

to the Great Lakes, where he began a career as a Great Lakes Mariner. After 19 years as a mariner, he became a Lake Pilot in 1979.

Now for those of you not familiar with Lake Piloting, it is a fascinating profession. Every cargo freighter that enters the Great Lakes, must, by law, be piloted by a licensed Great Lakes pilot. Even though these ships have their own very capable crews, they still have to have a Lake Pilot aboard during their voyage through our water system. Capt. Waldrop is not only one of these master pilots, he is the best of the best. One day he could be at the helm of a Greek vessel, the next day it's a Russian freighter.

Great Lakes shipping is critical to the regional economy and has an impact on world markets and economies. Without the services of Wally Waldrop, and others like him, safe and efficient commerce through the Great Lakes would not be possible. Please join me in saluting Capt. Wally Waldrop, a great pilot and a servant to the entire Great Lakes region.

H.R. 2273—THE NATIONAL BANK
OFFSHORE ACTIVITIES ACT OF 2001

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2001

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I requested of the author of H.R. 2273, the National Bank Offshore Activities Act of 2001, to permit me to lend my support for this legislation. Let me tell you why H.R. 2273 is so important.

As one member who is interested in relations between Asian nations and the United States, I would wholeheartedly endorse the purpose of H.R. 2273 in closing a major loophole in the United States' supervision of the national banks it charters.

My office has been in receipt of numerous press accounts about the treatment of a vitally important corporation in Thailand, Thailand Petrochemical Industries, Inc. (TPI); the second largest business in the country, by a "workout specialist" assigned to act as what we in the United States would call a "trustee in bankruptcy" This "workout specialist", Effective Planner, an agent of the accounting firm Ferrier Hodgson, from Australia, has, with a Thai bankruptcy court approval, become the agent of the United States chartered banks to whom the debt is owed. What should concern us here in the United States is the activities of the Effective Planner. These questionable actions include the diminution of the value of the company (TPI), by the use of questionable accounting procedures and poor business practices, the expenditure of millions of dollars to a bodyguard company which is either not in existence or is not appropriately registered as a legitimate corporation, and the initiation and ultimate culmination of a "debt for equity swap" which was done in an offshore Caribbean Bank in the British Virgin Island. This "swap" has permitted the U.S. chartered banks to own approximately three-fourths of the entire TPI stock. The manager of Effective Planner and several of his associates were arrested in Thailand for violation of the labor laws of that country, and have reportedly even removed themselves to Singapore to manage this Thailand company.

It is the stated goal of our foreign policy to assist our allies and friends around the world during difficult times. The Asia Debt Crisis, like the Mexican Debt Crisis several years ago, has presented a number of nations with difficult choices. Thailand is no different. It is for this reason that our private sector financial institutions should not be permitted to work against the interests of our country with respect to our relations with other nations. Certainly, no bank in the United States could be placed in control of a trustee in bankruptcy with the trustee being left to their own devices in acquiring control of a U.S. business without at least some supervisory or consultative authority, such as the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) or a court, being capable of reviewing their activities. If alleged criminal and actionable civil activities were reported, surely the OCC would at a bare minimum, conduct some oversight of such actions. It should be no different for U.S. chartered banks doing business in friendly foreign country.

Our principal banking regulator, the Office of the Comptroller of the Treasury (OCC), continues to believe that it has little or no power to act against U.S. chartered banks implicated in illegal activities abroad, even when such activities may involve crimes such as embezzlement, money laundering, and establishment of secret accounts in offshore tax havens. This position makes H.R. 2273 even more important.

In this global economy, banks chartered and regulated by our government must maintain the highest legal and ethical standards wherever they operate. Simply put, our vital system of banking regulation and our confidence in our financial system is compromised when a U.S. chartered bank or its agents are implicated in criminal activities anywhere in the world. In fact, allowing our banks to enjoy a double standard harms our good relations with our trading partners and allies everywhere in the world.

This major loophole in our banking regulation is dramatically evident in Thailand, a staunch ally of our country and victim of the recent Asian economic crisis. Thailand actually stands to lose its domestic ownership and control of a key public company to foreign interests, including a group of banks chartered by us, through the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency.

As I stand here today, ownership and control of Thai Petrochemical Industries, or TPI has been transferred to a group of U.S. chartered and foreign banks by an equivalent of a bankruptcy trustee hired, supervised and controlled by those same banks. That trustee, Effective Planner, a foreign company that purportedly specializes in bankruptcy reorganizations, stands accused by TPI's shareholders of embezzlement, money laundering, and other crimes. Incredibly, that same trustee, supported by those same banks, stands accused of sending payments from TPI's own bank account to two of its business associates who have been indicted, convicted, and imprisoned in Laos for embezzlement, destruction of records, and tax evasion.

