

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE 2004 CONGRESS-BUNDESTAG/BUNDESRAT EXCHANGE

HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 2004

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, since 1983, the U.S. Congress and the German Bundestag and Bundesrat have conducted an annual exchange program for staff members from both countries. The program gives professional staff the opportunity to observe and learn about each other's political institutions and interact on issues of mutual interest.

A staff delegation from the U.S. Congress will be selected to visit Germany from May 16–29 of this year. During this two-week exchange, the delegation will attend meetings with Bundestag/Bundesrat Members, Bundestag and Bundesrat party staff members, and representatives of numerous political, business, academic, and media agencies. Participants also will be hosted by a Bundestag Member during a district visit.

A comparable delegation of German staff members will visit the United States for two weeks in July. They will attend similar meetings here in Washington and visit the districts of Members of Congress. The U.S. delegation is expected to facilitate these meetings.

The Congress-Bundestag/Bundesrat Exchange is highly regarded in Germany and the United States, and is one of several exchange programs sponsored by public and private institutions in the United States and Germany to foster better understanding of the politics and policies of both countries. This exchange is funded by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

The U.S. delegation should consist of experienced and accomplished Hill staff who can contribute to the success of the exchange on both sides of the Atlantic. The Bundestag reciprocates by sending senior staff professionals to the United States.

Applicants should have a demonstrable interest in events in Europe. Applicants need not be working in the field of foreign affairs, although such a background can be helpful. The composite U.S. delegation should exhibit a range of expertise in issues of mutual concern to the United States and Germany such as, but not limited to, trade, security, the environment, economic development, health care, and other social policy issues. This year's delegation should be familiar with transatlantic relations within the context of recent world events.

In addition, U.S. participants are expected to help plan and implement the program for the Bundestag/Bundesrat staff members when they visit the United States. Participants are expected to assist in planning topical meetings in Washington, and are encouraged to host one or two staffers in their Member's district in July, or to arrange for such a visit to another Member's district.

Participants are selected by a committee composed of personnel from the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the Department of State and past participants of the exchange.

Senators and Representatives who would like a member of their staff to apply for participation in this year's program should direct them to submit a resume and cover letter in which they state their qualifications, the contributions they can make to a successful program and some assurances of their ability to participate during the time stated.

Applications may be sent to the Office of Interparliamentary Affairs, HB–28, the Capitol, by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, March 31.

TRIBUTE TO THE SLOVENE NATIONAL BENEFIT SOCIETY

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 2004

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Slovene National Benefit Society (SNPJ) in honor of their 100th anniversary celebration on April 6, 2004. As a U.S. Representative of Western Pennsylvania, I am proud of its rich Slovenian heritage and SNPJ's efforts to preserve it.

The Slovene National Benefit Society was founded on April 6, 1904 to provide affordable life protection to immigrant Slovenian families. Today the Slovene National Benefit Society still provides affordable life insurance to Slovenian immigrants; however, it has grown to include members from all ethnic backgrounds and has developed into a diverse fraternal society which today can boast \$100 million in assets. SNPJ also continues to offer a full package of social, athletic and cultural opportunities, along with college scholarships and community service projects. SNPJ's social and fraternal events provide a way for people from all backgrounds to preserve a culture of a homeland while building new long lasting friendships in America.

I ask my colleagues to join with me in commemorating this fine organization and the members that maintain its excellence. It is my pleasure to recognize that efforts of the Slovene National Benefit Society to preserve the rich Slovenian heritage and foster new friendships in America.

LEAVE NO MISSISSIPPI CHILD BEHIND

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 2004

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following speech, dated January 7, 2004, given by Joyia Smith, Student

Body President at Greenville-Weston High School in Greenville, MS, at a No Child Left Behind Forum.

The No Child Left Behind Act is a landmark in education reform, "designed" to improve student achievement and change the culture of America's schools. The name alone has we uninformed students thinking that test scores would fly up and there would really be "no child left behind". When this legislation first appeared, I was just an incoming sophomore. Our school individually had a lot of concerns. At the same time NCLB was introduced, our students were trying to adopt an unneeded merger. It was like a "double improvement" for us. Our school administration had us under the impression that we would no longer be "trapped in the dead end of low performing schools". In addition to strong accountability, NCLB puts a special emphasis on implementing educational programs. The whole idea was so parents would know their children's strengths and weaknesses, parents would know how well schools were performing, and parents would know the schools have quality teacher training and resources. This is a good plan. I as a student leader just don't feel it was carried out as it should have been. Everything that seems good is not good for you. We must be able to admit when we've made a mistake and move on. "When dreams turn into dust, you should vacuum." Like Thomas Jefferson, "I too like the dreams of the future better than the history of the past."

