

knowledge. I am confident these schools will continue to successfully meet their educational goals.

BILL TO ELIMINATE THE DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA UNDER THE FEDERAL HATCH ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 29, 2002

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to eliminate the discriminatory treatment of the District of Columbia under the federal Hatch Act. This bill would reverse the undemocratic and discriminatory inclusion of the District of Columbia, including its teachers, in the federal Hatch Act.

The introduction of this bill today follows the recent announcement by the U.S. Office of Special Counsel that the U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board (Board) had granted its petition for the removal of Mr. Tom Briggs, a D.C. public school teacher at Dunbar Senior High School. Mr. Briggs lost his job after the Board found that he had violated provisions of the federal Hatch Act that apply only to the District of Columbia and no other local jurisdiction. These provisions prohibit D.C. public school teachers and other D.C. government employees from being candidates for partisan political office, despite the fact that teachers in the 50 states are exempt from the Act, and despite the fact that the District of Columbia is the only local jurisdiction in the Act treated as if it were a federal agency. In 2000, Mr. Briggs ran as the Statehood Green party candidate for Ward 2 Council Member.

My bill would remove discriminatory provisions in the federal Hatch Act that apply only to the District of Columbia and would exempt D.C. teachers, like the teachers from the 50 states, from the federal Hatch Act prohibition against seeking partisan elective office. The effective date of the bill is the year 2000, in order to remove Mr. Briggs' apparent violation of an antiquated, anti-home rule law that cannot be justified today. The Briggs case is particularly harmful because the victims of this inequity are not D.C. employees but the children in Mr. Briggs' class, who will face severe disruption to the continuity of their learning by having their popular and energetic teacher removed prior to the close of the school year.

My bill would leave the District to craft its own local laws in accordance with local needs and norms. It is certain that the D.C. City Council would enact its own local law to avoid any gap, and I have secured the commitment of the appropriate members of the Council to introduce and guide the local law to passage.

This is not the first time I have objected to discriminatory treatment of the District of Columbia under the federal Hatch Act. Nearly a decade ago, Congress passed the Hatch Act Reform Amendments of 1993, a bill which ended most of the limitations on political rights of federal employees. However, the bill contained perverse provisions that leave D.C. government employees alone among employees of the 50 states and the four territories under the federal Hatch Act. Although I was successful in keeping the District of Columbia

language out of the House version of the 1993 amendments, the Senate included the language. Opponents of Hatch Act reform blocked a conference on the House and Senate versions of the bill, where I had intended to press for the Senate to recede to the House's position. Consequently, the 1993 reform law passed ironically benefiting 62,000 federal employees who lived in the District and, if they taught at Dunbar could seek public office, yet punishing the 40,000 District employees targeted by the law. In my comments on the floor prior to passage of the 1993 bill, I said: "I serve notice now that I am not through today. I will not be through until, with the help of others in this House, I succeed in making District employees the equal of the employees of other state and local jurisdictions. Today, we must blush as we try to conceive of any justification for such disparate treatment. I pledge to work to eliminate the shameful distinction we create today."

After the 1993 fight, I subsequently introduced legislation in 1996 to free the District from discriminatory treatment under the federal Hatch Act. It has not been possible to move appropriate legislation since, largely because no overall review of the Hatch Act, where such changes are generally made, has occurred. However, in light of the Briggs termination, I am asking the House to pass a stand alone bill.

The case of Mr. Briggs simply brings home the sad fact that the District of Columbia, and particularly its school teachers, have been singled out in a manner that is a complete affront to fairness, democratic principles, and self government. I urge my colleagues to support this bill to eliminate the discriminatory treatment of the District of Columbia under the federal Hatch Act in order to remove this unjust anomaly without delay.

THE RETURN OF AN ANCIENT HATRED

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 29, 2002

Mr. FRANK. Mr. Speaker, one collateral disturbing aspect of the current crisis in the Middle East is the rise in anti-Semitism in various parts of the world. It is particularly distressing to see the virulent outburst of this vicious prejudice in Europe, where many of us had hoped that the terrible experience of the past formed a stronger barrier against it.

Obviously people have a right to be critical of particular policies of the government of Israel in a given time. Indeed, since Israel continues to be a vibrant democracy even in the face of the violence now occurring in that part of the world, some of the most trenchant criticisms of Israeli policy come from Israelis themselves. But there is a sharp line between expressing differences with particular actions of the Israeli government and expression of anti-Semitism, and, sadly, that line has been crossed far too often in recent months in Europe.

In a very well reasoned editorial on Saturday, April 20, the New York Times speaks out cogently against this renewed anti-Semitism. Because this is such a well reasoned and powerful statement on a subject of great im-

portance to us in our deliberations, I ask that it be printed here.

