

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING RAYMOND GRUBBS

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2002

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, whereas Raymond Grubbs is a professional truck driver for Yellow Transportation; and

Whereas, Raymond Grubbs has successfully driven one million miles without a preventable accident; and

Whereas, Raymond Grubbs should be commended for reaching this safety milestone; and

Whereas, Raymond Grubbs has demonstrated a steadfast commitment to the safety of our nation's highways;

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in honoring and congratulating Raymond Grubbs for his outstanding accomplishment.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CHRISTINA TOOLEY

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2002

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize Christina Tooley of Pueblo, Colorado for her hard work, courage and determination in the face of some of life's most challenging circumstances. Christina graduated from Pueblo Community College last spring and, as she celebrates this accomplishment, I would like to pay tribute to her incredible story before this body of Congress.

Throughout her life, Christina has had the courage to confront and overcome challenges that to many would seem impossible. Christina has been diagnosed with Bartlett-Bidell syndrome, a genetic disorder that can cause organs to improperly function and shut down. Due to the syndrome, Christina began having eyesight problems and, by her junior year of high school, she could barely see. Although the loss of her eyesight must have been devastating to Christina, she remained determined to maintain a full and productive lifestyle.

Soon after her diagnosis, Christina enrolled in the Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind and began vigorous courses to learn Braille, later enrolling in Pueblo Community College. Throughout college, Christina and her mother would sit down and work diligently on her studies. Christina was able to do all of her computer assignments on her own, but needed her mother's assistance with reading notes and questions.

Initially, Christina confronted the challenge of getting around town by learning to use a cane to guide herself. Today, Christina has a guide dog named Natasha who has become a loyal friend and companion, helping to navi-

gate her way around the campus. Last May, Christina received her degree in Internet Business and Communications, and Natasha was right there by her side as she received her diploma.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and admiration that I recognize Christina Tooley of Pueblo, Colorado before this body of Congress and this nation. Christina has shown an extraordinary determination to overcome unparalleled challenges and has made incredible strides through her efforts. Her courage and resilience are a testimony to her character and should serve as an inspiration to us all. I wish Christina all the best in her future, I am proud to represent such an extraordinary individual.

SITUATION IN BELARUS CONTINUES TO DETERIORATE

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2002

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to the attention of my colleagues the latest outrage perpetrated by the regime of Belarusian dictator Alexander Lukashenka.

Last week, immediately after leaving the U.S. Embassy in Minsk, the Chairman of the opposition United Civic Party, Anatoly Lebedka, was picked up by plainclothes police officers and driven to KGB headquarters for interrogation. Anatoly had been at the Embassy to pick up the invitation for a conference on Belarus to be held this week here in Washington. In a clear effort at intimidation, Lukashenka's KGB thugs accused him of maintaining ties with supposed "intelligence agents" and other foreigners, purportedly for the purpose of undermining Belarus.

Mr. Speaker, this accusation is patently absurd. I know Anatoly Lebedka, having met with him in Washington and at several meetings of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, most recently this past July in Berlin. It is clear to me that Mr. Lebedka is an honorable man committed to his country's development as an independent, democratic nation in which respect for human rights and the rule of law is the norm. There is no doubt in my mind that the real reason for the harassment of Anatoly—and this is not the first time—is his opposition to Lukashenka, to whom democracy and human rights are anathema.

Sadly, this is only the latest in a long list of human rights assaults by Lukashenka. Just within the last few months, we have seen the passage of a repressive law on religion, the bulldozing of a newly built church, the jailings of three leading independent journalists, the continued and persistent harassment of the political opposition, independent media and non-governmental organizations, and the effective expulsion of the OSCE presence there. These tactics are in keeping with the climate of fear which Lukashenka has sought to cre-

Moreover, we have seen no progress on the investigation of the missing and presumed dead political opponents—perhaps not surprisingly, as credible evidence links the Lukashenka regime with these murders, and growing evidence also indicates Belarus has been supplying weapons and military training to Iraq. Both in Berlin and in Washington, I have had the honor of meeting with the wives of the disappeared.

Mr. Speaker, the state of human rights and democracy in Belarus is abysmal, and the manifest culprit is Lukashenka and his minions. The long-suffering Belarusian people deserve to live in a country in which human rights are not flouted. Those in Belarus, like Anatoly Lebedka, who struggle for human rights and democracy deserve better. The Belarusian people deserve better.

