

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONTINUING THE PEOPLES' BUSINESS

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 17, 2001

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in our resolve to complete the people's work in the people's House, the U.S. House of Representatives. The measures regarding the environmental sweep which will be conducted in the U.S. House Office Buildings and U.S. Capitol over the next few days are precautionary in nature. When the House reconvenes next week, we will be well positioned to complete the final review of conference reports for the 13 appropriation bills, as well as to consider other important pieces of legislation, including the economic stimulus package and further consideration on measures related to our ability to combat terrorism in our nation and around the globe. Collectively we are resolved to expeditiously complete all of the remaining spending measures for Fiscal Year 2002 prior to the end of the month when the current Continuing Resolution will expire. The work of our federal government continues each day with services, programs, and essential activities.

In addition to the proposals outlined, I would anticipate the House giving final consideration to the conference report on improving our children's educational system. In the Energy and Commerce Committee on which I serve, I am confident we will resume our discussions and debate regarding a national energy policy which continues to focus on how best to de-regulate our nation's electricity supply, as well as issues related to the security of that supply. I would anticipate that our bipartisan efforts will continue, and I encourage my colleagues and members of the House leadership to foster the bipartisan spirit for the betterment of our country.

With our national spirit and resolve we will win the fight against terrorism. In my community of Greater Kansas City, the constituents whom I represent are committed, as are all Americans, to maintaining our freedoms in the democracy we cherish.

Mr. Speaker, we return to our districts today to participate in our respective community activities at neighborhoods, businesses, schools, picnics, and other gatherings. We look forward to returning next Tuesday to complete the people's work.

TRIBUTE TO JOE WILLIAMS, JR.

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 17, 2001

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I wish to pay tribute to the life and achievements of a constituent from my congressional district who

was not only the father of a close friend, but also a respected citizen of South Arkansas, Joe Williams, Jr., who passed away recently at the age of 66.

Joe Williams, Jr. was born in the southern Arkansas town of Sparkman in 1935. At a young age, he joined the Harmony Baptist Church in the nearby community of Pine Grove. After attending Sparkman Training School, Joe spent time as a young adult living in Kansas City, Missouri, and Dallas, Texas, before returning home to Pine Grove, where he became an invaluable member of the community.

As a young man, he was first employed by the International Paper Company and then by the Taylor Gin Company as a truck driver and a farmer. He later held jobs with Georgia Pacific Corporation as a jitney driver as well as St. Clair Rubber Company as a press operator before retiring to his beloved country farm in Pine Grove.

Joe led an active and productive life, yet he always put his family first. He maintained a strong commitment to the church and took an active role in local politics in Dallas County. When he wasn't working or serving his community, he liked to spend time hunting, fishing, working on and collecting automobiles, gardening, or working with his farm tractor.

Joe Williams, Jr. will long be remembered for his dedication to his family, his work, and his community. His passing is a great loss not only to those who knew him well, but to all of South Arkansas. My thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Elzadie, his sons, Stanley and Stacy, and all his family and friends.

INTRODUCING NEW LEGISLATION

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 17, 2001

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer an important piece of legislation that will help Americans respond to the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on our nation. Many citizens are wondering what they can do to help win the war on terrorism. The bill I am introducing would temporarily waive the penalties against those who for whatever reason have neglected to sign up with the Selective Service System if they register within 60 days after this becomes law.

We all know that American males must register for the military draft when they turn 18. As a member of the House VA-HUD Appropriations Subcommittee, which funds the Selective Service System, I have learned that roughly 13 percent of our young men do not perform this basic duty. After seeing the registration rate decline for most of the 1990's, it is now remaining steady for the last two years due to an emphasis on programs and initiatives around the country to increase awareness.

Registering for the military draft has never been easier or more convenient. During the

60-day amnesty period outlined in the bill, young men can register via Internet or telephone. Furthermore, a nationwide high school registration blitz and new state laws have all served to assist the Selective Service in their responsibility. Let me be clear, this legislation neither calls for, or presupposes the reinstatement of the draft. It is simply a matter of preparedness at a time when our Nation must be prepared in every aspect.

