

representatives to use taxpayer dollars to support corporations for whom human dignity meant more than an extra tenth of a percent on this quarter's earnings.

In doing so, Massachusetts became the first state to enact such a law, joining dozens of counties, towns and cities nationwide where doing business with repressive governments is simply not acceptable. As a result, major firms—including Apple Computer, Hewlett-Packard, and Motorola—have severed their ties to Burma.

While the people of Massachusetts broadly support the action taken by their state, the European Union and Japan have filed a World Trade Organization challenge against Massachusetts. The Administration—which promised us, and continues to promise us, that trade agreements do not undermine states' rights—has been quietly pressuring Massachusetts legislators to repeal the law.

A coalition of 600 of the largest multinational corporations, for whom profits mean far more than human rights, has filed suit against Massachusetts. These are the same corporations who have fought all efforts to keep consumers informed about the effects of their purchases by opposing even the simplest requirements to label fresh produce with its country of origin, or to establish labels ensuring customers that products were made without child or sweatshop labor. The claim that the Massachusetts law, and others like it, are unconstitutional.

Since when is the right of consumers to choose how to spend their money unconstitutional? Since NAFTA? Since GATT?

Like many of my colleagues, I would prefer to act on these issues by repealing and renegotiating trade agreements to ensure that human rights, workers, and the environment are protected to the same extent as intellectual property rights and corporate profits. I would prefer to see the impacts of these agreements on states' rights and consumer's rights clearly defined before we commit ourselves. But we all know that's not going to happen. This amendment is a very small step in that direction.

We owe it to the people of Massachusetts, San Francisco, New York City, Ann Arbor, Palo Alto, Chapel Hill, and dozens of other American towns with similar laws, to uphold their rights as consumers and their belief in "what is good" over "what is profitable." I urge my colleagues to support the amendment.

**H.R. 4523, THE LORTON TECHNICAL
CORRECTIONS ACT OF 1998**

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the 'Lorton Technical Corrections Act of 1998.' This important legislation, cosponsored by Congressman JIM MORAN and Congressman FRANK WOLF, will serve to put a mechanism in place to deal with the future of the lands associated with the Lorton Correctional Complex in Lorton, Virginia.

In early 1997, the Congress and the Administration agreed to work cooperatively, in good faith, to restructure the Federal relationship with the District of Columbia. The municipal af-

fairs of the Nation's Capital, for Constitutional and historic reasons reflecting fundamental national policy, are part of the most complex local governmental structure in the United States. In this Congress, I introduced the 'National Capital Revitalization and Self-Government Improvement Act of 1997' which was passed with overwhelming bipartisan support as a part of 'The Balanced Budget Act of 1997.' With the support and hard work of Congresswoman ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON and the delegation from the Commonwealth of Virginia, this legislation included the mandated closure of the Lorton Prison by the end of the year 2001. Under the law, DC correctional functions will be assumed by the Federal Bureau of Prisons and DC inmates will be housed at other facilities outside of northern Virginia.

Current law would also transfer control of the Lorton parcel to the U.S. Department of Interior after 2001. At the time of enactment of this law, after considering various options, my colleague JIM MORAN and I concluded that the Interior Department was the best Federal agency to maintain the integrity of the parcel and to meet my intention that the area be preserved as open space to the maximum extent possible. While recognizing the importance of reserving the authority of members of the community to assist in the ultimate determination of future uses of the property, I have always been concerned about maintaining significant open space in the parcel and avoiding damage to ecologically sensitive areas. I also believe that we must ensure that the I-96 corridor is not burdened by further traffic congestion in the Lorton area.

However, subsequent to the enactment of the closing of Lorton Prison it has become clear that the Department of the Interior is not the agency best suited to handle the future disposition of the Lorton parcel. Therefore, it has become incumbent upon the Virginia delegation to once again work to establish a Federal mechanism that will properly address the future of the land.

This bill introduced today will create such a mechanism. This legislation is the result of many hours of hard work and negotiation between Congressman MORAN, Congressman WOLF, Senators WARNER and ROBB, the General Services Administration (GSA), the Departments of Interior and Justice, the Office of Management and Budget, and myself. Under the bill 1) the GSA will assume control of the land; 2) the County of Fairfax will submit an official reuse plan to the GSA delineating preferred permissible or required uses of the land; and 3) the Department of Interior will have the ability to reserve a portion of the land if desired to enhance U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service properties within the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Most importantly, this legislation will allow for the continuance and expansion of park and recreation uses on the parcel. The County of Fairfax, working with GSA, will have the utmost flexibility to preserve the rural character of the land; expand parkland and recreational amenities to better serve the region, and guarantee that all projects on the land do not further burden the I-95 corridor and do serve to enhance the quality of life of Virginia residents.

