TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE ESTEBAN TORRES

SPEECH OF

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 1998

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the achievements of ESTEBEN TORRES, my esteemed colleague and friend.

As a member of the House for over 15 years, ESTEBAN has faithfully represented the people of East Los Angeles with enthusiasm, dedication and respectability.

As the highest-ranking hispanic member on the Appropriations Committee, longstanding member and former chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, and Deputy Democratic Whip, ESTEBAN is an excellent role model for Latinos and young people across our nation.

Not only is ESTEBAN TORRES an inspiration for our future leaders, but for anyone who strives to improve his or her life. ESTEBAN embodies the wonderful American ideal that no matter who you are or where you come from, you can find success.

ESTEBAN comes from very humble beginnings. His father, a Mexican immigrant who toiled in Arizona's copper mines, was deported during the Depression along with many other Mexican immigrants. ESTEBAN never saw his father again. Later, living with his mother in East Los Angeles, ESTEBAN almost dropped out of high school.

But ESTEBAN defied the odds. Starting as an assembly line worker at the Chrysler Plant in Los Angeles, he rose through the ranks of the United Auto Workers, and later served in the Korean War. In the 1960s, he founded a critically important community development corporation, the East Los Angeles Community Union.

Recognizing ESTEBAN's superb diplomatic skills, President Jimmy Carter appointed him as Ambassador to the United Nation's Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization in 1976 and later, as Special Assistant to the President for Hispanic Affairs. In 1982, ESTEBAN was elected to represent the 34th Congressional District.

What I appreciate most about ESTEBAN is that he has never forgotten his roots. He has tirelessly advocated for the workers and low-income families of this country. He exemplifies the promise of the American dream.

Thank you for making a difference in so many people's lives. I will miss your companionship and kindness. I bid you a fond farewell, ESTEBAN.

THURGOOD MARSHALL COURTHOUSE BILL, H.R. 2187

SPEECH OF

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 1998

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my strong support for this initiative to rename the new Federal Courthouse in White Plains, New York, in honor of one of the outstanding Americans of the 20th Century, the Hon. Thurgood Marshall.

Recent biographies have spotlighted the remarkable career of this distinguished gentleman. His struggle to end segregation in public schools culminated in the *Brown* vs. *Board of Education* decision of 1954. As the chief counsel for the NAACP in this landmark decision, he successfully brought about not only an overturn of the 60 year old *Plessy* vs. *Ferguson* ruling, but one made by a unanimous vote which virtually every observer and constitutional expert predicted was impossible prior to the Court's decision.

Subsequently, Thurgood Marshall distinguished himself as a justice on the U.S. Court of Appeals, where he wrote over 150 decisions, many of which impact many lives. Support for immigrant rights, limiting government intrusion in illegal search and seizure, double jeopardy and right to privacy cases were only some of the landmark decisions he reached.

As U.S. Solicitor General, Marshall won 14 of the 19 cases he brought before the United States Supreme Court.

In 1967, President Lyndon Johnson appointed Thurgood Marshall as the first Supreme Court Justice in history of Afro-American heritage. He served on our nation's highest bench until 1991, where he left an indelible legacy on our nation.

I strongly urge our colleagues to join in this most fitting tribute. This legislation will remind future generations for many years to come of the tremendous debt our nation owes to Justice Thurgood Marshall.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4104, TREASURY AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM BLILEY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 1998

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the efforts of Congress in maintaining and strengthening the Regulatory Accounting Provisions in FY 1999 Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government Appropriations.

A regulatory accounting amendment has been signed into law for the past three years as a part of the Treasury/Postal Appropriations Act. The amendment has two major components. First, the President, through the Director of OMB, must prepare and submit to Congress an accounting statement of the total annual costs and corresponding benefits of Federal regulatory programs for FY 1999. Second, after each year an accounting statement is submitted, the President shall submit a report to Congress providing an analysis of impacts on State, local, and tribal government, small business, wages, and economic growth as well as recommendations for regulatory reform. New this year to the regulatory accounting amendment is an independent and external peer review provision. Peer review will ensure the information produced from this report is accurate and balanced.

Recent studies estimate the compliance costs of Federal regulations at more than $700 billion annually and project substantial future growth even without the enactment of new legislation. These costs are passed on to the public through higher prices and taxes, reduced government services, and stunted wages and economic growth. To manage and prioritize these regulatory programs better, we need more information provided by this amendment on the costs and benefits of existing regulatory programs and new rules.

