

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MATT SALMON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 3, 1998

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained during consideration of several amendments to the Bipartisan Campaign Integrity Act (H.R. 2183). If I had been present, I would have voted:

Yes on rollcall vote 367, an amendment by Mr. BARR to prohibit the use of bilingual ballots.

Yes on rollcall vote 368, an amendment by Mr. MCINTOSH to prohibit congressional communications regarding legislative positions of members from being interpreted as "coordination with a candidate."

No on rollcall vote 369, an amendment by Mr. HORN to allow the principle campaign committee for a House or Senate candidate to send campaign mailings at the reduced postal rate now provided to party committees with a limit of two mailings per household in the candidate's district or state.

Yes on rollcall vote 370, an amendment by Mr. SHAW to prohibit candidates for the House of Representatives from raising more than 50 percent of campaign funds out of the state in which the candidate is running.

Yes on rollcall vote 371, an amendment by Ms. KAPTUR to prohibit contributions by multicandidate political committees or separate funds sponsored by foreign-controlled corporations and associations.

Yes on rollcall vote 372, an amendment by Mr. STEARNS to prohibit presidential candidates who receive federal funding from soliciting soft money.

Yes on rollcall vote 373, an amendment by Mr. STEARNS to permit permanent residents who served in the Armed Forces to make contributions to political campaigns and committees.

ROMANI HOLOCAUST
REMEMBERED**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 3, 1998

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to commemorate the tragic events of fifty-four years ago when, on the night of August 2nd and 3rd, the Romani camp at Auschwitz-Birkenau was liquidated. In that single evening, 2,897 Romani men, woman and children were killed in gas chambers.

Although the Roma were among those targeted for complete annihilation by the Nazis, relatively little is known of their horrible suffering before and during World War II. In fact, institutionalized discrimination against Roma in Germany began well before the Nazi regime. During the 1920's and 1930's, these practices took on an increasingly virulent form and policies similar to those instituted against Germany's Jews were also implemented against Roma: race-based denial of the right to vote, selection for forced sterilization, loss of citizenship, incarceration in work or concentration camps, and, ultimately, deportation to and mass murder at death camps.

During the war itself, at least 23,000 Roma were brought to Auschwitz and almost all of them perished in the gas chambers or from starvation, exhaustion, or disease. Some also died at the hands of sadistic SS doctors, like Joseph Mengele. Elsewhere in German-occupied territory, Roma were killed by special SS squads or even regular army units or police, often simply shot at the village's edge and dumped into mass graves. Although it has been very difficult to estimate both the size of the pre-war European Romani population and war-time losses, some scholars put the size of the Romani population in Germany and German-occupied territories at 942,000 and the number of Roma killed during the Holocaust at half a million.

Unfortunately, after World War II, the post-Nazi German Government strongly resisted redressing past wrongs committed against Roma, seeking to limit its accountability. In addition, Roma have been discriminated against in court proceedings and their testimony has often been viewed as, a priori, unreliable. The first German trial decision to recognize that Roma were the victims of genocide during the Third Reich was not held until 1991, and Roma faced discrimination in seeking to re-establish German citizenship after the war. Moreover, since the war Roma have continued to face discrimination throughout the European continent and, in the post-Communist period, their plight was worsened.

In light of this deteriorating situation, I chaired a hearing, convened by the Helsinki Commission, on Romani human rights on July 21. I asked one of our witnesses, Dr. David Crowe, why so little is known about the Romani experience during the Holocaust. In answering, he noted several things. First, he said the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum has devoted some attention to this issue. He said that the lack of attention to this issue reflects the ingrained prejudice throughout the Western world toward the Roma, and he said Roma scholarship on this subject is just beginning.

But how much attention can Roma themselves give to writing about yesterday's tragedies, when every day continues to be a struggle for survival? One writer has described the efforts of Emilian Nicholae, a Rom who painstakingly compiled the oral history of Roma Holocaust survivors in his Romanian village—only to have those handwritten testimonies destroyed during an anti-Roma pogrom in Romania in 1991. Not surprisingly, Dr. Ian Hancock, a Romani representative who also presented expert testimony before the Commission, asserted, "What do Roma want? The top of the list is security." Fifty years after the end of World War II, it is long overdue.

