

Mr. Speaker, it is with enthusiasm that I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this wonderful celebration of Dominican culture, which has brought much pride to the Bronx community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HERBERT H. BATEMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 1998

Mr. BATEMAN. Mr. Speaker, due to continued convalescence from a recent surgery, I missed 2 votes on June 4, 1998. I wish to ask unanimous consent to include in the RECORD my statement as to how I would have voted had I been present.

On rollcall vote No. 204, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote No. 205, I would have voted "aye."

THE HEAD START ACT OF 1998

HON. FRANK RIGGS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 1998

Mr. RIGGS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to extend the Head Start program. This legislation strengthens the quality and accountability of Head Start while supporting those receiving Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, the goals of welfare reform, collaborations at the local, State, and national levels, and Head Start staff. For the first time ever, Head Start will be judged on its outcomes for children and families.

The Education and the Workforce Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Youth, and Families that I chair has heard testimony in four hearings from respected academicians, researchers, educators, parents, and practitioners. These witnesses and the many experts with whom committee staff spoke consistently called for an increased focus on outcomes and for higher Head Start staff qualifications. Great care has been taken to craft a bill that addresses these issues by emphasizing quality, accountability, flexibility and collaboration.

We have proposed a simple and effective update of the formula allotting Head Start funds to states: 1998 would become the "hold harmless" year for funding. Future expansion and quality appropriations would be allotted based solely on child poverty statistics, thus avoiding possible negative impacts on States successful in moving recipients of Temporary Assistance to Needy Families into jobs. No State would lose Head Start funding under this proposal.

We have redefined the primary purpose of Head Start in this bill to be school readiness. The bill adds new education performance standards and measures that strengthen the cognitive development of children, and requires that the majority of Head Start teachers must have at least an associate degree in early childhood education by the end of the reauthorization period in 2003.

To support the need for increased teacher training and greater attention to school readi-

ness, emphasis has been shifted for a limited period of time from expansion to quality. This will give programs an opportunity to address teacher salaries and program quality. Teachers are specifically targeted in the bill for needed salary increases based upon their education and credentials.

The professional development of teachers and other Head Start staff is enhanced under this legislation by explicitly allowing the use of funds for training in language, literacy, English acquisition, and child disabilities, and by the provision of special collaboration grants that encourage Head Start participation in State, regional, and local early childhood professional development systems.

These special collaboration grants also can be used for similar collaborative efforts to develop more full-day, full-year child care/Head Start services. Similarly, waivers of income eligibility rules would be allowed through joint agreement of the Governor, the State Head Start Association, and the Secretary of Health and Human Services. Up to 25 percent of a program's enrollment could be "over income," but families could not exceed 140 percent of the poverty level. In cases where Child Care Development Block Grant or other child care funds are blended to offer combined Head Start/child care services, copayments by Head Start parents would be explicitly allowed to meet the requirements of the cofunding agency.

Funding priority for any increased appropriations is given by this bill to expansion of full-day, full-year services to meet the child care needs of working poor. Additionally, Early Head Start funding would grow to 10 percent of Head Start funding by the year 2003 to serve more children in the critical years before age three.

To help prepare Head Start children for success in kindergarten, a new section in the bill defines in greater detail transition activities and goals. The needs of Head Start parents are addressed with start-up funding for up to 100 family literacy demonstrations. Training and technical assistance will be available to all Head Start family literacy programs. The best of these programs would be designated as mentor programs; they would assist other agencies with the implementation and improvement of family literacy. Progress towards quality also would be achieved by allowing for-profit entities to participate with public and non-profit entities in any open grant competitions for Head Start funding.

Accountability is the other key issue emphasized in this bill. As mentioned earlier, school readiness has been reestablished as the goal of Head Start, and new transition goals and educational performance standards and measures will be implemented. Head Start agencies are also required to ensure that parents receiving Temporary Assistance to Needy Families who are enrolled in the program meet paternity requirements. Other single Head Start parents shall receive information about resources for establishing paternity. In addition, the bill directs that local performance measures be established for child and family outcomes at the individual grantee level by January 1, 1999.

The biggest accountability question is whether Head Start truly makes a difference for children and families; a large-scale impact study has never been conducted. For this reason, a national study on the impact of Head

Start services is commissioned in this bill to provide the kind of information that policy makers so sorely need.

