

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2002

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained in my district on Tuesday, February 26, 2002, and I would like the record to indicate how I would have voted had I been present.

For rollcall vote No. 39, the bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for the acceptance of an affidavit of support from another eligible sponsor if the original sponsor has died and the Attorney General has determined for humanitarian reasons that the original sponsor's classification petition should not be revoked, I would have voted "yea."

For rollcall vote No. 40, the resolution expressing sympathy to the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo who were tragically affected by the eruption of the Nyiragongo volcano on January 17, 2002, and supporting an increase in the amount of assistance provided by the United States to the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo I would have voted "yea."

RETAINING A STRONG AND HEALTHY STEEL INDUSTRY IN U.S. IS A MUST

HON. RALPH REGULA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2002

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the President for initiating his three-prong program to address the steel import crisis. This crisis, caused by a worldwide over capacity of steel making is slowly destroying our domestic steel industry. The increased level of imports, often subsidized by foreign governments, keeps driving steel prices down. Not even the most efficient steel mills in the U.S. are able to make money when steel is priced so low. As of this week, thirty-one steel companies have declared bankruptcy and over fifty steel-making and related plants had been shut down.

The President's steel plan includes the Section 201 investigation initiated last June and efforts to negotiate a reduction of worldwide steel making capacity with foreign nations. The key element in the President's plan is the 201 investigation. The International Trade Commission (ITC), which completed the 201 investigation last fall, unanimously found that the level of steel imports coming into the U.S. was injuring the domestic steel industry. Now it is up to the President to implement a meaningful remedy. The industry and its workers are asking for at least 40 percent tariffs across the board. Tariffs would provide the most immediate relief to the industry allowing prices to

recover. Tariffs would also send a clear message to our trading partners that this U.S. is not the dumping ground for all the world's excess steel.

Our steel companies need a "time-out" from the constant flow of low-priced imports. Strong tariffs will provide such a "time-out." Domestic steel companies and their workers have downsized and restructured and they continue to do so. One example is Republic Technologies International, which has facilities in my Congressional District. Republic had to file for bankruptcy protection. In order to keep operating in this very difficult market, all workers had to take a 15 percent pay reduction and additional cost cutting measures are being implemented to reduce costs another 20 percent. Overall employment has fallen by 20 percent recently. The type of 201 remedy will directly impact how Republic will be able to restructure and come out of bankruptcy. If the President implements a strong remedy, investor confidence will increase and Republic will be able to preserve more jobs as it restructures. If the President imposes a weak remedy, Republic may face significant job cuts during its restructuring.

As steel mills close, it is not just the steelworkers and their families that suffer. Steel company retirees will lose their retiree health benefits in many instances. Furthermore, every steelworker supports more than three jobs in other industries, from workers who make production equipment to those who process raw materials and move the steel products to market. Steel communities are also impacted by the loss of steelworker jobs because people buy less groceries and use less services. It is imperative that we retain a strong and healthy steel industry in the U.S. not only for our economic well-being but also to supply our national defense needs.

IN SUPPORT OF INTERNATIONAL FAMILY PLANNING FUNDING

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2002

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the Administration's decision to withhold funds already appropriated for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

Last year, after extensive negotiations between Congress and the Bush Administration, Congress passed and the President signed the FY02 Foreign Operations Appropriations bill, including \$34 million for UNFPA.

The decision to withhold funding from this vital program was founded on the mistaken belief that UNFPA supported forced abortion in China.

This decision is part of a disturbing trend of anti-choice opposition within the Administration to any type of family planning funding. This funding is vital to women's health and vital to sustainable international development, and the

President should reverse this decision immediately.

I would like to remind my colleagues that since 1973 no U.S. dollars have been used to pay for the performance of an abortion as a method of family planning or for involuntary sterilizations overseas—none.

Turning UNFPA funding into a debate about abortion does a disservice to the millions of women throughout the world who do not have access to the health care and reproductive services, education and treatment that is available to women in this country.

