

EXPAND EFFECTIVENESS OF U.S.
BROADCASTING**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 7, 2001

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today we adopted H.R. 2998 authorizing the establishment of Radio Free Afghanistan to create a surrogate radio broadcasting service in Afghanistan. I am a cosponsor of this legislation and I look forward to its serving as a valuable complement to the important contribution already made by the Voice of America (VOA). We need to increase and improve our public diplomacy in the Arabic-speaking world. We can reach millions and provide fair, accurate information about America, its principles and policies by increasing our VOA broadcasting in this way.

A constituent of mine who is an Arabic linguist has written to me regarding his thoughtful idea about how we can better utilize information we already receive and make it even more useful in our information-sharing efforts here and abroad.

The Smith-Mundt Act (22 U.S.C. 1461) should be amended to allow the release of materials such as manuscripts upon request and further assist U.S. linguists to receive these materials. As we respond to the events of September 11, I believe this modification would expand the effectiveness of VOA and allow qualified private institutions greater access to information so vital for intercultural exchange.

I urge my colleagues' consideration of allowing this greater use of the information we are already receiving, and will be working to accomplish this through my membership on the House International Relations Committee.

CONGRATULATING MARIO G.
OBLEDO**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 7, 2001

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to Honor Mario G. Obledo for receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award from the City of Orange Cove. Mr. Obledo received the award at a ceremony held on July 20, 2001.

Obledo has an extensive educational background as well as a long career in public service. He received a degree in pharmacy in 1957. Three years later he earned a Doctor of Law degree. Mr. Obledo served as Assistant Attorney General for the State of Texas, and also served as Secretary of Health and Welfare in the State of California. He has also served as a member of the faculty at Harvard Law School.

Along with his time in public office and teaching in the classroom, Mr. Obledo is active in several community organizations. He is the co-founder and president of the National Hispanic Bar Association and the Mexican-American Legal Defense Fund. He was national president of the League of United Latin American Citizens and co-founded the Southwest Voter Registration Project.

Mr. Obledo has received several prestigious awards. In 1998, he received the Presidential

Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award in the United States. He also received Mexico's highest civilian award to a foreigner. He was Pharmaceutical Planning Service, Inc.'s Distinguished Person of the Year in 1999 and in the same year was given the National Hispanic Hero Award by the United States Hispanic Leadership Institute.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Mario G. Obledo for receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award from the City of Orange Cove. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Obledo many more years of continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 7, 2001

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidable detained from the House of Representatives on November 6, 2001. I therefore missed Rollcall votes Nos. 426, 427, and 428. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on all three items. And I ask for unanimous consent that my votes and remarks be included in the proper place in the RECORD.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 7, 2001

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, on Rollcall No. 428, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea".

RECOGNIZING MARCIA CAMPBELL
MATHEWS**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 7, 2001

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Marcia Campbell Mathews for being named a Farm Advisor Award finalist by the Friends of Agricultural Extension. The Friends of Agricultural Extension will recognize Marcia at their annual awards dinner.

Marcia is the Stanislaus County Agronomy Farm Advisor. She has developed a program on the subject of the "Use of Dairy Lagoon Water as a Nutrient Source for Crops." Through her program she has developed practical tools, such as a Nitrogen Quick Test and a flow meter/valve configuration, to help crop producers evaluate nutrient levels achieved by the application of manure products. Marcia is continuing to refine and promote the use of these procedures, as well as several other valuable nutrient management techniques.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Marcia Campbell Mathews for being named a Farm Advisor Award finalist by the Friends of Agricultural Extension. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Marcia Mathews many more years of continued success.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS FOR
H.R. 3167**HON. DOUG BEREUTER**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 7, 2001

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, due to House Rules, unfortunately there were several Members of Congress who wanted to cosponsor, H.R. 3167, the Gerald B.H. Solomon Freedom Consolidation Act of 2001, but were unable to be officially listed by the House Bill Clerk under our House Rules. The distinguished gentleman from Texas [Mr. THORNBERRY], the distinguished gentleman from Maryland [Mr. WYNN], the distinguished gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. BORSKI] and the distinguished gentleman from New York [Mr. SWEENEY] all contacted my office to cosponsor; however, their names were not added as cosponsors since the House International Relations Committee reported the bill on November 5th. This Member regrets that they were not added, but wants to recognize their intentions in this fashion.

