

member states to take concrete measures toward finding a just and peaceful resolution to Cyprus.

Twenty-six years ago, Turkey invaded the northern section of Cyprus. Today, there is still a barb-wire fence, known as the Green Line, that cuts across the island separating thousands of Greek Cypriots from the towns and communities in which they and their families had previously lived for generations. The Cypriot women came to New York to raise their voices against the years of injustice and seek action toward a final resolution to the divided island.

The Cypriot women also raised the question on many families' minds, "Where are the missing Greek Cypriots?" More than 1600 Cypriots and five Americans have been missing since 1974. They have never been seen or heard from since their capture 26 years ago. Families have waited long enough to hear the truth.

Throughout my years in Congress, I have ardently supported democratic rule of Cyprus. The United Nations has also passed several resolutions calling for democracy in Cyprus. However, even after the passage of resolutions and international meetings between Cyprus and the Turkish-Cypriots, peace is still elusive.

Mr. Speaker, I not only salute these courageous Cypriot women, but I also would like to pay tribute to each one of the participants of the World March of Women 2000. These brave women recognize the plight of women throughout the world. The women participating in the World March encourage international solidarity among women and the development of unique ideas and real solutions to end the troubling state of women in every nation of the globe.

These women deserve our respect for their courage in bringing their concerns before the United Nations and the international community. I sincerely hope that the concerns of the Cypriot women, as well as the concerns of all the women participating in this important event, are addressed by the international community. With a little determination and hope, we will all one day live in a world of peace and one where poverty and violence against women are creatures of the past.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 2000

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 534, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

GROSSMAN HONORED AFTER 29 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 2000

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Howard J. Grossman, executive director of the Economic Development Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania, who is

retiring on Oct. 31 after more than 29 years of serving in that capacity.

The Council serves Carbon, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Pike, Schuylkill, and Wayne counties. Howard came to the region on June 21, 1971, after serving as Deputy Director of the Montgomery County Planning Commission in Norristown. He has served Northeastern Pennsylvania well, with much significant progress having been made under his tenure.

Howard's accomplishments and achievements are too numerous to mention, but I would like to highlight just a few examples of how his leadership has helped the region through his work at EDCNP.

Following the devastation wrought by Hurricane Agnes in 1972, EDCNP was one of the leading organizations to plan our area's long-range flood recovery.

Under his leadership, the council has also participated in the creation of the Montage development in Lackawanna County, which has been termed the most extensive and best development of its kind in the region and perhaps the East Coast. The council also established the Regional Enterprise Development Program, which assists many companies in the region with low-interest loans, technical assistance in procurement, exporting and international trade, and has used community development banking to assist small businesses.

I have known Howard Grossman since he first came to the area and have worked closely with him on many projects over the years. In recent years, he may be best known for his leadership of the community effort to keep the Tobyhanna Army Depot open when it was threatened by the base closing commission.

He helped to organize thousands of volunteers to demonstrate their appreciation for this vitally important community asset, and I will never forget the sight of hundreds of people holding signs and blue ribbons as Congressman Joseph McDade and I traveled with the commission members to Tobyhanna. I am especially grateful for the assistance that Howard provided in preparing the winning application for the Upper Susquehanna-Lackawanna watershed, which led to its designation as an American Heritage River.

Mr. Speaker, like his accomplishments and achievements, Howard's awards and positions of leadership in the community are too numerous to list them all, but please allow me to mention a few as examples of his long and distinguished service.

He has received the J. Roy Fogle Award from the National Association of Development Organizations as the Outstanding Executive Director of a Multi-County Planning and Development Organization, the Professional Planner of the Year award from the Pennsylvania Planning Association and the Distinguished Leadership Award for a Professional Planner from the American Planning Association. Howard also served as a member of the Ben Franklin Partnership Board for 11 years under Pennsylvania Governors Dick Thornburgh and Robert P. Casey.

Howard has been President of many non-profit organizations in the region and state, was a founder of the Pennsylvania Association of Non-Profit Organizations, and was President of the Eastern Pennsylvania BAHIA Brazil Partners of the Americas, a national partnership that took over the Kennedy Alliance for Progress Initiative in 1965. This part-

nership continues today. He has also served in many other national, state, regional and local capacities, and plans to stay active with many of the organizations with which he has been associated in the region.