Since 1995, I have introduced bipartisan permanent regulatory accounting legislation, most recently H.R. 2840, the Regulatory Right-to-Know Act. Senators Thompson and Breaux have introduced the analogue to H.R. 2840 in the Senate and have championed this year's regulatory accounting amendment. I thank them for their efforts.

It is vitally important that Congress permanently places regulatory accounting on the books, thereby ensuring this crucial information is provided to the American people. The Regulatory Right-to-Know Act must be one of our top priorities in the 106th Congress.

I urge my colleagues to join the bipartisan coalition in supporting regulatory accounting.

CONVEYING TITLE TO TUNNISON LAB HAGERMAN FIELD STATION IN GOODLING COUNTY, IDAHO, TO UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL D. CRAPO

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 1998

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. Speaker, Idaho is the nation's leading producer of fresh water trout. This important industry depends on springs that supply the Snake River, which is coming under increasingly strict water quality regulations. The State also finds itself leading the debate on Salmon conservation and is continually looking for sound scientific solutions. The University of Idaho is already establishing itself as a significant resource in the science of identifying and developing preservation strategies for the nation's endangered and threatened fish species.

The University of Idaho currently operates the Tunnison Lab, approximately four acres of the Hagerman National Fish Hatchery, pursuant to a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This agreement has allowed the University of Idaho to pursue research that will help conserve the region's endangered and threatened salmonids, and study alternative fish feed that may reduce nutrient loads normally associated with the aquaculture industry nationwide.

S. 2505 will transfer the title of the Tunnison Lab from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to the University of Idaho. By doing this, the University will be able to take advantage of federal funding secured as part of the University's biotech improvement efforts. The University has proposed to spend $1.75 million on improvements to the Tunnison Lab.

As part of the improvements, the University of Idaho will include an on-site learning center that will provide educational training on fish management for federal agents, industry representatives, and others interested in improved management of salmonid species. This bill has the support of the Administration, the Senate, the Governor of Idaho, local government officials, adjacent property owners, Idaho's aquaculture industry, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Knowing that the Hagerman Valley is a rich archaeological area, home to rich fossil sites, extra precautions have been taken to assure protection of any valuable sites discovered in the Environmental Assessment conducted as part of the transfer.

S. 2505 is good government in action. Because of the initiative of a state entity (the UI) and a federal entity (USFWS), we've taken federal resources and put them to the best use for the American public. It is going to address some very real research needs. The result is going to be a cleaner environment, a stronger Idaho aquaculture industry, and a more secure future for Idaho's wild salmon.

H.R. 2822

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 1998

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, on November 5, 1997, my friend and colleague, Mr. KNOLLENBERG, introduced H.R. 2822, a bill that would recognize a group of individuals self-named the Swan Creek Black River Confederated Ojibwe as a distinct recognized Indian tribe. I have reviewed the bill in detail and have concluded that it reduces to two concepts: sovereignty and process. It is this bill's affect on these two concepts that convinces me that I must oppose this legislation. I encourage my fellow Representatives to oppose it as well.

Congress has been discussing sovereignty in relation to Indian tribes since the first instance a European settler set foot on this continent. It is time we learned to respect tribal sovereignty and uphold it to its fullest extent. The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan is a sovereign nation. It has exercised and retained its sovereignty throughout history and throughout its many encounters with the federal government. The Saginaw Chippewa Tribe's sovereignty is not something that Congress granted to it. Rather, it is something the Tribe has retained. The Saginaw Chippewa Tribe is a nation unto itself—with the sovereign authority, power, and right to manage its own affairs and govern its own members. Congress must respect this and must not become involved in internal tribal political affairs—which H.R. 2822 asks us to do.

H.R. 2822 proposes to federally recognize a group that calls itself the Swan Creek Black River Confederated Ojibwe Tribes. This group claims to be the successor in interest to the Swan Creek and Black River Banks of Chippewa Indians. It is my understanding that although these bands were once considered parts of the larger Chippewa group in southeastern Michigan before and during the treaty process, that these bands, by virtue of the 1855 Treaty of Detroit, were affirmatively merged with the Saginaw Band to become the one sovereign nation of the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe. For over 140 years the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe has functioned as one tribe without regard to any band distinctions and has been treated as such by the federal government.

Further, I also understand that most of the participants of the Swan Creek Group pushing the bill, including its organizer, are currently members of the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe and that most tribal members, because of more than a century of intermarriage among the three component bands of the Tribe, find it difficult to determine from which band they descend. Of course, the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe has and continues to serve all of these members equally regardless of their band affiliation.

