

for South Asia, Christina Rocca, in a speech last month at the American Enterprise Institute, said that 'Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's "personal commitment to making them [the elections] transparent and open" was a critical factor in moving the democratic process forward.'

Ambassador Blackwill did not mince words when it came to describing the guerrillas that used violence in an effort to disrupt the elections, calling them "terrorists." "Terrorists can call themselves many different things at different places," our Ambassador said. "Sometimes they are called freedom fighters. Any person who kills civilians is a terrorist."

Mr. Speaker, America knows how it feels to be a democracy targeted by terrorists. India has for many years endured the same experience. In fact, the terrorist elements targeting India in Kashmir have links to the same Al Qaeda terrorist network that attacked America on 9/11 and was apparently responsible for the bombing in Indonesia last month. I have spoken out on several occasions this year about the terrorist attacks against Kashmiri civilians, and I have urged the leaders of Pakistan to stop allowing their country to be used as a base for terrorist training camps and extremist religious clerics who foment hate against both India and America.

Unfortunately, the opposite may be happening. On November 12, the Orlando Sentinel, and other publications, reported that, "U.S. intelligence says most of al-Qaeda's surviving leaders have relocated to Pakistan." The newspaper noted that U.S. forces cannot operate in Pakistan as they have in Afghanistan, due to concerns that an American military presence would anger Pakistan. Therefore, we must press President Musharraf to take control of this situation.

Assistant Secretary Rocca stated in her speech that the U.S. and India are allies in the struggle against terrorism, saying, "Counterterrorism cooperation is maturing rapidly, including intelligence sharing, training, finance and antimoney laundering cooperation, improving border security, fighting cyberterrorism and increasing mutual legal assistance." In fact, a Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters between the U.S. and India is awaiting approval by the full Senate, having been approved by the Foreign Relations Committee in the Other Body.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to quote from President Bush in his remarks welcoming Prime Minister Vajpayee to Washington on November 9, 2001. "My Administration is committed to developing a fundamentally different relationship with India, one based upon trust, one based upon mutual values. After all, the Prime Minister leads a nation that is the largest democratic nation in the world." I appreciate the commitment of our President, and I look forward to working with the Administration as the United States continues to improve and expand our relationship with India to the benefit of the people of both of our great nations.

I look forward to working with the Republican leadership and President George W. Bush to shape a new relationship between the U.S. and India in the 108th Congress.

HONORING THOMAS J. SCHILTGEN

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I am extremely proud to rise today to honor Mr. Thomas J. Schiltgen, District Director of the U.S. Immigration & Naturalization Service Office in Los Angeles, who will be retiring in December 2002 after 27 years of service to America's immigrant community.

Mr. Schiltgen is a very special individual, and my district is indebted to his unwavering passion and dedication for the immigrant community endeavoring to become U.S. citizens. The 605 Citizenship Project, a video series designed to help educate immigrants to become U.S. citizens, would not have been so successful if it were not for his willingness to personally work in our communities and go beyond the call of duty to provide comfort and patience to families often intimidated by the intricacies of the naturalization process. His willingness to educate and reach out to underserved communities puts him in a league of his own. He has responded to last minute calls of assistance to matters vital to my community's well being, and each time he has cooperated and provided much needed help.

In addition to his community involvement, Mr. Schiltgen has exercised outstanding management skills in the Los Angeles district I.N.S. office. He has achieved a dramatic reduction in the huge backlog of pending applications for naturalization. Today, citizenship cases in Los Angeles are processed in six to eight months, compared to an average of 24 months prior to his arrival. His energy and vision have made him one of the agency's most respected and valued leaders.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in saluting Mr. Thomas J. Schiltgen for his understanding leadership and devotion to his work. His devoted commitment to others has earned him praise from the immigrant community, I.N.S. employees, community leaders and advocates who have benefited from his commitment to public service. On the occasion of his retirement, we heartedly congratulate him on his extremely successful career, wish him much success on his future endeavors and thank him greatly for his outstanding efforts to make a difference in the lives and futures of many America's new citizens.

CELEBRATING ALBERT BURSTEIN'S 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an extraordinary man and a great friend of mine—Albert Burstein, who turns 80 years-old on November 22.

Whether it is through his work as partner of his own law firm, his efforts throughout his 10 years as a member of the New Jersey General Assembly to improve our education system and our quality of life as a whole, his many roles in special posts and appointments throughout New Jersey aimed at raising our

levels of education and making our society more just, or in his role as the loving husband of Ruth and father of three terrific children, Jeffrey, Diane, and Laura, Al Burstein is a man of great principle. He represents the best of New Jersey and deserves our highest level of praise.