As David Donlin, president of EDCNP, said in announcing Howard's retirement, speaking for many in the region, "We will miss his leadership and guidance as the Council moves into the 21st Century with a strong view toward continuing its goals and mission: to be the regional advocate, catalyst, innovator, and promoter of economic growth and the highest quality of life in Northeastern Pennsylvania."

Mr. Speaker, I send my best wishes to Howard Grossman on the occasion of his retirement as executive director of the EDCNP.

PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN FROM DRUGS ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 17, 2000

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Protecting Our Children From Drugs Act. This bill increases the mandatory minimum sentences for using minors to distribute illicit drugs, distributing illicit drugs to minors and drug trafficking in or near a school. In addition, this bill increases the mandatory minimum sentence for individuals convicted of using minors to distribute illicit drugs. Perhaps, more importantly, this bill cracks down on those who distribute illicit drugs near schools.

Our children cannot learn in an environment that is infested with drug use. To use children to sell drugs is not only disturbing and outrageous, but cruel. Such illicit distribution in our schools deprives our youth of the safe, healthy, and growth-inducing environment they need to learn and become valuable and productive members of our national labor force. Worst of all, this activity strips our children of their innocence and hope.

Among eighth graders alone, the rate of marijuana use tripled in 1996, and the marijuana of today is 15 times more potent than the marijuana used in the 1970s. But even more lethal, cocaine, heroin and methamphetamines are the drugs that are tearing apart families and ruining communities throughout the country and in my state.

California has the worst methamphetamine problem in the country. Over the past few years, there has been a significant increase in methamphetamine use, especially in Los Angeles. From 1990 to 1994, the admissions of Los Angeles residents to addiction treatment centers jumped from 700 to 2,250. That is more than a 30% increase, and this number only includes those who have received treatment. At any given time during the month, some 13,100 Californians who have sought treatment cannot get it because they are placed on waiting lists, which can last from three to sixty days.

The Protecting Our Children From Drugs Act can help change these numbers by enacting tougher laws to stop drug traffickers from reaching our children. Ensuring that law enforcement resources, parents, teachers, and churches come together to prevent the distribution of drugs to youth is critical to lowering the rate of drug use in the entire community.

The possibility of a child who reaches adulthood without using drugs, who then tries drugs as an adult is statistically zero. That is why cracking down on drug criminals reaching out to children is vital to winning the war on drugs. In our effort to maintain and improve the social fabric of all of our communities throughout the country, I encourage my colleagues to join me in voting for the Protecting Our Children From Drugs Act.

AMERICANS NEED A BIPARTISAN PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE PLAN

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 2000

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, data from a poll conducted by the Kaiser Family Foundation and Harvard University showing that health care is one of the top concerns among voters this election year. In the survey more than 50% identified health care or Medicare as the "important issue in deciding their presidential vote," surpassing their concerns about the economy, crime, jobs, the budget and education. Among the issues cited as most pressing, prescription drug costs and the need for a benefit within Medicare were mentioned most frequently. Unfortunately at this time, there is little bipartisan consensus on the best way to achieve this solution in Congress. Both Republicans and Democrats have offered prescription drug proposals neither is the solution to the expanding Medicare prescription drug problem.

Recently, two hastily conceived prescription drug plans came before the House for a vote. The Republican plan depended on private insurers to offer coverage to beneficiaries. Unfortunately, many private insurers were hesitant to offer a drug only benefit. In fact, the President of the Health Insurance Association of America testified in front of Congress that "they would not sell insurance exclusively for drug costs." His assessment proved well-founded as only one plan initially expressed interest when the Republican plan was proposed.

In the Democratic proposal, a catastrophic drug benefit would not have been available until 2006. In addition, it forced implementation of a new Medicare prescription drug benefit upon the already overburdened Health Care Financing Administration (which oversees Medicare) without giving them the necessary resources and flexibility to oversee Medicare fee for service, Medicare+Choice, and a new prescription drug plan.

In our haste to show that we would construct prescription drug legislation, we sacrificed bipartisan deliberations for "partisan one-upmanship." It is abundantly clear that people want a prescription drug bill but passing flawed legislation to deflect criticism will only exacerbate the situation and erode confidence in government. I echo the sentiments of the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), which also has concerns about both of the proposed prescription drug benefit plans, when they wrote, "A solution that can stand the test of time will require true bipartisanship."

