

Justice D. S. Tewatia, Retd. Justice H. Suresh and Retd. Justice Jaspal Singh. After the first session of the commission at Chandigarh on 8-9-10 August 1998, the affected families see a glimmer of hope. The People's Commission is the people's response to the non-fulfillment of election promises by the present government at the state level and the incapability of the ruling coalition at the Centre to rectify the wrongs of yesteryears. If people can form governments surely they can form commissions as well; can they not?

Now, the Congress, the BJP and the Police (the trinity responsible for gross human rights abuse in the Panjab through acts of omission and commission) are pressurizing the Badal government to wind up the People's Commission, calling it "illegal" and "harbinger of disturbance" and other names.

We appeal to the Panjab State Human Rights Commission, to advise the state government, not to stoke the fires that are lying buried. Though we contest the "quality of peace" that has "descended on the Panjab", any attempt by the state "not to let people cry for their beloveds" will boomerang. The endorsement of the Panjab State Human Rights Commission of the work of the People's Commission will go a long way to enhance respect for human rights and to smother the politically motivated propaganda against this humble attempt by the people to assuage the hurt of victims and their families. This certainly is part of the moral mandate of any human rights body, more so of a state-sponsored Human Rights Commission.

Moreover the labour of the People's Commission will not go in vain. The report of the People's Commission will not meet the same fate of hundreds of Commissions set up by the Indian state under the Commissions of Enquiry Act. It will perhaps be useful for the Human Rights Commission to conduct a statistical analysis of the total number of Commissions of enquiry instituted by the state and those whose recommendations have been accepted.

The focus of the work of the People's Commission is also not at loggerheads with the working of the judiciary as is being propagated by the wanton statements of the Panjab Advocate General, Congress and BJP leaders and the Panjab police chief. Their consternation is more about the uncovering of truth about their shameful deeds. Those opposing the People's Commission will do well to remember that before the official Srikrishna Commission was setup to pinpoint the responsibility for the riots in Bombay in 1992-93, a People's Commission was set up by an independent body, The Indian Peoples Human Rights Commission. Justice S.M. Daud and Justice H. Suresh made an extensive enquiry and submitted a report on the role of the government and the police in the rioting in Bombay. The report was first published in August 1993. The evidence collected by that People's Commission made the task of witnesses much easier when they deposed before the official Srikrishna Commission.

It may also be noted that the panel of judges on the Indian People's Human Rights Tribunal have conducted enquiries into the firing in Arwal in Bihar in 1987, the burning of 646 huts of tribals in Vishakapatnam district by the Andhra Pradesh government in 1988, the role of the Provincial Armed Constabulary in the riots in Meerut in 1988, the role of the Karnataka government in anti-Tamil riots and the role of the Tamil Nadu government in anti-Kannadiga riots in 1992.

At the international level, the journey for trial of guilty officers, bureaucrats and political leaders responsible for crimes against humanity, which started with the Nurem-

berg trials has fructified this year in the formation of an International Criminal Court.

The Panjab State Human Rights Commission and the National Human Rights Commission will do well to train the Indian police, paramilitary and military forces to recognize the harsh reality that sooner or later nemesis will catch up. Transparency and not secrecy is the watchword. "Reasons of state", "demoralization of the police forces" and "amendments to the Criminal Procedure code to make it difficult to prosecute police officers", "orders of superiors", "ignorance of law, especially international and humanitarian law" will not be adequate to protect either the protagonists or the perpetrators of human rights abuse.

We are concerned that no serious effort has been made by the government of Panjab or the Commission to popularize the commission and its work among the people of Panjab. No public sitting of the commission has taken place since its formation. The people of Panjab are eager to know the number of cases in which suo moto action has been taken by the Commission. We look forward to the first annual report of the Panjab State Human Rights Commission and we anxiously wait to see how it nails down the state government and the police machinery. Should the commission require details on the above points, we shall gladly furnish them.

We appeal to you and through you also to the overindulgent Advocate General of Panjab, Mr. Gurdarshan Singh Grewal, to advise the present State government in Panjab whether it wants to join the sanguineous trinity of the Police-Congress-BJP or to find a respectable place in contemporary history, particularly in a year, when the international community, in spite of India's abstention, has formed the International Criminal Court to try individual cases of gross human rights abuse.

(Prof.) JAGMOHAN SINGH,  
*General Secretary.*

#### TRIBUTE TO RETIRING CONGRESSMAN DELLUMS

#### HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 13, 1998*

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, RON DELLUMS, a great member of the House of Representatives, and a great member of the Congressional Black Caucus retired last February. On several occasions I spoke enthusiastically of my great admiration for Congressman DELLUMS; however, I was absent on the day tributes to my esteemed colleague were made on the floor of the House. Today, for the RECORD, I would like to summarize my tribute to a friend, a mentor and a great role model.