COURT RULING ON PROJECT
LABOR AGREEMENTS**HON. GEORGE MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 7, 2001

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the United States District Court for the District of Columbia for upholding the rights of workers and preventing the President from arbitrarily unilaterally, and unfairly restricting those rights.

On February 17, 2001, President Bush issued Executive Order 13202 prohibiting Federal agencies or recipients of federal funds from entering project labor agreements, prehire agreements that typically establish wages and working conditions for the employees of contractors and subcontractors on a construction project. Bush's Executive Order was permanently enjoined today in a decision issued today by Judge Emmet G. Sullivan. The lawsuit overturning the Executive Order, Building and Construction Trades Department, AFL-CIO, et al., v. Joe M. Allbaugh, Director Federal Emergency Management Agency, et al., was brought by the Building and Construction Trades Department, the City of Richmond, California and the Contra Costa County Building and Construction Trades Council. My congressional district includes Richmond and Contra Costa County.

Today's decision is a clear victory for working Americans. The court found that project labor agreements are expressly protected by the National Labor Relations Act and that the President's Executive Order harms workers by altering the bargaining power between employers and unions. In effect, by trying to impose new limits on the right of the workers to bargain collectively, the President was undermining the ability of workers to protect and improve their wages and working conditions. In our system of government, however, a President may not unilaterally undermine the laws that Congress has enacted. The District Court's decision is a victory for due process

and the rule of law as well as the rights of workers.

I strongly commend the Mayor and City Council of Richmond and the Contra Costa County Building and Construction Trades Council and its president, Greg Feere, all of whom I am proud to represent in Congress, as well as the Building and Construction Trades Department of the AFL-CIO, for their role in standing up for the rights and well being of workers.

PROCLAMATION FOR DAVID
ANTHONY FUCALORO

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 7, 2001

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize one of New York's outstanding young men, David Fucaloro. The Boy Scouts of his troop will honor him as they recognize his achievements by giving him the Eagle Scout honor on Friday, December 7th 2001.

Since the beginning of this century, the Boy Scouts of America have provided thousands of boys and young men each year with the opportunity to make friends, explore new ideas, and develop leadership skills while learning self-reliance and teamwork.

This award is presented only to those who possess the qualities that make our nation great: commitment to excellence, hard work, and genuine love of community service. Becoming an Eagle Scout is an extraordinary award with which only the finest Boy Scouts are honored. To earn the award—the highest advancement rank in Scouting—a Boy Scout must demonstrate proficiency in the rigorous areas of leadership, service, and outdoor skills.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the recipients of these awards, as their activities are indeed worthy of praise. Their leadership benefits our community and they serve as role models for their peers.

Also, we must not forget the unsung heroes, who continue to devote a large part of their lives to make all this possible. Therefore, I salute the families, scout leaders, and countless others who have given generously of their time and energy in support of scouting.

It is with great pride that I recognize the achievements of Mr. Fucaloro, and bring the attention of Congress to this successful young man on his day of recognition. Congratulations to Edward and his family.

EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO
THE COUNTRY OF TURKEY

HON. ALBERT RUSSELL WYNN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 7, 2001

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce a resolution to express my appreciation for Turkey's offer to provide special forces in support of Operation Enduring Freedom—the war against terrorism.

As a member nation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization located closest to Afghan-

istan, Turkey is the first Muslim country to offer direct military participation in Operation Enduring Freedom. Turkey's offer is further proof that our coalition against terror is not a war against Islam, but a war against evil.

Mr. Speaker, during this critical time of international cooperation, it is encouraging to see Turkey, a key Muslim ally, offer to join forces with our forces to combat a heinous world evil—terrorism. I welcome this offer and urge the passage of this resolution.

