

Professor Mandelker from Washington University in St. Louis reported to Congress last session that 81 percent of the federal constitutional takings cases taken to federal court for claims against a local or state government are dismissed on procedural grounds. In his testimony he cites another study that reports a whopping 94 percent dismissal rate. Of the small percentage of cases not dismissed, those same studies show it takes property owners almost a full decade to have their cases heard on the merits in federal court. According to Professor Mandelker, the current ripeness rules "are an open invitation for some local governments to do mischief." He confirmed that "land use agencies across the country have applied the ripeness requirement to frustrate as-applied takings claims in federal court."

While H.R. 2372 goes a long way toward preventing abuses of the current ripeness requirements, it does not guarantee property owners a win once they are in court. H.R. 2372 still requires property owners to meet the strict burden of proof needed to win their cases on the merits. Nor does H.R. 2372 amend any land use laws or any environmental protection statutes, or require compensation at some designated level. In short, the bill does not change substantive "takings" law or the ease the burden of winning a case for a property owner. It simply makes the litigation process fairer and less expensive.

The constitutional right to just compensation for the taking of property rights is so important to Americans that many people refer to it as the linchpin of liberty. By clearing out the underbrush in the procedures for litigating takings claims in federal court, Congress can take a crucial first step in achieving protection for this critical constitutional right.

ROTARY OF RIVERSIDE 80TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2000

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the Rotary Club of Riverside's 80th anniversary. From their very conception on April 20, 1920, when they received their charter from Rotary International, the Club has enriched the Riverside community by observing the Rotary motto, "Service Above Self." Members of the club include community leaders in business, trade, professions and government.

The Rotary Club of Riverside has given to the local community by sponsoring projects to aid Riverside youth through the sponsorship of Bryant Elementary School; through an annual awarding of scholarships to deserving Riverside high school seniors, from the \$200,000 John Cote Scholarship Fund; through the establishment of a vibrant Interact Club at Riverside Poly High School; and through contributions to the establishment of the Riverside Youth Museum.

On an international basis the Rotary Club of Riverside has contributed and supported the Rotary International Polio Plus program to eradicate polio in developing countries and regions worldwide; and a little closer to home, through materials, gifts and caring to the children of orphanages in Tijuana, Mexico, in partnership with the Rotarian of Centenario Rotary Club of Tijuana.

The Rotary Club of Riverside will officially observe its anniversary with a Picnic Celebration on April 2, 2000, in Riverside, CA. It will be attended by the club's members and their families, guests and dignitaries, including: the Honorable Ronald Loveridge, the mayor of Riverside; the Honorable Tom Mullen, chairman of the Riverside County Board of Supervisors representing the 5th county district; and the Honorable Rod Pacheco, California Assemblyman representing the 64th assembly district.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Rotary Club of Riverside on its 80th anniversary and commend its local community and international service.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2000

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Women's History Month, it's fitting to recall the words of a writer and historian from Georgia named Octavia Albert, who said: "I believe we should not only treasure our history, but should transmit it to our children's children as the Lord commanded Israel to do in reference to their deliverance from Egyptian bondage." The stories of our history, she explained, can inspire our own generation and the generations that follow to fulfill the country's promise of freedom and opportunity for all.

Octavia Albert's story is certainly inspirational. She was born into slavery in Oglethorpe, GA, in the area of the state that I have the privilege of representing. After becoming a teacher in the county where she was born and raised, she published a book based on interviews with former slaves that was widely read at the turn of the century. Her book eventually helped improve conditions for a newly emancipated people and, in late years, provided a wealth of information for historians.

More than a century later, another Georgian named Susan Still Kilrain is inspiring young people in our state and across the nation. A graduate of Georgia Tech, she became a U.S. Navy pilot in 1987, who served as a flight instructor and later as a test pilot who eventually logged more than 2,000 flight hours in more than 30 different aircraft.

In 1994, Susan Kilrain was accepted into the country's space program as an astronaut. Her first space mission came in 1997 as part of the crew of the Microgravity Science Laboratory-1, making 63 orbits of Earth and traveling more than 1.5 million miles in space. Three months later, the Microgravity Science Lab went back into space, and she was on it. This time, she spent 16 days in space, making 251 orbits and traveling 6.3 million miles.

Marguerite Neel Williams of Thomasville, GA, which is also located in my area of Georgia, who passed away not long ago, is certainly an inspiration. Just this month, she was formally recognized by the Georgia Women's History Committee and the Georgia Commission on Women as one of the greatest historic preservationists in our State and, in fact, in the country.

During her years as president and director of Landmarks of Thomasville, she was instru-

mental in saving the community's historic district and in saving and restoring many homes, churches, and other beautiful buildings. She salvaged the city's old post office, which now houses a Welcome Center, a fine Arts Library, and the offices for the Antique Show and Sale in Thomasville, which she founded and which has become one of the most outstanding events of its kind in the country. She devoted her life to civic improvements, and helped raise the quality of life for many thousands of her fellow Georgians.

