

plan of the current government merits that support.

I am not saying that the Putin government's pronouncements on economic policy are bad. In fact, I am encouraged by much of what I hear. But I remember too well how past economic programs also featured liberal and enlightened reform plans that were later shelved in favor of the status quo.

SWEPT UNDER THE CARPET

Indeed, the pattern since Mikhail Gorbachev's time is unmistakable; reform talk followed by loans to underwrite reforms, followed by a collapse of the reform plans, followed by debt restructuring, more talk of reforms, more loans and so on. When lack of reforms is remunerated with new loans and debt write-offs, when the worst abusers of the current system live nicely off the spoils of what is effectively thievery—if not in legal terms since Russian law is inadequate—one starts having doubts about the message we get from the democracies of the West. Why reform anything in Russia if another IMF loan shipment is on the way and past scandals can be swept under the carpet?

I personally think that Mr. Putin should be given the benefit of the doubt. He cannot be blamed for past failures. Many of the ideas he has voiced have much in them. But only he can really change the course of events, and so far meaningful actions have been few. We do not know the full economic plan of the government. The jury is still out.

Rather than repeat the mistakes of the past, my recommendations for the West are simple. First, do not grant Russia concessions, but rather apply the rules as you would to any country. Western capital should flow to the private sector, not to the government. Only this will help to change the country, create jobs and increase efficiency. Second, money should be spent where it brings genuine return and where it will generate the kind of good-will that makes reform and democracy self-sustaining.

I imagine what might have been if that \$20 billion in IMF money been spent on providing full time education for 200,000 Russian students in the West. My guess is that we would be living in a different country today.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE JOSEPH H. RODRIGUEZ

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following proclamation for the RECORD.

CONGRESSIONAL COMMENDATION

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS, U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, FIRST DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

Whereas, The Rutgers University School of Law-Camden, New Jersey and the First Congressional District of New Jersey commend and honor the Honorable Joseph H. Rodriguez for 15 years of distinguished service on the federal bench; and Whereas, United States District Court Judge Joseph H. Rodriguez embarked on his distinguished legal career immediately after graduating from Rutgers University School of Law where he was admitted to practice law and became a member of the bar of the State of New Jersey; and Whereas, in 1985, the President of the United States of America, President Ronald Reagan, nominated Judge Rodriguez to the federal bench in Camden, New Jersey where he has continued to establish a standard of excellence in the legal pro-

fession; and Whereas, over his distinguished legal career, Judge Rodriguez has received numerous awards recognizing him for his accomplishments which include his induction into the Rutgers University Hall of Distinguished Alumni in 1996; and Whereas, this Member of the 106th Congress recognizes Judge Rodriguez for his outstanding contributions to the legal profession where every day of his legal career he has continued to render legal decisions fairly and upheld the law always in the interest of justice; and Whereas, Judge Rodriguez's exceptional achievements and constant efforts to create a positive difference throughout our communities serves as an inspiration for the legal profession and for the citizens of the United States of America.

Now therefore, Be it Known that the undersigned Member of the United States Congress, the Honorable Robert E. Andrews of the First Congressional District of New Jersey hereby commends and congratulates United States District Court Judge Joseph H. Rodriguez as he is recognized as the "Gentleman Judge" by Rutgers University School of Law for his outstanding accomplishments, and in honor of his legal achievements, hereby officially proclaims today, Wednesday, June 7, 2000 to be the Honorable Joseph H. Rodriguez Day throughout the First Congressional District of New Jersey.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 10, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4461) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes:

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Chairman, this amendment would have eliminated funding for a proposed pilot program for non-needs based school breakfast pilot program.

Mr. Speaker, I am a strong supporter of child nutrition programs for needy families. There is undeniable proof that kids who start the day with a good breakfast learn the best. My record shows that I have supported school breakfast and school lunch, not to mention WIC. We must make sure that all appropriate and necessary funds are given to these important programs to help the nutritional needs of needy children and families.

Part of being a fiscal conservative is setting priority for important programs. School breakfast programs for needy children must remain a high priority.

CONGRATULATING MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL YEAR 2000 ALL-STAR GAME

HON. CARLOS A. ROMERO-BARCELO

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to congratulate the participants in tonight's Major League Baseball All-Star game. Each summer, the fans of our nation's pastime look forward to this game, which brings together the brightest stars of the sport. True to the American spirit, the starting line-ups for the game are selected by the millions of fans who follow the sport and take the time to choose the most deserving players to start at each position.

