

us that to maintain reliability for the wholesale markets his policies promote, we need to beef up the transmission grid. But now that we've had the biggest blackout in our history, FERC doesn't admit its policies that stress the grid had anything to do with it. Chairman Wood's Senate testimony on November 20 was "the [transmission] operator's primary charge is to work the system you've got. . . . Markets do not compromise reliability." So no matter if FERC sprayed water on the road in the freezing cold, it's your fault if you crash your car.

If we don't get an accurate picture from government investigators about the causes of the blackout, we will be dooming ourselves to more disruptions, dangers, and inconveniences in the future. I am not willing to allow that.

I ask that we consider whether we need an independent investigation of the causes of the blackout so we can do what needs to be done to prevent the next blackout from occurring.

HONORING LAGUARDIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the good work of LaGuardia Community College of Long Island City in Queens, New York. LaGuardia Community College serves one of the most diverse student bodies in the U.S. within one of the most vibrant neighborhoods in the U.S. Over the years, men and women from all over the world have called LaGuardia Community College their home. Over the years, LaGuardia Community College has quietly and diligently provided a first-class education for students of all economic, ethnic, and religious backgrounds.

LaGuardia Community College has served my community and the world for decades, and its mission has earned it the title of The World's Community College. However, they recently earned another distinction—nationally recognized community college. The Community College Survey of Student Engagement studied approximately 300 colleges, looking at 10 different categories. This non-profit found that LaGuardia Community College ranked in the top 3 of 13 large community colleges in North America. This ranking confirms what so many of us have known for so long—that LaGuardia Community College is not only The World's Community College. It is also the world's premier community college.

Of course, this distinction would not be possible without the work of countless administrators, professors, students, and friends from around the community. I would particularly like to thank LaGuardia Community College President, Dr. Gail O. Mellow for her vision. It is because of leaders like her that LaGuardia Community College can achieve such an incredible level of success.

Our world needs an understanding, dedicated, well-educated populace now more than ever. Our world is dependant on the students that come out of LaGuardia Community College and the good work that they do. For those reasons, we all owe the school our respect and gratitude.

INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE GOVERNMENTS OF INDIA AND PAKISTAN FOR IMPROVED DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution commending the governments of India and Pakistan for their efforts to achieve peace and stability in the South Asian region.

For years, India and Pakistan have been the victims of numerous terrorist attacks, which have greatly heightened religious and ethnic tensions in the troubled region. Discord amongst Hindu and Muslim populations has led to a war of attrition, whereby insurgents on both sides sneak across the border to commit murder and destruction before sneaking back across.

India and Pakistan have a history of disputes going back decades. The most prominent amongst these conflicts has been the territory of Kashmir. India and Pakistan each claim Kashmir as their own, despite the territory having its own distinct population agitating for autonomy. Indian and Pakistani forces have routinely engaged in minor skirmishes along the border. The conflict, more than any other, has led to a destabilizing nuclear arms race in the region, resulting in threats of war and the severing of political, diplomatic, and economic links.

In recent months, however, diplomatic overtures between India and Pakistan have resulted in laudable agreements to improve relations. Since April 2003, India and Pakistan have sent ambassadors, reestablished bus links, and declared the first real cease-fire in the 17-year-old border conflict. Most recently, the two countries resumed air travel and over-flight rights with one another. Further, Indian Prime Minister Vajpayee has agreed to attend in the near future a regional economic summit in Islamabad, a sure sign of progress.

The resolution I am introducing today congratulates India and Pakistan on their efforts to achieve stability and to seek a peaceful means to resolve their disputes. The resolution also recognizes both countries' efforts in the global war on terrorism and their close partnerships with the United States.

Though both nations still have a long way to go to fully achieve a lasting peace, the House of Representatives should be pleased with their determination to seek a peaceful, economically prosperous road to stability.

Mr. Speaker, I conclude by once again referring to the unconscionable acts of violence and terror wrought on both India and Pakistan. I further express my support and encouragement to both nations for their efforts to rebuild diplomatic relations despite trying circumstances.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, and I ask the House leadership to bring it swiftly to the floor for its consideration.

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE YOUNG ISRAEL OF NEW HYDE PARK

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 50th anniversary of Young Israel of New Hyde Park, the only Orthodox synagogue in northeast Queens. The synagogue, which boasts a vibrant multi-generational membership, plays a central role in increasing the presence and awareness of Orthodox Judaism in our community.