FRANCE'S LAW AFFECTS
FREEDOM OF WORSHIP

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 7, 2001

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today I take this opportunity to salute France's historic leadership in the defense of human rights. After the events of September 11th, as freedom-loving people wrestle with the scourge of terrorism, they will look to countries like France to see whether the torch of human rights is being held high. Therefore, mindful of France's historic work and current commitments to defend human rights, it was with remorse and surprise that I observed this summer the National Assembly's approval of the law for the "Prevention and Repression of Cultic Movements."

As participating States of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), France and the United States share the commitment and responsibility to observe and uphold religious freedom, including the right of the individual to profess and practice religion or belief. Through my work as Co-Chairman of the U.S. Helsinki Commission, I am alarmed by recent developments in Europe that impinge on this fundamental freedom. Recently, it would appear that certain OSCE friends and allies have forgotten that religious movements can play a positive role in society, providing impetus for important social change. For instance, the role of the Catholic Church in Poland during the cold war or the activism of some churches and religious leaders in the Southern United States during the Civil Rights Movement offered vital moral and ethical guidance and support.

Mr. Speaker, particularly in Western Europe, we have observed an increase in laws calibrated specifically to target religious groups. The United States shares with Western Europe core values regarding human dignity and rights, and we gratefully acknowledge Western Europe's traditional openness toward religious minorities. However, the development of "anti-cult" laws threatens this tradition.

At the same time, I understand and appreciate the dangers of criminal activity operating under the guise of religion. However, I strongly believe that any religious movement violating the rule of law should be prosecuted using mainstream law enforcement tools, as opposed to special laws or extra-judicial investigations not in harmony with the core values enshrined in the OSCE's Helsinki Final Act and other international documents regarding human dignity and rights. In sum, I am concerned about vaguely crafted government regulations against religious organizations and adherents that serve to foster intolerance against individuals because of their beliefs.

In France, such a law entered into effect this summer.

Provisions of the law, Mr. Speaker, provide governmental entities and private citizens the ability to apply civil and criminal sanctions against any so-called "cult" or its de facto leader. Other extensive powers include the removal of basic civic freedoms if an individual is found guilty of using "techniques likely to alter judgment." Despite the law's obvious bent against minority faiths, its broad powers, combined with the vague wording, could permit arbitrary application and abuse.

Overall, I find the creation of such a law, especially in a mature democracy like France, alarming and incongruent with the nation's long history of supporting human rights. I had the opportunity this past summer to meet with the President of the National Assembly, Mr. Raymond Forni, as well as one of the key author's of the bill, Mme. Catherine Picard, and shared with them these concerns. Considering France's position as a world leader, this domestic action will cause repercussions elsewhere, such as in emerging democracies which will have and look to French leadership on these matters.

Often, the U.S. Government and Congress are criticized for "meddling" in the internal affairs of another sovereign nation. I feel certain detractors in France will level the same argument. However, the OSCE Moscow Concluding Document (1991) speaks directly to this issue, declaring "The participating State emphasize that issues relating to human rights, fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law are of international concern, as respect for these rights and freedoms constitutes one of the foundations of international order. *They categorically and irrevocably declare that the commitments undertaken in the field of the human dimension * * * are matters of direct and legitimate concern to all participating States and do not belong exclusively to the internal affairs of the State concerned.*" [emphasis added]

Mr. Speaker, religious believers in France have already offered concerns about the effects of the new French law on their right to profess and practice their faith in their own country. Statutes of this nature, which target individuals with unpopular belief systems, are antithetical to democracies in the twenty first century. Accordingly, I join them in urging French authorities to fully respect France's commitments as an OSCE participating State when implementing the new law.

AFGHAN WOMEN'S RESOLUTION

HON. LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 7, 2001

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution commending the work of organizations led by Afghan women that are providing substantial education, health and relief services during a time of humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan. This resolution also urges the President to ensure that any new government established in Afghanistan include women as full and active participants.

Since 1996, when the Taliban regime took over, the women of Afghanistan have lived in absolute fear. To be a woman in Afghanistan