I have had the wonderful opportunity to get to know Al Burstein very well. I first met him after graduating from law school and serving as the campaign coordinator in his race for the New Jersey General Assembly. In between stuffing envelopes, running phone banks, and helping with general campaign tasks, I got to see a man of the highest integrity in action working to make New Jersey a better place. In 1978, Al Burstein ran for the Ninth Congressional District of New Jersey, the seat which I now hold. Although he was not elected, Al Burstein always took the high road in the campaign and never lost focus of his goal of improving the lives of New Jersey residents.

I have great and abiding affection and respect for Al Burstein and I wish him the very best as he celebrates his 80th birthday later this month. I know that I join with his family and his many friends and coworkers in wishing him a year filled with happiness, good health, joyful moments, and time for reflection on all of his life's great accomplishments.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that would allow states with waivers under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, that are set to expire in the next calendar year, to voluntarily extend the length of those waivers for an additional year.

As my colleagues know, the TANF program has been very successful in helping millions of Americans get through difficult times. It is important that Congress build on the success of TANF and reauthorize this program with important changes.

However, as my colleagues know, we have reached the close of the 107th Congress, and we have yet to complete action on a TANF reauthorization bill. TANF expired on September 30 of this year and has thus far been funded under continuing resolutions.

I seek not to criticize one party or another or one chamber of Congress or the other for this delay. The issues at heart in this debate are important and decisions should not be made in haste. However, inaction on TANF reauthorization this year has created the potential that several states will be unfairly penalized and my constituents, and those of many other Members, will pay a steep price.

Prior to 1996, welfare policy in the United States was administered through the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program. Under this program the Secretary of Health and Human Services had the authority to grant waivers to states to allow them to create innovative welfare programs that met the goals of welfare but not the specific requirements of AFDC.

In the early 1990's, as it became clear that AFDC was failing to meet its goal of helping

to move impoverished Americans to self-sufficiency, the Clinton Administration greatly expanded the number and scope of these waivers and many states took advantage. Many provisions of the innovative state waiver programs were later incorporated into the legislation that created the TANF program.

My state of Oregon took advantage of a welfare waiver and over the past six years has created a highly successful program that has seen welfare caseload reduction above the national average. Oregon's waiver and the waivers of eight other states have expired, or will expire, between September 2002 and September 2003. Once they expire, the states will have to spend scarce resources reconfiguring their programs to meet the federal TANF standards.

This comes at a particularly inopportune time. With the fall off in the American economy, states around the nation are experiencing some of the largest budget deficits in history. Furthermore, rising unemployment rates have forced many out of work and back on to the welfare rolls. Scarce resources should not be spent on programmatic changes to effective programs, particularly when it comes at the expense of our most needy constituents.

With work on TANF reauthorization uncompleted, states with expiring welfare waivers will not be able to adequately plan their welfare programs for the future. It makes little sense for them to begin transitioning to the current program with the knowledge that Congress intends to make substantive changes to TANF during the 108th Congress. But, under current law, this is exactly what they will have to do.

Mr. Speaker, it is irresponsible for Congress to force states to transition their programs twice and waste scarce resources on unnecessary programmatic changes, particularly in hard economic times.

Congress should correct this unintended consequence of its inaction by extending existing state waivers.

DAWSON FAMILY TRAGEDY

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay homage to our fallen "Front Line Soldiers". The soldiers that I speak of did not die thousands of miles away from our shores in a foreign land; they were executed in their own home as they slept. These soldiers were not trained in military combat or armed with the latest weapons technology can devise; they fought a life and death battle armed only with a strong voice and a determination that they would not surrender. If the City of Baltimore were to erect a monument to all the innocent lives lost because of the proliferation of drug violence in our community, tragically the most recent names to be added would be Carnell and Angela Dawson, along with their children; Keith and Kevin Dawson (9 year old twins); Carnell Dawson Jr., 10; Juan Ortiz, 12 and LaWanda Ortiz, 14.

On October 16th, while this family slept, a cold-blooded killer entered their home, spread gasoline throughout, and ignited a blaze that swept through the house in a few short min-

utes. Reportedly, this was done in retribution for the repeated efforts of Mrs. Dawson to stop these dealers from selling drugs in front of her home, in plain view of her young children. That night, Mrs. Dawson and five of her six children lost their lives. Mr. Dawson battled hard but perished a week later from the burns covering 80 percent of his body. We can not, and we will not walk away from the horrific acts of such cold-blooded killers.

Mr. Speaker, this Congress must take action to give the people of Baltimore and people around this country the tools they need to combat the proliferation of drug related violence in our communities.