The World Health Organization estimates that close to 600,000 women die each year of causes related to pregnancy or childbirth. Three hundred fifty million women in developing countries don't have access to safe and effective family planning methods. More than 600,000 infants become infected with HIV each year worldwide. These statistics are appalling. How can we possibly claim to be working to prevent the spread of HIV if we do not offer counsel and education in family planning?

UNFPA is the largest international source of population assistance to developing countries, often working in countries where few others go, such as Vietnam. UNFPA does not fund abortion in China and its program there is rigorously monitored to ensure that it does not support coercion in any form.

We cannot allow yet another issue to get caught up in abortion politics. We have the chance to really make a difference for millions of women worldwide. Let's give women the opportunity to make informed and educated decisions about their reproductive health. Mr. President, reverse the decision to withhold UNFPA funds.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PAUL REVERE FREEDOM TO WARN ACT

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2002

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, on the evening of April 18, 1775, Paul Revere bravely went out into the Massachusetts night to warn his fellow patriots of a threat they faced.

The tyranny of the time dictated that if caught, Paul Revere would be hanged; he rode that night knowing that if caught, he would die.

Today we have other Americans who take risks that are just as real to preserve our liberty. These brave men and women risk their jobs, their livelihoods, to ensure our safety. They are fighting for us. And so the least we can do is fight for them.

I didn't come here to Washington to fight for the special interests. I came here to make sure the little guy was protected.

In today's climate, we face new threats, threats of life and death. And despite these threats, there are still powerful interests that

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try to hide their mistakes and negligence rather than protect the public.

When there are powerful interests trying to hide what they are doing, we have found that there is always a brave soul willing to step up and take the heat. We have seen that with the FAA and airline security. We have seen some of that with Enron. And yes, we saw that with the brave whistleblowers I met with this morning. They each stood up and fought for what was right and just.

And all of them faced real heat and the intimidation that too often comes along with doing the right thing. All too often that heat isn't fair, and in fact, isn't even legal.

The law is clear: according to the Lloyd-LaFollette Act, employers can't interfere with whistleblowers. Unfortunately, while the law is clear, it doesn't have any penalties if the act is violated. It has no teeth; it is like Paul Revere without a voice. The Paul Revere Freedom to Warn Act, which I will be introducing later today, protects employees who blow the whistle by allowing them to bring a civil action in federal courts with jury trials.

These people have three years to bring these actions for lost wages and benefits, reinstatement, costs and attorney fees, compensatory or punitive damages, and any other relief that the courts believe are appropriate.

This is just common sense; if something is against the law, then there has to be a price to pay if you violate the law.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for us all to stand up for the whistleblowers. They are the true patriots, and I want to thank them, salute them, and help them by introducing and passing the Paul Revere Freedom to Warn Act.

I would like to thank the Government Accountability Project (GAP). In particular I want to thank Tom Devine and Doug Hartnett, for constantly keeping the issue of whistleblower protection before Congress.

The price of liberty is eternal vigilance, and even though they only represent whistleblowers, they too serve as modern Paul Revers through their work.

The Government Accountability Project has been a very effective partner in laying the groundwork for this necessary legislation.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE JOHN W. GARDNER

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2002

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute today to a distinguished Californian and a great American, John W. Gardner, who died at the age of eighty-nine on February 16, 2002. He leaves his wife of 67 years, Aida, and his two daughters, Stephanie Gardner Trimble and Francesca Gardner. He also leaves two granddaughters, two grandsons, two great-grandchildren and a brother, Louis.

John W. Gardner was born in California in 1912. A true American hero, he devoted his life to public service, pioneering the modern movement for citizen activism, campaign finance reform and healthcare for the needy.

A 1935 graduate of Stanford University, John Gardner went on to earn a doctorate in psychology from the University of California, Berkeley. He taught psychology at Connecticut

College and Mount Holyoke and was later named Haas Centennial Professor of Public Service at Stanford.

John Gardner served under six U.S. Presidents including President Lyndon B. Johnson who named him Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare. A Republican, Mr. Gardner believed good ideas transcended partisanship, and as Secretary, he initiated and implemented many of the programs in President Johnson's War on Poverty. He developed many of these innovative ideas during his decade as President of the Carnegie Corporation.

