

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2005

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to participate in the following vote. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall vote 182, on May 18, 2005, on Agreeing to the Resolution H. Res. 283, Providing for the consideration of H.R. 1817, Department of Homeland Security Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006, I would have voted "yes."

BULGARIA—AN ALLY AND FRIEND

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2005

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Republic of Bulgaria on its continued—and unwavering—support of the United States both in Iraq and Afghanistan. I am particularly encouraged by Bulgaria's commitment in Iraq. In defiance of great pressure to withdraw its troops, Bulgaria has stood shoulder-to-shoulder with the United States in bringing freedom and democracy to the Iraqi people.

One need only look to Bulgaria's past to recognize the significance of its actions now. A former Soviet bloc country, Bulgaria was a cold war adversary of the United States. Since the fall of the Soviet Union, however, Bulgaria has revitalized its economy, entered the world market, and contributed to peacekeeping operations around the globe. Indeed, bold steps supported by a profound vision for the future, have resulted in great progress. Today, Bulgaria is one of the newest members of NATO, and it is finalizing its accession to the European Union.

Perhaps the most striking illustration of Bulgaria's evolution from cold war adversary to strategic ally, is its willingness to actively promote democracy beyond its borders—particularly in Iraq. As a member of the United Nations Security Council during the Iraq debate, Bulgaria voted with the United States concerning the use of military force in Iraq. Bulgaria also routinely grants to the United States the use of its airspace, and has offered ground, air, and naval basing rights.

Most importantly, however, Bulgaria has contributed to bringing peace and democracy to Iraq not only through its words, but through its sacrifices.

Bulgaria has 500 troops in Iraq and has suffered 8 deaths there. Yet it remains resolute. On the day that two Bulgarian contractors were murdered in Iraq, the Bulgarian Government recommitted its support and later increased its troop level. The surest way to establish peace is to stand up to the terrorists and not turn and run, which encourages more terrorist barbarism.

For Bulgaria, this is not an insignificant commitment. This Eastern European country is one of the least developed to contribute troops to the Coalition, and doing so has greatly impacted the nation's economy. Yet despite its limited resources, Bulgarian troops have re-

built hospitals and schools, restored power and water, and provided security to numerous towns and villages—considerable accomplishments for a country that itself is a budding democracy.

Some have belittled the Coalition as simply a reporting of numbers. This disparages the great sacrifices made in Iraq by smaller nations such as Bulgaria. To the contrary, it is the contribution of these smaller nations that signals to the Iraqi people that even those nations less fortunate than the world's superpowers care deeply about the future of Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, I for one, am deeply grateful to our Bulgarian friends, and I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing and commending this United States ally for its sacrifices and continuing commitments in Iraq and Afghanistan. I know firsthand of this service having visited with Bulgarian troops in Afghanistan and my oldest son, U.S. Army Captain Alan Wilson, was eager to meet his Bulgarian colleagues during his year-long tour last fall in Iraq.

I thank you Bulgaria for your friendship to the United States, and together, we will never forget the attacks of September 11th, 2001.

"THE YOUNG AND THE JOBLESS"

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2005

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, one of the most troubling aspects of our current economic situation is the eroding position of a very large number of working people. While I was pleasantly surprised by the relatively high number of jobs created in April, the fact is that job creation during this recovery period has significantly lagged both historical experience in recovery, and the projections of the Bush Administration. Even more distressing is that those who have gotten jobs are being paid at rates which are historically low in real terms. Distressingly, inequality in our society is increasing even as our wealth increases, and as Alan Greenspan noted a year ago, a disproportionately large share of the increased wealth has gone to corporate profits and very little to compensation paid in wages and salaries.

In a recent New York Times article, Bob Herbert does an excellent job of documenting this problem, quoting from the excellent report from the Center for Labor Market Studies at Northeastern University in Boston. Andrew Sum, the Director of that center, is appropriately quoted in that article as noting that in the current economic phase, "younger workers have just been crushed." I admire the work that Andrew Sum is doing and I appreciate Bob Herbert's giving this the broader exposure to which it is entitled. In furtherance of this need to understand what is happening in our economy today, I ask that Mr. Herbert's article be printed here.

[From the New York Times]

THE YOUNG AND THE JOBLESS

(By Bob Herbert)

There were high fives at the White House last week when the latest monthly employment report showed that 274,000 jobs had been created in April, substantially more, than experts had predicted.

The employment bar has been set so low for the Bush administration that even a modest gain is cause for celebration. But we shouldn't be blinded by the flash of last Saturday's headlines. American workers, especially younger workers, remain stuck in a gloomy employment landscape.