As the Ranking Member on the House Criminal Justice, Drug Policy and Human Resources Subcommittee I am especially wounded that such a barbaric act could occur within a city in my own district. I will do everything in my power to ensure that the effort to fight terrorism does not drain the fight against drug terror at home. Baltimore City Mayor Martin O'Malley and Police Chief Ed Norris have used their limited resources to make a positive effect on reducing drug-related crimes in the city of Baltimore. With the help of citizens, the mayor and the police chief have achieved a 23 percent reduction in violent crime in just a few short years. Federal agencies also report that Baltimore City has achieved the largest reduction in drug-related emergency room admissions of any major city in America. However, the plague of drug abuse is not a local problem or a problem limited to people of color; it is a national problem that demands a federal response.

National statistics shows that this problem is not limited to Baltimore City. The Bureau of Justice Statistics reports that in 1998 an estimated 61,000 convicted jail inmates said they had committed their offenses to get money for drugs. The cost-effects of these statistics on Baltimore City and other communities throughout this nation are incalculable. That is why I am encouraged by the swift and decisive actions taken by Director John P. Walters of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) to arm our domestic front line soldiers with the tools they need to combat the bane of our communities.

I joined Director Walters on Oct. 23 of this year, as he announced the federal government response to this tragedy. Effective immediately, ONDCP will redirect existing funding resources within the Washington-Baltimore High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Program (HIDTA) to better protect specified high-crime neighborhoods in Baltimore City. The federal funds will help to pay the cost of additional foot patrols, police overtime pay, surveillance cameras and improved street lighting. This is only a down payment on the debt owed to the Dawson family and the many other families around this nation who are the domestic front line soldiers in what some residents of Baltimore call "a killing ground."

More will be done; more must be done to protect families living in communities of fear. Drug gangs cannot be allowed to rule our court system through intimidation. Children should not fear stray bullets as they sit in front of their homes. Families await a day when they can sleep soundly knowing that the drug gangs are no longer lurking within their community. Baltimore City's fight against these drug gangs is not a war America can afford to ignore; and retreat is not an option.

SPECIAL JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, for the benefit of my colleagues I rise to introduce the remarks that I delivered in connection with the Special Joint Session of Congress convened in New York City on September 6, 2002. Along with my remarks, I would like to introduce the remarks of Mrs. Susan Magazine, Assistant Commissioner of the Family Assistance Unit of the Fire Department of New York City, Senate Majority Leader TOM DASCHLE, and Speaker of the House DENNIS HASTERT.

I believe that the nature and occasion of the event necessitates that these remarks be entered into the RECORD, so that along with the events at the Special Joint Session, they can be recorded for posterity.

RANGEL. You people look beautiful. (Laughter.)

Thank you, Mr. Mayor and Governor.

On behalf of our New York delegation, and especially Ben Gilman, who has been my friend for over 30 years, who leave us—where are you, Ben? (Applause.)

... and our entire delegation, which I hope would rise at this time, the supporters of our resolution... (Laughter.)

... I want to thank the leadership in the House and the Senate for supporting this resolution, our mayor and governor for giving it its political support, Ms. Annenberg for giving us our financial support, and most importantly all of you who took time from your busy schedules, and indeed our legislative schedules, to come to our great city to give us an opportunity to say thank you. History is a strange thing when you're making it. You're just not aware of the courage you may have or the shortcomings that you may have. And as the mayor, in telling you about the attributes of New York, it could be perceived that most of us from New York City have a little more self-esteem than we really need to get by. (Laughter.)

RANGEL. But when we were hit, we were afraid, we were scared. We didn't know whether we were going to be hit again. And Jerry Nadler, who's district was hit, was one of the first to get there.

And as the mayor said and the governor said, people came from all over. Not just our heroic policemen and firemen and emergency workers, but kids came, flags were there, foods were there, doctors were there. Everyone wanted to help.

Most of the New York congressional delegation in the city, we were there because it was a primary day. And so when we got back to Washington, we didn't know what to expect. We went by car. We went by bus. We went by train. And when we saw our colleagues there, singing "God Bless America," we recognized that we were not just New Yorkers; that we were Americans. It wasn't just... (Applause.)

It wasn't just our great city that was hit, it was our great country that was attacked. And we did come together, not as Republicans and Democrats and liberals and conservatives, but we came together in support of our president and our legislative leaders to let all of our foes know that we were united in our resolve to make certain that we would do all that we could to see that this does not happen again.

And even now as we gather to praise those that fought so hard for our country, that became our heroes, we send a message to our