

Neal served as a trusted aide and confidante to six mayors of Chicago over the past 50 years, which included Richard J. Daley, Bilandic, Byrne, Washington, Sawyer and Richard M. Daley. Earl was responsible for using his law background to find common ground with the community and the city.

Born in Chicago in 1929, Mr. Neal's future was guided by his educational path, which included Englewood High School, the University of Illinois and the University of Michigan Law School.

In 1975, Neal was appointed the first African American president of the University of Illinois Board of Trustees. A man who approached obstacles as opportunities, Neal attended the U. of I during a time in the 40s when African Americans were not allowed to live in the dorms or eat in the campus food halls. Throughout his life, Neal consistently rose from the bottom to the top, leaving an indelible impression along the way.

In 1983, Earl Neal was appointed chairman of the board of the First Federal Savings and Loan. He served on several business and civic boards and his legal career included more than 200 jury trials.

Many people leave legacies that you just hear about. Earl Neal has left a legacy that's tangible and will be experienced for many years to come.

RECOGNIZING ST. VINCENT DE  
PAUL CENTER

**HON. RAHM EMANUEL**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 17, 2005*

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in proud recognition of the St. Vincent de Paul Center on the occasion of its 2005 Fleur de Lis Ball—an annual charity dinner to benefit underprivileged children, seniors and the homeless in the city of Chicago.

The St. Vincent de Paul Center is a pillar of our community and a shining example of public service for the Nation. For the past 90 years, the Center's dedicated staff—led by Dr. Renard I. Jackson, Chief Executive Officer, and Sister Catherine Mary Norris, Site Director—has established a strong record in meeting the daily challenges faced by low-income families and disadvantaged individuals in our community. The Center's programs cover a broad array of services from day care services for children through health care programs for the elderly.

The Center's child care programs, for example, serve low-income families by providing a safe and enriching environment for children, giving parents the time to enroll in job training classes and pursue employment opportunities. The Center's social services programs offer violence prevention, family counseling and support groups.

The homeless outreach programs provide day-to-day essentials such as food and clothing, counseling services, job search assistance and a mailbox for those who do not have their own addresses. Additionally, the senior services program assists Chicago's elderly with health care and money management decisions, and provides social interaction and friendship for isolated seniors.

The wide variety and high caliber of services offered by the St. Vincent de Paul Center

serve as a national model of community outreach and are made possible by the selfless contributions of 3,200 volunteers who commit 50,000 hours of service annually. This strong sense of community service continues today in the new Center located at the corner of Webster and Halsted Streets in Chicago.

I commend the dedicated people at the St. Vincent de Paul Center for their faithful service to our community, and I wish them continued success in meeting the needs of disadvantaged Chicagoans well into the future.

BLACK HISTORY TRIBUTE TO  
JOHN E. BROWN

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 17, 2005*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, throughout the month of February, I would like to recognize outstanding African Americans of the 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi, and their contribution to Black History. The 23 counties of the 2nd District are well represented from both a local and national perspective.

Americans have recognized black history annually since 1926, first as "Negro History Week" and later as "Black History Month." In fact, black history had barely begun to be studied—or even documented—when the tradition originated. Although blacks have been in America as far back as colonial times, it was not until the 20th century that they gained a presence in our history books.

Though scarcely documented in history books, if at all, the crucial role African Americans have played in the development of our nation must not be overlooked.

I would like to recognize John E. Brown of Madison County, Mississippi, born October 22, 1949. Mr. Brown attended Canton public schools and graduated from Rogers High School in 1968 and graduated from Tougaloo College in 1974 with a B.A. degree in Sociology. Additionally, he received his M.S. degree in Environmental Education from the University of Michigan in 1975.

For the past 25 years Mr. Brown has served the people of his community as an advocate for social change and community development. For the past 10 years, Mr. Brown has served as President of the Canton Branch of the NAACP. Currently, he serves as CEO of Madison County Union for Progress. Mr. Brown is a member of Pleasant Green Church of Christ Holiness where he serves as a member of the Board of Deacons.

I take great pride in recognizing and paying tribute to this outstanding African American of the 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi who deserves mention, not only in the month of February but year round.

SUPPORTING NORMAL TRADE RE-  
LATIONS TREATMENT FOR  
UKRAINE—H.R. 885

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 17, 2005*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join the gentleman from Illinois,

Chairman HENRY HYDE, in sponsoring this important and timely legislation that would grant Ukraine normal trade relations status. With the historic triumph of Ukraine's peaceful Orange Revolution President Viktor Yushchenko's determination to consolidate democracy in Ukraine, the time has come to graduate Ukraine from the provisions of the Jackson-Vanik amendment to the Trade Act of 1974. Since 1992, Ukraine has been certified annually as meeting Jackson-Vanik requirements on freedom of emigration.