Now while we consider how to best devise a comprehensive Medicare prescription drug

plan, we can at least pass legislation which takes a first valuable step towards that goal.

H.R. 1796, the "Medicare Chronic Disease Prescription Drug Benefit Act," of which I am a sponsor with Congressman CARDIN, would supply Medicare prescription drug coverage to over 30 million seniors. By initially focusing on the most common chronic diseases which can be controlled with medication—heart disease, diabetes, high blood pressure, clinical depression, and rheumatoid arthritis—its objective is to reduce complications and unnecessary hospitalizations, making it possible for seniors with these ailments to take their medication regularly, and to mitigate high costs for the seniors who spend the most on medication.

In addition, I supported the amendments to the Agriculture Appropriations bill which would allow for the bulk re-importation of FDA approved prescription drugs from FDA approved facilities in Canada and Mexico. These amendments, which had the overwhelming support of both the House and Senate, are a free market solution that increases choices and lowers the costs of prescription drugs for all Americans. Enactment of these bipartisan measures would enable more seniors to have access to safe and effective prescription drugs.

Neither H.R. 1796 nor the re-importation amendments are the final solution to the prescription drug crisis but they are critically important first steps.

CHEYENNE RIVER SIOUX TRIBE EQUITABLE COMPENSATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 17, 2000

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I submit for the benefit of the Members, copies of letters between the Committee on Resources, and TOM BLILEY, Chairman, Committee on Commerce, regarding the jurisdiction of S. 964.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE,
Washington, DC, October 17, 2000.

Hon. DON YOUNG,
Chairman, Committee on Resources,
Washington, DC.

DEAR DON: I am writing with regard to S. 964, the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Equitable Compensation Act. I understand that this legislation, as considered by the House, includes the text of S. 2439, a bill to authorize the appropriation of funds for the construction of the Southeastern Alaska Intertie system, and for other purposes. As you know, S. 2439 falls within the exclusive jurisdiction of the Committee on Commerce pursuant to Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

Because of the importance of this legislation, I recognize your desire to bring it before the House in an expeditious manner. By agreeing to waive its consideration of the bill, however, the Committee on Commerce does not waive its jurisdiction over S. 964. In addition, the Commerce Committee reserves its authority to seek conferees on any provisions of the bill that are within its jurisdiction during any House-Senate conference that may be convened on this legislation. I ask for your commitment to support any request by the Commerce Committee for conferees on S. 964 or similar legislation.

I request that you include this letter and your response as part of the Record during consideration of the legislation on the House floor.

Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

TOM BLILEY,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, October 18, 2000.

Hon. TOM BLILEY,
Chairman, Committee on Commerce,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding the amendments to S. 964, the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Equitable Compensation Act. You are correct that the amendment to that bill includes the text of S. 2439, a bill to authorize the appropriation of funds for the construction of the Southeastern Alaska Intertie system, and for other purposes. S. 2439 was referred to the Committee on Commerce.

The Alaska Intertie system is critically important to my constituents, so I appreciate your willingness not to insist on a referral of S. 964 so that it can be voted on by the House of Representatives today. I agree that your forbearance does not affect any jurisdictional interest that you would have in S. 964 as amended, and if a conference on the bill becomes necessary, I would support your request to have the Committee on Commerce be represented on the conference committee.

Thank you again for your cooperation on this matter and on many others during my service as Chairman of the Committee on Resources. It has been a privilege and a pleasure working with you and your staff these last six years.

Sincerely,

DON YOUNG,
Chairman.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE JOHN E. PORTER, MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTA- TIVES

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 18, 2000

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, it is with a deep feeling of gratitude mixed with a profound sense of loss that we bid farewell to our most valued colleague, JOHN EDWARD PORTER. His retirement from this Congress is well earned, but because he is a unique person he is literally irreplaceable.

He has brought his rare gifts of intelligence and compassion together with a prodigious work ethic to bear on some of the most consequential problems faced by a free people. His leadership, over the many years, of the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services has been unmatched in the history of the Appropriations Committee. Justice and humanity have animated all his work, and JOHN is one Congressman who has added credibility and idealism and generosity of spirit to this Congress.

A gentleman in the fullest sense of the term, a deeply thoughtful person possessed of the largest heart and soul of anyone I have ever met, I wish him a tranquil sea and that he