

settled in the U.S. and around the world. January 26 is Republic Day, an occasion that inspires pride and patriotism for the people of India.

On January 26, 1950, India became a republic devoted to the principles of democracy and secularism. At that time, Dr. Rajendra Prasad was elected as the nation's first president. Since then, despite the challenges of sustaining economic development while reconciling her many ethnic, religious and linguistic communities, India has stuck to the path of free and fair elections, a multi-party political system and the orderly transfer of power from one government to its successor.

Mr. Speaker, India's population of nearly a billion people represents approximately one-sixth of the human race. The people of India have lived under a democratic form of government for more than half a century. In 1997, worldwide attention was focused on India as she celebrated the 50th anniversary of her independence. But, many Americans remain largely unfamiliar with the anniversary that Indians celebrate today. Yet, Mr. Speaker, it should be noted that there is a rich tradition of shared values between the United States and India. India derived key aspects of her Constitution, particularly its statement of Fundamental Rights, from our own Bill of Rights. India and the United States both proclaimed their independence from British colonial rule. The Indian independence movement under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi had strong moral support from American intellectuals, political leaders and journalists. Just yesterday, we paid tribute to one of our greatest American leaders, Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. King derived many of his ideas of non-violent resistance to injustice from the teachings and the actions of Mahatma Gandhi. Last year, Mr. Speaker, I am proud that legislation was approved by Congress and signed by the President authorizing the Government of India to establish a memorial to honor Mahatma Gandhi here in Washington, D.C., near the Indian Embassy on Embassy Row. The proposed statue will no doubt be a most fitting addition to the landscape of our nation's capital.

Mr. Speaker, there is a growing need for India and the United States, the two largest democracies of the world, to come closer and work together on a wide variety of initiatives. India and the U.S. do not always agree on every issue, as we saw in 1998. But I regret that the scant coverage that India receives in our media, and even from our top policy makers, tends to focus only on the disagreements. In fact, our national interests coincide on many of the most important concerns, such as fighting the scourge of international terrorism and controlling the transfer of nuclear and other weapons technology to unstable regimes. Given India's size and long-term record of democratic stability, I believe that India should be made a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council—a goal that I hope the United States will come to support. India's vast middle class represents a significant and growing market for U.S. trade, while the country's infrastructure needs represent a tremendous opportunity for many American firms, large, small and mid-size. U.S. sanctions imposed on India last year have subsequently been relaxed, and I believe we should continue to work to preserve or re-start economic relations that have developed during this decade of major change, while creating a positive

atmosphere for new economic relations. At the same time, I hope that we can continue to build upon educational, cultural and other people to people ties that have developed between our two countries. I look forward to seeing the Indian-American community, more than one million strong, continue to serve as a human "bridge" between our two countries.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, let me again congratulate the people of India on the occasion of Republic Day. I hope that 1999 will witness a U.S.-India relationship that lives up to the great potential offered by our shared commitment to democracy.

MOVE RADIOACTIVE WASTES FROM COLORADO RIVER

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 1999

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, ten and a half million tons of toxic wastes generated by the now-defunct Atlas Mine are stored in a tailings pond located immediately adjacent to the Colorado River near Moab, Utah. These tailings are radioactive and contain high concentrations of ammonia, arsenic, lead, vanadium, selenium, mercury, molybdenum, nickel, and other toxic metals left by the leaching process used to separate uranium from ore.

The tailings pond, built in the 1950's, is not lined, and as a result, these radioactive and toxic wastes are seeping down through the aquifer into the Colorado River. Water from the Colorado River makes up a significant part of the drinking water supply for Los Angeles, San Diego, Las Vegas, Phoenix and Tucson, and is used additionally to irrigate hundreds of thousands of acres of agricultural lands. Moreover, the tailings pond, which has been designated as critical habitat for four endangered species, is situated between Canyonlands and Arches National Parks.

Leaving a huge, leaking tailings pile adjacent to the Colorado River does not make sense. In the event of flood, the Colorado River could easily be contaminated. Lacking regulatory and financial alternatives, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is ready to approve the Atlas Corporation's inadequate plan to reclaim the site by simply placing a dirt cap over the top of the pile rather than by requiring removal to a safer location. This plan will not stop contamination of the Colorado River, which is expected to continue for hundreds of years.

Moving the tailings will remove the source of the contamination. By placing the tailings in a more modern and technologically safe situation, the threats from earthquakes, high water, flooding will be eliminated. In every similar case under the jurisdiction of the Department of Energy, uranium tailings have been moved away from riverbeds to lined and protected areas. Sadly, the NRC has seems determined to perpetuate rather than resolve this dangerous situation in the case of the Atlas site.

