

designed to educate Americans about wine and its role in American culture and society. This program illustrates the benefits of moderate consumption as well as the detriments of abuse.

Robert is currently in the process of founding the American Center for Wine, Food, and the Arts, in Napa, CA. This center will serve as a culmination of his dream to celebrate the role of wine, food, and arts in American culture. In addition, he is the founding co-chairman of the American Institute of Wine and Food with Julia Child, and a member of the American Wine Society, the Brotherhood of the Knights of the Vine and many other groups.

In 1997, Robert was inducted into the Educational Foundation of the National Restaurant Association's College of Diplomats for his support of education in the food industry. He has been named "Man of the Year" by numerous magazines and foundations and has received such honors as the Lifetime Achievement Award and the Torch of Liberty Award.

Throughout the years, Robert Mondavi has developed world-class, fine wines. As one of the world's top producers, Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we acknowledge Robert Mondavi's great accomplishments in the wine and food industry and his receiving WineVision's first annual Visionary Award. Congratulations to Robert Mondavi and the Mondavi family.

THE ZIMBABWE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS

HON. RICHARD A. GEPHARDT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2000

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, just this past December, I visited Zimbabwe with a bipartisan group of members of Congress that was co-led by Amo Houghton, a long-time friend of the Zimbabwean people, and included Donald Payne, the ranking member of the International Relations Subcommittee on Africa. The purpose of our visit was to examine Zimbabwe's efforts to combat the AIDS pandemic, revitalize economic development and strengthen its democracy. In doing so, we dedicated a U.S. Agency for International Development-funded AIDS clinic in Hwange and met with political leaders including President Robert Mugabe and Morgan Tsvangirai, the leader of the then-fledgling opposition party, the Movement for Democratic Change (M.D.C.). Little did we know at the time that Zimbabwe was on the cusp of its most fundamental political change since gaining independence in 1980.

I applaud the people of Zimbabwe for their efforts to make the June 25 and 26 parliamentary elections generally peaceful as opposition parties gained an unprecedented 58 seats, 57 of which went to the M.D.C. The relative calm of the election was particularly significant in the wake of the intimidation and violence that preceded the historic vote. The approximately 60 percent turnout of registered voters for the election was a level of participation that we in the United States can envy.

Now, with a meaningful opposition party firmly in place, the challenge for President Mugabe will be to work with the new Par-

liament to solve the social and economic problems that face his nation in a manner that seeks to unite rather than divide. I was pleased to see President Mugabe recognize this challenge in his speech following the election, in which he spoke of his desire to work with the new Parliament. It is my hope that President Mugabe's future actions will mirror this rhetoric.

Finally, I would like to recognize the work of American representatives in Zimbabwe—both governmental and nongovernmental—whose on-the-ground efforts contributed to this important milestone in Zimbabwe's political evolution: the American Embassy, lead by Ambassador Tom McDonald and Political Officer Makila James; the United States Agency for International Development; and the National Democratic Institute and its Zimbabwe-based staff of Peter Manikas, Richard Klein, David Kovick, Dawn Del Rio, Kate Allen and Scott France.

SUPPORT OF INCARCERATED IRANIAN JEWS

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2000

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, today I address the issue of the 13 Jews being held in the city of Shiraz in Iran and on trial on charges of espionage.

The World Bank is currently reviewing a proposal to transfer \$230 million in loans to Iran. In light of the circumstances, it is inappropriate to consider these loans while the staged trial of the 13 Iranian Jews continues. It would send a dangerous message that the international community disregards the Iranian government's serious human rights violations against its citizens.

This group, which includes a Rabbi, teachers, and students, has been detained for over a year although no formal charges have been filed against them. Contrary to Iranian law, they have been denied the right to choose their own legal representation.

Additionally, serious legitimacy concerns arise when we consider that the trial is being held behind the closed curtains of the Revolutionary Court where the judge is also the chief prosecutor.

The defendants' "confessions," on which the prosecution's case is built, were all offered without the presence of their lawyers. These minute-long sound-bites have been widely aired on State-run television.

Clearly justice is not being served for these Iranian Jews.

The question is what will the world do about it? The key is for the U.S., Germany, and Japan to stand up at the World Bank and say human rights do matter and to vote to delay any World Bank loan to the Republic of Iran. Until justice is served for these 13 Iranian Jews, the World Bank should not hide behind claims that somehow its loans are only being used for a particular purpose. Money is fungible.