Under Federal law, there are serious consequences for failing to register for the draft. Penalties for not registering if convicted are up to 5 years in prison and up to \$250,000 in fines, or a combination of both. Although the Department of Justice can prosecute for failure to register, the normal sanctions for not registering are denial of Federal and some State student aid, government job training, State and Federal employment and U.S. citizenship for immigrants seeking naturalization. Under this legislation, these penalties are waived if a young man fulfills his duty within 60 days of enactment of this law.

I would point out that penalties for failing to register with the Selective Service are not limited to federal law. Six states (Oklahoma, Delaware, Utah, Arkansas, Hawaii, and Georgia) currently deny state drivers licenses if one is not registered and other states are contemplating similar laws.

The terrorist attacks on America September 11th and the loss of innocent lives in this tragedy has demonstrated the real and credible danger to the freedom of our country and its citizens. In peacetime and in time of war, the Selective Service System has been a strong backbone for our military and our country. This legislation further strengthens our preparedness while allowing young American men the chance to get right with the law.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working with my colleagues to help Americans fulfill their patriotic duty during this difficult time.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALLEN BOYD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 17, 2001

Mr. BOYD. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 386, I was unable to cast my vote due to a previous commitment in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING THE LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF ANTONIO MEUCCI

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 17, 2001

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, Italian-Americans have contributed greatly to the United

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States; Columbus discovered America, two Italians signed the Declaration of Independence, Enrico Fermi split the atom and Captain Don Gentile, the fighting ace, was described by General Dwight Eisenhower as a "one man air force," to name just a few. I wanted to spend a few minutes today to honor an Italian-American who is often overlooked—Antonio Meucci.

The 19th century was a time of great technological innovation, as its birth heralded the beginning of the Industrial Revolution. However, unlike the century just ended and the new one we are beginning to explore, the rough and tumble of our young nation had yet to develop information exchange to the extent we enjoy today.

The Founding Fathers made America guarantor of unprecedented—and to this day unmatched—liberty. This liberty included an again unprecedented appreciation for intellectual property rights.

Today, with our study of historical records and ability to examine many disparate sources of information, we now know it is likely that the invention of what we know today as the telephone took place in the middle of the 19th century rather than at its end.

Its creator was Antonio Meucci. He worked for years to develop this new system of electronic communication. However, poor and sick, he was unable to keep the patents in force and died before the courts could decide with finality whether he or Alexander Graham Bell was the true inventor of the telephone.

It is known that Meucci demonstrated his device in 1860, that a description appeared in New York's Italian language newspaper and that Western Union received working models from Meucci but reportedly lost them. It is also known that Meucci, due to his limited means, settled for a caveat, a one-year renewable notice of an impending patent, first filed in 1871 but which he was unable to pursue after 1874, while Alexander Graham Bell was not granted a patent until 1876. Finally, it is known that the Supreme Court of the United States agreed to remand the issue for trial, but Meucci died a short time later, rendering the case moot.

With these facts before the House today, I ask for passage of this Resolution to honor the life and achievements of Antonio Meucci.

SUPPRESSION OF WOMEN IN AFGHANISTAN

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 16, 2001

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to lend my voice to those in Congress, this country, and throughout the world who are concerned about the oppressed women living in Afghanistan under the cruel Taliban regime. Never have the women in that country needed the support of others in the international community more than now.

When the Taliban, the ruling party in Afghanistan, took control in 1996, women were completely stripped of all their fundamental human rights and freedoms. Prior to 1996, women were allowed to work, have careers, and go to school.

Now, women in Afghanistan are not allowed to engage in any of these activities.

They are not allowed to leave their homes unless accompanied by a close male relative, or talk to, or walk with a man to whom they are not related.

The Taliban believes that women appearing in public in any capacity are instruments of moral corruption and agents of sexual anarchy. To avoid this, women must be kept covered, out of sight and off the streets. They must wear the burqa, the clothing garment that covers them from head-to-toe, leaving only a mesh square over their eyes to permit minimal vision.

Schools in Afghanistan have also been drastically impacted by the Taliban regime. Within three months of the capture of Kabul, the Taliban closed 63 schools in the city affecting about 100,000 girls, 150,000 boys and 11,000 teachers, of whom 75 percent were women. The Taliban shut down Kabul University sending home some 10,000 students, of which 4,000 were women.