The National Park Service, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and many state and local government agencies have all expressed concerns about the quality of scientific data and information upon which NRC decisions have been based.

Today, Reps. FILNER, PELOSI, GUTIERREZ, and I am introducing legislation to require the Department of Energy to move the tailings to a safe location. Once this has been accomplished, the Attorney General would be charged with ascertaining the extent of the Atlas Corporation liability, and its parent companies, to secure reimbursement as appropriate.

A WORD OF PRAISE AND THANKS
TO CAROLE KING, DAVID BALL,
AND MARY CHAPIN CARPENTER

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 1999

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, during Christmas week I went with Senator Daniel K. Inouye and Secretary of Defense Bill Cohen to the Middle East to congratulate our troops on the great work they've done in the region and to let them know America was remembering their efforts during the Holidays when so many had to be away from their families.

We found wonderful morale among the troops and a strong commitment to continuing to meet U.S. goals in the region.

I also want to praise three entertainers who gave up part of their Holidays to join us. As we visited in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, and abroad the USS Enterprise, the troops were entertained by Mary Chapin Carpenter, Carole King, and David Ball. The troops thoroughly enjoyed meeting the entertainers and listening to their music. Several soldiers commented on how much the show brightened their holidays noting it was the highlight of the last 4½ months.

These three patriotic Americans gave up part of their Christmas Week to deliver a message of support and concern to our troops. They clearly showed their support for our Nation, our troops, and our spirit of uniting as Americans.

We left on a Sunday, returned on Christmas Eve, and were greeted by an ice storm that made travel difficult. Carole King traveled from Washington back to Idaho by air, then drove three hours to her home; David Ball missed his flight home, drove to Baltimore, and finally got to Nashville the next morning; Mary Chapin Carpenter lives in the Washington area, but it's the second straight Christmas she's visited troops, last year in Italy, Macedonia, and Bosnia.

It's a pleasure for me to recognize the commitment and caring of these three fine Americans, and to restate the thanks of our troops and our Nation for their patriotism.

TRIBUTE TO KRISTINA KIEHL

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 1999

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join many Americans across the country who would want to honor Kristina Kiehl, a founder and co-chair of Voters for Choice. Later this week, we will celebrate the 26th anniversary of the historic Supreme Court decision, *Roe v.*

Wade. Kristina Kiehl, a Californian, will celebrate her 50th birthday on Saturday, January 23. Kristina has spent most of those 50 years working to ensure reproductive choice, equality and human rights for all Americans, regardless of race, sex, ethnic background, sexual orientation or, other characteristics irrelevant to merit.

As a founder of Voters for Choice, a national bi-partisan organization dedicated to protecting and expanding reproductive choice for women, Kristina has been a pioneer in protecting the reproductive rights and health of women. With her leadership, Voters for Choice has helped to develop leaders across our country on choice issues; to educate Americans about reproductive issues; and to train advocates for this important work. For 18 years, Voters for Choice has been a superbly effective organization that has led the fight for many women's health issues, in no small part because of Kristina's commitment, dedication, energy and leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I am especially pleased and very proud to honor and recognize the accomplishments of Kristina Kiehl, a national leader who has dedicated her life to improving the health and protecting the reproductive rights of Americans. I urge my colleagues in this House to join me in saluting Kristina Kiehl.

COLLECTIONS OF INFORMATION
ANTIPIRACY ACT

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 1999

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to introduce the "Collections of Information Antipiracy Act," a bill to encourage continued investment in the production and distribution of valuable new collections of information.

Electronic collections, and other collections of factual material, are absolutely indispensable to the American economy on the verge of the new century. These information products put a wealth of data at the fingertips of business people, professionals, scientists, scholars, and consumers, and enable them to retrieve from this haystack of information the specific factual needle that they need to solve a particular economic, research, or educational problem. Whether they focus on financial, scientific, legal, medical, bibliographic, news, or other information, collections of information are essential tools for improving productivity, advancing education and training, and creating a more informed citizenry. They are also the linchpins of a dynamic commercial information industry in the United States.

Developing, compiling, distributing, and maintaining commercially significant collections requires substantial investments of time, personnel, and money. Information companies must dedicate massive resources when gathering and verifying factual material, presenting it in a user-friendly way, and keeping it current and useful to customers. U.S. firms have been the world leaders in this field. They have brought to market a wide range of valuable collections of information that meet the information needs of businesses, professionals, researchers, and consumers worldwide. But several recent legal and technological developments threaten to cast a pall over this

progress, by eroding the incentives for the continued investment needed to maintain and build upon the U.S. lead in world markets for electronic information resources.

