and anti-Semitic policies of the Third Reich saw their first expression in violence on November 9, 1938. Kristallnacht serves as a chilling reminder to what happens when an inflamed mob mentality overtakes a nation.

Mr. Speaker, Margret Hofmann was an eyewitness to the tragedy of Kristallnacht. She has devoted years of her life to researching and studying the circumstances surrounding Kristallnacht and its consequences. I want to commend her for her work and insert some excerpts from her studies that make a valuable contribution to our understanding of how Kristallnacht was a first step in setting in motion the nightmare of the Holocaust.

In 1933, the German-Jewish poet Heinrich Heine said, "Where books are burnt, Man will soon burn human beings." That is the point of beginning of Margret Hofmann as she considers the background and meaning of Kristallnacht.

Books were burnt in Germany on May 10, 1933, people soon followed. In between the burning of the books and the burning of the

people, the Nazi government in Germany instigated the notorious Kristallnacht, the "Night of Broken Glass." This was the event which set the stage for Hitler and other Nazi leaders to attempt to "eliminate" the Jews from Germany and eventually the whole world. It was the kind of event that proved ideal for Nazi purposes.

On October 27, 1938, Germany expelled 15,000 non-German Jews. Although many had lived in Germany for decades and even raised families there, they were put on trains and sent to Poland. This was done by the German government without notifying the Polish government or without taking any steps to deal with the number of people. Enraged by this action, Herschel Grynszpan, whose parents had been summarily expelled from Germany, went to the German Embassy in France and shot a German diplomat, Ernst vom Rath.

The occasion was tailor-made for the Nazi propaganda machine. The funeral of vom Rath in his hometown of Dusseldorf was grandiose. The Nazi government used the murder of vom Rath to give a false impression that German citizens spontaneously rose against the Jews. The night of the funeral, November 9, 1938, the Nazi government instructed the local police throughout Germany to "allow" the German people to rise up and "strike back" at the Jews. "The people" were Nazi "Brown Shirts" and German soldiers. The police were told to make sure non-Jews were not attacked and only Jewish buildings were destroyed. All over Germany synagogues and temples were burned, Jewish homes were ransacked, and a number of Jews were killed. By 1938 the Nazi propaganda machine had complete control of the press, and this pogrom was portrayed as a spontaneous uprising against the Jews.

From that point on, the Nazi regime with increasing violence stripped Jews of their rights. They were forced out of the schools and universities, they were prohibited from practicing law, medicine, and other professions. Many were evicted from their homes and their belongings were confiscated. Before long Jews were required to wear a yellow star of David on their clothes so others could recognize they were Jewish. Many streets were declared off-limits to Jews.

After years of anti-Semitic propaganda, many Germans succumbed to racism, prejudice, intolerance, and discrimination. This racial hatred, which was given its defining violent moment in Kristallnacht, led directly to the "Final Solution," the fanatic Nazi drive to annihilate the Jewish race. For each piece of history, we must find a defining moment. For Nazi Germany, it was Kristallnacht.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 900, GRAMM-LEACH-BLILEY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 4, 1999

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, the glaring absence of any financial privacy provisions for affiliated entities in the financial modernization bill before us today is a sorry mistake. It is wrong and inappropriate for Congress to, on the one hand, enact legislation that explicitly allows mergers between banks, insurers and

securities firms—but which on the other hand denies consumers any say in how their personal financial information can be used and disclosed.

I thought we learned this lesson 21 years ago, when Congress enacted the Right to Financial Privacy Act. That 1978 law, which I authored, put in place standards governing access and sharing of financial information for federal agencies. It stemmed from a Supreme Court decision that ruled the fourth amendment does not apply to banking records. As a former California banker, I had been a party in that 1974 suit, *California Bankers Association v. Schultz*.

And here we are today, throwing open the door for financial institutions to create huge new holding companies—without giving consumers any ability to say how their sensitive personal financial information can be shared. In effect, we are creating a financial privacy vacuum.