Many children in Afghanistan are growing up without any education, since women are not allowed to teach young children because it qualifies as work. An entire generation of Afghan children are growing up uneducated.

Women in Afghanistan are beaten and killed when they disobey the Taliban's wishes and rules. Women are oftentimes the victims of deliberate and arbitrary killings and disappearances.

The Taliban turns a blind eye to the abduction of women, forces them into brutal marriages, and condones rapes and sexual assaults of young girls and women. Worse, women who are raped can be put to death for the crime of being a victim of rape. Women are publicly harassed, intimidated and beaten for carrying out activities common in our country, such as wearing make-up, which is deemed to be violating the strict rules of the Taliban.

Women are deprived of basic human rights and must live in constant fear.

The women in Afghanistan do not have a voice in their country, their community, or their home. We, as women in free societies throughout the world, must stand up for women in Afghanistan as their voice and as their sisters.

If we do not want to see repression and terrorism continue, we must directly aid Afghan women's groups and call on the future Afghanistan government to involve women in their quest for freedom.

We must condemn these acts of violence and human rights abuses and help our sisters in Afghanistan. I join my colleagues in condemning the Taliban and its outrageous treatment of women in Afghanistan.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF CONSULATE OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC IN KANSAS CITY

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 17, 2001

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the historic October 18 opening of the Consulate of the Slovak Republic in Missouri's Fifth District. Mr. Ross Marine, the Honorary Consul of the Slovak Republic to the

States of Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, and Nebraska, will receive the Ambassador of the Slovak Republic, the Honorable H.E. Martin Butora, and his wife Zora Butorova.

The Consulate will serve to promote cultural, economic, and educational partnerships between the United States and the Slovak Republic. The Honorary Consul will encourage our expanding community of Slovaks to celebrate their heritage and culture, thus increasing awareness of the diversity of Kansas City's ethnic communities.

Eduard Kukan, the Slovak Minister of Foreign Affairs, appointed Honorary Consul Marine to the post in September of 2000. The United States Department of State granted Honorary Consul Marine approval to establish the Consulate in Kansas City. Honorary Consul Marine brings an impressive background of civic, community, and health care service to the position.

Kansas City has a history of partnership with Slovakia. Slovaks established their first community in Kansas City around 1900. Many of them fled the then Austro-Hungarian Empire in search of economic security and better lives for their families. Their hard work led to the growth of the city's meat packing industry due to the agricultural background of many of these immigrants. Today, descendants of these Slovak immigrants continue to contribute to the fifth district's economic livelihood and cultural soul. The community keeps their roots alive by participating in the city's ethnic cultural folk festivals performing traditional dances such as the polka, the kola, and the paterka. The premier Slavic Festival in the Midwest, the Sugar Creek Slavic Festival, is an annual June event drawing Slovak musicians and dancers from all over the region. This celebration is always a great success since its inception 16 years ago. Representative of the ethnic community in Sugar Creek, Missouri, Mayor Stan Salva proudly traces his roots back to Slovakia, as do many residents of his city.

From 1996 to 1998 Truman Medical Center Corporation, the Missouri Department of Health, the Missouri Hospital Association, and Hope House, a women's shelter in Independence, Missouri, joined together to focus on domestic violence and youth drug abuse in Petrzalka, Slovakia, a district of the nation's capital city Bratislava. These Missouri institutions donated nearly \$200,000 to study the problems and create solutions including several media campaigns to inform citizens, to establish a domestic violence center, and to hold many anti-drug forums.

Since its independence on January 1, 1993 as a result of the Velvet Revolution, Slovakia has existed under a democratic government. The new Constitution provides for the same liberties we enjoy in America including freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and freedom of assembly. Slovakia has made continued progress in the difficult transition from communism to a market based economy. More than 85 percent of the country's GDP is the result of private enterprise. Slovakia's social reform and economic prosperity will continue to expand in the 21st century.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in welcoming Ambassador Butora and congratulating Honorary Consul Marine as they officially open the Consulate of the Slovak Republic in my district.