

NATIONAL UNIFORMITY FOR FOOD
ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4167) to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide for uniform food safety warning notification requirements, and for other purposes:

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Chairman, H.R. 4167 is being considered today without benefit of hearings and with no Subcommittee markup. As a result, Members have not had a full opportunity to learn about and debate the provisions of this legislation. This is no minor bill—it would bar States from adopting food safety, labeling, and warning standards that are not identical to Federal standards.

State food and drug officials are very concerned about the impact this bill could have on public health. They have expressed their opinion that this legislation would harm homeland security. The State food and drug officials are certainly a credible group and their concerns are not new.

Almost two years ago, the Association of Food and Drug Officials told us that a bill virtually identical to the one before us today, “threatens to eviscerate this system. The ramifications of this bill, intended or not, will dissolve our Nation’s biodefense capabilities.”

They went on to say that this legislation “undermines our Nation’s whole biosurveillance system by preempting and invalidating many of the State and Local food safety laws and regulations that provide the necessary authority for State and Local agencies to operate food safety and security programs. The pre-9/11 concept embodied in this bill is very much out of line with current threats that confront our food safety and security system.”

They also said that preemption and invalidation of State and local food safety and security activities will “severely hamper” the U.S. Food and Drug Administration’s ability to detect and respond to acts of terrorism. They added, “Our current food safety and security system will be significantly disrupted . . . and our inability to track suspected acts of intentional adulteration will be exploited by those who seek to do harm to our Nation.” The Association of Food and Drug Officials has recently restated these concerns with respect to H.R. 4167.

On September 23, 2004, I wrote a letter to Secretary Thompson asking whether or not he agreed with these assertions. I never received a reply to my letter, so here we are today, voting on this bill and we do not know whether or not the Administration believes it poses a threat to homeland security. Indeed, we do not have the benefit of the Administration’s views on any aspect of this bill. Does the Administration support this bill, or not? This bill affects public health and the American public deserves more than stony silence from this Administration.

What is wrong with having a hearing to explore what the language in this bill means? Why was the report on this bill filed less than 24 hours before amendments were due at the

Rules Committee? Why did the Rules Committee deny important amendments such as an amendment by Representative DeGette to ensure that FDA has the necessary funds to implement the law, or an amendment by Representative Stupak to allow States to warn consumers when their meat has been injected with carbon monoxide?

This process will ultimately hurt the ability to get legislation to the President’s desk. I am sympathetic to the need for national uniformity, however, I cannot support this bill without more careful consideration.

I urge my colleagues to vote no on this bill.

HONORING WALT AND KAREN
WORTHY AND THE STAFF OF
THE DAVENPORT HOTEL**HON. CATHY McMORRIS**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2006

Miss McMORRIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Walt and Karen Worthy and the staff of The Davenport Hotel for ranking among the top ten hotels nationwide in customer satisfaction. In a recent survey completed by Expedia.com, The Davenport Hotel was the only Pacific Northwest hotel on the list. The Davenport Hotel also ranked third on Expedia.com’s traveler’s picks for the top ten four-star hotels nationwide.

Originally built in 1914 by Mr. Lewellyn “Louis” Davenport, The Davenport Hotel quickly became known around the world. It was the first hotel to have air conditioning, a central vacuum system, housekeeping carts, and accordion ballroom doors. Mr. Davenport sold the hotel in 1945 and the hotel was eventually closed in 1985.

Mr. Worthy and his wife, Karen, purchased The Davenport Hotel in May 2000 after most lost hope that the abandoned hotel would ever regain its grand status among hotels in America. Through their hard work and personal financial investment, they, along with their staff, have restored The Davenport Hotel to its once world famous status. To this day, the motto of Mr. Davenport remains their own:

“In all things, the hotel sincerely tries to so well please its guests that they will be glad they came, sorry to leave and eager to return.”—Louis Davenport. 1914, Walt Worthy, 2002.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Mr. and Mrs. Worthy and the staff for their exceptional service to the city of Spokane and the nation, and to thank them for the role they have played in revitalizing the downtown area of Spokane, Washington. I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating Walt and Karen Worthy and the staff of The Davenport Hotel on this hard earned, and much deserved, rank among the top ten hotels nationwide for customer satisfaction.