As Co-Chairman of the Helsinki Commission, I have closely monitored developments and actively encouraged progress in Ukraine with respect to democracy, human rights and the rule of law. Since independence, Ukraine has made considerable progress as a participating State of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in ensuring religious liberties and respect for national minorities. Normal trade relations status is especially warranted given Ukraine's embrace of freedom and the new government's active steps to promote reform and build a genuinely democratic future for this important partner.

Congress has been supportive of Ukraine's efforts to develop as an independent, democratic and economically prosperous country that respects human rights and the rule of law, enjoys good relations with its neighbors, and integrates with the Euro-Atlantic community of nations. Today, Ukraine is positioned to realize these goals under leadership committed to democracy at home and beyond. No doubt there are significant challenges ahead. The granting of NTR to Ukraine would represent a tangible expression of support for the new government in Ukraine as they move ahead on their important historic agenda for change. President Yushchenko and the people of Ukraine deserve our support.

ARTICLE PUBLISHED BY RICHARD  
GILMORE

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 17, 2005*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call your attention to the following article, written by my constituent, Richard Gilmore. Mr. Gilmore is the President and CEO of the GIC Group. The GIC Group combines experience and strength in research, analysis, and marketing with financial services and asset management. They are able to offer this expertise to the agribusiness and biotechnology industries to gain access to global and domestic markets, to add value to current agribusiness activities, and to identify new markets. This article is not necessarily a reflection of my views.

US FOOD SAFETY UNDER SIEGE?

(By Richard Gilmore)

When it comes to the prospect of an agroterrorist attack—the use of biological agents against crops, livestock, poultry and fish—US agriculture has rolled out the welcome mat. Integration and consolidation in the industry widen the potential impact of any single attack. Internationalization of the food chain offers limitless possibilities for human consumption contagions, as well as economic and political instabilities. To combat and anticipate potential attacks to the

US food chain, greater effort should be placed on designing new disease-resistant varieties of plants and livestock on the basis of genomic information. Stricter regulations and enforcement capabilities should be introduced not only at our borders but at the point of origin where food is grown, procured or processed for domestic consumption within the United States. At the same time, the United States must develop a comprehensive preparedness and prevention strategy of international proportions in close coordination with our trading partners and the private sector.

#### CHANGES IN FOOD PRODUCTION AND REGULATION

The US strategy of protection for the food system, as mapped out in the Homeland Security Presidential Directive/HSPD-9 of January 30, 2004, presupposes that in striving to protect production, processing, food storage and delivery systems within US territory, a credible line of defense will be created to protect the food chain and encourage a thriving agricultural economy. In fact, US agriculture has undergone dramatic change. For crops, 'farm to fork' no longer is confined to a regionally based agricultural system, but now encompasses a highly integrated and consolidated global undertaking. For livestock, 'hoof to home' now takes on a new meaning that includes a high concentration of production, specialization of calf operations, long distance shipping and massive feedlots averaging thousands of head marketed per facility, for both domestic and international consumption. These commercial developments have resulted in previously unimaginable production and handling efficiencies in domestic and export markets.

In 2001, over 70% of processed food in the United States was purchased from other countries, representing almost 30% of final gross product. Fifteen of the top 25 food and beverage companies in the global market are US owned, accounting for about 10% of the global market. US multinational companies account for roughly 6.5%. With greater consolidation on a global scale, interaffiliate trades account for an increasing portion of the value of the food chain. Like other nations, the United States is moving from self-sufficiency to an increasing dependence on other countries for its food supply.

At the same time, the US regulatory infrastructure for food safety is still a work in progress and is hobbled by overdependence on the private sector and underdependence on international cooperation. Whether it is a matter of detection, surveillance or information flow, the US government is currently dependent on the private sector for cooperation and support. To share information, government and industry have established the Food and Agriculture Information Sharing and Analysis Center (ISAC; Washington, DC, USA), which includes key industry association representatives, especially from the processed food and feed sectors.

The Bioterrorism Act of 2002 sets up tracking mechanisms whose effectiveness depends on industry self-reporting. New food import regulations issued by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA; Rockville, MD, USA) now require prior notification of eight hours for goods arriving by ship, four hours by rail or air and two hours by road. This dependence on the private sector is burdensome for companies and both insufficient and unreliable for ensuring the public's food safety concerns.

