

years to come. Again, I extend my "Congratulations!" to Eastern Municipal Water District.

IN SUPPORT OF THE FISCAL YEAR
2001 AGRICULTURE APPROPRIATIONS
CONFERENCE REPORT

HON. JAMES H. MALONEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2000

Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4461, the Fiscal Year Agriculture Appropriations Conference report. Although this bill is flawed, it contains critical provisions which reflect my commitment to providing seniors access to lifesaving prescription medications. The measure provides \$78.5 billion—\$3 billion more than the House-passed bill—for critical programs from prescription drugs to hunger, food safety, and clean water.

I vigorously support efforts to increase seniors' access to affordable prescription drugs. This Conference agreement allows U.S. pharmacies and wholesalers to buy American-made prescription drugs abroad and reimport them into the United States. Since these drugs are often sold abroad at prices significantly below those charged in the United States, America consumers will be able to purchase these reimported drugs at lower prices than they would otherwise pay.

Although I support the reimportation provisions, this step should not be mistaken as a substitute for much-needed prescription drug coverage under Medicare. I continue to urge my colleagues to join me in calling for the enactment of a comprehensive prescription drug program to be included as a part of all Seniors' basic Medicare benefits.

In addition to addressing the problem of prescription drugs for seniors, the Conferees have taken steps to ameliorate several other pivotal issues in the House-passed bill. The report addresses the ongoing prevalence of hunger and food insecurity in America by incorporating sections of H.R. 3192, the Hunger Relief Act. Low-income families are currently disqualified from participation in the food stamp program if they own a car worth more than \$4,650, or if they pay monthly housing costs of more than \$275. As a cosponsor of the Hunger Relief Act, I am pleased that under this report both vehicle and housing expenses would be updated to more accurately reflect the expense of reliable transportation, and the high cost of housing incurred by America's working families—allowing increased participation in the nation's first line of defense against hunger.

The measure also improves upon the House bill by providing sufficient funding for critical food safety and conservation programs. The Conference measure increased funding for the Food Safety and Inspection Service by more than \$22 million, which will help minimize contamination and ensure consumer food safety. Additionally, the bill provides additional funding for state water quality grants and conservation programs, which include essential flood prevention operations.

Unfortunately, the Conference committee did not act in the best interest of our children, or our farmers, when it agreed to a \$500 million subsidy for tobacco companies. I have worked hard to protect America's children from

the dangers of tobacco, and I have supported long-term solutions to the fundamental problems facing the small family-run tobacco farm, which is why I am deeply dismayed that the Conferees have included such an ill conceived provision that undermines the health of our children and the viability of the struggling family farm.

My colleagues, as unsatisfactory as some of the provisions in this bill may be, it is up to us to do everything in our power to provide access to prescription drugs that can mean the difference between life and death, or between health and chronic disease, for senior citizens. Although the Agriculture Appropriations Conference Report is not a perfect bill, I urge you not to let the perfect be the enemy of the good. For that reason, I support H.R. 4461, the Fiscal Year 2001 Agriculture Appropriations Conference report.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. THELMA M.
WILLIAMS

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2000

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I would like my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating a very special person, Mrs. Thelma M. Williams, who will be honored in New Jersey by the Elks Pride of Trenton on October 28th for her many years of dedicated community service.

A native of Freehold, New Jersey, Mrs. Williams is a member of St. Michael's Episcopal Church, where she works on the Building Ground Committee and with the Episcopal Church Women. A caring person who is always there to help others, Mrs. Williams serves as a volunteer in the soup kitchen. Organizations to which she belongs include the Elks Pride of Trenton; the NAACP; and AFSCME, where she holds the post of treasurer. In addition, she works on the Board of Elections and serves as a trustee of the Northwest Community Improvement Association. She was employed by the State for 32 years and retired in 1990.

Mrs. Williams is proud of her family—she has a daughter, Marie Meadow, two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. She serves as an inspiration to all of those around her.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in expressing our appreciation to Mrs. Williams for her dedicated service and our very best wishes as she is honored this weekend.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHRIS CANNON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2000

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, on September 7, 2000 the House in recorded vote number 459 voted on H.R. 4844 the Railroad Retirement and Survivors' Improvement Act. During this vote I mistakenly voted Nay against the bill and should have voted Aye in favor of the bill. I am a co-sponsor of H.R. 4844 and wish to express my support for the bill.

INDIAN GOVERNMENT INFILTRATING ORGANIZATIONS TO PROMOTE THE SPECTRE OF "TERRORISM" IN PUNJAB

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, it has recently come to light that the police in Punjab have been planting RDX explosives on members of the Babbar Khalsa organization in Punjab and then killing them in encounters, claiming that they are importing the explosives from Pakistan.

The Indian government is known to have infiltrated the organization's top levels. They used their agents within this and other organizations to carry out the bombing of their own Air India airliner off Canada in 1985, which killed 329 innocent people.

