

MOVING TOWARDS A CLEAN
DIAMOND TRADE**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 27, 2001

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Representatives HALL, WOLF and HOUGHTON for putting together this compromise bill with the Administration. It is important that we enact legislation to reform the conflict-driving diamond trade, and this is an important first step.

Mr. Speaker, for years terrorist bands masquerading as political rebels have been using income from the illicit trade in diamonds to fund their attacks on civilian populations. The scars that they have left are deep. They are seen every where on the mangled limbs and faces of men, women and children on the streets of Monrovia and Freetown.

As appalling as the profiteering of these groups, is the commercial support that they have received from brokers in the legitimate diamond trade in what we refer to as the developed world. While some of these traders have dealt unknowingly in these blood diamonds, others have consciously taken advantage of their market position to "launder" these tainted goods. There is a clear need to establish a system which punishes those that are supporting terrorist bands that profit from diamond trading, and prevent dirty diamonds from entering the market which make legitimate dealers unwittingly complicit.

The substitute for H.R. 3206 that we have before us is not perfect, but it is an important first step in creating such a system. Moreover, passing this bill will send a clear signal to those states, industries and NGOs participating in the Kimberly Process, that the United States is serious about Clean Diamonds. I am confident that this bill will help move the Kimberly agenda forward, and that concrete steps to implement a verification system will be agreed to by all participating parties. This, after all, is the key. A verification system will not work unless it has the support of all those concerned.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill and to continue to work towards making the diamond industry one that supports trade and economic development without compromising human rights.

H.R. 3206, THE "HOME OWNERSHIP
EXPANSION AND OPPORTUNITIES
ACT"**HON. JAMES H. MALONEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 27, 2001

Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to make a brief statement about my cosponsorship of H.R. 3206, the "Home Ownership Expansion and Opportunities Act."

By cosponsoring this legislation, I am expressing my support for new ideas to provide additional opportunities for homeownership. This legislation is intended to bring more competition into the secondary mortgage marketplace, the result of which will be more opportunities and lower costs for homebuyers.

The "Home Ownership Expansion and Opportunities Act" would allow the Government National Mortgage Association (GNMA) to guarantee the securities of conventional mortgages above the 85 percent loan to value ratio, up to the statutory conventional mortgage limit. In case of default, the participating private mortgage insurance companies (PMIs) would bear the first level of loss.

Of course, our current mortgage financing system works well. After all, homeownership in the United States is at an all time high. Any system can be improved, however, so long as no industry or company is ceded any structural competitive advantage.

Like any legislation, this proposal takes calculated risks to achieve demonstrable gains. First, the federal government will guarantee these mortgages. I see no reason, therefore, why we wouldn't see to it that certain affordable housing goals are met and enforced. In doing so we will ensure that all Americans have access to affordable financing so they can realize their dream of home ownership.

Additionally, because the federal government will be taking on some of the risk associated with these mortgages, we must ensure that the program is managed in the most fiscally prudent manner. That is why the legislation includes a provision that any PMI participant receive an AA rating or better from a nationally recognized rating agency, and must meet additional requirements as determined by the Government National Mortgage Association (GNMA). While the PMIs are regulated at the state level, we may want to consider additional safety and soundness mechanisms, to further minimize the risk to taxpayers.

I look forward to working with my colleagues as this proposal moves through the legislative process. This bill serves as a starting point to begin the debate on how best to accomplish our goal of increasing homeownership for all Americans.

GUILLERMO A. GOMEZ: TEACHER
OF EXCELLENCE**HON. BOB FILNER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 27, 2001

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, and colleagues, I rise today to recognize and honor Guillermo A. Gomez, a sixth-grade bilingual teacher at Vista Square Elementary School in Chula Vista, California.

Mr. Gomez was nominated by the California Teachers Association (CTA) for the prestigious National Education Association Foundation Award for Teaching Excellence. He was the only California teacher, chosen from a pool of more than 300,000 educators, to represent our state of California. Although he was not the final winner, his nomination is a glowing tribute to his service to our children.

CTA President Wayne Johnson's nomination letter includes the following information about Mr. Gomez and his achievements: "CTA conducted a search for nominees for this prestigious award. Many excellent California teachers were nominated, but Mr. Gomez stood head and shoulders above the rest. Not only is he an excellent teacher, but he is also an inspiring one. He created an after-school program called Circle of Little Brothers and Circle

of Little Sisters, where he helps upper-elementary students explore possibilities for their futures. He coordinates an after-school homework center and takes the lead in training staff on English language development standards.