Recent history has shown that at least 17 Jews in Iran have been executed for spying after similar "confessions" were offered. We must stand up for human rights. The World Bank is where this trial will be on trial.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT REGARDING PLUM POX VIRUS FUNDING IN PENNSYLVANIA BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2000

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I was pleased today when the administration announced that \$13.2 million would be made available to compensate fruit growers in my district affected by plum pox. I am very pleased that my constituents who have seen their livelihoods put under the bulldozer and set afire in the last 3 months will finally receive just compensation. However Mr. Speaker, I am enraged that this announcement came from the Office of the Vice President and that the administration would play election year politics with a stone fruit industry that its own press release values at \$1.8 billion.

Mr. Speaker I became aware of the plum pox outbreak in my district in early October. Since that time, I and Pennsylvania's Members of the other body have met with the growers affected by this crisis and worked on legislative remedies to address the growers' loss. I first wrote Secretary Glickman about plum pox in early November, a letter signed by 18 other Members of the House. In the intervening 8 months I have pursued every legislative option available and worked with Secretary Glickman and officials from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to indemnify the affected growers.

I ask the Vice President, where have you been for the nearly 6 months while the Office of Management and Budget acted as a roadblock to allowing these funds to be released. Secretary Glickman is to be commended for his actions in this crisis. As soon as the Secretary had the relevant information it was presented to the OMB along with his recommendation to declare this crisis an "Extraordinary Emergency," thereby making plum pox one of the Department's highest priorities.

Where was the Vice President on March 2, 2000, when the Secretary declared an Extraordinary Emergency and the OMB refused to release the funding for the Emergency. Where was the Vice President?

If the Vice President was as concerned about this crisis as he seems to be today, why didn't he request OMB Director Lew release these funds in March, before the growers had to be put through the worries they faced this spring.

Where was the Vice President when those growers, my constituents, came to Washington and met with an OMB official and were insulted and belittled as if they were beggars asking for a hand out. Mr. Speaker, I understand the Vice President is well versed on tobacco growing, but I wonder if he understands the workday of a fruit grower?

The fruit growers in my district do not sit on their porches and rock, as they were told in a insulting response by Director Lew's subordinate in April. Fruit growers work from sun up to sundown and spend their lives praying that the weather and insects do not make them bankrupt. I wonder where the Vice President was Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker as I said, I am pleased that those growers in my district who accepted the

risk and obeyed the destruction orders they received from the USDA will be finally compensated, I might add one month after the Congress voted to do the same, but I find it very sad that this Administration chooses to release this compensation only after the Vice President finds himself sagging in the polls and needing help in a swing State.

MEDICARE RX 2000 ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2000

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 4680 and to say that today we have seen a clear example of legislating at its worst.

The Republican leadership of this House has denied the Democrats the opportunity to offer a meaningful prescription drug plan which would guarantee our senior citizens access to this important benefit under Medicare.

The Republican leadership has issued a "gag order" rule, which prevents the Democratic members of this institution from offering a clear alternative to the legislation which they are calling Medicare Prescription Medicine. I say, the bill before us is not that: it is less than that.

Last year, I visited with a number of Senior Citizens centers in the First Congressional District in Illinois. Secretary Donna Shalala was gracious enough to join me in August in a visit to the senior citizens residence at Montgomery Place.

At every opportunity, the seniors in my district asked me—Is Congress going to do something about Medicare, and especially about prescription drugs?

It was abundantly clear from these questions that the senior citizens in Chicago's First District—many of whom are living on income below the poverty line—that this is an issue of critical importance, to be dealt with seriously by this institution. Seriously and deliberately: not through political gamesmanship.

Last year, we were told that the prescription drug issue would have to wait until the Republican-initiated tax cut was resolved. And we waited. And the senior citizens in our Congressional districts waited.

Last week, when President Clinton proposed an end to the waiting and offered a sound and financially responsible entitlement program to provide senior citizens with the prescription drug benefits that they need and want, the Republican leadership in the House said "No." They said we will consider a minimal proposal that does not even guarantee a prescription drug benefit to Medicare recipients.

Mr. Speaker, I will say again what I said last fall: that the Republican majority must give up this ill-conceived plan and give us the opportunity to consider a real legislative proposal which will give our senior citizens the prescription drug benefits that they need—and want.