In November 1994, the Hitavada, an Indian newspaper, reported that the Indian government paid \$1.5 billion to the late Governor of Punjab, a man named Surendra Nath, to foment terrorist activity in Punjab and Kashmir. In March, according to two extensive investigations, the Indian government murdered 35 Sikhs in the village of Chithi Singhpora. Between 1993 and 1994, 50,000 Sikhs "disappeared" at the hands of Indian forces. According to Amnesty International, there are thousands of political prisoners being held without charge or trial. Human-rights activists say that there are 50,000 Sikh political prisoners alone. The Akali Dal government in Punjab promised to get these political prisoners released, buy they have made no move to do so.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear who the real terrorists are. As the defenders of freedom and democracy, America must declare India a terrorist state and cut off its aid until the terrorism and human-rights violations end. We should also declare our support for protecting the rights of Sikhs, Christians, Muslims, and other minorities by supporting self-determination for their homelands in the form of a free and fair plebiscite on their political status, with international supervision to make sure that neither side tries to corrupt the vote.

Mr. Speaker, the Council of Khalistan has issued a press release on the Indian government's effort to revive the spectre of "terrorism" in Punjab by planting RDX explosives on Sikh activists. I encourage all my colleagues to read this informative press release, and I would like to insert it into the RECORD at this time.

BABBAR KHALSA MEMBERS BEING KILLED FOR RDX—PLANTING EXPLOSIVE IS MODUS OPERANDI OF INDIAN INTELLIGENCE

INDIAN GOVERNMENT HAS INFILTRATED SIKH ORGANIZATIONS

WASHINGTON, D.C., October 24, 2000.—Punjab Police have been killing members of Babbar Khalsa in encounters in Punjab, claiming that they are bringing RDX explosives in from Pakistan. Planting RDX explosives is the modus operandi of the Indian government. A few years ago, they planted RDX in the car of an American businessman who was visiting Punjab and Pakistan to visit relatives and religious shrines.

"The Indian government has infiltrated the top levels of Babbar Khalsa," said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the

Council of Khalistan, the government pro tempore of Khalistan, the Sikh homeland that declared its independence from India on October 7, 1987. He noted that the book "Soft Target," written by two Canadian journalists, proves that the Indian government carried out the 1985 bombing of an Air India jetliner that killed 329 people. They used their agents within Babbar Khalsa in that operation, he charged.

"There is no terrorism in Punjab except the terrorism of the Indian government," Dr. Aulakh said. He noted that in March, during President Clinton's visit to India, the Indian government murdered 35 Sikhs in the village of Chithi Singhpora, Kashmir. Two independent investigations and an Amnesty International report have confirmed the government's responsibility. In November 1994, the Indian newspaper Hitavada reported that the Indian government paid the late Governor of Punjab, Surendra Nath, about \$1.5 billion to organize and support covert state terrorism in Punjab, Khalistan and in Kashmir. The Indian Supreme Court described the situation in Punjab as "worse than a genocide."

About 50,000 Sikhs languish in Indian prisons as political prisoners without charge or trial. Between 1993 and 1994, 50,000 Sikhs were made to disappear by Indian forces. More than 250,000 Sikhs have been murdered since 1984. Over 200,000 Christians have been killed since 1947 and over 70,000 Kashmiri Muslims have been killed since 1988, as well as tens of thousands of Dalit "untouchables," Assamese, Manipuris, Tamils, and others.

"There are many good people in Babbar Khalsa who just want freedom for our homeland, Khalistan," Dr. Aulakh said, "but they are being used by Indian intelligence and its agents within Babbar Khalsa to revive the myth of Sikh terrorism and undermine the Sikh struggle for freedom. The infiltration goes to the highest levels," he said. "I call on Babbar Khalsa members to make sure that they are not used by Indian infiltrators. I call on them to unite with the Council of Khalistan in the peaceful, democratic, non-violent movement to liberate Khalistan," he said.

"India is on the verge of disintegration," said Dr. Aulakh. "Kashmir is going to be free. Khalistan will also be free during this decade, by the grace of Guru. Guru gave sovereignty to the Sikh Nation," he said. "It is time for a unified effort to liberate Khalistan. We need to support the leadership which is sincere, capable, committed, and dedicated to the liberation of Khalistan," he said. "The Council of Khalistan has led the struggle for the last 15 years and has the above mentioned qualities. We must unite behind the Council of Khalistan, form a Khalsa Paj Party in Punjab, Khalistan, and begin a Shantmai Morcha to liberate Khalistan."

WILLIAM KENZO NAKAMURA
UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

SPEECH OF

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2000

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of HR 5302, to designate the United States Courthouse in Seattle, Washington, as the "William Kenzo Nakamura United States Courthouse".

This designation is a fitting tribute to a great American who overcame great obstacles to uphold the honor and love he had for America.

Mr. Nakamura displayed immense courage and bravery on the battlefield.