I admire Joyia for her attentiveness and the detail in which she expresses her analysis of federal legislation. Her comments truly speak bounds. Her outstanding scholarship is a positive reflection on her personal dedication, family, and school district. May Joyia Smith continue to excel in her endeavors.

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING THE WORK OF THE LEAGUE OF UNITED LATIN AMERICAN CITIZENS ON THEIR 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 2004

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to join my colleagues in recognizing and honoring the work of the League of United Latin American Citizens, LULAC, on their 75th anniversary.

Serving as the nation's oldest and largest Hispanic organization, LULAC has improved the lives of millions of Latinos across our nation, by never wavering from its commitment to advance "the economic condition, educational attainment, political influence, health and civil rights" of our country's Hispanic population.

During LULAC's early years, they faced great opposition from those who did not wish to see the status and well-being of Hispanics improve. Many members were harassed and

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

threatened. yet the dedication and determination of LULAC's founding members persevered.

Today, this organization has become one of the greatest Hispanic civil rights organizations in America, with an all-volunteer membership and a glowing list of accomplishments.

Representing Latinos from all over the nation including, Guam and Puerto Rico, LULAC has taken the lead toward groundbreaking accomplishments for the Hispanic community.

One of these is particularly dear to me.

In 1945, LULAC took an active role in the fight against segregation in my home County of Orange in California. The Orange County School System kept its schools segregated on the grounds that Mexican children were "poorly clothed and mentally inferior to white children."

Eventually, LULAC was successful in their lawsuit to integrate this school system.

The following year, LULAC, along with Gonzalo and Felicitas Mendez, filed the Mendez v. Westminister lawsuit that ended 100 years of segregation in the California public school system.

Thanks to this suit, I, the child of Mexican immigrants, was able to benefit from a great public education in Orange County.

Many don't realize that the Mendez case laid the foundation for the watershed case of Brown vs. Board of Education eight years later.

Mr. Speaker, one cannot deny the great impact this lawsuit had on bringing greater educational opportunities not just to Hispanic children, but to all children across the nation.

Yet, this is just one example of the great work LULAC has done since their founding in 1929!

This organization has fought for voting rights and the inclusion of Hispanics in the political process.

It has provided access to educational mentoring and tutoring, and has helped fund millions of dollars in scholarships.

And LULAC continues to fight for the betterment of Hispanic workers, especially in the area of Hispanic health issues.

I am very honored to be standing here today to express my appreciation for all of LULAC's accomplishments.

I wish them continued success in the future as they continue their work for improving the lives of Americans in the Hispanic community.

TRIBUTE TO MINE SAFETY APPLIANCES CO.

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 2004

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Mine Safety Appliances Co. and their Modular Integrated Communications Helmet/Advanced Combat Helmet for being recognized by the U.S. Army's Materiel Command Unit for "one of the Greatest Inventions of 2002."

The Modular Integrated Communications Helmet/Advanced Combat Helmet has been credited with saving the lives of many soldiers in Afghanistan and Iraq. It provides the soldier with protection from 9mm handgun rounds and fragmentation in any environment and allows

maximum sensory awareness for the user. Further, it allows for night-vision devices to be integrated with respiratory protective equipment. According to Mine Safety Appliances Co., the helmet provides maximum balance, stability and comfort, while providing the proper size, fit and ventilation.

I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in commemorating this valuable invention. Mine Safety Appliances Co. and their helmet have not only improved the lives of soldiers on the battle front but also the lives of the men and women on the home front in Western Pennsylvania.

HONORING FREEDOM RIDES

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 2004

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor the Freedom Ride efforts sought to accelerate changes in the South, which had been so inadequately brought about in the courts. As a 13-year-old boy in Bolton, MS, I can recall the surmounted tension in the State of Mississippi in 1961. In tribute to the freedom riders, I would like to submit the following excerpt from Juan Williams' Eyes on the Prize.

In 1947, the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) planned a "Journey of Reconciliation," designed to test the Supreme Court's 1946 decision in the Irene Morgan case, which declared segregated seating of interstate passengers unconstitutional. An interracial group of passengers met with heavy resistance in the upper South. Some members of the group served on a chain gang after their arrest in North Carolina. The Journey of Reconciliation quickly broke down. Clearly the South, even the more moderate upper South, was not ready for integration.

