

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING SAINT PETER
THE APOSTLE SERBIAN ORTHO-
DOX CHURCH

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2001

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Saint Peter the Apostle Serbian Orthodox Church on the occasion of their 50 year anniversary. The church will be celebrating its golden anniversary at a celebration on October 13 of this year.

Saint Peter the Apostle Serbian Orthodox Church has been a significant source of guidance in the Fresno community over the past fifty years. Many members of the Orthodox Faith in the Central San Joaquin Valley have made Saint Peter the Apostle Serbian Orthodox Church their home.

On March 18 of 1951, Saint Peter the Apostle Serbian Orthodox Church-School Congregation of Fresno was officially incorporated in the State of California. The Church by-laws were approved and accepted by the Serbian Orthodox Diocese of America and Canada on June 1, of 1951.

Since then, Saint Peter's has engaged in various improvement projects including starting an annual Parish Golf Tournament in 1968, that has raised thousands of dollars for the Social Hall and Education Building Funds and capital improvements on the church property and facilities. In 1989, St. Peter's Men's Club was organized. Through their monthly dinners they have raised funds for special church projects and have given thousands of dollars to local Fresno and Madera charitable organizations.

During the 1990's, Saint Peter's has been active in providing humanitarian assistance to refugees from the civil war in the former Yugoslavia as well as the Kosovo Conflict. This assistance has included housing and sponsoring 7 refugees who were receiving medical treatment and prosthetic limbs in Fresno for over a two-year period. Saint Peter's has also been active in providing food to needy families in the Fresno/Clovis area through their Humanitarian Outreach Team.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Saint Peter the Apostle Serbian Orthodox Church on its 50 year anniversary. I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Church and wishing them many years of continued success.

TRIBUTE TO DR. MARLENE R.
BANE

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2001

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, we rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Marlene R. Bane, who is being honored by the Action Democrats of the San Fernando Valley for her extraordinary dedication to democratic principles. Marlene is also a good friend with whom we have enjoyed working for many years.

Marlene is President and owner of Marlene Bane Associates. Under her leadership the firm has flourished into a full service Government Relations and Consulting Firm. She has also held important positions in the California State Assembly including Senior Consultant and Administrative Assistant. In addition, Marlene has served as a member of the California Narcotic Addict Evaluation Authority; as assistant to the President, Council of S & L Financial Corp; as an interior designer and as a teacher.

Marlene is an active member of the community who has contributed in a wide variety of ways. As Chair of the CA Lupus Appropriations Commission she was a warrior in the fight against Lupus. She serves on the CSUN Presidential Advisory Board and Board of Trustees which has greatly helped the development of the University. Also, she is well known throughout the Jewish community for her participation in groups such as the National Association of Jewish State Legislators; American Israel Public Affairs Committee; Anti Defamation League; Women's Alliance for Israel; and the Valley Jewish Business Leaders Association which she founded and helps run as a current board member. These groups are just a small sample of the many organizations in which Marlene actively participates.

The hard work that Marlene puts into service is evidenced by the many honors she has accumulated. She has received honors from the council of State legislatures, the National Institute of Health, the State of California and the Mid-Valley College of Law. Marlene is also a published author whose work can be found in the Library of Congress.

Marlene is an exemplary individual whose dedication to her community is legion. Marlene is not only a great leader, but also a loving mother and grandmother. Her late husband, Assemblyman Tom Bane, was a great man who shared Marlene's passion for democracy and good works.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, please join us in paying tribute to Marlene R. Bane.

VERMONT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT
CONGRESSIONAL TOWN MEETING

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2001

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the outstanding work done by participants in my Student Congressional Town Meeting held this summer. These participants were part of a group of high school students from around Vermont who testified about the concerns they have as teenagers, and about what they would like to see government do regarding these concerns.

ON BEHALF OF STACEY CARON AND DALAINA BUFFUM—REGARDING FREEING FAMILIES FROM THE HIGH COST OF A COLLEGE EDUCATION, MAY 7, 2001

Congressman Sanders. Stacey, just bring the mike real close so everybody can hear you. This is a very important issue.

