

CONDEMNING THE SELECTION OF
LIBYA TO CHAIR THE UNITED
NATIONS COMMISSION ON
HUMAN RIGHTS

SPEECH OF

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2003

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I must reluctantly vote against this measure. We can all agree that Libya is a ridiculous choice to head a human rights commission in any civilized organization. The State Department has long listed Libya on its list of states sponsoring terrorism. Libya has shown over the years that it has no respect whatsoever for human rights, when it comes to its dealings with the rest of the world or even its own citizens. Additionally, this election just underscores what I have been saying for years about the United Nations: it is an organization that undermines American sovereignty and consistently works against U.S. interests.

The problem with this legislation, however, is that it pretends to be something it is not. It pretends to be simply a condemnation of the elevation of Libya to head the UN Commission on Human Rights. Were that the case I would have voted in favor of the measure.

But unfortunately the legislation ventures off course from there. The legislation calls on the president to demand that sanctions against Libya be initiated anew, after they had already been suspended. I do not believe that sanctions have ever hurt a dictator or repressive regime. On the contrary, sanctions against an authoritarian regime only give the leaders a scapegoat for the sufferings of their people—while the leadership itself manages to avoid any hardship. Sanctions do not lead to the defeat of these kinds of regimes, but actually strengthen them.

Cuba is an excellent example: the United States has maintained sanctions against that nation for four decades, but its dictator is stronger than ever. The best way to break the hold of dictatorship on a country is to engage and trade with that country. Trade with a repressive regime brings in goods and ideas that undermine the hold of the ruling elites on power. It breaks the monopolization on economic activity that characterizes a closed society and economic system. It weakens dictatorships and it enriches the population.

Mr. Speaker, I join my fellow members in condemning Libya's election to chair the UN Human Rights Committee. I do not support sanctions, be they against Libya or any other country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. THOMAS H. ALLEN

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2003

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, on February 12 and 13, 2003, I was unavoidably absent for seven rollcall votes, due to the death of a family member.

Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 24 (H.R. 346, American Spirit Fraud Prevention Act), 25 (H. Res. 62,

regarding POWs), 26 (H.R. 395, Do-Not-Call Implementation Act).

HONORING THE PUBLIC SERVICE
OF MR. ROBERT VILMUR

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2003

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to honor the career of Mr. Robert Vilmur, who retires this week after 38 years of distinguished service to the Los Angeles community.

Mr. Vilmur began his public service career in 1965 with California's first community action agency, the Economic and Youth Opportunities Agency. As part of the agency, he helped administer a variety of poverty reduction programs, including employment training and Head Start.

Additionally, he committed himself and the agency to work toward improving community based organizations in impoverished and underserved areas like East and South Central Los Angeles. Mr. Vilmur later continued helping community based organizations working as staff for the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act Program, where he evaluated employment and training programs to ensure that they served our community's needs.

In the next stage of his career, Mr. Vilmur joined forces with then Mayor Tom Bradley to combat homelessness. As head of Los Angeles' Homeless Steering Committee, he worked in collaboration with the City's growing shelter system to create a network of government and nonprofit organizations dedicated to ending homelessness. He was also instrumental in shaping the committee's direction by developing new operational procedures. During this tenure several of his efforts, including the City's Mobile Ombudsperson program, received national recognition.

In the spring of 1987, Mr. Vilmur became manager of the City's Outdoor Homeless Encampment, and he was later asked to serve as the City's first Homeless Programs Coordinator. As coordinator, he helped increase funding for the Community Service Block Grants and he redirected traffic funds to safety programs. Under his guidance, California's Traffic and Safety Program drastically reduced fatalities, injuries, and economic losses resulting from motor vehicle crashes.

The City of Los Angeles is grateful for Mr. Vilmur's service and dedication to improving our quality of life. On behalf of the City, I thank him for his many years of public service and I wish him well in all his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT G. TOINTON

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great sense of pride that I honor Robert G. Tointon. Mr. Tointon has spent over 42 years building and strengthening Colorado's engineering, contracting, and manufacturing industries. His undying commitment has made significant contributions to his community of Greeley.

Robert began his commitment to the engineering industry when he graduated from Kansas State University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering with honors. Soon after, Robert married his wife and had two sons. After working as a field engineer in Wichita, Kansas, he was transferred to Colorado. He was hired by Hensel Phelps Construction Company, and moved to Greeley in 1963. During his first year there, Bob worked as an estimator, project engineer, superintendent, and project manager. He became vice-president of the company in 1974, and soon found himself elected president in 1975.