RON DELLUMS is a man defined by magnificent contradictions. he is the activist who took a great risk when he joined the establishment; but he won the bet that he could never be corrupted. He is the peacemaker who rose to the position of Chairman of the powerful war-making Armed Services Committee.

RON DELLUMS was and is a steady keeper of a broad and integrated vision of this complex world. He is a tribune broadcasting a consistent, universal message. Throughout his long career in the Congress he remained loyal to certain fundamental principles advocating peace with justice—and his order of priorities never became confused. Despite his world

view, his philosophical and intellectual loftiness and his intensity concerning administrative excellence, RON remained first and foremost a descendant of Frederic Douglass, first and foremost an African American with an abiding dedication to his people.

When the oppressed Blacks three thousand miles away in South Africa needed a champion, RON DELLUMS was there with his parliamentary skills managing a difficult controversial resolution through the House. The effort was greatly enhanced by this oratorical eloquence and the fact that he had already accepted jail and arrest to promote his position. In a historic moment on the floor of the House, which has not yet been accorded its appropriate recognition, the Dellums South African sanctions resolution passed and set in motion a process which doomed the evil of apartheid. Nelson Mandela was later set free and a new South Africa nation was born.

Although he was the Chairman of the Armed Services Committee in 1993 when the call came for direct action to return democracy to Haiti, RON DELLUMS was again on the front lines accepting arrest and jail to promote a policy of sanctions against an oppressive regime.

To promote justice and a better utilization of our national resources throughout the world RON led the drive to reallocate the military budget. He continued to support the Congressional Black Caucus alternative Caring Majority Budget. His concerns for full employment and job training as well as a more generous and sustained investment in education never waiver while he executed his duties as Armed Services Committee Chairman.

Today, the portrait of RONALD V. DELLUMS in the National Security Committee Hearing Room speaks symbolic volumes about the magnificent contradictions of this Renaissance Man. This great room of the warriors, with forbidding portraits all around, many with a background including some weapon of destruction, is transformed by the Dellums portrait which makes a complete and almost perfect statement. From this powerful portrait the sunshine of peace and hope triumphantly invades the war room. This masterpiece leaves the bright shining signature and spirit of a conquering hero: RONALD V. DELLUMS.

#### HONORING THE PINK RIBBONS PROJECT

#### HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 13, 1998*

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the tremendous contribution that the Pink Ribbons Project is making in the battle against breast cancer.

Every October, we celebrate Breast Cancer Awareness Month to highlight the efforts by medical providers, community organizations, and businesses to ensure all women have access to the breast cancer screening and treatment they need. It is particularly gratifying to acknowledge the efforts of the Pink Ribbons Project, Dancers in Motion for Breast Cancer, whose generosity is helping to achieve this goal and save lives.

The Pink Ribbons Project was conceived and created in New York City in May 1995 by

four artists whose lives were personally touched by breast cancer. One of these dancers is Jane Weiner, the sister of Susan Raffte, a Houstonian who is a survivor of metastatic breast cancer.

I believe that Susan's story is important for all women to understand. In 1992, at age 30, Susan discovered a lump during self-examination, but her doctor did not believe it could be cancer for such a young, healthy patient. In 1994, Susan was diagnosed with metastatic breast cancer. She opted for a bilateral mastectomy and reconstructive surgery. Regrettably, her battle was not over. In 1996, she discovered that her cancer had spread to her spine and she opted to undergo a new bone marrow transplant procedure. Under this procedure, patients undergo extensive chemotherapy and radiation treatment to kill the cancer cells. As a result of these treatments, many patients lose their bone marrow and are susceptible to infections. In order to protect against infections, patients donate healthy bone marrow prior to their radiation and chemotherapy treatments and then transplant their analogous bone marrow after undergoing treatments. Susan's treatment has been a success and today she is fighting to ensure healthier futures for all women with her family, husband Alan Raffte, also a cancer survivor, and her 4-year-old daughter Marika as a special inspiration. In particular, Susan wants to encourage other women to be aggressive about their health and get second opinions when they are not satisfied with diagnoses and treatments.

The Pink Ribbons Project is the first dance initiative to join the fight against breast cancer. In 1996, the dance was introduced in Los Angeles. This year, these Pink Ribbons dancers will create a dance benefit called Hot Pink Houston to be performed at the Cullen Theater on November 12, 1998 in Houston. These dancers donate their time, service and talents to help raise funds for breast cancer advocacy, education and research.

With their first performance, the Pink Ribbons Project raised more than \$10,000 that was donated to the National Alliance for Breast Cancer Organizations (NABCO). NABCO used these funds to send 10 women with metastatic breast cancer to Washington, D.C., where they testified before the Federal Drug Administration, the Federal agency responsible for reviewing drug treatments and therapies. Their testimonies helped three new drugs win approval for treatment use.

