

IN RECOGNITION OF THE EFFORTS
TO ELIMINATE THE WORST
FORMS OF CHILD LABOR IN
WEST AFRICA

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2002

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform you and our colleagues about the progress that has been made toward ending a shameful practice of child slavery. Just one year ago on June 28th, the House of Representatives voted 291–115 to set aside funding within the Food and Drug Administration to develop a labeling program for products made with cocoa. The label was intended to distinguish between cocoa products made with child slave labor and those that were not.

As you may recall, last summer we all became aware of this problem through media reports, such as those in the Knight-Ridder Newspapers, that told the stories of children being kidnaped from their home countries, such as Mali, and then sold into slavery in the Ivory Coast. The stories were horrifying. Children as young as 9 years of age are being forced to work without pay, live in squalor, and fear for their physical safety.

Last year, the House of Representatives resoundingly said “This is not acceptable.” Chocolate is one of our most beloved treats, but it doesn’t taste as sweet with the bitterness of child slavery in its mix.

Since that day last year much has happened. I am pleased with and proud of the enormous progress that has been made toward ending this terrible situation. First, let me congratulate the chocolate industry for so quickly deciding to tackle this problem head on. The industry joined a number of non-governmental organizations in signing an agreement, now known as the “Harkin-Engel Protocol,” which set up a framework for dealing with the problem of child slavery in the cocoa fields. The protocol is a serious commitment by the stakeholders to create an historic effort to end child slavery in this industry.

This effort is not just the result of the United States Congress though. Our colleagues in the parliament of Great Britain have also been working on this issue. On May 20, 2002 the House of Commons held what we would call a special order on the specific issue of child slavery in the cocoa fields of West Africa. During the debate, the Honorable Tony Colman of Putney quoted his constituent who is an expert on the problems of child trafficking and slavery, Professor Kevin Bales, as saying “The Protocol . . . is a very good thing. It is the first time that an industry has taken social, moral and economic responsibility for their entire product chain. The Anti-Slavery movement has been seeking such an agreement for 160 years.”

Throughout the past year, the world’s cocoa producers and users have met and signed onto agreements that commit everyone to ending this practice. For example, on November 30, 2001 a wide array of organizations from around the globe signed a joint statement regarding their efforts toward eliminating child slave labor in the cocoa fields. The list of organizations is very impressive: the Association of the Chocolate, Biscuit, and Confectionary Industries of the European Union; the Choco-

late Manufacturers of Association of the USA; the Confectionary Manufacturers Association of Canada; the Cocoa Association of London and the Federation for Cocoa Commerce; the Cocoa Merchants Association of America; the European Cocoa Association; the International Office of Cocoa, Chocolate, and Confectionary; the World Cocoa Foundation; the Child Labor Coalition; Free The Slaves; the International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers Associations; the National Consumers League; and the Government of the Ivory Coast. The joint statement recognized the “urgent need to identify and eliminate child labour in violation of the International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention 182 with respect to the growing and processing of cocoa beans and their derivative products.”

Furthermore, in January of this year the Government of the Ivory Coast ratified two important international labor agreements governing child labor—Conventions 138 and 182 of the International Labor Organization. By becoming signatories to these conventions, the Government of the Ivory Coast took a huge step forward toward implementing responsible labor standards for children within its own borders. In part, because of this step, the Bush Administration in May 2002 granted the Ivory Coast eligibility status under the African Growth and Opportunity Act.

Finally, last week the efforts of dozens of organizations and hundreds of people culminated in the creation of an international foundation that will “oversee and sustain efforts to eliminate abusive child labor practices in the growing of cocoa.” In future years, the foundation, with assistance from the governments of the world, will put in place “credible standards of public certification that cocoa beans have been grown without any of the worst forms of child labor.”

These are not easy problems to remedy. Many of these children do not speak French, the main language of the Ivory Coast. Many parents willingly let them go, believing their children will be learning a trade as part of an apprenticeship. Many children are orphaned. How we deal with these children on an individual basis will be difficult. Repatriating the children, reunifying the families, finding alternatives for orphaned and abandoned children all must happen. It will take hard work. It will not happen overnight. But we must try and we must succeed.

In declaring our own independence and throwing off the shackles of tyranny, our forefathers wrote “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” Never once in the history of our great nation have we ever believed that these rights were reserved to the people of the United States. In fact at the core of our beliefs is that all people everywhere have the unalienable right to liberty. The problem of child slavery in West Africa is as much the responsibility of the governments there as it is our own.

Today, I am pleased and proud to report that we here in Congress are a part of the movement to put an end to one of the most egregious ills in the world today—child slavery.