On July 4, 1944, Mr. Nakamura crawled within range of an enemy machine-gun nest and destroyed it with four grenades. Later that afternoon Mr. Nakamura was killed near Castellina, Italy by a sniper as he provided cover fire for his retreating platoon. For his bravery and sacrifice his commanding officer nominated him for the Army's highest honor, the Medal of Honor.

Mr. Nakamura was a Japanese-American. After the bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, Japanese-Americans were immediately targeted as the enemy. It did not matter that we were citizens, or had worked hard alongside other Americans for a better future for ourselves and our children. Up and down the West coast more than 100,000 Japanese-Americans, 70,000 of whom were native-born U.S. citizens, were removed from their homes and communities and placed in internment camps.

On February 1, 1943, President Roosevelt reversed his stance on Japanese-Americans and declared "Americanism is not, and never was, a matter of race or ancestry." With this announcement he established the 442nd Regimental Combat Team (RCT), a regiment composed solely of second generation Japanese-Americans, or Nisei. Mr. Nakamura was one of the nearly 12,000 Nisei who volunteered, 3,400 were inducted into the Army.

After nine months of training the 442nd RCT joined the 100th Infantry Battalion consisting of 1,300 Nisei from Hawaii. During seven major European campaigns the 442nd and 100th received 9,486 Purple Hearts, 18,143 individual decorations, and 21 Congressional Medals of Honor. The 442nd became the most highly decorated military unit in U.S. history.

The Medal of Honor that Mr. Nakamura and other soldiers of the 442nd RCT were nominated for were not officially awarded. It took fifty-six years for the government to award Mr. Nakamura his Medal of Honor. Only seven honorees were alive to receive their award in June 2000.

By designating the United States Courthouse in Seattle, Washington, as the "William Kenzo Nakamura United States Courthouse" we acknowledge the courage and the sacrifice made by Mr. Nakamura.

I thank this House for the recognition you have bestowed on this great American who never once doubted his country or his love for it, even from behind the barbed wire of a concentration camp.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ARIZONA
WATER SETTLEMENTS ACT OF 2000

HON. J.D. HAYWORTH

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2000

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce the Arizona Water Settlements Act of 2000 with the entire Arizona House delegation. This is landmark legislation which, as stated in the delegation's introductory statement, will resolve long-standing issues pertaining to the repayment obligations of the state of Arizona for the construction of the Central Arizona Project (CAP). In addition, it will address allocation of remaining CAP

water to satisfy the water rights claims of a number of Arizona tribes, including the Gila River Indian Community and the Tohono O'odham Nation. This is an issue that is important to the state of Arizona, as evidenced by the delegation's full support. In fact, the principal purpose of introducing this legislation at this time is to encourage all parties involved to expeditiously resolve the few remaining issues of the agreement, and to show the Arizona delegation's full commitment to the issue. We fervently hope that all the parties will work in the coming months to wrap up the last remaining details of the settlement.

Some of these issues also reflect a delicate balance. For example, the issue of lands acquired by the tribes after the settlement date and the procedures with which the tribes bring these lands into "trust" is an issue that is still being negotiated. It is my understanding that although the tribes have been working closely with the other parties, and that a tremendous amount of work has already been accomplished, the final details have yet to be agreed upon. All of Indian Country will be looking to this provision because it could very well affect all future Native American water and land dispute settlements.

Another critical component of the bill is the use of the settlement funds. It is important that we come to an agreement with the affected Arizona tribes on how best to utilize the funds associated with the settlement. I know that the Gila River Indian Community has worked hard to come to a consensus on this issue, and I hope we will be able to put this issue to rest prior to the start of the 107th Congress. These are important and difficult issues that still need to be finalized, but I am extremely encouraged that all the parties are so close to an agreement. I commend all the parties involved not only for their perseverance, but more importantly, their willingness to negotiate their differences for the benefit of all Arizonans.

Along with this introductory statement, I am also including a statement from the Arizona congressional delegation in support of this legislation and a letter from Governor Hull expressing her support for this bill. I am happy to sponsor this bill and look forward to enacting legislation on this issue early in the 107th Congress.

STATEMENT OF THE ARIZONA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION REGARDING THE ARIZONA WATER SETTLEMENTS ACT OF 2000

October 24, 2000.

We are pleased to announce that legislation was introduced today to resolve issues relating to the repayment obligations of the State of Arizona for construction of the Central Arizona Project (CAP), allocation of remaining CAP water (including the use of nearly 200,000 acre-feet of water to satisfy the water rights claims of the Gila River Indian Community, the Tohono O'odham Nation, and other Arizona Indian tribes), and other issues, including final settlement of all claims to waters of the Gila River and its tributaries.

Legislation is needed to codify several aspects of the settlement of these various water related issues. Although not all water users have reached agreement on all issues, negotiations are continuing at a rapid pace. We, therefore, expect that all of the remaining differences will be resolved and settlement agreements will be signed by the parties in the next two months. When final agreements are signed, we intend to introduce the final version of legislation to effectuate those settlements. In the meantime,