Nearly a decade and a half later, John F. Kennedy was elected president, in large part due to widespread support among blacks who believed that Kennedy was more sympathetic to the civil rights movement than his opponent, Richard Nixon. Once in office, however, Kennedy proved less committed to the movement than he had appeared during the campaign. To test the president's commitment to civil rights, CORE proposed a new Journey of Reconciliation, dubbed the "Freedom Ride." The strategy was the same: an interracial group would board buses destined for the South. The whites would sit in the back and the blacks in the front. At rest stops, the whites would go into blacks-only areas and vice versa. "This was not civil disobedience, really," explained CORE director James Farmer, "because we [were] merely doing what the Supreme Court said we had a right to do." But the Freedom Riders expected to meet resistance. "We felt we could count on the racists of the South to create a crisis so that the federal government would be compelled to enforce the law," said Farmer. "When we began the ride I think all of us were prepared for as much violence as could be thrown at us. We were prepared for the possibility of death."

The Freedom Ride left Washington DC on May 4, 1961. It was scheduled to arrive in New Orleans on May 17, the seventh anniversary of the Brown decision. Unlike the original Journey of Reconciliation, the Freedom Ride met little resistance in the upper South.

On Mother's Day, May 14, the Freedom Riders split up into two groups to travel

through Alabama. The first group was met by a mob of about 200 angry people in Anniston. The mob stoned the bus and slashed the tires. The bus managed to get away, but when it stopped about six miles out of town to change the tires, it was firebombed. The other group did not fare any better. It was greeted by a mob in Birmingham, and the Riders were severely beaten. Birmingham's Public Safety Commissioner, Bull Connor, claimed he posted no officers at the bus depot because of the holiday; however, it was later discovered that the FBI knew of the planned attack and that the city police stayed away on purpose. Alabama governor John Patterson offered no apologies, explaining, "When you go somewhere looking for trouble, you usually find it You just can't guarantee the safety of a fool and that's what these folks are, just fools."

Despite the violence, the Freedom Riders were determined to continue. Jim Peck, a white who had fifty stitches from the beatings he received, insisted, "I think it is particularly important at this time when it has become national news that we continue and show that nonviolence can prevail over violence." The bus company, however, did not want to risk losing another bus to a bombing, and its drivers, who were all white, did not want to risk their lives. After two days of unsuccessful negotiations, the Freedom Riders, fearing for their safety, flew to New Orleans. It appeared that the Freedom Ride was over.

At that point, however, a group of Nashville sit-in students decided to go to Birmingham and continue the Freedom Ride. Diane Nash, who helped organize the group, later explained, "If the Freedom Riders had been stopped as a result of violence, I strongly felt that the future of the movement was going to be cut short. The impression would have been that whenever a movement starts, all [you have to do] is attack it with massive violence and the blacks [will] stop." The Nashville students traveled to Birmingham and asked the bus company to let them use their buses. Attorney general Kennedy also leaned on the bus company and the Birmingham police. He was determined to enforce the Supreme Court's decision that called for integration of interstate travel, and he worried that if the Nashville students remained in Birmingham much longer, violence might erupt. On May 17, the Birmingham police arrested the Nashville Freedom Riders and placed them in protective custody. At 2 AM on Friday, the police drove the Riders back to Tennessee, dumping them by the side of the highway at the state line. After they got a ride back to Nashville, 100 miles away, they went right back to Birmingham.

Meanwhile, Governor Patterson agreed to meet with John Seigenthaler, a Justice Department aide and a native of Tennessee. In the meeting, Floyd Mann, head of the state highway patrol, agreed to protect the Freedom Riders in between Birmingham. Attorney General Robert Kennedy then pressured the Greyhound bus company, which finally agreed to carry the Riders. The Freedom Riders left Birmingham on Saturday, May 20. State police promised "that a private plane would fly over the bus, and there would be a state patrol car every fifteen or twenty miles along the highway between Birmingham and Montgomery—about ninety miles," recalled Freedom Rider John Lewis. Police protection, however, disappeared as the Freedom Riders entered the Montgomery city limits. The bus terminal was quiet. "And then, all of a sudden, just like magic, white people everywhere," said Freedom Rider Frederick Leonard. The Riders considered leaving by the back of the bus in hopes that the mob would not be quite as vicious.