

As always, this battle will be fought in the appropriations process, and I plan to be a leader in assuring education funds are not cut. Supporters of education must continue to work within the constraints of the budget to assure education is made a top priority.

While I feel this bill is a small step in the right direction, there is still much work to be done to improve our public school system. I will support this bill but I feel very strongly that we cannot let the changes incorporated in the legislation lead to cuts in education funding.

**SALUTING SESQUICENTENNIAL
CELEBRATION FOR OUR LADY
OF VICTORY CHURCH ROCHESTER, NY**

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 1998

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay special tribute to the legacy of Our Lady of Victory Church in Rochester, New York. The parish will celebrate its 150th year of ministry during a special Jubilee Celebration on Sunday, September 27, 1998.

Our Lady of Victory Church in Rochester was organized in 1848, after Bishop John Timon saw the need for his small congregation of French parishioners to have a church of their own. The church, which was established with approximately 300 parishioners, was known from that time until 1868 as St. Mary's French Catholic Church. Their building was located at the corner of Ely Street and Minerva Place in Rochester, New York.

Under the capable leadership of its pastors, the parish thrived and grew. New worship sites were erected over the years. Throngs of people attended daily Mass, Novenas, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and confession in the 1950's 1960's and 1970's.

Today, 150 years after its establishment, the parish at 210 Pleasant Street, Rochester, New York, enjoys its designation as a National Historic Landmark. There are 400 congregants and over 100 people attend their noon Mass each day. The parish, which is centrally located in the downtown area, also serves as a haven for many who have no home.

I am very proud of this long established and influential parish in my home district. Today, I ask that my colleagues pause with me to honor the legacy of one of America's thriving parishes: Our Lady of Victory Church in Rochester, New York. I am greatly honored to join many others in congratulating Our Lady of Victory for their service to humanity.

TRIBUTE TO ELIZA BRIGGS

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 1998

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ms. Eliza Briggs of Summerton, South Carolina, who died at the age of 81 on September 15 of heart failure. Ms. Briggs and her late husband Harry Briggs were among the principle petitioners in the lawsuit Briggs v. Elliott, which became the first of the five law-

suits which became collectively *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas*. Those cases began the process of desegregating our nation's public schools.

Eliza Briggs' place in history has been often overlooked. She and her husband signed the lawsuit in 1949 that challenged fairness of Clarendon County's segregated school system. For decades following the lawsuit, the Briggs family suffered through stress and unrest due to their decision. The Briggses were fired from their jobs and forced to move to Florida to be freed of the community backlash. Later in life the Briggses returned to Clarendon county, and over time have were accorded the respect they deserved for their self-sacrifice in order to make South Carolina better.

Ms. Briggs has been described by friends and family as a humble woman full of grace and charm. She was one of many unsung heroes during the Civil Rights Movement that should be celebrated and remembered for putting her country before herself. She was presented the Order of the Palmetto, the highest commendation a South Carolina citizen can receive.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me today in honoring Eliza Briggs for her great work as a Civil rights Movement trailblazer. Her hard work should be remembered and celebrated by this House. Ms. Eliza Briggs will be sorely missed.

IN MEMORY OF SYLVIA KLING

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 1998

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Sylvia Kling. Sylvia passed away last Sunday and she will be greatly missed in the South Florida community.

After spending a large portion of her life in her native New York, Sylvia and her husband moved to Plantation, Florida, in 1973. This is where they both began their extraordinary work improving the lives of South Floridians.

For more than 15 years, Sylvia Kling volunteered at the Broward County Democratic Executive Committee's headquarters. Her devotion to the principles of the democratic process kept her very busy. Sylvia was continually active making fliers, working at phone banks, putting cards in doors, and standing at the polls with candidates of her choice. This dedication did not go unrecognized. Five years ago, she was honored by the county's Executive Committee as its volunteer of the year. In addition, Sylvia was elected as a delegate to the 1996 Democratic National Convention in Chicago.

Though the political arena was very important to Sylvia Kling, Sylvia's dedication to other causes was truly remarkable, as well. She worked to connect Jewish women with their roots in her association with Hadassah. Furthermore, Sylvia was interested in international matters as she was a member of both the Women's League of Israel and the Jewish War Veterans women's auxiliary. Sylvia was also a loving wife, mother, sister, grandmother, and aunt. Mr. Speaker, I can't think of anything more important than one's relationship with their family.

It is clear to all who knew her and knew of her that Sylvia Kling was an extraordinary woman whose tireless devotion to the residents of South Florida will be forever remembered. Her family will miss her, South Florida will miss her, and I will miss her.