Under Robert's enthusiastic leadership, the company's combined revenue increased tremendously. In June of 1989, his success led him to split off two of the company's five divisions, and form Phelps-Tointon Incorporated. Robert now serves as the company's president, owning and operating several other Colorado companies, such as Rocky Mountain Prestress, Inc., Southern Steel Co., and Armor Safe Technologies.

In addition to his business success, Robert is a member of the Greeley Rotary and Colorado Forum, and serves on many other community councils. He also has a vested interest in providing leadership training and opportunities for K-12 principals, administrators, and superintendents in the district with the Tointon Institute for Educational Change at the University of Northern Colorado.

Mr. Speaker, it is with privilege that I recognize Robert G. Tointon before this body of Congress and this nation today. His contributions to the engineering industry, as well as those in his leadership capacities, have been immeasurably beneficial in the lives of many.

IN MEMORY OF SAMUEL J. SIMMONS:
ADVOCATE, ACTIVIST AND
FRIEND

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2003

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, for the benefit of my colleagues I rise to remember the lifelong contributions that Samuel J. Simmons made to his community, to issues affecting the aging and fair housing, and to this nation. I would like to extend my deepest regrets to his family and loved ones. We all mourn the loss of this great man.

For the past twenty years Samuel J. Simmons has worked tirelessly as president and chief executive of the National Caucus on Black Aged, Inc., which is dedicated to serving the needs of the most vulnerable elderly Americans, and particularly aging African-Americans.

As Assistant Secretary for Equal Opportunity at the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) during the civil rights era, Mr. Simmons made enormous and lasting contributions to the infrastructure of fair employment practices that our nation holds so dear today. In doing so, Mr. Simmons administered fair housing laws, and wrote advertising guidelines to include the fair housing symbol.

Following his tenure at HUD, he worked to formulate training programs for managers of government-assisted housing and certifications for managers of elderly housing programs, as the founding president of National Center for Housing Management, created by presidential executive order. His longtime work, commitment and expertise in the area of equal housing initiatives and home ownership for all Americans, was recognized with his election to the board of directors of Fannie Mae.

Samuel J. Simmons's service to this nation began decades ago, when he worked with the Detroit NAACP and Michigan State labor and employment groups while our nation was beginning to address the injustice and inequality that African-Americans faced in the workplace. When he arrived in Washington, he brought energy and determination to the Post Office Department, where he fought for fair appeals procedures that would adequately address the grievance and advancement issues of minorities. For his hard work and results produced, he received a Meritorious Service Award.

Samuel J. Simmons spent his lifetime selflessly working to improve the access that the most vulnerable Americans have to employment, housing and affordable healthcare, and he will be greatly missed.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. CLEMENTINE
WRENN ODOM

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2003

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Mrs. Clementine Wrenn Odom is often referred to as "The Tax Lady," because in the late 1940's she began to help farmers with their income tax filings and soon found herself in the tax business. For her services, a farmer would often give her ham, bacon, vegetables or other perishable items. She received so much that she purchased a freezer! When asked what she charged, her reply was usually "whatever you can afford to give me" and to this day she has served four generations of families.

She was born February 15, 1916 in Smithfield, Virginia to Fred Douglas and Norma Whitehead Wrenn. Although formal education for African-Americans ended after 6th grade, she attended boarding school in North Carolina and then went on to attend Virginia Union University and graduated from Virginia State College. Her teaching career came to an end when she married Mr. Woodrow Odom, a Hampton Institute graduate who came to Isle of Wight County as an agricultural extension agent. In 1960, Mrs. Odom accompanied her husband to Ghana, West Africa where he was Extension Advisor to the Ministry of Agriculture.

She established the first Head Start Center in Isle of Wight County, Virginia and neighboring counties. She taught in a one-room school for 12 years in Surry County, Virginia until 1937 and never let a child's need go unmet. When the African-American students at the school wanted to form a band, she went to the music director at Virginia State College for guidance and organized the fundraisers and got several of the instruments donated.

Mrs. Odom is an accomplished musician and mastered the piano and pipe organ at an

early age. She taught piano lessons in her home and was organist and director of music at St. Mark's Episcopal Church. She is the recipient of numerous awards and commendations, including Woman of the Year (twice) and the "Pinnacle of Success" award; but she still considers her family her greatest achievement.

