

The week-long celebration will feature a wide variety of entertainment for all age groups. A series of concerts, art exhibits, lectures and cultural performances will take place to commemorate the contributions of Dominicans to our community and our nation.

Now numbering more than 600,000, Dominicans are the fastest growing Hispanic immigrant community in New York City. With the election of the first Dominican to the City Council, the Honorable Guillermo Linares, and that of New York State Assemblyman, the Honorable Adriano Espaillat, we are witnessing a new generation of Politicians with Dominican roots. That is an encouraging advance.

Although the celebration is in the Bronx, the events bring people from all over New York City to celebrate. Organizations have encouraged different cultural and social organizations to take part in the festivities.

The week-long celebration will have numerous activities for the community to enjoy. Folkloric bands will entertain the crowds and there will also be foods and crafts typical to the Dominican Republic.

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.

A SALUTE TO EUGENE P. RUEHLMANN: 1998 GREAT LIVING CINCINNATIAN

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 1998

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize a prominent Cincinnatian and a friend, Eugene P. Ruehlmann, who was recently honored by the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce as a Great Living Cincinnatian. I thank him for the vision and service that he has so generously given to our area, and for the model he provides today.

Mr. Ruehlmann, a native Cincinnatian, graduated from the University of Cincinnati in 1948 and Harvard Law School in 1950. He served in the Marine Corps and then began a long career in public service. The major transformation of Cincinnati's innovative downtown began under Mr. Ruehlmann's leadership. As a member of the Cincinnati City Council and as Mayor of Cincinnati, he led the effort to keep the Reds in Cincinnati, attract a National Football League franchise to the city, build Riverfront Stadium (now Cinergy Field) and construct the Albert B. Sabin Convention Center.

Following the race riots in 1967, Mr. Ruehlmann worked to heal the city. He reformulated the city's Human Relations Commission, and founded the Mayor's Housing Coordinating Committee and the city's Project Commitment.

He has given his time to numerous charitable and community organizations, such as Children's Hospital, Children's Hospital Medical Center, Greater Cincinnati Foundation, the Work and Rehabilitation Center, March of Dimes and the National Conference of Christians and Jews. Along the way, he has built a successful law practice with Vorys, Sater, Sey-

mour and Pease in Cincinnati, and served on the Board of Directors of the Center for Resolution of Disputes. In all these years, and with all these accomplishments, he has remained a devoted family man. He and his wife, Virginia, have raised eight children and now have twenty-three grandchildren.

All of us in Greater Cincinnati congratulate Gene Ruehlmann on his deserved selection as a Great Living Cincinnatian, and thank him for his many years of distinguished service to our community.

RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL SPORTSMANSHIP DAY

HON. ROBERT A. WEYGAND

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 1998

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor today's eighth annual celebration of National Sportsmanship Day. The objective of National Sportsmanship Day is to promote the critical role of ethics, honesty, and fair play in athletics and society in general.

Today, at more than 10,000 schools in all 50 states and over 100 countries, children will be taught the skills of good sportsmanship and the importance of playing fair in sports and in life through programs, contests, and other activities. The skills these children learn will guide them through a lifetime of choices both on the court and off the field.

This program began at the Institute for International Sport, located in my district at my alma mater, the University of Rhode Island. Since its inception in 1990, this program has touched the lives of hundreds of thousands of young people across the world. The institute provides information and materials to participating schools on sports ethics, healthy competition, and fair and equitable play.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding those participating in this worthwhile program, and in extending my congratulations to the Institute for International Sport for being recognized by the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports.

I would also like to include in the RECORD the letter received by the Institute for International Sport from the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports.

GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY AND MANDATES ARE NOT BENEFICIAL TO ECONOMY COMPETITION

HON. JOHN LINDER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 1998

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I do not believe that government authority and mandates are beneficial to economic competition. In fact, nations that have achieved the most impressive growth in the past have not been those with rigid government controls. Our telecommunications bill last Congress was an example of our putting trust in the power and potential of the marketplace.

For the past two years, however, I have watched and read about the latest regulatory

battle or industry court battle. First, the telecom industries need to honor the intent of the act. Second, I am concerned that the FCC continues to advance in its own direction on many issues—a direction this Congress did not authorize. Somehow, we have to demand that the FCC and the regulators commit to implement this act the way we intended.

And for clarification—we intended less regulatory constraints and more competition in the marketplace. The competition we envisioned between the various telecommunications industries would secure lower prices for consumers, improve service to the American consumer, and accelerate the development of new technological breakthroughs in the telecommunications market. I hope we see the competition we envisioned as soon as possible.

A TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE ERNEST THOMPSON, MAYOR OF ARTESIA, NM

HON. JOE SKEEN

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 1998

Mr. SKEEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Ernest Thompson, who has served the last quarter-century as Mayor of the City of Artesia, which is located in my congressional district in south-eastern New Mexico.