**A TRIBUTE TO ST. ADALBERT
CONGREGATION**

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 1998

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to St. Adalbert Church in South Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on the occasion of the congregation's 100th anniversary. I join with the Rev. Herbert B. Schubert and his parishioners in celebrating this very special event.

The congregation was named in honor of St. Adalbert, a 10th Century patron saint of Bohemia and Poland. Its beginnings were rather humble, but with great determination and hard work, a small church was built in 1898, with a rectory built two years later. Rev. Ladislaus Mscisz was St. Adalbert's first pastor, and served until 1912.

By 1905, Franciscan Sisters of St. Francis replaced lay teachers, and the church and school were enlarged. Rev. Bernard Burant succeeded Rev. Mscisz, but remained only nine months, after which Rev. Clement Zych was appointed as the congregation's third pastor. Rev. Zych faithfully served St. Adalbert's for 24 years, and during that time the congregation continued to grow. By 1927, a new church, school and convent was built.

The years following the stock market crash of 1929 were difficult for St. Adalbert's, but the congregation was determined to survive. With the depression came some very trying times, with increasing debts. In 1937, Rev. Zych was transferred to St. Adalbert's in Milwaukee, and Rev. Ladislaus Bednarski became pastor. During Rev. Bednarski's tenure as pastor, the debt was refinanced, but problems remained.

Rev. Theodore Lepak became pastor in 1950 after Rev. Bednarski was transferred to Blessed Sacrament in Milwaukee, but he became ill shortly thereafter and passed away in 1951. Rev. Michael Staczak was appointed pastor in 1951, and served until his retirement in 1975. During that time, due to the generosity of the congregation, the mounting parish debt was retired, and a new addition was added to the school. Unfortunately, shortly after completion, a gas explosion destroyed most of the new building. In 1968, the building was rebuilt and dedicated.

In July of 1975, the present pastor, Rev. Herbert Schubert, was appointed by Archbishop William Cousins. Since then, St. Adalbert's has seen the addition of kindergarten and junior kindergarten classes, a new pipe organ, and a number of updates to the facilities.

St. Adalbert Congregation has been truly blessed in 100 years of service to the Lord and to the community. Congratulations to St. Adalbert's and all its members on this very special anniversary. May the congregation continue to grow and prosper as it begins its second century of service.

CHILD LABOR IN AGRICULTURE:
CHANGES NEEDED TO BETTER
PROTECT HEALTH AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 1998

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, September 17, 1998, my colleagues, Congressmen HENRY WAXMAN and BERNIE SANDERS, and I made public an important GAO report which we requested on the use of child labor in US domestic agriculture at a press conference in front of the US Capitol. Joining us for the release of that report was the U.S. Secretary of Labor Alexis Herman.

The report—entitled “Child Labor in Agriculture: Changes Needed to Better Protect Health and Educational Opportunities”—finds that current legal protections, enforcement, and educational opportunities for children of the fields are grossly inadequate.

Although these findings are quite disturbing, they validate what I and others have suggested for some time.

Taken as a whole, the GAO report establishes that (1) we must have more and better information about children working in the fields and the consequences of this work for their future, (2) we must provide better protections for these children, and better enforcement of existing laws, and (3) we need better assurances that current programs designed to help these children are really working.

In its report, the GAO found that children who work as migrant and seasonal workers are treated as an underclass with few opportunities to improve their future. The report acknowledges that we in Congress no longer have the time or luxury to debate whether there is a domestic child labor problem; the report finds that there is a serious problem that must be addressed without further delay by the Congress.

The GAO report reached a number of very disturbing conclusions: (1) hundreds of thousands of children work in U.S. agriculture with severe, often fatal, consequences for their health, well-being, and academic achievement; (2) children working in agriculture receive less protection under the law, allowing them to work at younger ages, longer hours, and in more hazardous tasks than their counterparts working in other industries; (3) weaknesses in enforcement and data collection procedures mean that child labor violations are not being detected; and (4) a number of programs are available to help educationally and economically disadvantaged children, but little is known about how they help migrant and seasonal farmworker children.

Given these findings, it would be irresponsible to stand by and do nothing. In fact, the GAO in this report challenges the Congress to carefully evaluate whether current federal laws adequately protect children working in agriculture.

As GAO pointed out, current law may not only be inconsistent with the emphasis our nation places on the safety, health, and academic achievement of children, but also with the long-term economic changes in agriculture. This particular field of economic activity no longer merits separate—and unequal protections—for children. Agriculture is no

longer dominated by family farms, with parents and children working together in a family enterprise and with parents who look out for their children's health and well-being. Today, Mr. Speaker, major agricultural conglomerates control much of agricultural production and the workforce are hired employees—not family members who are working together on a family farm. Given these and other changes, the GAO report raises serious questions about why children in agriculture should be treated any differently than children working in other industries.