CONGRATULATING THE CORNELL
BLACK ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ON
ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to honor The Cornell Black Alumni Association as they prepare to celebrate not only the 30th Anniversary of their revered organization, but the 100th Anniversary of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

Founded in 1976, the Cornell Black Alumni Association, CBAA, was conceived as an organization devoted to providing a communication network for Black alumni. Its current mission is to promote the professional development of Black alumni; to provide opportunities for alumni to give back to the Cornell community; to provide support for current Black students at Cornell through the endowment of scholarships and the development of other resources; and to aid in maintaining the diversity of the student body at Cornell by assisting the University in its recruitment efforts.

The distinctive attributes of this fine Association speak volumes for their ambition, commitment, and drive to inspiring young people to pursue higher education, is to be applauded.

Through their leadership, knowledge, and vigorous enthusiasm, the Cornell Black Alumni Association has served the Cornell family and community admirably and with great integrity. They have, in the very best traditions of Cornell University, reached out and have given back whereby their efforts have resulted in countless programs that have had a direct and significant impact on alumni and future Cornell students.

By the same token, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., of which I am a proud member has supplied voice and vision to African-Americans and people of color around the world since its inception in 1906 on the campus of Cornell University. This first intercollegiate Greek-letter fraternity initially served as a study and support group for minority students who faced racial prejudice, both educationally and socially at Cornell. However, in time, the Fraternity would succeed in laying a firm foundation for Alpha Phi Alpha’s principles of scholarship, fellowship, good character, and the uplifting of humanity.

Mr. Speaker, this June as the Cornell Black Alumni Association celebrates their 30th Anniversary and the centennial of Alpha Phi Alpha, it is my hope that they will seize every opportunity to “celebrate the legacy and embrace the future.”

FREEDOM FOR FIDEL GARCÍA
ROLDÁN**HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2006

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Fidel García Roldán, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. García Roldán is a pro-democracy activist and a member of the 24 February Movement, named for both the commencement of

the glorious Cuban War of Independence in 1895, and the day in 1996 when two civilian aircraft carrying four members of the Brothers to the Rescue organization were shot down over international waters by the Cuban dictatorship's fighter jets. The 24 February Movement desires, and struggles for, freedom in Cuba.

According to reports, Mr. García Roldán has been imprisoned since April 16, 2004 and, after a sham trial, sentenced to 4 years in the totalitarian gulag. In the U.S. Department of State's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices—2005, it is reported "On February 19, a 'reeducation specialist' forced political prisoner Fidel García Roldán into a cell, pushed him against the wall, then hit him repeatedly in the head."

That same report details the abhorrent conditions in the gulag:

Prison conditions continued to be harsh and life threatening. Conditions in detention facilities also were harsh. Prison authorities frequently beat, neglected, isolated, and denied medical treatment to detainees and prisoners, particularly those convicted of political crimes or those who persisted in expressing their views . . . Prisoners sometimes were held in "punishment cells," which usually were located in the basement of a prison, with continuous semi-dark conditions, no available water, and only a hole for a toilet.

Mr. García Roldán, despite being imprisoned, despite facing even more severe maltreatment in the inhuman gulag, continues to advocate for liberty. Mr. García Roldán is a brilliant example of the heroism of the Cuban people. No matter how intense the repression, no matter how horrifically brutal the consequences of a dignified struggle for liberty, the totalitarian gulags are full of men and women of all backgrounds and ages who represent the best of the Cuban nation.

Mr. Speaker, we must speak out and act against this abominable disregard for human rights, human dignity, and human freedom just 90 miles from our shore. It is categorically unacceptable that men and women who demand freedom from tyranny are locked in dungeons and abused by totalitarian monsters. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Fidel García Roldán and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

ENDORSEMENT OF PROFESSOR JEFFREY LEIGH SEDGWICK

HON. JOHN W. OLVER

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2006

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, I ask that this statement be inserted into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD at the appropriate place:

"On Tuesday the Senate Judiciary Committee will hold a hearing on the nomination of Professor Jeffrey Leigh Sedgwick to head the Bureau of Justice Statistics. For over 24 years Professor Sedgwick has taught students at the University of Massachusetts the intricacies of the American Political System. Throughout the course of his established career he has also spread his expertise to other educational institutions, such as Smith College in Massachusetts and the University of Virginia. It is time now for Professor Sedgwick to loan his knowl-

edge and experience to the Federal Government as the head of the Bureau of Justice Statistics.