WORLD POPULATION GROWTH

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2002

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to submit a recent speech delivered by the President of the Population Institute, Mr. Werner Fornos, at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington, Virginia on October 1, 2002. Mr. Fornos spoke to the rapidly growing economic and environmental pressures created by our burgeoning world population, especially in third world countries. These concerns represent a pressing issue for congressional debate and I offer these remarks to that end.

REMARKS BY WERNER FORNOS, PRESIDENT OF THE POPULATION INSTITUTE, AT THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF ARLINGTON, VA. OCTOBER 1, 2002

World population stands today at more than 6.2 billion and increases by more than 75 million each year. An incredible 97 per cent of this growth occurs in the developing world, by definition the poorest countries of the world—those where for far too many daily living is a struggle for mere survival. These are the very countries least able to afford such massive influxes of people, countries where demographic pressures already place unbelievable burdens on schools, hospitals, transportation and virtually all facets of the economic and social infrastructure.

Yet our soaring human numbers are projected to exceed 9 billion by the year 2050. While the wealthiest countries on our planet are estimated to account for only 52 million of this increase, the developing world is expected to account for 2.7 billion.

But world population does not need to continue to grow at this dizzying pace.

First though, I must tell you that no matter what corrective course we may steer, the earth's population will reach 8 billion. The reason is our built-in demographic momentum: there are one billion people today between the ages of 15 and 24, the largest number of people entering their reproductive years at the same time than at any other time in the history of the world.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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

How can we hold the number of people on earth down to approximately 8 billion? The answer to that question lies with providing access to voluntary family planning for the more than 300 million couples in the world who today want to make their own decisions about when and if they will have children—couples who in many cases did not want their last child and do not want another.

Accommodating these couples, however, is another matter that has been complicated by the anti-abortion movement. Let me say here that the Population Institute is passionately dedicated to providing access to family planning information, means and services; we do not consider abortion to be a method of family planning. As a matter of fact, abortion is a procedure to which many women resort who lack access to family planning.

However, a sizable contingent of those who have the audacity to label themselves “pro-life” because they oppose abortion have become perhaps the single greatest obstacle to those 300 million-plus women obtaining family planning.

If you want to prevent abortion, the first line of defense is preventing pregnancy. And that is what family planning is about: preventing pregnancies, not terminating them.

And if the Bush administration is serious about being “prolife,” it should be promoting family planning—not signing executive orders that cut off the congressionally approved \$34 million United States contribution to the United Nations Population Fund, the largest multilateral provider of international population assistance, as the President has.

But the obstacles to universal access to family planning are not solely within the anti-abortion movement. Population policy today is a matter of failure, ignorance, and timidity.

Last month I was in Johannesburg, South Africa, attending the World Summit on Sustainable Development—the most important global meeting on environment and development since the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. Oddly, population growth had no place on the official agenda. But there can be no doubt that population and sustainable development are inexorably linked.

After all, we live in a world where 70 percent of all families are dependent on firewood as their primary source of heating and cooking fuel. A world where 600,000 square miles of forest have been cut down worldwide, just over the past 10 years. A world where forestland equivalent to three times the size of Belgium is annually cut down in the Congo Basin alone.

Though there were some achievements at the Johannesburg summit, it was seriously flawed by the neglect to link human growth with environmental well being in the face of economic growth.

The Johannesburg summit succeeded in establishing clearly important time-tables for pressing matters, such as: halving the number of people living in poverty who lack access to clean water and adequate sanitation by 2015; restoring depleted fish stocks by 2015; and significantly reducing the extinction rate of the world's plant and animal life by 2010.

I seriously question, however, how any one of these obviously significant and desirable targets can be reached until we, first and foremost, establish a crystal clear accelerated target for providing voluntary family planning and reproductive health care to those more than 300 million who need and want fewer children but lack the information, education and the affordable means to control their own fertility. The Johannesburg summit was not a failure; I believe that so long as nations of the world continue to

discuss relevant issues at very least it achieves the opportunity for mutual understanding and mutual respect. But I also believe that much more could have been accomplished had the meeting not been bogged down in coddling the comfortable and ignoring the afflicted.