TRIBUTE TO MR. KONRAD K.
DANNENBERG

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2002

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great member of the North Alabama community, Mr. Konrad K. Dannenberg. On August 6th, Mr. Dannenberg will celebrate his 90th birthday. Throughout his ninety years, Mr. Dannenberg has been a leader in our nation’s space program, retiring from Marshall Space Flight Center in 1973 as Deputy Director of Program Development’s Mission and Payload Planning Office. Today, Mount Hope Elementary School in Decatur, Alabama is honoring Mr. Dannenberg for his service to their school, the North Alabama community, and the nation.

Konrad Dannenberg, born in Weissenfels, Germany, worked with Wernher von Braun in Peenemunde, Germany and came to the United States after World War II under “Project Paperclip.” He later helped develop and produce the Redstone and Jupiter missile systems for the Army Ballistic Missile Agency at Redstone Arsenal. In 1960, he joined NASA’s Marshall Space Flight Center as Deputy Manager of the Saturn program, where he received the NASA Exceptional Service Medal.

Mr. Dannenberg is a Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics and was past president of the Alabama/Mississippi Chapter. He was the recipient of the 1960 DURAND Lectureship and the 1995 Hermann Oberth Award. Additionally, the NASA Alumni League, the Hermann Oberth Society of Germany, and the L-5 Society (now the National Space Society) have the benefit of Mr. Dannenberg’s membership. In 1992, the Alabama Space and Rocket Center created a scholarship in his name to allow one student to attend a Space Academy session.

Mr. Speaker, as you can tell, during Mr. Dannenberg’s career, he was a valuable player in the advancement of our space program and was appreciated by co-workers and important organizations throughout the industry. Following his retirement, he has remained a major influence in the North Alabama community and still serves as a consultant for the Alabama Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville. I want to congratulate Mr. Konrad Dannenberg on his 90th birthday and thank him for the important contributions he has made to our community in North Alabama and the entire United States.

H.R. 4623—CHILD OBSCENITY AND
PORNOGRAPHY PREVENTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2002

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the bill I cosponsored, H.R. 4623, the Child Obscenity and Pornography Prevention Act. This bill marks a truly important step forward in protecting our Nation’s kids from the scourge of pedophiles and child exploitation.

Troubling headlines involving kids around the country are showing that there is a dark side to the Internet. The very technology that has wired the world, allowing information to flow like never before, also presents new dangers for our children, even in our small, safe hometowns. Parents used to worry about their kids talking to strangers. Now it seems commonplace for them to do so everyday online. I know the Internet helps our children with everything from schoolwork to applying to college to keeping in touch with their friends, but I also recognize that this more frequent contact with strangers exposes children to the dangers of pornographers and other exploitation. Worse yet, the prevalence of virtual child pornography—computer generated images that are indistinguishable from real children and only serve to whet the appetites of pedophiles and would-be molesters—has become more difficult to prevent as a result of a recent court decision.

In April, the Supreme Court, in *Ashcroft v. The Free Speech Coalition*, struck down as unconstitutional portions of the Child Pornography Prevention Act (Pub. L. 104-208) that made it illegal to create, distribute or possess “virtual” child pornography. In its opinion striking down the provisions of the law, however, the court ruled that extending the reach of child pornography laws to computer-generated and other images involving no real children was “overbroad and unconstitutional” and that the law would prohibit visual depictions, such as movies, art or medical manuals, that have redeeming social value.

The Court's decision left our children vulnerable, so I am pleased to support this legislation to strengthen the laws to go after those who would bring harm to our children. By carefully crafting this bill to narrowly define the terms and scope of the law, we have addressed the concerns raised by the Court and will provide lasting protection for our children against would-be pedophiles and exploiters. Because of the many important freedoms our constitution guarantees, it is a delicate exercise to prohibit even the most vile forms of expression. I believe we have achieved a balance in this bill of clearly defining that which we seek to ban, while protecting the freedom of speech that the constitution intends, and I am confident that this legislation will stand up to challenge.

It is imperative that Congress act swiftly to restore the prohibitions in law that recognize this horrible use of technology for what it is: yet another way for pedophiles and molesters to exploit children. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation.

HONORING THE WETLANDS INSTITUTE ON ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. FRANK A. LoBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2002

Mr. LoBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the fine work of the Wetlands Institute of Stone Harbor, New Jersey on its 30th Anniversary. As an important haven for wildlife habitation and education, the Wetlands Institute deserves to be recognized and applauded.