Unfortunately, instead of stopping such practices and terminating their relationship with the accused trustee, U.S. banks chartered and foreign banks licensed by our government have allowed the trustee to use countless sums of TPI funds to mount a public

relations effort to defame TPI's founder and former CEO, who built TPI into one of Thailand's largest employers. The family who built the company has mounted a lonely crusade to prevent the trustee from disassembling TPI and feeding it to the banks for which the trustee works. Clearly, if those banks had no concern about the legality and fairness of their activities, why would they want their stock owned through a secret, offshore trust account?

Mr. Speaker, the involved banks and their trustee may have an explanation for all these troubling facts. If they do, they should report to the OCC the activities of the trustee for whose actions they must account. That is precisely what H.R. 2273 would require. I would ask my colleagues to join me in seeking passage of the bill.

OPPOSING H.R. 7

HON. MAX SANDLIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2001

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to oppose H.R. 7 in its current form. Churches and charitable organizations have always played an important role in our society. They operate food banks, provide services for victims of domestic violence, operate after school programs, and provide counseling services. Many of these organizations currently use federal grants or other sources of federal funds to operate these programs.

Use of federal funds for these programs is allowed under current law. I believe faith based organizations should be able to work in partnership with the federal government to operate these programs as they currently do. Communities of faith in this country give of their time and money to help those who are less fortunate. We in the federal government can and should assist them in that mission when appropriate.

While the motivation behind H.R. 7 is honorable in theory, the bill unfortunately has serious flaws. This bill would make it possible for religious groups to use taxpayer money to discriminate, not just on the basis of a prospective employee's religion, but also on the basis of his or her failure to practice that group's religious doctrine. No one should be required to be of a particular faith in order to obtain a federally funded job.

Furthermore, the bill sets a dangerous precedent by allowing government agencies to convert funding for a program into vouchers to religious organizations. By providing such vouchers, the federal government would permit these organizations to use federal tax dollars for sectarian instruction, worship, and proselytization.

In this country, we have a long history of supporting separation of church and state. We have a diverse religious make-up—something we celebrate. We must protect that diversity. By allowing religious institutions to receive federal funds without complying with federal laws, we discourage diversity.

Mr. Speaker, a broad coalition of religious organizations, education organizations, and civil rights groups oppose H.R. 7 in its current form. These groups include the American Federation of Teachers, American Jewish Congress, the Baptist Joint Committee, the

NAACP, the National Education Association, the PTA, the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, the United Methodist Church, the Episcopal Church, the Presbyterian Church, the Religious Action Center for Reform Judaism, and the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. When this many religious organizations are opposed to the bill, maybe we should ask ourselves what is wrong with the bill.

H. RES. 193—CRIME PREVENTION
AND NATIONAL NIGHT OUT RESOLUTION

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2001

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I have introduced this resolution along with Representatives Curt Weldon and Joe Hoeffel to emphasize the importance of crime prevention at the local level and to recognize the efforts of National Night Out. I am pleased to say that this resolution has bipartisan support, with 64 cosponsors. I would like to specifically thank the Chairman JIM SENSENBRENNER Ranking Member of the Judiciary Committee, the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Crime Subcommittee, and the leadership on both sides of the aisle for their help in bringing this measure to the floor.

Our resolution calls upon the President to focus on neighborhood crime prevention, community policing programs and reducing school crime and to issue a proclamation in support of National Night Out.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2001

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 308, I was unavoidably detained on official businesses. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye".

RECOGNITION OF THE
RETIREMENT OF PATRICIA GIBBS

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2001

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a remarkable woman, who has served remarkable organizations with outstanding professionalism and dedication. Patricia Gibbs is retiring from the position of Executive Director of Macomb County Community Services Agency which she has held for the last 13 years.

Ms. Gibbs began her career with Macomb County as the Quality Assurance Assistant for the Office of Substance Abuse. From there she rose to become one of the most influential health and human services individuals in Macomb County. It is easy to see how she has touched the lives of many of Macomb County's residents either directly or indirectly.

