

Federal Savings & Loan Insurance Corporation, and the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation. He has also served as the presidential-appointed director of the Federal National Mortgage Association. Following his federal service, he returned to Indianapolis where he was instrumental in securing federal grants for the revitalization of Indianapolis neighborhoods, most notably the 29th Street corridor on the Near Westside.

Bob McKinney was appointed by U.S. Senator EVAN BAYH to the Naval & Merchant Marine Academy Selection Committee, and by the Speaker of the Indiana House of Representatives to the Government Efficiency Commission of the State of Indiana.

Our honoree is a member of the Presidential Advisory Board for Cuba and director of the minority investment fund Lynx Capital Corporation. He is a trustee of the Hudson Institute, the U.S. Naval Academy Foundation, the Indiana University Foundation, and the Sierra Club Foundation.

In our mutual hometown of Indianapolis, Bob McKinney is the director of several civic organizations including the Indianapolis Economic Club, the Indianapolis and Indiana Chambers of Commerce, and the Indianapolis Committee on Foreign Relations, as well as the Chief Executives Organization and the World Presidents' Organization. He has served as director of the Young Lawyers Section of the ABA, director of the Indiana State Bar, and treasurer and director of the Indianapolis Bar Association.

McKinney is the recipient of the 1994 Junior Achievement Central Indiana Business Hall of Fame Award, the 1995 Hoosier Heritage Award, the 1999 Indiana University Academy of Law Alumni Fellows Award, and the 2000 Indianapolis Archdiocese Spirit of Service Award, and, well, he's just a very nice guy.

Robert McKinney's involvement in national politics began when he became the Indiana chair of John F. Kennedy's presidential committee. He has subsequently served as chairman of the Indiana presidential campaigns of Candidates Muskie, Carter, and Mondale, serving also as a member of the Indiana delegations to the National Democratic Conventions beginning in 1972.

Bob McKinney and his wife Arlene "Skip" McKinney live in Indianapolis and have five children and five grandchildren. On behalf of my fellow citizens of Indianapolis and the Seventh Congressional District of Indiana, I thank this great man for his service to our country and his warm friendship to me. Knowing Bob McKinney as I do, I am sure his retirement means even more work for his community and his company. That said, I wish him continued happiness with his wonderful wife "Skip" and the rest of his family during a long, long time in his brand of retirement.

THE ROLE OF LIBRARIES IN HEALTH COMMUNICATION

HON. JOHN J.H. "JOE" SCHWARZ

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the role of librar-

ies in addressing the health information needs of the American people. In doing so, I also recognize the U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, NCLIS, for its efforts in encouraging libraries to play a key role in educating American citizens about healthy lifestyles.

The Commission is a permanent, independent agency of the United States Government, established with Public Law 91-345, 20 U.S.C. 150 et seq. signed July 20, 1970. The law includes the following statement of policy:

SEC. 2. The Congress hereby affirms that library and information services adequate to meet the needs of the people of the United States are essential to achieve national goals and to utilize most effectively the Nation's educational resources and that the Federal Government will cooperate with State and local governments and public and private agencies in assuring optimum provision of such services.

The Commission's purpose is stated in the legislation: "The Commission shall have the primary responsibility for developing or recommending overall plans for, and advising the appropriate governments and agencies on, the policy set forth in section 2." As its first function, the Commission is charged to advise the President and the Congress on the implementation of national policy with respect to library and information science.

One of the Commission's current goals is to strengthen the relevance of the libraries and information science in the lives of the American people. Toward this goal, the Commission has undertaken an initiative designed to recognize libraries as their communities' knowledge source for consumer health information.

The overarching objective of this initiative, referred to as the NCLIS Libraries and Health Communication Initiative, is to identify best practices in libraries that excel in providing health information, and to publish these best practices for the benefit of all library managers and information providers. As part of this effort, and to meet its statutory responsibility, the Commission will then provide policy advice to the President and the Congress recommending how national policy in this area can be implemented.

In order to identify best practices, the Commission has developed an awards program that recognizes libraries that have successfully created or participated in exemplary programs in the delivery of consumer health information. On May 2, at a reception at the National Agricultural Library in Beltsville, MD the Commission will announce a major award. This award, the 2006 NCLIS Health Award for Libraries, is designed to mobilize the resources of libraries to help citizens learn how to live healthy lifestyles and to provide citizens with consumer health information, particularly when they require health information in a critical or unusual situation. The purpose of the award is to encourage libraries to put forward their best efforts in matching the Nation's critical need for authoritative, unbiased, and readily available consumer health information with a practical means of responding to that need. Libraries in every community are already providing citizens with a wide variety of consumer-focused information. The provision of consumer health information falls naturally in libraries' information-delivery function.