Becoming concerned that there were few males, especially of Latino descent, who were involved in a school with many Latino children, Mr. Gomez, along with another teacher, created a group called "Mi Papa" in the community resource center. This program helps bring fathers into the school community as role models and pairs them with children in educational and art activities.

Despite the fact that he has been a teacher for only six years, Mr. Gomez is active in his local CTA chapter, Chula Vista Educators. He serves on many communities and, as an association representative, he kept teachers in his school informed and focused during recent negotiations with the school district. He is also the chair of the political action committee for his local association. In short, CTA believes that Mr. Gomez exemplifies all the qualities that are present in the best teachers: dedication, caring, innovation and creativity, and teaching excellence."

Both Marilyn Prall, Principal, and Martha Deichler, Associate Principal of his school, who was Mr. Gomez' mentor, attest to his efforts to grow professionally and to become the best teacher possible—asking for advice, taking suggestions, and making them work in his own classroom. They believe that his passion for teaching has enabled him to become the excellent teacher he is today.

Mr. Gomez also works outside the classroom walls with the families of his students. He believes that only as an active social agent in the community can a teacher provide opportunities for students to advance in this competitive society. He participates in literacy nights, harvest carnivals, job-a-thons, and fundraising activities, such as car washes and haunted houses, to make sure that all of his students can go to sixth grade camp. In his "spare time", he also coaches soccer!

Mr. Gomez' public service goes beyond his local community. He and his students are often involved in charitable activities to help victims of natural disasters thousands of miles away. He is compassionate and appreciative of all people and cultures. His students know that he cares deeply about them and their families, and they return year after year to visit Mr. Gomez after their elementary school graduation.

Mr. Gomez is a graduate of San Diego State University (SDSU) and holds a Bilingual Cross-Cultural Language Academic Development multiple subject credential. He will receive his Master's Degree in Latin American studies from SDSU this coming summer. In addition, he regularly attends Saturday workshops, after-school in servicing training, and district workshops. He reads professionally and implements in his classroom the methods and ideas supported by current research.

Mr. Gomez knows the abilities of each and every one of his students and works to help each child achieve his or her full potential. He is proud to be a teacher, and I am proud that he is a teacher in my Congressional District. He will be honored by the National Education Association Foundation for the Improvement of Education in Washington, DC on December 6, 2001.

A sincere thank you, Mr. Gomez, for your dedication to our young people, the future of our nation.

HONORING FRANCIS M. BAIN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 27, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to remember and honor the life of one of America's true leaders. Not only was he a patriotic soldier during World War II, but he was also a civic leader in his community. Francis M. Bain passed away at the age of ninety-two on November 1, 2001, and it is with a solemn heart that I would like to pay tribute to his life and memory.

Francis Bain was born in Springfield, Illinois on November 7, 1908. He spent the majority of his childhood growing up in Tungsten, Colorado, outside of Boulder, where he completed his high school education and graduated from the University of Colorado in 1931. He went to Europe during World War II, where he served for four years as a Lieutenant Colonel in the 65th Infantry Division of the United States Army fighting to defend the freedom we hold so dear in the United States.

Mr. Bain's role switched from a military soldier to civic leader when he returned home from Europe to Colorado. He joined his brother to manage the family business, Campbell-Sell Baking Company. Throughout the years he undertook several civic responsibilities including such posts as a member of the Denver Board of Education for 16 years, president of the Metropolitan Council for Community Service, and Trustee of the Temple Buell College and Iliff School of Theology among others.

Mr. Speaker, Francis Bain contributed so much to our nation and gave selflessly of himself to the community. He was a leader and role model for the people of our country both at home and abroad. He has touched so many lives and his contributions will not be forgotten. I would like to express my condolences to his family and friends during their time of mourning.

TIME IS RUNNING OUT

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 27, 2001

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, at an historic inter-Korea summit in June of 2000, the leaders of the two Koreas pledged to work toward reconciliation and reunification of the divided peninsula. A key component of healing the 50-year old wounds is for the Korean governments to work quickly to reunite families that were torn apart during the violence and chaos of the Korean War.

Families on the Korean peninsula, as well as many Korean Americans in my district and across the United States, have not given up hope that one day they will be reunited with their long lost relatives. I applaud Congressman BECERRA for introducing House Concurrent Resolution 77 and thank Chairman HYDE

and Congressman LANTOS for bringing it to the floor tonight. It is my hope that this resolution will reinforce the United States commitment to a united and peaceful Korea. I urge all members to vote in support of this important measure.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN D. GROENDYKE

HON. STEVE LARGENT

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 27, 2001

Mr. LARGENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to John D. Groendyke on the 25th anniversary of his appointment to the Oklahoma Wildlife Commission by then Governor David Boren.