After leaving government service, Mr. Gardner continued to serve the public. In 1970 he founded Common Cause, a prominent citizens' watchdog organization that remains a powerful political force today. John Gardner was also cofounder of Independent Sector, a philanthropic coalition of over six hundred corporate and nonprofit organizations.

Inspired by his commitment to public service, both Stanford and U.C. Berkeley have established a successful public service fellowship in his honor. Modeled after the White House Fellows Program which Gardner designed, the John Gardner Fellowship in Public Service serves as a critical launching pad for graduating seniors looking to pursue a career in public service.

When the House passed Campaign Finance Reform in the early hours of February fourteenth, it was John Gardner whom I thought of first because no one did more or spoke more eloquently about the need for this critical reform. Frequently referred to as the "father of campaign finance reform," he was appointed by President Clinton as co-chairman of the Campaign Finance Reform Commission. The American people owe an enormous debt of gratitude to this extraordinary individual for his leadership, his commitment and his vision.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this exceptional man and extend our condolences to his wife and family. We are a better community, a better country and a better people because of John W. Gardner.

IN HONOR OF MOTHERS' VOICES— UNITED TO END AIDS

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2002

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mothers' Voices on the occasion of its 10th anniversary. Mothers' Voices is an organization of mothers and supporters, based on Manhattan's West Side, that works to educate our families about the prevention of HIV/AIDS and to advocate for creative and effective public policy to stem the tide of this devastating epidemic.

While the rate of HIV/AIDS infection among young people under 25 continues to climb, it is increasingly necessary to mobilize our entire community to expand education and prevention programs. Despite the advancements in research and treatment of AIDS, the statistics on the rate of infection are disheartening. The Centers for Disease Control recently announced that the HIV/AIDS infection rate for the U.S. has risen by 8 percent in the last year alone. New York had the highest rate of

increase, at 47 percent. Approximately half of the 40,000 new HIV infections occurring annually in America are in young people under the age of 25. Every hour of every day, two Americans between the ages of 13 and 24 become infected with HIV. The CDC report recommends the need for community-based outreach and education, like the programs offered by Mothers' Voices. As an organization of parents, Mothers' Voices has the unique ability to educate young people about the devastating consequences of HIV/AIDS. Under the leadership of President Suzanne Benzer and Executive Director Carol Henry, Mothers' Voices has worked to inform the public about the deadly effects of HIV/AIDS and how to properly prevent infection.

As the toll of HIV/AIDS on our families and communities mounts higher and higher, it is imperative that Mothers' Voices keeps working to provide educational outreach and advocacy. I wholeheartedly congratulate Mothers' Voices for ten successful years of educating our families, raising awareness and advocating for our children's health and well being.

A TRIBUTE TO THE RECIPIENTS OF THE FIRST ANNUAL CHILDREN AND FAMILIES HEROES AWARD

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2002

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the recipients of the First Annual Children and Families Heroes Award from Santa Cruz County. These men and women have all invested time and energy in numerous endeavors designed to improve the welfare of children. Along with the Children & Families Commission, I would like to recognize them for their commitment and service to our community.

The Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors established this commission in 1998 to determine the best practices to promote the welfare of children. The commission has strived "to ensure that family-friendly services and education are available so that each child reaches the fifth year of life healthy, ready and able to learn, and emotionally well developed." Through promoting the ideas healthy and school ready children, as well as strong families in combination with facilitating community discussions, task forces, surveys and data analysis, the commission continues to preserve the future viability of the nation.

I applaud the commission for its work and for its recognition of individuals in the community who promote the welfare of children. In honoring these individuals we realize that the goals of the commission could not be met without the support and leadership of countless members of the Santa Cruz County community.

I join the Children and Families Commission in congratulating the following recipients for their commitment to improving the lives of children in Santa Cruz County: Dr. Salem Margarian, Laurie Hester, Mountain Community Resources, Terry Jimenez, The Beck Family, Sara Wood Smith, Maria Cristina Negrete, Special Parents Information Network, Rita Mori, Marcia Meyer, Una Baer, Ana