Opened in 1972 by its founder, Herbert Mills, the Wetlands Institute has a clear mis-

sion to promote the appreciation and understanding of the vital role wetlands and coastal ecosystems play in the survival of life on this planet. This not for profit organization reaches out and educates the community by providing a fun learning experience for families, school groups and vacationers of all ages. Each year the Institute works hard to hosts thousands of visitors, supplying them with unforgettable views of countless species of birds, salt water aquaria and beautiful gardens.

The ambitious and honorable goals of the Wetland Institute include teaching the value of wetlands and coastal systems, sponsoring important research of these ecosystems and encouraging the stewardship of these habitats worldwide. Since 1972, this organization has involved students in several of its conservation projects. Many of these projects have garnered national attention, such as the diamond back terrapin research reported by ABC and National Geographic, as well as photographs of a horseshoe crab spawning census published in LIFE magazine in 1999.

Through tirelessly striving to educate the public on the critical need for wetlands conservation, the Wetlands Institute has demonstrated a strong commitment to the community. I wish this valuable organization further success and would like to thank everyone involved for their hard work and dedication.

TRIBUTE TO NATIONAL THERAPEUTIC RECREATION WEEK IN SOUTH CAROLINA

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2002

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of “National Therapeutic Recreation Week” in South Carolina as proclaimed by Governor Jim Hodges.

The purpose of this event, which begins today and is celebrated through July 14, is to increase public awareness of therapeutic recreation programs and services, and expand recreational and leisure opportunities for individuals with disabilities. Physical therapists from all over the state met and worked together to eliminate barriers to leisure activities for many with disabilities and educate people in leisure skills and attitudes. These therapists constantly stressed the importance and advantage of having a clear understanding of how involvement in leisure and recreational activities improves physical and psychosocial health, and how recreation can provide individuals with a sense of self-confidence and satisfaction.

The theme for “National Therapeutic Recreation Week” is “Therapeutic Recreation . . . Examine the Possibilities.” The theme suited the occasion perfectly, as the aim was to explore a variety of methods used by therapeutic recreation professionals to enhance the quality of life and well being of persons with disabilities.

This year's “National Therapeutic Recreation Week” will hopefully generate more interest and encourage all South Carolinians to recognize the positive benefits of leisure and recreation.

Mr. Speaker, thousands of South Carolinians devoted their time and energy to im-

prove their quality of life, and also the lives of others. Please join me in recognizing the gallant efforts of these individuals, and the wonderful accomplishments they made during “National Therapeutic Recreation Week.”

TRIBUTE TO DR. I. MILEY GONZALEZ

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2002

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. I. Miley Gonzalez who has been serving in the capacity of Interim Vice Provost of Research at New Mexico State University. Dr. Gonzalez will be leaving NMSU after an impressive record as an administrator, an academic, and public servant to the community of Las Cruces, the state of New Mexico and our Nation.

Dr. Gonzalez rejoined the university in 2001 after nearly four years as U.S. Under-Secretary of Agriculture for Research, Education and Economics. Before accepting former President Clinton's appointment to the Department of Agriculture in 1997, he served as assistant dean and deputy director of the Cooperative Extension Service from 1994 to 1996, head of the agricultural and extension education department from 1991 to 1994, and director of the college's international programs from 1992 to 1994. He began his professional career as a high school vocational agriculture teacher in 1970.

Prior to Dr. Gonzalez joining the faculty at New Mexico State University he served as a State 4-H Specialist at Pennsylvania State University and participated in Extension Program activities. He taught numerous undergraduate and graduate courses including guest lectures in Spanish. He is a member of several academic and professional organizations, and has published journal articles and instructional materials in Spanish and English. Dr. Gonzalez received a B.S. and an M.S. from the University of Arizona and a Ph.D. from Pennsylvania State University in Agricultural and Extension Education. In 1999 Dr. Gonzalez was one of six people to receive the Outstanding Alumni awards from Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences. The award recognizes outstanding graduates and provides opportunities for interaction among the college's alumni, students and faculty.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Gonzalez has had a prosperous career while at NMSU. During his tenure Dr. Gonzalez was always known for taking time to meet with any student who needed to talk with him. It is often said that if our children are our future, the quality of our schools and their teachers will largely determine the quality of the future that our children will or will not enjoy. Dr. Gonzalez's interest in the well being of his students can be found in the communities throughout New Mexico, the country, as well as in the halls of Congress. Several of those former students, who worked with Dr. Gonzalez in either the academic or extra-curricular environment, have worked or are currently working in my office or in the offices of Representative SKEEN, Senator BINGAMAN, Senator DOMINICI, or members of the President's Cabinet. He has also been named as one of the top 100 Hispanic Leaders in the country.