I look forward to working with Congressman MORAN, Congressman WOLF, Congresswoman NORTON and Senators WARNER and ROBB to

achieve quick consideration and passage of this important legislation.

**"LORTON TECHNICAL
CORRECTIONS ACT OF 1998"**

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, today I join my colleagues Mr. DAVIS and Mr. WOLF to introduce the "Lorton Technical Corrections Act of 1998."

As the title implies, this legislation is necessary to correct a few technical issues that have arisen since Congress enacted the "National Capital Revitalization and Self-Government Improvement Act of 1997." One provision in the 1997 law of great interest to the residents of south Fairfax was the closing of Lorton Prison and the transfer of the federal reservation to the Department of the Interior.

I believe the General Services Administration is in a better position to fulfill the 1997 Act's expressed intent of transferring much of the property back to the Commonwealth of Virginia. The General Services Administration retains both the legal authority to administer a transfer and the expertise to coordinate with Fairfax County, other federal agencies and local governments the property's ultimate disposition and use. The General Services Administration also has the capability to see that the property is properly cleaned of any environmental hazards.

The legislation I am introducing today transfers ownership of the property from the Department of the Interior to the General Services Administration. To ensure that future land use is consistent with the wishes of the local residents and the local government, the legislation requires Fairfax County to develop and submit a reuse plan within one year of enactment. The Department of the Interior may, through the Fish and Wildlife Service, exchange surplus land for property that benefits the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Fish and Wildlife Service, for example, has expressed interest in acquiring some portion of the Meadowood property that would be exchanged for land adjacent the Mason Neck Wildlife Refuge that is now held by the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority.

While much of the Lorton Property would be reserved for green space and parkland, some portions, particularly those tracks adjacent to the I-95 corridor, could be developed, if such development is called for under Fairfax County's reuse plan. The legislation also establishes a special fund. Proceeds from any land sale for development would be used to cover the cost incurred by the General Services Administration to administer and dispose of the property and finance any environmental cleanup at the Lorton Correctional Complex.

With the enactment of the "National Capital Revitalization and Self-Government Improvement Act of 1997," several competing visions have arisen on the appropriate reuse of this property. By granting the General Services Administration the lead federal role, but ultimately relying on Fairfax County, through the public hearing process, to determine its appropriate reuse, the "Lorton Technical Corrections

Act of 1998" should help bring the successful resolution and closure to the Lorton property.

AUTHORIZING THE GSA TO DISPOSE OF THE LORTON CORRECTIONAL COMPLEX IN VIRGINIA,
H.R. 4523

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to join my Virginia colleagues TOM DAVIS and JIM MORAN in sponsoring important legislation which will allow the General Services Administration (GSA) to dispose of the Lorton Correctional Complex in Virginia.

Last month Virginia Governor Jim Gilmore announced that the Commonwealth of Virginia and the District of Columbia had agreed to finally close Lorton and relocate the remaining prisoners to privately run facilities around the state. This, Mr. Speaker, is good news for Virginia and the remaining occupants of the prison.

Mr. Speaker, over the years conditions at Lorton have gone from bad to worse. With chronic overcrowding, inmate idleness, widespread drug use, inadequate education and training programs and increasing violence, Lorton has become a "finishing school" for criminals. The situation has grown so bad, Mr. Speaker, that the Federal Bureau of Investigation has agents inside the prison to investigate only the crimes taking place within the prison.

With the closure of Lorton, inmates will be distributed to sites around the state that offer more opportunities such as training and education. An inmate who gains a skill or learns a trade is better prepared to live a life without crime upon his or her release. Recidivism, a major problem at Lorton, will hopefully drop.

At the same time, Mr. Speaker, the neighbors of Lorton will no longer have to sit up nights worrying about escapes. Instead, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors has unanimously agreed upon a plan that provides for a recreational use on most of the property. This bill establishes the framework by which the process will be undertaken. I lend it my support and urge the House's approval.

DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND STATE, AND JUDICIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. ESTEBAN EDWARD TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 4, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4276) making appropriations for the Department of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes.