In reviewing the history and the circumstances surrounding this bill, I can only conclude that H.R. 2822 addresses nothing more than a tribal membership issue of the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe, and that Congress should not interfere in this matter. It is an issue for the sovereign Saginaw Chippewa Tribe and its governing body. Congress must respect this.

If Congress were to do otherwise and pass H.R. 2822, its effect would be to mandate that a splinter group of a well established and long recognized tribe break off and form its own nation, complete with the rights and privileges of all legitimate Indian tribes. It would allow the Swan Creek Group to claim the treaty-preserved rights, jurisdiction and sovereignty currently held by the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe. This is an affront to the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe's sovereignty—and to the sovereignty of all Indian nations. If Congress were to split the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe with H.R. 2822, nothing will stop it from unilaterally splitting other federally recognized tribes when splinter groups come forward. This cannot be the precedent Congress sets—especially when, as in this case, gaming and the establishment of a casino are the motivating factors for recognition. H.R. 2822 would set this dangerous precedent—and I cannot allow that to happen.

Process. The second argument against H.R. 2822 boils down to process. Since 1978, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), through its Bureau of Acknowledgement and Research (BAR), has been the appropriate forum for determining whether groups merit federal recognition as Indian tribes. The BAR process calls for extensive research and analysis. The BAR staff has the expertise and the experience to conduct such study and review. With all due respect to my fellow Representatives, Congress does not. Congress cannot play the role of the BIA.

Of course, I realize that Congress has granted legislative recognition to tribes in the past. Yet, the circumstances of those were quite different from what we see before us today with the Swan Creek Group. The Swan Creek Group has not even attempted the administrative process. It is my understanding that they filed a letter of intent with the BIA in 1993. This merely opens a file in anticipation of a petition for recognition. As of yet, however, the Group has filed to provide any documentation or to even pursue this process in any way. The Group's file lays dormant in line behind over 100 groups awaiting recognition.

It is my contention that the Swan Creek Group, if it is to pursue federal recognition, should be directed back to the BIA. It would be wholly unfair for Congress to allow this Group that has provided no documentation whatsoever for recognition to be recognized ahead of all the other groups who have abided by the process simply because the Swan Creek Group and its representatives have walked the halls of Congress pushing legislation.

Congress is not equipped to decipher the Group's history and genealogy to determine whether it merits recognition. This, along with the simple fact that many of the Group's participants remain members of the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe and receive the benefits and privileges as such, convinces me that Congress should not pass this bill. Congress must not interfere with the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe's sovereignty. If we are to take any action at all on H.R. 2822, it should be to oppose it to allow the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe, the appropriate governing body for this issue, to resolve the matter. Beyond that, the Group is welcome to pursue the established administrative process for recognition. In efforts to uphold tribal sovereignty and established process, I cannot condone any other action by Congress on this issue.

SEEDS OF PEACE

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 1998

Mr. KNOLLENERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the important work of the non-partisan organization Seeds of Peace.

After decades of war, terrorism, and other forms of conflict, and after much bloodshed on both sides, Israel and the Palestinian Liberation Organization signed an official document on September 13, 1993 in which they pledged to pursue peace and resolve their differences.

While the peace process over the past five years has had its share of problems. I believe that the Middle East is a fundamentally different region since the historic ceremony on the lawn of the White House. The most concrete results, such as the peace agreement between Israel and Jordan, the end of Israel's occupation of the West Bank, and the creation of the Palestinian Authority, give us hope that further progress is possible. Progress can only come from direct talks between Israel and the Palestinians, with the continued support and encouragement of the United States.

Today it is appropriate to look beyond the complexities of the peace process and consider the necessary ingredients to nurture a peaceful future in the Middle East. As important as the Oslo Accords were and future peace agreements will be, none of these documents will guarantee that peace will take hold in the hearts and minds of Israelis and their Arab neighbors. True peace will only emerge in that region if a new generation adopts attitudes that represent a break from the past.

Seeds of Peace has worked to fulfill this vision. Each summer since 1993, this organization has brought hundreds of teenagers from Israel and Arab lands to a camp in Maine. Over the course of five weeks, the youngsters are engaged in heated discussions about their perspectives and attitudes and build friendships that transcend their differences.

I was fortunate to meet two graduates of the Seeds of Peace camp earlier this year, an Israeli girl named Shani and a Palestinian boy named Abdalsalam, when they visited Detroit. I was very impressed by their stories about how camp opened them to a deeper understanding of their differences and led them to resolve to transcend those differences as they take positions of leadership in their respective societies. They carried their message E2144to high