Head Start is a program that benefits America's most vulnerable children. It is our solemn duty as policy and law makers to ensure that these at-risk children and their families receive the quality developmental and educational services that they need to be successful in school and become productive members of society. I urge all of my colleagues on a bipartisan basis to support this measure.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WOMEN IN SKILLED TRADES PROGRAM

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 1998

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the Women In Skilled Trades (WIST) program, which is based in Oakland, California, on the occasion of its 10th Anniversary. Since its inception, this outstanding program has trained over 300 women for well-paying jobs in the construction industry.

WIST was established in 1988 by the Oakland Private Industry Council in order to provide economically disadvantaged women, displaced homemakers, and dislocated workers with high quality pre-apprenticeship training. The program offers an excellent solution for women seeking to achieve economic self-sufficiency and to serve as role models for their children. The pool of well-trained, motivated workers that graduate from the program is a benefit both to area employers as well to our community.

The WIST program is a nationally acclaimed model for nontraditional training programs, with a comprehensive training curriculum and dedicated instructors and staff. It is also an outstanding example of how a partnership of public, private, and non-profit entities can work together to affect positive change in the lives of women and their families.

On Monday, July 20, 1998, the Women in Skilled Trades program will be celebrating its anniversary in Oakland, California. I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing the achievements of this organization. I would also like to commend the many women who have graduated from the WIST program. I look forward to ten more years of progress!

RECOGNIZING RUSSELL PATTERSON

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 1998

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Russell Patterson, a major contributor to the arts community in Missouri and a friend of mine who is retiring after 40 years as founder and Artistic Leader of the Lyric Opera of Kansas City. He also organized The Kansas City Symphony and has served as its Artistic Director.

In addition to his position with the Lyric Opera of Kansas City, Russell is Festival Director and Principal Conductor at the Sunflower Music Festival. He founded both the Sunflower Music Festival and the Missouri River Festival of the Arts, and serves as Artistic Director of the Buzzards Bay Musicfest. He has appeared as guest conductor in opera and concert engagements in Mexico City, London, New York, Seattle, Cincinnati, and Sacramento.

Mr. Patterson has spent his career enriching Kansas City with his talent and vision. He is a graduate of the Conservatory of Music at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. He helped establish the Middle-America Opera Apprenticeship Program in conjunction with the Conservatory. The Apprenticeship Program is designed to prepare exceptional young singers for a professional operatic career. The Program continues to gain national recognition for its commitment to aspiring artists.

As a trailblazer in the arts community, Mr. Patterson has served on the Advisory panels for the National Endowment for the Arts and the Missouri Arts Council, as a consultant to the Ford Foundation, and on the Board of Directors of OPERA America. He has received numerous awards and honors including the Alumni Achievement Award, the Dean's Award, the nationally prestigious Conductor's Award from the Alice M. Ditson Fund of Columbia University, and the W.F. Yates Medalion from William Jewell College. In 1996, Mr. Patterson was honored at the OPERA America 25th Anniversary Conference for his years of service.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Russell Patterson for his commitment to our community's future artists and his service to music in Kansas City. I wish he and his lovely wife Terri well in all of their future endeavors, and hope we can enjoy some tennis at the Cape.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO AMEND THE D.C. CONVENTION CENTER AND SPORTS ARENA AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1995

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 1998

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce a bill to amend the D.C. Convention Center and Sports Arena Authorization Act of 1995 in order to enable the Washington Convention Center Authority (Authority) to finance revenue bonds for the cost of constructing a new convention center in downtown D.C. This legislation moves forward the hope and promise of the 1995 legislation for a sports arena and a convention center, twin centerpieces of economic development and jobs in the city and revitalization of downtown in the District. The quick and efficient construction of the MCI Center and the new jobs and revenue the arena has brought to D.C. residents have encouraged the city to complete its work on a convention center, where the need has long been conceded.

In every other city in the United States, this matter would not come before any but the local city council. Unfortunately, unlike every other city, the District does not have legislative

and budget autonomy and therefore cannot spend its own funds unless authorized by Congress.

Extensive hearings in the City Council have been held on the underlying issues, with an informed and vigorous debate by members of the City Council. On June 16, the City Council approved legislation to finance the new convention center, and on July 7, the City Council passed a bond inducement resolution to approve the Authority's proposal for the issuance of dedicated tax revenue bonds to finance construction of the convention center. On July 13, the D.C. Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Authority (Control Board) gave its final approval to the financing plan for the project, leaving only congressional authorization, which is necessary for the District to proceed to the bond market.