For example, a recent report from the Center for Labor Market Studies at Northeastern University in Boston tells us that the employment rate for the nation's teenagers in the first 11 months of 2004—just 36.3 percent was the lowest it has ever been since the federal government began tracking teenage employment in 1948.

Those 20 to 24 years old are also faring poorly. In 2000, 72.2 percent were employed during a typical month. By last year that percentage had dropped to 67.9 percent.

Even the recent modest surge in jobs has essentially bypassed young American workers. Gains among recently arrived immigrants seem to have accounted for the entire net increase in jobs from 2000 through 2004.

Over all, only workers 55 and up have done reasonably well over the past few years. "Younger workers," said Andrew Sum, the center's director, "have just been crushed."

Whatever the politicians and the business-booster types may be saying, the simple truth is that there are not nearly enough jobs available for the many millions of out-of-work or underworked men and women who need them. The wages of those who are employed are not even keeping up with inflation.

Workers have been so cowed by an environment in which they are so obviously dispensable that they have been afraid to ask for the raises they deserve, or for their share of the money derived from the remarkable increases in worker productivity over the past few years. And from one coast to the other, workers have swallowed draconian cuts in benefits with scarcely a whimper.

Some segments of the population have been all but completely frozen out. In Chicago, only one of every 10 black teenagers found employment in 2004. In Illinois, fewer than one in every three teenage high school dropouts are working.

Last month's increase of 274,000 jobs was barely enough to keep up with the increase in the nation's working-age population.

"The economy is growing and real output is up," said Mr. Sum, who is also a professor at Northeastern. "But the distribution of income, in terms of how much is going to workers—well, the answer is very little has gone to the typical worker."

The squeeze on the younger generation of workers is so tight that in many cases the young men and women of today are faring less well than their parents' generation did at a similar age. Professor Sum has been comparing the standard of living of contemporary families with that of comparable families three decades ago.

"Two-thirds of this generation are not living up to their parents' standard of living," he said.

College graduates today are doing better in real economic terms than college graduates in the 1970's. But everyone else is doing less well. "If you look at families headed by someone without a college degree," said Professor Sum, "their income last year in real terms was below that of a comparable family in 1973. For dropouts it's like 25 percent below where it was. And for high school grads, about 15 to 20 percent below."

It shouldn't be surprising that the standard of living of large segments of the population is sinking when employers have all the clout, including the powerful and unwavering support of the federal government. Workers can't even get a modest increase in the national minimum wage.

Globalization was supposed to be great for everyone. Nafta was supposed to be a boon. Increased productivity was supposed to be the ultimate tool—the sine qua non—for raising the standard of living for all.

Instead, wealth and power in the United States has become ever more dangerously concentrated, leaving an entire generation of essentially powerless workers largely at the mercy of employers.

A remark by Louis Brandeis comes to mind: “We can have democracy in this country, or we can have great wealth concentrated in the hands of a few. But we can’t have both.”

HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED
SERVICE OF MILLARD OAKLEY

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2005

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding support that Livingston, Tennessee, resident Millard Oakley has shown his community and the education of its children. In fact, Millard is being honored by Volunteer State Community College as its Friend of the Year this weekend for his unprecedented support of the college and higher education.

Millard is a lifelong resident of Livingston who prospered after receiving a first-rate education in the community’s public school systems and at nearby Tennessee Technological University and Cumberland University School of Law. A successful attorney and businessman who remembers his humble beginnings, Millard recently made a significant contribution for capital improvements at the Livingston campus of Vol State. He also established the Oakley First National Foundation, which awards full scholarships to Overton County students attending Vol State, Tennessee Technological University or the Tennessee Technology Center.

Millard’s life is a prime example of what a good education and the proper motivation can do for a country boy raised in the rural hills of Tennessee. He has served in the Tennessee General Assembly, as the state’s Insurance Commissioner, in the state’s Constitutional Convention, as the Overton County Attorney and as the general counsel of the U.S. House of Representative’s Select Committee on Small Business. He presently serves on the board of directors of the First National Banks of Tennessee in Livingston, Cookeville and Crossville, and of Thomas Nelson Publishers, the world’s largest Bible-publishing company.

I cannot count the times I have sought Millard’s advice on a wide range of issues. He has always given me his honest opinion and wise counsel, and I sincerely thank him for that. Millard is a true friend to me, his community and the Overton County students who benefit from his generosity. Once again, I congratulate Millard for his unselfish devotion to his community and to those who seek a better life through education.