BIPARTISAN CAMPAIGN
INTEGRITY ACT OF 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2183) to amend the Federal Election campaign Act of 1971 to reform the financing of campaigns for elec-

tions for Federal office, and for other purposes:

Mr. PELOSI. Mr. Chairman, the English Amendment is an unfair assault on the ability of average Americans to participate in the political process, especially women who cannot afford for the current system of big money politics to go on.

The English Amendment would ban bundling which allows average Americans with limited resources to pool their contributions and support candidates through one organization. EMILY's List is a perfect example of an organization which accepts donations in support of woman candidates and bundles them for greater effect.

In 1996, the average donation to candidates supported by EMILY's List was \$95, and through these small donations \$6.5 million dollars was raised. Most of the money raised by EMILY's List came from women. The English Amendment would limit the impact women have on the electoral process as contributors and as candidates.

EMILY's List has helped to elect six women to the Senate, 44 to the House of Representatives, and three women governors.

According to a recently released study of the Joyce Foundation of Chicago, 81% of all individual congressional campaign donors who gave \$200 or more to one or more congressional candidates in the 1996 elections were men. Women contribute, but they contribute in smaller numbers and in smaller amounts.

We must also identify the English Amendment for what it really is: A Poison Pill, an attempt on the part of the Republican leadership to undermine bipartisan support for campaign finance reform in the form of the Meehan-Shays bill.

LEGISLATION TO CONTINUE OPERATING ASSISTANCE FOR SMALL TRANSIT OPERATORS IN LARGE URBANIZED AREAS

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 3, 1998

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that will address a serious problem facing certain small transit operators in large urbanized areas. My bill will allow for the continuation of operating assistance for small transit operators in large urbanized areas.

With the passage of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21), a number of new programs will be implemented which will benefit and enhance mobility across the country and in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. However, due to the elimination of transit operating assistance to cities in large urbanized areas, funding for certain small transit operators will also be cut. The elimination of this funding will cause extreme hardship for those operators, particularly those that provide transportation exclusively to the elderly and disabled.

My bill will direct the Secretary of Transportation to allow small transit operators that have fewer than 20 revenue service vehicles located in a large urbanized area to continue to use funds for operating costs, if the Secretary finds that providing no assistance to the small

transit operator for such operating cost have caused, or will cause, the small transit operator to suffer undue hardship.

Small transit operators are usually more reliant on Federal operating assistance than larger operators since they do not have dedicated sales tax to help fund their systems. Federal operating assistance has been eliminated, from the fiscal year 1995 level of \$710,000,000 to \$0 in fiscal year 1999. The elimination of operating assistance over the 4-year period provided little time for many small transit operators in large urbanized areas to adjust, and without the resources to make up this gap, these small transit operators might have to cut service and raise fares.

In fact, two cities in my congressional district, Arlington and Grand Prairie, may be forced to cut back their Handitran transit service to the elderly and disabled by 50 percent. The loss of federal funds comes at a time when the North Texas Council of Governments is recommending that the City of Arlington substantially expand Handitran in response to a growing need for the service. According to Arlington officials, 64% of the riders of Handitran are disabled, 23% are elderly and 14% are both elderly and disabled. Without these funds, cutbacks in services to those most in need may prove to be a reality.

I urge my fellow colleagues to examine this legislation and support this important bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HELEN CHENOWETH

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 3, 1998

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, on roll call vote No. 372, it was my intention to vote "no." However, I was recorded as voting "yes."

INTERNATIONAL ANTI-BRIBERY AND FAIR COMPETITION ACT OF 1998

HON. TOM BLILEY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 3, 1998

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, last week I was pleased to introduce, together with Mr. OXLEY, Chairman of the Commerce Subcommittee on Finance and Hazardous Materials, the International Anti-Bribery and Fair Competition Act of 1998. This legislation contains the changes to our laws necessary to implement the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions.

I believe that this Convention will help fight bribery overseas and level the playing field for American companies. I congratulate the Administration, and Secretary Daley in particular, for their role in negotiating this important agreement.

Our nation already has one of the strongest anti-bribery laws in the world. It is my hope that by introducing this legislation we will be taking an important step forward in creating a fairer and more transparent international business environment. American business and

workers, the most competitive and productive in the world, will be the biggest beneficiaries of fair and open competition.

