

HOUSE LEADERSHIP FAILS AGAIN TO ASSIST LONGTERM UNEMPLOYED

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2002

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, it is difficult to believe that once again, the House of Representatives is leaving Washington without passing an Unemployment Assistance extension bill that could be in effect by the time we return next Tuesday.

The Senate has passed the extension bill several times. But the House Republican leadership refuses to take that bill and send it to the President for signature—unless it is loaded up with unjustified and very detrimental tax cuts for the most affluent Americans and corporations., a bill that the Wall Street Journal declared “mainly padded corporate bottom lines.”

And so, once again, Congress leaves Washington without doing its job for the men and women who send us here to represent them and whose taxes pay our salaries.

That may not be very important to our Republican leaders who run this House. But it surely is important to the 378,000 working men and women who filed new unemployment claims last week who wonder if extended benefits will be there for them when their meager weeks run out, as they have for over 1 million Americans between September 11 and December 31, 2001 and 11,000 more every day of this year!

When we left Washington without passing extended benefits for the President's Day recess, over a quarter million Americans lost their unemployment benefits. By the time we return next week after being gone for nearly five full days, another 55,000 left high and dry by this Congress and by the Republican leadership that uses them, and their suffering, as leverage for fat cat tax breaks.

Mr. Speaker, where is the compassion of the Republican leadership? Why can we not have a straight up-or-down vote on the Senate's bill to extend unemployment benefits as we have been urged to do by 9 Nobel laureates who say these benefits are the quickest and surest stimulus we could enact? Let's stop the political gamesmanship, get the assistance to the men and women who paid for it with their labor, and then we can continue the debate over tax cuts for the wealthy.

ON THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF HADASSAH

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2002

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, in 1912, Henrietta Szold founded the Daughters of Zion, an organization to meet the health needs of Jews and Arabs in what is now the modern State of Israel. Soon renamed Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, it has grown to be not only the largest Jewish organization in America, but also the largest women's organization. I rise today to pay tribute to Hadassah and all of the wonderful accomplishments of its ninety-year history.

Today, Henrietta Szold's vision lives on. With more than 300,000 members and 1,500 chapters across the country, Hadassah is stronger than ever. While best known for the Hadassah Medical Organization, which is synonymous with expert medical care, Hadassah has expanded its services greatly to help so many people across the globe.

From preventing the spread of AIDS in Africa to helping at-risk teens in Russia, Ethiopia and Israel, the women of Hadassah continue to serve the world community in addition to helping American teens develop their Jewish spiritual identity.

The great accomplishments of Hadassah were recognized last year when Hadassah gained special consultative status as a non-governmental organization with the United Nations Economic and Social Council. This enables Hadassah to participate more fully in international deliberations over medical research and treatment, immigrant absorption, refugee welfare and the status of women and children—all the areas in which Hadassah has earned its reputation for expertise.

I congratulate the Women of Hadassah for reaching this milestone, and I commend them for their many wonderful accomplishments during the past ninety years.

GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARDS

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2002

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize five outstanding young women from Illinois' 8th District. Sarah Desprat, Kristen Rusek, Katherine Swanson, Julie Zielinski and Shauna Marie Zivin all will receive the Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest award in Girl Scouting.

Only 6 percent of Girl Scouts nationwide receive this award. According to the Girl Scouts, the requirements for the Gold Award include efficient organization, time management, and leadership skills resulting in a 50-hour community service project.

I am glad to see the hard work, dedication and commitment of these Girl Scouts are being recognized with this honor. I am proud to represent such fine young women and pass along my congratulations.

CONGRATULATING TEMPLE BETH EL OF SAN MATEO ON THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2002

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise to congratulate Temple Beth El of San Mateo California, in my Congressional district, on the 50th anniversary of its founding.

In 1950 the San Francisco peninsula was experiencing an extraordinary growth spurt. Young families were reunited with soldiers returning from the war and began purchase homes with their G.I. loans. This resulted in the rapid growth of the Bay Area. One result

of this growth was that public facilities could not meet the demand of the population explosion, and schools were required to have double session to accommodate all the new children. At the time there was only one Jewish institution housed in its own building on the Peninsula at a small synagogue in Menlo Park. Although members of the Congregations Sherith Israel and Temple Emanu-El were co-sponsoring a religious school for their children, the schooling took place at a Seventh Day Adventist Church, because the congregations did not have the necessary building space for a religious school.

In order to accommodate their expanding numbers concerned parents met on a Monday evening in October of 1950, calling themselves the “Board of Directors of the Peninsula Temple Congregation.” Their focus that evening was to create a facility for Jewish learning and worship on the peninsula. From that first night, it was obvious that this group of dedicated individuals would be a success. They elected officers, organized themselves and took the first steps towards their exciting journey that very first night. Soon they had hired a Rabbi and chose a name; Peninsula Temple Beth El.