STATEMENT OF CONGRESSWOMAN
ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON ON
THE ANACOSTIA WATERSHED
ACT OF 2005

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2005

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the first comprehensive clean-up plan for the Anacostia River. It has been called the “forgotten river,” “a neighborhood river,” “the dirtiest river in America” and an especially appropriate name would be the congressional river. The current original cosponsors include Representatives JIM MORAN, TOM DAVIS, CHRIS VAN HOLLEN, ROBERT BRADY, ED MARKEY, ALBERT WYNN, and RAUL GRIJALVA and I expect additional regional members who signed on when I originally introduced the bill during the last Congress to do so again. The Anacostia River flows within 2,000 yards of the Capitol Dome. For years the Anacostia River and region have been associated with blight and despair. Like many cities across America in the past few years that have developed their waterfronts, the District of Columbia government has decided to end the underutilization of the riverfront by creating the Anacostia Waterfront Initiative, dedicated to developing the Anacostia waterfront. However before development and hope can be brought to this area of the city, the river must be cleaned up. If the river is cleaned, it could be a very important economic development asset for the entire region. With a cleaned up river, visions of restaurants, parks, office buildings and pedestrian walkways will become a reality.

The bill introduced today would amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to establish a program within the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) known as the “Anacostia Watershed Restoration Initiative.” This initiative would create an “Anacostia Watershed Council,” composed of the EPA Administrator, the Secretary of the Army, the Secretary of the Interior, the Mayor of the District of Columbia, the Governor of Maryland, the Governor of Virginia and the County Executives of Montgomery and Prince George’s County. The primary responsibility of the council would be to develop an action plan for the restoration, protection, and enhancement of the environmental integrity and social and economic benefits of the Anacostia watershed. Several federal agencies, such as the Departments of Interior, Agriculture, Transportation, the EPA, and Army Corps of Engineers would be involved in the development and implementation of the action plan. This bill also calls for \$3 million for each of 10 years to be authorized for use by the EPA, and \$1 million for each of 10 years would be authorized for the other agencies. The strong Federal involvement in the bill reflects not only the location of the river, but also that Federal facilities represent the major source of its pollution.

This vital piece of legislation also would amend the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) to authorize \$150 million to repair and upgrade the District’s inadequate combined sewer overflow system, a critical part of cleaning up the river. The District’s combined sewer system was designed and constructed by the Army Corps of Engineers 160 years ago. The sewer system services Federal

downtown DC, including the Capitol complex. As such, the Federal Government is directly responsible for the sewage and pollution that drains into the Anacostia River on a daily basis. I had secured a \$35 million authorization in last Congress’s WRDA bill in 2003, but the Senate never acted. This year I have requested \$150 million, even though this amount is not enough to help the District address the combined sewer overflow problem. However, this authorization will be a major step toward correcting a serious problem.

This bill also will be the first step in bringing real hope to a region often referred to as “east of the river”. With this bill, this once neglected region of our Nation’s capital will become a thriving gathering place for tourists and residents of this region. 60 Minutes recently captured the story of the young people who are cleaning up the Anacostia River in a moving segment entitled “Endangered Species.” These young members of the Earth Conservation Corps (ECC) are working not only to clean up the river but to “empower our endangered youth to reclaim the Anacostia River, their communities, and their lives.” With the Anacostia River as their classroom, the ECC has been able to achieve positive strides, both environmentally and socially. There is more we can do to support and expand their efforts and help Anacostia to become the jewel of the District of Columbia.

IN HONOR OF JOSÉ C. CAYÓN
DIÉGUEZ

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2005

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor José C. Cayón Diéguez, an accomplished Cuban-American journalist who has dedicated his career to reporting on and promoting issues important to the Hispanic community. Mr. Cayón Diéguez is the founder of *El Tiempo de Nuevo York*, New Jersey and Miami.

Launched in 1963, this weekly newspaper offers stories and insight into the lives of Hispanics throughout the United States. Mr. Cayón Diéguez has served as the director and guiding force behind this New York-based publication for the past 33 years. During that time, he has proven himself to be an outstanding leader and a strong voice within the Hispanic community. As the manager and contributing editor of the paper, Mr. Cayón Diéguez has become a spokesman for the causes important to community organizations such as the Puerto Rican Parade Committee, the Puerto Rican Folklore Festival, the Columbian Civic Center, and the Dominican Cultural Civic Center, among others. In addition to his work with *El Tiempo de Nuevo York*, New Jersey and Miami, he was also the editor for the first Hispanic Guide to New Jersey and New York.

Mr. Cayón Diéguez is an active member of the community, who volunteers his time and takes on leadership roles in a multitude of organizations. In the past he has served as treasurer of the National Federation of Hispanic Owned Newspapers, vice-president of the Hispanic Media Council, director of art and columnist for the *Diario Hispanoamericano*,