

their home, volunteering their time and energy to many worthwhile projects and community activities. The area is enriched by their presence and I am extremely proud and honored to be among their many friends. I sent my sincere best wishes as they accept this prestigious award and I look forward to their continued involvement in the community for years to come.

#### HELEN STAIRS THEATER

#### HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 2, 2000*

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the City of Sanford, Florida and its citizens for their successful renovation and restoration of the former Ritz Theater, to be renamed the Helen Stairs Theater, which will celebrate its grand opening on Saturday, May 6, 2000. The theater, located in the historic district of Sanford, has celebrated a storied past, and its restoration promises the citizens of Sanford the opportunity to transform an icon of another age into a community facility with a bright new future.

Originally known as the Milane Theater, the Helen Stairs Theater was first constructed in 1923 by the Milane Amusement Company as part of a broad expansion in downtown Sanford. The theater design is indicative of a building style that began appearing in the United States in the 1850s based on European models of opera houses. Motion picture expansion in the early twentieth century led to a boom in the construction of new theaters with over twenty-five thousand theaters located across the United States by 1916. The technical sophistication achieved in theater construction during this period remains unparalleled in the history of American architecture. The Helen Stairs Theater epitomizes the tremendous boom and amazing achievements made during this period and is a visual testimony to the rich history and beauty of Sanford, Florida.

The Milane Amusement Company, led by President Frank Miller and Vice President Edward Lane, built the theater as a profit-enterprise. They had acquired the site from the former Star Theater, and movie house that had been abandoned for a number of years, with the intention of creating a new theater that would be capable of accommodating seven hundred patrons. Construction of the new theater began in November of 1922, and was completed in July of 1923 for a mere \$80,000. Editors of the Sanford Daily Herald proclaimed the building as "a much needed asset in the City Substantial," and claimed that "this city now has a real theater and one of which the city can feel proud." The theater opened on August 2, 1923 to rave reviews.

Over the next few years there were management changes, the sale of the theater to Frank and Stella Evans in 1933, and in 1936, the theater was renamed the Ritz Theater. The Ritz continued to thrive through the years featuring mostly picture shows, but also including some live performances, and became an integral part of the history of Sanford. During the 1960s, the theater attendance declined, and in 1978, the Ritz closed after fail-

ing to compete with the new multiplex theaters. The theater stood vacant until 1984 when it was reopened as the Showtime Cantina. Four years later the theater was again closed and remained vacant until the mid-1990s when it was acquired by the Ritz Community Theater Project, Inc., under the leadership of Helen Stairs. The group began renovating the theater in 1999, and it was renamed in honor of Helen Stairs whose determination and dedicated effort has resulted in its restoration.

I congratulate and thank Helen Stairs, her husband Carl and family, and all of those who joined with her in the effort to restore this historic treasure. On behalf of the Central Florida U.S. Congressional Delegation, we salute the tremendous effort that made this community project a reality.

#### FEDERALIZATION OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS

#### HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 2, 2000*

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, the April issue of the Phyllis Schlafly Report contains a penetrating analysis of education issues that now confront Congress.

I hope my colleagues will give this material the careful attention it deserves.

[From the Phyllis Schlafly Report, April 2000]

#### WHY THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS ARE BEING FEDERALIZED

Congress is about to pass legislation that will federalize every local school district and spell the end of local and state control of America's public school classrooms. Mindful of Ronald Reagan's words, "You can't control the economy without controlling the people," Bill and Hillary Clinton have found the way to control the economy by controlling America's schoolchildren.

The plan started with the passage of Bill Clinton's two 1994 laws, the Goals 2000 Act and the School-to-Work Act, and we were moved further in the same direction with his Workforce Investment Act of 1998. Now, with the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), H.R. 2/S.2, the Clintons are about to complete the nationalization of the public school classroom.

This massive education bill is the eighth successive five-year plan to increase academic achievement by providing "compensatory education" grants to schools with high concentrations of low-income children. It is more ambitious and comprehensive than the Clintons' discredited 1994 health care plan.

A holdover from Lyndon Johnson's Great Society legislation, the ESEA has already spent more than \$116 billion. According to the Federal Government's five-year \$29 million longitudinal study concluded in 1997, the ESEA failed to achieve its objectives.

Unable to make the argument that ESEA, with its current price tag in excess of \$10 billion per year, will raise academic achievement of poor children, the Clintons designed this "stealth" legislation with very different objectives. Pretending to "educate to high standards," ESEA mandates that all 50 states agree to implement a one-size-fits-all education plan. (Sec. 1001(a)(1))

How? The bill calls for mandated "state-wide" minimum competencies for all children. That's code language for the disas-

trous and discredited Outcome Based Education (OBE). (Sec. 1111(B)(4)(A,B))

OBE (also called performance-based education) is measured by "criterion referenced tests" that assess students against a low threshold of achievement (formerly associated with the letter grade "D"), rather than by "norm referenced tests" which measure how well students master a body of knowledge in comparison with other students (such as the ACT, SAT, GRE, Iowa Basic, and Stanford Achievement tests).