This runs counter to what we are trying to achieve in the area of medical confidentiality, where we are aiming to put the strongest possible safeguards in place at the Federal level, while preserving what is best about State privacy laws. In the next week or so, HHS will issue proposed regulations for medical privacy, which on balance are expected to be strong. If we can give consumers rights over their medical data, why can't we also give them a measure of control over how their financial data is used, marketed, and sold?

Defenders of the conference agreement say that the bill limits sharing of personal financial data with non-affiliated, third-party entities. Nonsense. All that companies that don't formally affiliate have to do to escape the bill's consumers opt-out provision is enter into a joint agreement. Then, presto, they are free to manipulate personal financial data in any way they like.

Nobody likes getting annoying calls from pesky telemarketers at dinnertime. Well, once this bill passes, the telemarketing business will go through the roof. Mergers between banks, securities firms and insurers will produce data amalgamation like we've never seen before. Before long, your health insurer will be able to get information on how money you make and what investment strategies you favor—making underwriting that much easier. Your bank will be able to easily look up how many checks you've written to your psychiatrist—and use that information to help decide whether you're an acceptable loan risk.

This is the dawning of a new Orwellian Age of Information.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this ill-conceived legislation.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3196, FOREIGN OPER- ATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED PROGRAMS AP- PROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. MAX SANDLIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 5, 1999

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, the Foreign Operations Appropriations bill for FY 2000 represents a product of bi-partisan negotiations.

Finally, the Republican leadership has agreed to sit down with Democrats and work and an appropriations bill that doesn't face a veto threat. It funds the U.S. brokered Wye River Agreement, an important part of achieving a real and lasting peace in the Middle East and affirmation of our commitment to Israel, a critical ally.

A vote for this bill is a vote for a strong leadership role for the United States. I urge passage of this bill because foreign operations bolster our military and national security. This legislation declares support for our armed services and for the men and women who risk their lives to protect our freedom.

A TRIBUTE TO MILTON S.
HOFFMAN

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 8, 1999

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my great admiration for Milton S. Hoffman, senior editor of the Editorial Board of The Journal News in Westchester County, NY. Mr. Hoffman's outstanding accomplishments in the field of journalism and his significant contributions to the government and civic life of the county have merited him still another award—the press gallery in the chambers of the Westchester County Board of Legislators will be dedicated in his honor later this month.

A man of high principle, integrity and skill, Mr. Hoffman began his lifelong newspaper career as an elementary school student in West Harrison, NY. In 1955, he started a 17-year stint covering Westchester County government for a precursor of The Journal News. He provided consistently thorough and thoughtful coverage of issues before the then-governing body, the County Board of Supervisors. His insightful writing also led to the replacement in 1969 of the Board of Supervisors with a more representative and efficient County Board of Legislators.

Mr. Hoffman continued his tireless advocacy for progressive social policies as the state government and politics reporter, editorial page editor, columnist and now senior editor. His philosophy throughout a distinguished 45-year career has been "not to tear things down, but to build them up."

How fitting that the press gallery be named for a journalist who has trained, over four and a half decades, thousands of young reporters in the principles of fairness and accuracy. Indeed, Westchester County today has a better governing structure thanks to Milt Hoffman's vision and leadership. And all of us in the County are richer because of his unfailing dedication and commitment to making this a better place to live and work.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 900,
GRAMM-LEACH-BLILEY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 4, 1999

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, today we are considering a bill aimed at modernizing the fi-

nancial services industry through deregulation. It is a worthy goal which I support. However, this bill falls short of that goal. The negative aspects of this bill outweigh the benefits. Many have already argued for the need to update our financial laws. I would just add that I agree on the need for reform but oppose this approach.

With the economy more fragile than is popularly recognized, we should move cautiously as we initiate reforms. Federal Reserve Board Chairman Alan Greenspan (in a 1997 speech in Frankfurt, Germany and other times), Kurt Richebacher, Frank Veneroso and others, have questioned the statistical accuracy of the economy's vaunted productivity gains.