For half a century, Young Israel of New Hyde Park has provided its members and visitors with many of the things that an Orthodox family looks for and needs: from classes to daily minyanim to a local Boy Scout troop. Now under the leadership of Rabbi Binyamin Hammer, the synagogue, which is just around the corner from Long Island Jewish Medical Center, Hillside Hospital and Schneider Children's Medical Center, has long been known as a place where families and friends of patients can find religious support and Shabbat and Yom Tov hospitality. To this end, a bikur cholim apartment was recently added through the purchase of a house next door to the synagogue. To date it has provided temporary lodging for people from all over the United States, Russia, Italy, Israel and Canada.

Those familiar with this congregation, those who, for 50 years have made it a place of civic support and spiritual development, know that Young Israel is more than just a temple—but a shul, a spiritual home, a place that reflects the highest aspirations of an ancient people living proud and free in this great nation.

I commend Young Israel of New Hyde Park for its continued dedication to our community. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to please join me in congratulating the synagogue on the occasion of its 50th anniversary and in wishing Young Israel best wishes for another 50 years.

NOBEL PEACE PRIZE LAUREATES

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, last week the 4th Nobel Peace Laureates Summit was held in Rome. At the conclusion of the Summit, the Laureates issued a statement on behalf of this extraordinary gathering that is printed at the end of these remarks. There are too few places in our public dialogue where a universal perspective is encouraged and lauded. The Nobel Peace Prize is one of them. Such civil society institutions are to be encouraged because they are needed to work on global challenges.

The Laureates reinforced in the most eloquent terms the message sent at a recent panel convened by the Bipartisan Task Force on Non-proliferation of which I am Co-chair with my colleague CHRISTOPHER SHAYS (R-Conn.). This panel on "The Limits of Unilateralism" included the world-renowned

anthropologist Dr. Jane Goodall, former Ambassador Thomas Graham, and Mr. Michael Douglas, actor and U.N. Messenger of Peace. In his remarks, Mr. Douglas stressed that not only Americans, but all people on the planet, are faced with enormous challenges to our security and survival which can only be effectively met through international cooperation. He reminded us that we are tasked with "ensuring bio-diversity and ending the destruction of thousands of species; reversing the depletion of fishing stocks; controlling ocean dumping; preventing ozone depletion; halting global warming; controlling and eliminating terrorism and weapons of mass destruction; fighting pandemic diseases; ending the tragedy of crushing poverty and lack of clean drinking water; and addressing crises arising from failed states. No nation or even a small group of nations can succeed in addressing these issues alone."

Jonathan Granoff, who helped organize our Task Force event here in Washington as President of the Global Security Institute (GSI), also attended the Summit of the Nobel Peace Laureates in Rome as a representative of the International Peace Bureau, a Nobel Peace Laureate organization.

The Summit took place from the 27 to 30 November 2003. It was convened upon invitation by Mikhail Gorbachev and Walter Veltroni, Mayor of the City of Rome. The following Nobel Peace Laureates—individuals and organizations—participated in the Summit: The XIV Dalai Lama Tenzin Gyatso, Mikhail Gorbachev, Mairead Corrigan Maguire, Shimon Peres, Joseph Rotblat (represented by Professor Robert Hinde), Oscar Arias Sanchez, Lech Walesa, Betty Williams, Jody Williams, American Friends Service Committee, Amnesty International, Doctors Without Borders, International Campaign to Ban Landmines, International Labour Organization, International Peace Bureau, International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, International Law Institute, Pugwash Conferences, Quakers Peace and Social Witness, United Nations, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and United Nations Peace Keeping Forces.

The theme of the gathering was "Ethics and Policy." It is a subject we discuss often in this chamber as we apply policies to our domestic affairs. It is also needed, perhaps even more so, in international affairs. For this reason, I would like to submit the Final Statement of the Summit into our record for your review and consideration:

ETHICS AND POLICY—4TH GLOBAL SUMMIT OF NOBEL PEACE LAUREATES ROME, CAMPIDOGLIO, NOVEMBER 30, 2003
FINAL STATEMENT

We are the first generation making decisions that will determine whether we will be the last generation. We have an ethical responsibility to future generations to ensure that we are not passing on a future of wars and ecological catastrophe. For policies to be in the interest of humanity, they must be based on ethical values.

We express our profound anxiety that current policies are not creating a sufficiently secure and stable world for all. For this reason, we need to reset our course based on strong ethical foundations.

Compassion and conscience are essential to our humanity and compel us to care for one another. Cooperation amongst nations, multilateralism, is the logical outgrowth of

this principle. A more equitable international order based on the rule of law is its needed expression.

We reiterate our conviction that international politics need to be reformed to address effectively three critical challenges: ending wars and violence, eliminating poverty, and saving the environment.