Let me tell you a little about this man. John Groendyke graduated from Wentworth Military Academy where as Cadet Lt. Col., he served as the first brigade commander when the corps was organized as a "battle group" with seven subordinate companies. He now serves as President of the Wentworth Board of Trustees. John went on to receive his Bachelor of Science in Business from Oklahoma State University and his law degree from the University of Oklahoma. He served as a Captain in the U.S. Army, and after a two-year tour of duty he returned to Enid, Oklahoma to join the family trucking operation. He is a lifelong resident of Oklahoma whose vocation is serving as owner, Chairman and CEO of Groendyke Transport Company, founded by his father, Harold C. Groendyke in 1932 and today, one of the nation's largest motor carriers of bulk commodities serving the continental United States, Canada and Mexico. He and his wife, Virginia have two daughters, two sons, and four grandsons and live in Enid, Oklahoma where they are actively involved in many community activities. He serves as Chairman of the Board of the National Tank Truck Carriers and is a member of the Board of Directors of Central National Bank in Enid. He is a Trustee of the Oklahoma chapter of the Nature Conservancy, and is a member of the Board of Directors of the Grand National Quail Foundation and Grand National Quail Club, having served as a past President and Chairman of the Board. Obviously, John stays pretty busy since he also owns and operates several cattle ranches in Oklahoma and also enjoys antique automobiles!

But John's avocation and service to Oklahoma has been in the area of wildlife conservation efforts. As the Commissioner of District 8 for the past 25 years, John has guided our Oklahoma Wildlife Department through a period of acquiring the Sandy Sanders, Cooper, Packsaddle, James Collins, Hackberry Flat and Deep Fork Wildlife Management Areas. He helped develop the biodiversity program with the Weyerhaeuser Company and assisted in creating oil and gas development policies for wildlife lands and reasonable oil and gas environmental regulations. During his 25 years of service, John also helped develop a cash leasing agricultural and grazing revenue program on wildlife lands and participated in the development of deer depredation and management policies.

Abraham Lincoln said, "And in the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years." Mr. Speaker, please join me in

saluting John D. Groendyke, for his tireless service not only to Oklahoma but to the nation as well in his wildlife conservation efforts. He has made his years count! May he enjoy many more!

CUBA

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 27, 2001

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend to you the attached article from earlier this summer written by Mr. Frank Calzon, entitled "Yes, Cuba is a Terrorist Nation". Mr. Calzon is the executive director of the Center for a Free Cuba in Washington, DC and is a tireless fighter for democratic causes. I encourage my colleagues to learn from his insightful article.

[From the Miami Herald, Nov. 7, 2001]

YES, CUBA IS A TERRORIST NATION

(By Frank Calzon)

Harvard scholar and former New York Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan once said that everyone is entitled to his own opinion but not his own facts. Not a bad concept to keep in mind now that Cuban government officials claim that the reason for including Cuba on the list of terrorist nations is total nonsense; that the inclusion of Castro's Cuba among Iraq, Libya, Iran and other unsavory characters is motivated by U.S. domestic politics.

Sixteen anti-embargo activists, including Princeton professor Alejandro Portes and Johns Hopkins University visiting professor Wayne Smith agreed, charging that Castro is on the terrorist list due to the unwillingness of the United States to offend elements of the Cuban-American community.

Is Castro's Cuba a terrorist state?

Biological weapons are of no minor concern for Americans today. Castro's bankrupt regime has spent more than \$1 billion to set up a scientific infrastructure that, former Secretary of Defense William Cohen said in 1998, could support an offensive biological-warfare program. In 1995 the U.S. Office of Technological Assessment included Cuba among 17 countries believed to possess biological weapons.

Last year Ken Alibek, former deputy director of Biopreparat, the Soviet Union's biological-weapons program, revealed that a few years after Castro's visit to the Soviet Union in 1981, Cuba had one of the most sophisticated genetic-engineering labs in the world.

A few days ago the University of Miami School of International Studies released a report, *Castro and Terrorism: A Chronology*. It says that:

Castro refused to join the other Ibero-American heads of state in condemning ETA terrorism at the 2000 Ibero-American Summit in Panama and slammed Mexico for its support of the summit's statement against terrorism.

This summer Colombian officials arrested IRA members Niall Connolly, Martin McCauley and James Monaghan and accused them of training the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). Connolly had been living in Cuba as the representative of the IRA for Latin America.

Argentine-born Cuban intelligence agent Jorge Massetti helped funnel Cuban funds to finance Puerto Rican terrorists belonging to the Machetero group. The Macheteros hijacked a Wells Fargo truck in Connecticut in September 1983 and stole \$7.2 million.