On July 15, the Subcommittee on the District of Columbia heard testimony from Mayor Marion Barry, City Council Chair Linda Cropp, City Council Member Charlene Drew Jarvis, Control Board Chair Andrew Brimmer, Authority President Terry Golden, and representatives of the General Accounting Office (GAO) and the General Services Administration (GSA) on the financial aspects of the project. After hearing this testimony, I am satisfied that the Authority is ready to proceed with the issuance of bonds to secure financing, allowing the Authority to begin to break ground possibly as early as September. Considering the many years delay and the millions in lost revenue to the District, ground breaking cannot come too soon.

Although the GAO testified that the cost of constructing the new convention center would be \$708 million, \$58 million more than the \$650 million estimate, the \$58 million is not attributable to the cost of the center but to certain costs that should be borne by entities other than the Authority. For example, vendors who will operate in the facility are anticipated to contribute \$17.7 million in equipment costs; the District government will provide \$10 million for utility relocation from expected Department of Housing and Urban Development grants; and the President has requested \$25 million in his budget to expand the Mount Vernon Square Metro station.

The GSA testified that the agency had worked closely with the Authority to keep the costs of the project down. With the GSA's assistance, the Authority secured a contract with a construction manager for a "Guaranteed Maximum Price," whereby the private contractor is given incentives to keep costs down and assumes the risk for any cost overruns.

Mayor Marion Barry testified, among other things, regarding the promise of additional jobs for District residents. He said that the new convention center would create nearly 1,000 new construction jobs, and that once the facility is completed, it would generate nearly 10,000 jobs in the hospitality and tourism industries. He testified that, using some of the approaches that were successful with the MCI Center, special training, and goals for jobs for D.C. residents would be met.

The District of Columbia Subcommittee hearing was not a reprise of the lengthy D.C. City Council hearings, and, on home rule grounds, did not attempt to repeat issues of local concern. However, since the issues of financing and bonding before the Congress implicate other areas, the Subcommittee asked extensive questions and received testimony

concerning many issues, including location, size, and job creation, in addition to the strictly financial issues.

This convention center has an unusual financial base, which I believe other cities might do well to emulate. The financing arises from a proposal by the hotel and restaurant industry for taxes on their own industry that would not have been available to the city for any other purposes. The proposal was made at a time when the city's need for revenue and jobs has been especially pressing. For many years, the District had been unable to attract large conventions. Not only has the District lost billions as a result; the local hotel and restaurant industry has suffered from the absence of a large convention center. It is estimated that the inadequacy of the current facility led to the loss of \$300 million in revenue from lost conventions in 1997 alone. My legislation will enable the District to compete for its market share in the convention industry for the first time in many years.

The delay in building an adequate convention center has been very costly to the District. In a town dominated by tax exempt property, especially government buildings, a convention center is one of the few projects that can bring significant revenues. To that end, the District intends to break ground this September. I ask for expeditious passage of this bill.

HONORING THE TOWN OF HOLLAND, MA, ON THE DEDICATION OF ITS NEW TOWNHALL AND THE CELEBRATION OF ITS 215TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 1998

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor the town of Holland, Massachusetts on the dedication of its new Town Hall and the celebration of its 215th anniversary.

In 1730, the Town of Holland was settled by Joseph Blodgett, whose descendants still live in the town today. The Town was named after Lord Holland, an English statesman who lobbied for independence for the American colonies. The town was incorporated on July 5, 1783, and is rich with history.

Holland is located in the southeast corner of Hampden County in Western Massachusetts. The town is four square miles in area. It contains the Quinnebaug River and the Hamilton Reservoir, one of the largest reservoirs in southern New England. It is nestled amongst two hill ranges, where elevations reach up to 1,100 feet.

Throughout the years, Holland has remained an example of the charm and beauty of the traditional New England village. At different times, it has sustained industries such as farming, the manufacturing of cloth, and brick making. To this day, Holland is known most for its recreational opportunities. There are extensive recreational facilities at the Hamilton Reservoir, which is stocked with trout each year by the state of Massachusetts. There is also a park and a swimming area at the very picturesque Lake Siog. This small town remains as alive and healthy today as it was 215 years ago.