We call upon everyone to join us in working to replace the culture of war with a culture of peace. Let us ensure that no child is ever again exposed to the horrors of war.

Recent events, such as the escalation of the conflict in the Middle East, bloodshed in Afghanistan, Iraq and Chechnya, as well as in parts of Africa and Latin America, confirm that problems with deep economic, social, cultural or religious roots cannot be resolved unilaterally or by armed force.

International terrorism is a threat to peace. Multilateral cooperation and the promotion of human rights under the rule of law are essential to address terrorism and its underlying sources.

The threat of weapons of mass destruction remains with us. We call for an immediate end to the newly resurgent arms race, which is being fueled by a failure to universally ratify a treaty banning nuclear testing, and by doctrines that lower the threshold of use and promote the creation of new nuclear weapons. This is particularly dangerous when coupled with the doctrine of preemption.

For some to say that nuclear weapons are good for them but not for others is simply not sustainable. The failure of the nuclear weapons states to abide by their legal pledge to negotiate the elimination of nuclear weapons, contained in the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty, is the greatest stimulus to their proliferation.

Nuclear weapons are immoral and we call for their universal legal prohibition. They must be eliminated before they eliminate humanity.

We support the treaty to ban landmines and call for effective agreements to limit conventional weapons and arms trade.

Trillions of dollars have been spent since the end of the Cold War in developing military approaches to security. Yet, the daily lives of billions remain bereft of adequate health care, clean water, food and the benefits of education. These needs must be met.

Humanity has developed sophisticated technologies for destruction. Appropriate social and human technologies based on cooperation are needed for survival.

The international community has a proven tool, the universality of the United Nations. Its work can and must be improved and this can be done without undermining its core principles.

We assert that unconditional adherence to international law is essential. Of course, law is a living institution that can change and grow to meet new circumstances. But, the principles that govern international relations must not be ignored or violated.

Ethics in the relations between nations and in government policies is of paramount importance. Nations must treat other nations as they wish to be treated. The most powerful nations must remember that as they do, so shall others do.

Economic hardship is often the result of corruption and lack of business ethics, both internationally and locally. Through utilizing more effective ethical codes of conduct the business community can contribute to protecting the environment and eliminating poverty. This is both a practical and moral necessity.

The scientific community could serve human interests more fully by affirmatively adopting the ethical principle of doing no harm.

The international community has recently recognized the importance of establishing an ethical framework. Leaders of States issued the Millennium Declaration at the United Nations and set forth common values of freedom, equality, solidarity, tolerance, respect for nature and shared responsibility. From these values, a plan to address sustainable development and poverty, the Millennium Development Goals, emerged. We urge all to join in implementation of these goals and prevent any retreat from specific commitments. Moreover, we share the principles of the Earth Charter and urge governments at all levels to support this important document.

For globalization to enhance sustainable development, the international community needs to establish more democratic, transparent, and accountable forms of governance. We advocate extending the benefits of democracy and self governance but this goal cannot be achieved through coercion or force.

After a special session, the Nobel Peace Prize Winners have agreed that the death penalty is a particularly cruel and unusual punishment that should be abolished. It is especially unconscionable when imposed on children.

We affirm the unity of the human family. Our diversity is an enrichment, not a danger. Through dialogue we gain appreciation of the value of our differences. Our capacity to work together as a community of peoples and nations is the strongest antidote to violence and our reason for hope.

Our commitment to serve the cause of peace compels us to continue working individually and together on this path. We urge you to join us.

TRIBUTE TO FORMER U.S. SENATOR PETE WILLIAMS OF NEW JERSEY

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, thousands, even millions, of American workers today have their fingers, eyesight, even their lives because of the legislative work of former U.S. Senator Harrison "Pete" Williams of New Jersey. They will never know who they are.

Millions of Americans have adequate retirement pensions or health care coverage because of the legislative work of Sen. Williams. They don't remember Pete Williams when they open their monthly benefits checks.

As the author and champion of landmark legislation, Pete Williams gave the country the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA), which is the single most important step in workplace safety in history, and he created the Employee Benefit Retirement and Income Security Act (ERISA) which helped guarantee minimum benefits for all working Americans.

Two years ago, former Senator Williams, who would have been 84 years old this week, died. He was retired after 4 years in this body and almost 24 years in the U.S. Senate. Since his death, neither body has given appropriate recognition to him and his contributions to America. A cloud has obscured his many great contributions.

Pete Williams fought for a wide range of landmark laws to improve the quality of life for average Americans. As a member and longtime chair of the Committee on Labor and