Mayor Thompson was first elected in 1972. Today, the voters of Artesia will go to the polls to select a new mayor, and they will find his shoes hard to fill. Mayor Thompson has been active in the New Mexico Municipal League, having served as President and as a member of the board of directors. In the National League of Cities, the Mayor served as President of the Small Cities Advisory Council and is a current member of the Finance, Administration and Intergovernmental Relations Committee.

In 1939, almost 60 years ago, Mr. Thompson moved to Artesia from central Texas. He worked at the local Navajo Refining Company until his retirement. They Mayor is a member of the First United Methodist Church, and has spent the last 46 years as an active supporter of the Boy Scouts of America; having served as cub master, scout master, explorer leader, area executive board member and district chairman. He is a recipient of the Boy Scouts of America's Silver Beaver Award.

During Mayor Thompson's administration he initiated and completed almost \$30 million of important and necessary local construction projects including a law enforcement center, two fire stations, the Artesia center, a new warehouse, an airport terminal, a wastewater treatment plant, the remodeling and expansion of the Artesia Senior Citizens Center, the remodeling of City Hall, the expansion and remodeling of Artesia Library, and several street and water/wastewater infrastructure projects. Many of these projects were assisted with federal funding through Urban Renewal, Neighborhood Development and Community Development Block Grants which were also matched by the State of New Mexico.

Mr. Thompson has been active in Artesia's important local civic groups including the

Artesia Rotary Club, the New Mexico Gideons, the Artesia Quarterback Club and the Artesia Parents and Boosters Club. Mayor Thompson's wife of 55 years, Grace, has always lent her loving support for his many efforts and accomplishments on behalf of the citizens of Artesia. They have one son and two grandchildren.

I ask my colleagues today to take a special moment to recognize and thank Mayor Thompson for his 26 years of outstanding and distinguished service and congratulate him on a job well-done. Artesia will always fondly remember the accomplishments of the Mayor: Ernest Thompson.

THE SPEAKER'S TASK FORCE ON THE HONG KONG TRANSITION

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 1998

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, the following is the second quarterly report of the Task Force on the Hong Kong Transition. It follows the first report dated October 1, 1997, and it was prepared and compiled by those Members of Congress (Representative DOUG BEREUTER, Representative ALCEE HASTINGS, and Representative DONALD MANZULLO) who traveled to Hong Kong, Macau, Shenzhen, and Beijing from December 13–20 as part of their responsibilities as Members of the Task Force. The report reflects the observations of the Task Force during the trip but also includes other information compiled before and after the trip up to December 31, 1997.

SUMMARY OF SECOND REPORT

In the first report of the Speaker's Task Force on the Hong Kong Transition, Hong Kong's reversion to China was characterized as "so far, so good." Six months after the official reversion that characterization still applies. However, nearly all observers agree it is "too early to tell" whether Hong Kong will be greatly affected by the transition and/or whether the United States' significant interests in Hong Kong will be adversely affected. From all perspectives both within and outside of Hong Kong, the very negative scenarios for Hong Kong, which many had predicted thus far, have not occurred. Undoubtedly, this is due in part to a determined effort by officials from the People's Republic of China (PRC) to respect Hong Kong's autonomy under the "one-country, two-systems" formula. Despite the fact that the fundamental underlying reasons for China's stance remain the same, there is no assurance that the outcome from those objectives will still prevail.

To date, the Hong Kong people seem to enjoy the same basic liberties and rights they enjoyed prior to the reversion. However, this is tempered by the abolition of the Legislative Council and its replacement by a provisional legislature which was "selected," but not elected, by the people of Hong Kong. Most observers agree that Hong Kong and Beijing officials responsible for implementing the "one-country, two-systems" framework are "on their best behavior." Yet, one overriding concern remains: Are Hong Kong officials subtly anticipating what Beijing desires and not in all instances vigorously pursuing the autonomy they have out of fear they will upset Beijing? At least with regard to routine matters, Hong Kong government officials seem quick to assert their own au-

tonomy. There also is some evidence that Hong Kong officials may be seeking to influence policies on the "mainland." But on more sensitive issues such as President Jiang's interaction with protesters, Hong Kong officials may be attempting to put on a good face for Beijing. If such attempts to "out royal the queen" are really occurring in Hong Kong, a subtle and seemingly invisible erosion of Hong Kong's autonomy could be happening without being fully discernible.