Ms. Gibbs was one of the original organizers of the Human Service Coordinating Body. The HSCB was put together to develop a more efficient county human services network. She has also chaired the Creating a Healthier Macomb Partnership Board, the first organization to bring hospitals, businesses, public and private agencies, and volunteers together to improve the health of county residents. Add to that her service on the Macomb Literacy Partners Board of Directors, her position as Chairperson of the Directors Council of the Michigan Community Action Agency Association, her contributions to the United Way Community Services Macomb Division Board of Directors and her memberships in the American Society of Public Administrators, the American Management Association, and the Michigan Literacy Association, and you could easily have the life's work of three or four people instead of just one. It is hard to believe that she has somehow found time to become a certified personal trainer and race walking instructor at Macomb Community College.

Please join me in recognizing Patricia Gibb's years of dedication to the health and well being of others. It takes a special person to pledge their life to the cause of making others healthier and stronger through counseling. While her expertise will be missed from 9 to 5 each day, thanks to her commitment to healthy living, we will still have the benefits of her wisdom for years to come.

JUDGE JAMES R. BROWNING
COURTHOUSE

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2001

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Judge James R. Browning, formerly Chief Judge of the Ninth Circuit, I am pleased to introduce legislation to name the federal courthouse building at 7th and Mission Streets in San Francisco the "James R. Browning U.S. Court of Appeals Building."

Appointed to the Ninth Circuit by President John F. Kennedy in 1961, Judge Browning served for 40 years, including 12 years as chief judge. He assumed leadership in 1976 at a time when appeals courts faced a large backlog of cases. Under his leadership, the Ninth Circuit expanded in size, eliminated its backlog, and cut in half the time needed to decide appeals. Since 1961, he has participated in almost 1,000 published appellate decisions and authored many other unsigned per curiam opinions on behalf of the panel as a whole.

As the head of the largest circuit court in the country, Judge Browning acted as a tireless and effective advocate for maintaining the unity of the Ninth Circuit. An extraordinary administrator, he implemented numerous innovations that reshaped the structures and procedures of the circuit. Many of his ideas were subsequently adopted in other circuits. He also emphasized the importance of collegiality and civility among the judges and the Ninth Circuit bar. He was instrumental in establishing the Western Justice Center Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the legal system by encouraging collaborative work and research.

Judge Browning earned his law degree from the University of Montana Law School in 1941,

joining the Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice upon graduation. A U.S. Army Infantry private, he served in Military Intelligence in the Pacific Theater for three years, attaining the rank of First Lieutenant and winning a Bronze Star. Subsequently, he served again in the Antitrust Division, then the Civil Division, becoming Executive Assistant to the U.S. Attorney General in 1952. From 1953 to 1958, he practiced law as a partner at Perlman, Lyons & Browning, leaving private practice again to become Clerk of the U.S. Supreme Court, prior to his appointment to the Ninth Circuit.

The Ninth Circuit includes all the federal courts in California, Oregon, Washington, Arizona, Montana, Idaho, Nevada, Alaska, Hawaii, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands. The courthouse at 7th and Mission was designed by James Knox Taylor, who also designed the U.S. Treasury Building in Washington, D.C., and built between 1897 and 1905.

It is my hope that in the near future, in addition to serving as a courthouse, this building can stand as a monument to the tremendous achievements of Judge James R. Browning.

INTRODUCING THE ACCESS TO
STUDENT LOANS ACT

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2001

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Access to Students Loans Act.

This legislation permanently extends the McKeon-Kildee student loan fix.

The overall goal is to see that students are able to obtain student loans whether they attend Stanford or a career college in the inner city of Los Angeles. In order to achieve this goal, a stable and strong FFELP program is key to making sure these students are able to obtain loans each year without having to worry about whether one will be available.

During the 1998 Higher Education Act reauthorization, Representative DALE KILDEE and I hammered out the current interest rate fix after numerous meetings and plenty of negotiations. The end result was the lowest interest rate for borrowers in the history of the program, with current rates in repayment at 5.99 percent.

These loans, however, are only as good as their availability. Banks won't make loans unless they are making a profit. Therefore only those students attending universities with low default rates will get served. Fixing this interest rate problem will be a direct benefit to those students who are usually underserved, and the most at risk of dropping out of college. This is why I want to see this problem fixed now.

Additionally, if we are able to solve this problem now we have a much better chance, with the necessary resources, to work on other challenges facing higher education in the 2003 reauthorization. Specifically, increasing funding for Pell grants and campus-based aid would be at the top of my priority list.

Included in the budget resolution under the leadership of Budget Committee Chairman JIM NUSSLE is a technical reserve fund specifically set up to make the current student loan interest rate formulas permanent. However, we