I want to note with special pride that seven of the players participating in tonight's game are Puerto Ricans. These players are Roberto Alomar of the Cleveland Indians, Carlos Delgado of the Toronto Blue Jays, Edgar Martinez of the Seattle Mariners, Jorge Posada and Bernie Williams of the New York Yankees, Jose Vidro of the Montreal Expos, and Ivan Rodriguez of the Texas Rangers, who was the leading vote recipient in the All Star balloting. I know I speak for all the U.S. citizens of Puerto Rico in expressing our great pride in the accomplishments of these players. That our island of 3.8 million people could produce such a large proportion of the players on the All-Star teams shows how strongly Puerto Ricans have embraced our national pastime.

In the spirit of the All Star game, I would be remiss if I did not take a moment to mention Roberto Clemente, the greatest of all the Puerto Rican All-Stars. Mr. Clemente is one of 20 legendary baseball players being honored in a new series of commemorative postage stamps, which were officially dedicated last week in conjunction with All Star Week.

Mr. Clemente is known in baseball circles as the first Hispanic-American selected to the Hall of Fame. But he will be remembered as much for his great humanitarian spirit as he is for his considerable baseball skills. Many of us will never forget that tragic day 28 years ago when Mr. Clemente lost his life in a plane accident while he was participating in a mission to aid victims of a devastating earthquake in Nicaragua.

Mr. Clemente's legacy has influenced an entire generation of baseball players in Puerto Rico, just as future generations of players will be inspired by the All-Stars participating in tonight's game.

Congratulations to all the players in the 2000 All-Star Game.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 10, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 4461) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes:

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Chairman, I rise today against this amendment which will prohibit the FDA from testing, developing, or approving any drug that could cause an abortion.

I often come to the House floor to note that this would be the 147th vote on choice since the beginning of the 104th Congress. But this vote is about so much more than abortion. It is truly a chilling attack on biomedical research.

We are legislators, we are not scientists. Political mandates have no place in interfering with the FDA's sound and rigorous scientific drug approval process.

Approval of this amendment would be the beginning of a slippery slope where some Members of Congress hold the health of all Americans hostage. Allowing Congress to dictate which drugs the FDA can and cannot test could halt the process of testing drugs that have nothing to do with abortion.

The target of this amendment, mifepristone or RU-486, has potential uses for the treatment of breast cancer, endometriosis, and even glaucoma. In fact, this kind of drug—an antiprogesterone—was originally being developed for its cancer treatment potential.

I tell you, if RU-486 was only a cancer treatment, this researcher would have won a Nobel prize, and I bet the drug would already have been approved. Instead, because of its pregnancy disruption use, the drug has been held hostage by the right wing.

If this amendment passes, it would prevent further testing of drugs such as mifepristone that have the potential to treat millions of Americans for other medical conditions.

Delaying this drug is not an option. Think of what this will do to women with fibroid tumors. Think of what this will do to seniors with glaucoma. Think of what this will do to people with brain tumors.

And even worse, there is a very dangerous precedent being set today. Even those who disagree about whether RU-486 should or should not be approved, should be highly concerned by the precedent being set by this outrageous amendment.

Congress established the Food and Drug Administration to be an independent agency to test and approve drugs and devices. We should allow them to do their work without interference from the Congress. Science, not abortion politics, should dictate the type of drugs the FDA tests.

I strongly urge a "no" vote on this amendment.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. DAN MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 4461) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes:

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I was prepared to offer four amendments to this agriculture appropriations bill to highlight the absurdity of the US sugar program.

On Thursday, this Congress debated an amendment that would have limited the fleecing of taxpayers by the sugar program to \$54 million. However, a point of order technically prevented a vote on that matter.

I did not proceed with the other three amendments in the interest of comity to move the legislative business of the House. However, I also did not offer because it became apparent that the defenders of the sugar program do not want to clear debate on the merits of the US sugar policy, they want to muddy the waters about what this sugar program is doing to consumers.