"Professor Sedgwick has devoted much of his career to the study and interpretation of criminal justice and through the years he has developed a strong sense of our Nation's criminal justice system. His in-depth research has led to a number of books, articles and editorials offering insight into crime and punishment in the United States. These qualifications give Professor Sedgwick a solid foundation for taking over the responsibilities of the head of the Bureau of Justice Statistics.

"This would not be Professor Sedgwick's first experience in the Federal Government. In 1984 he served as the Deputy Director for Data Analysis within the Bureau of Justice Statistics. In this position he gained a familiarity for the work that this bureau does and moved on to a career of studying crime and justice. Professor Sedgwick is indisputably qualified to take over operations at the Bureau of Justice Statistics and I urge my colleagues in the Senate to confirm him for this post."

HONORING GREATER BETHEL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN OVERTOWN FOR 110 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2006

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the Greater Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church (BAME) as it celebrates its 110th Anniversary on Sunday, March 12, 2006 in the Overtown community of Miami-Dade County, Florida. This important milestone is truly a testament to the leadership of the church and the commitment of the faithful and the church's theme reflects it: "Greater Bethel AME: A Beacon of Light Shining Bright for 110 Years."

I commend the entire Greater Bethel AME family, including the Senior Pastor, Reverend Milton Broomfield and Ms. Barbara Brown, the Chairperson, on this wonderful occasion. It is the thorough exercise of faith that we are emboldened by God's Blessed Assurance spoken through the Prophet Isaiah (Chapter 58, Verses 9–11): ". . . You shall call, and the Lord will answer. For if you bestow your bread on the hungry and satisfy the afflicted, then light shall rise for you in the darkness . . . and the Lord will guide you always."

Greater Bethel AME Church symbolizes an unshakable monument that has manifested and continues to manifest our community's faith in God. The longevity of this landmark church—not only through its members' genuine caring of one another, but also through the outreach efforts of its services and good works for those it has been privileged to serve—is truly remarkable. Despite the pain and agony that our community suffered in the midst of many years of disenfranchisement and misrepresentation, Greater Bethel AME Church stood out as a beacon of Hope and a citadel of Truth by which God has called our community to respond to the mandate of Christian stewardship.

It is with this spirit that I recognize this historic Church on its 110th Anniversary, defined

by determination and courage throughout its ministry. We are grateful for what Greater Bethel AME Church symbolizes for all of us, even as we look forward to the challenges of the future.

PRESENTATION OF THE TOUCHSTONE AWARD TO RICHARD J. KURTZ

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2006

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my good friend, Richard J. Kurtz, as he receives the prestigious Touchstone Award, the highest honor bestowed by the Englewood Hospital and Medical Center in Englewood, New Jersey. This award is bestowed by the Medical Center to an individual who exemplifies the premier standard for philanthropic endeavors.

Richard Kurtz, the founder of the Kamson Corporation in Englewood Cliffs, is a prominent real estate investor, developer, philanthropist, and a good friend to so many. The leadership and unwavering dedication shown by Richard to community service, humanitarian values and charitable causes is well-known, both in northern New Jersey and throughout the Nation.

Richard actively serves on many boards including the Jewish Community Center (JCC) on the Palisades, the Englewood Hospital and Medical Center, and he serves as chairman of the Englewood Hospital and Medical Center Foundation. He has also given his enthusiastic and generous support to the Boy Scouts of America, Cresskill Athletic Boosters, Walk for Awareness: Our Fight Against Breast Cancer, Quest Autism Foundation and the Jewish Home at Rockleigh. Richard has given generously to his alma mater, the University of Miami, and the Katrina relief efforts. His service to these distinguished boards and causes embodies his belief in and commitment to compassion and caring for others.

Richard's devotion to his wife, Patti, his children and their spouses, Pamela Kurtz, Sharon and Jeff Kurtz, and Kimberly and Joseph Spadaccini, and six grandchildren is a reflection of this dedicated family man and community leader. Richard is an extraordinary individual, and he is very deserving of the renowned honor embodied by the Touchstone Award. I am pleased to extend my congratulations to my good friend Richard Kurtz and his family on this wonderful occasion.

USA PATRIOT ACT ADDITIONAL REAUTHORIZING AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. CARDIN. Madam Speaker, one of the most important responsibilities for Congress after the September 11 terrorist attacks is to balance the needs of law enforcement to have effective tools to combat terrorism with the civil liberties and civil rights of Americans.