Stacey Caron. Every day at school, students hear their peers here talking about where they're going to college and who is going to what college. When the students go home at night for dinner, they usually sit down to have dinner with their parents. This is a time to talk about what's going on in everybody's life. I know, when I go home, I always get asked how my day was at school, and my parents are always on my back about college. Did I fill out the applications yet or the scholarship forms? So many students go through twelve years of school and work very hard to get good grades so they can get into a good college, yet many of these honor-roll students' families don't have enough money to send their children through college. It's a complete waste of talent. There are scholarships that are offered to students who excel, but how many students are going to get these scholarships and how much money are they going to get? These questions are not questions students should be asking themselves. After all the hard work students go through in school, they should be able to go to college free of charge as long as they get accepted. Its like hard work isn't enough, you now have to pay to go to college, to get a good job, and be a success in life. To me, that doesn't seem right.

Dalaina Buffum. The financial burden of college can sometimes scare students away, only because they are afraid. They aren't ready to make the commitment of leaving home, especially the financial commitment. Most students don't get out of debt until they are in their thirties. How is someone supposed to start a family and their life while they're still paying off debts? We have done research on this topic and discovered a very different system which is used over in Europe. There is a very hard test that each student that wants to go to university has to take. If you pass the exam with a certain grade, you can go to university free of charge. However, if you don't pass the exam, you can't go to college. This is very different, but at the same time proves how much a student is ready and how much they want to go to college and further their education. We believe that there should be a similar system here. This would enable more

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

students who are qualified to go to college, and may boost a student's motivation to succeed in high school so they are ready for the test. We feel that this is an important issue that is worth looking into.

ON BEHALF OF ANGELA DEBLASIO AND LYNNE CLOUGH—REGARDING "RICH MAN'S RETURN" ON BUSH'S TAX CUT, MAY 7, 2001

Angela DeBlasio. President Bush has proposed a very large federal tax cut as the centerpiece of his campaign. The \$1.9 trillion ten-year cost of the plan would use up more than all the projected surpluses over the next ten years. Most of the proposed tax cuts will go to the upper-income taxpayers, with 43 percent of the tax cut targeted to the top 1 percent.

Lynne Clough. The cost of President George W. Bush's plan is enormous. Based on the official projections from the Congressional Budget Office and the Joint Committee on Taxation, the Bush tax cut would use up slightly more than all of the projected surpluses over the first ten years. Over the fiscal period 2002 to 2011, the Bush tax cut would cost \$1.9 trillion, while the projected surpluses are \$1.8 trillion. In fact, the Bush tax cuts' effects on the surpluses are even greater than that. Besides, the official surplus projections are substantially overstated because of other factors, such as the adjustment for federal appropriations and inflation, and without adjustment for population growth or real wage growth. Thus, in far likelihood, the Bush tax cuts would use up far more than the likely surpluses over the next decade. That would require dipping more heavily into social security and the Medicare trust funds to cover the cost of the tax cuts.

Angela DeBlasio. The proposed tax cut by President Bush is not only grossly unfair, fiscally irresponsible, and economically ineffective, it would also do substantial harm to long-term financial needs of Vermont. Under the Bush proposal, a millionaire family would receive \$40,000 in tax break, while the average Vermont citizen making \$40,000 will receive only \$600. Despite a \$5 trillion national debt and the possibility of a recession around the corner, Republicans are proposing radical and permanent changes in our tax code, which will go into effect regardless of the future condition of the economy and whether projected federal surpluses ever materialize. While the Bush plan is bad for the nation, it is also bad for Vermont. That is because our income tax code is piggybacked on the federal tax code. It is projected that Vermont would lose about \$300 million over a ten-year period if Bush's plans were enacted. That would translate into higher property taxes, substantial cuts in education and police protection, not to mention other needs.

Lynne Clough. The President argues that his plan would act as a stimulus in the event of an economic downturn. Congressman Sanders, this is not so. The Bush plan provides most of the tax breaks in later years, which means they have only a minor impact, if any, on the health of today's economy. Furthermore, most economists believe a tax break for the middle class are more likely to spend the money immediately. This would have a greater impact on economy than a tax break for the rich.

Angela DeBlasio. Congressman Sanders, we must not enact a tax cut, especially one that is so incredibly large, jeopardizes the funding of other important policies, and that would return us to the days of deficit spending.

Lynne Clough. We also must not provide tax cuts that are little more than welfare for the rich, as President Bush would have us do.

Therefore, we should not allow any form of such a tax cut. Congressman Sanders, how can we even think about a tax cut when President Bush is foolishly planing to build a missile defense system, when we already have a failing social security system, as well as a deteriorating education system, which needs American tax dollars? Please agree with us that there shouldn't be any form of a tax cut.