Mr. Speaker, over its fifty years Temple Beth El has grown from a few families to a congregation made up of over 700 families numbering more than 3,000 people. Their religious school has become a model of programming followed by other congregations in California and the rest of the country. Today over 600 children receive a quality Jewish education in Beth El's religious school. Two years ago the Gannon Day Care center was named the number one child-care facility on the Peninsula.

In addition to providing excellent religious institutions for their children, the members of Temple Beth El sponsor numerous programs aimed at enriching the spiritual lives of adult members. They were one of the first congregations in California to establish a Havurah—a traditional Jewish prayer group. Members of Temple Beth El are also actively fulfilling their obligations to be involved in social justice. From preparing food for the homeless at the Samaritan House in San Mateo, to collecting donations for numerous charities, serving as tutors for literacy programs in public schools, the members of Temple Beth El are extraordinary examples of selflessness and giving back to their community.

Mr. Speaker, after fifty years Temple Beth of San Mateo remains a vigorous, exciting and expanding congregation. Despite its growth it has remained committed to the core goal—to provide a place for Jewish worship and Jewish education and to nurture Jewish Life on the Peninsula. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in commending Temple Beth El of San Mateo on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary, and wish its members continued success for the future.

OPENING OF SLOVAK CONSULATE IN MIAMI FLORIDA AND 50TH AN- NIVERSARY OF SLOVAK GARDEN

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2002

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the official opening in Miami, Florida of

the Consulate of the Slovak Republic and the 50th Anniversary of Slovak Garden in my District. As you may know, Slovakia is a country full of rich history and tradition. It became a free and independent republic in 1993 and opened their new Embassy in Washington, DC in June of 2001.

I am pleased to announce that, Mr. Robert J. Petrik, who is the Honorary Consul of the Slovak Republic to the State of Florida, was appointed by Eduard Kukan, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic, with the approval by the United States Department of State, established a Consulate of Slovakia in Miami, FL.

Currently there are Consulates of the Slovak Republic in Pittsburgh, Chicago, Cleveland, Minneapolis, Denver, LA and Kansas City. The Honorable Ambassador Martin Butora, PhD, Ambassador Plenipotentiary and Extraordinary of the Slovak Republic to the United States, and his wife Zora Butorova, PhD, will be visiting Florida this week for the purpose of officially opening the Consulate of the Slovak Republic.

There are a number of outstanding events planned to mark this exciting opening and the visit by Ambassador Butora and we are pleased to welcome them to the great State of Florida. Florida continues to experience tremendous growth and advances toward the future, while still recognizing and celebrating its proud history and vibrant culture. The added presence of the Slovak Republic will only serve to enhance Florida's history and culture.

Slovak Garden had its beginnings in 1906, at the 10th National Slovak Society Convention in Connellsville, Pennsylvania, when American Slovaks discussed creating a Slovak retirement community. The seed was sown on November 10, 1939 as the Zivena Beneficial Society Branch 163 celebrated its 25th anniversary. During the program of this celebration, Mr. and Mrs. John Jerga made a substantial financial contribution toward building a retirement community for American Slovaks. Mr. John Jerga, ailing for years, had visited Florida frequently and often remarked how ideal it would be to have this retirement community for Americans of Slovak Heritage in central Florida.

Jergo Road now serves as the dividing line between Slovak Garden and Slovak Village in Winter Park, Florida. It was dedicated in his memory to honor him and his wife Maria for their generous and unselfish donation of \$10,000 to the Slovak retirement community in Florida and for other charitable projects they have founded and supported.

After the death of John Jerga on February 23, 1941, Mrs. Jerga continued to be active in various Slovak affairs in Detroit. In 1946, she married a widower, the Slovak fraternalist and newspaper editor, Karol Belohlavek who was very well known in Slovak circles in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and Cleveland, Ohio. The idea of creating a Slovak retirement community took on a new image and began moving again, since Karol Belohlavek was a great promoter for the idea. He published numerous articles in Slovak newspapers and solicited financial help from Slovak fraternal organizations and individuals to finance and promote the Slovak retirement community.

Finally, they succeeded in finding a 40-acre farm with an old fashioned two-bedroom house and then acres of citrus grove, the balance of the land being mostly wooded. The

farm was located on Howell Branch Road near Winter Park, Florida and just 15 miles east of the city of Orlando.