ESEA's purpose is to tie schools to the floor of minimum achievement rather than to the ceiling of educational excellence and possibilities. The oft-repeated phrase "all children will learn" really means that all children will be taught only the low level of learning that is actually reached by all children.

The term "minimum competencies" doesn't sell well to parents and the tax-paying public, so as linguistic bait-and-switch occurs through the bill. "Standards" means minimum levels, "accountability" means accountability to the U.S. Department's of Education and Labor, "integrated curriculum" means integrating of training into the school day, and "local control" means control only over implementing the nonacademic job-training system but not over standards, content or testing.

Not only does ESEA force OBE and criterion referenced testing on every local school district in the nation, ESEA cements into place the goals of nationalized curriculum, nationalized testing and national teacher certification, which were envisioned in the 1994 Goals 2000 Act. ESEA also continues the radical changes required by the 1994 School-to-Work Act to guide schools away from a knowledge-based system and toward training for Jobs selected by local Workforce boards. (Sec. 1111, Sat Plans)

School-to-work is the Clintons vision of controlling the economy. Students will be pigeon-holed into jobs to serve the best interests of the local economy as decided by the bureaucrats, not into careers chosen by the student.

"But," Congress proclaims, "the Goals 2000 and School-to-Work laws are sun setting!" Nothing could be further from the truth.

While those laws are about to expire, all 50 states adopted them and ESEA requires that states certify they have adopted "challenging content standards and challenging student performance standards \* \* \* with aligned assessments." That is bureaucratic jargon for continuing the 1994 Goals 2000/School-to-Work mandates. (Sec. 1111)

ESEA has already moved far in the legislative process because Congress was hoodwinked by the bills doublespeak language and only now is beginning to understand that the Goals 2000 and School-to-Work laws have morphed into ESEA. If ESEA passes in its current form, every public school district will be forced to continue implementation of the revolutionary restructuring required by the 1994 laws.

ESEA is not stand-alone legislation but works in tandem with other federal, state and local programs to mesh curriculum, graduation requirements and public funds into state-filed, federally-approved Unified Plans under the Workforce Investment Act. Under the guise of education "reform," all traditional public school curriculum, testing and teaching methods are being replaced with a job training system modeled after failed socialized economies in Europe.

ESEA will fulfill Bill and Hillary Clinton's dream of national economic planning fed by a federalized workforce training system domiciled in the public schools. ESEA is the capstone of their plan to restructure our American system away from free enterprise,

academic achievement in schools, and the freedom of individuals to select their future occupations.

CLINTON'S PLAN FOR EDUCATION AND THE ECONOMY

The following graphic, distributed by the Minnesota Department of Children, Families and Learning (DCFL), explains how School-to-Work is a government plan to interlock public school "reform" of curriculum with workforce preparation (job training) and economic development (national economic planning). This official state publication states that the School-to-Work mission is "to create a seamless system of education and workforce preparation for all learners, tied to the needs of a competitive marketplace."

School-to-Work means that the mission of the public schools is no longer to educate children to be all they can be, but instead to train students to take entry-level jobs as needed by the global economy. The different motivations of several special interests perfectly mesh in School-to-Work: the Clinton Administration economic gurus (Marc Tucker, Ira Magaziner and Robert Reich) who say they want America to imitate the German school-to-workforce system, the Clinton Administration education activists (particularly the teachers unions and Education Department bureaucrats) who want to control the school system, and the multinational corporations that seek a poorly-educated but well-trained labor force willing to work for low wages to compete with low-paid workers in the Third World.

The master plan to federalize education and tie it into the workforce originated with the now infamous "Dear Hillary" letter written on November 11, 1992 by Marc Tucker, president of the National Center on Education and the Economy (NCEE). It lays out a plan "to remold the entire American system" into "a seamless web that literally extends from cradle to grave and is the same system for everyone," coordinated by "labor market boards at the local, state and federal levels" where curriculum and "job matching" will be handled by counselors "accessing the integrated computer-based program."

Rep. Bob Schaffer (R-CO) correctly analyzed this letter as "a blueprint for a German model of education that would be forced upon the people of America." He said this "moves the country toward a government-owned centralized education system from kindergarten past college." He placed this letter in the Congressional Record on September 25, 1998. It is most easily accessible on Eagle Forum's website: <http://www.eagleforum.org>.

A TRIBUTE TO AMERICAN NURSES DURING NATIONAL NURSES WEEK

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 2, 2000*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to a remarkable group of dedicated health professionals—the 2 million+ registered nurses in the United States.

These outstanding men and women, who work hard to save lives and maintain the health of millions of individuals, will celebrate National Nurses Week from May 6–12, 2000. Registered nurses will be honored by hosting or participating in several events such as rallies, childhood immunizations, community health screenings, publicity efforts, dinners, re-

ceptions and hospital events. I believe that any American who has ever been cared for by a nurse should join in the celebration of National Nurses Week.