This Commission initiative is of particular benefit to the American people, for it provides citizens with quality consumer health information through their libraries, trusted sources of information that are already acknowledged and respected for the quality of the information they provide. We already know that health information that results in lifestyle improvements lowers costs for health care. Additionally, the initiative will benefit the entire library and information science profession and related profession, businesses, and industries, as it provides documented best practices that can be adapted and replicated and, when required, customized for particular local needs. As stated above, a specific product of the initiative will be the development of a recommended statement of policy on the subject of libraries as health communication centers for American citizens, to be delivered to the President and the Congress as required by Pub. L. 91-345.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO CLEAR TITLE TO TWO PARCELS OF LAND LOCATED ALONG THE RIO GRANDE IN ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Albuquerque Biological Park Title Clarification Act on behalf of myself and Representative UDALL and Representative PEARCE. This legislation would assist the City of Albuquerque, New Mexico (City) clear title to two parcels of land located along the Rio Grande.

The Albuquerque Biological Park is a distinctive environmental museum comprising four facilities: Albuquerque Aquarium, Rio Grande Botanic Garden, Rio Grande Zoo and Tingley Beach Aquatic Park. In 1997, as part of an effort to improve these facilities, the City purchased two properties from the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District (MRGCD) for \$3,875,000.

The City had been leasing the first property, Tingley Beach, from MRGCD since 1931. The City had been leasing the second property, San Gabriel Park, from the MRGCD since 1963. Both properties had been used as public parks.

In 2000, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation interrupted the City's plans when it asserted that it had acquired ownership of all of MRGCD's property associated with the Middle Rio Grande Project in 1953. This called into question the validity the City's title to the properties. The City cannot move forward with its plans to improve the properties until the titles are cleared.

The legislation is narrowly drafted to affect only the two properties at issue and leaves the main dispute concerning title to project works for the courts to decide. This important legislation will allow the City to move forward with a project that will provide residents and visitors with exciting new recreational opportunities.

U.N. SECRETARY-GENERAL KOFI ANNAN SEEKS MAJOR CHANGES IN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

**TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2005*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call my colleagues' attention to a courageous speech given on April 7 by my good friend, United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan, to Delegates attending this year's U.N. Human Rights Commission in Geneva. In this speech the Secretary-General outlined his plans to shut down the hopelessly discredited forum and replace it with a smaller Human Rights Council that is explicitly intended to exclude human rights violators like the Sudan, Zimbabwe, and Cuba.

During the past few years, many of us in the House of Representatives have been outraged that the designated global forum for identifying and censuring the world's most egregious violators of basic human rights had become a haven for the world's worst tyrannies. Thus it is refreshing to see that Secretary-General Annan has recognized that its overhaul must be an integral piece of U.N. structural reform. In his speech to the Commission in Geneva last week, the Secretary-General called on the U.N. to do more to promote and protect fundamental rights and freedoms by stating that "unless we re-make our human rights machinery, we may be unable to renew public confidence in the United Nations itself." He also asserted that "At the same time, the Commission's ability to perform its tasks has been overtaken by new needs, and undermined by the politicization of its sessions and the selectivity of its work. We have reached a point at which the Commission's declining credibility has cast a shadow on the reputation of the United Nations system as a whole, and where piecemeal reforms will not be enough."

As Members of Congress, we have an opportunity to demonstrate U.S. leadership by helping the U.N. address today's most critical human rights challenges. I commend the Secretary-General's recommendations to create a more efficient and accountable human rights body and urge you to join me in supporting his efforts. In the coming weeks and months I will be working with my colleagues in the International Relations Committee, with the Secretary-General and with the Administration to ensure that the Secretary-General's bold plans to restructure the U.N.'s human rights mechanisms are implemented in a way that supports his goals.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the entire text of the Secretary-General's historic address be placed in the RECORD.

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S ADDRESS TO THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS, GENEVA, APRIL 7, 2005

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Like you I am deeply conscious of what we have all lost with the passing of Pope John Paul II. His was an irreplaceable voice speaking out for peace, for religious freedom, and for mutual respect and understanding between people of different faiths. Even as we mourn his loss, I hope all of us who are concerned with human rights can pledge ourselves to preserve those aspects of his legacy.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, One year ago today, we stood together in this Commission in silent tribute to the memory

of the victims of genocide in Rwanda. We recalled again our collective failure to protect hundreds of thousands of defenseless people. And we resolved to act more decisively to ensure that such a denial of our common humanity is never allowed to happen again.

Today we have reached another moment when we must prove our commitment.