Producers are also concerned that several recent cases may also cast doubt on the ability of a proprietor to use contractual provisions to protect itself against unfair competition from such "free riders." In cyberspace, technological developments represent a threat as well as an opportunity for collections of information, just as for other kinds of works. Copying factual material from another's proprietary collection, and rearranging it to form a competing information production—just the kind of behaviors that copyright protection may not effectively prevent—is cheaper and easier than ever through digital technology that is now in widespread use. More and more we are seeing actual instances where American companies fall victim to such piracy, or where they refrain from placing complete collections into the public discourse, for fear of piracy.

When all these factors are added together, the bottom line is clear: it is time to consider new federal legislation to protect developers who place their materials in interstate commerce against piracy and unfair competition, and thus encourage continued investment in the production and distribution of valuable commercial collections of information.

While copyright, on the federal level, and state contract law underlying licensing agreements remain essential tools for protecting the enormous investment in collections of information, there are gaps in the protection that can best be filled by a new federal statute which will complement copyright law. The "Collections of Information Antipiracy Act" would prohibit the misappropriation of valuable commercial collections of information by unscrupulous competitors who grab data collected by others, repackage it, and market a product that threatens competitive injury to the original collection. This new federal protection is modeled in part on the Lanham Act, which already makes similar kinds of unfair competition a civil wrong under federal law. Importantly, this bill maintains existing protections for collections of information afforded by copyright and contract rights. It is intended to supplement these legal rights, not replace them.

Throughout the last session of Congress, we worked countless hours trying to fashion a bill that would be acceptable to all interested parties. Some would like to see stronger protections, while others advocate no legislation at all. I promise once again to listen to every constructive suggestion, and use every effort to craft a solution which bridges the producer and user communities. But I am committed to seeing this valuable legislation become law.

While this bill is almost identical to the legislation which passed the House of Representatives last Congress, I have made changes to clarify and embody fair use, and to address the issue of perpetual protection. These two changes address key concerns voiced by the nonprofit scientific, educational, and research communities during our consideration last term.

During the last Congress, we were able to pass the legislation through the House of Representatives not once, but twice. I look forward to working with Senator ORRIN HATCH and Senator PATRICK LEAHY, who have indicated this necessary legislation will be a priority for them this legislative session. I also welcome

the input of Representative HOWARD BERMAN, the new Ranking Member of the Subcommittee, as this legislation moves forward.

The Collections of Information Antipiracy Act is a balanced proposal. It is aimed at actual or threatened competitive injury from misappropriation of collections of information or their contents, not at uses which do not affect marketability or competitiveness. The goal is to stimulate the creation of even more collections, and to encourage even more competition among them. The bill avoids conferring any monopoly on facts, or taking any other steps that might be inconsistent with these goals.

This legislation provides the basis for legislative activity on an important and complex subject. I look forward to hearing the suggestions and reactions of interested parties, and of my colleagues.

THE RETURN OF THE "LINCOLN
BANNER" TO NORWICH, CON-
NECTICUT

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 1999

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate a momentous event in the history of Norwich, Connecticut. On January 22, 1999, the fully-restored "Lincoln Banner" will be unveiled. The story surrounding the discovery and restoration of this 138 year old artifact is a testament to the spirit of volunteerism and pride in our history which have long distinguished Americans.

The "Lincoln Banner" is so named because it depicts Abraham Lincoln, without his beard, at approximately age 51 on a 6 by 8 foot silk banner. A portrait of Lincoln graces the center of the banner and is surrounded by the following inscription—"In hoc signo Vincemus. Ubi Libertas, Ibi Patria"—which roughly translates to "In this sign we are victorious. One for liberty under the fatherland." "Norwich" is inscribed in capital letters across the bottom.

The origins and exact use of the banner are known conclusively only to history herself. However, most in Norwich believe it was produced for Lincoln's presidential campaign and displayed during his visit to the community on March 9, 1860. Mr. Lincoln did not come to Norwich seeking support for his election. Instead, he came to help a fellow Republican—Governor William Buckingham—who was seeking reelection. Local historians believe the banner hung outside the Wauregan Hotel where Lincoln stayed.

Following Mr. Lincoln's visit, the banner essentially vanished for more than 135 years. Then, in 1997, officials in Norwich received a telephone call from an auction house in my state indicating that it had recently been contacted by an individual who wished to sell the banner. A spontaneous, grassroots effort, initiated by John Marasco, a city employee, who went on local radio station WICH with personality Johnny London to urge listeners to contribute, raised nearly \$41,000 from residents, businesses and others in the community. As a result of this tremendous amount of support, the City was able to purchase the banner and bring it back to its rightful home.