I look at introduction of this bill as the first step in a process and welcome and encourage the input of those who have suggestions on how we can work together to improve and enhance this legislation. I look forward to working with my colleagues on the Commerce Committee, with other Members of the House, with the Administration, with business and public interest groups and with other interested parties in developing the best possible legislation and moving the process forward.

RECOGNIZING THE KANSAS TOWN OF NICODEMUS AS A NATIONAL HISTORICAL SITE

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 3, 1998

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, Kansas is home to countless towns and communities that have legendary pasts and are full of historical significance. This past weekend one of our communities marked a very special homecoming; when Nicodemus, Kansas celebrated its annual Emancipation Celebration and its recognition by the National Park Service as a National Historical Site.

Descendants of the early settlers, area residents, state and national officials, and other visitors from throughout the country were on hand to celebrate this historic event. This past weekend visitors were treated to a Buffalo Soldier re-enactment, a gospel concert, parade, and services at the historic First Baptist Church.

While many of us have heard and read the tales of the old west, Wyatt Earp, or some of Kansas' rough-and-tumble cattle towns, too few have heard the story of courage and hope that are the heritage and history of Nicodemus, Kansas.

Nicodemus was first settled in 1877 by some 300 black Americans who fled the south following the Civil War and the horrors of slavery. While many similar black settlements were founded during this period, Nicodemus remains the only such community to survive west of the Mississippi River.

The town of Nicodemus, founded soon after the darkest days of our republic, is now properly recognized as a national symbol of freedom and courage.

Mr. Speaker our state motto in Kansas reads, *Ad Astra Per Aspera*, to the stars through difficulty. And I can think of no other community that better reflects this motto than the town of Nicodemus.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CASS BALLENGER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 3, 1998

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, had I been present for Roll Call votes 373, 374, 375, and 376 last week, I would have voted "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 3, 1998

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, on July 27th, I was unavoidably detained and missed the vote on the adoption of H. Con. Res. 311, a resolution to honor Det. John Michael Gibson and Pfc. Jacob Joseph Chestnut of the U.S. Capitol Police. Had I been present I would have voted yes on roll call #340.

IN TRIBUTE

SPEECH OF

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 28, 1998

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, in a few tragic moments of July 24, the peace was shattered at the U.S. Capitol and two members of the United States Capitol Police lost were killed in the line of duty. The work of the Congress paused last week to remember the sacrifice of John Gibson and J.J. Chestnut.

The investigation into this horrible tragedy is continuing. Without seeking to prejudge the outcome of that investigation, the senseless death of two police officers has proved to the world what many of us already know: there are gaping holes in the network of services designed to identify, assist, and treat those people with mental illness.

To this end, I will be working with my colleagues, Representative MARCY KAPTUR of Ohio in particular, to develop an organized response to the Capitol tragedy. We will be working with the joint Congressional Leadership to design a method by which we can evaluate and respond to the mental health crisis facing this nation.

In this context, I would like to draw the attention of my colleagues to a column by Frank Rich which was published in the New York Times of July 29. It should be required reading for every Member of the House and Senate.

[From the New York Times, July 29, 1998]

THIS WAY LIES MADNESS

(By Frank Rich)

The Capitol police officers Jacob Chestnut and John Gibson had hardly been declared dead when Senator Robert Torricelli, the New Jersey Democrat, sent out a press release arguing that tighter gun control could have prevented the tragedy. Not missing a beat, Trent Lott was soon arguing that a \$125 million bunker-barricade camouflaged as a visitors' center would repel future assailants. But in a city where most politicians are so ignorant about mental illness that they still think Whitewater, not the disease of depression, drove Vincent Foster to suicide, no one said the obvious: It is the gaping cracks in American mental-health care, not in Capitol security or gun-control laws, that most clearly delivered Russell Weston Jr. to his rendezvous with history.

Mr. Weston's paranoid schizophrenia surfaced long ago. Yet, as The Times reported, this now 41-year-old man "received no regular psychiatric treatment or medication over the last two decades and [his] family seemed to understand little about how to seek help for him." This is hardly an anomaly. E.