I congratulate all involved in this vital project, including the Houston Ballet, Chrysalis, the Weave Dance Company, Sarah Irwin, Fly, Robin Staff, Hope Stone, Shake Russell, and Dana Cooper, who are all donating their talents for the Houston show. It is my hope that the Hot Pink Houston event will encourage more in our community to join the fight against breast cancer.

The value of the Hot Pink Houston program cannot be overstated. One in eight women can expect to develop breast cancer during her lifetime, and one in 28 women will die from it. Every 15 minutes, a woman dies from breast cancer. During this decade, it is estimated that more than 1.8 million women, and 12,000 men, will be diagnosed with breast cancer. Nearly half a million will die of this disease. Such statistics can be numbing, but they are all too real to those of us whose families have been affected by breast cancer.

But the saddest fact of all is that so many of these deaths are preventable. With the exception of skin cancer, breast cancer is the most survivable of cancers and when detected in its earlier stages, it has a 95 percent survival rate. So it is vital that women conduct regular breast self-examinations and obtain regular mammograms.

Because of the tremendous generosity of Pink Ribbon dancers, more women will learn about breast cancer and how we can work together to save lives.

## EDUCATION

### HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 13, 1998*

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to voice my outrage for President Clinton's veto record with regards to the education of our nation's children.

Over the past Congress, President Clinton has vetoed 7 major Republican education initiatives. That's seven times the President chose politics over our children. I truly believe the key to our children's future is the education they receive. Nothing can be of more importance to our families, our communities and our country than the quality of education in America. Apparently President Clinton does not see it this way.

Despite the President's heavy veto pen, the Republican's have been able to enact legislation which will benefit this nation's education system. We now have the lowest student loan interest rate in 17 years and have enacted a tax deduction for student loans. We also passed a Head Start reauthorization, providing for more funding to help states meet the needs of students with disabilities.

Mr. Speaker, the President's decision to play politics with our children's education and future is a bad choice. The fact is, it doesn't take a bureaucrat from Washington to tell us how to teach our children when parents have always and will always know best. We need to keep Washington out of our schools and ensure that parents and teachers are able to make their own decisions about how they want their children taught. I would like to commend my Republican colleagues for the hard work this Congress has done for our children's future.

## TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH P. KENNEDY, II, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

SPEECH OF

### HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 12, 1998*

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a few moments today to pay a special tribute to a colleague of mine who at the end of this legislative session will be retiring after a long and distinguished career from the United States House of Representatives.

Congressman JOSEPH P. KENNEDY, II, a native son of Massachusetts and the eldest son of Ethel and the late Robert F. Kennedy, will soon be returning to our great State to, along

with other pursuits, run Citizens' Energy Corporation, the low-income assistance program he founded in the early 1980's. Before he departs, I would like to take a few moments today to honor his accomplishments here in the House and to tell you more about the man I regard as my friend.

JOE KENNEDY roots for the underdog and leaves behind in Washington a long track record of standing on the side of people who don't view government as an intrusion, but instead, as a means for achieving justice and dignity in life.

Whether working to assist the homeless, children, the poor, the elderly or the disabled, JOE KENNEDY has always brought a special earnestness and passion to his work. As a result, his legislative achievements on the Banking Committee and in the House have been many, and the impact of his charitable and meaningful work will continue to be felt for years to come.

Since 1986, his constituents in the 8th District of Massachusetts have known of Congressman JOE KENNEDY's dedication. They, like those of us who work with him regularly, also know of the many endearing qualities he brings to the table.

JOE KENNEDY is a remarkably kind man, and it is his heart, not political polls or newspaper headlines, that is the compass that guides him in here in Washington. Congressman JOSEPH P. KENNEDY, II has continued the great legacy of his father and his uncle, and it is his heart and his commitment to what is right and just that people from Massachusetts and across the Nation will miss most.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank JOE KENNEDY, my friend, for his many years of hard work in the United States Congress. I wish JOE and his wife Beth all the best on the road that rises to meet them in the years that lie ahead.

## CLARITIN AND SPECIAL INTEREST LOBBYING

### HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 13, 1998*

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, as all of my colleagues know, this is the time of year when special interests come out in force to take advantage of our busy schedule. They try to slip last-minute riders into conference reports and sneak lucrative patent extensions into crucial appropriations bills. If history is any guide, a number of pharmaceutical companies are at the very head of this unsavory pack.

You may recall that, in the dead of night, someone smuggled a drug patent extension into the conference report of the 1997 Kennedy-Kassebaum Health Care Reform Act. Neither Senator KENNEDY nor Senator Kassebaum were informed of this corporate giveaway. Only public protest prevented the drug company from scoring a multimillion dollar coup at the expense of consumers.

It is the widespread rumors about a similar effort that have brought me here. I want to alert my colleagues to the efforts of Schering-Plough to sneak a backdoor patent extension onto the continuing resolution.

For many years, Schering has sought to extend its patent protections for Claritin, a prescription antihistamine with over \$900 million