For example, as you look at the arguments of the defenders of the sugar program, they say that the price of sugar has gone down but the costs of soda has not. That is like saying the cost of sugar has gone down but the costs of cars have not. Sodas made in the United States do not use Sugar! Read, the label, they use high fructose corn sweeteners. They have not used sugar in the US for a while because the sugar prices are so high. They do use sugar in sodas in countries like Mexico. I am both deeply disappointed and slightly amused that the defenders of the sugar program continue to use "soda" in their arguments.

Another area of their attack is that this General Accounting Office study which revealed a consumer cost of \$1.9 billion is flawed. They say the USDA even thinks their analysis is flawed. Well let's look at the real facts. The GAO said they were going to do this study. They solicited input from the USDA for help in developing a model. USDA refused. The GAO got independent economic experts to come up with a sound consensus model to gauge the costs. They asked USDA for comment about it, USDA refused. Instead, what USDA has done, is engage in 20/20 hindsight without helping the process. I am very frustrated by the blatant politics by the USDA and would hope they would be more helpful to future efforts. The GAO is a non-partisan fact finding agency. They carefully researched this program for months, they offered a chance to comment to interested parties including USDA and the sugar growers, they brought in outside academic experts and economists to review GAO's model. The fact remains that the GAO sent the economic model to USDA for review and USDA provided no substantive comments.

What my opponents would have everyone believe is that the carefully researched and inclusive report on sugar by the non-partisan, unbiased GAO is somehow flawed. But they would have you believe that the USDA, whose mismanagement of the program has already cost taxpayers \$54 million this year and may cost up to \$500 million by year's end, and the American Sugar Alliance whose members enjoy federal benefits of over \$1 billion per year are the ones with the correct, unbiased opinion on the costs and impacts of the sugar program.

Furthermore, GAO has already responded to the criticisms they did receive in the appen-

dix of this same report, and I would submit that portion of the report containing GAO's response for the record.

The negative environmental impacts of the federal sugar program are real, even though my colleagues on the other side of the debate choose to conveniently ignore this fact. Nowhere have these impacts been felt with such devastating effect as in my home state of Florida where federally subsidized sugar production has played a huge role in the destruction of the Everglades. I would like to submit for the record this letter from "The Everglades Trust" an environmental group concerned about the status and future of this American treasure. The Everglades Trust and other environmental groups recognize the sugar program's terrible environmental legacy and support efforts to reform the program.

Finally, I am amazed that the defenders of the sugar program fail to state why we can have a free market for corn, for cars, for toothpicks, for televisions, etc. but we can't have a free market for sugar. Their "sky is falling" logic only shows how desperate the big sugar growers are to preserve a program that costs consumers \$1.9 billion a year, costs the taxpayers millions in direct spending, destroys the Everglades, sends US jobs overseas, and seriously undermines our free trade efforts.

I remain confident that this body will wake up and end the stupid sugar program, and submit the following into the RECORD.

THE EVERGLADES TRUST,
Islamorada, FL, June 28, 2000.

Hon. DAN MILLER,
102 Cannon Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE MILLER: When the FY 2001 Agriculture Appropriations legislation is considered by the House, we understand you will offer one or more amendments which involve the federal sugar program. We would strongly support an amendment to stop sugar purchases to boost market prices. By encouraging massive increases in sugar production in the Everglades Agricultural Area, the sugar program has caused immense damage to the Everglades. Boosting the already excessive market price for sugar will serve to make sugar's assault on the Everglades even worse. It is obvious, as the GAO has documented, that the sugar program forces consumers to pay far too much for sugar. To prop up sugar prices by huge purchases of sugar by the government is an outrageous use of Taxpayers' money and a continuation of the assault on America's Everglades.

Should you choose to offer an amendment to phase out or reform the existing sugar price support program, we would strongly endorse your effort. We believe the sugar program must be changed from the harmful price fixing scheme it is today. Congressman Miller, the sugar program has become a "welfare" program, and it is time to put a stop to it. We commend your courageous efforts to end a program which has cost the consumer and Taxpayers billions of wasted dollars and caused massive damage to the nation's Everglades.

Sincerely,

MARY BARLEY,
President, The Everglades Trust.

GAO COMMENTS

The following are GAO's comments on the American Sugar Alliance's (ASA) written response to our draft report dated May 5, 2000. Based on USDA and industry comments, we revised our model's final estimates to more fully account for certain transportation costs. As a result, cost and benefit estimates