Modern nursing has been traced to Florence Nightingale's efforts during the Crimean War of the mid-19th century. Exactly 100 years after Nightingale's methods were first used, National Nurses Week was first observed from October 11–16, 1954. National Nurses Day and Week was eventually moved to May to include Florence Nightingale's birthday, which is May 12th.

Using this year's theme: "Nurses—Keeping the Care in Health Care," the American Nurses Association (ANA) and its 53 constituent associations will highlight the diverse ways in which registered nurses, the largest health care profession, are working to improve health care for Americans. Thankfully, the efforts of nurses are being widely acknowledged. According to the Gallup Poll's 1999 "Honesty and Ethics" survey, nursing ranked #1 of 45 among the most respected professions.

Mr. Speaker, I will salute America's nurses during the week of May 6–12, 2000. I encourage my colleagues to do the same.

END RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION IN INDIA

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 2, 2000*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, the persecution of Christians and other religious minorities in India continues. Now even an ally of the ruling party has spoken out against it.

Newsroom, a website devoted to religious news, reported that the Trinamool Congress, a party in coalition with the ruling BJP, demanded the banning of Bajrang Dal, a militant Hindu nationalist organization. The Bajrang Dal is affiliated with the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP), which in turn is part of the RSS, a Fascist organization that is the parent organization of the BJP.

Dara Singh, the person India has arrested in connection with the murder of missionary Graham Staines and his two young sons, has been linked to the Bajrang Dal. Christians have been subjected to three attacks in Uttar Pradesh in two weeks. On Good Friday, members of the Bajrang Dal attacked members of the House of Worship, a Christian church in Agra. Uttar Pradesh also has a law prohibiting Muslims from building new mosques or converting any building into a mosque without government permission. In the state of Orissa, religious conversions are banned without government permission.

In Haryana on April 22, three nuns were attacked by a Hindu fundamentalist. One, Sister Anandi, remains in Holy Family Hospital in serious condition. No one has been arrested for this crime.

The militant Hindu fundamentalists who carried out these acts are allies of the Indian government. The government itself has killed over 200,000 Christians in Nagaland, over a quarter of a million Sikhs, more than 65,000 Kashmiri Muslims since 1988, and tens of thousands of others. It holds tens of thousands of political prisoners without charge or trial.

Some of them have been held for over 15 years. This is unacceptable.

America is the bastion of freedom in the world. It is our responsibility to do what we can to ensure freedom for all people. We should cut off India's aid until it learns to respect human rights. The government must stop killing religious and ethnic minorities. It must also punish strongly those who kill and do other acts of violence in the government's behalf. Amnesty International, which has not been allowed to enter India to investigate human rights abuses since 1978, must be allowed to come into the country. Until then, no American money should go to India.

We should also put this Congress on record in support of democracy in South Asia by calling for a free and fair plebiscite, under international supervision, to decide the political future of Khalistan, Kashmir, Nagaland, and all the other nations occupied by India. These steps are the best way to bring freedom to all the people of South Asia.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the Newsroom article into the RECORD. I urge my colleagues to read it.

BAJRANG DAL BAN SOUGHT AFTER PRE-EASTER ATTACKS ON CHRISTIANS IN INDIA

NEW DELHI, 25 April 2000 (Newsroom)—Allies of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which leads India's coalition government, this week demanded that the BJP ban a militant group of Hindu nationalists and dismiss the BJP-led Uttar Pradesh state government in the wake of recent attacks against Christians.

The call by the Trinamool Congress, an ally in the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance headed by Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, to ban the Bajrang Dal and dismiss Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Ram Prakash Gupta and his government stunned BJP leaders.

Leaders from the Trinamool Congress and from the opposition Congress and Samajwadi parties blasted the BJP for failing to control the Hindu nationalist group that many blame for the spate of violent incidents directed toward religious minorities in the last two years.

The Bajrang Dal, a militant Hindu organization affiliated with the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (World Hindu Council) and linked to several attacks on Christians, believes it has a duty to promote the Hindu religion and Hindutva—Hinduness—in India. Dara Singh, who is accused of masterminding the murders of Australian missionary Graham Staines and his two sons last year, has been linked to the Bajrang Dal, although the group denies he is a member.

Sudip Bandopadhyay of the Trinamul Congress and Yerram Naidu, Telugu Desam party leader, demanded that security be provided to Christians and other religious minorities wherever possible, especially in states like Uttar Pradesh where there have been three violent attacks against Christians in the last two weeks.

Madhavrao Scindia, deputy leader of the Congress Party in the Lok Sabha (the lower house of Parliament), said the government should put a stop to incidents like those reported in Uttar Pradesh and Haryana this month. He demanded a response from Home Affairs Minister Lal Kishen Advani, who is considered a friend of most of India's Hindu nationalist groups and is the second most powerful man in India after Vajpayee. "Groups close to the BJP must be reined in as they are vitiating communal peace," Scindia said.

Opposition Samajwadi party leader Mulayam Singh Yadav, who once headed the