Under current federal law, children working in agriculture receive less protection than children working in other industries, because of many outdated and outmoded exceptions which have been included in the law for family farms. For example, children age 12 and 13 can work unlimited hours outside of school in nonhazardous agricultural occupations, but children that same age are absolutely prohibited from working in nonagricultural occupations. This means that a 13-year-old cannot be paid to do clerical work in an air-conditioned office, but the same youngster can pick strawberries under the blazing summer sun. In some instances, children as young as 10 years old are working in the fields harvesting our nation's produce.

Mr. Speaker, I have introduced legislation to deal with many of these problems that have been identified in the GAO report. My bill is H.R. 1870, the “Young American Workers Bill of Rights Act,” and I am a cosponsor of H.R. 4450, the “Children's Act for Responsible Employment (CARE),” which would take children under the age of 14 out of the fields. This legislation was introduced by the Democratic Leader, Congressman RICHARD A. GEPHARDT of Missouri.

Both of these bills would create an exception only for the family farm, where children would still be able to assist their parents in working on their own farms. These bills would raise the level of protections that are provided for children working in agriculture to be equal to the protections that are provided for children working in other industries.

Mr. Speaker, I call for hearings in the next Congress to evaluate the adequacy of our existing child labor laws, particularly as they apply to children in agriculture. I also intend to submit legislation in the next Congress—if the voters of San Mateo County and San Francisco, California, make the decision that I deserve to continue to represent them in this body—to provide additional protection for children in agriculture and to deal with the specific inadequacies that have been identified in this GAO report.

It is clear from this GAO report that changes are needed in how we protect children working in agriculture. I am pleased to see that the US Department of Labor has already responded to some of GAO's recommendations, and—under the outstanding leadership of Labor Secretary Herman—it has implemented some of its own initiatives to deal with child labor in agriculture within the confines of current law. It is time for the Congress to enact legislation which rids our nation of unequal protection for children working in agriculture. It is time to pass the Young American Workers' Bill of Rights Act and the CARE Act.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to placed in the RECORD two statements which were made at our press conference last week releasing the GAO report on children working in agriculture.

First, I include the statement of Secretary of Labor Alexis Herman. During Secretary Alexis Herman's tenure, the Department of Labor has undertaken new efforts to combat illegal child labor, and she has focused specifically on child labor in agriculture. This summer, the Labor Department placed major enforcement emphasis on “salad bowl” crops such as lettuce, tomatoes, cucumber, onions, and garlic. As a result of the “Operation Salad Bowl” initiative, the Department of Labor has found children as young as six years old in the fields harvesting our nation's produce, and significant fines were levied against the perpetrators.

Secretary Herman also initiated the “Work Safe This Summer” program which launched a major effort on promoting child labor compliance through education and outreach in agriculture and rural communities. The Department of Labor is also creating partnerships with employers who have agreed to take extraordinary, pro-active steps to promote compliance with our nation's child labor laws by the agricultural industry.

Mr. Speaker, we must give our Secretary of Labor the tools necessary to combat illegal child labor by supporting the President's new child labor budget, in order to have the resources to fight against abusive child labor both at home and abroad. The President's initiative to fight abusive child labor and address child labor problems will: (1) make the US the world leader in supporting programs to reduce abusive child labor around the world; (2) will reduce the potential supply of child workers in agriculture by providing an increase in migrant education to ensure that children are in the classroom, not in the fields; (3) will reduce the demand for illegal child labor for enhanced enforcement and better data; and (4) will help us review and update child labor hazardous occupation orders which regulate child safety in the workplace.

STATEMENT OF ALEXIS M. HERMAN, U.S.
SECRETARY OF LABOR

Thank you Congressman Lantos for your introduction and leadership. Let me also thank all of the other Members of Congress for joining us today and for helping to put the spotlight on children who toil on America's farms.

Let me begin by saying I am here today because fighting abusive child labor is one of my top priorities. And I wanted to be here to say that we welcome the General Accounting Office review of the Department of Labor's efforts. We are committed to ensuring that our child labor program is as effective as possible.

As Secretary of Labor, my bottom-line is simple: One child working in abusive conditions is one too many.

I want to see that young kids all over this country * * * grow up safe and secure * * * that they learn in schools instead of labor on the farms * * * that they spend their time on homework, not fieldwork.

And that is a commitment shared by President Clinton. We must do better—and we must do more to end abusive child labor. And the President made this clear in his State of the Union address in January of this year. That's why we requested the largest increase in our nation's history to fight international child labor.

But we know we can't lead internationally if we don't clean up our own backyard. And so we have pledged to work with Congressman Lantos, Senator Harkin and others to modernize our nation's domestic child labor