Current regulations have evolved since last December, after a reality check of the US government's enforcement capabilities along with industry's feedback and support. The initial regulations failed on both counts and the prospects for the latest regulations re-

main uncertain. FDA and the Customs & Border Protection Agency (Washington, DC, USA) still have not adequately funded the enforcement infrastructure nor trained personnel to ensure statistically random, uniform inspections under the new prenotification time frames. Industry is called upon to fill the breach but is still relatively unprepared, with insufficient resource commitment to comply fully with the latest regulations.

There remains a remarkable lack of consultation, joint surveillance and shared research with trading partners worldwide. Whether grits or pasta, the US diet still thrives on an international food supply chain. Similarly, food protection and terrorist prevention have to be internationalized, particularly given the advances that continental-wide Europe and Japan have achieved in this regard.

#### THE THREATS

Although no precedent exists for an agro-terrorist attack on the food chain, the dire consequences of natural outbreaks provide a glimpse of the potential damage that could be wrought. The scale of the foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) outbreaks in Taiwan in 1997 and in the UK in 2001 or the bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) epidemic in the United Kingdom from 1996 to 2002 was more devastating than previous epidemics because of the size and structure of modern agricultural production. Taiwan was forced to slaughter more than 8 million pigs and suspend its exports. In the United Kingdom, 4.2 million animals were destroyed in 2001 and 2002, with devastating economic consequences. The cost to Taiwan, a major supplier to Japan, was estimated to be over \$20 billion. In the United Kingdom, direct compensation payments alone amounted to approximately \$9.6 billion. Because of two major outbreaks of BSE, the United Kingdom slaughtered approximately 5.8 million head of cattle (30 months or older), with an impact of up to \$8 billion for the 2000-2001 occurrence alone. The 2003 Dutch outbreak of H7N7, a very pathogenic strain of avian influenza virus, resulted in the necessary culling of over 28 million birds out of a total of 100 million. These numbers pale in comparison to the estimates for a terrorist-induced pathogen release at the heart of the international food chain. The range is astonishing, from almost \$7 billion due to a contagion of Asiatic citrus canker on Florida's citrus fruit alone to \$27 billion in trade losses for FMD.

An array of pathogens could be introduced easily and effectively with assurance of widespread health, economic and political impacts. For livestock, the prime candidates are FMD and African swine fever (ASF). FMD is particularly attractive from a terrorist standpoint because it is a highly contagious viral infection with a morbidity rate of 100% in cattle. ASF is equally effective.

Next on the list are the zoonotic diseases, which offer a different strategy: using animals to infect humans. Brucellosis, though not fatal, results in chronic disease; some paramyxoviruses can be passed through direct contact with animals and feature a mortality rate in humans of 36%; certain arboviruses, such as Japanese encephalitis virus, which is spread by insect vectors, and cutaneous forms of anthrax could be readily introduced in the United States. Animal hides, an import item to the US, are a common carrier anthrax spores that can be readily inhaled and prove fatal for humans.

When it comes to crop pathogens, the list is equally long and ominous: stem rust for cereals and wheat, southern corn leaf blight, rice blast, potato blight, citrus canker and several nonspecific plant pathogens. Al-

though not transmittable to humans, these pathogens would cut a wide and devastating swathe in crop production.

It takes relatively few dollars and little imagination to introduce these deadly pathogens. Just like a crop duster or even hand spray pumps, aerosol would be an effective means to introduce the crop pathogen of choice on plants. A terrorist could also rely on cross border winds or water systems to carry a harmful pathogen from another country into the United States. For animals, the options could be somewhat more imaginative, such as dusting a turkey's feathers with a pathogen agent and then filling small bomblets with the feathers to explode over a targeted area, mushrooming contamination as the feathers drift with the wind to such likely targets as a high density avian population.

#### ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL IMPACT

Any agro-terrorist attack on the food chain would create marked economic instability and losses due to dislocational, trade and health effects. Every bushel of wheat, corn or soybeans (all staple food and feed items) in addition to beef carcasses and pork bellies, has a futures contract written in Chicago and on other exchanges in Europe, Asia and Latin America. These contracts are all written on margin positions, meaning that the financial losses on unfulfilled contracts would be a multiple of the contract itself. Apart from stocks, losses could be incurred as a result of the following: loss of business for freight-forwarding companies, cancellations of ocean freight, rail and truck hauls; insurance claims on cargoes; and abrogation of contracts up and down the food chain.