To one former President, and to all of her neighbors in Plains, GA, Maxine Reese is certainly an inspiration. She served as Jimmy Carter's campaign manager in Plains, where the Presidential campaign headquarters was officially located. Maxine Reese later played a big part in persuading Congress to designate Plains as a National Historic Site, which has promoted tourism in this area and a better quality of life for many families. The people of Plains recently rededicated the city park as the Maxine Reese Park in recognition of her service to her community, State and country.

When inspiration is the topic of discussion, another person who qualifies is Harriett Riggs McGhee, a native of Lee County in the heart of Georgia's Second District. Surrounded by scores of friends and family members, she recently celebrated her 116th birthday at the Union Missionary Baptist Church, where she has been a member for more than 80 years. Mrs. McGhee spent many of her earlier years picking cotton and peanuts to support her family. Throughout those years, she was always active in her church and ready to help others in need. Even in hard times, recalls her great-grandnephew Eddie Holsey, she has always been "the sweetest woman on God's earth."

These are women with extraordinary courage and commitment, whose exemplary lives have helped the country fulfill its promise. They are exceptional people. But they are certainly not alone. There are countless examples of women from my State of Georgia, and from throughout the country, who have made heroic contributions in public service; civic leadership; business; religion; the military; the arts; sports; entertainment, and in every endeavor that has made our country what she has been and what she is.

Mr. Speaker, Women's History Month gives us an opportunity to treasure our history—and, in so doing, to inspire us to strive even harder to fulfill our country's great promise for ourselves and future generations.

IN HONOR OF JANE SCOTT

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jane Scott of Cleveland, Ohio. A Cleveland native, Jane has covered the rock 'n' roll scene since September 15, 1964.

Born in Mt Sinai Hospital April 30, 1919, Jane graduated from Lakewood high school in the Class of 1937. After which she attended the University of Michigan where she studied English & Speech and received a teacher's certificate she admits to never having used. During World War II, Jane served in the Navy

as one of Cleveland's first WAVES where she was a code breaker.

March 24, 1952, Jane joined the Plain Dealer as an assistant to the Society Editor and with a salary of \$50 a week. She became the newspaper's rock writer when she took over as the "Boy and Girl" editor. She gradually switched the emphasis from the "school-dooley stuff" to music. After seeing the Beatles on the Ed Sullivan show she immediately realized that was what American youth really wanted to hear. Jane's first interview was with the Beatles on September 15, 1964. Over the years Jane has interviewed countless legends, and is on a first-name basis with most of rock's finest performers.

Jane has been a familiar face in the audience at concerts. The image most Cleveland-area concert goers have of Ms. Scott is, Jane swooping down upon a group of fans with notebook in hand to drill them on their opinions and to ask her infamous question, "What high school do you go to?" Jane's spirit and attitude sets her apart from many rock journalists; she has always tried to tell a piece of her story through the eyes of the fans. At age 80, she says she doesn't understand the word retirement and has a notion to cover the 50th anniversary of Woodstock.

Please join me in honoring Ms. Jane Scott for her 81st birthday and almost 40 years of rock 'n' roll coverage.

THE NEED FOR A NATIONAL DIALOGUE IN KAZAKHSTAN

HON. JOHN EDWARD PORTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2000

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, last December, President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan was in Washington for the annual meeting of the U.S.-Kazakhstan Joint Commission. The purpose of these meetings, which are alternately held in the United States and Kazakhstan, is to promote economic and political cooperation between our two countries. Among other things, the U.S. side regularly presses the government of Kazakhstan to improve its human rights record and undertake economic and political reform.

I understand that U.S. officials pressed the Kazakhstan side especially hard this year, because of the sham parliamentary elections that were held last October, heightened corruption, and an acceleration of abusive action taken against opponents of President Nazarbayev's increasingly repressive government. In an apparent move to blunt the severity of U.S. pressure during the upcoming Joint Commission meeting, President Nazarbayev issued a statement on November 4, 1999 saying that he was ready to cooperate with the opposition in Kazakhstan and that he would welcome the return of former Prime Minister Akhezan Kazhegeldin, the exiled leader of the main opposition party.

On November 19, Mr. Kazhegeldin responded to President Nazarbayev by calling for a "national dialogue" to examine ways to advance democracy, economic development and national reconciliation in Kazakhstan. Similar national dialogues have met with success in Poland, South Africa, and Nicaragua. Mr. Kazhegeldin pointed out that convening a

national dialogue would be an ideal way to initiate cooperation between the opposition and the government.

However, President Nazarbayev has reacted only with silence to Mr. Kazhegeldin's proposal. Mr. Nazarbayev also arranged to have a kangaroo court convict an opposition leader for having the temerity to criticize Nazarbayev's government. Finally, and this is very troubling, an investigation and a trial have failed to find anyone to blame for the delivery last year of 40 MiG fighter aircraft from Kazakhstan to North Korea.