BELJING: HONORING ITS COMMITMENTS

Chinese officials in Beijing and Hong Kong who are responsible for implementing the "one-country, two-systems" legal framework are clearly bending over backwards to demonstrate a policy of non-interference in the areas of Hong Kong's autonomy (every aspect of governance except, as specified, foreign affairs and defense). In meeting after meeting, officials of Hong Kong and China reiterated the "one-country, two-systems" framework and provided anecdotes of decisions with which Beijing or its representatives in Hong Kong were not involved—like Hong Kong's defense of its own currency during the monetary crisis. In one instance, a Chinese official recounted that he was informally approached by a Hong Kong official about an issue falling in the monetary policy arena. That official recounted declining to offer an opinion because it was in Hong Kong's own autonomy. Another example of deference occurred when PRC officials reportedly approached Hong Kong officials regarding South Africa's mission to Hong Kong (a matter all parties agree lies within Beijing's sole authority for foreign affairs).

One good test of the non-interference of PRC officials is Hong Kong's self-reporting under two key international covenants on human rights. When pressed on the issue, Ma Yuzhen, PRC Ministry of Foreign Affairs Commissioner, stated that his office intends to function only as a "conveyor belt" transferring the reports from Hong Kong to the United Nations in New York without suggested changes or even recommendations.

One example of Hong Kong's continued autonomy involves the decision to let British expatriates in the Hong Kong government join the official PRC delegation to such international organizations as the World Intellectual Property Organization. Moreover, Hong Kong officials demonstrated their autonomy at the last Working Group meeting in Geneva on China's accession to the World Trade Organization by submitting seventeen questions in China's new services offer.

But the question remains as to whether Hong Kong officials are altering their actions so as to please Beijing on certain matters. One Hong Kong journalist termed this practice the new "political correctness." This practice could greatly influence how the Hong Kong government handles the requirement in Article 23 of the Basic Law that it enact laws prohibiting acts of treason, secession, sedition, subversion against the Central Government, and theft of state secrets. However, while many people accuse Hong Kong officials of this "political correctness" toward Beijing, the only evidence of such actions occurring involves the Hong Kong government's alleged movement of protesters away from a site where President Jiang Zemin was to be during his visit to Hong Kong, the removal of Taiwan flags from a public bridge during that Taiwan's national day, and also an alleged informal request from the PRC for an opinion by a Hong Kong official on an international monetary policy issue.

Many other controversial issues are labeled by various government opposition groups as falling within this category of "political correctness" on the part of Hong Kong

officials, but it is often impossible to discern the motives behind the policy. For example, the Hong Kong government's decision to require more than three hundred schools to comply with a directive to use Cantonese as the medium of instruction in secondary schools (while allowing more than one hundred schools to continue to teach English) could either be a "practical" decision to improve understanding and instruction in the schools or a "patriotic" move.

Similarly, opposition politicians in Hong Kong have vigorously criticized the Hong Kong government for its handling of the Avian flu crisis, arguing that an embargo was not placed on birds from China for fear of angering Chinese officials. However, the Hong Kong government quickly consulted and cooperated with international health official in an attempt to contain the flu. They also eventually and completely banned the importation of chickens from China, thereby placing significant economic hardship on local producers in China, and slaughtered and discarded all chickens in Hong Kong.

POLITICAL AND LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

One real caveat to the "so far, so good" characterization of the Hong Kong transition is the roll back of democratic reforms in Hong Kong. Though Chief Executive Tung Chee-hwa argues that the number of directly elected seats of the Legislative Council (Legco) will increase to thirty by the year 2004, he bluntly admits that democratic reform in Hong Kong is "not a priority at this moment." He says that he will do "what is right for Hong Kong" and that, he makes clear, is to let democracy mature slowly.

The Task Force's initial report characterized the changes in Hong Kong's elections laws as a "remaining concern." While it appears that all major political parties in Hong Kong are active in preparing for the May 1998 Legco elections, the number of votes cast will diminish because of changes to Hong Kong's Electoral Law which abolished mass-membership functional constituencies and restricted the numbers of Hong Kongers eligible to vote in the thirty functional seat contests. Unlike the September 1995 Legislative elections, when more than two million Hong Kongers had votes in functional constituencies in addition to their votes in the districts where they lived, in 1998 only 200,000 voters will be eligible to pick the 30 legislators representing functional constituencies. (News reports show registration of functional constituencies to be very low but it is difficult to determine whether general apathy or apathy created by electoral law changes have caused this low registration turnout.)

Moreover, while it is impossible to prove the motive for the election law changes, it is clear that the Democratic Party will lose representation in the newly constituted Legco because of the aforementioned changes and because of the additional election law changes requiring use of a "proportional representation" system to determine election winners. Martin Lee, Democratic Party Chairman, predicts that the representation of "Democratic Party and friends" will fall from twenty-six in the abolished legislature to fifteen in the newly elected legislature in May of 1998.

Most political observers in Hong Kong have welcomed the Provisional Legislature's adoption of a doctrine of "essentiality," i.e., only considering and approving legislation that is absolutely essential during its transition period until an elected legislature is put into place. However, it is unclear whether the Hong Kong government's decision to postpone consideration of a bill prohibiting acts of treason, secession, sedition, subversion against the Central Government, and