Slovak Garden, as many other Slovak organizations in America, experienced growing pains of failure and successes during the years. The years from 1952 to 1970 were truly pioneering years for the Slovak Garden, but thanks to many devoted individuals, such as Karol Belohlavek, Mr. and Mrs. Zary, Mr. and Mrs. Kacir, Gus and Agnes Hodak, Mr. and Mrs. John Cibula, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Steffel and many others who succeeded to make this concept a reality. The years between 1980 and 1984, Slovak Garden went through tremendously difficult times fighting daily for its survival. In 1984 a new generation became involved, with Andrew F. Hudak, Jr., George Kantor, Mary Ondovcik, Joseph Hoda, Maria Kupcik, Andrew Croftcheck, Martha Volosin, Vincent Kazimir and John Gabor. They and many others helped Slovak Garden resume its progress. In recent years, Slovak Garden with various improvements and additions, continues to serve the American Slovak community and remind us all of a rich heritage.

During the 50 years of Slovak Garden's existence, it has provided comfortable residences to scores of American and Canadian Slovaks, many of whom are now reposing in the national Slovak Cemetery in Slovak Village. Presently, many American Slovaks from various parts of the United States and Canada enjoy gracious living in Slovak Garden. Once a small farm in central Florida, today it is a complete Slovak cultural and retirement community.

We congratulate the Slovak American Community in Florida on these two very special occasions.

HONORING DR. ALBERT ALLEY AND THE WORLD BLINDNESS OUTREACH

HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2002

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, every once in a while we hear of an individual whose gift of giving is so powerful that it must be recognized. Dr. Albert Alley of Lebanon, Pennsylvania is one of those individuals. and I would like to take this opportunity to honor and commend him and his colleagues for their tremendous generosity and benevolence.

Dr. Alley, through his non-profit organization, World Blindness Outreach, has organized a team of doctors for an annual journey to Nicaragua for the past four years to provide free eye care and eye surgery to those who cannot afford such procedures. Helping him are William Busch, a physician from Pensacola, Florida; Eduardo Miller, a physician from Mexico; Richard Simmons, a physician from Westerville, Ohio; Bill Hoffman, an optometrist from Lebanon, Pennsylvania; Ron Johns, an optician in Dr. Alley's office; and Cheryl Strauss, an operating room technician from the Lebanon Outpatient Surgery Center. Not only do they provide the service, but they provide all the necessary tools and materials required to do that service because the hospital they work out of in Nicaragua cannot afford the equipment.

This past January, these hard-working doctors spent a week working ten-hour days removing 85 cataracts and correcting 12 cases of strabismus. Already, they have plans to continue with this mission of goodwill in March to the Dominican Republic.

Dr. Alley's dedicated passion and ability to spread his amity among his colleagues is a talent which we all endure to achieve. He is indeed a leader whose charitable work and medical help for those who cannot afford it serves as an inspiration to us all.

As a perfect example of how giving is contagious, two women in Nicaragua, inspired by the work of Dr. Alley, collected \$100 to donate to Mayor Rudolph Giuliani after hearing of the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, D.C. this past September. Though this donation may not seem large by our standards, it was collected from individuals whose average annual income is \$500.

With the utmost respect and admiration, I commend Dr. Alley, Dr. Busch, Dr. Miller, Dr. Simmons, Dr. Hoffman, Dr. Johns, and Ms. Strauss in the noble and altruistic healthcare they provide to the citizens of Nicaragua. We hope his energy and motivation will proliferate among other medical professionals.

STATUS OF THE DOMESTIC STEEL INDUSTRY

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2002

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to comment on the status of the domestic steel industry.

Our domestic steel industry is currently in a crisis situation. The fundamental cause of this crisis is massive foreign overcapacity, which has caused the United States to become the dumping ground for world excess steel products. As a result of this, since 1997, 31 steel companies have filed for bankruptcy, affecting over 62,000 American steel workers.

In my home state of Illinois, four steel companies have filed for bankruptcy, including Laclede Steel, which is in the Congressional District I represent. Approximately 5,000 steel workers have lost their jobs in Illinois alone.

Yesterday, I was honored to speak at a steel rally in my district. Hundreds of people attended, many of whom have lost their jobs as a result of the illegal dumping of foreign steel. We came together to support the American steel industry—an industry that has been essential to the development of this great nation.

This is not just a trade issue—it is a national security issue. Laclede Steel in Alton produced the steel that built the World Trade Center and we must never become dependent on foreign steel to produce our tanks and battleships and protect the men and women of our armed forces. We need the Administration to implement tariffs to prevent foreign steel from entering our country. We need to level the playing field. Tariffs at less than 40 percent are not relief.

Last year, I joined my colleagues on the Congressional Steel Caucus in urging the President to implement a Section 201 investigation by the International Trade Commission to determine if our domestic markets had been