THE RETURN OF AN ANCIENT HATRED

When many in the Muslim world blamed Israel and its supposed desire to discredit Islam for the Sept. 11 attacks, most Americans dismissed the report as a deformed joke. But just as the attacks forced Americans to face the fact that there are deadly serious groups seeking to destroy us, so some of the anti-Semitic actions in Europe in recent months cause us to wonder whether, six decades after the Holocaust, we are witnessing a resurgence of the virulent hatred that caused it.

Expressions of sympathy for the Palestinians or criticism of the Israeli military campaign in the West Bank are of course entirely appropriate. What is troubling are hateful statements and actions like the bombs thrown at Jewish schools, centers and groups in France, or the Orthodox Jews beaten on the streets of Belgium and Berlin or the truck bomb driven into the ancient synagogue in Tunisia. We worry that such actions, largely by Muslim extremists, touch a historic chord in Europe that is not being confronted.

Israelis have been too quick, over the years, to view criticism of their government as motivated by anti-Semitism. But it is hard to think of another word for the way some critics of Israel's policy toward the Palestinians are expressing their opposition. The dark of shadow of Europe's past seemed to be reappearing when the liberal Italian daily *La Stampa* depicted a baby Jesus looking up from the manger at an Israeli tank, saying, "Don't tell me they want to kill me again." Or when a Lutheran bishop in Denmark delivered a sermon in the Copenhagen Cathedral comparing Ariel Sharon's policies toward the Palestinians to those of King Herod, who ordered the slaughter of all male children under the age of 2 in Bethlehem.

Political opinion in Europe is certainly one-sided when it comes to the Mideast conflict. Members of the Norwegian Nobel committee have publicly called for the withdrawal of the Peace Prize from the Israeli foreign minister, Shimon Peres, but not from his co-winner, Yasir Arafat. The European Parliament voted to urge member governments to impose trade sanctions on Israel but urged no action against the Palestinian Authority. Historically, the far right and far left have not agreed on much. These days they seem united in their contempt for the Jewish state.

This was evident last summer at the international conference against racism in Durban, South Africa, which turned into a celebration of Israel hatred. Zionism was once again equated with racism and Israel's legitimacy came under repeated attack.

Focusing on the suffering of only one side is also not the same as anti-Semitism, although it is distressing. Just as there are American politicians who believe they have no political room to maneuver when it comes to support for Israeli policies, so there are European politicians with large Muslim constituencies whose voters do not want to see them acknowledging gray areas in this fight. There are also other explanations for the European mood. Guilt over the Holocaust may be salved with the thought that Jews, too, can act with cruelty. And given American sponsorship of Israel, being fashionably anti-American can easily mean being anti-Israel.

But much of Europe has a special responsibility to be cautious. Its cultures are drenched in a history of anti-Semitism. The mixing of historic European anti-Semitism with the more modern version in the Muslim world is a dangerous cocktail.

All this does not mean that Israel should be above criticism. Far from it. But it does

mean that when you read of hooded men shouting "Death to Jews" attacking a Jewish soccer team in suburban Paris, as happened recently, it should prompt some profound soul-searching about whether the past has come calling.

IN RECOGNITION OF HAROLD SNYDER

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 29, 2002

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Harold Snyder who will be celebrating his 80th birthday on April 25, 2002. Mr. Snyder has been a successful business man, a philanthropist, and a visionary.

Harold Snyder was born and raised in New York City. The son of immigrants, he grew up in desperate poverty, often going without adequate food or shelter. With determination and hard work, he helped raise his younger sister and in 1939 graduated from Erasmus Hall High School in Brooklyn, New York. After graduating, he served his country bravely and proudly in the Air Force from 1941 to 1945. He was able to use the benefits he received from his service to attend New York University, where he graduated in 1948. He then received his Master's degree from Columbia University in 1950.

With his wife Beatrice, Mr. Snyder began a personal and professional partnership that would last 50 years. In 1964, Harold and Beatrice co-founded Biocraft Laboratories, Inc. Under Mr. Snyder's leadership, Biocraft became one of the largest manufacturers of generic drugs in the United States. During the three decades of his tenure as President and Chief Executive Officer, Biocraft also became the first generic drug company listed on the New York Stock Exchange.

In 1996 Biocraft was acquired by Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd., the largest pharmaceutical company in Israel. Mr. Snyder now serves on the Teva Pharmaceutical Industries, Ltd. Executive Committee and Board of Directors.

Along with his many professional accomplishments, Mr. Snyder was at the forefront of the effort to pass legislation to encourage the use of generic drugs, giving millions of people access to safe and effective low cost drugs. Mr. Snyder is one of the founders of the Pharmaceutical Industry Association and has lectured extensively on pharmaceutical manufacturing at various colleges and universities.