Federal Reserve Governor Edward Gramlich today joined many others who are concerned about the strength of the economy when he warned that the low U.S. savings rate was a cause for concern. Coupled with the likely decline in foreign investment in the United States, he said that the economy will require some potentially "painful" adjustments—some combination of higher exports, higher interest rates, lower investment, and/or lower dollar values.

Such a scenario would put added pressure on the financial bubble. The growth in money and credit has outpaced both savings and economic growth. These inflationary pressures have been concentrated in asset prices, not consumer price inflation—keeping monetary policy too easy. This increase in asset prices has fueled domestic borrowing and spending.

Government policy and the increase in securitization are largely responsible for this bubble. In addition to loose monetary policies by the Federal Reserve, government-sponsored enterprises Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac have contributed to the problem. The fourfold increases in their balance sheets from 1997 to 1998 boosted new home borrowings to more than \$1.5 trillion in 1998, two-thirds of which were refinances which put an extra \$15,000 in the pockets of consumers on average—and reduce risk for individual institutions while increasing risk for the system as a whole.

The rapidity and severity of changes in economic conditions can affect prospects for individual institutions more greatly than that of the overall economy. The Long Term Capital Management hedge fund is a prime example. New companies start and others fail every day. What is troubling with the hedge fund bailout was the governmental response and the increase in moral hazard.

This increased indication of the government's eagerness to bail out highly-leveraged, risky and largely unregulated financial institutions bodes ill for the post S. 900 future as far as limiting taxpayer liability is concerned. LTCM isn't even registered in the United States but the Cayman Islands!

Government regulations present the greatest threat to privacy and consumers' loss of control over their own personal information. In the private sector, individuals protect their financial privacy as an integral part of the market process by providing information they regard as private only to entities they trust will maintain a degree of privacy of which they approve. Individuals avoid privacy violators by "opting out" and doing business only with such privacy-respecting companies.

The better alternative is to repeal privacy busting government regulations. The same ap-

proach applies to Glass-Steagall and S. 900. Why not just repeal the offending regulation? In the banking committee, I offered an amendment to do just that. My main reasons for voting against this bill are the expansion of the taxpayer liability and the introduction of even more regulations. The entire multi-hundred page S. 900 that reregulates rather than deregulates the financial sector could be replaced with a simple one-page bill.

TRIBUTE TO THE GRANDMOTHERS
OF PLAZA DE MAYO

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 8, 1999

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues the service and commitment of some outstanding women—the Grandmothers of Plaza de Mayo. After 20 years, this non-profit organization has located 64 disappeared children of Argentina, and helped reunite the victims with their families, allowing them to recover their identity and their history. I want to commend the Grandmothers of Plaza de Mayo on their efforts and their dedication in reuniting children who disappeared during the military dictatorship that ruled Argentina from 1976 to 1983 with their legitimate families.

Mr. Speaker, in 1976, the armed forces of Argentina began a process of systematically violating some of the most fundamental human rights. This despotism resulted in the disappearance of over 30,000 persons, including hundreds of children. The Grandmothers of Plaza de Mayo have used many different tactics to search for these children who disappeared during the brutal tyranny of the military regime. Their primary purpose is to preserve the identity, roots and history of these children, which are the fundamental basis for human dignity.

Fortunately, advances in science and technology have made it possible for these families to be reunited. Blood tests prove, with 99.95 percent accuracy, that a child comes from a particular family. This is a difficult process, for which the professionals and volunteers involved must be commended.

The Grandmothers of Plaza de Mayo have committed themselves to this praiseworthy endeavor. I am grateful for all they have accomplished, and I urge my colleagues to join me in commending them for their outstanding efforts and devotion to the cause of bringing justice to the families who suffered under Argentina's brutal military regime.

MEDICARE, MEDICAID, AND SCHIP
BALANCED BUDGET REFINE-
MENT ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. ROGER F. WICKER

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 5, 1999

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, the Balanced Budget Act included provisions to safeguard the long term solvency of the Medicare system, but for a number of reasons the mandated reductions exceeded estimates and provided a lower level of reimbursement than