Angela DeBlasio. Democratic National Committee Chairman Terry McGoffrey said a tax cut should be one that's fair to all Americans, and must be part of a responsible, honest budget that balances all of our priorities important to American families. While Bush is predicting a recession to sell his giant tax cut, he is simultaneously proposing to slash the very initiatives that American families will need if the economy does slow down. Bush's backward talk on the economy and retrograde budget is a recipe for disaster.

Lynne Clough. Thank you, Congressman Sanders.

H.R.—A BILL TO ENSURE A UNIFORM STANDARD FOR THE SECURITY, USE AND PROTECTION OF CONSUMER FINANCIAL INFORMATION

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2001

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce a bill to ensure a single uniform standard for the security, use and protection of consumer financial information. This bill will temporarily establish the standard set forth in the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act as the uniform standard for financial privacy. This provides the Congress and the Administration the necessary time to evaluate the potentially negative impacts of multiple, uncoordinated state regulatory schemes on consumers, intelligence gathering, law enforcement, and our economy.

The Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act's provisions on the use of consumer financial information, which went into effect on July 1 of this year, establish a national standard on the use and security of such financial information. Private financial institutions have undertaken great efforts to retool and restructure their information management systems to comply with this important national standard. Across the nation, however, some state legislatures are poised to consider state legislation that would establish different standards for the use and security of consumer financial information. While the consideration is permitted under Gramm-Leach-Bliley, I am urging my colleagues to join me in imposing a temporary moratorium on state laws that would undermine the uniform national standard under Gramm-Leach-Bliley.

As my colleagues know, I am a very strong advocate for the protection of private personal information. I have aggressively pursued the enactment of federal legislation, such as Title V of Gramm-Leach-Bliley, to protect consumer financial information. As we all know, the Internet, information technology systems, and the development of electronic commerce, have reshaped our society and have presented special risks for the protection of privacy of personal financial information.

At the time Gramm-Leach-Bliley was originally enacted, it was thought that the

states could, over time, provide enhancements to the federal protections set forth in the Act. However, at this time, as the Congress and the Administration are investigating how to streamline intelligence gathering procedures that do not undermine the underlying protections in the law for the privacy of law-abiding citizens, the prospect of the creation of a fragmented "patchwork quilt" of potentially fifty different state laws represents a great threat to the security of customer financial information and to our need to establish a coordinated intelligence gathering and law enforcement effort.

The Attorney General has testified that: "We need speed in identifying and tracking down terrorists. Time is of the essence. The ability of law enforcement to trace communications into different jurisdictions without obtaining an additional court order can be the difference between life and death for American citizens." This is particularly true of financial information. A recent GAO Report that analyzed current risks to the Nation's infrastructure arising from cyber terrorism states that "Information sharing and coordination among private-sector and government organizations are essential to thoroughly understanding cyber threats and quickly identifying and mitigating attacks."

Varying laws from state to state would require financial institutions to fragment their financial records into several databases, requiring literally thousands of information technology specialists to create very complex computer and network systems to comply with each different standard of each different state. This process, by itself, would expose private financial information to increased risks of security breaches. Reduced privacy protection due to more human access through IT professionals, and more complex fragmented data management systems, risk leaving more "backdoors" that may be exploited by those who would seek to abuse the systems and hide illegal transactions.

This "patchworking" process threatens to be at odds with efforts of law enforcement. Placing the burden of complying with varying state-imposed regimes at this time would severely hinder the ability of financial institutions to respond to law enforcement subpoenas to search and retrieve financial information. The resulting delay could spell failure of time-sensitive investigations involving the tracking of assets passing through criminal and terrorist networks and could require the duplication of law enforcement efforts across 50 jurisdictions with differing standards and statutes. Finally, a lack of uniformity would impair market efficiencies that rely on the free flow of information and would harm consumers.

Specifically, this bill would impose a three-year moratorium on additional state laws that would affect the security, use and protection of consumer financial information, giving time for Congress, the Executive Branch, and the Judicial Branch to develop and implement appropriate measures to streamline and improve intelligence gathering procedures. During this time, the previously agreed to national standard set forth in the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act, which already has been implemented throughout our economy, would govern the protection of consumer financial information.

The bill would also establish a Commission to study the issues raised by laws relating to use and security of consumer information and their impact on the economy, consumers and