Mr. Speaker, the Administration needs to stop turning the other cheek every time that Mr. Nazarbayev commits an outrage. The cause of freedom and democracy will continue to backslide in Kazakhstan unless the Administration comes out strongly in favor of a national dialogue along the lines that former Prime Minister Kazhegeldin has proposed. At the very least, the government of Kazakhstan should make an hour a week of state-controlled television available for use by the opposition. The U.S., for its part, should assist the democratic opposition by providing a printing press to replace those that have been confiscated by the government. It is time to stand up for democracy in Kazakhstan and to stop coddling dictators like Nazarbayev.

GEORGE JACKSON: HARLEM'S SHINING MEDIA STAR

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2000

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to George Jackson, whose outstanding record of accomplishment in the media and entertainment was cut short with his passing on February 10, 2000.

Jackson was Harlem's shining media star. Before his death at age 42, he had compiled a record of successes in film, music and the internet.

I offer special commendation and condolences to the mother of George Jackson, Henrietta "Hennie" Hogan, who as production supervisor at my hometown newspaper, the Amsterdam News, nurtured his interest in communications.

Therefore, I commend to my colleagues the following tribute on George Jackson which appeared in the Amsterdam News.

[From the Amsterdam News]

SHOOTING STAR LEAVES US

(By Vinette K. Pryce)

It is the letter "h" which sums up George Jackson's life as a legacy who enhanced the music industry.

During a sentimental journey, titled "From Henrietta, to Harlem, to Harvard, to Hollywood, to Heaven," his longtime mentor Brian Carty reflected on Jackson's life with friends and admirers on Monday at St. Paul the Apostle Cathedral. A life which began when he was born to Henrietta "Hennie" Hogan on Jan. 6, 1958.

Carty's eulogy was punctuated with Biblical quotations from Philippians, Chapter 2, verses 1-4 and 12-18, which discuss servitude and a spiritual connection to duty.

Hogan, he said, considered her son a gift. Encouraging George's every endeavor, Hogan nourished his ideas by enrolling her son in a

preparatory school. Hogan's career as production supervisor at the New York Amsterdam News helped supplement George's zeal for media/communication and entertainment. When he graduated from Monsignor William R. Kelly and Fordham Prep, there was no doubt that George's next venture would be advanced education at one of America's most prestigious universities, Harvard. The Ivy League institution proved fertile ground for George's broad sociological outlook on society. He chose the field as one of two majors (the other was economics).

It was that fundamental preparation which motivated him to venture west to a state where he had few connections, but a much bigger sociological challenge than any other he had ever embraced. George tackled his commitment by combining Hogan's teachings, his Harlem upbringing and his Harvard education with film to project poignant issues and some very successful films.

Richard Pryor's Indigo Productions at Columbia Pictures helped hone Jackson's career from 1984-86. It was a new day for the white-washed movie world, which had not yet embraced faces like Wesley Snipes. Jackson partnered with Doug McHenry, and the pair decided on bold collaborative ideas. They co-produced 12 films including "Krush Groove," "New Jack City" and the Martin Lawrence hit "Thin Line Between Love and Hate."

While the films' messages sparked curiosity, the soundtracks spawned success after success, reaping platinum and multi-platinum status. Assured of his impact and dedication, a slumping Motown Records borrowed his talent by naming him president of the legendary record label.

That appointment returned the Harlemit to the East Coast, Hogan and a whole new challenge. Again George accepted the mantle. It was here he attempted to use his college education in sociology in the making of music videos, which sell CDs.

Hogan completely understood that her son was destined on a course which extended from coast to coast and would impact on millions.

Jackson's tenure at Motown ended with a new venture—one which prepared him for the 21st century and a whole new approach to sociology. George dedicated nights and days to Urban Box Office, an Internet venture which focused on the hip-hop culture. In addition, he started working on Soul Purpose, an online media magazine which was on the verge of a major breakthrough.

"He worked 18-hour days," said Vivian Chew, president of Time Zone International. "He was always at everyone's beck and call."

Immersed in preparations for a major hip-hop convention planned for London in May, Chew explained that Jackson virtually "held [her] hand" through acquisitions of many deals surrounding the international music meet.

When Chew heard of the Feb. 10 tragedy, she said she felt as if she had lost a best friend.

"My heartfelt condolences are extended to George's family," Rev. Jesse Jackson said, adding, "He was a tremendous talent in an industry where people come and go. He had staying power. Because of his commitment to quality product, film, video and music, he leaves a legacy of excellence and creativity for future generations to follow. His vision will not be lost on those who will work in his footsteps of inclusion."

Jackson's journey ended on Feb. 10. Mourning his departure are Hogan, his beloved mother; Yuko, his wife; Kona Rose, his 16-month-old daughter; Dr. Sharon Jackson, his sister; Bobbie E. Stancil, his brother; and friends and fans all across the United States.

Contributions may be sent to the George Jackson Memorial Scholarship Fund c/o De