Considering the political climate, especially in the United States, at the time of the WSSD, many feel that population stabilization advocates should count themselves fortunate that the summit reaffirmed the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Plan of Action, as well as the results of the 1999 ICPD+5 meeting and the Millennium Development Goals—all of which had important population policy and program recommendations. In hindsight, this appears to be true enough. Yet while reaffirmations are not insignificant, in my view summit meetings should be about more than acknowledgments of what already has been approved. They should focus on progress: developing new strategies to attain established goals and objectives, where they are needed, and accelerating efforts to reach these goals and objectives, where it is applicable. It is in these areas where, as far as world population issues are concerned, the WSSD was disappointing.

In addition to squandering an opportunity to accelerate progress on universal access to family planning, the Johannesburg summit failed to establish a target for vastly reducing the carbon emissions responsible for global warming and increasing reliance on renewable energy sources such as solar and wind power.

We know that the planet in many respects has an impressive capacity for resilience. Some years back British scientists reported that the ozone layer—the protective shield that prevents ultra-violet B rays from devastating the earth with skin cancer—was thinning in the southern hemisphere and had virtually disappeared over Antarctica, the world. For years, industries producing chlorofluorocarbons influenced industrialized countries responsible for most of the emissions to forego becoming involved in an effort to prevent such emissions. But with new and compelling scientific evidence before the world, nations hastened to approve the Montreal Protocol, phasing out CFCs and other ozone-depleting chemicals by 1996. Within recent weeks, it has been reported that the shield is thickening at a pace that might close the 10,000 square mile hole in the layer over Antarctica within 50 years.

I am convinced we can have similar success in overall sustainable development, if we have the foresight and the courage to establish rational and effective timetables. The timetable for reducing world population growth to a figure closer to 8 billion rather than 9 billion would specifying dates for:

Widening women's educational opportunities—at all levels, primary, secondary and higher education. In country after country studies, show that the more education a woman has the more likely she is to have only the number of children she can nurture and educate;

Increasing employment opportunities for women. Studies also show that when women have income-generating employment, they are likely to have fewer children;

Reduction of infant and child mortality. A major factor contributing to larger family size in many developing countries is that infant and child survival is precarious at best. Couples frequently have six, seven or eight children in the hope that one, two, or three will survive. With adequate prenatal and postnatal care, infant and child mortality can be vastly reduced.

Universal access to family planning information, education, and the affordable means to practice it.

Some years back, World Bank President Robert McNamara said in a celebrated speech at Notre Dame University that time lost in the effort to reduce rampant population growth can never be recovered. I believe that rapid population growth is a problem the entire world must address. Failure to do so would be the ultimate global blunder, one from which there is no recovery.

IN HONOR OF GREATER ASTORIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S SELECTION OF DENIS BUTLER AS 2002 HONORARY MAYOR OF LONG ISLAND CITY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2002

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mrs. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Greater Astoria Historical Society and Denis Butler, who has been named 2003 Honorary Mayor of Long Island City.

Long Island City, just across the East River from Manhattan, is the largest community in Queens with 250,000 residents. The history of Long Island City spans more than 360 years from its humble beginning as Dutch farmland in the 1640s to its present incarnation as a residential and commercial hub.

Chartered in 1870, Long Island City was the consolidation of several villages and areas, which included Astoria, Steinway, Ravensch[hy]ph[hy]wood and Hunters Point. Long Island City existed independently from New York City for 28 years. The new city government encouraged industry, which spread northward with gas plants and chemical and glass factories lining the East River waterfront. By the end of the 19th century, the city had the highest concentration of industry in the United States. Long Island City was incorporated by the City of New York in the consolidation of 1898.

Long Island City was transformed in 1909 by the opening of Queensborough Bridge, immediately changing the community from a remote suburb to the destination minutes from Manhattan. Today Long Island City is connected with the rest of New York City by six tunnels and five bridges.

The Greater Astoria Historical Society, chartered in 1985, is a non-profit cultural and community oriented organization dedicated to preserving the past and promoting Long Island City's future. The Society hosts field trips, walking tours, slide presentations, and guest lectures to schools and the public.

The Society believes that history is the most powerful tool that a society processes. It tells us why the things we value are the things we should value, and it tells us the things that should be ignored. That is true power, a profound power—the power to define a whole society.

Denis Butler, who was an outstanding Assemblyman for Astoria and Long Island City for 24 years, is an outstanding choice for honorary Mayor. An active legislator and a caring civic leader, Assemblyman Butler exemplifies the strength and creativity of Long Island City.

Assemblyman Butler was a champion of the aging, disabled, and underprivileged, and has worked tirelessly for the working men and women of his district. With the support of the Assembly leadership, Assemblyman Butler