MEDICARE RX 2000 ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2000

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 4680, The Medicare Rx 2000 Act. Today, instead of helping seniors with their prescription drug bills, the Republicans sold seniors a bill of goods. Their bill is a multi-billion dollar giveaway to insurance companies and fails to guarantee that seniors will be able to afford the medicines their doctors tell them they need to take to stay healthy.

For the past year, seniors in my district have been telling me about how much they spend on their monthly prescription bills. I released a study in April 1999 which shows that seniors in my district who have no prescription drug coverage pay twice as much as those who have coverage. Some seniors are faced with the decision of paying for food or paying for medicine. This is an outrage. No senior should be faced with that kind of decision.

On the other hand, the Republican leadership in the House recently became interested in this issue because their pollster told them that they needed to pass a drug plan—any plan—no matter how flawed it is. And they won't let the Democrats offer a substitute plan on the floor because they know it is a good plan and could pass.

We need a Medicare prescription drug benefit that is voluntary, that provides coverage to all seniors who need it, and that secures the financial future of Medicare. I will continue to work for a plan that helps seniors fill their cabinets with life-saving medications, not one that lines the pockets of the drug companies.

JUSTICE FOR SHIRAZ THIRTEEN

HON. KEN LUCAS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2000

Mr. LUCAS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, in Iran today, thirteen Jews are awaiting judgement in a trial that I suspect is no trial at all. Although the thirteen Jews in question are accused of espionage, they have been imprisoned for over a year without being formally charged and have been denied the right to choose legal counsel. They have also been denied access to family members, fellow members of the Jewish community, and human rights workers. It is deplorable to put these thirteen people on trial, possibly with their lives at stake, then shut the courtroom doors to the world. Diplomats, members of the media, human rights activists, and even the accused's fellow Iranian citizens are barred from attending the court proceedings. In short, these thirteen persons are being denied even what limited due process of law is regularly available to the Iranian people.

In March of this year, Secretary of State Albright announced that the U.S. ban on certain Iranian imports would be lifted. This move was designed to encourage ongoing political reform in Iran. However, as Iran works to improve its relations with the international com-

munity, I urge my fellow members of Congress to keep a watchful eye on the developments in this case. Judge Sadiq Nourani, better known to his countrymen as "the butcher," will soon decide whether or not these thirteen Jews indeed committed acts of espionage against Iran. I am deeply troubled by the shroud of secrecy under which this trial proceeds, bringing into question the integrity of any guilty verdict. My colleagues in Congress should view Judge Nourani's decision, and any subsequent sentencing, as a strong indication as to the sincerity of Iran's attempts to reform.

Omid Tefillin, a 25 year-old man whose brother has already been condemned, said, "I am innocent, and I believe the court is just. God willing, I will be acquitted." Mr. Speaker, I wish I shared Mr. Tefillin's faith in the Iranian judicial system. Based on the proceedings I have observed thus far, I am doubtful the thirteen Jews can receive a just verdict.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4733) making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Chairman, I would like to take a moment to discuss an amendment that has the potential to address a matter that is of the utmost importance to our nation. First I want to commend the Chairman for his hard and diligent work on this bill.

The cost of gasoline has skyrocketed and America is once again forced to kneel at the feet of OPEC, groveling to oil barons, begging for more oil. It is disgraceful that this administration has let America, the home of the free, become subservient to foreign powers. I cannot stress enough the importance of the United States becoming an energy self-sufficient nation and the positive effects this would have on our national security and economic prosperity.

As you know, the price of oil in the United States has dramatically increased over the last year. Over the winter we saw the first spike in oil prices, and this administration's response was simply to beg OPEC to produce more oil, in the hopes that higher supply would cause prices to go down. Yet, prices have skyrocketed in the last few weeks, with some Americans having to pay well over \$2.00 for a gallon of gas. The impact of escalating oil costs affects prices for essential utility and municipal services, the distribution of vital supplies and other goods and services, and could threaten many American jobs. Clearly, our current economic prosperity is put at risk as a result of the dramatic increase in oil prices. It is time to take action before we are completely at the mercy of this oil cartel.

Beyond any short term fixes we may soon address in the Congress, we must adopt a long-term energy policy that will emphasize