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the amendment by Congresswoman JACKSON-LEE to increase funding for the Community Relations Service (CRS).

At a time when our nation continues to see the damaging effects of racial tensions, gang violence and hate crimes, the demand for skilled professionals trained in conflict mediation has reached a new height. We must acknowledge the services this division of the Department of Justice has brought to mayors, chiefs of police, school superintendents and concerned citizens of the community. In my home City of Los Angeles, the Community Relations Service played a vital role in resolving the week-long turmoil of the LA riots in the Spring of 1992. The recent events in Jasper, Texas proved another opportunity to employ these trained professionals to resolve conflict and prevent further tensions from rising. Without their interventions, the unresolved tensions of these conflicts will fester and could continue indefinitely, breeding further hate and violence.

I believe all of my colleagues here can agree that our efforts to alleviate violence in schools and communities is not something we should choose to ignore. This is not an example of a duplicated Federally funded program. This is the only Federal agency working to provide this type of assistance in times of need and attempt to prevent further outbreaks of violence and hate crimes. The demand for these services is growing and the Community Relations Service has proven itself successful in what has been deemed the most efficient and desirable approach to conflict resolution. Yet, at the current funding level CRS is unable to meet the demand for such services. Last year, the CRS was forced to decline 40 percent of all the requests for assistance that they received.

We hear members on the other side of the aisle speaking of a more efficient government. The CRS is an example of not only an efficient agency, but one that is cost effective. We can choose to help resolve conflict or we can pay the price of the crimes and convictions that will inevitably follow. I say we must meet the need for this demand and fully fund the CRS.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the Jackson-Lee amendment.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF MIDDLETOWN, NEW YORK

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to call the attention of my colleagues to the 150th anniversary of the Grace Episcopal Church of Middletown, NY.

For one hundred and fifty years the Wardens, Vestry and Parishioners of Grace Episcopal Church have served the community of Middletown, bringing neighbors, friends and the community as a whole together. The church has been instrumental in the development of Middletown, helping to educate and fill the spiritual needs of residents and families throughout the region.

The Grace Episcopal Church is a truly remarkable organization, built in 1847 and consecrated in 1848 by Bishop William Heathcote Delancey of Western New York. However, it was Elisha Wheeler, who came to Middletown

as a result of the Erie Railroad, who was largely responsible for creating Grace Episcopal Church. He was a signer of the Act of Incorporation, the first Junior Warden, then Senior Warden for the rest of his life.

In 1845, after much deliberation, land was purchased to erect a church on North Street, its current location. It is now the second oldest church building still in use in Middletown. The first church service was held on Christmas Eve, 1847.

Grace Church strives to be involved in the life of the community and social outreach, as well as trying to increase and strengthen its inreach to the members of the parish. The diversity of the members of this parish is a source of pride to its members and is one of the reasons that people of varying backgrounds can feel welcome there.

Beyond its normal parish duties, the church provides a soup kitchen, a RENT (Relief from Eviction for Needy Tenants) program, and A Place of Grace, Inc., which was formed to help those living with HIV/AIDS. These are only a few of the programs which has made the Grace Episcopal Church an active part of Middletown's community.

Mr. Speaker, I join our community in extending my congratulations to the church councils, and its congregation for the 150th anniversary of their reputable and noteworthy church. I would also like to take this opportunity to invite my colleagues to join with me in recognizing the great contributions of the Grace Episcopal Church in Middletown, NY.

RETIREMENT OF JUDGE FRANK ARNOLD

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Judge Frank Arnold. Judge Arnold has served as county judge in Sharp County, Arkansas and will retire this year after two decades.

Judge Arnold is a unique individual who I have had the opportunity to get to know over the last 10 years. He is a wonderful man who would give you the shirt off his back if you asked him to. Judge Arnold is one of those pillars of the community that works hard every day, plays by the rules and does whatever is necessary to make the community successful. He has been a loyal friend and support of me and is a true politician's politician. Judge Arnold has also been a tireless advocate of seniors, education, children, and industrial development in Arkansas. When you come to the Sharp County line, the roads are wider and smoother, the people are happier and life is better because of Frank Arnold.

Judge Arnold is one of those people who never goes back on his word. He has many loyal followers in Sharp County and I know he will be missed as a wonderful public servant. On September 19, Judge Arnold will be joined by family, friends, and community members in honoring him and thanking him for the many contributions he has made to the community and I am sure will continue to make. Judge Arnold, I wish you the best. I am proud to call you my friend.