With only a partial and untested 'Bio-shield' system in place, one likely scenario is that US politicians would adopt a unilateral response to what is an international problem in the face of a bioterrorist attack. Whether it's cross-border winds or the globalization of our food chain, the fact remains that much of our own vulnerability rests with imported pathogens. The US cannot seal off its territory from these pathogens. By attempting to do so, the government would make matters worse in the absence of uniform international security and surveillance systems.

The appropriate counter-terrorist response requires a global security system for sharing research, findings and coordinating strategies with trading partners where the United States sources and sells much of its food. Present policies risk the kind of economic repercussions experienced with Japan in the aftermath of the three-day soybean embargo imposed by the United States in 1973, which became a major *shoku* in Japan's economic history. Concern over food security, rooted in the soybean embargo, inspired the first and ultimate line of defense in Japan's resistance to liberalizing international trade rules for the agricultural sector.

#### COUNTERATTACKS

The first priority to combat these threats is to invest in the creation of pathogen-resistant crops through genetic engineering. The National Plant Genome Initiative (Washington, DC, USA) is an international collaboration between academia and the private sector to build a plant genome research infrastructure targeted at sequencing model plant species and therefore identifying genes associated with disease resistance. Together with information concerning large-animal genomes—the cattle genome is anticipated soon—genomic information can be applied to develop new strains of plants and livestock resistant to animal and plant pathogens likely to be used by terrorists. The US Department of Agriculture's (Washington, DC, USA) newly sponsored research centers and other joint government and private sector

initiatives inside and outside the United States could also contribute to the search for resistant strains of livestock. In addition, short-term virus testing and monitoring measures can be adopted to address the problem of increased susceptibility of livestock to disease due to changes in cattle feeding and meatpacking. The discovery earlier in 2004 of a BSE-infected Holstein cow in the United States demonstrated that the monitoring and surveillance system in place is insufficient for rapid detection purposes.

There is also an immediate need for a stronger set of regulations that feature comprehensive coordination of research, detection and surveillance on both national and international fronts. Private industry partners in this undertaking must be treated equitably and fairly with a greater effort to broaden industry representation. The easiest step that can be taken to strengthen US defenses is to initiate and fund an intensive personnel training program to meet CBPA (Customs and Border Protection Agency) and FDA's ambitious program benchmarks for field operations, including port inspections, staffing and personal training, and industry registrations. We still lack uniform and consistent enforcement standards for industry and government agencies. Although that is the 15-year goal of the Automated Commercial Environment (ACE) run by the US Customs, nothing in place can accommodate different information and reporting systems in both the government and the private sector.

Longer term measures should include accelerated research programs and an integration and internationalization of policy planning and enforcement. Although the target is to create a practical system of defense for the US food chain, new endeavors to foil terrorists also can result in a broader international system of preparedness. Lifting the siege is the first step to defeating the aggressors.

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RECOGNIZING THE FAIRFAX COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2005 VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS

**HON. TOM DAVIS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 17, 2005*

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. WOLF and I rise today to recognize an outstanding group of men and women in Northern Virginia. As many may know, the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce annually recognizes individuals who have demonstrated superior dedication to public safety with the prestigious Valor Award. Several members of the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office have earned this highest honor that Fairfax County bestows upon its public safety officials.

There are several types of Valor Awards that are awarded to a public safety officer: The Lifesaving Award, the Certificate of Valor, or the Gold, Silver, or Bronze medal of Valor. During the 27th Annual Awards Ceremony, 61 men and women from the Office of the Sheriff, Fire and Rescue Department, and the Police Department received one of the aforementioned honors for their bravery and heroism.

It is with great honor that we enter into the RECORD the names of the recipients of the 2005 Valor Awards in the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office. Receiving the Certificate of Valor: Officer Dwayne Archer; Private First Class Duane A. Cohenour; the Life Saving Award: Private First Class Sharon L. Douglas; Master Deputy Sheriff Andrew B. Duvall; Private First Class Peter J. Fox; Private First Class Timothy A. Haynes; Private First Class Amy K. Lewis; Deputy Anthony A. McGhie; Private First Class Leslie A. Sheehan; Private First Class Jamilah Suarez.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all the men and women who serve in the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office. Their efforts, made on behalf of the citizens of Fairfax County, are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. We ask our colleagues to join me in applauding this group of remarkable citizens.