She has three daughters and a son, ten grandchildren (one deceased) and one great-granddaughter. Her children and eight of the nine grandchildren are college graduates, several with advanced degrees.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that all my colleagues today will join me in paying special tribute to not only an everyday ordinary woman, but also a woman who has done extraordinary things in her time! I yield back the balance of my time.

SMALLPOX VACCINE COMPENSATION AND SAFETY ACT OF 2003

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2003

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with Representative WAXMAN in co-sponsoring the "Smallpox Vaccine Compensation and Safety Act of 2003".

The smallpox vaccine helps the body develop immunity to smallpox. The vaccine is made from a virus called vaccinia which is a "pox"-type virus related to smallpox. The smallpox vaccine contains the "live" vaccinia virus—not dead virus like many other vaccines. For that reason, the vaccination site must be cared for carefully to prevent the virus from spreading. Also, the vaccine can have side effects such as fever and body aches to much more serious and life-threatening side effects. People most likely to have serious side effects are: people who have or had skin conditions (especially eczema or atopic dermatitis) and people with weakened immune systems, such as those who have received a transplant, are HIV positive, are receiving treatment for cancer, or are currently taking medications, such as steroids, that suppress the immune system. In addition, pregnant women should not get the vaccine because of the risk it poses to the fetus. Women who are breastfeeding should not get the vaccine. In the past, between 14 and 52 people out of every 1 million people vaccinated for the first time experienced potentially life-threatening reactions to the vaccine. It is estimated that 1 or 2 people in 1 million who receive the vaccine may die as a result. Careful screening of potential vaccine recipients is essential to ensure that those at increased risk do not receive the vaccine.

The Administration's smallpox vaccination program began on January 24, 2003 with a much lower participation than expected and lower than is needed to adequately protect our nation against a bioterrorist threat. The low participation rate is due to the Bush Administration's failure to create a compensation program for the health care workers who will be injured by the smallpox vaccine. The Institute of Medicine reported that the lack of a compensation program could seriously impact the program's goal of increasing terrorism preparedness in the United States. The Adminis-

tration has included protection for the vaccine manufacturers and hospitals but seems to have forgotten the people who could suffer the most—the volunteers who are performing their patriotic duty by volunteering to participate in the vaccination program.

We need legislation which includes funding to states to provide for education, screening, medical surveillance, and treatment; protection against discrimination in the workplace, and compensation for those harmed by adverse reactions. The "Smallpox Vaccine Compensation and Safety Act of 2003" creates a no-fault compensation program modeled on the existing childhood Vaccine Injury Compensation Program. This program has been extremely beneficial in providing compensation to the families and children who have been injured or suffered by routine vaccination. Smallpox vaccine compensation will cover the people vaccinated or who are injured by coming into contact with someone who has recently been vaccinated for their unreimbursed medical expenses and lost wages.

In addition the "Smallpox Vaccine Compensation and Safety Act of 2003" will establish state grants to help with the costs of a safe vaccination program which includes pre-screening, education, follow-up care, and health care for people experiencing side-effects. This legislation would provide medical leave for health care workers and first responders who get sick from the smallpox vaccine and will make it unlawful to discriminate against workers who opt not to participate in the vaccination program.

The "Smallpox Vaccine Compensation and Safety Act of 2003" will help to establish a safer vaccination program and provide a safety-net for the inevitable injuries due to vaccination. Ultimately, this should enhance participation in the Smallpox Vaccination Program and help reach the goal of preparedness against a bioterrorist smallpox threat.

TRIBUTE TO ROGER L. REISHER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great sense of pride that I honor Roger L. Reisher of Lakewood, Colorado. Mr. Reisher's entrepreneurial endeavors and ambitious goals led him to found FirstBank forty years ago, creating the largest banking organization in Colorado. His ambitions to succeed, and his community involvement, have made Roger a valuable asset to the Lakewood community.

Roger was one of seven children, and became the first person in his family to attend college. He graduated from the University of Colorado with aid from the GI Bill, after serving in the Army. After gaining some experience in banking, Roger moved to Lakewood and eagerly began a new endeavor in 1963 when he opened First Westland National Bank. His business has created positions for 2,000 employees at over 100 offices, making a difference in their lives as well.

In 1988, Roger's colleagues created the FirstBank Scholars program at CU. This program has created an endowment of over \$1.6 million that is funded by FirstBank employees