Mr. Snyder enjoyed 50 years with his beloved wife Beatrice, before she passed away in 1998. With their three children, Beryl, Jay and Brian, he formed the Beatrice Snyder Foundation which has championed a number of philanthropic causes, including the Lincoln Center of Performing Arts, the Memorial Sloan Cancer Center and the New York Hospital Medical Center of Queens. The generosity of the Snyder family has also touched the lives of those most greatly affected by the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, with their generous support of the September 11 Fund. Most recently, Mr. Snyder sponsored a scholarship to send an inner city high school student to Antarctica to work with scientists. By providing this exceptional opportunity, he

hopes to inspire a talented young person to achieve.

Mr. Speaker, for his many contributions, I ask that my colleagues join me in saluting Mr. Harold Snyder.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM M. VACCA

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 29, 2002

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the work of an outstanding individual, Mr. William M. Vacca, of Totowa, New Jersey, who was recognized on Wednesday, April 17, 2002 for his lifelong dedication to Don Bosco Technical High School in Paterson, New Jersey.

Bill Vacca joined the Athletic Department at Don Bosco as a volunteer in 1970, and has been there ever since. A full time employee in Passaic County's historic textile industry, Bill has dedicated an immeasurable amount to those who make up the Don Bosco Tech family.

It is thus only fitting that he be honored, in this, the permanent record of the greatest freely elected body on earth. This is a man who has lived the phrase "give something back."

Born in Paterson on September 29, 1953, to William and Catherine Vacca, Bill attended local public grammar school before moving on to Don Bosco Tech. Upon his graduation in 1970, he immediately began to invest his energies back into the institution he loved. After eleven years as Assistant Athletic Director, Bill Vacca was named Athletic Director in 1981.

Sadly, Don Bosco Tech will be permanently closing its doors later this year. This does not obscure the fact that Bill Vacca, along with so many other caring colleagues, made Don Bosco Tech a special place.

Mr. Speaker, I sent all three of my sons to Don Bosco. I can say without reservation that the work of individuals like Bill Vacca will live on in the faces of those who attended that wonderful school.

While the closing of Don Bosco Technical High School will cause great sadness in the greater Paterson area, it also be a time for celebration. All those touched by Bill Vacca and the Don Bosco community will treasure the memories and honor the successes they achieved.

The job of a United States Congressman involves so much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing the efforts of individuals like Bill Vacca.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, the City of Paterson, Bill's family and friends, the Don Bosco Technical High School family, and me in recognizing the outstanding and invaluable service of William M. Vacca.

HONORING CALHOUN HIGH SCHOOL

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 29, 2002

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay honor to the Calhoun High School "We the

People . . . the Citizen and the Constitution" team from Port Lavaca, Calhoun County, Texas. Under the exemplary leadership of Gennie Burleson Westbrook, the 2001-2002 Calhoun High School team placed third in the statewide competition held on January 5, 2002, at the University of Texas Law School in Austin, Texas, which was hosted by the State Bar of Texas. The team included the following students: Karin Chen, Candice Cook, Chelsea Ghiselin, Tiffany Harvey, Kimberlee Hobizal, Major Hoffman, Stephen Jedlicka, Scott Kelly, Josh McClellan, Thomas Nguyen, Matt Thomas, Vanessa Thorne, and Andrew Wu.

The "We the People" program was begun in 1987, with the goal of enhancing students' understanding of the institutions of American constitutional democracy, while guiding them to discover modern day applications of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. It is a time consuming study requiring many hours of preparation, both in and out of the classroom. Each participant takes a multiple-choice test, and prepares for a simulated Congressional hearing in which students "testify" before a panel of judges.

Following a prepared five-minute presentation covering specific topics demonstrating their knowledge and understanding of constitutional principals, the judges quizzed the students with thought-provoking questions pertaining to their subject. The students took and defended their positions, using both historic and contemporary examples.

Preparation for the state contest also required assistance from members of the community who came forward to volunteer to work with the team members. I salute the following volunteers: Connie Hunt, Mark Daigle, Shannon Salyer, Britney Salyer, Edris Montalvo, Darren Hartl, Joane McDonough, Phillip Swope, and Larry Nichols.

I am proud to have these students in the 14th Congressional District of Texas. I am proud of the commitment to excellence and perseverance shown by each student. I am proud of the support shown by the parents and volunteers which helped them reach for their goal.

I trust all my colleagues join me in congratulating the 2001-2002 "We the People . . . the Citizen and the Constitution" team on their third place win in state competition.

MEDIA MERGERS ATE OUR NEWS

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 29, 2002

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention an excellent article that recently ran in Seven Days, a weekly newspaper in Burlington, Vermont. The article discusses the increasingly superficial reporting and a growing conservative agenda dominating the nation's televisions, radios and newspapers. The article also highlights a Congressional Town Meeting that I held to discuss the topic of corporate control of the media.

[From the Seven Days, Apr. 24, 2002]

MEDIA MERGERS ATE OUR NEWS!

(By Susan Green)

The families flocking to Palmer? Here are some of the things that took place last