First, because of the appalling suffering in Darfur. Valiant efforts have been made to deliver humanitarian assistance. I am glad the Security Council has now agreed, both to impose sanctions on individuals who commit violations of international humanitarian or human rights law, and to ask the International Criminal Court to play its essential role in lifting the veil of impunity and holding to account those accused of war crimes and crimes against humanity. And I think we should all be grateful to the troops deployed by the African Union, whose presence—wherever it is felt—is definitely helping to protect the population from further crimes. But in its present form that force is clearly not sufficient to provide security throughout such a vast territory. And meanwhile, there has been hardly any progress towards a political settlement. For all of us, as individuals and as an institution, this situation is a test. For thousands of men, women and children, our response is already too late.

But today I am also thinking of victims whose plight is not so well known. I have in mind the weak, the poor and the vulnerable. I am thinking of all people who are denied their human rights, or who may yet fall prey to violence and oppression. To all, our responsibility under the Charter is clear: we must do more to promote and protect fundamental rights and freedoms, whenever and wherever they occur.

Indeed, nobody has a monopoly on human rights virtue. Abuses are found in rich countries as well as poor. Women in a wide range of countries continue to enjoy less than their full rights. Whether committed in the name of religion, ethnicity or state security, violations have a claim on our conscience. Whether carried out in public or in more insidious ways, breaches must compel us to stand up for the right of all human beings to be treated with dignity and respect.

Human rights are at the core of the package of proposals I have just put before the Member States in my report, "In Larger Freedom." I argue that we will not enjoy development without security, or security without development. But I also stress that we will not enjoy either without universal respect for human rights. Unless all these causes are advanced, none will succeed. And unless we re-make our human rights machinery, we may be unable to renew public confidence in the United Nations itself.

The cause of human rights has entered a new era. For much of the past 60 years, our focus has been on articulating, codifying and enshrining rights. That effort produced a remarkable framework of laws, standards and mechanisms—the Universal Declaration, the international covenants, and much else. Such work needs to continue in some areas. But the era of declaration is now giving way, as it should, to an era of implementation.

The recommendations I have put forward reflect this evolution. Most of all, they attempt to build a United Nations that can fulfill the promise of the Charter. Thus I have proposed major changes in the three central pillars of the United Nations human rights system: the treaty bodies, the Office of the High Commissioner and the inter-governmental machinery. Let me take them each in turn.

The seven treaty bodies are the independent guardians of the rights and protections that have been negotiated and accepted

over the years. Their dialogue with States emphasizes accountability, and their recommendations provide clear guidance on the steps needed for full compliance. The treaty body system has helped to create national constituencies for the implementation of human rights. But the system must be streamlined and strengthened, so that the treaty bodies can better carry out their mandates. And urgent measures must be taken to enable them to function as a strong, unified system.

I have also called on the membership to strengthen the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. The role of the Office has expanded greatly. In addition to its long-standing advocacy work, today it is also engaged in conflict prevention and crisis response. And where once much of its energies were devoted to servicing the human rights bodies, today it also offers wide-ranging technical assistance.

Yet the Office remains ill-equipped in some key respects. It cannot, for example, carry out proper early warning, even though human rights violations are often the first indicators of instability. The High Commissioner and her staff continue to work admirably within real constraints. They would be the first to acknowledge shortcomings, and they are best placed to identify ways to overcome them. Accordingly, I have asked the High Commissioner to submit a plan of action by 20 May. I expect a request for additional resources to figure prominently in her recommendations. As central as human rights are in our work, the United Nations allocates just two percent of its regular budget to that programme. We need to scale up to meet the growing challenges that confront us.

I turn now to the most dramatic of my proposals. As you know, I have recommended that Member States replace the Commission on Human Rights with a smaller Human Rights Council.

The Commission in its current form has some notable strengths. It can take action on country situations. It can appoint rapporteurs and other experts. And it works closely with civil society groups.

At the same time, the Commission's ability to perform its tasks has been overtaken by new needs, and undermined by the politicization of its sessions and the selectivity of its work. We have reached a point at which the Commission's declining credibility has cast a shadow on the reputation of the United Nations system as a whole, and where piecemeal reforms will not be enough.

A Human Rights Council would offer a fresh start. My basic premise is that the main intergovernmental body concerned with human rights should have a status, authority and capability commensurate with the importance of its work. The United Nations already has councils that deal with its two other main purposes, security and development. So creating a full-fledged council for human rights offers conceptual and architectural clarity. But what is most important is for the new body to be able to carry out the tasks required of it.

I have proposed that the Council be a standing body, able to meet when necessary rather than for only six weeks each year as at present. It should have an explicitly defined function as a chamber of peer review. Its main task would be to evaluate the fulfillment by all states of all their human rights obligations. This would give concrete expression to the principle that human rights are universal and indivisible. Equal attention will have to be given to civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, as well as to the right to development. And it should be equipped to give technical assistance to States, and policy advice to states and UN bodies alike.